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Residents gather at Community Meeting and Grand Opening of Arapahoe County's Eastern Service Center in Bennett

Littleton, CO – More than 300 people of all ages joined the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners and staff on Oct. 2 to celebrate the grand opening of the new Eastern Service Center, 4405 S. County Road 129, Bennett.

Families were treated to free hotdogs, cookies and popcorn as they toured the building, spoke with County employees about programs and issues affecting eastern Arapahoe County and celebrated the grand opening of Arapahoe County's newest facility.

Kids took a spin through the Toddler Driving School, jumped in a bounce house, got their face painted, enjoyed the K9 demonstration from the Sheriff's Office and explored heavy equipment from Road and Bridge.

"I am pleased that so many of our residents took time out of their evening to help us celebrate and learn more about Arapahoe County," said Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who represents District 3 which includes a portion of Aurora, Centennial, Foxfield and all of eastern Arapahoe County. "Our new facility will allow the County to store much needed snow removal and public works equipment in one location, which will allow us to better serve residents out east."

The \$6 million building replaces the County's aging facility in Byers, which was built in 1938 in a residential neighborhood. The County outgrew the facility many years ago and was unable to accommodate the staff or equipment needed to provide services to the eastern portions of the County.

The new 16,000 square-foot Eastern Service Center includes 110-foot vehicle bays, a welding area and room to store heavy equipment, such as snowplows and road graders. The County's 20 employees, along with the equipment from the Byers facility, have relocated to the Eastern Service Center.

Arapahoe County purchased the property in 2005 from Helen and Larry Toft, long time ranchers, who still own property near the new facility. The Tofts attended Thursday's ceremony.

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Photos: [ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/ESC/](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/ESC/)

First photo: Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, Helen and Larry Toft.

Second photo: Town of Bennett Mayor, Sue Horn, Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan, Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig, Town of Bennett Trustee, Charles Bayley, Regional Economic

Advancement Partnership, Wil Chase, Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, President/CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Kevin Hougen, Town of Deer Trail Trustee, Harry Venter, Arapahoe County Director of Public Works and Development, Dave Schmit and Arapahoe County Director of Facilities and Fleet Management Bob Patterson.