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# GILPIN COUNTY

## Kingdom of Gilpin 2009 CHARITY BALL



*The County of Gilpin cordially invites you to the second annual fundraising event benefiting the Gilpin County Food Bank*

*Friday, May 15, 2009 - 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm  
Gilpin County Old Courthouse - Central City, Colorado*

*Tickets - \$35 Advance - \$50 Couple - \$40 Door  
Live Music | Hors D'oeuvres | Cash Bar | Silent Auction*

For more information and to purchase advance tickets, visit the Gilpin County Clerk & Recorder's Office at 203 Eureka Street, Central City, Colorado 80427 or by calling 303-582-5321.  
[www.GilpinBall.com](http://www.GilpinBall.com)

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS



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# Gilpin County Community Newsletter April 2009

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## A Message from the County Manager

The County is trying very hard to maintain services in these tight times, and we're getting pretty creative about it. To the left is a coupon for one free day at the trash transfer station, for as many trips as possible (one vehicle). By eliminating the County-wide free trash days, we'll save \$15,000 in disposal fees and overtime.

Just across the street from the transfer station, the County slash site is open until fall, Thursday through Sunday from 8 to 4:30. Our Road & Bridge Department is actually selling the chips in excess of what we use to heat the building, so that's another way of keeping the costs down. We're still accepting whole logs, too; check the County website, [www.co.gilpin.co.us](http://www.co.gilpin.co.us), for specifications or call R&B at 303-582-5004.

Wood is plentiful, and likely to become more available as the pine beetle infestation worsens. The County is just wrapping up the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and the CWPP will guide the mitigation efforts we make, as well as those undertaken by neighborhood groups and individual homeowners. Tax credits are available for work conducted in accordance with the CWPP, (see the Extension article on page 6), which is another way of making our dollars go further; for information on this program, or on any County service, call the administration office at 303-582-5214.

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## Gilpin County Victim Services

Gilpin County Victim Services is a law enforcement-based program, assisting victims of crime or crisis. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Volunteer advocates receive an initial training program and on-going training of approximately 24 - 36 hours annually. Our volunteer training program includes presentations and discussions about:

- domestic violence cases, behaviors and cycles, and the court judicial process
- support and the counseling programs that are available,
- crimes involving assault, sexual assault, rape, stalking, etc.
- identity theft and protection
- individual / family safety plans
- and many other related topics.

Advocates in training will "ride along" with current advocates and law enforcement officers to gain experience in the field. As a Gilpin County Advocate, you may volunteer to be on call for as many or as few hours as fit into your schedule. ***There is no experience necessary.*** If you are interested in participating in the volunteer program, please complete a Gilpin County Employment Application, located at [www.co.gilpin.co.us](http://www.co.gilpin.co.us) under the Employment tab. Please send your completed application to: Captain Tonia Kapke, 2960 Dory Hill Road, Suite 350, Black Hawk, CO 80422. You may call for further information at 303-582-5926 or email at [gilpinvictimservices@co.gilpin.co.us](mailto:gilpinvictimservices@co.gilpin.co.us). The hiring process for the volunteer program consists of an application, interview and thorough background process.



## The Real Estate Market and The Assessment Calendar

Anne Schafer, Gilpin County Assessor

When you get your property valuation on a form called “Notice of Valuation” (NOV) in the mail shortly after May 1<sup>st</sup>, you might expect that the value will be lower. . . We all know, or have heard, that housing values have been falling – right?

The national media has given property owners the perception that the housing industry/home prices have fallen across the nation. This is not true for all regions.

**What will I see in my 2009 Notice of Valuation?** In Colorado, State law requires value to be based on neighborhood property sales which occurred during the first 18 months of the preceding 2 years. Confusing to many? Yes. (Please see chart below!) For this 2009 revaluation year, that 18 months ended in June 2008.

As you see there is a significant time lag between changes in the real estate market and the Actual Values determined by the assessor’s office.

| Notice of Valuation Important Information<br>2009 Reappraisal Sales Data Collection Period<br>Appraisal Date June 30, 2008 |   |                          |  |
|--|---|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Sales Period Begins</b>   | CURRENT DATA<br>COLLECTION PERIOD<br>FOR TAX YEARS<br>2009 & 2010<br><small>January 1, 2007—June 30, 2008</small> | <b>Appraisal Date</b>    | SALES AFTER<br>June 30, 2008<br>CANNOT BE USED<br>***<br><small>1/1/09</small> |
|  | <b>Appraisal Date</b>   | <b>**Assessment Date</b> | <b>Present Date</b>  |
| 1/1/07   | 6/30/08   |                          | Today  |

**What has happened in Colorado?** From January 1, 2007 to June 20, 2008 areas that had been over-developed such as the North I-25 corridor and pockets in Aurora saw lower property values but overall the State did not. Many areas in Douglas, Adams, Summit, Eagle and other counties saw increasing property values during that time.

**What have we seen in Gilpin County?** Homes for sale have remained on the market longer (have a longer exposure time) before a deal is closed. So while sales have been slower, the sales price generally has not been lower. Values have stayed stable and in some cases risen. This is great news when you recognize that your home is your largest asset.

**So what are we hearing about in the news?** Beginning in July of 2008 (*after the assessment period!*) some states such as California, Florida, Nevada, Ohio, and Michigan have seen property values drop drastically. We are seeing price drops recently in some areas of Colorado but not all.

**What changes affect my Property Value?** Other than sales, a

property’s value may change over time due to physical changes. Some examples are:

- Finishing new rooms in a basement or attic;
- Extensive remodeling and modernization;
- Demolishing or adding a garage, carport, storage shed, or other structures;
- Any change resulting in more square footage.

Changes made to maintain your property’s current value, such as painting your home, replacing the roof or making other repairs will not necessarily increase the value of the property. If the tasks were not performed, the condition of the home would deteriorate, adversely affecting the value.

**What may I do if I feel my value is too high?** You may protest your 2009 property value May 1, 2009 - June 1, 2009.

**What are the grounds for a protest?** Items that affect value are incorrect on your property record. For example:

- Your home has an unfinished basement, not finished.
- Your home has a carport, not a garage; or your home has 1,600 not 2,000 square feet.

**Can I protest the amount of my taxes?** If you think your value is correct, but your taxes are too high, this is an issue you must take up with the officials who determine budgets for each taxing authority. Taxes can not be protested through the Assessor’s office.

**Who sets the Mill Levies?** Mill Levies are determined by each taxing authority (County, City, School District, Fire Department, Water and Sanitation District, and Recreation District) in December of each year. These authorities provide services to you and are listed on your tax notice.

**Remember, the NOV sent in May reflects the value of 2009 and is the same value that will appear on your 2010 tax bill.** These dates are set by Colorado State Law.

## Gilpin County Parks & Recreation Summer Fun

### Mother/Son Gladiator Night

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Mother and Son teams will compete in various challenges in the Gymnasium against other Mother & Son teams.

Activities include: Obstacle Courses, Mental Challenges, & Relay Races.

Pre-register by May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cost: \$15/mom & son + \$5 for each additional son.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Clinic – FREE!

Sun. June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

William C. Russell Park & Pond (West of Central City)

Celebrate Father's Day at the Fishing Hole!

Open to ages 1-16 & their families.

Contests, Prizes, Food, Fun

Call 303-582-1453 for more information.



### Summer Day Camp 2009

Ages 5 – 12

Come join Adventures in Childcare for the best summer ever!

Field trips, gym games, swimming, snacks, movies, adventures & more!

### Teen Events this Summer

Denver Skate Parks – 6/10,

Colorado Mills Mall – 6/17,

Boulder Skate Park – 7/1

Denver Zoo – 7/7,

Elitch Gardens – 8/13

Come to the Community Center to play with our new Wii!

### Swimming Pool & Lessons

The pools will be open all day during the summer. Look for swimming lesson dates and times in the Summer 2009 Activity Guide published at the end of May.

The Real Estate Market  
& Your Property  
Valuation  
Public Meeting

April 28, Tuesday  
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Gilpin Library

Presented by Anne  
Schafer, County  
Assessor

### **A Message from the Finance Director**

It's just now Spring, and we are already thinking about the 2010 budget. Specifically, groups which wish to request financial support from the County must submit a request for funding by July 31st. Many organizations that have received County funding in the past will receive a request form in the mail, but if you don't, call Clorinda Smith in the Finance Office at 303-951-3671, and I'll get one right out to you.

At this time we don't know what the County will receive in 2009 in gaming taxes, much less what the amount will be in 2010. But we expect the amount will remain considerably below what was received in recent years, so the amount of money the Commissioners have to spend in support of worthy causes will be much less than was previously available; it's going to be very difficult to provide money in 2010 for groups that haven't made a request as part of the regular budget cycle. And while I can't speak for the Commissioners as to what will be supported, there are some general guidelines as to what sorts of requests will be considered; call me at 303-951-3671 if you'd like a copy of those guidelines.

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## Colorado State University Extension

We welcome our new Office Assistant, Cindy Haxel, to the Extension Office in Gilpin. Our new office hours are Monday—Thursday from 8 - 2; the Extension Agent works Monday - Friday 8 - 5 but is frequently in the field or at meetings. If you want to come in outside the regular office hours, please call 303-582-9106 to make an appointment.

### Forest Health & Fire Danger

Although we've gotten some much-needed spring snows, we still need to be concerned about the potential for wildfire. According to Monique Rocca, Fire Ecologist from CSU, hot dry weather is the most significant factor in lodgepole pine forest fires – pine beetle actually plays a relatively small role. Hope for rain, and consider doing some of these things:

1. Work on your defensible space. **There will be a free hands-on field class on the Art of Creating a Defensible Space on Saturday, May 23 from 10 - 12 (with the State Forest Service). Space is limited – call to reserve your spot. Location TBD.**
2. Take advantage of House Bill 08-1110: Income Tax Deduction For a Landowner's Direct Costs Incurred in Performing Wildfire Mitigation Measures. This law, C.R.S. 34-22-104(4)(n), offers a state income tax deduction of 50 percent of a homeowner's costs in performing up to \$2,500 of wildfire mitigation or a tax deduction totaling the property owner's federal taxable income, whichever is less. The wildland mitigation measures must be performed on private land in a wildland-urban interface area with a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
3. If at all possible, try not to cut green wood from May - September as newly cut wood is very attractive to Ips beetles, and is somewhat attractive to Mountain Pine beetles. Best time to cut is in the fall – but fire mitigation concerns may trump beetle concerns.
4. Remove dead trees or trees infested with pine beetle “hot logs” can be dropped off for free at Road and Bridge – call 303-582-5004. Infested trees need to be dealt with before the end of June! Go to the Extension website for more information on treating pine beetle trees.
5. Learn to use a chainsaw so you can work on your defensible space or cut down infested and dead trees. There will be a class on Saturday, May 30 from 9 - 4 on **How to cut down trees and use a chain saw safely. YOU MUST RSVP! Space is limited! Location TBD.**
6. Make evacuation plans, including an ‘escape kit’, evacuation routes and communication plans. The Extension website has new information on these subjects, including downloadable information sheets, and a great video on preventing home ignitions.
7. Get with your neighborhood or HOA to make plans to implement the recommendations from the new Community Wildfire Protection Plan for your neighborhood (available on the Extension website, the County website and at the Library, Community Center and Old Courthouse.
8. Make sure your address is visible to our volunteer firefighters. You can get a reflective metal address sign from the Coal Creek Fire Dept. Each **Reflective Address Sign** costs \$20 (including shipping). To order a sign, go to their website (<http://coalcreekcanyonfd.org/>), or if you don't have computer access, call **303-642-3121**. Put it on a metal post, so it won't burn in a fire.

### Other opportunities:

- May 8 (Fri) 4 - 5:30 Exhibit Barn \$5, **Mountain Gardening Basics**. If you think it's impossible to grow anything up here, come to this class to learn about hardy plants, dealing with our soils and harsh conditions, gardening even if you don't have water rights, and more.
- May 29 (Fri) 4 - 5:30 Exhibit Barn \$5, **How to choose the best perennials for the mountains**.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# FLEA MARKET (June 5 & 6) and COUNTY FAIR (August 15 & 16)

## BOOTHS GOING QUICKLY!

Booth applications are available through Events Coordinator Vicki Nemeč at 303-582-5214 or go online at [www.co.gilpin.co.us](http://www.co.gilpin.co.us). Click on the Event link on the left side.

### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COUNTY FAIR.***

Unfortunately, the County's budget cuts didn't miss the Fair but the Fair Committee is determined to make this Fair an educational and family-oriented experience that your family will remember for years. Many activities and events are being planned that will require volunteers to be successful. Volunteers are needed in the following areas: assisting with the contests, judging the contests, information booth, experienced horse handlers for the Horse

Games on Sunday, assistance with the Family Picnic/Bonfire on Saturday night, food handlers, story tellers, campfire singers and more. If you have time to spare during the Fair, contact Vicki at 303-582-5214 for further information on opportunities to share your time and skills and help make this the greatest County Fair ever!



### **Colorado State University Extension—Continued**

- June 6 (Sat) – **Plant Sale at the Flea Market.** Buy plants that have been acclimated to and will thrive in our Mountain environment. Ask question of Master Gardeners. Sale begins at 9, ends when we sell out. New and bigger inventory this year! (Note that the plant sale will be on Saturday only – it will not begin on Friday, with the rest of the Flea Market).
- June 19 (Fri) 4 – 5:30 Exhibit Barn. **Weed I.D. and Control.** Free. Struggling with thistles? Can't seem to win the war on oxeye daisy? Learn how to deal with these weeds and more! Bring in samples of your most troublesome weeds for identification and advice.
- July 11 (Sat) **Day of the Oxeye Daisy.** 10 - 2 Gilpin Transfer Station. Bring in oxeye daisy from your property (pulled up by the roots and bagged), and get a free plant or seeds in exchange! There will be other weeds on display as well. There will also be a volunteer weed pull sponsored by the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado on the same day at East Portal from 8 - 1. Come do something great for the environment! There will be another pull on August 1<sup>st</sup> to get the later bloomers. To sign up, go to: [www.voc.org](http://www.voc.org).

#### **Weed cost share program:**

If you have thistles, knapweeds, oxeye daisy, or scentless chamomile, you can check out a new herbicide called Milestone, which has a very low use rate, is labeled as practically non-toxic (for people, bees, birds, and aquatics and groundwater), and is not restricted use. The Extension Office will have a bottle of Milestone and a sprayer available for checkout at no charge. There will be a \$100, fully-refundable deposit to ensure prompt return of the sprayer. If you don't want to do the work yourself, or have weeds for which Milestone is not effective, we will be able to cover half the cost for a contractor to treat your property (on a limited, first-come, first-served basis). Please visit the Extension website at [www.extension.colostate.edu/gilpin](http://www.extension.colostate.edu/gilpin).

# County Phone Numbers

## 9 1 1 – POLICE, FIRE and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

### Gilpin County Old Courthouse 203 Eureka Street, Central City, CO 80427

| Office                | Area of Service                         | Main Number  | Fax Number   | Mailing Address |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Administration        | Commissioners & General Services        | 303-582-5214 | 303-582-5440 | P.O. Box 366    |
| Assessor              | Property Assessment                     | 303-582-5451 | 303-565-1798 | P.O. Box 338    |
| Clerk & Recorder      | License Plates/Car & Voter Registration | 303-582-5321 | 303-565-1797 | P.O. Box 429    |
| Community Development | Planning/Zoning/Mapping/Building        | 303-582-5831 | 303-565-1796 | P.O. Box 661    |
| Coroner               | Deaths in Gilpin County                 | 303-582-3957 | 303-582-3390 | P.O. Box 333    |
| Treasurer             | Taxes & Fee Payments                    | 303-582-5222 | 303-582-3086 | P.O. Box 368    |

### Justice Center 2960 Dory Hill Road, Black Hawk, CO 80422

| Office                 | Area of Service                          | Main Number  | Fax Number   | Suite No. |
|------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Courts                 | County and District Courts, Jury Duty    | 303-582-5522 | 303-582-3112 | 200       |
| Dispatch Center        | Non-emergency Services                   | 303-582-5500 | 303-582-3758 | 300       |
| District Attorney      | Part-time Office out of Jefferson County | 303-582-1340 |              | 220       |
| Human Services         | Adult/Child Protection/Public Assistance | 303-582-5444 | 303-582-5798 | 100       |
| Jail                   | Detentions                               | 303-582-3576 | 303-582-3574 | 350       |
| Senior Services        | Meals, Transportation and Shopping       | 303-582-5444 | 303-582-5798 | 101       |
| Sheriff Administration | Civil Process, Dog Tags, Case Reports    | 303-582-1060 | 303-582-3813 | 300       |
| Victim Services        | Dignified Services for Crime Victims     | 303-582-5926 | 303-582-6018 | 300       |

### Gilpin County Emergency Services Building 495 Apex Valley Road

| Office             | Area of Service                   | Main Number  | Fax Number   | Mailing Address                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Finance            | County Budget, Vouchers, Payments | 303-951-3671 | 303-951-3675 | P.O. Box 366, Central City, 80427 |
| Human Resources    | Employment, Insurance, etc.       | 303-951-3673 | 303-951-3675 | P.O. Box 366, Central City, 80427 |
| Facilities Manager | Facilities/Maintenance            | 303-951-3674 | 303-951-3675 | P.O. Box 457, Black Hawk, 80422   |

### Other County Offices

| Office                     | Area of Service  | Main Number  | Fax Number   | Mailing Address                         |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|---|
| Community Center           | Pools, Rec. Classes, Mtg. rooms                          | 303-582-1453 | 303-582-5404 | 250 Norton Dr., Black Hawk, CO 80422    |
| CSU/Gilpin Extension Agent | Mtn. Gardening, 4-H Youth                                | 303-582-9106 | 303-582-5062 | 230 Norton Dr., Black Hawk, CO 80422    |
| Library                    | Information Services                                     | 303-582-5777 | 303-582-3938 | 15131 Hwy. 119, Black Hawk, CO 80422    |
| Public Health              | Community Health   | 303-582-5803 | 303-582-5798 | 101 Norton Drive, Black Hawk, CO 80422  |
| Road & Bridge              | County Road Maintenance, Trash Transfer, Slash, Hot Logs | 303-582-5004 | 303-582-3291 | 255 Braecher Pk Rd Black Hawk, CO 80422 |
| Veterans Officer           | Veterans Services  | 303-582-5444 | 303-582-5798 | P.O. Box 366, Central City, CO 80427    |

<http://co.gilpin.co.us>