

COHOPE REPORT - May 10, 2007

The Jeffco Sheriff's crime statistics report showed March to be about on par with January and February . There was a slight up tick in the Part I crimes of Burglary and Theft. Most of this increase can be attribute to what the Sheriff's deputy called "crimes of opportunity" - leaving doors and windows open/unlocked, leaving cars unlocked with valuables in plain sight. The Sheriff's greatest concern , relative to these types of crimes, is what has been reported as "nighttime burglaries" access to a home is gained through open garage doors or open front doors or windows while the homeowners are somewhere else in the house or in the back yard. The good news is that Jefferson County still has a lower overall crime rate than surrounding counties. In April, the Sheriff's Office added a crime mapping tool to its Web site, [www.jeffcosheriff.com](http://www.jeffcosheriff.com). By entering your address in the mapping tool, you can view certain crimes reported in the immediate area.

The guest speaker was Cris Nelson, Sheriff Investigator, who gave his presentation on Identity Theft. Cris's presentation was very interesting, informative and somewhat concerning. On a national basis 5 percent of all identity theft is believed to be associated with terrorism activities. Cris hit all the main areas of how we transact our personal finances - credit card number theft, mail box theft resulting in bank accounts being emptied out, ATM fraud or scams, using phone numbers that a lot of us put on our checks to search the internet for personal information and than gain access to bank accounts and even the methods used to obtain account information from "Speed Pass" type devices. Apparently these speed pass devices, like a key fob, use radio frequency technology that can easily be intercepted. Cris is available to give his presentation to civic groups and if any residents belong to such groups that bring in guest speakers I would highly recommend Cris and his presentation on a very critical subject. A lot of the information contained in Cris's presentation can also be found on the Colorado Attorney General's web site - [www.ago.state.co.us/idtheft/IDTheft.cfm](http://www.ago.state.co.us/idtheft/IDTheft.cfm). An Identity Theft Repair Kit can also be downloaded from this web site.