

## Drug trafficking targeted

# Coloradan captures national award

**T**hornton Police Lt. Lori Moriarty has been named national "Outstanding High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force Commander-of-the-Year." She is a 14-year veteran of the Thornton Police Department but has been commander of the North Metro Drug Task Force for only a year. Thornton Police Capt. Ken Reather said this is a great honor for Moriarty, and for her whole unit, who Moriarty credits for her success. Moriarty received her award in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 6.

Reather said, "Lieutenant Moriarty has raised the high professional standards of the unit by implementing a number of innovative policies and procedures, and by acquiring state-of-the-art equipment, including computers, digital video/photography, clandestine drug lab safety equipment and surveillance systems."

Under her leadership, Adams County led the metro area in a battle against illegal methamphetamine labs operating in the area. Due to the dangers associated with these labs, Moriarty authorized the development of an eight-hour OSHA-compliant safety course for first responders. She obtained grant funding to pay for training course workbooks, which she often spent nights and holidays assembling.



*Lt. Lori Moriarty received the national award in Washington, D.C. Pictured from left, Sgt. Jim Gerhardt, North Metro Task Force and Thornton Police Department; Moriarty; and Thornton Police Chief James Nursey.*

Tom Gorman, head of the Rocky Mountain HIDTA, was so impressed with Moriarty's efforts that he selected her for the regional Commander-of-the-Year award, and nominated her for the national award. "She's phenomenal," says Gorman, "very professional and a real team player."

Moriarty works to get the word out about the dangers of clandestine drug

labs. She and other members of the North Metro Task Force have made a number of presentations to civic groups and others, including a Colorado Municipal League seminar attended by more than 150 city and county attorneys.

Through her news-media friendly policy, Moriarty helped the media spread the word about drug lab dangers and was instrumental in the development of *The Hidden Threat: The Rapid Rise of Meth Labs*, a cable television program airing on many city and county government-access cable channels.

Moriarty has further distinguished herself through grant funding applications and annual reports to the federal government, obtaining considerable funding to continue the battle against methamphetamine labs.

For more information, contact City of Thornton Communication Manager Jan Dexter-Blunt at (303) 538-7238. ■

## CDBG reminder

As previously noted in the *CML Newsletter*, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs is accepting Small Cities Community Development Block Grant applications for public facility projects. Funding for these projects will be available April 1. The deadline for applications is Jan. 15. Field representative area assignments and application forms can be found on the DOLA Web site, [www.dola.state.co.us/fs/](http://www.dola.state.co.us/fs/) or by contacting Bill Verbeten, CDBG program director, at (303) 866-3573. Potential applicants are advised to contact and consult with the DOLA field staff person assigned to their area before submitting the application. Five copies of the application should be submitted to Verbeten at DOLA, 1313 Sherman St., Room 521, Denver, CO 80203. ■