



Black Hawk Lantern

Volume 9 | Issue 3 | Fall 2016

R.A. Clark Emergency Operations Center

Page 16



IN THIS ISSUE:

- CP&D 3
- Administrative Services 8
- Employee Connection 10
- Finance 11
- Information Technology 12
- Fire Department 13
- 9/11 Memorial Climb 14
- Public Works 16
- Police Department 17

*Residential
Restoration Projects*

• *Page 6* •

*Prepare for
Cold & Flu
Season*

• *Page 8* •

*Black Hawk
9/11 Memorial
Stair Climb*

• *Page 14* •

*The best time to plant a
tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.*

-Chinese Proverb



*Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Clear Creek County Veteran's Coalition*

FROM THE CITY MANAGER



For months I have been talking about the Gregory Street project. That talk of all the planning, the concept of creating a place for activities that complement the Gaming Industry, a new entrance into the City from the west, all that talk is now becoming reality. The project has begun in earnest. I am sure you all have

seen the detour signs, probably experienced the detour itself, been delayed a bit, yes, that is a sure sign that the project is underway. For the next year or more, there will be different closures on Gregory Street. At times, it will be a complete closure as it is today; at other times, it will be single lane closures. Please check the City's website for up-to-date notices. It is the City's objective to have Gregory Street open to two-way traffic on weekends. I hope that the closures are not too disruptive and I ask for everyone to please be patient, we are trying our best under the circumstances.

It is fall so that means budget season at the City is in full swing. The process is moving along and will be considered by Council at a workshop in October and final adoption in November. While revenues are projected to remain basically flat, expense projections are remaining low thereby maintaining healthy fund balances. If you are interested in attending those meetings or reviewing the proposed budget, please watch the website for the notice of the meetings and the budget itself once it is distributed to the City Council.

Lastly, it is so nice in Black Hawk and the surrounding hills this time of year. Get out and enjoy the beautiful colors and the mild temperatures.

Happy Trails,

CP&D

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the value of historic structures

Masonry Restoration Workshop hosted by the City of Black Hawk

The City of Black Hawk was pleased to once again host a day-long restoration workshop this fall. The Masonry Restoration Workshop was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at Crook's Palace. It was presented by Walker Restoration Consultants – a nation-wide expert in the field of masonry construction and restoration – with assistance from Built Environment Evolution and Premier Specialty Contractors.

The workshop focused on evaluating the condition of masonry features and structural elements and understanding best practices for maintenance and repair. Participants learned how to assess the condition of buildings and structures, use special tools to non-destructively test, and identify possible contributing causes of problems to ensure the right technique is used to solve the issues. Proper maintenance practices and products were also discussed.

About 35 participants from throughout the state of Colorado attended the Masonry Restoration Workshop. It was open to all Colorado historic preservation specialists, commissioners, staff, planners, non-profit members, architects, structural engineers, inspectors, contractors, designers, carpenters, handymen, college students, and the general public.

The goal was to provide training and education for decision-makers on masonry restoration. Specific topics that were discussed included recommendations regarding:

- Masonry joint repairs
- Paint removal
- Cleaning and sealing
- Maintenance
- NPS standards and evaluations

The workshop provided preservation decision-makers with the background necessary to evaluate masonry façades. It was a combination of a focused classroom session as well as field study of the historic Black Hawk City Hall building and surrounding buildings to put theory into practice.

The benefit of this Masonry Restoration Workshop, like the Historic Wood Workshop held last September, was an increase in recognition of the value of historic resources, retaining and reusing historic structures, where feasible, and preserving the character and integrity of existing residential and commercial neighborhoods.

The feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive and everyone stated they are looking forward to attending additional educational workshops hosted by the City in the near future.



2016 Exterior Paint Program

The City of Black Hawk's General Fund Exterior Paint Program, which is used to routinely repaint residential houses in the City, was a great success this summer. The purpose of this Program is to provide financial assistance that will promote the exterior appearance of Black Hawk's residential properties and to provide for the continuation and enhancement of a functional, sustainable, healthy, and vibrant Black Hawk residential community.

Gonzales Custom Painting, Inc. of Wheat Ridge did a fabulous job on all of the properties again this year. The photos show the before and after images of two of the properties whose exterior was painted this summer: 140 Chase Street and 210 Chase Street. Other properties also painted in this summer's General Fund Exterior Paint Program were: 100 Marchant Street, 110 Marchant Street, 141 Marchant Street, and 175 Chase Street.

All residential properties within the City of Black Hawk are eligible to have their houses repainted as part of this Program. Applications for the 2017 Program are available from the Planning Department at 211 Church Street and are due each year by April 1st. Once a residence has been repainted in the General Fund Exterior Paint Program, at least eight years must pass before they may apply to have their house painted again.

Contact Community Planning and Development at 303-582-2223 for more information.

140 Chase Street



Before



After

210 Chase Street



Before



After

Colorado Association of Permit Technicians Meeting

The City of Black Hawk's Planning Department hosted a Colorado Association of Permit Technicians (CAPT) business meeting and a seminar entitled "Help Me, Help You: Getting What We Need at the Permit Counter" in the City Council Chambers on Friday, July 15, 2016.

The instructor, Shaunna Mazingo from Colorado Code Consulting, LLC, helped participants understand the job at hand from the perspectives of the permit technician, the plan reviewer, and the permit applicant. The presentation also covered methods for identifying any problems with the application process and possible solutions to make it easier on all involved. Finally, Shaunna gave some tips and tools for ensuring the application package is complete and correct.



At the end of the day, the participants provided feedback that they had benefitted from the information they received at the seminar and how they would utilize the knowledge back at their jobs as permit technicians across the state.

MUNICIPAL CODE MOMENT

Certificate of Appropriateness

Any person seeking to renovate the exterior of, add to, or construct a new building in the City of Black Hawk shall be subject to the certain procedures. Any such renovation, construction, or demolition shall be subject to the City's design standards. The requirements of these regulations shall be in addition to all other land use and zoning requirements of the City. Before the City Council may review any request under this Section, the applicant must first receive all necessary zoning approvals.

Except for minor changes to improvements, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) shall consider and make a recommendation on all applications for residential structures or buildings that are not locally designated landmarks. The HPC shall then make a recommendation to the City Council regarding whether to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). The City Council shall provide notice and conduct a public hearing on the matter and shall make a final determination on the request.

No building permit or site development plan shall be issued unless accompanied by a COA issued by the City Council. Upon receipt of an application to authorize erection, construction, reconstruction, alterations, demolition, or improvements, the City Council shall designate a time, place, and date for a public hearing and shall make a final determination on the request.

If the City Council determines not to issue a COA, the Chief Building Official shall deny the application for a building permit. If the City Council issues a COA, the building permit shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the COA, in addition to any other terms and conditions imposed by the City. The COA is valid for six months after the date of its issuance.

More detailed information on the Certificate of Appropriateness procedures can be found on the City's website, www.cityofblackhawk.org under "City Code" in Section 16-368, City Council Historic Review Process, or by contacting Community Planning and Development at 303-582-2231.

The Restoration of Black Hawk's Historic Residential Neighborhoods

The Constitution for the State of Colorado provides that a portion of the gaming tax revenues be returned to the City of Black Hawk, specifically for restoration and preservation of the City of Black Hawk. The Black Hawk Historic Rehabilitation Fund Guide to Programs is intended to assist property owners in the rehabilitation and preservation of residential properties. This specifically includes the ability to keep the houses in the City that are defined as Qualified Properties as functional, sustainable, and habitable.

The City has established goals to preserve the City's architectural character with exterior improvements to buildings, while also assuring that the residences and any Qualified Properties are habitable. In order to attain these goals, the City seeks to restore as many of the City's structures as possible. The purpose of the fund, therefore, is to provide financial assistance that will promote the restoration and preservation of Black Hawk's Qualified Properties and to provide for the continuation and enhancement of a functional, sustainable, healthy, and vibrant Black Hawk residential community.

This program is intended to enhance certain select areas of the City by providing the resources needed to rehabilitate and historically preserve Qualified Properties. The use of funds pursuant to the Program is only for the specific

property address and work program recommended by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and approved by the City Council, which is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties, and complies with the City of Black Hawk Residential Design Guidelines.

Of the 63 residential homes in the City of Black Hawk, 95% have received varying degrees of grant funds to improve the properties, including rock wall repair work, exterior painting, replacing utilities, and more. 20 of the 63 residential homes (32%) have had full rehabilitations done and 10 more are currently slated to be restored in the coming years, for a total of 48% of the homes in the City of Black Hawk.

On the next page are photos of two Qualified Properties which have recently gone through the Program using the Historic Restoration and Community Preservation Fund. The homeowners have been very pleased with the transformation of their properties. Also shown below is the property currently undergoing rehabilitation through the Program.

For more information on the Historic Restoration and Community Preservation Fund, please contact Community Planning and Development at 303-582-2223.

400 Chase Street

Renovation to this beautiful home at 400 Chase Street is currently in progress.



Before



During

The Restoration of Black Hawk's Historic Residential Neighborhoods

301 High Street

The renovation on High Street was completed in March, 2016.



Before



During



After

401 Chase Street

This renovation project was completed in December, 2015.



Before



During



After

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Stay healthy this flu season

Visit the Black Hawk Onsite Flu Shot Clinic

The flu shot helps prevent you from getting the flu and from spreading it to others — so to help protect you and your loved ones, the City of Black Hawk is hosting an Onsite Flu Shot Event for City staff and residents.

WHAT: 2016 Onsite Flu Shot Event

WHEN: Tuesday, October 4, 2016
7am to 9am

WHERE: Public Works Admin Building, 987 Miner's Mesa Road

WHO: Flu shots are available at no cost to the following:

- City of Black Hawk residents age 19 and older living within Black Hawk city limits. Must show proof of residency/street address.
- City staff and eligible dependents age 19 and older.

NOTE: If you are a Kaiser Permanente member, please bring your Kaiser ID card to the event. Please wear short sleeves or a shirt that allows your upper arm to be easily exposed so the nurse can provide the flu shot quickly and easily.



Stop viruses from spreading

9 ways to stay well

Each year, you're up against 200 or more cold and flu viruses. Get your flu shot, and take simple, effective steps to help protect yourself and others.

Healthy Habits

Keep 'em clean. Hand washing is one of the most important things you can do to keep from getting and spreading colds and the flu.

Stay healthy. Eating well (including antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables), getting plenty of rest, managing stress, and exercising can help you resist infection. Children and adults (especially seniors 65 or older) who have a chronic health condition or weakened immune system should get a pneumonia vaccination.

Kick the habit. If you smoke, Kaiser has a variety of resources to help you quit. Keep your children away from secondhand smoke. It's bad for their health and can cause cold-like symptoms. *(Resources are also available for Gilpin County residents. Visit TobaccoFreeGilpin.com for more information.)*

Breastfeed your baby. This will help keep your baby healthy and reduce the risk of colds and ear infections.

No Pass Zone

Cover your cough. Cold and flu viruses are spread through the air. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve to trap the virus. If you cough into your hands, wash them as soon as you can.

Clean your home. A sick person can spread germs by touching counter tops, telephones, toys, cups, or bathroom sinks. Keep a cold- and flu-free kitchen by wiping down counters and appliances, disinfecting sponges often, and prepare food with clean hands.

Use disposable tissues. Viruses can live on cloth handkerchiefs, so use — and throw away immediately — disposable tissues to reduce spreading your illness to others.

Avoid touching your face. Try not to rub your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs often spread this way.

Try not to pass it on. Stay home and rest when you're sick. Really need to go out? Be careful not to expose others. If you have a fever, wait at least 24 hours after your fever is gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.

5 Ways to Fight the Flu



**Get your
flu shot**

The flu shot is the best way to protect yourself. It's safe, effective, and it targets this year's viruses.

As a member, you can get a flu shot at **no cost** at our facilities or our flu shot clinics.

Visit kp.org/flu for more information.

Services covered under your health plan are provided and/or arranged by Kaiser Permanente health plans: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., in Northern and Southern California and Hawaii • Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Colorado • Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Georgia, Inc., Nine Piedmont Center, 3495 Piedmont Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30305, 404-364-7000 • Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc., in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., 2101 E. Jefferson St., Rockville, MD 20852 • Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest, 500 NE Multnomah St., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97232 • Self-insured plans are administered by Kaiser Permanente Insurance Company, One Kaiser Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612



**Don't touch
your face**



**Sneeze/cough
into your elbow**



**Wash
your hands**



**Stay home
if you're sick**



Meet AJ Sayers



I have worked for the City of Black Hawk as a police officer for eight years. I enjoy being able to meet lots of new and interesting people on a daily basis. One of my favorite things is the opportunity to build cooperative working relationships with the casino managers and staff. I am in a unique position because I get to interact with the general public and the citizens through community policing.

I have seven siblings, of which I am the oldest. I was born in Denver, Colorado, and have been in the area my whole life. I attended college for three years and during that time my first child was born. I enlisted in the Army at the age of 20. During my military career was the only time I lived outside of Colorado. I was stationed in Germany and Georgia for the majority of my military career. I was honorably discharged in 1993, but remained involved in the reserves until 1997. I moved back to Denver and started working for Sara Lee Corp. I worked at Sara Lee for 15 years, but always had an interest and passion for law enforcement. I put myself through Community College of Aurora to obtain my P.O.S.T. Certification and was actually hired by Las Vegas Police Department, but was unable to move my family out of state. I was then hired by Aurora Police Department in 2007 and worked there until I

was hired by the Black Hawk Police Department in 2008. I have seven children, four boys and three girls. They range in age from 27 to 13. I have three beautiful grandchildren; ages 7, 4, and 11 months old.

My friends would describe me as a caring, and generous person. I feel that I am very positive person. I believe you create your own silver lining by how you handle situations and approach life. I live for self-help seminars and try to attend at least two a year. I have also noticed a lot of people have upgraded their homes, cars, cell phones and clothing; however, I feel it is more important to upgrade my “mind versus my material belongings.” I also volunteer at the schools in my neighborhood. I take time to talk to as many students as I can about being successful in life. I help them try to understand how important it is to eat right, live life in positive way, and make sure to appreciate how important it is to do the right thing when no one is looking. I share my story with them about growing up in the “projects” and how to use your background as a building block and to never stop working on being a better person. I also make sure they understand the importance of being respectful to law enforcement and give them insight into how police officers do their job.

My favorite color is red, I don’t know why, but have always found it to be a passionate and vibrant color. I love Italian and Mexican food, but usually end up having to work all the calories out at the gym. I like all types of music and learned country line dancing. I always listen to Jazz when studying because the music helps me focus. My favorite book is “Think and Grow Rich” by Napoleon Hill. This book changed my life. It expanded my ability to recognize opportunities for financial growth. Don’t tell anyone, but I love the movie “The Notebook.” It inspires me that you could potentially find a soul mate and become like a single entity, always

in tune with each other. A quote I have come to live by is, “Chance favors the prepared mind,” by Louis Pateur. I believe that if your mind is ready, or you are thinking outside the box, you could take adversity and turn it into an opportunity.

My three youngest sons play football, two are quarterbacks and one is a tailback. You can usually find me watching and cheering them on every Saturday during football seasons. Athleticism runs in my family. I recently found out that eight of my family members played in the NFL at some point. I played semi-pro football for three years, but was injured and had to stop playing. I love working out and I am taking full advantage of the new City of Black Hawk Wellness Center. I am very family oriented. I think the most valuable thing you can give to people is your time and I love the opportunity to spend as much time with them as possible.

I love travelling. I usually go on one or more cruises a year. I have been on a total of 15 in the last eight years. My favorite international destination is the Caribbean. I also love to visit Florida. I love the beaches in the Gulf because the water is warmer and the sunshine just seems cleaner there. I have a family cruise trip scheduled in November with all my kids and grandkids to Jamaica, the Grand Cayman Islands, and Cozumel. I have always wanted to go to Greece, but will have to plan that trip another time.

What is one thing that should be taught in school that isn’t already? I feel that kids graduate with no knowledge on how to be fiscally responsible. They get credit card offers when they go to college and believe it is free money that they can just spend, not realizing the affect the balances are having on their credit score and ability to show financial responsibility later in life. Money management is something that should be taught in school.

FINANCE

Statewide Gaming Taxes and Adjusted Gross Proceeds

The City of Black Hawk operates on a Calendar Year–End for budgeting and financial reporting purposes. However, June 30 is also significant as it reflects the State Fiscal Year–End.

The Division of Gaming imposes a progressive tax on all casinos based on accumulated Adjusted Gross Proceeds (AGP), or money wagered minus winnings paid out, for the fiscal year. As a casino’s AGP accumulates during the fiscal year, it pushes them into the next tax bracket. These brackets range from 0.25% to 20.00%.

After the conclusion of the Fiscal Year, the Division of Gaming distributes the Gaming Tax collected, less the cost to operate the Commission, to recipients

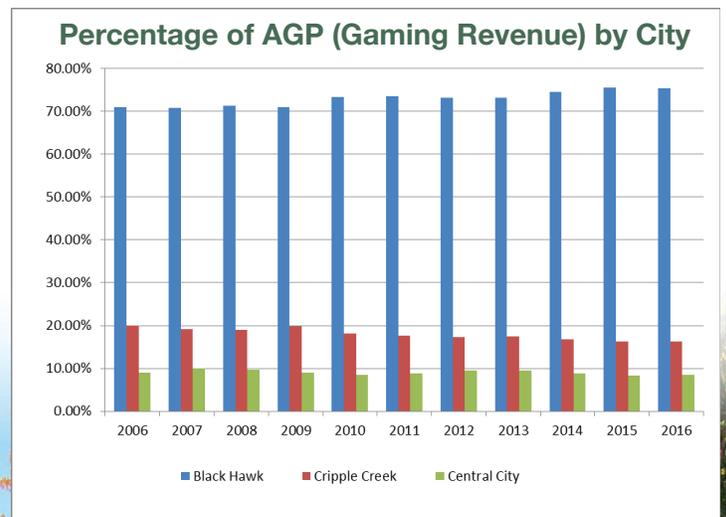
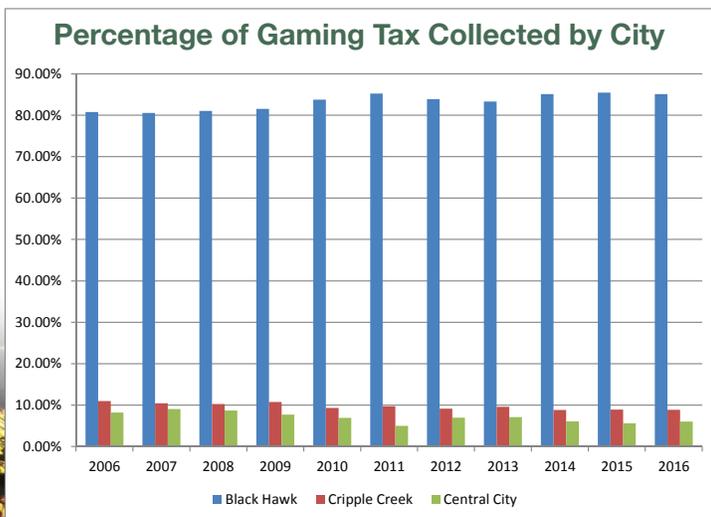
as directed by the State Constitution. The three host gaming communities share 10% of the net gaming tax distributions, based on the proportion of gaming revenue generated by each jurisdiction. Although the actual amount of the distribution from the Division of Gaming to the City is not yet available, the statistics below illustrate the significant roll Black Hawk plays in gaming Statewide.

- Statewide AGP (casino gaming revenue) was up 4.76% from the previous 12 month period. Black Hawk saw an increase of 4.55% in AGP, Central City was up 7.01%, and Cripple Creek was up 4.61%. Black Hawk casinos make up over 75% of Statewide gaming revenue.

- Statewide Gaming Tax (paid by the casinos) was up 5.64% from the previous 12 month period. Black Hawk saw an increase of 5.21%, Central City was up 12.67%, and Cripple Creek was up 5.27%. Black Hawk casinos pay over 85% of Statewide Gaming taxes.

As we move into fall, City Officials and staff will be working on the 2017 Budget. The annual figures above, as well as upcoming monthly statistics, will be monitored to ensure a balanced budget is adopted.

The Gaming Tax distribution from the State is significant, making up roughly 38% of all General Fund revenues.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Perfect Catch: Email Phishing

by Tarik Muhammad

Email phishing is still the easiest way for a malicious actor to perform an attack on a user, these attacks can range from Trojan laced email attachments to hyper-links that take you to fake web pages looking to steal personal information. Phishing is technically a low-tech attack but one of its most prevailing strengths is that it can invoke an emotional or rash response out of the recipient causing them to react quickly without rationalizing actions.

What is phishing?

Phishing is the act of illicitly obtaining sensitive information via electronic communication; this is usually in the form of an email that appears to be legitimate but holds malicious content that can steal personal information. The content of the email can be a link to a server that is setup to procure credentials or an attached file that includes a custom software tool that can log keystrokes and send them back to a 3rd party. I use the term "3rd party" instead of hacker because anyone can get access to these tools, not just experienced professionals.

Why is it so effective?

The first part of an effective phishing email is a subject line based on an attention grabbing phrase or notice. The second part is the email itself which looks exactly like an official message from a genuine business but is actually from an untrusted 3rd party. Fake emails are getting harder to detect but the real challenge is overcoming the urgency that some of these messages create.

Recent Examples:

Brexit: When the country of Great Brittan voted to leave the EU there was a lot of speculation that it could impact global financial markets and affect certain stock prices. What did the Phishermen do? They sent out messages urging people to take action quickly as to avoid the looming financial collapse with doom and gloom tag lines like "XYZ Company set to lose gargantuan amount on stock price. Quick! Click here to learn more."



Pokémon GO: With the popularity of this App, all it took was a simple line to get people to respond hastily. Scammers sent out email explaining that the free App would be switched over to a paid version if they did not take action.

Ways to protect yourself:

Use caution when dealing with perceived urgent matters, slow down and process the situation. Always watch out for verbiage urging you to "Act fast or suffer the consequences."

Contact a human. Most phishing email are trying to get you to click a link and download something or enter personal information, most often contacting the business directly will help you identify if the message is legitimate or not without giving away any personal info.

Seek advice from a professional or someone with more experience in the matter. Whether it is financial advice or something as trivial as Pokémon, you should always reach out to somebody with more knowledge on the subject. In the case of the latter any six-year-old will do.

Stay safe.

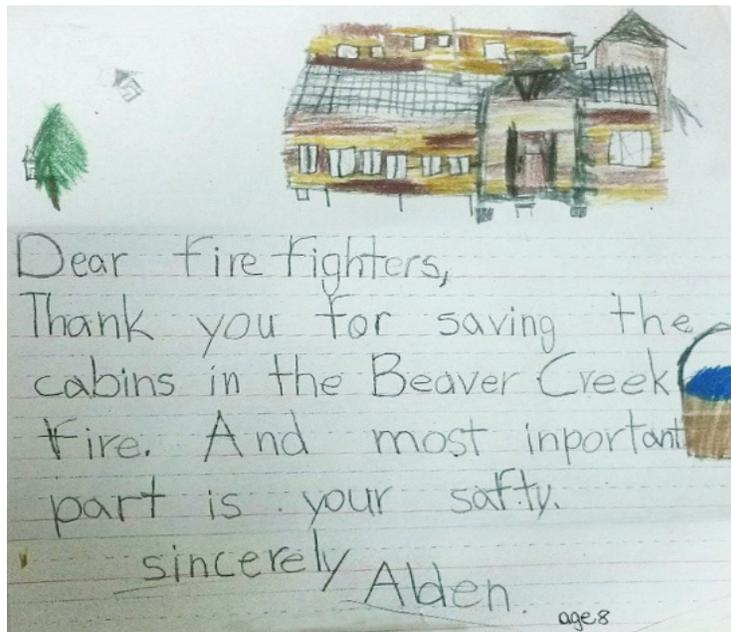
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Black Hawk firefighters provide support to national wildfire incidents

Through a cooperative effort with the South Arkansas Fire Protection District in Salida, Colorado, two City of Black Hawk firefighters responded to the Lava Mountain and Beaver Creek wildfires. Black Hawk Firefighter Engineer Kip Karr and Firefighter Jordan Stone deployed with Salida crews to the Lava Mountain Fire outside of DuBois Wyoming to provide fire attack, structure protection, and water supply for this National Type I incident. Upon returning to Black Hawk, Karr was requested and immediately redeployed with the same South Arkansas Fire Protection District engine to the Beaver Creek Fire, another National Type I incident near the Colorado/Wyoming border. While there, the crew provided structure protection, fire attack, coordinated air drops, and additional support as requested.

Karr and Stone both received shining reviews for their outstanding effort and professionalism during both fires. The experience and training they gained during these deployments is invaluable to and the lessons learned will greatly enhance the City's response to similar fire incidents locally, should they occur.

This experience came to the City with limited financial impact. The incident reimburses the City for expenses incurred while the firefighters are deployed and also reimburses the City for any additional expenses to maintain staffing.



Above: Thank you letter received by Black Hawk Fire after the Beaver Creek Fire support. Below: Engine Boss Mel Freiss, South Arkansas Fire Protection District (SAFPD), Firefighter Dave DePetro, Salida Fire Department/SAFPD, Engineer Kip Karr and Firefighter Jordan Stone, Black Hawk Fire Department (BHFD), Captain Paul Ottmer, Salida Fire Department/SAFPD.

The City would like to thank and congratulate Karr and Stone for a job well done. Also, a thank you to the staff who supported them while they were deployed, the families who supported them being gone during this time, and to the South Arkansas Fire Protection District for the opportunity to work with such highly trained and respected crews.



2016 Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Sunday, September 11, 2016, the City of Black Hawk participated in the annual Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb hosted by the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa.

The Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb is a way for first responders and the general public to remember September 11, 2001, honor the memory of those who were lost, and support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). On this 15th anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11, participants made individual tributes to not only remember the sacrifice of the fallen, but symbolically completed their heroic journey to save others, while supporting this worthwhile cause.

Over the years, the memorial climb has grown to involve fire departments from around the state, City personnel, business partners, casino staff, family, and friends. Thanks to the generous donations from the Ameristar, 100% of the registration fees and donations collected support the NFFF.

This year's climb raised nearly \$7,000 for the NFFF. Contributions support the mission of the NFFF to honor and remember America's fallen fire heroes, to provide resources to assist their survivors in rebuilding their lives, and to continue their work within the fire service community to reduce firefighter deaths and injuries.

Participants of the climb completed this journey in the tower at Ameristar surrounded by images of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. This year, the addition of names of these heroes on the wristbands was a perfect way for each participant to honor the memory of those lives that were lost as they located the image in the stairwell and completed their climb.

More climb photos can be seen on the City of Black Hawk's Facebook page.



The Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb was hosted by the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa as a way for the public to reflect on the sacrifices made by all on 9/11 and on the days and years that have followed.



Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb



PUBLIC WORKS

R.A. Clark Emergency Operations Center Goes Vertical

Construction on the R.A. Clark Emergency Operations Center (EOC) began in earnest this July, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

The first month of construction was devoted to site grading, installation of underground utilities, and construction of the building foundation. The steel erection process has begun, and the building structure itself is on track to be completed in late September.

The new police facility will be used as an operation center for Black Hawk patrol officers and special units. The building will contain several storage areas as well as locker facilities for the Black Hawk Police force. A large training room will also be included in the new building. It will also serve as the Emergency Operations Center for City of Black Hawk leaders during an emergency. The administrative offices of the police department will remain at police headquarters located on Church Street. A subsequent study of the existing space will determine how the space could be used more effectively along with the potential cost of remodeling.



Robert A. Clark

The facility is named after former City of Black Hawk Marshal, Robert A. Clark, who was the first recorded law enforcement officer to be slain while on duty in the State of Colorado. The history of City Marshal Robert Clark's murder, which occurred on July 10, 1869, was well documented in the local

Register-Call newspaper. Two brothers were hauling a load of flour from Valmont,

Colorado through the City of Central when their team of horses almost struck a chicken-coop near the Lafayette Restaurant. A cook at the restaurant complained about their reckless behavior and was subsequently beaten by the brothers. An arrest warrant was issued for their arrest and placed in the hands of Central City Constable Peter P. Herbert who sought the assistance of Black Hawk City Marshal Robert A. Clark. The Black Hawk City Marshal had a reputation of being a fearless and persistent lawman. The two lawmen pursued the brothers until they came upon their wagon and horses near a ranch on Dory Hill Road, a few miles from Black Hawk. The lawmen tried to arrest the brothers in a nearby cabin, whereupon Marshal Clark was shot and killed and Constable Herbert was shot and wounded. One brother was captured while the other fled on a horse and was never arrested.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Improving Casino Radio Coverage



We have all watched Black Hawk grow over the last 25 years and with growth comes growing pains. Large casinos with layers of concrete and steel coupled with miles of electronic cabling and equipment made it difficult for first responders to use low powered handheld portable radios inside these large casinos. Radios were frequently unable to receive calls from the dispatcher, and officers were unable to transmit. This situation created safety concerns for first responders and jeopardized our ability to effectively provide emergency services.

Several casinos have now addressed this critical problem by installing bi-directional amplifiers (BDA's) inside their buildings. These "in-building"

communication systems bring a wireless signal into a casino, amplify the signal with a booster, and then evenly distribute the same transmission throughout the structure via a Distributed Antenna System. Several casinos worked with the City and radio companies to design and install customized "in-building" radio solutions. The new BDA's increase the safety and the capabilities of all of our first responders. It's now easier for first responders to communicate with dispatchers during an emergency, saving time and potentially saving lives. Although some of the new BDA systems will need to be adjusted for optimal performance, first responders are already noticing a big difference in radio communication.

Technology brings Innovation and Efficiency

Over the past several years, the Black Hawk Police Department has used technology to become more efficient. As the work load in the department increased and cases became more complex, the effective use of technology made it easier for staff to adapt. Some of the improvements made during the past several years include the following.

Electronic Subpoenas: Electronic subpoenas are now sent directly to officers via email where they electronically acknowledge the subpoena and confirm their attendance. It's fast, inexpensive, and more efficient.

Electronic Filing: Approximately seven years ago, the Black Hawk Police Records Section began electronically uploading entire criminal case files to a secure web site hosted by the District Attorney's Office to speed up the filing time.

Records System Upgrades: Recently, the Black Hawk Police Department paid for several upgrades to its records management software, which made it easier to retrieve case files and email them upon request. They also have

the ability to electronically redact information using other software before sending the report.

Department-Wide Scanning Initiatives: Department-wide scanning initiatives established this year will allow the department to create electronic copies of all current police reports and email them as needed. Records personnel check the scanned copies to ensure quality control.

E-Discovery Initiative: In the near future, all law enforcement agencies will be required to upload case files to a new secure web site where the District Attorney's Office will review them and make them available to the defendant's attorney, all electronically. The new procedure will take effect in Black Hawk in 2017.

The Black Hawk Police Department is uniquely positioned to transition to the new state-wide "e-discovery" system as a result of our past investments in technology. We are committed to evaluating processes and using technology to improve service.

A Black Hawk Dispatcher's World

As residents sleep in Black Hawk, casinos are bringing energy to this small town. At the Black Hawk Police Department, a single dispatcher sits at a computer console in a dimly lit room surrounded by the bright light of several computer monitors. Keyboards, headsets, flashing multi-colored lights on six computer monitors create a sense of control in a chaotic world. It's 3 a.m. and the unique ring of a 9-1-1 phone call slices through the air. A dispatcher answers with a familiar, "Black Hawk 9-1-1, what is your emergency." The clicking of keys on a keyboard and the crackling of a police radio provides solace to the caller that help is only moments away.

As citizens, we expect a calm voice from the dispatcher to assure us everything will be okay during an emergency. They are critical to getting the right resources to the right place at the right time. It seems like a simple task to answer the phone and pass on information to first responders, but in reality, it's controlled chaos. Dispatchers sometimes sift through the rushed speech of frantic callers to decipher the nature of an emergency call and to ultimately dispatch emergency resources to an incident. They quickly make split second decisions based on training and experience coupled with limited information. They type information into a computer and simultaneously talk to police, fire, and ambulance personnel, all while reassuring a caller that help is on the way.

Typically, someone calling 9-1-1 is potentially having the worst day of their life. They are faced with a life-threatening emergency or a situation that's beyond their ability to handle. They just want someone to "help." Dispatchers provide that reassuring life-saving link while providing support to first responders from the time they are dispatched to a call until the time they are done. Dispatchers document incidents as they unfold, track personnel on scene, and track additional resources all while supporting other first responders on other calls.

The dispatcher, while handling one emergency call, may be interrupted by another emergency phone call. They have to handle each incident while anticipating what may be needed before the first responders even know it's needed.



Dispatchers can be the first government representative a citizen talks to when visiting the City of Black Hawk, which presents a unique opportunity for dispatchers to shape their opinion during a one-time brief conversation. Dispatchers have to create a relationship with a caller during a phone call lasting just minutes without ever meeting the person. They hope that even during the most stressful situation the caller hangs up having a positive experience and impression of our city and our service.

So what does it take to become a dispatcher? Every dispatcher goes through a 16-week training program in Black Hawk to eventually earn the opportunity to work a shift on their own. During the 16 weeks, they train on various topics to include: Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD), radio procedures, phone etiquette, geography, phonetic alphabet, resource management, criminal information systems, and customer service. They are evaluated by specially trained communications officers and tested on a daily basis. The Black Hawk Communications Center is staffed by seven dispatchers working 24-hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to working nights, days, holidays, and weekends on a 10-hour shift, they also change their shifts frequently to ensure Emergency 9-1-1 Center coverage. On occasion, the department is able to staff shifts with two dispatchers, when staffing is available. Dispatchers have to be flexible, able to multi-task and committed to providing great service. Although rarely seen or recognized for their outstanding work, they play an important role for our community. Thank you to our "Angels of the Airwaves" for always being our calm voice in the dark night.

Between the thin red line and the thin blue line lies the thinnest gold line. The gold line represents those who are rarely seen, but are mostly heard. The calm voice in the dark night;

DISPATCHERS-the golden glue that holds it all together.

- Author Unknown

Tips for Living with Wildlife in the Colorado Rockies

Mountain Lions

Earlier this year the Black Hawk Police Department hand delivered a “wildlife advisory” informing residents about an active mountain lion in the Black Hawk area. Although it’s unusual for mountain lions to attack people, they are known to attack family pets. Here are some tips if you encounter a mountain lion.



- Do not approach a lion, especially one that is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.
- Stay calm when you come upon a lion. Talk calmly and firmly to it. Move slowly.
- Stop or back away slowly, if you can do it safely. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase and attack. Face the lion and stand upright.
- Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you're wearing one. If you have small children with you, protect them by picking them up so they won't panic and run.
- If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly. What you want to do is convince the lion you are not prey and that you may in fact be a danger to the lion.
- Fight back if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back. People have fought back with rocks, sticks, caps or jackets, garden tools and their bare hands successfully. Remain standing or try to get back up!

Snow Removal

The first snow fall tends to catch many people off guard before they get into the snow shoveling routine. Business owners and new residents may not be aware of a City Ordinance requiring property owners, tenants, and/or occupants to remove snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their properties within six hours of the cessation of any snowfall. For more information, please visit the MunicipalCode.cityofblackhawk.org read Section 1-2.

Bears

Bears become increasingly active in the fall and the potential for encountering a bear increases. Bears are known to aggressively seek out food to prepare for winter and trash cans are easy targets in residential areas.



Each of us can play a role in reducing our potential for accidental encounters with bears by following some simple practices.

- Put garbage containers out the same day it's collected.
- Clean trash containers with ammonia.
- Don't leave pet food outdoors. Keeping food in an outbuilding may still attract bears.
- Birdfeeders are prime targets for bears. Avoid their use if possible.
- Pick all ripe fruit off trees, and remove vegetables and fallen fruit from the ground.

Please call the Black Hawk Police Department 911 Emergency Call Center if you observe an aggressive animal or call the Division of Wildlife at 303-297-1192 to learn more about living in the mountains with Colorado wildlife. Visit the Colorado Department of Natural Resources web site at <http://wildlife.state.co.us> for more information.

3rd Annual EForce Conference

The Black Hawk Police Department hosted the 3rd Annual EForce Software User Group Meeting at the Gilpin Casino on July 14, 2016. The Black Hawk Police Department's records management system, dispatching software, and court software are part of a suite of products provided by the EForce software company. This was the second time the conference has been held in Black Hawk and both times were well attended. There were 49 attendees from across the state representing 20 agencies who participated in the conference. Black Hawk has played a key role in guiding the development of software used by over 52 Colorado agencies. The statewide conference allows EForce users from across the State to meet and to openly discuss software improvements. The software is designed to allow clients the ability to customize the product to fit their respective agency.



City of Black Hawk
PO Box 68
Black Hawk, CO 80422



To receive a digital copy of The Black Hawk Lantern, email RBlondo@CityofBlackHawk.org.

2016 GENERAL ELECTION



November 8, 2016

The November 8, 2016 election will be a coordinated election with Gilpin County. Ballots will be mailed to voters beginning on October 17th. Please refer to the County Clerk's website at www.co.gilpin.co.us/clerkrecorder for more election information.

Under Colorado law, a coordinated election must:

- Have more than one political subdivision (state, county, municipality, school district, or special district), holding an election;
- Be on the same day in November; and
- The eligible electors either are the same for each election or live in overlapping subdivision boundaries.

The *Black Hawk Lantern* is published by the City of Black Hawk.

For submissions or feedback, please contact:
RBlondo@cityofblackhawk.org • 303-582-2212