

## FRANKTOWN COMMUNITY UPDATE

February 8, 2012

2012 Douglas County Town Meetings

[www.douglas.co.us/townmeeting/index.html](http://www.douglas.co.us/townmeeting/index.html)

the Department of Open Space and Natural Resources at 303.660.7495.  
*Effective 1/26/2012*

**Bayou Gulch Road Drainage Improvements:** Improvement to the existing culvert under Bayou Gulch Road near the Colorado Horse Park is planned for 2012. *Effective 1/26/2012*

**Routine Maintenance Activities:**  
**Mowing:** Roadside mowing is performed to provide vehicular sight distance at roadway intersections and driveway entrances; assist with noxious weed mitigation; provide aesthetically pleasing roadways; reduce snow drifting in winter months. Most County rights-of-way are mowed in the spring and fall.

**Noxious weed mitigation:** Noxious weed mitigation within County rights-of-way is accomplished through the application of herbicides and mowing. Herbicides are applied throughout the year, as needed.

**Dust Suppression:** Approximately 60 miles of the most heavily traveled gravel roads in Douglas County are treated with a dust suppressant annually to control dust particulates. The purpose of dust suppression is to improve gravel road safety and reduce particulate emissions that can affect the health of residents. A list of roadways that will receive an application of a dust suppressant will be available after March 1 at [www.douglas.co.us/publicworks/index.html](http://www.douglas.co.us/publicworks/index.html)

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION

#### 2012 Property Tax Notification includes feature for smart phone users

Beginning in January, residential property owners in Douglas County will receive one of two property tax information-types by U.S. mail – either a full property tax statement including all tax detail, or a postcard that invites the recipient to visit the County’s website for tax details.

New this year, the postcard, tailored to the approximately 70,000 taxpayers whose property taxes are paid by their

lender, will feature a personalized QR code that can be accessed via a smart phone QR code scanner. Postcard recipients can also choose to locate their detailed property tax information by going directly to the Treasurer’s website at [www.douglas.co.us/treasurer](http://www.douglas.co.us/treasurer)

In addition to accepting payments through the mail or over the counter in the Treasurer’s office, property taxes can be paid by automated telephone with credit card or electronic check/savings withdrawal; with credit card by telephone; online; in person; by mail to the new P.O. Box (Douglas County Treasurer, PO Box 1208, Castle Rock, CO 80104-1208); and at three (3) different drop box locations.

To obtain a personalized tax analysis detailing how the Douglas County Government’s portion of a property owner’s taxes are used to fund County services, please visit [www.douglas.co.us/taxes](http://www.douglas.co.us/taxes) to access the Douglas County Tax Calculator.

#### Openings available on Douglas County Citizen Advisory Boards

The County’s Boards, Committees and Commissions are designed to help the Board of Douglas County Commissioners represent the citizens and taxpayers of Douglas County. Volunteer appointees to citizen advisory Boards, Committees and Commissions assist the Board of County Commissioners by preparing policy alternatives and implications for County Commissioner deliberation and conducting statutorily required actions.

To ensure the effectiveness of Boards, Committees and Commissions, all have clear and specific goals, objectives and timelines, for example: All members of a Board, Committee and Commission are required to follow applicable ethics laws, Board policies and Boards and Commissions’ Code of Conduct; an individual may not serve on more than one Board, Committee or Commission at a time; the terms of office of appointed members of Boards, Committees and Commissions are generally not more than two terms unless otherwise indicated by statute or authorizing resolution; and

members of Boards, Committees and Commissions are expected to attend no less than 75% of all regularly scheduled and special meetings during the year.

Please visit [www.douglas.co.us/commissioners/Advisory\\_Boards,\\_Committees\\_and\\_Commissions\\_Vacancies.html](http://www.douglas.co.us/commissioners/Advisory_Boards,_Committees_and_Commissions_Vacancies.html). Application are due by February 24, 2012.

#### Douglas County assists taxpayers with online 2012 Property Tax Calculator

Just in time for the arrival of Douglas County property tax statements, property owners in Douglas County are reminded of the County’s website tool that will calculate an individual property’s proportionate cost share of 26 different service categories provided by Douglas County, including road construction, law enforcement, parks and trails, public health, elections, snow removal, and traffic management.

For access to the County’s New Tax Calculator web tool, please visit [www.douglas.co.us/taxes](http://www.douglas.co.us/taxes) and follow the instructions for calculating a personalized County government tax analysis for services provided by Douglas County.

The Douglas County Tax Calculator was created in 2010 as part of the Board of County Commissioner’s Taxpayer Right-to-Know Initiative, furthering the Board of County Commissioners’ accountability to the citizens and taxpayers of Douglas County regarding the County’s allocation of the public’s money.

For further demonstration of the Taxpayer Right-to-Know Initiative and the Board’s commitment to an open, accountable and participatory government, please visit the County’s transparency portal at [www.douglas.co.us/transparency](http://www.douglas.co.us/transparency)

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Time: 6:30 p.m.  
 Date: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012  
 Location: Franktown Fire Station  
 SW corner of Hwy. 83 and 86

## TOWN MEETING AGENDA

- Community Update
- Guest Official Reports
- Individual Commissioner Updates
  - Jack Hilbert - District I
  - Steven A. Boand - District II
  - Jill Repella - District III
- Citizen Questions & Comments

For topics that you would like discussed at future Town Meetings, please contact Rhonda Gentry at [rgentry@douglas.co.us](mailto:rgentry@douglas.co.us)

## TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

**Hess Road Project:** The final segment of the Hess Road Extension Project (from Chambers Road to the Castle Pines Parkway / I-25 interchange) was opened to traffic on January 24, 2012. This final segment cost \$19.3 Million and provides another alternate east-west transportation corridor between I-25 and State Highway 83. The Hess Road Project will help decrease commuting time for citizens commuting from southeastern Douglas County and Elbert County and further reduce traffic congested along Lincoln Avenue, especially at the I-25 interchange.

The Hess Road Extension Project took almost a decade to complete and extends from Hilltop Road on the east end to I-25 on the west end. This jointly funded project was completed in several phases with contributions from the Town of

Parker, Douglas County and the local developers, who also benefit from this project. The County funds used for this project were largely from the revenue collected from voter approved 4/10ths of one cent Road Sales and Use tax.

The Hess Road Extension project provided grading to accommodate a four-lane arterial roadway section, but only two lanes (one lane in each direction) were constructed in the initial phase. This will allow Hess Road to be readily expandable to four lanes in future years. However, it is anticipated that the section of Hess Road west of Chambers Road will not need to be expanded to four lanes until 2025 or later. The thirty-six foot (36') wide concrete pavement includes six foot (6') paved shoulders. *Effective 1/25/2012*

**State Highway 83 / Russellville Road Intersection Improvement Project:** Douglas County Engineering staff and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) staff have completed the field survey, and recently began the preliminary design associated with improving this intersection as part of CDOT's FASTER – Safety funding program. Engineering staff from both agencies believe that a southbound Highway 83 to eastbound Russellville Road separate left turn lane will improve traffic operations and make this intersection safer.

In order to accommodate the proposed left turn, the agencies have decided to widen Highway 83 to the east side, and in doing so, only minimal (if any) additional roadway right-of-way is anticipated to be needed from property owners. Presently, the construction is anticipated to begin no sooner than spring 2013, and the project is estimated to cost about \$1,000,000. Additionally, the project will include an overlay and re-striping of the existing pavement and widening. It is being

proposed that the County and CDOT split the costs of the improvements on a 50/50 basis. *Effective 1/25/2012*

## ROAD PROJECTS

**Greenland Road - Phase 2 - East of I-25 Reconstruction Project:** The second phase of the Greenland Road Improvement Project will involve earthwork and minor widening to improve drainage ditches and slopes in order to establish roadside vegetation and increase slope stability. Phase 1 of the Greenland Road Project was completed last year and extended from I-25 east approximately one mile. Phase 2 will extend east approximately 3/4 of a mile from the terminus of last year's project. Roadway grades and the horizontal alignment within Phase 2 will be improved in several areas to increase sight distance and motorist safety. This section of Greenland Road will not be paved, however, it will be re-gravelled and stabilized to control dust. Questions regarding this project can be directed to Gary Walter at 303.660.7480. *Effective 1/26/2012*

**Re-gravelling Projects:** The following gravel roads will receive new gravel to improve surface stability: Jones Road - Spring Valley Road to Highway 83; Spring Valley Road - Best Road to Lorraine Road; Tarryall Road in the Russellville subdivision; Goldcamp Road in the Russellville subdivision and Portions of Lorraine Road. *Effective 1/26/2012*

**Open Space Trailhead:** Construction of a parking lot and trailhead at the Lincoln Mountain Open Space area is scheduled in 2012. The trailhead is located on Jones Road, east of Highway 83. The proposed parking lot and access road to be constructed will accommodate vehicles for mountain bike, hiking and equestrian users. For more information, please contact