



# Black Hawk Lantern

Volume 10 | Issue 2 | Fall 2017



**Clean-up Day in  
Black Hawk**



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*Whether you think you can  
or think you can't - you're  
right.*

-Henry Ford



Black Hawk 1872

# FROM THE CITY MANAGER



In looking back at the last article I wrote for the Lantern, I had commented that the next project scheduled for Gregory Street was the 124 car parking structure and that construction should begin later in the summer (See full rendering on page 17). As I look out my window here at City Hall,

I see that project under way. Yes, as one portion of Gregory Street comes to an end, another begins. The foundation work and drilling of structural piers is underway marking the start of the 12 month construction schedule. While there will be construction impacts associated with this project, those impacts should not be nearly as intense as those of the road realignment program.

The road realignment project is in its final stages. The schedule indicates that it should be complete around the end of October. It is very exciting to see this big project coming to a close. Once the parking structure is complete a year from now, all the necessary infrastructure will be in place for development of the entertainment district to begin.

I also mentioned last month the budget season was beginning. The cost of many of the capital improvements the City had identified and budgeted

for has increased substantially. Those increases have resulted in many of the improvement projects needing to be put on hold. Revenues for the City in 2018 will not be projected to be much more than 2017. The gaming tax collected by the State in fiscal year 2017 was but 1% higher than the previous year. That will translate to a very small revenue increase to the City, if any. Gaming devices in Black Hawk have continued to decrease as well, which also translates to lower revenue to City. This will be a challenging year for the City Council when it comes to prioritizing the projects they will want to see started given this flat revenue picture.

The bears have seemed to have wandered back up into the hills for the time being. Please remember to keep those garbage cans locked just in case they do come back. Otherwise get out and enjoy the last weeks of summer. The wild flowers are still blooming; the mushrooms are out; just a great time to be in Black Hawk!

Happy trails, Jack,

*Jack Lewis*



# CP&D

## COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

### 2017 City-wide Clean-Up Day Recap

The City of Black Hawk's annual Clean-Up Day, originally scheduled for May 18th, had to be postponed after 2 feet of snow fell on the City.

The weather on May 25th cooperated and allowed a record number of about 140 volunteers--residents, local businesses, casino employees, City of Black Hawk City Council, Historic Preservation Commission members, and City employees--to hit the streets wearing their new bright orange "I Cleaned Up in Black Hawk!" t-shirts paid for, in part, with generous monetary donations from:

- 7 Healing Stars
- Big Valley Construction
- Bull Durham Casino
- Make You Famous Tattoo
- Red Dolly Casino
- Rhino Realty Pros
- SAFEbuilt

The participants gathered at Crook's Palace for a delicious hot breakfast & coffee, all generously donated by:

- Ameristar Casino
- Isle/Lady Luck Casino
- Lodge/Gilpin Casino
- Mardi Gras/Golden Gate/Golden Gulch Casino
- Monarch Casino
- Mountain Mocha Cafe
- Saratoga Casino
- Sasquatch/Wild Card Casino
- Zs Casino



With a full stomachs, the volunteers hit the streets with rubber gloves and trash grabber sticks, picking up trash all around town.



Our gallant "knights" share the "bounty" of their efforts!



When the teams returned to Crook's, we received a catered lunch of fried chicken and mashed potatoes, provided by JKQ Catering along with other wonderful sides and dessert.



## 2017 City-wide Clean-Up Cont.

Once again this year, the Clean-Up Day participants submitted photos of the Most Unusual Items Found while cleaning the City. The photos were compiled into a slideshow and the participants got to vote on which of the submissions was truly the Most Unusual Item Found.

Here a few of the favorites!



Tires anyone?



Have you seen the key?



A piece of nostalgia...



A toast anyone?



Where's my car?

The winning item was crematorium (toe) tag and the person who submitted the photo was awarded a gift card.

A raffle drawing for gift cards to a variety of Colorado businesses was held again this year, much to the delight of the many volunteers.



The City would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and effort to make the 2017 City-Wide Clean-Up Day another great success and for being understanding when the event had to be postponed. We really appreciate you!

Our City was there in full measure to say...



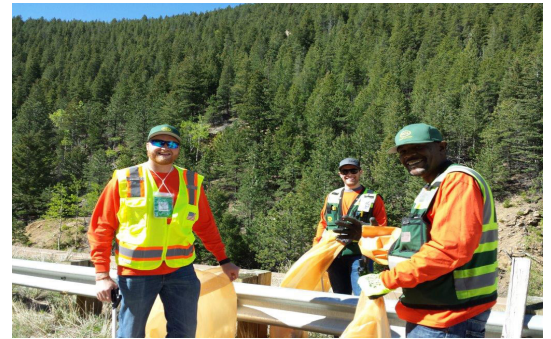
"We Cleaned-up Black Hawk!"



Volunteers, employees, and residents







## Meet NV5's new Owner's Rep: Tyler Lundsgaard

When the City's former Owner's Rep from NV5 recently moved to Texas, Tyler Lundsgaard came on board to take on the role.

Tyler is from Cherokee, Iowa and also lived in St. Paul, Minnesota before coming to Denver. He was an architecture major at Iowa State University and was an architecture intern in St. Paul and Denver before becoming a Project Manager for NV5.

Tyler is a member of the team which includes the Planning Administrator, Architect, and General Contractors who work to bring the historic residences in Black Hawk back to their original glory.

What he likes best about his new job in the City is working with welcoming, good people on something new every day.



Tyler Lundsgaard (left) and  
Nathan Pillatzke of PEH Architects



## Getting Fit with Fitbits

Since the City of Black Hawk promotes the wellbeing of its employees by reimbursing them for gym memberships, personal equipment, or Fitbits, many employees have been inspired to get more active! By wearing the Fitbits or any other comparable tracker, the employees are reminded every hour to take a break from sitting at their desks to get some steps in, with a common goal of 10,000 steps/day.

You may notice City employees out and about, walking up and down the streets and stairs, around buildings and just generally moving for at least 5 minutes each hour. The stairs between City Hall and the Church, and between the Police Department and the upper parking lot are like a company gym! Exercise like this is great for the brain and helps the employees be more productive in their work!



Sally Cannady from the Police Department says, "When the Fitbit vibrates, we get up and walk. If we didn't have them we would not get up from our desks. Moving gives the brain a break and keeps us from burnout."

(Pictured above Sally and Roxie)



With your Fitbit, you can track your steps, miles, calories burned, minutes and your goals all on your phone!



Cindy Linker has really put her Fitbit to the test, she takes the hill down from her home, up the hill to City Hall, and the final trek up the stairs to her office. Amazing!



Rain or Shine - Sara Lang was on the move!



# NEW FACES 2017

## Leslie Hall



### Tell us about yourself.

I graduated with my bachelor's degree in Accounting from Colorado Christian University in 2013. Since I graduated I have been in the non-profit health care industry. Prior to finishing my degree I spent over 10 years in retail, the last 6 were in management. I also homeschooled my children for 5 years.

I was born and raised in Colorado Springs and am a 4th generation native to Colorado. I enjoy car shows, camping, riding dirt bikes, and cross-stitching. I am not a big fan of sports, however my fiancé has managed to get me watching college football. Go Ohio State!

### Tell us about your new position and experience working at the City of Black Hawk so far.

I am the new Accountant for the City of Black Hawk; I started on June 5th. To this point I can't say I have met that many of the employees; but the ones that I have met seem extremely nice and inviting. I look forward to meeting more and getting to know everyone here at the city.

## Aaron Skeen

### Tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised just outside of Gilpin County and have lived in the mountains my entire life. My wife, two daughters, and I currently live in mid-Gilpin County with our dogs and chickens and we love every minute of it.

Some of my favorite activities include teaching my daughters about the outdoors, hiking, hunting, and spending time with my family watching movies.



I have worked in Gilpin County for 13 years filling many roles from lifeguard and swim instructor, to Communications Specialist for the Gilpin County Sheriff's Office.

I have been a volunteer firefighter for the last 12 years and continue to volunteer for the Timberline Fire Protection District. I graduated from Metropolitan State

College with a Bachelor Degree in Psychology.

### Tell us about your new position and experience working at the City of Black Hawk so far.

I began working with the City of Black Hawk as a Firefighter on April 24, 2017. So far, my time with Black Hawk has been very rewarding. I have learned a lot and made several new friends. I look forward to coming to the station every shift and am excited to see what the future holds.

## Your place is here!

The City of Black Hawk is hiring for passionate and engaged employees to fill several positions within the Public Works and Police Departments. If you are interested in being a part of the City of Black Hawk family, and are seeking great compensation, benefits, success, and stability, visit [www.cityofblackhawk.org](http://www.cityofblackhawk.org) to view current openings and apply online.



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT.....

### Meet Sara Lang



I was hired by the City of Black Hawk's Community Planning & Development Department back in February 2015. My original position was Permit Tech and Administrative Assistant, but I have since moved away from permits and am now the Executive Administrative Assistant and Historic Preservation Commission Secretary. I get to work with the team (architect, historic preservation consultant, owner's rep and general contractor) that does the historic preservation of the residential properties in town. I also coordinate the City's annual City-Wide Clean-Up Day each May, as well as an annual historic preservation workshop each September. The most meaningful and rewarding part of my job is watching the historic residential houses in town being brought back to their original glory.

I was born in upstate New York, and lived in Texas, Ohio, Maryland and Virginia before finally finding my home-sweet-home in Evergreen, Colorado. I have, sadly, lost most of my family members before their time over the years, but I have a brother and two nephews in Kentucky, as well as many friends that I consider family. My brother will be walking me down the aisle in mid-September when I marry my fiancé, Ben, and we start our life together, along with his two children, Brayden and Aries. My goals for this year are to have a fun wedding, an amazing honeymoon, and when we return, begin our impressive kitchen renovation project.

Some of my favorite pastimes are making mosaics, hiking and taking road trips to towns in Colorado that I have yet to visit. I also enjoy cooking, baking and playing games with the family. My friends would describe me as the social coordinator as I run a variety of social groups in Evergreen.

I have traveled internationally to the Canary Islands, Cozumel and Montreal, in addition to visiting most of the 50 United States. I am excited to cross an item off my bucket list this fall when I travel to Banff and Jasper National Park for our honeymoon.

*Black Hawk*  
• 1872 •



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Brandon Davis

I have worked for the Black Hawk Police Department for 8 years as a police officer. The fun and unique atmosphere here makes working for Black Hawk different from most police agencies, which I enjoy.

I was born in Texas and moved to Colorado when I was 14 years old. I am married with a son who is 8 years old and a daughter who is 5 years old. I enjoy camping and boating in the summer with family and friends.

I like to wakeboard, tube and have recently started learning how to wake surf on my boat.

In the summer my family and I like riding four wheelers in the mountains when we are not at the lake on our boat. My favorite color is blue and I enjoy listening to a variety of music.

My friends would describe me as funny and a jokester. I like dogs, but do not have any because my family and I are always away from home. My favorite restaurant is Rodizio Grill in downtown Denver, which I highly recommend.

I enjoy traveling and my favorite place to visit is Kauai which is where I would love to live when I

retire. I like to scuba dive when I am on vacation. I have also vacationed in England when my brother was stationed near London. England was a great place to visit and I hope to go back someday when my kids are older.

I have never been on a cruise, but I have a cruise booked for this December. My favorite place to visit in Colorado is Chatfield Reservoir. I have to say, the person I admire the most is my older brother James who served 22 years in the United States Navy.



Congratulations to our City Clerk, Melissa Greiner, for fulfilling the requirements of the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) Program of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), and earning her CMC designation.

Deputy City Clerk, Michele Martin, joined the City of Black Hawk in 2014 after serving as the Town Clerk for Nederland, CO. Michele earned her CMC designation in 2015.





## SUMMER HAPPENINGS

This year several employees of the City of Black Hawk participated in the Annual Colfax Marathon, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente. Many of our employees have generously joined the marathon in prior years, and we have a few new ones that not only participated but their dogs, did too! Here is what Janice Beecher had to say about her first time:

*"It was my first time ever doing anything like this. Honestly a year ago I would have told you you're crazy...I can't walk three miles!!! But thanks to the gym the City so generously provides for us, I have been able to get in better shape and I was able to complete the 5K! My daughter, Holly, joined our Black Hawk team along with her BF, Coleman, and the dog, Kona. We all had a terrific time with Roxie, Rosie, and Jim! I plan to participate again next year and will encourage others to join me. "* (pictured to the right)

Here is what Tarik Muhammad had to say about his most interesting moment:

*"I think the most interesting moment was during the last segment of my leg catching up to a young man who was determined not to let me pass him, neither one of us wanting to give up any ground so we ended up sprinting full speed through the finish line. I found him afterwards to find out he was only in middle school! Bright running future ahead!"*

It is uniquely rewarding to know that our employees feel strongly about a favorite sport, but also that this event in 2017 donated \$100,000 to charities. This race is designed for company employees who can participate in the relay, 5K, 1/2 (13.1) marathon or the 26.2 epic miles! Quentin Griffin from the Black Hawk Fire Department took up the challenge of the ½ marathon of 13.1 miles! What an amazing feat! The City of Black Hawk has always promoted good health and wellness for all its employees and is very supportive of outside activities that continues that momentum and drive in our employees.



Here is what Taylor Davis had to say about her experience:

*"For me the best thing about the experience was the comradery I experienced being part of the relay team. I think one of the greatest things about racing is all of the people supporting you along the race route. There were so many people holding up signs of encouragement and in today's day and age where there is so much anger in the world, it's nice to experience those random acts of kindness. "*



From Wynter Kasch: *"I liked that as a relay team we were a mix of city employees, and an "out there mix" for sure (lol)."* (pictured above with Michele, Tarik and Edgar)

Events such as this not only bring the City of Black Hawk's employees together, but develops bonds and synergy that they will use every day.



Roxie, Janice, Jim, and Colman @ the finish line!



## 2017 13th Annual Golf Tournament

Ahh...a day on the greens! On June 2, 2017, the City of Black Hawk presented the 13th Annual Black Hawk Golf Tournament. Employees gathered once again to challenge that little white ball and each other to a round of mulligans, missed swings, a slice, a fade, a chunk, a bogie, a snowball, and all kinds of things you would never use anywhere but on the golf course. You almost need a cheat sheet for just the golf jargon! Employees from every department took time to share a warm day and a bag of clubs to out swing or out swagger the next team! Each player has opportunities to win a gift certificate for special shots or as a team.

We have players who are very “serious about their game” and others who really come to just have a great day with coworkers and enjoy the day.

We asked each team to give us a “photo” shot that shows their team spirit. The best ones are below. At the end of the round, we all gather to see who won and what the final team score is.

The first place winners will have their names entered on the City plaque and will get to display it in their department until the next year’s tournament. A fine lunch and refreshments are served while each team completes the round.



*1st Place Winners*

### The Results!

1st Place – Tory Jantz, Aaron Sheedy, Steve Flageolle

2nd Place – Mike Schaller, Jason Fredricks, Michael Sutton, Mike Korsvold

3rd Place – Stan McInturf, Becky Hart, Christy Ingle, Trent Ingle

Men’s Longest Drive – Rick Orton

Women’s Longest Drive – Becky Hart

Closest to the Pin - 4 winners

Trent Ingle – Hole 4

Christopher Reid – Hole 7

Steve Flageolle – Hole 6

Aaron Sheedy – Hole 8



*2nd Place Winners*



*3rd Place Winners*





# 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.

**What:** 2017 Onsite Flu Shot Event

**When:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 7:30a.m. - 11:00a.m.

**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 for upper arm to be easily exposed so the nurse can provide the flu shot quickly and easily.



## Get the facts about the flu

Don't be fooled - get the facts about the flu.

**False:** Getting a flu shot can cause the flu.

**True:** You can't get the flu from a flu shot.

The flu shot does not contain a live virus. However, when your body is building its defenses, you may experience a minor reaction after getting the shot, like body aches or a mild fever for a day or two.

**False:** The flu isn't serious.

**True:** Flu causes serious illness, hospitalizations, and deaths every year. Most flu-related deaths could be prevented by immunization.

**False:** You can die from a flu shot.

**True:** It's rare to have a dangerous reaction to the flu shot.

Consult with your doctor before getting a flu shot if you have a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome

or if you've ever had a serious allergic reaction to eggs or a previous dose of flu vaccine.

**False:** You can wait and see if an epidemic breaks out, then get a flu shot.

**True:** It takes from 2 weeks or longer to develop immunity. That's why you need to get your shot before the flu season begins.

**False:** Flu shots are for old people.

**True:** All adults and children should get a flu shot. Even healthy adults and children can catch the flu. Find out why you should get a flu shot.

**False:** You don't need a flu shot if you got one last year.

**True:** Immunity to the flu wears off within a year. Flu viruses change often. If you're not immunized against this year's expected virus strains, you and those around you are at risk for getting the flu. Get your flu shot soon, so you will be protected before the flu season begins.



Don't let fear or false information keep you from protecting yourself and your family!





## Caring for Someone with the Flu

When someone in your family has the flu, others can get it, too. You can help keep the rest of your household from getting sick if you take a few simple precautions.

### If a family member is sick with the flu

- Have the sick person rest and sleep in a separate room, away from others
- If you can't avoid close contact, consider wearing a face mask.
- Avoid touching any used tissues. Wear gloves when cleaning up.
- Don't allow anyone who is sick to take care of an infant.

### Prevent flu viruses from spreading

- Remind all members of your household and caregivers to:
  - Wash their hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers also work well. Young children may need help keeping their hands clean.
  - Avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. That's how viruses spread.
  - Cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze. They should throw used tissues in the trash afterwards. They can use their sleeves if they don't have tissues. If they do use their hands, they should wash them as soon as possible.

### Be prepared, in case you get the flu

Have a supply of over-the-counter medicines, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, tissues, and related items.

- Keep a week's supply of soup and other healthy foods in your pantry.
- Avoid making trips in public while you're contagious.

@ Kaiser Permanente, 2017



### BE PREPARED



### KEEP THESE ITEMS HANDY

### AVOID GETTING SICK



### BUT IF YOU DO...

### PLEASE TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS





## 2017 Special Municipal Election - November 7, 2017

Article XVIII, Section 9, of the Colorado Constitution authorizes limited stakes gaming within the City of Black Hawk, Colorado.

The City of Black Hawk's Occupational Device Tax (device tax) helps fund the City's general operations. Currently, the City's device tax is \$1,050 per year, regardless of the number gaming stations per device.

Games with live dealers such as Black Jack, Craps, Poker and Roulette seat between five (5) and twelve (12) players per device; however, these devices are currently taxed at the same rate as a single player slot machine.

Total device counts in the City of Black Hawk have dropped year-over-year since the approval of Amendment 50 in 2008 which authorized Craps and Roulette as live table games, extended casino hours, and increased the maximum bet limit to \$100.

The decrease in total device count has resulted in a decrease the total revenue received from the annual device tax, at a time the gaming industry reports a 300% increase in revenue from live table games since Amendment 50.

The City of Black Hawk City Council seeks approval of a device tax increase of four (4) times the

current tax rate for live games. The device tax on live games will be increased to approximately \$11.50 per day, per live game, which results in an increase of \$8.63 per day, per live table game.

The registered voters of the City of Black Hawk will be asked to consider an increase to the Occupational Device Tax for live games during the upcoming Special Election to be held as a Polling Place Election on November 7, 2017, at the Public Works Administration Building located at 987 Miners Mesa Road in Black Hawk.

To vote by absentee ballot, you must be a registered elector of the City of Black Hawk. Absentee Ballot Applications may be obtained in person from the City Clerk's Office located at City Hall, 201 Selak Street, until the end of business on Friday, November 3, 2017. If you wish to have the Application for Absentee Ballot mailed or emailed to you, please call 303-582-2221. Your completed application for an absentee ballot must be received in the City Clerk's Office by Monday, October 30, 2017.

On November 7, 2017, the Polling Place will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm and the following question summarized above will be on the ballot:

SHALL THE CITY OF BLACK HAWK TAXES BE INCREASED SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$700,000.00) ANNUALLY IN 2018, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE COLLECTED ANNUALLY IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS BY THE CREATION OF A NEW CATEGORY OF OCCUPATIONAL TAX TO BE CALCULATED AT FOUR (4) TIMES THE OCCUPATIONAL TAX OTHERWISE LEVIED UPON GAMING DEVICES, LEVIED ANNUALLY PER TABLE ON GAMES SUCH AS, WITHOUT LIMITATION, POKER, BLACK JACK, CRAPS, AND ROULETTE, WHEN SUCH GAMES ARE CONDUCTED BY LIVE DEALERS, THE PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES, AND SHALL THE CITY BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT AND SPEND THE FULL PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX WITHOUT LIMITATION AND WITHOUT LIMITING THE EXPENDITURE OF ANY OTHER REVENUES OR FUNDS UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20, OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## Cutting the Cord

by Tarik Muhammad

As Internet Service providers continue to improve the capacity of their networks more people are starting to abandon traditional cable TV for its sleeker nemesis known as streaming.



According to a study by Leichtman Research in 2016 over 600k subscribers chose to abandon their cable TV, those subscribers more than likely will replace it with some form of streaming.



The main benefit of ditching the traditional cable TV model is the cost saving, on average, the monthly savings amount to half of your combined Internet and Cable bill.

Here are a few other reasons to make the switch.

1. **More choices.** Every major network, content studio, and even Amazon has content ready for streaming, the library of content is more than any cable company can provide.
2. **Content a la carte.** Because streaming allows you to customize the content you wish to view you will only get the programming you truly want.
3. **Better content.** By allowing users to choose the content they wish to view this forces networks to deliver higher quality content or risk losing viewer ship. The traditional Cable TV model was to make you pay for everything including the networks with shows that few viewers actually watch.
4. **No contract.** If you are into a popular series (from a premium channel) but not into any other shows on that particular network you can actually subscribe to said network, view the current season of said show, and then cancel afterwards. To put that in a cost savings perspective you would only be paying about 1/4 of the subscription price for the year.
5. **It's easy.** Most "Smart TV's" come equipped with streaming apps such as Hulu, YouTube, or Netflix, from there all you need is an Internet connection. If you don't have a "Smart TV" you can add a streaming device like the Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Chromecast, etc. You can even use these devices to stream content from your smart phone directly to your TV.

Best streaming devices guide (<https://goo.gl/GnEb79>)  
Leichtman Research Group study (<https://goo.gl/LSI0HR>)



# PUBLIC WORKS

## Gregory Street Realignment Progress

Although it may seem unfathomable, construction work on the Gregory Street Realignment project will be finished someday soon. We promise. New water and sewer mains have been replaced along Gregory Street, and a 600-foot section of the “flume” drainage culvert has been reconstructed.

Two large retaining walls are being constructed with this project to create additional space suitable for some commercial development. Possible future businesses to be located along Gregory Street include a brewpub, distillery/tasting room, and specialty craftsmen retailers.

While the Gregory Street Realignment project has been a major hassle to everyone traveling through the corridor, most people have handled the inconveniences without issue.

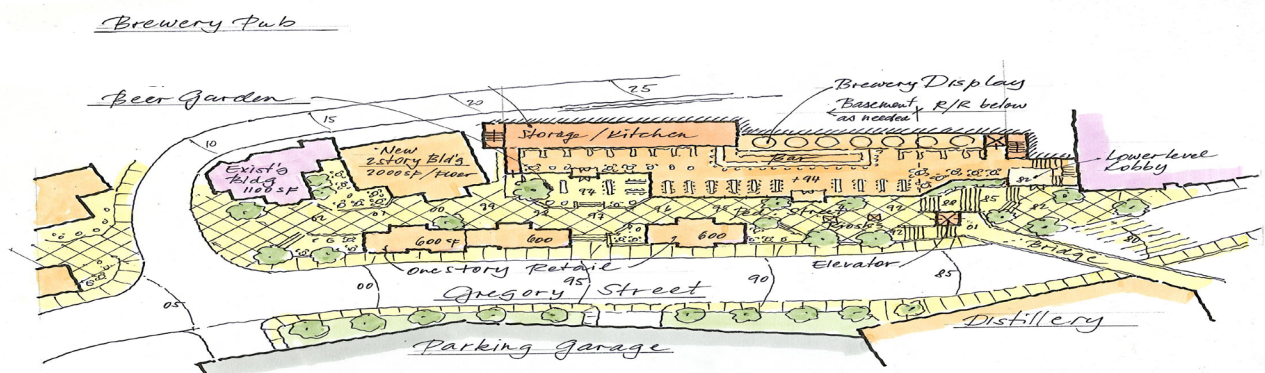
Thankfully, roadway construction is expected to be complete by the end of October! The next phase of revitalizing Gregory Street will consist of a new public parking structure called the ‘St. Charles Carriage House.’ Construction on the Carriage House is just beginning and will continue through next July.



*Bird's-eye view of the construction*



Construction impacts to the general public associated with the parking structure will be mild compared to the delays and other perils presented with the current roadway project.



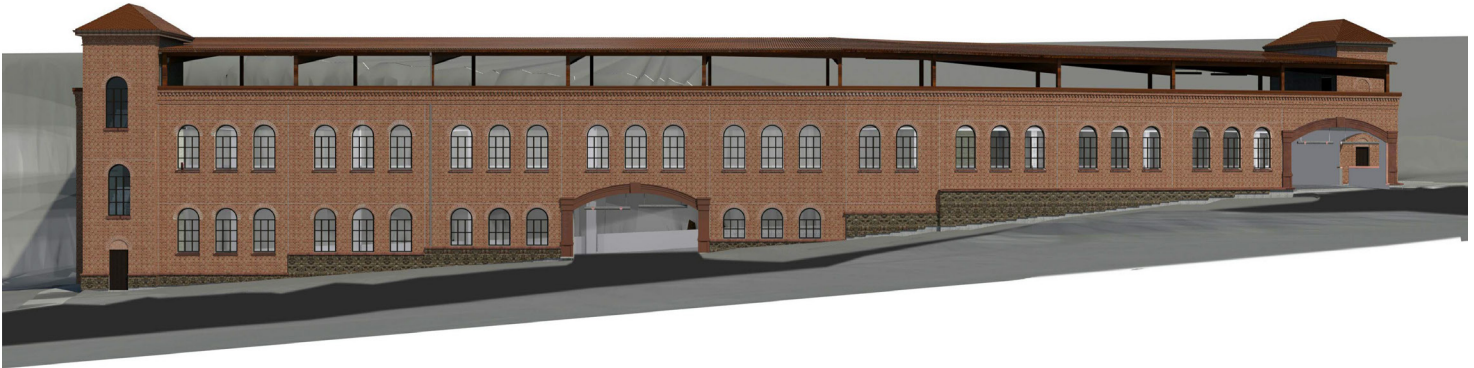
CONCEPTUAL IDEAS FOR GREGORY STREET



## St. Charles Carriage House

### SAINT CHARLES CARRIAGE HOUSE

BLACK HAWK, COLORADO



**East Elevation**



**East Stair and Tower Elevation**

Conceptual Drawings only

### Future location of St. Charles Carriage House





# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## **Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!**

**Fire Prevention Week observed October 8-14**

Every year, the fire service observes Fire Prevention Week in coordination with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as an opportunity to bring a vital safety message to those whom we serve and in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began October 8, 1871. Fire Prevention Week has been observed annually for more than 90 years – since the first presidential proclamation by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" works to better educate the public about the critical importance of developing a home escape plan and practicing it. The Black Hawk Fire Department is working to reinforce these potentially life-saving messages.

***You and your family are fast asleep when the smoke alarm sounds: Do you know what to do?***

Consider this scenario: It's 2 o'clock in the morning. You and your family are fast asleep when you awaken to the smoke alarm sounding and the smell of smoke. What do you do? If you and your family don't have a plan in place, it could jeopardize your safety, or even prove deadly.

In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. That's why home escape planning is so critical in a fire situation. It ensures that everyone in the household knows how to use that small window of time wisely.

Developing and practicing a home escape plan is like building muscle memory. That pre-planning is what everyone will draw upon to snap into action and escape as quickly as possible in the event of a fire.

In keeping with this year's theme, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!", the Black Hawk Fire Department recommends you talk to your family to develop and practice a home exit plan that includes working smoke alarms on every level of the home and near all sleeping areas. It also includes two ways to safely exit every room in your home and establishing a meeting place for your family a safe distance from the home.

Last year, the Black Hawk Fire Department visited all residential homes in the City and offered to install a free smoke alarm if there were none in the house. This year we will once again visit our residents to provide information and installation of a free carbon monoxide alarm in your home. Receiving early notification of a household fire or carbon monoxide issue is very important in order to ensure you and your family can exit your home before a tragedy strikes.

Although we may be visiting your home this October during Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Department continues its free and voluntary home safety inspection and smoke and carbon monoxide alarm installation programs year-round. If you would like our assistance in any of these areas, please feel free to contact the Fire Department at 303-582-0426. More fire and life safety information can also be found on our web-site at: [cityofblackhawk.org/city-departments/fire-department/fire-safety-resources](http://cityofblackhawk.org/city-departments/fire-department/fire-safety-resources).





# EVERY SECOND COUNTS

PLAN **2** WAYS OUT!™

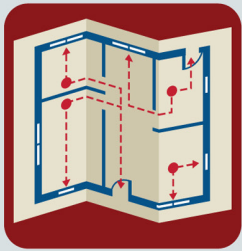
## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 8–14, 2017

How fast does fire move? Very fast. You could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

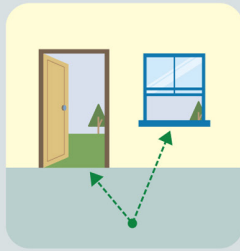
### 7 steps to practicing your escape plan

1



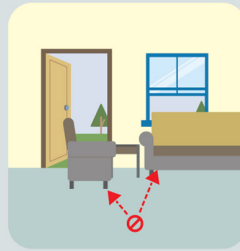
Draw a map of your home. Include all doors and windows.

2



Find two ways out of every room.

3



Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.

4



Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.

5



Push the test button to sound the smoke alarm.

6



Practice your drill with everyone in the home.

7



Get outside to your meeting place.



The Official Sponsor of Fire Prevention Week Since 1922

## Tribute to a Heroic Journey

### Registration is open for the 2017 Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

The City of Black Hawk has partnered with the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa to host the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb as a way for first responders and the general public to remember September 11, 2001, honor the memory of those who were lost, and support a worthwhile cause. Your individual tribute not only remembers their sacrifice, but symbolically completes their heroic journey to save others.

The proceeds from the event will support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) who create and maintain programs that support fire service survivors. NFFF provides much needed assistance to the surviving families and co-workers of the firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001. Thanks to the generosity of the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa and the City of Black Hawk, 100% of your \$25 registration fee supports the NFFF. Additional donations can be made through the registration process. Participants will receive an event t-shirt, refreshments, and more from our supporting sponsors.

This event is not a race, rather a gathering to honor the fallen, help those who were affected on that day, and let the world know – we will never forget. Please visit <http://events.firehero.org/blackhawk> for more information and to register for the climb.



## Officer Promotions within the Black Hawk Fire Department



The Black Hawk Fire Department completed two promotional processes this summer to fill open Captain and Lieutenant positions.

On July 15, 2017, Lieutenant Shane Castro was promoted to Captain and Engineer Chris Williams was promoted to Lieutenant. Both officers completed an extensive interview process to include written and practical evaluations and multiple oral boards in order to demonstrate their readiness to fill these positions.

We congratulate both Captain Castro and Lieutenant Williams on their career advancements.

Lieutenant Chris Williams (left) and  
Captain Shane Castro (right)



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## September is National Preparedness Month

When a disaster strikes each of us should be prepared and ready to respond. These preparations should include these four themes:

### Make a Plan for Yourself, Family and Friends

- Make an Emergency Plan
- Sign up for alerts and warnings in your area (Download the FEMA Mobile App and sign up for CodeRED!)
- Learn your evacuation zone and have an evacuation plan
- Check your insurance coverage
- Plan financially for the possibility of disaster

### Plan to Help Your Neighbor and Community

- Learn skills you need to help yourself and others until help can arrive
- Check on your neighbors
- Talk with your Power Company about utility safety

### Practice and Build Out Your Plans

- Complete an Emergency Financial First Aid Kit ([ready.gov/financial-preparedness](http://ready.gov/financial-preparedness))
- Maintain emergency savings for use in case of an emergency
- Participate in an emergency drill
- Have at least a one-week supply of medications.
- Know how to access community resources (e.g., shelters, food banks)

### Get Involved! Be a Part of Something Larger

- Get your business and community organization prepared for an emergency
- Join Weather Ready Nation at [weather.gov/wrn](http://weather.gov/wrn)

Disasters don't plan ahead. You can. Get started and make an emergency plan today with tips from

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

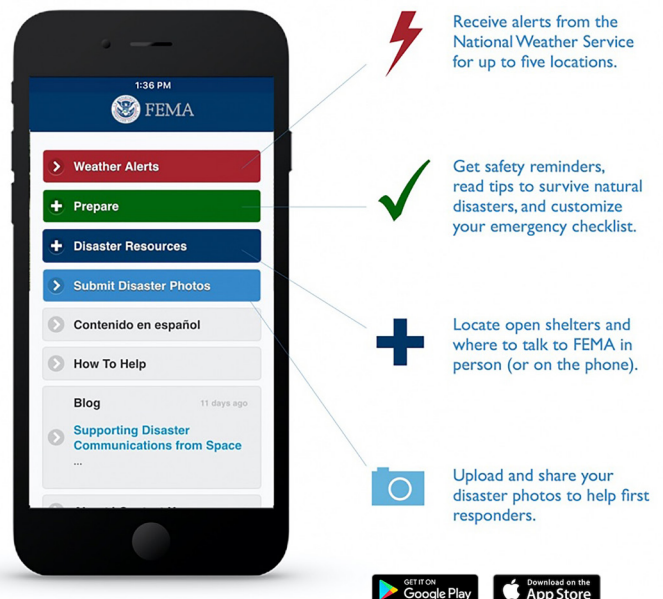
More information is available from the City of Black Hawk's Emergency Management webpage at:

[cityofblackhawk.org/city-departments/fire-department/emergency-management](http://cityofblackhawk.org/city-departments/fire-department/emergency-management).



### FEMA Mobile App Available!

Install the FEMA App, available for Apple, Android, and Blackberry mobile devices.



# FINANCE

## Calendars and budgets

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.

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.

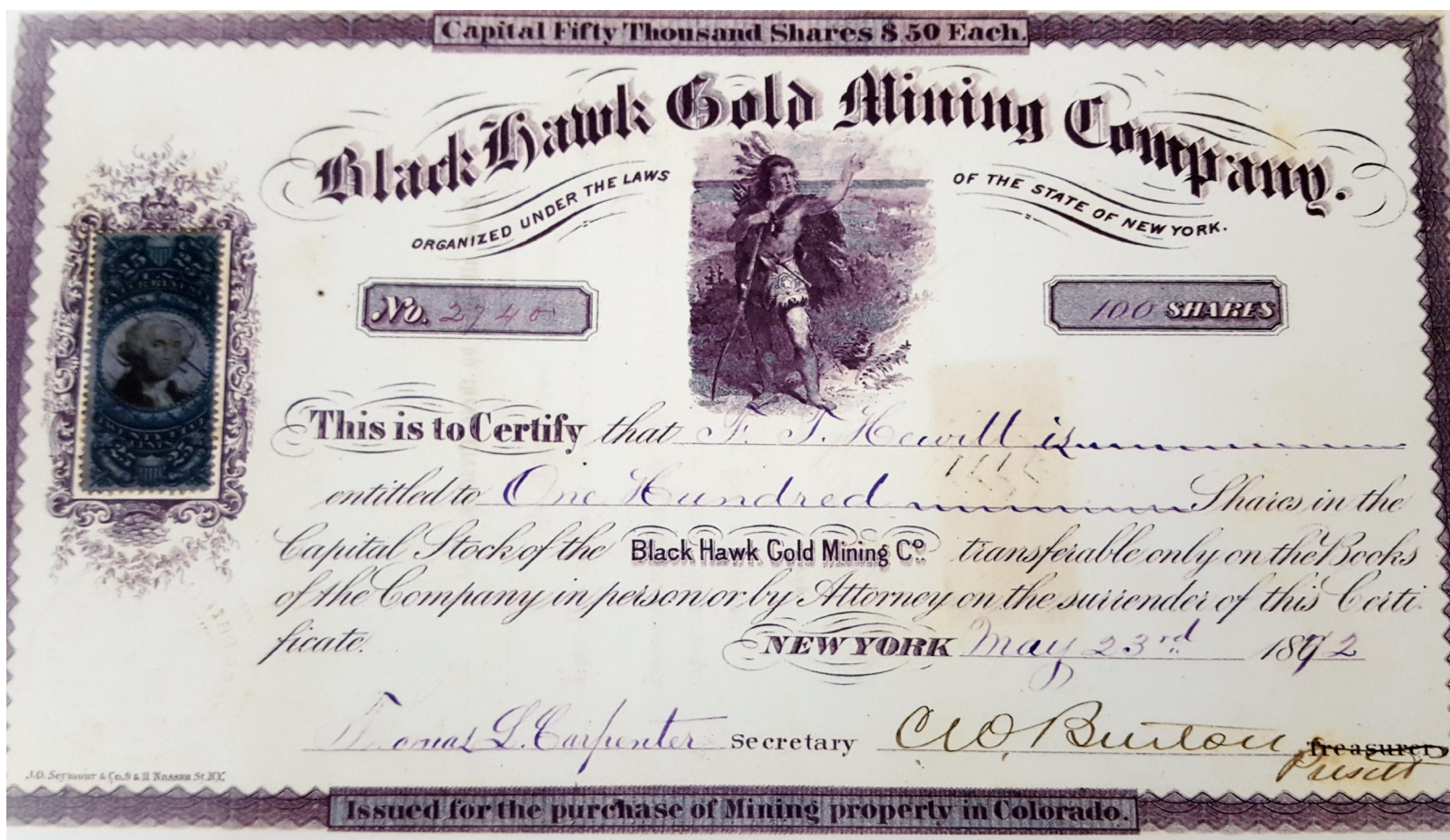
The three host gaming communities share 10% of the net gaming tax distributions, based on the proportion of gaming revenue generated by each jurisdiction.

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 1.33% from the previous 12 month period. Black Hawk saw an increase of 0.78% in AGP, Central City was up 3.96% and Cripple Creek was up 2.54%. Black Hawk casinos make up 74.92% of Statewide gaming revenue.

- Statewide Gaming Tax (paid by the casinos) was up 0.96% from the previous 12 month period. Black Hawk saw an increase of 1.20%, Central City was down 15.33% and Cripple Creek was up 9.57%. Black Hawk casinos pay 85.30% of Statewide Gaming taxes.

As we move into late summer and early fall, City Officials and staff will be working on the 2018 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 39% of all General Fund revenues.





# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Black Hawk Radio System Upgrade



Several years ago the City of Black Hawk, Gilpin County, Clear Creek County, and Evergreen Fire Protection District partnered to build a new VHF radio system.

The new technology, which is computer based, replaced the old equipment, which was no longer being serviced.

In the past, it was easy to replace a piece of equipment with new equipment when it failed.

Today, most radio systems used by public safety agencies are computer based systems.

Just like our own personal computers at home, it doesn't take long before the technology becomes

outdated. During July, the local radio system received a system-wide update to include new software.

The plan is to update the system every two years to ensure the system is viable in the future.



## Emergency Notification Services

Did you know the Black Hawk Police Department uses CodeRED to provide emergency notification services to Black Hawk residents?



CodeRED is the primary communication system used by Black Hawk and Gilpin County to notify residents about emergency conditions. Emergency Dispatchers send messages to residents using by telephone and cellular text messaging during emergencies to inform residents of dangerous life threatening conditions.

Residents living in Black Hawk and Gilpin County are encouraged to sign up to receive these important emergency messages.

To sign up for CodeRED visit [www.co.gilpin.co.us](http://www.co.gilpin.co.us) and click on the "Emergency Services" tab and then "Residential Emergency Phone Notification Sign up" tab.

A new CodeRED Mobile Alert app is available by visiting <http://ecnetwork.com/codered-mobile-alert-app/>. If you need help signing up for CodeRED call the Black Hawk Police Department at 303-582-5878 or email Cathy Cullar at [ccullar@cityofblackhawk.org](mailto:ccullar@cityofblackhawk.org).

**Don't be left out, stay informed, sign up for CodeRED!**

## Black Hawk Police Officers now Wearing Body Cameras

Police Departments across the country are adding body worn cameras to the list of equipment police officers carry while on duty.

In 2016 the City of Black Hawk Board of Aldermen authorized the Black Hawk Police Department to implement a body camera program of its own for all its sworn personnel.

After an extensive review of body cameras on the market, the Police Department selected the Axon Camera system to be worn by police officers. In June 2017, the Police Department began rolling out the new cameras to 25 police officers including the Chief of Police.

According to Police Chief Stephen Cole, all officers are required to wear the cameras while conducting investigations. Although other police departments in the First Judicial District (Gilpin and Jefferson County) are testing cameras, the Black Hawk Police Department is the first to formally implement them throughout the organization.

Cameras can't capture everything during an incident, but they can provide insight into the actions of officers and the behavior of the people they encounter.

According to the Chief, the implementation of the cameras are not a response to past misconduct on the part of Black Hawk Police Officers, but a commitment to transparent professional policing.

Many of the interactions officers have with the public are already captured on video by casino cameras, but the new body worn cameras will provide a unique perspective of the officer's interaction with the public to include audio recordings.

The video obtained during an incident can help juries understand what occurred; help improve police procedures and training; improve officer and supervisor performance; resolve complaints; and ultimately help the department deliver a quality product to the public.





## ACTIVE BEARS IN BLACK HAWK



The Black Hawk Police Department responded to numerous bear sightings in Black Hawk in July. If you encounter a bear near your residence, please call the Black Hawk Police Department and we will attempt to scare the bear into retreating into the woods.

Feeding bears or otherwise providing a food source to bears creates a risk to our community and could result in the bear being euthanized. Bears that are unafraid of humans pose a significant risk to our safety.

Once a bear wanders into town they can be easily attracted to residential trash containers due to the smell. Once a bear learns the containers are a source of food, it's difficult to change their behavior.

The Police Department is currently using rubber pellets or bullets fired from a shotgun to haze the bears, but the bears we are encountering are returning even after being shot. In July, the Division of Wildlife placed a pepper barrel on Horn Street, which was filled with garbage.

The barrel of garbage attracts bears and once they are inside the barrel their presence triggers a pepper spray device, which has been effective in changing their behavior. The best way to reduce the potential for encountering a bear is to limit their access to food. Each of us can play a role in reducing our potential for accidental encounters with bears by following some simple practices.

- Use the bear proof trash containers provided by the city and ensure they are always latched. If you don't have one call Public Works. Households can obtain two 64 gallon bear resistant trash containers for trash disposal. If household trash exceeds the bear resistant trash cans, residents should utilize the free dumpsters on the mesa where excess trash should be brought.
- Clean trash containers with ammonia.
- Look at your property for things a bear might want. Anything that smells and can be eaten are prime targets for bears.
- Don't leave pet food outdoors. Keeping food in an outbuilding may still attract bears.
- Don't put meat, fish, or sweet food (including fruit) in your composter.
- Keep meat scraps in the freezer until garbage day.
- Birdfeeders are prime targets for bears.
- Pick all ripe fruit off trees, and remove vegetables and fallen fruit from the ground.

Bears will travel from one home to another looking for a meal once they learn trash containers contain discarded food. Latching containers after each use can prevent bears from gaining access to the trash container contents. Residents who don't lock their trash containers create risks for other residents.



**USING BEAR PROOF CONTAINERS FOR TRASH DISPOSAL AND LOCKING THEM AFTER EACH USE WILL REDUCE THE RISK OF AN ACCIDENTAL ENCOUNTER WITH A BEAR.**

More information can be obtained on bears by visiting the Black Hawk Police Department web site located at <http://www.cityofblackhawk.org> or visiting the Colorado Department of Natural Resources at <http://wildlife.state.co.us>.

## GOVERNOR CONSIDERING OPTING-IN TO FIRSTNET PLAN

The concept of developing a national public safety broadband network has been kicked around for over 10 years and is now getting closer to reality.

In 2012 Congress funded the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) with the mission of creating a national public safety broadband network using the newly acquired cellular frequencies available from television providers. The goal was to develop a dedicated reliable communication platform for public safety agencies for the next 25 years.

FirstNet recently awarded a national contract to AT&T to develop and deliver the first nationwide wireless public safety broadband network in the United States. AT&T in cooperation with FirstNet is now rolling out implementation plans for each State including Colorado.



In the next 45 days, Governor Hickenlooper will decide to accept the AT&T plan or decline the plan and design a customized State plan. Accepting the current AT&T plan means there will be no deployment costs for local or state governments.

The proposed FirstNet Colorado Plan allows AT&T to move forward with deploying the network within the next 12 months with a complete build of the system in subsequent years.

Opting-out means Colorado will still have access to specific frequencies (band 14), but will have to develop its own agreement with competing wireless

providers or develop its own wireless system. The main benefit for public safety is a segment of the wireless cellular system (band 14) will be dedicated to public safety, but available to the public when not



used by public safety entities. Public safety agencies will receive priority access to cellular service during an emergency.

AT&T will build out the network and encourage local governments to move new and existing cell phones to the new dedicated network. The specific cost of wireless coverage to individual governments is not known, but AT&T indicates cellular access will be very competitive. However, it's unclear if other municipal departments such as public works will have access to the AT&T dedicated wireless network.

The future of the FirstNet system for public safety is exciting. Departments are already shifting to cellular based systems to support normal operations and there may be a day when cellular systems replace traditional handheld portable radios.



# MUNICIPAL CODE MOMENT

## Residential Parking

Due to limited parking within the City's residential areas, residents are reminded that they need to obtain a parking permit in order to park vehicles on the block in which the owner of the vehicle resides. The permit needs to be hung from the rear view mirror of the vehicle. Any vehicle which does not have a parking permit on display runs the risk of being ticketed and towed by the Police Department.

Resident parking permits can be obtained from the Police Department at 221 Church Street by providing proof of residence and current motor vehicle registration of the vehicle(s).

Guest parking permits may be obtained at the same time that a resident parking pass is issued. Each residence may be issued two guest permits. If guest parking permits are lost, there is a \$50 replacement fee.

Day guest parking permits are also available for temporary visitors and special events.

*For complete information on Residential Parking, please refer to Section 16-265 the City of Black Hawk Municipal Code, available on our website at [www.cityofblackhawk.org/city-departments/administrative-services/city-clerks-office/municipal-code/](http://www.cityofblackhawk.org/city-departments/administrative-services/city-clerks-office/municipal-code/) or by contacting the Police Department at 303-582-0503.*

## We would love to hear from you!

Employees, residents, businesses, and visitors, we appreciate your feedback! Stop by City Hall to drop your feedback letters in our comment box or simply email [CityClerk@cityofblackhawk.org](mailto:CityClerk@cityofblackhawk.org).





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