Clear Creek County recently hired a new Census Outreach Coordinator—Ulla-Carin Johnson, of Echo Hills. This temporary position is funded primarily by a Department of Local Affairs Census Outreach Grant (of nearly $51,000) that was offered to local governments to help in their 2020 Census efforts.

As part of the County’s efforts with the upcoming census, Ms. Johnson will manage the day-to-day planning, coordination and execution related to outreach and promotion of the census. This will include providing information and education about the census process (to the community), promoting community events and meetings on the census, and working with the County’s Complete Count Committee, elected officials, and others at the State and Federal levels.

Efforts in the community begin in earnest February 2020, and April 1, 2020 is ‘CENSUS DAY’. Those efforts include Census officials going out into communities, a ‘Call to Action’ for residents to respond (starting March 23, 2020), and hand delivery/mailing of census questions.

Since the last Census 10 years ago, there are some new things: residents will be able to respond via the internet, telephone, or paper copy (mail-in). In addition, Census officials pledge that filling out the questions is EASY (takes about 10 minutes); and, it’s SAFE. This means the information is CONFIDENTIAL and private—it cannot be shared with any person or government agency by law.

**BE COUNTED**

The Census counts every person living in the U.S., once—at the right place. And, the results are used for important things like: funding for schools, medical services (WIC/SNAP), road construction, community programs, and representation to the U.S. House of Representatives. Some $13.1 Billion in Federal funds come to Colorado each year, due to past Censuses. That translates to $2,300 per person each year.

For more information about the 2020 Census: [https://2020census.gov/](https://2020census.gov/).
Meet the Director

Happy New Year, Friends and Neighbors! As we move into 2020, it’s always a good reminder to talk winter preparedness and what’s happening with YOUR Public Works Division. 

For starters, we’ve had a few early season strong snow events and lower temperatures. Due to plow driver shortages and concentrated snow fall, this caused a delay to some areas in terms of snow plowing and sanding operations. Some have raised concerns regarding our policy of clearing ‘Primary’ roads first, then ‘Secondary County Maintained’ roads. This policy has never changed. We simply take care of those primary routes (school bus service, mail delivery, peak travel routes) first, then get to the secondary roads.

ARE YOU WINTER READY?
Safety is another important thing to talk about—including your vehicle and having the right equipment, when you need it. Do your tires have adequate tread? Do you travel with a first aid kit and a small tool kit? Do you have tire chains or other traction devices? Gloves and extra warm gear?

As we all know, living and travelling in the mountains requires an extra sense of preparedness ---thinking ahead for that situation when your car slides off the road after hitting an icy patch, stranding you and your family. Let’s be careful out there!

Finally, I just wanted to say how proud I am of our Public Works (Road & Bridge) Team, and how they work hard for this community day in, day out---often in some of the worst conditions. Our commitment to you is to provide the best service we can, in the safest environment to make your lives better each day. If you want to know more about us, check out: Or, call our “Road Concern” line at 303-679-2334 (option #2). We appreciate your patience, and support for this new year! 
— Karl Schell, Clear Creek County Public Works Director—
kschell@clearcreekcounty.us

FAST TRAILS
Checkout the new Trails page at for maps, general trail information and our new “Trail Updates” section halfway down the page for weekly updates. You can also click on “Click here for more trail updates” to see all the past updates in date order (newest to oldest). If you have a trail issue to report, suggestions or feedback regarding any Clear Creek County trail, please let us know at trails@clearcreekcounty.us or 303-679-2308.

https://www.clearcreekcounty.us/884/Trails
https://www.clearcreekcounty.us/1129/Trail-Updates
This Call Could Save Your Life!

Local Postal Customer

Clear Creek Chatter

MAKE SURE YOU’LL BE NOTIFIED FOR:
Evacuations, Emergencies/Disasters, Missing Persons,
Criminal Activities, Shelter In Place/Lockdowns,
Boil Water Advisories

CodeRED* is the FREE community notification system available to Clear Creek County residents that will send you alerts concerning time-sensitive and/or emergency information that may impact your area via phone calls, text messages, emails, and social media.

The Clear Creek County Sheriff’s Office encourages you to actively participate in emergency preparedness by remaining informed. Safety is a two-way street, so be sure to register today to receive the information you need, when it matters, regarding events such as:

MISSING PERSONS
EVACUATION NOTICES
SHELTER IN PLACE/LOCKDOWNS
EMERGENCIES/DISASTERS
BOIL WATER ADVISORIES
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

Don’t wait! Start receiving notifications that could save your life. Sign up today!

Visit www.clearcreeksheriff.us and click on the CodeRED* icon to enroll, or download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app available in the App Store or Google Play.

If you don’t have access to the internet or need help enrolling, call us at: 303-679-2376

Check out our Vacation House Watch, Senior & at Risk Call-in, and other Sheriff’s Office Programs at: www.clearcreeksheriff.us

EVERYONE Counts

Census 2020
GOT NEWS!???

Short Term Rental Permit Renewal Deadline Fast Approaching, Residents Reminded to Renew Before Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>

Three New Deputy Coroners Sworn in

EMS using virtual reality for critical training
https://www.clearcreeckcourant.com/content/ems-using-virtual-reality-critical-training

WHAT A YEAR! —— Full of 4-H zombies, robots and computer scientists; Master Gardener garden work days, a native plant sale and lots of fun & educational mountain gardening presentations—and, “make & take” workshops!

Mason Bee Lodge
At our August Extension, participants made mason bee lodges to welcome bees to pollinate their gardens.

Contact Chris for more details!

Chris
Christine Crouse, County Director & Agent
1111 Rose Street | P. O. Box 2000 | Georgetown, CO 80444  | O: 303-679-

We've got a great line-up of EXTENSION THURSDAYS in 2020! Mark your calendars and join us at the Georgetown Heritage Center:

- **JAN 30, 6pm- 8pm,** Local gardener extrordinaire, Conradt Fredell, will share his experience & advice for HIGH ALTITUDE GARDENING, No Charge
- **FEB 27, 6pm - 8pm,** HERBAL TEA WORKSHOP with Sadie from The Spice & Tea Exchange, $20/person
- **MAR 12, 6pm – 8pm,** NATIVE POLLINATORS & MASON BEE LODGE WORKSHOP, $20/person

More collaborative programming is in the works, so stay tuned for details and please contact Chris for more information.

Wishing you all safe & happy holidays!
From the Archives

HISTORIC AVALANCHES OF CLEAR CREEK COUNTY

In 1999, the U.S.D.A. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station published a report on historic avalanches in Colorado, written by M. Martinelli, Jr. and Charles F. Leaf. The publication, "Historic Avalanches in the Northern Front Range and the Central and Northern Mountains of Colorado," chronicled avalanches across the state using newspaper articles dating from 1861 thru 1951 in "an attempt to extend the avalanche record for selected parts of Colorado as far back as existing data permits." It focused on two geographical areas – the Northern Front Range and the Central and Northern Mountains. Of the avalanches reported in the Northern Front Range area, over 80% occurred within Clear Creek County. Of these, there were a total of 43 fatalities (not including the 34 chickens, 17 mule, 2 horses, 1 deer, and 1 fox that were reported to have perished).

A majority of the avalanches reported happened in February and March of 1899. The deadliest occurred on February 12 of that year, just above the town of Silver Plume. At about 8:45 that sunny Sunday morning, a "thundering rush of snow, rock, and timber" hurled down Cherokee Gulch. This first slide destroyed the engine and boiler rooms of the Corry City Mine and numerous ore houses belonging to the Pelican Mine.

As this first slide stopped just short of demolishing the Pelican Mine's blacksmith, a second slide was triggered about 1,000 feet west in Willihan Gulch where the cabins of several Italian miners "...were crushed in like eggshells, covering the occupants with several feet of hard packed snow and smothering them to death," described the Colorado Springs Gazette.

The Rocky Mountain News noted that rescue efforts started immediately and that "Inside of five minutes," Antonio Migretto, Antonio Maleano, and Giuseppe Corcunio were found. "They were almost dead and were brought here at once and given medical attention.

"The first bodies found were those of Mrs. [Dominico] Destefano and her children. The mother had her arms clasped around the inanimate form of her younger child. The other child was found a short distance away. The mother had evidently seen the avalanche approaching and had made an attempt to save her child in escaping from the house. The bodies were brought here on a sled. The work of rescue continued, and in the remains of the Destefano cabin a cook stove with the fire still burning was unearthed. The chicken coop of the modest home was next found, and the thirteen chicks were uninjured.

"As the work went on the bodies of Peter and John Tondini, Gerando Guenzl, G. Bletto and Enrico Nowaria were uncovered. They were not badly mutilated but the severe pressure of the snow told on their blackened faces. The bodies of Joe Tondini and Dominic Destefano have not yet been found. It is known definitely that they perished. Destefano left his cabin shortly before the slide came down and was walking in the direction of this city when the avalanche caught him and hurried him to destruction. It is probable that his body will be one of the last recovered."

Joe Tondini's body was found the next morning and "was brought to town and placed in the morgue with his dead brothers and the other victims of the avalanche." The body of Dominic Destefano "was not recovered until April, when Peter Vigna discovered a finger protruding from the ice..."

All of the victims are buried in Silver Plume Cemetery.

The entire report can be accessed here: https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrsgtr038.pdf
County Corner

Questions about CDOT Construction?
CDOT has created a consolidated web page with all the projects happening in the Clear Creek County corridor so you can easily see the latest info, sign up for text alerts or call the hotline.

For more information you can go to CDOT’s website here: https://www.codot.gov/projects/i70mtn

Community Development News: The Building Dept. has had an exciting and very busy 2019! They issued permits for single-family residences, additions, re-models, garages, plumbing, mechanical, re-roofs & many commercial projects. After the destructive September hail storm, 170 re-roof permits were issued and more are expected in 2020. They also developed and implemented a short term rental inspection program.

Safety Reminder: Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are in good working order. A good rule of thumb is to have a smoke detector in every bedroom and corridor leading to a carbon monoxide detector within 15’ of every bedroom.

2019 Holiday Luncheon
What’s Happening!!

Prospector wins “2019 Small Transit Agency of Yr Award “
From CO Assoc. of State Transit Agencies!