

News Release

Pueblo County Board Of County Commissioners



Pueblo County Courthouse
215 W. 10th Street
Pueblo, CO 81003

Paris Carmichael
Community Information Manager
Cell: 719-252-8550
carmichp@pueblounty.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, November 21, 2016

HISTORIC COURTHOUSE LIGHTING DEDICATED TO WILDFIRE RESPONDERS

PUEBLO – Wildfire responders who helped protect the Pueblo community will be honored during the 2016 Historic Pueblo County Courthouse Holiday Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 2, at 6 p.m. The annual free event will also feature holiday music performances, an opportunity for children to visit and take a picture with Santa and view the holiday decorations inside the Historic Courthouse that have also been dedicated to wildfire first responders.

From churches to hospitals, to animal shelters, post offices, school districts, utilities and elected officials—more than 100 local, state and federal agencies came together to protect our community during the wildfires of 2016. The efforts of every agency involved was crucial to the fire response and recovery.

In an effort to show the large scale effort it takes to protect our community from disasters such as wildfires, the Pueblo County Board of County Commissioners is inviting all agencies that responded to the wildfires of 2016 to participate in the 2016 Historic Pueblo County Courthouse Holiday Lighting Ceremony. Agency representatives are invited to stand on the steps of the courthouse during the lighting ceremony. Retired emergency manager and first responder Steve Douglas, has been asked to “flip the switch” to illuminate the courthouse and its grounds during the ceremony. After the ceremony, a handful of response agencies will also have a response vehicle at the courthouse for a touch-a-truck event to give the public an opportunity to touch and see response vehicles and speak with responders.

After the lighting ceremony, the public is invited inside the courthouse where Santa will be seated in the Commissioners’ Chambers listening to children’s Christmas wishes and District 60 and 70 students will be performing holiday music.

The courthouse also features two Colorado-grown holiday trees donated by two small businesses. The rotunda of the courthouse features a 16-foot tree cut from the Aguilar area donated by Peppers and Petals. A six-foot live tree, donated by Fox’s Garden Supply, is located just outside the Commissioners’ Chambers.

Interior Designer Janey Lattimer, of the Design Source has been volunteering her time and skills to create a forest theme inside the courthouse. When finished, the decorations will include wildlife

figurines and banners that say “Thank you for saving our land and homes.” Lattimer had volunteered to decorate the interior of the courthouse for the holidays before the fires. Ironically, it wasn’t until after the wildfire responder theme was chosen that the County learned Lattimer’s ranch was largely affected by the Junkins Fire. Fortunately, Lattimer’s home was saved by firefighters but land and several outbuildings were lost.

Continuing with a tradition started in 2015, Pueblo District 60 art students are creating ornaments to adorn some of the trees inside the courthouse. The ornaments will also follow the wildfire first responder theme, but won’t be on display until Friday, December 2.

The Historic Pueblo County Courthouse Holiday Lighting Ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude around 9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

More information about the event can be found on the County’s Lighting Ceremony Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/317591348618131/>.

Media needing more information, to request an interview with Janey Lattimer, Steve Douglas or anyone else involved in the decorating of the courthouse or the holiday lighting ceremony can contact Paris Carmichael, Pueblo County Community Information Manager at carmichp@pueblounty.us or 719-252-8550.

###