

# Black Hawk Lantern

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**City Manager Steve Cole** 

### FROM THE CITY MANAGER

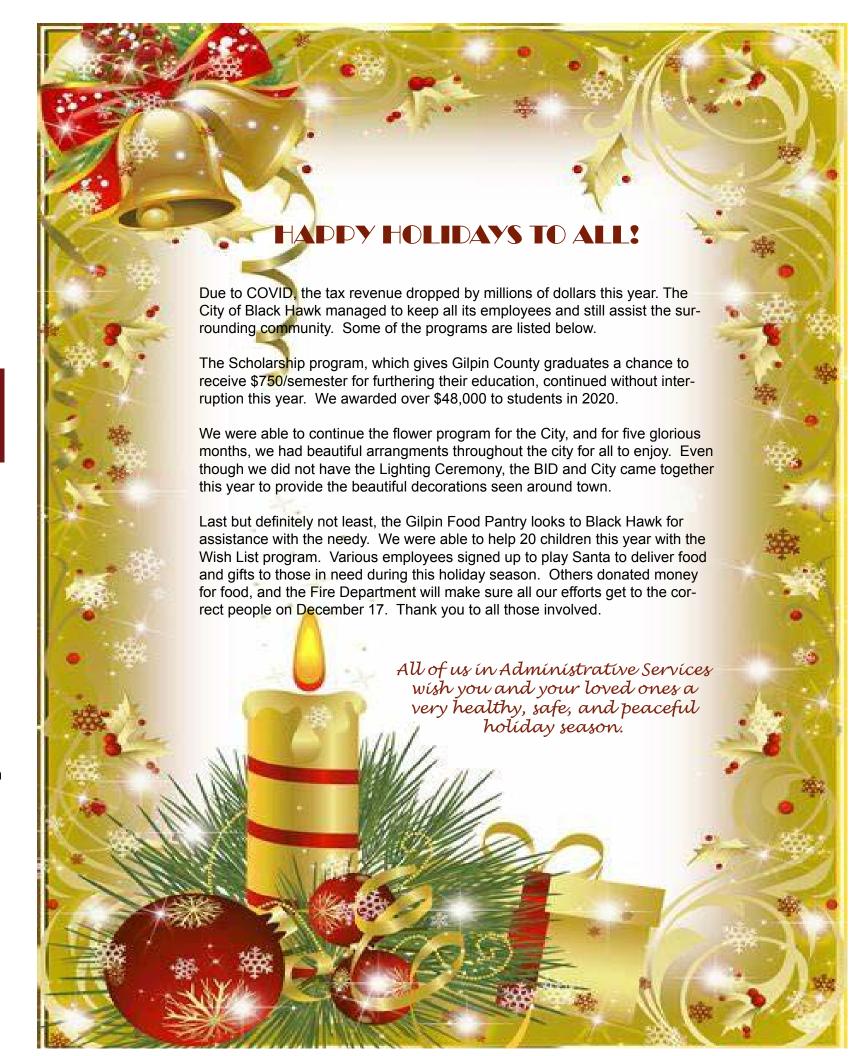
As I write this article, Gilpin County has placed additional restrictions on our casinos to slow the transmission of Covid-19 during the second wave of the virus. Although the restrictions adversely impacted our casinos, the casinos are finding ways to survive in this uncertain environment. The good news is a vaccine is just around the corner, and by the time this newsletter has been distributed, some doses of the vaccine will likely have been distributed to our most at-risk populations.

As we close out 2020, it's important to reflect on the City's accomplishments as we head into the new year. Several projects in the City have been completed or near completion. The new Hidden Treasure Trailhead and Maryland Mountain Quartz Valley Park are now open to the public, the Saratoga Valet parking lot is finished, and the Lodge public parking lot is complete. The Monarch Hotel and Casino is partially open, and the entire project should be finished within the next few months. The Gregory Plaza is making a magical transformation with a completion date in mid-summer. The Proximo Whiskey Distillery Resort took a step toward becoming a reality after Proximo Spirits purchased the land needed to develop their resort.

On December 1, 2020, the Black Hawk City Council approved additional casino games and lifted the wagering limits. The City was the first of the three gaming communities to add games and raise limits after local and state voters approved ballot questions in November, giving local communities more control over gaming. Now, the Gaming Commission will develop new rules for the authorized games and bet limits. Our guests should see the changes on May 1, 2021.

The City has been working with a developer to create a distillery district and 50-unit airstream park on the Mesa. A new distillery is already being planned for the distillery district. The City is also developing a sewer line to support the new distillery district and airstream park and any new development in the area. Construction of the new development will start in 2021. The City has several other development plans that were delayed in 2020 due to the economic impact of COVID-19. When the economy improves, those projects will be restarted in 2022. The City Council also approved changing the name of Highway 119 in Black Hawk to Clear Creek Boulevard, and residents and guests will see now signage in the next few months.

Our goal is to create a "one-of-a-kind experience" for visitors and make Black Hawk a "Resort Destination." 2020 was a challenging year, but 2021 will be a great opportunity to get back on track. So, buckle up, as change happens fast in Black Hawk.



### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### **NEW CITY WEBSITE**

Some of you may know that we are working on a new City website. Black Hawk is transitioning from a gaming community to a "Resort Destination." Our website should reflect these changes.

Some of the tools we will use include "Mega Menus," offering numerous ways to get to the same place. Visually stimulating icon buttons will line the bottom of the main picture. Lastly, quick link icons for social media, news, and calendars will show up along the left side of the main Home page picture.

All departments are now reviewing their pages to see what can be improved, added, or removed. Many files will not be transferred and some older documents will be accessed via an Archive button. Our goal is to make a faster, more user-friendly, filled with information website that emulates a multi-dimensional vacation destination.

Below you will find an example of the icon buttons from a Colorado Municipality website.



## TENURE AWARDS 2020

Like many events this year, the annual holiday party was canceled and replaced with individual holiday meals. JKQ was again the popular choice, and all departments have been enjoying a variety of smoked meats and sides with their department peers. The following Tenure Certificates were passed out by the City Manager.

#### 5 Years

Jake Taylor-Adler Ryan Blenker Edgar Espinosa Heidi Hansen Mike Haberhauer Lorenzo Robinson

Sean Shirvan

#### 10 Years

Judge Ron Carlson Brandon Davis Lance Hillis Alderman Jim Johnson Gary Pauls Matthew Reed

#### 15 Years

Stephen Cole Cathy Cullar Craig Metcalfe Don Tushinski

#### 20 Years

Bruce Hollenbeck Kip Karr Mary Klemp Steve Martinez

#### 25 Years

**RORY MILLER** 





### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### **INTERACTIVE CEMETERY MAP**

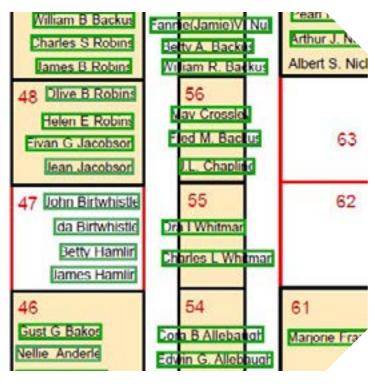
In the mid-1900s, the City of Black Hawk purchased the Dory Hill Cemetery. The documentation associated with the existing headstones is limited and has caused confusion throughout the years.

The latest thought is to provide, to the public, an interactive map of the cemetery. This map will be loaded on to the new website so that by clicking on a name in a green square, you will automatically view a picture of the headstone and all documents related to that person and family plot.

The Cemetery is absolutely gorgeous in the Spring with flowers blooming. Walking around a cemetery may seem like a bizarre thing to do, but reading the headstones and seeing the dates of those passed tell numerous historical and interesting stories. The cemetery is located off Hwy 46, just down from Hwy 119.







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# DRONE LIGHT SHOW 2021

### COMING JULY 2021, AN EVENT NEVER SEEN IN BLACK HAWK HISTORY!

Due to continued fire bans and rising expense, the City decided to research alternative entertainment for the annual July celebration of independence. Drone Light Shows are becoming more popular and can provide a sky full of entertainment without fire hazard for a reasonable cost.

- Drone light shows can number from as few as 100 drones to as many as over 2000 drones
- The lights can display more than 1.8 billion color combinations.
- The drones are all controlled by one mighty central computer with just one operator.
- The drones can create stunning shapes, words, logos, dazzling animations, and the entire
- performance is synchronized to a custom musical soundtrack.
- Drone light shows are made up of small drones with high powered led lights on them.



# HOLIDAY LIGHTS 2020



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### BELLS OF BLACK HAWK

### **Schulmerich Carillons**

Ernest Hemingway wrote, "For Whom the Bell Tolls," a woeful tale of a man at war during the late 1930s. The English poet, John Donne, says this about bells: "Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in Mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

In Black Hawk, we have a different philosophy. The Bells of Black Hawk sing songs of patriotism and hope every hour, offering inspiration to those in range. With the new Schulmerich Carillon g5 system that replaced our 20yr old system, we now hear the chimes with enhanced clarity and tone.

Mayor David Spellman has organized the musical menu featuring the national anthem at 8 am, 12 pm and 4 pm. A mixture of patriotic songs fills the rest of the day on the hour, every hour. Mayor Spellman had this to say: "Black Hawk citizens are patriotic and value their freedom and liberty. Playing the Star-Spangled Banner and other patriotic music is one way to demonstrate and share our love and gratitude for our Country with all the folk who visit Black Hawk. Listening to our National Anthem as the American flag waves from our Liberty Pole gives one an immense feeling of pride, and you think to yourself, I am proud to be an American."

One of the most interesting things about this unique Black Hawk feature is that we are not listening to bells at all. Electronic devices, such as the Schulmerich g5, can imitate precise bell tones offering us the ability to listen to True Cast Bells, Flemish Bells, English Bells, Celesta Bells, Organ Chime, Harp Bells, Quadra Bells, and Tembrel Bells. We looked, there are no Cow Bell offerings.

During the holiday season, the National Anthem will continue to play at the designated hours, and holiday music will fill the rest of the hourly strikes.





"The old system was all manual. The new system is all digital and much easier to maneuver around. The new speakers sound much better than the older system. We also have more songs to choose from, and everything is already pre-programmed. The new system also has an annual calendar, so we don't have to change the music manually. With the new system, the bells and the chimes sound more realistic".

- Operator Roxie Morris

### SCHULMERICH CARILLONS

#### Classic Plus Series 2

### Schulmerich g5\* Electronic Carillon



#### PIONEERS OF SOUND, AGAIN,

Today's Schalmerich g5\* Electronic Carillon series offers gold standard Schulmerich sound at a price that's within reach. Our industry-leading sound is better than ever before, due to an entirely new approach to bell sampling that gives each sound its own personality, just like an actual cast bronze bell.

Built to last, the Schulmerich g5\* series provides advanced functionality backed by today's best technology, and a range of music and variety of bell sounds that is simply unmatched.

### Performance Highlights

- Industry-leading sound
- Easy-to-use 15" Windows-based, high resolution LCD touch screen
- Connects to internet for day/time synchronization
- Password protected
- Capacity to plan and run six different schedules
- Customize your own song library of 750 songs from a library of 7,800 songs.
- 8 programmable swinging bells
- 25 customizable telling bells
- 8 clock chimes (Westminster, Winchester, St. Michael's, Ave Maria/Lourdes, Four Bell Parsiful, Tennyson, and Norwich) with four tanalstrike options
- 10 bagpipe songs, including "Amszing Grace"
- Taps and rifle volley

#### Standard Features

- All traditional liturgical functions
- Extensive playlist capabilities
- Built-in monitor speaker
- 8G memory
- 4 USB ports, 3 ethernet connections, 2 audio outs
- Aerospace-grade aluminum, built-to-last cabinetry
- Help screens in lieu of printed manual
- 100-year Western and Orthodox holiday calendar
- Installation by Field Service Engineers
- 5-year warranty on parts and labor
- Dimensions: 21.25" W, 14.5" H, 20" D
- 8 function wireless remote control

#### Optional Features

- Mono or stereo input
- 61-note split-voice keyboard in True-Cust\*, Flornish, English, or Harp bell voices, and add-on Stop Control Module
- Cabinet extension for integration of additional amplifiers
- Mass Notification System
- Variety of amplifiers customized for your environment.
- Control of your cast bronze bells
- Custom carillon songs can be added
- 61- and 88-note keyboard options
- Interface with a single MIDI equipped organ keyboard or digital pisno

SCHULMERICH CARILLONS
est. 1935

A Division of The Verdin Company

Schulmerich Carillons | 1118 Pendleton Street, Str 410 | Cincinnati, OH 45202 nth 800,689,1146 | fax: 888,455,2593 | urbalmerichandless.com

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## **EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT**

#### MICHAEL DOWNING

I've been with the city for a little over a month. I started on October 21st. I monitor and operate the Dory Hill water treatment plant. Working here is great because it is outside of the busy city life in Denver. It has fresh air and mountain views, and I feel it is meaningful to provide the best quality water possible for the city's residents and visitors.

I would say that my biggest success and my greatest accomplishments up until now is graduating from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, Watershed Management, and Hydrology, and recently certifying as a Colorado Water Professional and starting a career in the water treatment industry.



I am from Tucson, Arizona, where my family lives. I met my fiancé in Denver in 2014 and am getting married in June 2021. My friends would probably say that I am kind, warm-hearted, wise, fun, and down to Earth. My goals this year are to work hard and learn as much as possible. My hobbies include cooking and baking, hiking, fly fishing, woodworking, and my greenhouse herb garden. My favorite foods are Hispanic foods, homemade pizza, soups, and anything on the grill!

My favorite place to visit in Colorado is near Almont and the Taylor River in Gunnison County and Crested Butte near Gothic. World-class fly fishing and amazing wildflowers in the summer.

### **ROYCE MCCLAIN**



I was hired on November 2nd. I'm tasked with assisting with oversight of the Dory Hill Water Treatment Plant and City Distribution system.

I enjoy working for a smaller system and being back in the mountains. I have a wife and one son. I'm a native to the area. I hope to get my distribution 3 certification this year.

I enjoy blacksmithing, wood work, and cutting firewood. My favorite movie is "The Cowboys", favorite book is "High Country" and my favorite memory is when my son was born.

## EMPLOYEE CONNECTION

### **WYNTER KASCH**

I am just short of 5 years with the City. I started working in Public Works and I have worked 4 years as a Communications Officer. I grew up in Gilpin County and got involved working in the casino's first. I worked food and beverage for several of the Casinos in town.

My job as a Communications Officer is a Chaos Coordinator.

Desc: Glorified Babysitter, location and information finder,
mathematician, mumble interpreter, Administrative assistant,
Psychic mind reader, constant momma bear mode, answer
911 calls, keep tabs on officers, firefighters, and medics. I track
and log their locations and record the details of the calls they
are on.

The small department really makes the job enjoyable. We have a Dispatch family dynamic, a Police Department Dynamic and an Emergency Services Family. The City is very supportive of us making changes that better support our job duties, the Department and in turn the city.

I'm very close with my mom. We bought a house last year in Kittredge and I live there with her and my kitty Tinkerbell. It's really nice we are a lot alike and she was taking care of my grandma for the last two years so we're making up the missed time. My little brother still lives in Gilpin County. I come from grandparents who taught the importance of family to their daughters and grandkids early in life. Thanks to that, I am very close with all my cousins and keep in regular contact with them. I spend a lot of time with my family in Missouri and Texas, we're always going to someone's graduation, wedding or baby shower.

I was born in Sun Valley, Idaho but I have lived in Gilpin County since I was 8, so I call myself Native-ish. My friends would describe me as kind, generous, always fun to be around, smart, brightens the room, cute laugh, upbeat, empathetic, and Sassy. My biggest goal is graduating on time in the Fall of 2021from Metro with a BA degree in exercise science. Still looking good but if COVID doesn't knock it off I might be a little delayed. My hobbies include reading, hiking (the new trail is so cool), I've only done one 14er but I am ready to try to get to all of them in the State. Working out, School-I've been in classes so long I should call it a hobby, and cooking.









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### FINANCE

### **2021 Annual Budget**

With the New Year fast approaching, that means it is time to visit the City of Black Hawk 2021 Annual Budget.

On November 11, 2020 the Black Hawk City Council held a work-session to review the 2021 Proposed Annual Budget.

With the reality of the COVID-19 public health emergency continuing into 2021, City officials have had to plan accordingly. The 2021 Budget maintains City services at current levels and holds fees at 2020 levels. Budgeted Revenue for 2021 is projected to be down over 30% from 2019 actuals.

The 2021 Budget includes minor to moderate decreases in Operating expenditures and personnel. Between reducing operational expenditures, freezing vacant positions and delaying certain capital projects, the City's fiscal situation continues to be healthly. Even with a slimmed down budget, the City is in a very fortunate position to be able to provide, on a temporary basis, the high level services the citizens, business' and guests of Black Hawk have come to expect.

### CP&D

Community Planning and Development

### **Residential Building Permit**

The City of Black Hawk requires residents to obtain building permits when they are making additions or alterations to existing structures and for all new structures. Building permits are required to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents. Improper installation of building materials or mechanical appliances can cause harm to those living in the home, or unnecessary damage to the structure. Your safety and wellbeing is so important to the City that there is NO cost to the resident! The City pays our building consultants to complete the required plan review and inspections.

#### The following require a building permit:

- New building (home or accessory structure such as a shed)
- Additions
- Re-roof
- Mechanical appliance installation or replacement (water heater, furnace, A/C, unit heater)
- · Gas line installation or modification
- New light fixtures or additional electrical wiring (fixture replacement exempt)
- Plumbing fixture or new water line installation (fixture replacement exempt)
- Drywall repairs 4 feet x 8 feet or larger

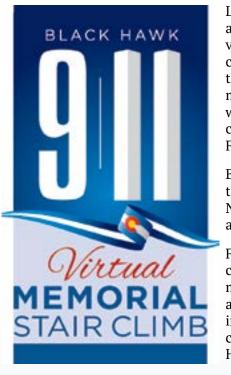
Please contact the Community Planning & Development office for more information or for help applying for a building permit: cpdinquiry@cityofblackhawk.org or 303-582-0615 / 303-582-2223.

Visit our website at <a href="https://site.cityofblackhawk.org/city-departments/community-planning-development/building-per-mit-inspections/">https://site.cityofblackhawk.org/city-departments/community-planning-development/building-per-mit-inspections/</a> for more information and to reference important documents.

### **FIRE**

### 2020 Black Hawk 9/11 Virtual Memorial Stair Climb

### Registration is still open and fundraising continues through the end of the year!



Like most 2020 gatherings, Black Hawk's annual memorial stair climb went virtual. Although a unique format, the climb still holds special meaning for those participating virtually and even more, as we honor the memory of those who were lost we support a worthwhile cause, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Each climb remembers a hero and helps the FDNY Counseling Services Unit and National Fallen Firefighters Foundation assist their families.

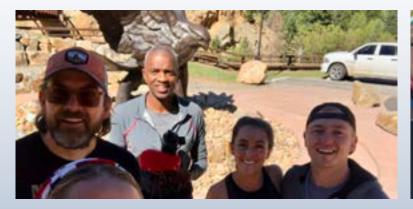
For the 2020 virtual event, participants complete a stair climb, 9.11 kilometer or mile run/walk, or an alternative workout at a location of their choosing. As seen in the photos below, some participants completed their climb right here in Black Hawk on the Maryland Mountain Quartz

Valley Park trails, others completed their personal tribute in another state.

We would like to thank our event sponsors and prize donors, Ameristar, Bull Durham, Mardi Gras, Monarch Casino, Z Casino, Clear Creek Cidery & Eatery, Tommyknocker Brewery, and Fire Dept. Coffee. Participants are automatically entered in the prize drawings and will be announced after the new year on our website, cityofblackhawk.org.

It's not too late to join or support this year's event. Visit events.firehero. org/BlackHawk to register or make a donation.

### Virtual stair climbs taking place around the country and right here in Black Hawk!

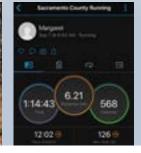














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### FIRE

### Keep your holiday celebrations safe and merry

NFPA recomends avoiding these holiday decorating disasters

Festive celebrations, flickering lights, and winter greens are hallmarks of the holiday season, but they also present fire risks that can quickly turn this festive time of year into a devastating one.

Black Hawk Fire and NFPA work to educate the public about potential fire risks during the holidays, offering resources to help everyone safely enjoy the season. For more safety tips, please visit NFPA.org.

### Christmas tree and decoration fires

Carefully decorating your home can help make your holidays safer.

Between 2013-2017, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 780 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees.

### In the throes of holiday shopping and decorating?

Check out the 9 Ways You're a Holiday Decorating Disaster from NFPA contributor Lisa Marie Sinatra, community.nfpa.org.

1

Your cat lets you know he's delighted you've finally bought some great toys!



Keep pets and children at least three feet away from burning candles and electrical cords to prevent burns and electrical fires.



That ever-growing pile of fallen pine needles on the floor is receiving more comments than the decorations for your Christmas tree.

A dry tree in your home is a fire danger. Think of it as a huge pile of kindling in your home. Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



You've spent more time trying to free yourself out of the tangled lights than actually decorating the tree.

Check the manufacturer's instructions to find out how many lights can be connected to prevent electric shock and fire.



You know it's bad to put flammable material near a fire, but you can't help yourself.
These stockings just look so darn cute and festive!

Keep anything that can burn away from a heat source, despite how awesome it looks. Flameless candles are also a great alternative o real ones when decorating.



Your house is a holiday tourist attraction and you could not be prouder.

An overloaded electrical outlet is a major fire hazard. Plug strings of lights directly into the wall and keep the number to a minimum.



6

5

Some of the bulbs on your string of lights have already taken time off for the holidays.

Replace any string of lights that has worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. These can easily start a fire.

7

You've remembered to keep yourself well hydrated, but the same can't be said for your



Christmas tree.

Always keep water in the tree stand. Check daily and add water as needed. Dried-out trees are a major fire hazard.



8

You're sure those strings of Christmas lights make the perfect hat to complement your holiday outfit.

Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. And most certainly, not for your head.



9

You've been lazy about disposing your Christmas tree so you got creative and came up with a new tradition: a Valentine's Day tree!

Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Let's face it, the holidays are never perfect, no matter how they're portrayed in magazines and on television. But by following a few simple practices and precautions, you can create a fun and perfectly fire-safe holiday for you and your loved ones!

And remember, have working smoke alarms in your home and create a home escape plan. Practice it with your family so everyone knows what to do if a fire does occur. Find additional tips and resources about holiday fire safety on our Project Holiday webpage.

Happy Holidays from NFPA and the Black Hawk Fire Department!

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### **COVID WEB TRAFFIC STATISTICS**

The effects of the Coronavirus on technology has led to an increase in Internet demand through adaptation of modern workplace practices as well as a rapid transition to remote work; the increase in service usage is demand-driven. The switch to remote work, learning, meetings, conferences this year all had one thing in common that is in-person was going to be limited.

Cloudflare provides data showing a 10% reduction in Office traffic versus a 20% increase for home users, and here are some of the reason's bandwidth use has grown.

#### **Virtual Meetings**

In December of 2019, Zoom had 10 million daily meeting participants fulfilling the needs of some savvy spread-out companies; after April 2020, which saw a 3000% increase, the count grew to over 300 million. Other platforms that significantly increase usage are Teams, WebEx, and Go To Meeting. Virtual Meetings were not just for school/business but also fitness, art, cooking, and other virtual social gatherings.





#### **Video Streaming Usage**

With the work/school increase, more people working from home also translates to more downtime. From decreased commutes, productivity boosts that lead to more rest and reduced working hours due to budgetary concerns. Web metrics show estimates that news viewing increased ~%67 while movies and TV shows went up ~%51.

#### **Video Games**

Platform usage can also be measured by the community surrounding it, similar to the way advertisers track marketing interaction is how Neilson is calculating the surge in video gaming activity. Twitch streaming, a platform primarily used by video gamers, had its usage double during the months of Jan 20' to Mar 20'. This metric is an indication that not only more time was being spent playing games but also watching others play.

#### References

Gaming Stats by Neilson (https://tinyurl.com/yxt85ph4)
Datacenter stats featuring Cloudflare(https://tinyurl.com/
y5noh4mp)

Zoom Statistics ( https://tinyurl.com/y35ax49p)

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

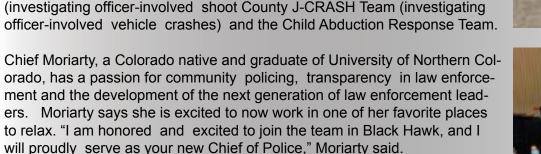
### **CHIEF MICHELLE MORIARTY**

The City of Black Hawk is pleased to announce that Michelle Moriarty has been selected as the City's new police chief, replacing Chief Ken Lloyd, who recently retired.





Moriarty joins the Black Hawk Police Department after serving the City of Arvada for 25 years. She most recently served as the Commander for Arvada's Whisper Creek Community Station. While employed by Arvada, she led their Criminal Investigation Bureau (CBI), Patrol (Sector and Watch Commander), the Traffic Unit and the School Resource Officer program, Jefferson County Regional Special Weapons, and Tactics Team (SWAT), Jefferson County Regional Critical Incident Response Team (investigating officer-involved shoot County J-CRASH Team (investigating officer-involved vehicle crashes) and the Child Abduction Response Team.





The City of Black Hawk also thanks Commander Troy Cooper for his leadership to the City, its citizens and visitors as Acting Chief during the search for a permanent Chief of Police.

Chief Moriarty began her duties on October 5, 2020.

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# PUBLIC WORKS

### **GREGORY STREET PLAZA UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

The Gregory Street Plaza project consists of reconstructing five historic buildings, constructing two new buildings, rehabilitating the exterior of the historic Methodist church, and extensive site and utility work.

The Gregory Street Plaza will further Black Hawk's emergence as a resort destination by creating a pedestrian-friendly retail district along Gregory Street. A sound system will be installed throughout the Plaza to accommodate outdoor events.



From left to right: Norton House, Public Restrooms, Historic Methodist Church, Woodbury House, and McAfee House. The Norton, Woodbury, and McAfee Houses will be used for retail shops. A 15' clock tower will be installed on a large concrete pedestal located in the bottom-center of this photo.





## PUBLIC WORKS

Contractors are painstakingly restoring the McAfee, Woodbury, and Norton Houses, as well as the Bobtail Mine building and Bunkhouse, to retain their historic value.



The Bobtail Mine building (left) will be used for ticket sales and a small museum when the City reopens the historic Bobtail Mine for tours. The Bunkhouse (right) will be used as a set of restrooms. The Bunkhouse, also affectionately referred to as the 'Chicken Coop', was relocated approximately 750' up Gregory Street from its previous location. The construction project should be complete by June 1, 2021. Then, the City can begin hosting outdoor events and wooing businesses to occupy the historic buildings in the Gregory Street Plaza.





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

For submissions or feedback, please contact: TMurphy@cityofblackhawk.org