

PARK COUNTY NEWS-GRAM
OCTOBER 30, 2009

MCNAMARA BUILDING

Park County has closed county and non-profit offices in the McNamara Building in the 800 block of Castello Street in Fairplay.

After hearing the results of a fire inspection from North West Fire Protection District officials declaring the building unsafe, the Park County Board of County Commissioners ordered all offices closed except for the essential County services of the 911 Communications Center, the County radio system and the Information Services Department.

Operations of Human Services will be located at 295 5th Street, Public Health offices located at the Sheriff's Office with clinics being held at the fairgrounds, and the Senior Coalition at the fairgrounds.

Because of the nature of the equipment required to keep the 911, Radio and Information Services operational, those County departments must remain in the building until a new structure designed to accommodate those offices can be built. North West Fire Chief, Mike Roll promised to work with county staff to do everything possible to insure a quick evacuation of those employees in the case of fire in the building.

The BOCC is moving as quickly as possible to secure land and begin the process of constructing the new facilities, and to establish new quarters for the displaced offices and Services formerly lodged in the MacNamara Building.

COUNTY ACTIVATES NEW 911 SYSTEM

Park County has upgraded its 911 System for quicker, more efficient response to emergency calls.

The system, provided by 911, Inc. ramped up the first phase on August fifth. The second phase with CAD (Computer Assisted Dispatch) and mapping features came on-line September ninth.

While the Park County 911 service had been plagued by frequent failures in the past, the latest improvements have proven to offer faster response time to both emergency and non-emergency calls by integrating computer recording of each call as it comes in and providing on-screen mapping of the call's location to help dispatchers guide emergency responders to the scene.

RED CROSS

"The Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross (in coordination with the Park County Emergency Management agency) will offer training for local volunteers in the operation and management of a Red Cross shelter. The goal of this training is to have locally trained volunteers available to quickly respond to an emergency situation in the event of a wildfire, blizzard, road closing or other event where evacuations are required or people must be assembled in order to insure their safety. The training will be offered on Friday evening, 6 November 2009 and all day Saturday, 7 November 2009 at the Fairplay Fairgrounds. The Friday evening session will consist of in-processing/orientation and a class entitled "Fulfilling Our Mission". On Saturday the training will consist of two classes: "Shelter Operations and Management" and a "Shelter Simulation". Those who complete the training will be certified and approved to staff a Red Cross shelter in the event of a disaster. The classes will be limited to approximately 20 volunteers, so if you would like to attend the training or would like more information, please contact Jerry Bell, Ph: 303-838-0870, Email: heljerbelle@msn.com as soon as possible to obtain additional details and information. (FYI, all Red Cross volunteers are required to complete a background check.)"

