

COHOPE Report - Nov. 8, 2007

Deputy Grey LaCerte passed out the monthly crime statistics and made comments on two specific categories - Motor Vehicle Theft and Vehicle Trespass. Although vehicle thefts were only up 5 to a total of 12 he stressed this is the start of our cold season where people leave their cars warming up unattended. Thirty percent of reported vehicle thefts are stolen with the keys left in the car. During the cold season the Sheriff's department will receive reports of an average of 4 thefts per day. The vehicle trespass category did show a large increase and that again mostly due to people leaving items like computers, phones, purses, store purchases, etc. in plain view and many times with the car unlocked. Deputy LaCerte also passed out a small pamphlet that the Sheriff's department has put together briefly describing regulations regarding abandoned vehicles, extended parking, RV's, boats and trailers parking and major motor vehicle (semi's) parking in residential areas. Copies are available from the Sheriff's department. Deputy LaCerte also passed out the current Message from The Sheriff bulletin dealing with the subject of Sex Offenders. This bulletin addresses questions relating to that subject. This information can be found on the Sheriff's web site www.jeffcosheriff.com.

There were two guest speakers at this month's meeting. The first, John Wolforth Planning Director of the Planning and Zoning division of Jefferson County, who gave a brief status of the updating process for the Jeffco Comprehensive Master Plan. The Master Plan is intended to be an overarching development plan covering all the individual area development plans for the county. The purpose is to promote responsible development including economic, transportation, open space, etc. Basically this process is in the early stages of a long drawn out process. More information can be found at the P & Z web site <http://planning.jeffco.us>. He and Commissioner Kathy Hartman talked about a new Geographic Information System Map Guide program, recently launched by Jeffco P&Z that citizens of unincorporated Jeffco can access to information relating to property in the county. This tool can be accessed at <http://jeffco.us/jmap/>. The second speaker was Bob Easton from Foothills Parks and Recreation. Bob and some of his staff that were in attendance talked about the importance of and the need to pass a May, 2008 ballot measure for a 3 mil increase in the Foothills property tax levy. About half of the increase funding would be used for repair and replacement of old equipment at existing facilities - playgrounds, parks and capital facilities and half would go to cover increased costs in general district operating expenses. That latter category includes items with impact to our area like mowing and maintenance of Wayside Meadows and Laurel Ave. Park and including any change for matching funds for projects we might want. More information can be found at www.Foothills.org. Bob also mentioned the Friends of Foothills Citizen's Committee that has been formed to help gain support and passage of this ballot issue. I would strongly encourage anyone in our community who uses, enjoys and supports Foothills parks and facilities to attend the next Friends of Foothills meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 14th at The Peak starting at 6:30 pm (goes for 2 hours) facility and volunteer your support.