



Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80120-1136
Phone: 303-795-5467
Fax: 303-734-5470
www.arapahoegov.com

For release: October 8, 2012

Contact:
HALEY MCKEAN
Communication Services Specialist
Direct: 303-636-1945
Mobile: 303-726-6608
E-mail: hmckean@co.arapahoe.co.us

Fall Festival will celebrate the opening of 17 Mile House Farm Park *Community invited to free Oct. 20 celebration of Colorado's historic landmark*

Centennial, Colo. – Step back in time and celebrate a piece of Colorado's history during a free Fall Festival, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 20, at the 17 Mile House Farm Park, located at 8181 S. Parker Road in Centennial.

The outdoor festival hosted by Arapahoe County will celebrate the completed restoration of the 150-year old property, which originally served as an important resting spot for pioneers traveling on wagon trails to Denver. The event also marks the opening of the Farm Park open space to the public, including a trailhead to connect to Cherry Creek Regional Trail, picnic tables, a parking lot and restroom.

At the festival, you can pick out your favorite pumpkin at the pumpkin patch and take a scenic hayride pulled by antique tractor. Take a turn milking Bessie the Cow and visit her farmyard friends in the petting zoo. Warm up with free apple cider, and enjoy a chuck wagon lunch (available for purchase) under a tent, while tapping your foot to live bluegrass music by local band, Two Large Acoustigrass. Enjoy gold-panning demonstrations, tours of the farmhouse and meeting Nature's Educators Birds of Prey.

Ruth Race Dolan and Jack Race, former tenants of the 17 Mile House, as well as local historians, will talk about the history of the property and its significance to the Old West.

The County-designated heritage area includes a historic farmhouse, red barn, silo and milk shed, which were restored to their known condition in the early 1900's, as well as two replica windmills and 30 acres of open space.

The property was preserved and restored by Arapahoe County in partnership with Douglas County, Town of Parker, Trust for Public Land, Greater Outdoors Colorado, Colorado Historical Fund, Colorado Historic Foundation, Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society and the Gates Family Foundation. It is managed by Arapahoe County, thanks to the voter-approved Open Space sales and use tax. The restored farmhouse will be furnished in 2013; donations are welcome at the event to help with this effort.

Admission is free. Costs of pumpkin and food items vary. For more information, please call 720-874-6545 or visit www.arapahoegov.com.

###

To download photos of 17 Mile House Farm Park, click the link:
<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/17MileHouse/>