

## Coffee Notes – September 24, 2007

Topic: Tri County Health, Emergency Preparedness

Speaker: Tom Butts

Mr. Butts passed out a two-page handout that included speaking notes and different informational resources people could use including the Colorado Help line and web addresses for Tri County Health Department and other state and federal websites for pandemic preparedness.

He talked about West Nile Virus: This was Colorado's second worst year for the virus, and mentioned that prevention and mosquito abatement had been extremely successful in limiting the number of fatal cases in the state.

He discussed different coordinated response efforts that were in place to deal with infectious diseases and public health emergencies—specifically as to what kinds of planning was being done to prepare for these eventualities.

After the presentation, he opened the floor for questions.

Q) A resident asked if CB radios were considered in the communications plan for public health emergencies.

A) Mr. Butts replied that they can be used, but at this time, the communications plans were looking more at HAM radio operations if television, radio, and other means were not viable.

Q) A resident asked what was the best time to get a flu shot.

A) The speaker replied that the best time is a couple weeks before flu season begins as the shot's effectiveness decreases over time. Flu season fluctuates and can start anywhere between October and December of each year.

Q) A resident asked if there were statistics available for the number of people who get a flu shot and get the flu either later in the year, or from the shot.

A) Mr. Butts responded that flu cases were only recorded when the person is hospitalized because of the illness, or in the event of a pediatric death.

Q) A resident asked who had jurisdiction over water quality.

A) Mr. Butts replied that the state health department usually had jurisdiction over water quality, though TCH could help with 24-response scenarios. He added that local entities such as fire departments were trained to deal with many hazardous material and public health emergencies. Most of the responses needed from TCH were in regards to the clean up of methamphetamine labs and rodent or insect infestation.

Q) A resident asked what kinds of diseases are on the horizon.

A) Mr. Butts responded that some recent outbreaks were being controlled such as whooping cough. He added that TCH does have an infectious disease division that tracks

down causes and sources of all disease outbreaks. He noted that one that seems to come and go is the Nora Virus or the “Cruise Ship” virus. An organism called Cryptosporidium causes the virus. One recent outbreak was traced back to a fecal accident at a pool in Highlands Ranch.

- Q) A resident asked if Mr. Butts advocated people getting the “triple-threat” shots.  
A) Mr. Butts replied that all immunizations would best be discussed with your personal physician and if more information was desired, there was an immunization division of TCH that might be able to answer further questions.

At this point, the Mayor took the floor and opened the meeting for general questions.

- Q) A resident raised a concern about the length of time lights on the pedestrian crossing on Malley Drive were flashing. He noted that the time was very short and frequently people are only half way or  $\frac{3}{4}$  the way across when the lights stop flashing.  
A) The Mayor said that there are systems that have infrared sensors that are activated by movement, but they were more expensive than the pedestrian initiated push button lights.

- Q) A resident asked for a recap of the results of the clean sweep process from Code Enforcement.  
A) The Mayor suggested trying to have Code Enforcement personnel in for Coffee With the Mayor to update people on the clean sweep process, their reorganization, and what it might mean to have CE under the neighborhood services department rather than the police department.

- Q) A resident related an incident during which he witnessed two juveniles walking down his street vandalizing cars.  
A) He was told to call the police, and if possible video or photograph the incidents/suspects to help the police prosecute the offenders.

The Mayor paused to announce the public hearing on the proposed 2008/2009 budget.

- Q) A resident asked if NURA had any involvement in the Garland Shopping center.  
A) The Mayor said that NURA could not force the landowner—who is not cooperative, to do anything. They are trying to market the property to prospective tenants, but have thus far not found anyone interested in leasing space.

- Q) A resident asked about NNDC’s projects—specifically the house on 104<sup>th</sup>, and the house on Clarkson Street.  
A) Kim Snetzinger responded that the bank was working with NNDC on the house on Clarkson Street as it had been a foreclosure. She said that the house on 104<sup>th</sup> was to be kept as a show home indefinitely since the local housing market was making it difficult to sell.

The Mayor added that there would be an upcoming strategic planning meeting with NNDC and hoped that a more cohesive plan for NNDC would result from those

meetings.

Q) A resident asked if there had been any developments on Vitamin Cottage building on Washington Street or with the Block Buster in the Albertson's shopping center.

A) The Mayor said that she had no knowledge of anyone wanting to buy or lease the Block Buster and that Vitamin Cottage had just finished the process of going through the planning commission and is moving ahead with their planned project.