



Responding to Budget Limitations



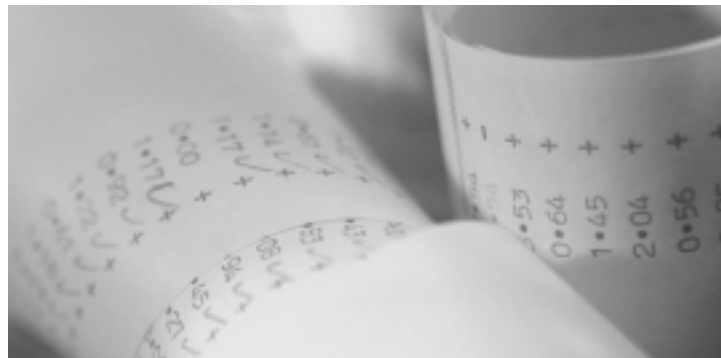
A Word from City Council

Scott Hente, City Councilmember and
resident of Mountain Shadows
shente@springsgov.com or 385-5487

As I write this, my colleagues on City Council and I are well into the process of setting a City Budget for 2008. Last June we established our Strategic Plan for 2008 and gave our budget objectives to the City Manager and the Budget Department. Based on our objectives and their forecasts for the local economy in 2008, they worked with every department in the City to deliver us a balanced, preliminary 2008 budget on Oct. 1. It maintains core municipal services even in the face of declining revenue.

As you may know, more than half of the City's General Fund revenue comes from local sales tax collections. Consequently, the City's fiscal situation always tracks the local economy quite closely. For 2008, the Budget Department forecasts that our revenue will be \$6.4 million less than their forecast for 2007. Simultaneously, we face the same unavoidable cost increases that you face in 2008 for gasoline, utilities, and health care insurance. We also allocated additional money to improve our response to snow storms. And since most Fire Department responses are for medical calls, we funded a 24-hour, three-person dedicated medical squad. And we hope to give our employees a salary increase of 2.5–2.7 percent if their job classification has fallen behind the marketplace.

To offset these increased costs, we are considering several actions that will be painful but not compromise the core services you deserve. We may ground the Police Department helicopter unit for a year and redeploy the pilots to ground-based patrol. We may eliminate the night shift of the Police Service Reps who staff the front desks at the four Police substations. The front desk at the Police Operations Center would remain open around the clock,



and at the substations citizens would still be able to summon help to the front door if they were in personal danger. And, since Mountain Metro bus system costs have increased 30 percent in the past three years, we may reduce bus service on routes and at times of lowest utilization. I personally don't want to do any of these, but budget limitations may force our hand.

Believe me, we contemplate each of these possible cuts with reluctance. Every cut will impact service to our citizens. Our challenge is to decide which cuts will have the least impact while still allowing us to maintain core municipal services and manage our funds—your funds—as efficiently as possible.

By the time you read this, we will have solidified the budget. Hopefully we were able to preserve some of the programs I discussed. As always, if you have any questions or comments on this or any other subject, you may reach me at 385-5487 or at shente@springsgov.com.

Thanks Deserved

A resounding "Thank You" to our faithful volunteer who cares for the Mountain Shadows community signs. Anne Smith deserves a big thank-you and some help! Think about helping next spring or summer.

FOUND! Your CDs?

A large case of CDs was found near the top of Wilson Road over the summer. If you are the owner and want to claim it, call 265-5915.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

continued on page 11

From the desk of Officer David Husted, C.S.P.D. Falcon Division Crime Prevention Officer

We continue to have many of the same concerns. One is open garage doors. We've all heard that burglaries would be prevented if garage doors were simply left down. Many of these burglaries are in the middle of the day. If you have any specific concerns about how safe your house is, feel free to call and we will come out, free of charge, and look at your house, giving you an idea of how "at risk" your home is.

Car break-ins are another continuing problem. Many of us treat our cars as an extension of our homes. The problem is that thieves can look inside cars, break a window, and take whatever of value is lying out in the open. We strongly encourage you to get into a different mindset and not leave anything of value where it can be seen.

I'd encourage each of you to consider starting a Neighborhood Watch group if you are not involved in one already. This proactive step helps prevent criminal activity in your community. Typically you start by holding a neighborhood meeting, where we join you and give a basic Neighborhood Watch presentation. This is normally done in the evening so people can make it after work. I'll be happy to discuss this with anyone who is interested.

Any questions, feel free to contact me at 444-7246.

CELL PHONE DO-NOT-CALL?!

If you're wondering about the need to register a cell phone in order to avoid unwanted solicitors, please check out the website listed below. We all have well-meaning friends who forward information in haste without sufficiently testing the idea.

www.donotcall.gov

The FTC Do Not Call Registry website states that we don't need to register cell phones. You can register a cell phone, but it shouldn't be necessary.

PIANO LESSONS IN YOUR HOME

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Experienced teacher. References available.

**Call Kit Galvin
719-598-8624**

Playground Equipment Safety

If anyone notices unsafe conditions or broken equipment on the Mountain Shadows Playground, please report it immediately to the City Parks and Recreation Department (385-5981). Or if you prefer, you can call Dave Buckley, our MSCA traffic and safety contact, at 338-0600. He will report the problem, follow up to ensure the condition is corrected, and let you know of the status.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Chipeta Eagles News

The staff at Chipeta Elementary is looking forward to a fantastic school year! If you were driving through the neighborhood this past summer and noticed the school traffic lights flashing, it was because Chipeta hosted summer school for the first time this year. We had about 80 students across all grades taking the opportunity to get additional instruction in both literacy and math. Summer school was a terrific success!

Chipeta Elementary has had a terrific start to the new school year. We received our CSAP test scores from last year, and they are even higher than the previous year, with 90 percent of our students receiving scores of proficient or above in reading, writing, and math in grades three through five. In addition, Chipeta was one of only 19 schools in the State of Colorado to receive special recognition from Governor Ritter and the Colorado Department of Education for our five consecutive years of scores of 90 percent or higher proficient and advanced math scores for third, fourth, and fifth grades and three consecutive years of scores of 90 percent or higher profi-

cient and advanced reading scores for third, fourth, and fifth graders. We also received the "It's only a Mountain Award" from District 11 in honor of our student achievement.

As proud as we are of these test results, the educational climate is about so much more than testing at Chipeta. We embrace educating the whole child through our Character Counts Program, and we offer exemplary instruction in P.E., music, art, orchestra and band. Students operate and broadcast an internal weekly TV program through our media center and our library is a state designated "power library."

Thank you to all our community members who have been helping us out by collecting box tops, turning in printer cartridges for recycling, and purchasing Entertainment books. We were pleased to see so many join us at the Sock Hop, Bingo, and at our first-ever McTeacher night. We feel so fortunate to be part of the Mountain Shadows community, and we wish all of you a very healthy and happy holiday season.

Teachers Experience Zero-Gravity

Holmes Middle School seventh grade teachers, Peggy Layh and Jennifer Mitchell, were selected to participate in the Northrop Grumman Weightless Flights of Discovery Program on Oct. 20. This program is designed to recruit science and math teachers for the purpose of inspiring students to pursue science and technical careers. Peggy and Jennifer will be conducting experiments with density and weightlessness in a parabolic or "zero-gravity" aircraft flight that creates temporary weightlessness comparable to what humans experience during space flight. (Read more about it at www.gozerog.com.) They will extend their experience to the classroom by having their students participate in an interdisciplinary math and science unit, which will be documented by the Boulder Space Center.

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Community Events at Renaissance Academy

Renaissance Academy continues to host free community events on Tuesday nights but is making some exciting changes. The upcoming months will provide programs related to carefully selected family-friendly themes. December will feature World Holidays, including a "10,000 villages craft sale" and lectures on world religion. January's programs will help your family plan for spring break by providing information on travel, passports, and more. Plan ahead for summer vacation by attending our February forums, which will give you tools to find the perfect summer program.

Visit www.therenaissanceacademy.org for a complete schedule of Tuesday Community Forums.

Helping Is Easy

Both local D11 elementary schools—Chipeta and Trailblazer—encourage you to collect Box-Tops, cell phones, and printer and toner cartridges. When you save these not only are you helping the children in your community, but you're helping yourself—all of our property values are tied to the quality of our neighborhood schools.



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News from the Trailblazer Timberwolves

The 2007-2008 school year at Trailblazer Elementary began with excitement, new staff, and new student faces! The first semester has proven to be fast-paced. These fall months have been jam-packed with educational activities and after-school offerings. Our highly involved PTA has arranged enrichment activities that include team building, cooking, science programs, cartooning, and ceramics. We are also offering intramurals, Chess Club, Battle of the Books, and show choir.

We are pleased to have the many extra offerings and the high-quality curriculum that assist our students in having a positive and successful educational experience at Trailblazer.

Trailblazer is recognized as a National Response to Intervention site. Our staff continues to explore and implement results-based interventions in order to meet student learning needs. Our school district has recognized Trailblazer as an Exemplar Response to Intervention site or RTI, as it is referred to. The staff continues to go the extra mile for all our students. We appreciate our parent community in partnering with us!

The staff at Trailblazer wishes the Mountain Shadows neighborhood a happy and safe holiday season.

Give the Gift of Art!

The Business of Art Center's 8 Galleries feature 100's of one-of-a-kind treasures by Colorado artists you won't find at the mall!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MOUNTAIN SHADOWS?

Calming the Traffic

If you live on Rossmere Street I probably knocked on your door collecting signatures on a “traffic calming” petition. Traffic calming? Sounds like an oxymoron, but it is defined by the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) as “methods of altering the behavior of drivers to suit the character of the area they move through.”*

From my point of view, it means altering vehicle speeds up and down Rossmere Street for the most important reasons—child safety and accident prevention. But Rossmere is already a 25 mph zone, right? That's right. However, Rossmere has a steep grade stretching nearly a half mile. Let me put this into perspective: on the downhill side of Rossmere, vehicle speeds range anywhere from 30 to 45+ mph. The funny thing is that the traffic speeds are just as

fast going uphill! I learned this information from the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) after speed patrols on Rossmere Street, so I'm not simply using my calibrated eye when making this statement.

The families living along Rossmere Street have children playing in their front yards, walk to and from bus stops, walk, jog, walk their dogs, ride their bicycles, and so on. There are also deer living in our community and, believe it or not, they don't always look both ways before crossing. It is not hard to imagine the consequences of swerving to avoid a deer on a residential street at 45 mph. My point here is that all of these factors added together make for a dangerous situation when factoring in the high rates of speed of vehicles traveling to and from the top of the hill.

Residents living along Rossmere are asking NTMP to assess our street

during 2007-2008. As a group, we will discuss possible options: adding 25 mph speed *humps*** (not to be confused with speed *bumps*), stop signs, and/or the narrowing of the traffic lanes (using paint). There is no guarantee that NTMP engineers will do anything but we have to start somewhere and this is the first step in the process to address the problem.

The bottom line ... nothing has worked so far to slow the traffic that uses Rossmere Street as a main thoroughfare, including CSPD patrols, traffic speed trailers, yelling at drivers, and so on. Residents living in Mountain Shadows should not have to worry about their children playing in front yards or from being rear ended or side swiped on their seemingly quiet neighborhood street.

—Ryan Schneider

*www.springsgov.com/Page.asp?NavID=1689
**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speed_hump

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Why Do We Need Crime Stoppers?

Crime Stoppers combats the three major problems faced by law enforcement in obtaining information:

- ◆ Fear of REPRISAL
- ◆ An attitude of APATHY
- ◆ Reluctance of get INVOLVED

Crime Stoppers resolves these problems by:

- ◆ Offering ANONYMITY to people who provide information about crimes.
- ◆ Paying REWARDS when supplied information leads to an arrest.

How Does It Work?

When a tip is phoned in, a call center volunteer takes down the information and then provides that information to the appropriate agency and/or detective for follow-up. Callers are given a Crime Stoppers code number and instructions on calling back and do not need to give their name.

Anonymity is guaranteed. The volunteer will not ask the caller for any personal information such as name or phone number. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to any caller ID or last number features.

If the caller is eligible for a reward, payoffs are made in cash and done anonymously as well.

Is Crime Stoppers Successful?

Crime Stoppers programs are one of the most successful and cost-effective crime fighting tools available to law enforcement. For every tip, 100 hours of investigators' time is saved, allowing crimes to be solved more efficiently.

Pikes Peak Area Crime Stoppers has been tremendously successful since its inception in 1981. Tips have resulted in:

- ◆ 4,513 felony cases cleared
- ◆ 3,428 felony arrests
- ◆ Recover of \$498,026 worth of narcotics
- ◆ Recover of \$10,224,660 of property

◆ Paid \$393,140 in reward money*
**Crime Stoppers does not receive tax dollars for its reward fund. All reward monies come from grants, corporate and individual donation and other fund-raising activities.*

Pikes Peak Area Crime Stoppers' main objectives are to aid in reducing the crime rate in the Pikes Peak region, help law enforcement agencies solve crime and to bring fugitives to justice. Crime Stoppers is the only agency providing such an interface between law enforcement agencies and citizens who have knowledge of serious crimes occurring and know the identities or whereabouts of wanted felons and persons suspected of serious crimes.

Crime Stoppers Worldwide have solved several million crimes and recovered billions of dollars worth of stolen property, narcotics and cash. The program has achieved great success and boasts an average conviction rate of 95% on cases solved by tips. Today, there are more than 1,100 Crime Stoppers organizations in all 50 States, as well as in Puerto Rico, Guam, Mexico, Canada, Great Britain, Australia and many other countries.

Student Crime Stoppers program is a partnership of Pikes Peak Area Crime Stoppers, schools, local law enforce-

ment agencies and the community. The program provides students with a central telephone number to call to report criminal activity or potentially dangerous situations that have occurred or may occur. Callers remain anonymous and can receive rewards for information leading to an arrest or a positive outcome, defined as the prevention of a potentially dangerous situation.

How Can I Help?

Crime Stoppers needs community support for their continued success. They rely on community volunteers and donations to make the program possible.

◆ **Volunteers** are used throughout the organization for hands-on activities such as answering the tip lines and coordinating community events to raise awareness or funds. Crime Stoppers also has a volunteer board of directors who help guide the organization.

◆ **Donate** – Pikes Peak Area Crime Stoppers is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization supported by monies from grants, corporate and individual donation and fund raising activities.

Crime Stoppers: 719-634-7867 or 719-634-Stop

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Fire, Kids, and Firesetting

Fire. It fascinates and terrifies us. Uncontrolled, it can cause death, injuries, and property destruction.

The unsupervised, experimental, mischievous, or illegal use of fire by children has become a major threat to personal safety and property. Recently, juvenile arson arrests exceeded adult arson arrest for the first time. From 2004-2006, 591 children ages 3-17 were referred to the City's Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program. These fires resulted in an estimated \$850,000 in property loss. Statistically, for every reported child-set fire, 10 others are never reported. Nationally, 85 percent of all children killed in fires die as a result of a fire they started. It is easy to see the need for prevention and intervention with children and firesetting and fireplay.

The Fire Department offers educational programs for the juvenile firesetter. The programs help assess and educate on levels of firesetting, from curiosity to crisis to pathological. One goal of this program is to help children realize they are not alone. Videos, guest speakers, and class discussion demonstrate what could happen during fireplay.

When parents decide if a child has a fireplay problem, always err on the side of safety. If your child has any incident of firesetting or fireplay and any warning signs, you are

encouraged to seek professional help. If your child does have a serious firesetting problem, getting help could be lifesaving.

- Recent changes in behavior—temper tantrums, mood swing, impulsive behavior, or excessive anger
- Problems at school such as discipline or learning problems or unexplained absences
- Troublesome behaviors such as stealing, lying, and drug or alcohol use
- Deliberate efforts to collect fire materials
- Failed to get help to extinguish fire
- Showing extreme curiosity about fire
- History of being abused or neglected
- Sad, withdrawn appearance
- Poor self-esteem
- Daydreams about fire
- Boasting about fire sets
- Aggressive behavior toward people or animals
- Behavior of a loner, a risk taker, or a fighter
- Fire set deliberately to harm others or to destroy property
- Fire set out of anger or in response to a family problem

For more information, contact Marta Dubay, Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist, at 719-385-7365 or email mdubay@springsgov.com.

Do you know where your matches and lighters are? Your children do. Be safe. Lock up your matches and lighters.



Julie Randall
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“Stomach Flu” Isn’t Flu at All



We’ve all heard of influenza or “flu,” but you may not know that flu is actually a respiratory illness. What many of us call “stomach flu” is gastroenteritis—an infection of the stomach and small intestines caused by viruses or bacteria.

It’s important to know the differences between influenza and gastroenteritis because treatment differs, as does the illness duration. Also, while getting a flu shot protects against influenza, vaccination does not exist for gastroenteritis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) provide useful information.

What is gastroenteritis? Many different viruses can cause gastroenteritis, most notably rotavirus and norovirus. The main symptoms include watery diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. The affected person may also have headache, fever, tiredness, and abdominal cramps (“stomach ache”). The symptoms may last for several days and go away on their own.

Is gastroenteritis a serious illness? Not for most people. Gastroenteritis is serious, however, for people who are unable to drink enough fluids to replace what they lose through vomiting or diarrhea. Infants, young children, and people who are unable to care for themselves, such as the disabled or elderly, are at risk for dehydration from loss of fluids.

How is gastroenteritis treated? People who have gastroenteritis should drink a lot of fluids to prevent dehydration. Consult your health-care provider for specific instructions to treat gastroenteritis. CDC recommends that families with infants and young children keep a supply of oral rehydration solution and give the child the solution when diarrhea first occurs.

Can gastroenteritis be prevented? People can reduce their chance of getting infected by frequent handwashing, prompt disinfection of contaminated surfaces and prompt washing of soiled articles of clothing—because gastroenteritis is contagious. People spread it through their stool, so handwashing is the most important way to prevent gastroenteritis. The viruses that cause gastroenteritis are

spread through close contact with infected people (for example, by sharing food, water, or eating utensils). We may also become infected by eating or drinking contaminated foods or beverages.

What is the correct way to wash one’s hands? Use soap and warm running water. Rub your hands together vigorously. Wash for at least 15 seconds. If possible, rinse with hands above wrists. Dry with clean towels. Wash your hands after using the bathroom, before and after preparing and eating food, and after handling money. If in doubt, wash your hands.

For more, visit www.elpasocountyhealth.org.

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The Invisible Threat

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, tasteless, and colorless gas that is created when fossil fuels burn incompletely. Because it is impossible to detect without a carbon monoxide alarm, it is very important that every home has one. This gas can make you feel ill, cause permanent neurological damage, and in some cases be fatal. Nearly every home has potential sources of carbon monoxide from gas furnaces, stoves, water heaters, clothes dryers, fireplaces, and even cars in an attached garage. Prevention is the key, and applying the following safety tips will assist you and your family.

Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home, especially near sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide alarms should bear the seal of a recognized testing laboratory. Check the back of your alarm to see when it was manufactured and replace units once they are five years old. If your carbon monoxide alarm sounds, or you experience the initial symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning (nausea/upset stomach, dizziness, headaches, lethargy, fatigue, muscle pain), immediately evacuate and call 9-1-1 from a safe location.

DO NOT warm up a vehicle in an attached garage, even if the garage door is open. Carbon monoxide from a running vehicle, generator, or other fueled engine can still get inside a home. Also, NEVER use a barbecue grill inside a garage or home, these can create

dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

When buying new cooking or heating equipment, select products that have been labeled and tested by the Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Never purchase or accept damaged equipment. If you check the flame color of your appliance, know that blue does not necessarily mean that it is safe. Have appliances installed and serviced once a year by a qualified technician, and follow all applicable fire safety and building codes. Check fireplaces for leaks, cracks, or blockages in the chimney. Be sure the flue in the chimney is working properly and when using the fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation.

In addition, *use adequate ventilation* when heating camping trailers, tents, boats, and motor homes. Use flashlights for lighting rather than fire or heaters. Remember, it is extremely dangerous to use fossil fuels inside these types of structures.

—Brianna Goodwin,
Community Education Specialist,
City Fire Department

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

continued from page 3

Snow Plowing—Our city averages 15-17 snow events per season where crews must apply anti-skid to road surfaces. The street department uses dump trucks, pickups, and loader/ graders to create safer commutes.

Crews use a priority system to define when and where to plow and apply anti-skid treatments. In our community a street sensor at Centennial and Allegheny gives input for this process. Major city arterials (like Centennial) are cleared first, then collectors streets (Chuckwagon, Flying W Ranch, Rossmere, and Wilson), and finally other residential streets.

You can call the Streets Division at 385-5934 with issues or problems during snow events. The EMERGENCY snow hotline is 457-7669.

Snow Shoveling—Some residents seem to think that removing snow from sidewalks is optional. But even those of us with southern exposures need to help nature along. According to “What to know for snow” at www.springsgov.com we should clear public sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours after a snow storm has ended. This includes the sidewalks along back or side property lines and fences. *This year, City staff are taking a proactive inspection approach and will monitor areas within three blocks of schools.* Let’s keep those walkways safe.

Thanks, Dog Owners!

As you know, we’ve run articles preaching the need for dog owners to keep their dogs on leash and to pick up after them.

There are noticeably fewer folks not in compliance with these laws, which is a very good thing; however, there are the inevitable few who still haven’t received the word or who simply don’t want to join the rest of us in keeping our neighborhood, trails and parks safe and free of dog droppings. To help them get the word, we have asked the Humane Society to make periodic visits to our neighborhood to check for violators, and provide the appropriate incentive to comply. Of course, you have the right to make specific complaints directly to the Humane Society (473-1741); they will come out and take written complaints on specific violators.

MSCA MONTHLY MEETING

The MSCA Board meetings are held in the staff lounge at Chipeta Elementary School, 2340 Ramsgate Terrace. Meetings are open to all Mountain Shadows residents. Please check www.mountainshadows-msca.org for current information on dates and times.

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NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

12/07

- YES, I/we want to participate in our community. Sign me/us up for the next 12 months.
 YES, I'll/we'll help out, too. Please tell me/us how we can help.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED
\$25 for 12-month dues

Please make checks payable to the Mountain Shadows Community Association.

Mail this form to: MSCA Membership Committee • P. O. Box 49072 • Colorado Springs, CO 80949

A number on your mailing label signifies the date when your membership expires.

The mission of the Mountain Shadows Community Association is to enhance the quality of life and promote the well being of the community.

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