



## Law Enforcement Authority

2011 THIRD QUARTER REPORT

### SMART Jeffco | QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

*SMART Jeffco is a problem-solving model that places responsibility to identify problems and solutions at the deputy level. Law enforcement commanders are accountable for their geographic areas of responsibility. Since 2004, SMART (Strategic Management and Accurate Response Tactics) has used Sheriff's Office and other county resources to solve crime and quality-of-life problems in the community.*

- **New tool for dealing with distressed properties.** In September, the BCC approved a distressed-property ordinance proposed by the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office proposed the ordinance in an effort to see that banks and other owners of foreclosed or vacant and hazardous properties take responsibility for security of the properties, thus mitigating health and safety hazards and quality-of-life impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods. The proposed ordinance requires the owners of foreclosed or vacant and hazardous properties to register with the Jeffco Planning and Zoning department and provide emergency contact information. The registry will help Sheriff's Office personnel reach the owners of distressed properties upon discovery of graffiti, trespassers, squatters, hazardous structural problems, and other issues. The ordinance will go into effect in November.
- **Increase in gold thefts.** Investigators have noted a 20% increase in felony thefts over the last year. They attribute the change to the high price of gold and the ease with which people can pawn gold. Many thefts occur at house parties, or involve one family member stealing from another (usually child stealing from parent). Investigators have reached out to area pawn shops to educate them about their responsibilities under Colorado law in conducting transactions involving precious metals and stones. A private database of pawns with information submitted by pawn shops has proven to be an effective investigative tool in identifying trends and solving some of the thefts.

- **Teen stabs mother.** On July 6 at an address on Red Fox Drive, a teen stabbed his mother in the back. She was able to escape to a neighbor's house where she was met by paramedics and deputies. She was transported via helicopter to St. Anthony's Hospital. Deputies searched the area and found the teen walking nearby. He was arrested for attempted homicide.
- **The Edge on edge due to gunman.** After an incident on July 7 involving a man with a gun outside The Edge ice arena in south Jeffco, Patrol staff met with Foothills Parks & Rec staff to debrief the incident. They shared information, including Foothills' electronic floor plans. As a result of the meeting, Foothills may be a participant in future emergency training exercises.
- **River runner dies near Cathedral Spires.** Near day's end on July 24, a 30-year-old man who was floating the rushing South Platte River on a "torpedo" inflatable device fell into the water. The inflatable and the man's backpack were located that evening but the man was not. A search was postponed due to darkness. When the search resumed in the morning, the man's body was found in the river.
- **Lightning starts multiple wildland fires in July.** In July, deputies assisted firefighters on multiple wildfires in the mountains. On July 6, a small fire broke out near a home on South Foxton Road and was put out. On July 19, a barn caught fire along Highway 285 due to a lightning strike; the barn was a total loss, but no other structures were threatened. On July 26, a lightning strike behind the North Fork Fire Department ignited a small fire that was quickly extinguished. And on July 27 on Kincaid Springs Road, a tree that had been struck by lightning the prior night smoldered and started a small fire that was extinguished.
- **Denver resident Amy Ahonen goes missing.** On July 10, the Colorado State Patrol learned that an empty vehicle it had tagged at a pullout on Highway 6 belonged to a missing Denver resident. They returned to the vehicle to find that it had not been disturbed, that the car was unlocked and the woman's purse and personal effects were inside. Clear Creek was running very high and was extremely dangerous at the time. Over the course of several weeks, searchers from the Golden Fire Department, the Alpine Rescue Team, the Sheriff's Office and the Denver Police Department searched on foot and by air for any signs of Amy Ahonen. To date no evidence has been found. The case is a Denver Police missing persons case.
- **Animal Control seizes rabbits.** On July 21, 2011 Jefferson County Animal Control Officers responded to a home at 12820 W. 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. in reference to a tip about animal abuse involving rabbits. The tip came through a new Crime Stoppers program for reporting suspected animal cruelty and abuse cases. After officers and veterinarians did an inspection of about 200 rabbits and the conditions they were being kept in, they determined that the rabbits needed to be seized for their welfare. The rabbits' owner relinquished ownership of each animal on-site, and the rabbits were transported to the Jefferson County Fairgrounds for further evaluation and care by Foothills Animal Shelter. Since that time, many of the rabbits have been adopted through the shelter. The suspect later alleged publicly that Sheriff's Office officials seized the rabbits without cause and without a search warrant. Our agency posted further information online to clear any confusion. A trial is scheduled for January.

- **Traffic stop reveals multiple crimes.** On July 23, a deputy made a traffic stop on Highway 285 and Parker Avenue. The driver provided false information and had no license, registration or proof of insurance. Upon searching the vehicle, the deputy discovered 30 Social Security cards, seven driver's licenses and a few birth certificates. The suspect ran and resisted arrest. He was jailed on charges of identity theft, criminal impersonation, resisting arrest, as well as two warrants. His license had been revoked because of three DUIs.
- **Prolific purse snatcher, auto thief nabbed.** On July 27, deputies responded to the area of the King Soopers located at 9800 W. Belleview Ave. in reference to a purse theft. The purse had been stolen from a shopping cart in the store, and the suspect had left in a black Isuzu Rodeo. An alert Jeffco investigator was in the area and saw the Isuzu traveling north on South Kipling Parkway. Deputies were able to stop the Isuzu at Kipling and U.S. Highway 285.

The suspect, a recent parolee, was arrested without incident. Deputies learned that the Isuzu had been reported stolen in Wheat Ridge. Subsequent searches of the Isuzu, and the motel room that the suspect was living in, uncovered stolen property tied to six other reported purse thefts in Jefferson County, Lakewood, Broomfield and Arvada. The thefts all occurred when the victims left their purses unattended in shopping carts, or when they were with their carts, but distracted with their shopping. All of the thefts occurred in King Soopers and Safeway stores. The suspect was apparently targeting the elderly, as the majority of victims were senior citizens. He would later use the credit cards, committing identity theft as well.

- **Deputy catches a ride, and a suspect.** On August 1, a resident reported that a young man had entered his garage and stolen a bicycle. Deputies responded to the area and located the suspect, who dropped the bike and ran. One deputy followed the suspect onto a golf course and flagged down a beer cart; the teen girl at the wheel agreed to drive him to the suspect, where he made the arrest. The beer cart driver was given a citizen coin for her assistance.
- **Rescue of fallen climber.** On August 9, deputies were dispatched to Maxwell Falls on a report of a fallen climber. A 17-year-old fell more than 25 feet while climbing rocks, and suffered a head injury. Medical personnel and deputies carried him out, and he was transported to a hospital via helicopter.
- **Dillard's targeted by thieves.** On August 12, a deputy in the Southwest Plaza parking lot saw store security chasing a man from the store. He dropped a bag and dove into the passenger side window of a car. The deputy followed the car to nearby apartments and arrested the pair, who had stolen over \$1,000 worth of polo shirts from Dillard's. They were jailed on felony theft and eluding. On August 29, deputies were dispatched to Dillard's regarding another attempted theft. Security had detained a woman who had stolen over \$1,000 in purses and wallets. She was jailed on warrants and a new felony theft charge.
- **USA Pro Challenge coincides with the Rocky Mountain Air Show.** Deputies were busy during the last weekend in August, when the first ever USA Pro Cycling Challenge raced through Jeffco, at the same time that the Rocky Mountain Air Show was taking place at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport. North precinct resources were put to the test as thousands of spectators descended on the area. An

operations plan that was months in the making ensured event coverage, traffic flow and spectator safety.

- **OMG: Operation Mountain Guardian.** The Sheriff's Office participated — along with dozens of other metro area emergency services agencies — in Operation Mountain Guardian (OMG). OMG was a large-scale terrorism response training exercise that involved simulated attacks at four metro area sites. From our agency, the Jefferson County Regional SWAT Team, the Bomb Squad, members of the Incident Management Team, dispatchers and a public information officer were involved in the event.
- **Fatal motorcycle accidents.** In July and August, three motorcyclists died as a result of crashes on Jeffco roadways. On July 24<sup>th</sup> a 65-year-old man failed to negotiate a sweeping right turn on Highway 285 at Parmalee Gulch Road and crashed. He was airlifted and died later. He was not wearing a helmet.

In August, four deputies were conducting a vehicle search on eastbound I-70 near Genesee when a crash occurred above them on the westbound side. A motorcyclist with a rider (his wife) had lost control and ejected the rider, who died instantly upon hitting a guardrail. The deputies rushed across the highway to render aid and direct traffic. A second motorcyclist failed to recognize traffic slowing for the accident, and he crashed into the back of an SUV, also hitting a guardrail and dying instantly. Both decedents were wearing helmets.

The Traffic Unit continues to conduct traffic enforcement on highways, as well as high-accident areas throughout the county. Highway 285 continues to be a focus area for district deputies due to a recent history of wrong-way drivers on that road.

- **Car trespass suspects caught in the act throughout September.** In September, Patrol shift 3A (graveyard shift Sunday – Wednesday) arrested 10 car prowlers in five separate theft series in south Jeffco. In four of the five events, citizens called the Sheriff's Office when they saw or heard something suspicious. All the crimes involved cars parked in neighborhoods with doors left unlocked and valuables inside. The thieves stole iPods, cameras, laptops and other electronics, as well as cash from the vehicles. Six of the men are Jeffco residents, in their late teens and early 20's, with a history of these crimes. They worked alone or in pairs. The other four suspects were juveniles from outside Jeffco working together. None of the cases are related.

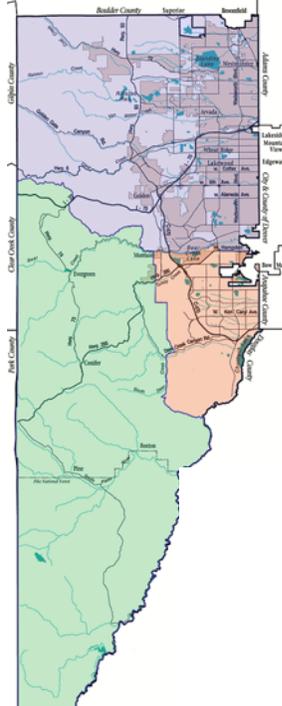
## Patrol Watch Activity

Patrol watch activity is measured by two criteria — reports and service calls.

- A **report** has a case number and is documented with a written report.
- A **service call** occurs when a deputy is dispatched to a call that does not require a written report.

Reports and service calls are broken down by precincts: north, south and mountains.

- **North.** The north area of Jeffco is considered to be the area north of Alameda Avenue to the county line, and east of the foothills (mainly unincorporated Golden and Arvada, Clear Creek, Golden Gate and Coal Creek canyons).
- **South.** The south area is considered to be Alameda south to Chatfield Reservoir, and east of the foothills (unincorporated Littleton and Lakewood).
- **Mountains.** The mountain area is considered to be south of I-70, and west of the foothills (Evergreen, Conifer, Idledale, Kittredge and the south



### Third Quarter 2011: REPORTS

REPORTS	North	South	Mountains	TOTAL
July	821	1,458	603	2,882
August	903	1,440	564	2,907
September	857	1,425	578	2,860
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>4,323</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>8,649</b>

### Third Quarter 2011: SERVICE CALLS

SERVICE CALLS	North	South	Mountains	TOTAL
July	919	1790	966	3,675
August	768	1541	825	3,134
September	733	1418	611	2,762
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>4,749</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>9,571</b>

### 2010-2011 Quarterly Comparison: REPORTS

REPORTS	2010	2011	% Change
July	3,041	2,882	-5%
August	3,014	2,907	-3%
September	2,893	2,860	-1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,948</b>	<b>8,649</b>	<b>-3%</b>

### 2010-2011 Quarterly Comparison: SERVICE CALLS

SERVICE CALLS	2010	2011	% Change
July	3,546	3,675	+3%
August	3,243	3,134	-3%
September	2,871	2,762	-4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,660</b>	<b>9,571</b>	<b>0%</b>

### Traffic Enforcement

The primary goal of JCSO traffic enforcement is to reduce unsafe driving in the county. Salaries for the traffic clerks and equipment are funded through the revenue generated from the Model Traffic Code (MTC).

Below is the number of tickets issued during the quarter, as well as a comparison from the same time period last year:

MTC	Parking Tickets Issued	Traffic Tickets Issued
Third Quarter 2010	181	2,964
<b>Third Quarter 2011</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>2,894</b>

Of the 2,894 traffic tickets issued in the quarter, 86 percent were written in high-accident areas, as identified through accident statistics.

## Criminal Investigation | QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Investigators solve murder of man left on Lookout Mountain.** On August 17, a cyclist who had stopped to rest on Lookout Mountain Road saw a man's body over the guardrail. It showed obvious signs of trauma and had apparently been dumped there recently. Investigators and crime lab techs arrived and began their work on the case. Within a few days, they had identified the victim, his home, his associates, and the crime scene. The victim, Richard Limon, a 69-year-old Denver resident, was stabbed to death. Investigators arrested two adults and one juvenile for the murder; a fourth suspect is at large, and may have fled the country.
- **Deputies continue to discover marijuana grows.** In August, deputies working in the mountain precinct discovered marijuana grows at various residences while responding to separate calls for kidnapping, shots fired, a fugitive search and a welfare check. In most cases the plants were in plain view. Drug cases are referred to the West Metro Drug Task Force for investigation to determine whether they are legal or not per Colorado regulations.
- **Serial hotel robber fails in Jeffco attempt, keeps robbing hotels.** A suspected serial hotel robber has been active in the metro area since late August, robbing at least ten area hotels, mostly at night. He wears a mask, carries a handgun, and demands cash from the lobby staff. Investigators believe he was attempting to rob the Hampton Inn on Shaffer Parkway on September 8 when he was foiled by the lobby's locked doors. Later that day he is believed to have been responsible for a robbery at the Courtyard by Marriott on the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue frontage road in Golden. Jeffco deputies assisted Golden with a search of the building and scene security.
- **Attempted murder charges for father in son's shooting.** In August, investigators responded to a shooting at an address on Highway 285. A man had shot his adult son twice below the shoulder with a .22. The suspect is being held on charges of attempted first degree murder and first degree assault with a deadly weapon. The son remains in intensive care. Preliminary hearings begin in November.
- **Arrest following cemetery thefts.** After an extensive series of thefts of more than 200 brass sprinkler heads from Mt. Olivet Cemetery over about a month and a half, investigators identified a suspect. On August 18, he was arrested. Evidence has linked him to only a small portion of the stolen items.
- **Fingerprints help identify brazen burglar.** In May, residents on West 82<sup>nd</sup> Place discovered a man on their screened-in back porch stealing a laptop and computer bag. The male homeowner jumped on the intruder's back and both fell to the ground. The female homeowner grabbed the bag and a tug-of-war ensued. The intruder escaped, crossing several fences. Deputies were unable to locate him. Personal items that did not belong to the homeowners were left at the scene, and fingerprints were lifted. From that evidence the man was identified and a case filed. He has not been linked to any other Jeffco burglaries at this time.
- **Investigator honored.** CATI, the Colorado Auto Theft Investigators group, named our Joe Obechina auto theft investigator of the year.

## Crime Statistics

Below is a five-year synopsis of reported major crime (Part 1) in this quarter of each year and a five-year synopsis of minor crime (Part 2) in this quarter of each year.

	<b>CRIME CATEGORIES</b>	<b>3Q07</b>	<b>3Q08</b>	<b>3Q09</b>	<b>3Q10</b>	<b>3Q11</b>
PART 1	ARSON	15	14	7	16	13
	ASSAULT	181	216	188	202	224
	BURGLARY	148	174	158	122	144
	HOMICIDE*	2	0	3	2	2
	KIDNAP	5	4	6	3	10
	MVT	48	65	53	41	38
	ROBBERY	1	3	5	13	3
	THEFT	388	397	335	340	309
	UNLAWFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR	53	50	49	48	48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>791</b>
PART 2	DRUGS	196	141	149	179	164
	FAMILY	67	67	104	83	114
	FORGERY	28	27	20	24	5
	FRAUD	142	125	114	145	118
	GOVERNMENT	61	44	41	31	37
	MISCHIEF	234	219	233	208	221
	MORALS	15	14	7	16	7
	PEACE	299	328	266	272	228
	PROPERTY	262	237	223	199	181
	TRESPASS-D	27	26	14	23	20
	TRESPASS-V	209	287	269	220	151
	WEAPONS	16	21	14	15	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,556</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,454</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>1,261</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,397</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>2,052</b>	

\* Includes homicides and attempted homicides.

## Community Relations | QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Coffee with a Cop.** Coffee with a Cop events continue throughout the county, allowing citizens the opportunity to ask questions about law enforcement and crime trends. The Golden and Wheat Ridge police departments recently joined our north precinct captain's events to provide a more complete picture of crime in neighborhoods near jurisdictional boundaries.
- **Sheriff's Safety Fair.** An estimated 20,000 people attended the 2011 Summerset Festival at Clement Park, and many of them took the time to visit the Sheriff's Safety Fair there. This free annual event is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, and features booths by Sheriff's Office special units and partner nonprofit and government agencies. All booths provide specific safety information and giveaways to citizens, from free "The Club" tools to prevent auto theft (Metro Auto Theft Task Force) to wilderness safety tips (Alpine Rescue Team). Citizens may ask questions of our experts in school safety, identity theft, crime prevention, victim advocacy and emergency preparedness. We ensure that our event is educational and enjoyable, with no selling of any products or services.
- **Survey results.** We mail a quarterly survey to 250 recipients who have recently had contact with our agency; it's one of several tools we use to gather feedback from the public. Possible survey recipients are witnesses, victims, drivers, passengers or reporting parties. From 2010 – 2011, recipients rated the safety of unincorporated Jefferson County an average of 3.4 out of 4.0. Speeding in residential neighborhoods is the most frequently cited safety concern. Below are some free-form comments from our second quarter 2011 survey:
  - ✓ *Make more room on these cards for positive feedback.*
  - ✓ *Very well trained deputies. Particularly impressed with deputies responding to people with mental health issues.*
  - ✓ *Deputy Carmickle helped us resolve a vandalism issue that had plagued us for 2 years. His follow through was exemplary.*
  - ✓ *Glad to see your increased visibility in the neighborhoods.*
  - ✓ *The events that have occurred concerning our safety & security have been handled marvelously.*
- **The days are just packed.** Summer is a busy time for the Sheriff's Office crime prevention deputies. Here are just a few of the many summer events they participated in to share our public safety messages with citizens.
  - ✓ National Night Out
  - ✓ Sheriff's Safety Fair
  - ✓ Tip-a-Cop
  - ✓ Touch-a-Truck
  - ✓ Jefferson County Fair
  - ✓ DA's safety day
  - ✓ Chick-Fil-A September 11 hero celebration
  - ✓ Evergreen Rodeo
  - ✓ Conifer Chili Festival
  - ✓ Pine Rhubarb Festival
  - ✓ Jeffco Human Services Resource Fair