

## **Partnership receives ICMA Program Excellence Award**

The Partnership of Douglas County Governments, which includes the Town of Parker, Douglas County, the Town of Castle Rock, the City of Lone Tree, the Town of Larkspur and the Douglas County School District, has been named the recipient of the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) 2003 Program Excellence Award for Outstanding Partnership in Intergovernmental Cooperation. This award recognizes the outstanding programs developed out of cooperative actions or strategic partnerships between or among jurisdictions. The Partnership was honored at the annual ICMA Conference in September.

The Partnership was organized to bring senior staff and elected officials together from all jurisdictions for the purpose of strengthening relationships, sharing the resources of its diverse membership and discovering opportunities to work together on projects that are of importance to the region. The Partnership members prioritize these regional activities in order to sustain the momentum of the effort and to produce results such as: cost savings to the taxpayers of Douglas County and its municipalities; improvements in operations; and program efficiency. All of these important benefits ultimately improve the overall quality of service delivered to citizens.

So far, The Partnership has accomplished the following:

- Development of a regional Emergency Management Plan proved critical in the 2002 Fire Season, when one of the largest wildfires in Colorado history was within Douglas County.
- Closure of various Land Use Intergovernmental Agreements between Partnership members.
- The first gathering of all elected officials from local and state government in Douglas County history: the Partnership's first annual Elected Official Caucus.
- Cooperative work on an environmental plan based upon requirements surrounding the Prebles Jumping Mouse related to the endangered species act.
- The formation of the state of Colorado's only multi-jurisdictional Housing Authority.
- The creation of a money-saving sales tax collection program between Castle Rock and Parker.

For more information about the Partnership of Douglas County Governments, please call 303.841.0353 or 303.660.7400.

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