

CENTENNIAL CONNECTION



Your Link to the City of Centennial



SUMMER 2005

The State of Our City: Onward and upward!

"Cities only reveal themselves over time. Over time a city can deteriorate or improve. But it can never stand still. Centennial is no different and in every way that matters, I am proud and pleased to report to you that Centennial is structurally and fiscally sound and a city not standing still, but a city on the rise!"

-- Mayor Randy Pye, State of Our City address



Mayor Pye delivers State of Our City address.

April 14 marked a milestone for the City of Centennial. Mayor Randy Pye delivered the very first State of Our City address to a capacity crowd of about 350 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Centennial.

Mayor Pye acknowledged the City's struggle in its first three years to become financially viable,

saying the City has successfully met those challenges, and has been able to move forward in ways many didn't think possible even in good financial times. He said Centennial is making great strides in catching up with road repair and other public works projects, and has been able to fully fund its

financial reserves several years ahead of schedule. The mayor praised City Manager John Pazour for strong fiscal stewardship, which kept the City in the black in the lean years and allowed the current acceleration of key Public Works projects and funding city reserves.

The mayor reviewed the many major accomplishments of the last year, including organizing the Municipal Court; progress toward bringing financial reporting in-house; adopting a comprehensive land use plan; strengthening code enforcement efforts and ordinances; transitioning liquor enforcement from the county to the City; and establishing a citizen liaison function.

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Improvements, decisions

ahead for Centennial's "main street"

If you consider that Centennial is shaped roughly like a barbell, with concentrations of neighborhoods at either end, then Arapahoe Road is the bar that supports and connects the bells on either end. Arapahoe Road is the City's central corridor, its commuter conduit, and its commercial and retail heart. A lot of attention will be focused on various sections of Centennial's "Main Street" over the next 18 months.

Holly to Colorado

This section of Arapahoe Road is scheduled for reconstruction in 2006. Under the aegis of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), funding for the \$3.3 million project is 60 percent federal and 40 percent City of Centennial. While Arapahoe won't be widened through this stretch, additional right-of-way along the southbound side will be purchased for ditch removal, retaining wall



Central section of Arapahoe Road, looking east from South Havana Street.

redesign and sidewalk installation work. Upgraded traffic signals and a right turn lane from northbound Colorado to eastbound Arapahoe are under discussion.

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STATUS REPORT

City budget healthy, services increasing

by John L. Pazour, City Manager

The City's 2005 Budget includes significant increases over 2003 and 2004 in key areas. This represents great progress in restoring programs cut back in the City's first three years and in adding new projects and services, particularly in Public Works and Capital Improvements, but with increases in a number of other areas.

PUBLIC WORKS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

A large portion of the City's budget goes to Public Works. This year's operating budget is just under \$12 million—a significant increase for basic maintenance and repair programs such as street repair, weed control, and street striping. The largest chunk of it, about \$5.2 million, funds road repair and rehabilitation.

Details of 2005 Public Works projects can be found at www.centennialcolorado.com.

Restored capital construction funding of \$4.8 million allows a number of major projects to be put back on track. These include the widening of County Line Road between Colorado and University; an Arapahoe Road corridor study; a long list of intersection improvements and traffic signals; a number of long-needed storm water drainage projects; and the installation of new sidewalks.

In addition to Public Works, other important City operations are being enhanced in 2005. Following are highlights.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Traffic officer - Added one more deputy from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office to patrol Centennial neighborhoods and to help resolve traffic-related issues.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Additional code enforcement officer - Improved response to code violation complaints.

Abatement funding - Permits immediate correction of life-safety code issues.

CITY CLERK

Codification of Municipal Code - Will allow citizens to view and research a better-organized City code.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

City newsletters - Expanded the City newsletter to a quarterly publication to better inform residents and businesses.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Code enforcement prosecution - Provides for more effective enforcement of code violations.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Director of Planning & Development - New position will allow the coordination of land use, building and development services. This will also aid long-term planning.

Economic development study

- Will help identify needs and strategies for business and tax-base growth.

FINANCE

Director of Finance - New position to maintain effective control and management of City funds.

In-house accounting & finance staff - Will improve effectiveness and efficiency of the City's financial management.

LAND USE FUND

Comprehensive Plan implementation - Allows the City to begin implementing

standards, practices, and guidelines in the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2004.

Land use code rewrite - Will better suit the needs of the City, its development and its neighborhoods.

RESERVE PROJECTS

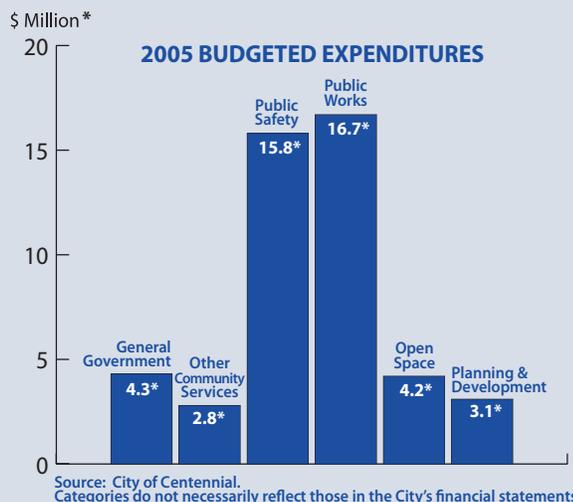
The City has established several reserve funds in cases of emergency or need.

General reserve fund - In case of economic downturn or for disasters. Typically 10 to 15 percent of annual operating budget.

Development and redevelopment funds - For potential development and redevelopment in areas of the City vital to its economic health.

Snow Removal - In case the City experiences a great snow storm such as occurred in March 2003.

TABOR reserve - To meet the three percent TABOR emergency reserve requirement.



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The City is also concentrating heavily on consolidating and strengthening its financial stability and operation, and on the careful hiring of talented professionals who will assist in reaching these milestones. As we make progress, you'll continue to hear about it through Centennial Connection, the web site, and other forms of communication.

All in all, this list represents an extremely ambitious set of tasks for our small but industrious City staff. At mid-year I'd like to be able to report that we've gotten halfway through this list. On a practical level, however, several of these areas will require a little longer for completion. ■

Your Elected Officials

Randy Pye, Mayor

303-754-3350; rpye@centennialcolorado.com

Betty Ann Habig, Council, Ward I

303-850-7987; bhavig@centennialcolorado.com

Vorry Moon, Council, Ward I

303-754-3354; vmoon@centennialcolorado.com

Becky Lennon, Council, Ward II

303-754-3357; blennon@centennialcolorado.com

Bart Miller, Council, Ward II

303-754-3359; bmiller@centennialcolorado.com

Andrea Suhaka, Council, Ward III

303-770-0058; asuhaka@centennialcolorado.com

Susan Nix, Council, Ward III

303-754-3358; snix@centennialcolorado.com

Betty Wotring, Council, Ward IV

303-699-9794; bwotring@centennialcolorado.com

Todd Miller, Council, Ward IV

303-754-3361; tmiller@centennialcolorado.com

Doug Milliken, Treasurer

303-680-7308; dmilliken@centennialcolorado.com

Gerry Cummins, City Clerk

303-754-3353; gcummins@centennialcolorado.com

City of Centennial Information

City Offices

12503 E. Euclid Dr., Suite 200

Centennial, CO 80111

Open: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays

General City Information

Phone: 303-734-4567

Email: info@centennialcolorado.com

Web site: www.centennialcolorado.com

Building Permits & Inspections

303-754-3321

Inspection Hotline: 303-708-1430

Animal & Mosquito Control

720-874-6750

Citizen Liaison

Gail Carissimi

303-754-3323, gcarissimi@centennialcolorado.com

City Manager's Office

303-754-3341

Code Enforcement

Joseph Brooks, Dave Campos

303-754-3400, codematters@centennialcolorado.com

Contractor Licensing

Kevin Ritter

303-754-3306, kritter@centennialcolorado.com

Contracts/Purchasing

Jeff Martin

303-754-3348, jmartin@centennialcolorado.com

Finance/Accounts Payable

303-754-3338

Human Resources/Administration

Darla Sergeant

303-754-3337, dsergeant@centennialcolorado.com

Land Use Dept.

303-754-3304

Media & Community Relations

Nancy Reubert

303-754-3327, nreubert@centennialcolorado.com

Municipal Court

303-754-3380

courtclerk@centennialcolorado.com.

Public Works

Maintenance Requests: 720-874-ROAD

Main: 720-874-6500

Sheriff's Office

To report a crime: 303-795-4711 (dispatch)

Main: 720-874-3600

Emergencies: 911

Zoning

303-754-3308

Sam Bishop, sam_bishop@urscorp.com

Lisa Zurn, lisa_zurn@urscorp.com.

Centennial "fights the bite!"

by Gail Carissimi, Citizen Liaison

There's good news and bad news about the 2005 mosquito season.

The good news: it will not be as bad as 2003 during which West Nile Virus hit Colorado's Front Range hard. The bad news: it may not be as mild as 2004, when cool and wet weather wasn't conducive to mosquito breeding.

In any case, state health officials predict that West Nile Virus is almost certainly here to stay. According to Tri-County Health Department Director Dr. Richard Vogt, mosquitoes like hot, dry conditions. "It's the heat, more than the level of rain, that helps breed mosquitoes."

The City of Centennial, armed with three years of West Nile data, and aligned with neighboring governmental entities, is gearing up once again to "Fight the Bite!" John Newhouse, Public Works' animal control and insect control specialist, will coordinate Centennial's mosquito control effort. The City's program will complement Tri-County's campaign to educate citizens on how to protect their families from West Nile Virus.

Every week until the end of September, Newhouse and his two staffers monitor about a dozen mosquito traps and apply larvacide where mosquito larvae are found on public land. "A few breeding sites start early and I've been treating them since April," he said.

Homeowners with ponds, garden water features and low-lying, wet areas can combat mosquito larvae by applying Vectobac-G larvacide pellets or "donut" discs available from Home Depot and other hardware stores, he added.

In 2004, three Colorado residents died from West Nile Virus; in all, 276 human cases were reported during the 2004 mosquito season. Many of these were on the Western Slope.



Centennial's mosquito control expert John Newhouse checks a trap near Parker Road. These traps are used to monitor mosquito counts.



Centennial municipal elections take place this fall

This fall Centennial residents will have the opportunity to vote for a number of City representatives. Mayor, Treasurer, City Clerk, and one Council seat in each of the four wards will be up for election. Mayor and Council serve four-year terms; Treasurer and City Clerk serve two-year terms.

Citizens running for these seats may obtain a packet of materials from the Deputy City Clerk containing information on requirements and deadlines. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age by the election date, a U.S. citizen, a registered voter, and a Centennial resident for the full year immediately prior to election day. Council candidates must be a resident of the ward for which they are running for the full year immediately prior to election day. A "Candidate Affidavit" must be filed as a first step.

The Deputy City Clerk will hold an informational meeting for candidates on July 25 at the City offices.

Yard signs may not be posted until 45 days prior to the November 1 election, and may not be posted in any public right-of-way. Sign contents must comply with all election laws.

By state law, municipal elections are nonpartisan. Centennial will participate in a coordinated election with Arapahoe County, to be held via mail ballot.

For more information, contact Deputy City Clerk Brenda Castle at 303-754-3302 or bcastle@centennialcolorado.com.

REDUCE YOUR CONTACTS WITH MOSQUITOES

- ✓ Limit time spent outdoors at dawn or dusk.
- ✓ Wear lightweight, long-sleeved shirts and long pants while outdoors.
- ✓ Spray clothing with insect repellent containing DEET.
- ✓ Apply insect repellent to exposed skin with up to a 35 percent DEET concentration for adults and 10 percent or less for children.
- ✓ Install or repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outdoors.

For more information, go to www.fightthebitecolorado.com or call the WNV Helpline at 1-877-462-2911 (toll free).

Upcoming Ward/Town Meetings

Ward III meetings:

Wed., July 20, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
Thu., Sept. 8, 7 p.m., Ste. 260 (court conf. chamber)

Ward IV meeting:

Wed., Sept. 14, 7 p.m., Smoky Hill Library



**Pye &
Coffee**

1st Tuesday & 3rd Thursday • City Offices

August 2 & 18 • September 6 & 15 • October 4 & 20

We get questions:

by Robert Widner
City Attorney

Why can't I discuss a controversial land use development proposal with my Council members?

Most land use cases are "quasi judicial" in nature, meaning the cases are handled similarly to cases in a court of law. Council members serve in these land use cases in a role very similar to a court judge. As with other types of judges, Council members must remain neutral and unbiased on the

case until all the interested parties have been provided a fair and equal opportunity to present their evidence during a public hearing. Therefore, Council members are prohibited by law from privately discussing the merits of a pending land use case and must base their decision only on the evidence presented during a public hearing.

If the City Council were to approve or reject a development proposal and someone can prove that Council members received important evidence outside of the public hearing, the

Council's decision could be reversed or overturned in a later challenge in court. For this reason, Council members must avoid discussions with the developer and with opponents about a pending land use case outside of the public hearing.

Every citizen should understand that the same rule that prevents them from privately lobbying their Council members to reject a land use project also prevents the developer from seeking to privately lobby the Council members outside of the public hearing to approve the project.

The State of Our City: Onward and Upward *(continued from page 1)*

Announcing the formation of the Mayor's Fiscal Advisory Task Force, Mayor Pye said the City needs to meet the financial challenges of the future, and find ways to increase its modest retail sales tax base.

The State of Our City luncheon was organized by the Rotary Club of Centennial. Channel 7 Chief Meteorologist Mike Nelson, a resident of Centennial, served as Master of Ceremonies. The Centennial Rotary group formed in 2001, shortly after the City's incorporation. Rotary organizers have indicated their hope and intention to make the State of Our City luncheon an annual event.

The mayor's prepared remarks may be viewed at www.centennialcolorado.com. ■

Improvements, decisions ahead for Centennial's "main street" *(continued from page 1)*

The project is expected to take six to eight months. Arapahoe will stay open to through traffic during the project, although individual lane closures will occur.

Yosemite to Parker

An 18-month corridor study, scheduled to begin this summer, will look at this very critical section of Arapahoe Road. Funded by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Arapahoe County, the City of Centennial and Greenwood Village, this study was designed prior to the incorporation of Centennial to look at the corridor's efficiency at moving a large volume of commuter traffic.

With the birth of Centennial, this section of Arapahoe Road will now perform the additional function of serving as the City's future retail heart: with virtually no developable land at the two residential ends of Centennial, this central section holds the key to future retail development in the City. As a result, the City has a paramount interest in helping guide the study's goals and methodology so it takes into account the protection of retail uses within the corridor.

Parker to Liverpool

This section of the roadway has experienced significant residential growth in recent years, resulting in a tremendous increase in daily traffic. Ultimately, this section of Arapahoe Road will need to be widened. However, it will be an expensive project—\$10 to \$14 million—and will not qualify for state or federal funds. Because the City will bear a majority of this cost, it may be a good candidate for a future bond proposal.

To ease commuter pain until that time, interim improvements will continue. Crews have installed traffic signals at Lewiston, Buckley, Grandview High School, Liverpool, Himalaya Street, Waco, and Chapparral Circle West/Piney Creek Circle. Left turn lanes have been installed at Chapparral Circle West. Residents will see construction of additional left turn lanes at Chapparral Circle East and at Gibraltar in 2005. The Estancia development, when completed, will include a traffic signal and left turn lanes at Euclid on Arapahoe. ■





City of Centennial

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What's Inside

- Plans for Arapahoe Rd.
- State of Our City
- Municipal Elections

Summer 2005

Can you help with Centennial history?

Centennial resident Malcolm Stevenson is a local history buff. He's launched a project to gather and preserve local history and he is looking for residents who have information, personal or family histories, or other local information to share.

Call Malcolm at 303-773-0873.

Centennial Connection is published by the City of Centennial.

It is also available in PDF format on the City website: www.centennialcolorado.com.

Comments and questions:

Nancy Reubert, 303-754-3327.

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Homeowner groups: Sign up for development notifications

Centennial City Council recently enacted new procedures for notifying interested parties about proposed land development projects. Developers submitting a land development project to the City will use a master referral list to send a notice of the proposed development project to all jurisdictions, agencies and homeowner organizations that are within a half mile of a proposed project. State law does not mandate that notices be sent, but the City Council decided to require the notices as a courtesy to the parties that may be most interested in the proposed development.

Those receiving notifications have 30 days to offer comments or concerns regarding the proposed development. The intent of this policy is to maximize the opportunity for all interested agencies and community groups to offer detailed comment on

a proposed development and to have a chance to resolve any potential conflicts. The City also strongly encourages developers to meet with affected homeowner groups.

Inclusion on the master referral list is voluntary. Homeowner and community groups wishing to receive notification of nearby land development applications in Centennial must elect to be on the referral list, and will be responsible for keeping their contact information current.

Groups wishing to register for the master referral list can mail or email their contact information to Gina Eckendorf, Land Use Services Department, City of Centennial, 12503 E. Euclid Dr., Suite 200, Centennial, CO 80111; or regina_eckendorf@urscorp.com. For more information, call Gina at 303-754-3304.