



THE CLEAR CREEK CONNECTION

By Megan Hiler, PIO
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Looking Ahead

- Dec. 5th:** BoCC Meeting
- Dec. 12th:** CCMRD Ugly Sweater Night
- Dec. 13th:** OSC Meeting
- Dec. 19th:** BoCC Meeting
- Dec. 20th:** Planning Commission Meeting
- Dec. 25th:** Holiday Closure
- Jan. 1st:** Holiday Closure
- Jan. 10th:** OSC Meeting
- Jan 16th:** BOCC Meeting
- Jan. 17th:** Planning Commission Meeting



 CCC JOBS

 **Job Openings**

- Mechanic (entry level)
- Equipment Operator (Road/Bridge)
- Caseworker
- Caseworker Supervisor
- Building Maintenance Supervisor
- Facilities Maintenance Worker
- Seasonal Laborer (Transfer Station)
- Bus Operator
- EMS Director
- Shelter Assistant
- Licensed Criss Clinician
- Property Transfer Technician/ Administrative Assistant

County breaks ground on shooting park

Clear Creek County and Gilpin County are both pleased to announce a big step forward in the Sport Shooting Park Project as Himmelman Construction broke ground on the new public shooting range early last month.

This new shooting range will include an operations building with restrooms, a classroom, and 45 shooting lanes. In addition, Metals Treatment Technologies (MT2) has also started the lead remediation and mitigation on the Clear Creek County-owned site, which was formerly leased by a private gun club.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife has awarded \$1,160,000 in grant funding for the project to date, which now has a budget of \$1,835,000. Additional funding will be needed for the final completion scheduled in 2024. Gilpin County has generously donated \$400,000 toward the new range, which will be located in Dumont.

“There is an increasing need for shooting opportunities that are safe, responsible, and affordable to different types of shooters, and this range is designed to meet those needs,” Clear Creek County Special Projects Manager Lisa Leben said. “It will address dispersed recreational shooting on U.S. Forest Service property which is causing safety concerns and impacts to the natural resources in both Clear Creek and Gilpin counties.”

Clear Creek County is seeking proposals from interested parties with the appropriate expertise and experience to help manage and operate the new public gun range. Please contact Lisa

Leben at lleben@clearcreekcounty.us or 303-679-2434 for more information.

For more information on this project, and to see updates, [click here](#).

To see a map of closures and places unsuitable for recreational sport shootings, [click here](#).

You can see future updates [here](#).



Veterans Day Feature: Get to know Clear Creek County native SPC George Gothman



For Clear Creek County native SPC George Gothman, serving the United States of America is something he has always wanted to do.

"For as long as I can remember I've always had a calling to serve my country," he said. "I wanted to serve my country to be a part of this fighting force that displays camaraderie, discipline, and determination. Also, to honor those who fought for our freedom and to be able to be a part of those who continue to fight for our freedom by protecting this nation's way of life."

SPC Gothman was raised in Idaho Springs. After graduating from Clear Creek High School, he went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Supply Chain Management Logistics from The University Nebraska at Kearny. He has served the United States Army for three years as an 92Y Supply Specialist in the Nebraska Army National Guard A CO, 2-134TH IN BN (ABN).

"My career in the National Guard has been a very rewarding. Serving my country and my community is a blessing," he said.

According to SPC Gothman, serving in the U.S. Military comes with a lot of challenges and sacrifices, and serving for the National Guard or even the reserves can come with more challenges.

"Service members have to balance being a full-time employer, spouse, schooling, and a part time soldier. It becomes a challenge to manage all responsibilities and duties assigned and be able to succeed in them. Then the military can throw more challenges like a deployment and Soldiers have to put their life on pause to focus on the mission," he said. "Serving this Country is an honor and a privilege. It's also very rewarding to know that I am doing my part in protecting this country and our freedom."

If you have the chance, in honor of Veterans Day this month, thank a Vet.

"Honestly, for me a 'thank you' goes a long way, he said. "Just to remind them that people still appreciate the men and women that serve and protected this country."

Thank you, SPC Gothman and all the other Veterans out there. Clear Creek County appreciates you and your sacrifices.

Remember, Honor, and Teach: Wreaths Across America returns this Holiday Season in Clear Creek County

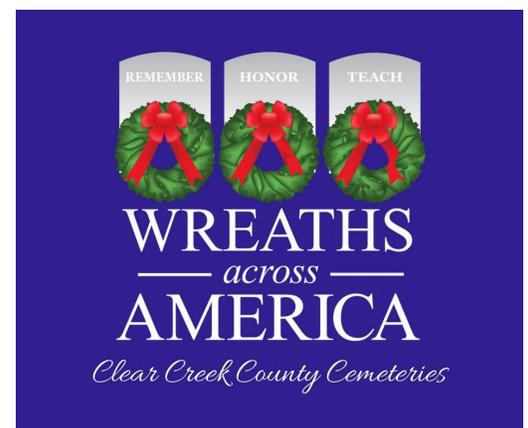
You can remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom by participating in the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony taking place on December 16th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the United Center in Idaho Springs. The Wreath Placements will immediately follow the ceremony.

The Clear Creek County Veterans Coalition will remember and honor our Veterans by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes at the following: Silver Plume Cemetery, Alvarado Cemetery in Georgetown, Empire Town Cemetery, Dumont Cemetery,

Idaho Springs Cemetery, Central City Masonic Cemetery, and Russell Gulch Cemetery. Ceremonial Wreaths will be placed at the Blue Star Marker in Idaho Springs, and volunteers will head to Ft. Logan to remember and honor 37 Veterans who have families here in Clear Creek County. This year's theme is Serve and Succeed.

Last year 2.7 million Veterans' wreaths were placed in total across the country at 3,702 participating locations. More than two million volunteers helped place wreaths.

You can help honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you. [Click here for more information](#) or to sponsor a wreath.



County teams up with municipalities for "A Clear Path Home" initiative



"A Clear Path Home" is an initiative funded by a state grant and managed by Clear Creek County and the City of Idaho Springs. With the support of the municipalities of Georgetown, Silver Plume, and Empire, its purpose is to identify innovative strategies that will encourage, develop and preserve housing in the Clear Creek County.

"A Clear Path Home" is for the community to consider what to say "yes" to, to share ideas that shed light, build optimism, strengthen community and address affordable housing needs.

The campaign is starting with the following three ideas:

1. Engage and build community around how affordable and attainable housing issues affect people in Clear Creek County;
2. Develop zoning, regulatory, and policy recommendations that facilitate the creation and preservation of affordable housing;
3. Study the feasibility and possible structures of a Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Authority (MJHA) in Clear Creek County.

Affordable housing can be a fraught topic. This project is built around the concept of identifying paths to solving housing issues that have clear community support, that will put more people in safe, affordable home. That is why it is called "A Clear Path Home."

[Click here](#) for more information, or to tell us what do you say yes to for advancing affordable housing in Clear Creek County.

Heads up! I-70 sun glare closures can happen at any time

Now that winter is here, the sun's angle, in combination with inclining hills along I-70 at Floyd Hill, can create a blinding sun glare for drivers traveling on eastbound I-70 in the early morning hours. The glare occurs annually during the fall and winter months, usually November through February, and can occur as far east as Genesee beginning around sunrise. Because of this, it is sometimes necessary to close eastbound I-70 in the early morning hours to ensure driver safety.



Between November and February, sun glare safety closures can occur on eastbound I-70 between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. from about US 6 (mile point 244) to Beaver Brook (mile point 248), and last 45 minutes to an hour depending on conditions.

During a safety closure, traffic headed eastbound on I-70 will be rerouted at US-6, at the bottom of Floyd Hill. Drivers can either stay the course on US-6 through Clear Creek Canyon, or they can take the eastbound I-70 frontage road (US 40) and get back onto I-70 at Beaver Brook. Truckers should be aware, there are height restrictions in the tunnels along US 6 Clear Creek Canyon, therefore no vehicles over 12-feet, 7-inches can travel this route. Drivers who use US-40 for the detour route should also be aware of the work zone for the US 40 Roundabouts project – although active work won't be happening during the sun glare safety closures please drive with extra caution along this route.

When these conditions occur, CDOT provides advance notification messages on its electronic sign boards along eastbound I-70 prior to Floyd Hill, alerting motorists of the sun glare and to anticipate slower speeds or a closure. Please pay attention to the message boards beginning just east of the Eisenhower Johnson

Memorial Tunnel. Additionally, drivers can check the latest travel alerts by going to COtrip.org and also sign up for customized text and email alerts for the I-70 mountain corridor to receive advance notification.

Check out CDOT's sun glare safety web page with tips on how to be prepared and drive safely during the early morning hours on eastbound I-70.

Sign up for RoundAbout text alerts!

RoundAbout riders--you can now sign up for text alerts! Scan the QR code to the right, or click here to sign up. Once you head to the sign up page, enter in your email and select the email alerts, text alerts, or both to stay in the know about scheduling, routes, or emergency alerts. Clear Creek County is hoping to start utilizing this feature in the new year.



Tips for Preventing Falls this Season

By Einar Jensen, Risk Reduction Coordinator of Evergreen Fire/Rescue

Falls are the second most common type of emergency medical call for Evergreen Fire/Rescue. Sixteen percent of EFR's emergency calls—391 of 2,372—are for patients who have fallen. Fortunately, falls can be prevented at school, at work, in the woods, on the slopes, and at home.

- Avoid icy patches on parking lots, sidewalks, and playgrounds.
- Follow the rules for playground equipment.
- Shovel snow from sidewalks and apply ice melt.
- Clear tripping hazards in hallways and other heavy areas with foot traffic.
- Wear proper safety equipment (harnesses, helmets, footwear, pads).
- Choose trails and activities that match your abilities.
- Stay on trails.
- Use ladders with a buddy.
- Train pets to stop rubbing against moving legs.
- Walk like a penguin on ice.
- Keep your hands out of your pockets while on uneven or slick surfaces.



One of our resources for home fall prevention is ECARES, our agency's free community paramedicine program. With guidance from EFR's medical director, community paramedics utilize a special scope of practice and a Community Integrated Health Care Services (CIHCS) license to provide fall-risk assessments and other services.

Our community paramedics can provide education about how to prevent falls, which improves one's ability to age in place. Contact them at ecares@evergreenfirerescue.com.

If you fall, take a moment to calm yourself before moving. Check for pain and motion. If any of the following conditions are true for you (or the patient), call 911:

- You can't remember why you fell.
- You hit your head.
- A body part hurts too much to move.
- You're bleeding beyond what a simple bandage can absorb.
- Your medications include blood thinners.
- You are too weak to sit or stand.

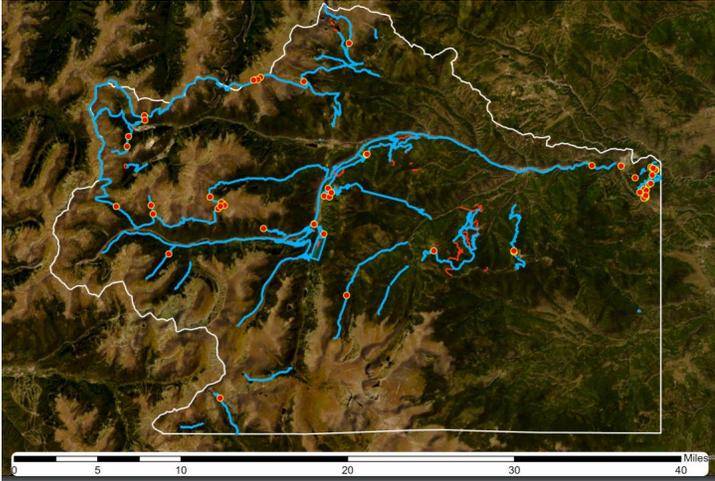
There's no shame in falling and by working together we can prevent falls and reduce the severity of injuries when falls do happen.

Additional injury prevention resources, which are part of our commitment to our community, are available from our website: www.evergreenfirerescue.com.

2023 Trails Team recap: Hundreds of miles maintained, countless projects completed

The Clear Creek County Trails Team is closing out 2023 with an impressive resume of work done on the County's hundreds of miles of trails. With four members making up the team, they totaled 313 miles of work over a span of 4,400 hours spent maintaining the trails.

In addition, the Trails Team had some major accomplishments, including performing compensated work on USFS lands, improving first responder access to a high traffic area (Catslab Climbing Area), and eliminating trail conflicts through new trail build near Charlie's Place Animal Shelter. In addition, the team spent some time fixing aging structures on the Silver Creek Trail, replacing hazardous wooden ramps



with more permanent and sustainable rock ramps. They also reclaimed some



tread on the west end that had washed out by re-digging tread and anchoring it with boulders creating a much more durable and sustainable surface. Floyd Hill received Clear Creek County Trails Team maintenance on all trails at the beginning and end of the season in partnership with COMBA who continues to maintain the Sluice downhill only mountain bike trail.

This is just some of the hard work the Trails Team took on this year, for more information, updates, or to see trail maps in Clear Creek County, visit www.clearcreekcounty.us/884/Trails.

Clear Creek EMS receives grant from Team Evergreen cycling



Clear Creek EMS was awarded a \$1,500 grant from Team Evergreen cycling in November.

This grant will help Clear Creek EMS continue to provide the best care possible for those on their worst day, wherever they are.

With this money, Clear Creek EMS is able to purchase backcountry equipment that will help the service better work together with Alpine Rescue Team to assess and treat patients in technical backcountry settings.

This isn't the first time that EMS has been awarded a grant from Team Evergreen. Last year, the organization provided EMS with a 2,700 grant that EMS used to purchase five vacuum mattresses--one for each ambulance. The equipment not only ensured the safety of our residents and visitors, but also has helped save lives. The vacuum mattresses aid significantly in patient comfort and also patient stability, which, has in turn, improve our trauma patients' overall outcome.

Thank you Team Evergreen for your continued support!

Teamwork makes dream work! OEM provides ambulance inspections of EMS



The Clear Creek County office of Emergency Management (OEM) recently helped Clear Creek EMS with its necessary inspections.

The inspections are an annual service that OEM provides to EMS, to make sure the Advanced Life Support ambulances have the required supplies and equipment needed to operate in the County.

"The partnership between OEM and EMS is fantastic. We walked through an 88-point checklist for each of the five ambulances," OEM Director Suzanne Boccia said.

All Clear Creek EMS' ambulances passed inspection.

The Advanced Life Support ambulances must have an inspection in order to approved by the Board of

County Commissioners to operate in the County. According to OEM, this is a big time saver for them to to be able to head over to Clear Creek EMS and do these inspections, as opposed to EMS having to take each ambulance to another county for inspection.

Strategic and Community Planning Division announces new initiative: A Planning Project for Dumont-Lawson-Downieville



The Dumont-Lawson-Downieville (DLD) community lies just east of the junction of US 40 and I-70, almost exactly halfway between Idaho Springs and Georgetown. It is centrally located. It includes historic homes and new builds, it includes mobile home parks and mountain neighborhoods, it includes commercial businesses and cottage industries. It, as a census district, has just about the same number of people as Empire and Silver Plume combined.

Clear Creek County is investing in planning for the DLD community. In late 2022, the County was awarded funding by Henderson Mine's Social Impact program to conduct an \$80,000 planning project to develop a community informed vision for the DLD region of the County in the form of a Subarea or Neighborhood Plan.

A Subarea Plan is a type of long-range guiding document that is prepared for a limited geographic area within a community and addresses both short and long-term needs.

This planning project will take place over most of 2024, visit forum.clearcreekcounty.us to follow along!

Clear Creek EMS launched "Mugs for Rugs" Campaign



Staying on the same topic, Clear Creek EMS is launching its "Mugs for Rugs" campaign.

Bring an old throw rug and you'll leave with this cool (and bright) mug! You can bring them to Station 1A in Dumont (3400 Stanley Road), or you can email clark.church@clearcreekems.com and CCEMS will come to you to make the trade!

Have elderly neighbors? Bring them and their throw rugs with you! Working together, we can prevent falls and their devastating injuries.

Clear Creek EMS also offers Fall-Risk Assessments. A fall-risk assessment involves using tools that are shown to be effective in specifying the causes of falls in an individual. As a person's health and circumstances change, reassessment is necessary and recommended for their homes and residence to ensure they are safe. You can request an in-home visit from Clear Creek EMS for yourself or a loved one. EMS will also bring someone from the fire department to make sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. To request a visit, fill out the form located here.

Winter is here! Winter driving tips from Road & Bridge

The Clear Creek County Road and Bridge Department would like to inform the citizens of Clear Creek County about what to expect for snow plowing and sanding operations. It is impossible to meet the needs of all citizens. Therefore, the Road and Bridge Department recommends that anyone operating a car or motor vehicle during this season take the time to equip their vehicle with necessary winter equipment. The following is an inventory list of recommended items that should be in every vehicle:

- Adequate tire tread/snow tires
- Jumper cables
- Warning triangles
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Shovel -Snacks and water
- First Aid kit
- Small tool kit
- Gloves and extra warm gear
- Tire chains or snow traction socks
- Cell phone
- Small sack of sand or cat litter



The Road & Bridge Departments policy is to clear the school bus routes first and then the collector or "Primary" classified roads for peak traffic travel. After these roads are cleared, the local roads or "Secondary-County Maintained" roads are then plowed. All drivers must realize there may be periods during storm events when the roads will not be freshly plowed and sanded. The County hopes that by knowing what to expect with regard to the County's snow plowing operations, and having emergency items that may be necessary in extreme conditions, that the 2023/2024 winter travel season will be a safe journey for everyone.

The County's "Road Concern" line at Road & Bridge is: (303) 679-2334, option #2.

Make a kid smile this Christmas! Grab a tag at the County Courthouse!

Grab a tag at the Clear Creek County County Courthouse and make a kid smile this Christmas!

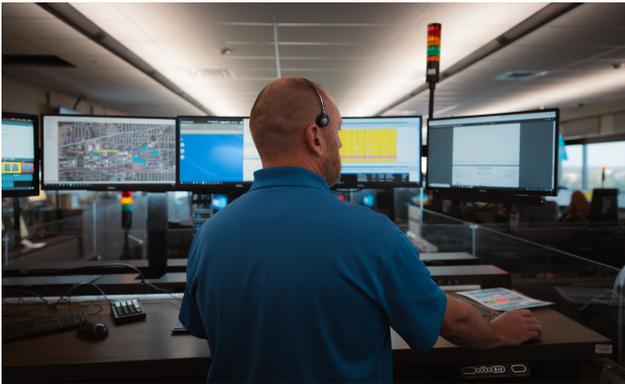
For more than 20 years, the Clear Creek Advocates have held The Santa Shop, an event that gives gifts to hundreds of kids in Clear Creek County each year. Gifts are needed for young people in the county from infants to teenagers for both boys and girls.

If you want to get involved, stop by the Clear Creek County Courthouse and grab a tag off the tree. There are trees located in the back parking lot entrance, and the front door entrance to the Sheriffs Office and courts.

All (unwrapped) gifts are due back to the Clear Creek Advocates by Friday, December 8th.



Your JEFFCOM911 questions answered! County publishes FAQs for residents



The JEFFCOM911 Board of Directors has agreed to provide emergency communications (911 services) for Clear Creek County. Partnering with JEFFCOM911 gives Clear Creek County access to cutting-edge technology, additional certifications, the size and ability to handle mass casualty incidents and calls that could be more complex when it comes to mental health and other situations, in addition to cost savings.

Clear Creek County knows the the community has a lot of questions when it comes to this move. See below for some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), or click here to see all of them online.

FAQs

Why is Clear Creek County even looking into switching to Jeffcom911?

Jeffcom911 is one of few Emergency Communications Centers in the region that is achieving national standards for answering emergency calls, 90% within the first 15 seconds, a National Emergency Number Association standard. AS mentioned above, partnering with JEFFCOM911 gives the county access to cutting-edge technology and highly trained staff. Jeffcom911 also has additional certifications, the size and ability to handle mass casualty incidents and calls that could be more complex when it comes to mental health and other situations.

In addition, the Board of County Commissioners has discussed the need for identifying cost savings within the County's budget for several years. Focus areas for cost savings have included the Communications Center/E911 due to its large yearly cost.

Will this affect service?

No. JEFFCOM911 offers virtually all the same services. JEFFCOM911 will also pool all of the designated Clear Creek County dispatchers together in a "pod" that way, people who know Clear Creek County best will be taking the calls from Clear Creek County. First responders will still be responding from their stations in Clear Creek County—not Jefferson County.

Is Clear Creek County the only local entity looking into this?

No. Currently, Jeffcom911 provides services for 23 agencies. In addition, all four municipalities in Clear Creek County, the Fire Authority, and other local entities are also in support of this switch.

What was the process? How was the public informed?

In addition to a study from an outside firm, the topic was discussed in numerous Board of County Commissioners meetings with public comment offered, and was also discussed at three separate public town halls held in Idaho Springs, Georgetown, and Evergreen. In addition, this was covered in the local news several times, featured in the Clear Creek Connection Newsletter, and posted about on social media.



From JCMH: Managing Holiday Stress, Focus On Gratitude

By Shannon Gwash, Director of Wellness Services for Jefferson Center for Mental Health

Throughout the holiday season, gratitude often surfaces as a topic of conversation. But how can it help improve our lives? And if we don't currently have a practice of gratitude, how do we start?

An overwhelming amount of people (42%, according to the American Psychology Association) say they aren't doing enough to manage their stress. When we are stressed, we often feel there's a lack of control in our lives, a lack of meaning in what we are doing and an unrealistic demand on our resources. We've all felt it.

How can gratitude help with these things? Gratitude shifts attention away from stressors and helps focus on the positive aspects of life. And much like other healthy habits, the more you practice, the more grateful you are and the more natural it becomes.

As humans, we actually have the ability to rewire our brain. This amazing skill is called neuroplasticity. This means we can change a bad habit or think of a situation in a whole new light.

Imagine you're going about your day as usual and all of a sudden, while you're driving to work, traffic comes to a complete standstill. Your thoughts immediately come to a fork in the road and, by habit, veer down the negative path, thinking "I'm going to be late! My gas tank is almost empty. I don't have time for this!"

If your brain's typical pathway is on the negative path, this will be your go-to reaction for all bumps in the road – both large and small.

Now imagine finding the good in this situation: you get to spend a little more time with your teenager who's hit the "too cool" stage. Maybe if traffic wasn't backed up, you would have ended up in a car accident at the next stoplight. Or maybe if you would have made it to work on time, someone would have opened the kitchen door at the exact time you were walking out with your coffee and it spilled all over you. These small steps of thinking about the situation in a new way are cultivating gratitude and actually working on your brain's neuroplasticity.

Once you keep training your brain to take the positive path when it gets to a fork in the road, eventually that will be your new go-to. Finding the light moments in the dark will be your new way of thinking.

The great news is: you don't need to wait for the dark moments to start cultivating gratitude in your life. One easy way to practice gratitude is to keep a notebook and pen by your bed. Each morning when you wake up, write three things you're grateful for. This can be anything from your family to the automatic timer on your coffee pot. This helps shift your perspective of the day to a positive one and starts the day off on the right foot. At the end of the day, write down the best part of your day. This helps you look back on your day, even if it was a particularly off one, and find something good. Even something as simple as, "I got soaked on my walk across the parking lot at work, but my co-worker held the door open for me when I got to the building" is helpful to recall at the end of the day.

Not much of a pen and paper person? (Or even a morning person.) Email yourself at the end of the day the three things that went well for the day and one thing you're looking forward to tomorrow. That way when you open your email in the morning, there's something positive to start the day off right and remind you of the good in the present day.

Rewiring your brain and focusing on gratitude not only helps you handle stress better, but it also has a lot of other health benefits too. It can strengthen your immune system, lower blood pressure, relieve aches and pains, reduce anxiety and even help you sleep better!

So this year as the topic of gratitude comes up with old friends over coffee or your family around the dinner table, share the good moments of your day and maybe even encourage others to begin their own gratitude practice as well!

Employee Spotlight

Office of Emergency Management Director Suzanne Boccia presents at International Association of Emergency Managers 71st Annual Conference

Clear Creek County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Director Suzanne Boccia was selected to present on the County-funded annual wildfire mitigation program, and the changes the office made to it this year at the International Association of Emergency Managers 71st Annual Conference held in Long Beach, California. The Conference took place in November and is a multi-day training and educational event that provides many benefits to emergency management professionals in all levels of government, the private sector, and non-government agencies alike.



For background, The Clear Creek County Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program is a community-based, cost share program that provides matching grants to eligible Clear Creek County single property homeowners to assist with actual costs associated with the implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects. The purpose of the grant program is to reduce wildfire risk in Clear Creek County by amplifying the wildfire mitigation investment homeowners make on their properties.

Boccia spoke about the past eight years of the program, and the \$800,000 to date combined investment by Clear Creek County and its homeowners.

"The presentation covered why I wanted to change it--to make smaller program dollar awards to more people, in more areas of the county," Boccia explained.

OEM changed the program from Home Owners Association (HOA)-based to individual-based in addition to capping the award to a maximum of \$5,000 per person.

"The intent was to encourage residents who have not applied for funds in the past to do so, to allow

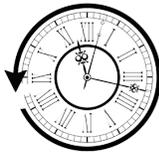


individuals that are not part of an HOA to participate, and to increase the number of people overall as participants in this program," Boccia added.

The Clear Creek County Office of Emergency Management says it has received very positive feedback from this program change.

"We continue to try to improve each year," Boccia added.

For more information on the Community Risk Reduction program, [click here](#).



EMPIRE PASS

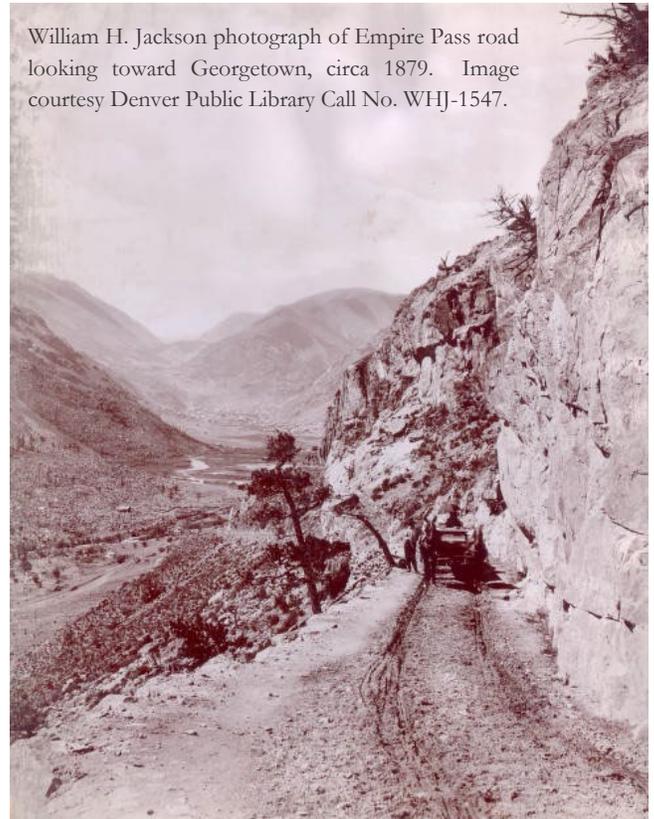
On November 25, 1905 the *Georgetown Courier* touted, “One of the most beautiful side trips from Georgetown is to visit the picturesque little town of Empire by way of Empire Pass, returning down the gorge of Empire creek and home again up the valley of Clear Creek to Georgetown. The pass is reached at the junction of Columbia and Douglas mountains and from its summit affords a remarkable view of the valley below with the mines of Empire in the background. Look ward, Georgetown, nestling at the foot of Leavenworth mountain, seems like a toy village in the distance. At the summit of the pass a branch road winds to the left to the great mines of upper Democrat mountain, also affording easy access to the grand view from the summit of Republican mountain. With the splendid mountain rigs obtainable for hire at reasonable rates in Georgetown, the numerous side trips afforded can be made in comfort and safety and among them this drive is one of the most enjoyable.”

In 1867, the citizens of the town of Empire petitioned for a road over the then known Union Pass. This proposed road would shorten the route going around Douglas mountain from Empire to Georgetown by three miles. The county commissioners appropriated \$800 for construction of this new county road which began in 1868.

The road quickly began to be hard to traverse and a resolution for reconstruction of the road was issued in 1875.

The county commissioners authorized \$1,400 for widening improvements with a grade not to exceed 9.5 percent. Unfortunately, these improvements did not prevent a man falling to his death while making his way to Empire. “Last Monday evening Simon Ritter,” the *Colorado Miner* reported on November 4, 1876, “was ascending the grade in a light open-top buggy with Judge Cowles driving, and in one of the narrowest parts of the road, 150 feet from the summit, attempted to pass a wood team. While trying to drive past on the outside, the seat of the carriage broke down, and Ritter was thrown out and over the edge of the road. He fell at first about 25 feet, striking his head, and then rolled like a log down the mountain several hundred feet, almost to the level of the creek. The driver of the wagon, a Mexican, picked up the body and Judge Cowles carried it to Empire. Life was not extinct, and Dr. Collins was summoned, but found that so severe a concussion of the brain had been caused that no aid could be rendered. Mr. Ritter died at 2 a.m. Tuesday, and was buried Wednesday. He was 48 years of age, an old pioneer of Colorado, and highly respected by all who knew him. His family consist of a wife and daughter, who reside in Empire.

“There has been talk for some time of erecting a railing along the most exposed places on the grade, and of cutting into the cliffs to widen the track, and it is to be hoped that the managers of the road will now take action. It is safer and certainly pleasanter to take the longest way around to Empire, while the ‘short cut’ is in its present condition.”



William H. Jackson photograph of Empire Pass road looking toward Georgetown, circa 1879. Image courtesy Denver Public Library Call No. WHJ-1547.

Helpful Links and Resources:

From Page 1: <https://www.clearcreekcounty.us/1156/Clear-Creek-Shooting-Sports-Park-Project>

From page 2: <https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/social/CO0069P-ClearCreekCountyVeteransCoalition?Sid=42614%7C0%7C0%7C1>

From Page 3: <https://forum.clearcreekcounty.us/aclearpathhome>

From Page 4: <https://www.codot.gov/travel/sunglare>. <https://www.clearcreekcounty.us/List.aspx>

From Page 8: <https://www.clearcreekcounty.us/faq.aspx?TID=66>

From Page 10: <https://www.clearcreekcounty.us/97/Emergency-Management>

The Clear Creek County Health and Wellness Center is here for you!

Vaccines: COVID Vaccines, Flu, Tdap, Hepatitis A, and more. All Childhood Immunizations 0-18 years old. You can pre-register by calling **303-670-7528** or [clicking here](#).
Hours: Make an appointment here.



Clear Creek County
Health & Wellness Center

Wellness Clinics: You can set up an appointment by calling **303-670-7528**. The Clinic can check oxygen levels, temperature, blood pressure, and more!

Lead Testing: Walk-in Wednesday from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m., or by appointments on other days. You can set up an appointment by calling **303-670-7528**.

Women, Infant, Children (WIC): This program is for mothers and infants. It takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, contact WIC Coordinator Donna Prentner, RD, RN, at **970-409-6907** or dprentner@clearcreekcounty.us.

COVID-19 Testing: There is no longer PCR testing. Rapid tests are available for free at the Health and Wellness Center.

Sexual Health Clinics: Birth control, counseling, STD tests, pregnancy testing and more! Completely confidential. Call **303-670-7528** for more information.

Harm Reduction: Public Health is now offering free Opioid and Naloxone Training. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist – it binds to opioid receptors and blocks or reverses the effects of the overdose agent. Public Health is also offering free Fentanyl test strips. Fentanyl is synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Call **303-670-7528** for more information.

Other services:

- State and Federal Eligibility Programs
- Mental and Behavioral Health providers accepting Medicaid
- Clear Creek County Public Health
- Other CDPHE and CORE services
- Food Pantry (VOA also does free lunches on Wednesdays at 12:00 at the Georgetown Community Center)



Health and Wellness Center
1969 Miner Street (2nd Floor)
Idaho Springs, CO 80452

As always, if you have questions, want updates, to set up an appointment, or leave a message for a nurse, you can call the Public Health Information Line at 303-670-7528.

Clear Creek County Board of County Commissioners



George Marlin
gmarlin@clearcreekcounty.us
303-949-0980

District I: Approximately Floyd Hill to Fall River Road.



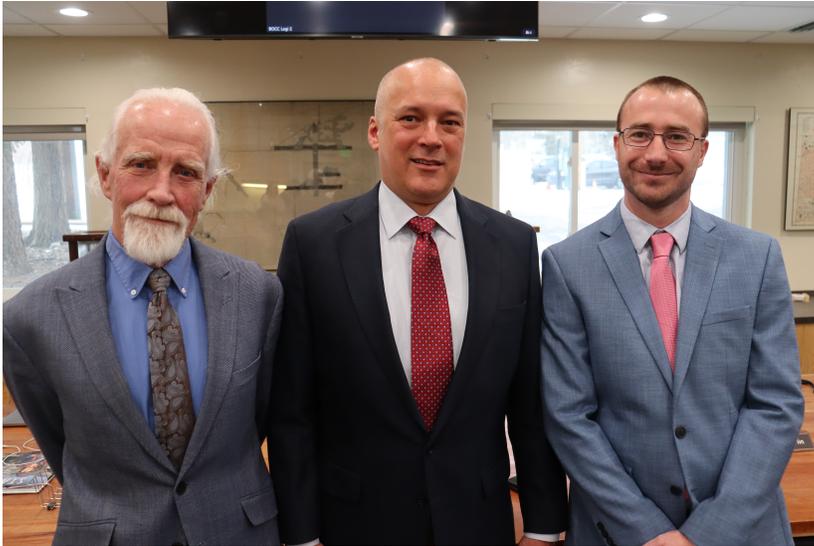
Sean Wood
swood@clearcreekcounty.us
303-478-6168

District II: Southeast Clear Creek County



Randy Wheelock
rwheelock@clearcreekcounty.us
970-390-2195

District III: Approximately Fall River Road and west to Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnel & Berthoud Pass.



Board Meetings are back in person!

County Board Meetings are back in person in the BoCC Conference Room at 405 Argentine Street in Georgetown. Meetings will still be streamed live online via Facebook and Zoom.

Next Month's BoCC Meetings

- Dec. 5th
- Dec. 19th

See past meetings here.



Important Clear Creek County Phone Numbers:

Emergency: **911**

Sheriff's Office: 303-679-2376

Clear Creek County Offices: 303- 679-2300

Report a Road Concern: 303-679-2334 Option 2

RoundAbout Dispatch: 970-409-6714



SCAN HERE FOR
IMPORTANT
COUNTY LINKS
AND MORE!