

January 1, 2010

With new year comes promise for change

We can all take steps to make our community better

Now that we have bid farewell to 2009 and the first decade of the new millennium, it is time to focus on the future.

This is a time to plan for a productive new year filled with meaningful change.

With that in mind, it is important to remember that nearly 75 percent of all those resolutions for losing weight, managing debt, saving money or quitting smoking fail.

Though this statistic is disheartening at such a promising time, it is important to note because simple cooperation and support can often mean the difference between failure and success with most quests for change.

As we move into 2010, we want to remind people in Northern Colorado that with a new year comes new promise.

Following are some resolutions we hope people will take to heart and work to achieve:

> Reduce, reuse, recycle: The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. One of the best ways to make a difference is to reduce, reuse and recycle. Through thoughtful consumption, we all can help the world around us.

> Regional transportation: In 2010, we hope Larimer County leaders focus on finding solutions for our region's continued transportation woes. This is an issue where creative solutions won't come easy but they can be found. In keeping with Benjamin Franklin's words, "We must all hang together or assuredly we shall all hang separately," we encourage our elected leaders to see the power in cooperation and work to find a common goal.

> Combat poverty: We are continuing to recover from a devastating economic meltdown that left many people in our community without jobs, homes and little hope for the future. Though we live in a region where philanthropy continues, it's important to remember that people live in poverty around us. It's never too late to help make a difference for someone struggling.

> Community support: We are fortunate to live in a community where people often offer their time and services freely. The 2009 United Way of Larimer County's Make A Difference Day set a record for the number of volunteers involved and the number of projects completed. The weeklong event in October drew 4,400 volunteers who finished more than 150 projects. In 2010, let's strive for another record.