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# Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Lafayette's unique agricultural collaboration to be dedicated on June 1 Community members invited to the Thomas Open Space "Barn Party"

**LAFAYETTE, Colo** May 23, 2012 – The organic farm at Thomas Open Space is encountering what could be considered a modern-day barn raising. In 2005 the City set the stage for a unique collaboration to happen between the open space property and Isabelle Farms, a local organic farmer. Initially Isabelle Farms was just a tenant leasing out the parcel for their farm and retail operations. As this partnership developed, the popularity and potential of the organic farm stand generated some creative thinking.

Municipally supported local and organic agriculture is a unique and pioneering relationship. According to Monte Stevenson, Parks, Open Space and Golf Director, "Supporting local, organic food production complements Lafayette's values. The construction of this barn will provide a permanent facility for the agricultural lessee and is suited to the creative and healthy lifestyle choices found within our City. The Thomas Open Space Barn project demonstrates our community's desire to improve Lafayette's quality of life through the Open Space program."

The decision to erect a city-owned, permanent barn to house an organic operation will ensure the feasibility and future of agricultural use in Lafayette's open space. A beautiful work of craftsmanship, the barn will serve as a functional storage, food preparation, and retail facility.

## Thomas Open Space Barn Dedication Friday; June 1, 2012 1640 West Baseline Road / Lafayette, CO 80026

Hayrides & farm tours courtesy of Isabelle Farm
Delicious servings of arugula pesto pasta salad, cheese bread & sweet jam tarts by Back to
Basics Kitchen using numerous Isabelle Farm ingredients; Nathan's Famous hot dogs; water
& lemonade will also be served
Enjoy bluegrass by The Wolftones
City Council presentation & barn dedication ceremony

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<u>Parking</u>: On-site parking at Thomas Open Space will NOT be available. Limited parking will be available north of Thomas Open Space in the Anna's Farm Subdivision as well as at the Waneka Lake Park East Entrance at W. Emma Street and Caria Drive. Parking will be prohibited along Baseline Road. Due to the parking situation, please be prepared to walk from your car to the barn. We encourage guests to use an alternate mode of transportation if at all possible.

### Farm Stand Opening Date – June 29

Friday, June 29 Isabelle Farm will open the barn doors and begin their 2012 retail farm stand operations.

**Thomas Open Space background**: Agricultural preservation is right at home at Thomas Open Space. The history of this Lafayette property, located north of Waneka Lake, dates back to the early 1900's where Anna Waneka Thomas could be seen performing farm chores and rounding up cattle on horseback. One hundred years later, this parcel is valued for the farming contribution it makes to the surrounding community.

In 2005, after the City purchased the 14-acre Thomas parcel and designated it as open space, a grassroots movement supporting local, organic agriculture developed. This local effort allowed the City to preserve the agricultural heritage of the area by leasing the newly acquired land as an organic farm. The concept was further cultivated with the addition of an authentic barn to be used as a retail farm stand.

For more information on the Thomas Open Space Organic Farm project go to http://www.cityoflafayette.com/index.aspx?NID=130

For more general information about Isabelle Farm visit http://www.isabellefarm.com

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(High resolution photo available upon request)