

Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4284
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

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Contact:

ANDREA RASIZER

Communication Services Director

Direct: 303-795-4284

Mobile: 303-882-1909

E-mail: arasizer@co.arapahoe.co.us

Arapahoe County News Briefs

News tips and information for Arapahoe County employees and news media

Arapahoe County adopts first biennial budget for 2004/2005

Continuing our commitment to provide affordable, quality services to the citizens of Arapahoe County, the Board of County Commissioners earlier this month unanimously adopted a \$270.8 million budget for 2004 – a 3.1 percent increase from last year.

Arapahoe County was able to balance next year's budget without reducing services, and at the same time provide a 3 percent pool of money for employee raises. Next year's budget includes an additional 13 positions, plans to remodel and upgrade the Littleton Courts and Altura Plaza, implementation of the Colorado Benefits Management System and startup of the countywide Open Space program.

For the first time, departments and elected offices prepared two budgets – one for 2004 and 2005. One of the benefits of biennial budgeting is that it puts more emphasis on longer-range planning. Other issues influencing the 2004/2005 budgets include the City of Centennial contract, which is expected to be approved in January, TABOR, Gallagher Amendment, state cuts in Human Services funding and the new quarter-cent Open Space sales tax.

Property taxes are expected to grow by \$2.5 million in 2004, or 3.6 percent. At 15.140 mills, the County's mill levy continues to remain one of the lowest in the Denver metro area.

Arapahoe County sells downtown Littleton property

36,000 square-foot property was former location for Sheriff's Administration offices

Arapahoe County recently sold two downtown Littleton properties, 2100 and 2120 W. Littleton Boulevard - the former home to the Sheriff's Office, Fleet Services and District Attorney offices.

The property, which was built in the 1930s, was sold Dec. 1 for \$1.6 million. The 36,693 square-foot building had been vacant since March when the District Attorney's Office moved a few blocks east to the County's Arapahoe Plaza, 1690 W. Littleton Boulevard. In August 2002, the Sheriff's Administration Offices relocated to their new headquarters at 13101 E. Broncos Parkway, Centennial.

Arapahoe County office offers assistance to military veterans

The County's Veteran Services Office assists residents who served honorably in the United States Armed Services to obtain any and all benefits for which they may be eligible. The office assists Veterans and dependents in filing for service connected disability, pension and burial benefits as well as providing referrals for educational and employment benefits.

The Veteran Services Office also provides veterans with telephone numbers for the Veterans' Administration, Colorado Department of Veterans' Affairs, VA hospitals and any other Veterans' organizations.

Theresa Hahne, is the County's Veteran Services Officer, and her office is located on the fourth floor in the County Administration Building, 5334 S. Prince St., Littleton. For assistance or for more information, contact Theresa by e-mail at thahne@co.arapahoe.co.us or by phone at 303-795-4418.
