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Susan Beckman selected chair of Board of County Commissioners *Jim Dyer to serve as chair pro tem, Rod Bockenfeld as financial officer*

LITTLETON, CO --- Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman was selected Tuesday to serve as chair of the Board of County Commissioners for 2008. Commissioner Jim Dyer will serve as Chair Pro Tem and Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld as Financial Officer.

“Commissioner Beckman has done an excellent job and is the most experienced member of the Board,” said Commissioner Jim Dyer, who represents District 2. “She is capable of carrying on in a way that is consistent with the high qualities and standards that are important to Arapahoe County.”

Beckman, who represents District 1 which includes Littleton, Englewood and Sheridan, is serving her second term as commissioner. She was elected to the Board in 2001 and served as Chair in 2004, Chair Pro Tem in 2003 and financial officer in 2002. She represents Arapahoe County on numerous boards and committees, including the Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority, South Metro Denver Economic Development Group, Metro Area County Commissioners, Colorado Counties Inc. and Denver Regional Council of Governments.

“I am honored to serve as Chair for 2008,” said Beckman. “Our Board of County Commissioners and staff are dedicated to accomplishing our Service First mission and providing our citizens with an open, accessible and accountable government. No doubt, we have an exciting year ahead of us and a lot of work to do.”

Projects for the upcoming year include the successful opening of the new Eastern Service Center, supporting the Clerk and Recorder with the primary and general elections; ensuring a seamless transition of public works services to the City of Centennial; improving transportation corridors and helping to alleviate traffic congestion in major intersections throughout the county, such as the Parker and Arapahoe Road and Arapahoe Road and I-25 interchange.

Work will begin this spring on the short-term solutions to the County’s shortage of court space when construction begins on a 54,000 square-foot modular addition to the justice center on Potomac Street in Centennial.

Economic Development will be a priority this year as Arapahoe County continues its work with neighboring counties, cities, chambers and economic development organizations to strengthen the economy in the South Metro Denver region by attracting new jobs, retaining businesses and keeping taxes low.

Finally, the great outdoors will get a boost when Arapahoe County – in partnership with local cities, towns and special districts – seeks to provide one of the premiere Open Space programs in Colorado. Since voters approved the open space quarter-cent sales tax in 2003, the Board of County Commissioners has awarded more than \$33 million in sales tax revenue and worked alongside cities, towns and special districts to preserve open space and historic areas, and provide parks, trails and recreational amenities for residents and future generations to enjoy for years to come.

In 2008, citizens will see projects to preserve, beautify and improve trail connections along the South Platte River corridor, plans to improve the Highline Canal and the preservation of open space land in rural Arapahoe County.

In addition to Beckman, Dyer and Bockenfeld, other members of the Board include Commissioners Frank Weddig, District 5 and Pat Noonan, District 4. To learn more about the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners, or to find out which commissioner represents you, visit the County's web site at www.co.arapahoe.co.us and click on departments, and Commissioners' Office.

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Commissioner Beckman's photo can be downloaded at: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/photos/>