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GILPIN COUNTY

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Photo courtesy of Jim Simpson

Gilpin County Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2007

**Winter has
definitely
roared in!**

Snow! Snow! Snow!

We've just been through an incredible run of rough weather—by most accounts the worst December since 1913—and made it through without major loss, thanks to the heroic efforts of a lot of people in the County. Our Sheriff's Office, the Fire Departments and the paramedics from Gilpin Ambulance made sure that life-threatening emergencies were managed appropriately, our Maintenance crew kept access open to County buildings as long



Worry for stranded stock hits just about everywhere in Colorado!

as possible, and our Road & Bridge drivers worked endless hours to keep the County roads open and passable.

Still, there were a lot of unhappy people throughout the area afflicted by these storms. A lot of the unhappiness comes from just not understanding what the County's role is in snow removal. One of the best summaries appears in our *Gilpin County Primer for Living in the High Country*. We've given these out for years (they were first printed in 1999), and the text appears on our website, <http://co.gilpin.co.us>. I thought it might be worth quoting a couple of paragraphs:

"Given the reality of the rural mountain setting, 'buyer beware' takes on a whole new meaning. Dreams of a home in paradise can become a nightmare...

"There may be road or driveway maintenance issues. Although you can drive trouble free during the 19 days of non-winter, you may later discover a spot where the snow drifts 10 feet deep. And don't expect emergency vehicles to have much more luck than you. The County maintains public roads, but the level of maintenance and frequency varies depending on the class of road. Property owners are responsible for maintenance and snow plowing of all private roads and driveways. Heavy rains and rapid snowmelt can wash out or severely damage your driveway or private road. You may need to buy a snowplow to maintain your driveway. You may need to

contract for maintenance and snow removal. Don't assume a neighbor will cooperate or share expenses. And don't wait until the snow flies to make these arrangements.

"Be aware that the County does not clear the snow berm created across your driveway when public roads are plowed. It is not practical to individually clear two thousand driveways on 150 miles of road. Clearing the end of your driveway is your responsibility and one of the joys of rural living. Easier, too, if removed before being driven over or packed into a wall of ice."



But while we don't plow private roads or clear driveways, we can provide information on folks who do. So we'd like to establish a database of those people who, as a commercial proposition or just in case of emergencies, are willing, able (licensed and insured) and equipped to provide snowplowing services. If you're one of them, please call Jennifer West at 303-582-5214, or email jwest@co.gilpin.co.us. We'll keep a list that we can fax or mail to people, and we'll have it posted on the website as well. And hopefully residents won't "wait until the snow flies to make these arrangements."

Roger Baker, County Manager

There will be three newsletters published in 2007. The mailing dates will be:

- ◆ February 2007
- ◆ June 2007
- ◆ November 2007

All post office boxes in Gilpin County should be receiving a newsletter automatically. Starting with this issue, owners of property with major improvements should also be receiving a newsletter. If you are not receiving one and feel you should have or you are just interested in Gilpin County and would like to receive one, please call Vicki Nemeč at 303-582-5214.

Property Tax Notice 2007 for 2006 Taxes

It's that time of year again. The last week of January, the Treasurer's Office will be sending tax notices to the assessed owners of all properties. If your escrow is with a mortgage company, that company usually contacts our office for your tax information. Most mortgage companies pay by halves. To check to be sure your mortgage company is paying your escrowed money call the Treasurer's Office at 303-582-5222 anytime after March 15, 2006.



If you no longer own the property and are not responsible for the taxes on a tax notice, please notify the Treasurer and send the notice back to us.

Check the legal description on your tax notice. If it is not correct, please notify the Assessor's Office at 303-582-5451. Also, if your lots have been split, you will receive more than one tax notice. All notices received must be paid.

If you are responsible for your taxes, payment dates are as follows:

- a. **Full payment:** April 30, 2007.
- b. **Half payments:** first half, February 28, 2007; second half, June 15, 2007.

As always, it is the postmark date that counts when mailing payments, not the date on your check.

People who have applied for a Boundary Line Elimination (BLE) or a Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA) must keep all taxes current until the BLE or BLA is completed and the Assessor's Office has your affected schedule numbers down to one number. Remember, the Assessor works in the current year while tax notices you receive from the Treasurer's Office are from the previous year (2006).

If you have not received a tax notice, please notify us. You may have changed addresses and that information did not reach us. We try to find correct addresses for all notices that are returned to us, but if we can't, the returned tax notices remain here at the office.

Finally, if you have any questions at all, please call us at 303-582-5222, email us at one of the addresses below or come in to the Treasurer's Office. We will do our best to help you.

Alynn K. Huffman, Gilpin County Treasurer
 Email: gctreasurer@co.gilpin.co.us
 Mary Cole-Lorenz, Chief Deputy Treasurer/Deputy Public
 Trustee Email: deputytreas@co.gilpin.co.us
 Chris Mueller, Deputy Treasurer/Tax Representative
 Email: taxes@co.gilpin.co.us
 Christine Fischer, Deputy Treasurer/Customer Service

GILPIN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
CLASSIC FOREIGN FILM SERIES
 (INTRODUCED AND DISCUSSED BY FILM CRITIC WALTER CHAW)
SATURDAY MATINEES AT 1:00 P.M.
FREE ADMISSION AND POPCORN
 (BRING YOUR OWN IDEAS)

Feb. 3 *THE SEVENTH SEAL* (Bergman/Sweden/1957)

Feb. 10 *THRONE OF BLOOD* (Kurosawa/Japan/1957)

Feb. 17 *BREATHLESS* (Godard/France/1960)

Feb. 24 *BLOW UP* (Antonioni/England/1966)

Mar. 3 *AGUIRRE: THE WRATH OF GOD* (Herzog/Germany/1972)

Please call 303-582-5777 or check the website at <http://www.gilpinlibrary.org> for more details.

News From The Extension Agent

Forest Health/Biomass Symposium. Saturday, March 10th, 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Gilpin County Community Center. CSU Cooperative Extension and the Gilpin County Commissioners are putting on an all-day Symposium on Forest Health and Biomass. The morning session will include: Pine beetle – the forecast for Gilpin County, and how you can protect your trees; Conifer ID (you can't evaluate your trees for pine beetle unless you can ID them) and Fire Mitigation. The afternoon session will be on Using Biomass as a renewable energy and an emerging resource, how it works, and specific information on the Gilpin Road and Bridge facility. The Commissioners will again provide lunch for the first 50 people to sign up – call 303-582-9106.



4H Afterschool program Your child could be participating in a low-cost, fun and educational after-school program every Monday. (Other programs offered other days of the week). Sign up with the Community Center by calling 303-582-1453. Cost is \$5.00 per child.



4H meetings: Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) meet every 3rd Monday 6:30pm to 7:30pm. The Gilpin Woodland Riders (ages 8-18) meet every Wednesday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, and the Mountain Mutts (ages 8-18) meet on Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Please call 303-582-9106 for more information.

Very low cost seedling trees and shrubs again available for sale through the Extension Office. These are available in lots of 30 or 50 (and cost is \$27 to \$43.80), depending on the species. They are for reforestation, windbreaks, or wildlife only.

You must have 2 acres or more to apply. Order and pay now, pick up on May 9th at the Extension Office.

Call for an application or help in deciding which trees or shrubs are appropriate.

Native Plant Master Program: An intense series of three field classes in which you will learn how to identify plants, learn their scientific names, their ecological relationships, and landscape uses. Each course consists of three classes on consecutive Saturday mornings in May, June, July, and September – you can take one, two, or all three courses for a total of three, six, nine, or twelve Saturdays. Since the mission of the courses is to educate the public about the biological and human values of Colorado plants in order to foster stewardship and sustainable use of plant resources, we ask that you help share your knowledge by making public contacts with others. An application process is required; registration is limited.



Get on the Extension newsletter email list and never miss a program again! Send me your email address to get our updates, information on upcoming classes, and to receive our quarterly newsletter. If you don't have a computer, send me your mailing address.

The Gilpin County Office is located in the Exhibit Barn, 230 Norton Drive, Golden CO 80403, next to the Community Center. Phone is 303-582-9106; our web site, which has new information, is www.coopext.colostate.edu/gilpin

Gilpin County Summer Day Camp

What is your child doing this summer? Gilpin County Parks and Recreation Summer Day Camp offers field trips and activities for school age children.

Registration forms are available now at the Community Center and are due March 15th.
Camp starts June 4th.

Call Nancy at 303-582-1453 for more information.

News from the Community Center

Gilpin's First Health Support Group

The Gilpin Health Club

Thursdays, 6:45pm to 7:30pm,

Gilpin County Community Center

Gilpin County Parks & Recreation is starting a support group that can benefit everyone who would like to make healthy choices and changes. The Community Center will host different speakers on a variety of health topics every Thursday evening, January through May, from 6:45pm to 7:30pm. Some of the speakers and topics include:

Mary Beth Lynch, PhD. Instructor of Basic Health and Nutrition from the University of Colorado, Boulder:

Steps to a Healthy New Year...Portions, Food Labels, and Internet Resources... Am I Eating the Right Foods for Me?... Vegetarian and Organic Eating... Fad Diets vs Healthy Weight Loss... Good Carbs/Bad Carbs

Jennifer Lavelly, Gilpin County Director of Public Health:

Heart Health, Exercise – It's Not Just for Your High-Strung Neighbor...Creative Cooking – It Doesn't Have to Taste Bad to be Good

Cat Panteleo, Herbs, Plants, Health Instructor: Staying Healthy During Cold & Flu Season...Diet and Disease...Aging with Grace...Does Eating Fat Make You Fat?

There will also be topics about Fitness, Exercise, Equipment Orientation and more. The first series will run through May, 2007 and is designed to provide a support group for every health resolution for the new year such as weight loss, eating healthier, lowering cholesterol, heart health and more. It's never too late to join.

Call 303-582-1453 for costs and more information.

Leagues and Youth Programs

Winter is here and Gilpin County Parks & Recreation is offering many activities for youth. We have several teen activities planned for the winter and spring months. Trips are scheduled for teens to travel to Winter Park Ski Resort, Denver Golden Bowl, and several Denver skate parks. There will also be teen nights, dive-in movies and parties during the next few months. For dates and times of



upcoming activities look in the new Gilpin County Parks and Recreation program guide.



This season we will be offering Pick-up basketball beginning at 6:00pm on Monday nights. This is a great time to get together for some friendly games of basketball.

For those of you who are counting down days for co-ed adult softball we will be conducting a softball managers' meeting on Thursday, April 5th at 7:00pm. And for the little sluggers, we will begin Little League registrations in May. The Little League board is committed to providing the best instruction for your children. For more information or questions, please call the Gilpin County Community Center at 303-582-1453.



Get out of the cold and come warm up while you enjoy a relaxing time at the pool! Whether you are looking for a great zero impact, full body workout or just a shallow warm pool to wade in, you're sure to enjoy yourself.

Don't forget to sign up for swimming lessons. Dates and times are in the Gilpin County Parks & Recreation Winter/Spring program guide. We have an upcoming Saturday morning session starting on January 27th. Classes run between 9:30am to 12:00pm for the next eight weeks. Our Monday/Wednesday evening classes will start again on February 19th. Classes run from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, twice a week for four weeks. All of our instructors are American Red Cross Certified Water Safety Instructors and will adjust their lesson plans to meet the needs of your children.

Dive-In Movies and Other Pool Activities

If you are a 6th-12th grader and like the movies, check this out! We will be watching *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* on the big screen while swimming in the pools. Bring your floaty and some friends; snacks and drinks will be provided. Friday, January 26th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Cost: \$5.

Other Upcoming Events Include:

- Family Dive-In Movies
- Lifeguard Training
- Springboard Diving
- Open Kayak

Call 303-582-1453 for further details on any of these events.

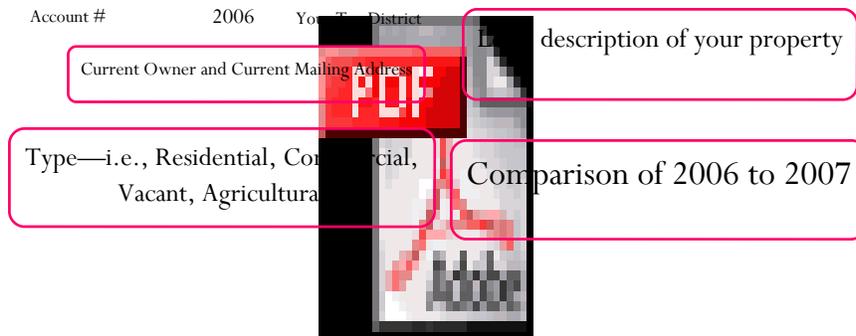
Remember, Thursday nights are Lagoon Night. Experience what it's like to swim with only the underwater lights on! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Understanding Your Notice Of Valuation (NOV)

Anne Schafer, Assessor

On May 1st we will be sending your Notice of Valuation (NOV) for properties owned in Gilpin County. Below is a sample of the NOV:

Please check yours!



Acrobat Document

- Number of bedrooms
- Architectural style
- Number of bathrooms
- Number of stories

Call
303-
582-5451
with
questions.

The actual value of property is **not** the taxable value. Rather, the taxable value is a percentage of the actual value. The percentage is called an “assessment rate,” and the resulting value is called the “assessed value.” The assessment rate is currently 7.96 percent for residential properties, 29 percent for vacant land and all other properties. Your property taxes are calculated by multiplying the mill levy or tax rate by the assessed or taxable value of your property.

Example: The actual value of Mr. Jones’ home is \$200,000. The Notice of Valuation shows the current assessment percentage is 7.96%.

Actual Value x Assessment Percentage = Assessed Value - \$200,000 x 7.96% = \$15,920

**VERIFY
YOUR
AMOUNTS**

To determine the amount of property taxes, multiply the **assessed value** times the **decimal equivalent of the total mill levy**. If Mr. Jones’ assessed value is \$15,920, his taxes will be:

Assessed Value x Mill Levy (example only) = Taxes - \$15,920 x .035530 = \$565.64

Do I Really Need a Colonoscopy?

Yes, You Do and You May Qualify for a Free Screening

Colon cancer (or colorectal cancer) is the number two cause of cancer death for men and women and will account for about 55,000 deaths in the U.S. this year. Sadly, more than half of these deaths are preventable with proper screening. Screening is invaluable when a disease can be both detected in an early stage and is readily treatable. Colon cancer meets both of these requirements. The most accurate screening tool for colon cancer is a colonoscopy. Colonoscopy is a short, low-risk procedure which uses mild sedation and involves the insertion of a plastic fiber optic tube into the rectum, which gives the doctor (usually a gastroenterologist) a magnified view in color of the interior wall of the entire length of the large bowel. The bowel is prepared by drinking solutions the day prior to colonoscopy that result in a cleaning out of the bowel. For some this is the most uncomfortable aspect of the entire procedure.

Who should undergo screening colonoscopy and how often?

All persons aged 50 and over should undergo a screening colonoscopy every ten years. Those with a history of polyps should be rescreened every five years. For those with a history of multiple or large polyps, the screening interval is every three years. For persons with an immediate family member with colon cancer or polyps, screening should begin at age 40 or ten years before the age at which the relative was diagnosed, whichever is earlier.

Persons with a very high risk family history, especially those with family histories of numerous polyps, may need screening in their teen years or early 20's. Also those with an eight year history of Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis need

colonoscopy screening for cancer. A recent study suggests that men are at significantly higher risk for colon cancer than are women, a finding which contradicts the traditional belief that the risk is equal.

What does a colonoscopy cost?

A new grant to the University of Colorado Cancer Center enables all legal residents of Colorado who are patients of a community health center, such as the Nederland and Black Hawk Mountain Family Health Centers, and who make less than \$24,500 for a one-person household or \$50,000 for a four-person household to undergo a screening colonoscopy for **free**. If cancer is detected, the grant will pay for up to \$60,000 of treatment. Medicare and Medicaid cover the cost of colonoscopy screening. Most private insurance plans also pay for it.

Many of us put off preventive health care because some procedures are unpleasant. Unlike prostate and cervical cancer screening, however, colon cancer testing may only be necessary every ten years. It is possible that technological advances over the next decade will make the MRI screen the procedure of choice. In the meantime, we should not subject ourselves to the needless risk of this common and fatal cancer. Set aside part of a day to get a colonoscopy.

By **Mark Sanazaro, MD**,
Medical Director,
Mountain Family Health
Centers, 303-258-3206,



<http://www.mountainfamily.org/>. Supported by
**Gilpin County Public and Environmental Health
Services**, 303-582-5803, [http://co.gilpin.co.us/
Public%20Health/homedefault.htm](http://co.gilpin.co.us/Public%20Health/homedefault.htm).

Upcoming 2007 Gilpin County Events

- * Father/Daughter Sweetheart Ball
February 10th, 6:00pm to 9:00pm



- * Annual Easter Egg Hunt
April 4th, 5:00pm to 8:00pm

- * Mother/Son Hawaiian Pool Party
May 12th, 6:00pm to 9:00pm



- * 3rd Flea Market
June 9th, 8:00am to 4:00pm



- * 15th County Fair
August 18th & 19th, more later.

- * 2nd Gold Celebration
October 6th, 10:00am to 3:00pm



Call 303-582-1453 for more information on events at the
Community Center.

Call 303-582-5214 for more information on events at the
Fairgrounds.

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	County 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, Golden, CO 80403

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
Public Health	Promotes, Improves and Maintains Community Health	303-582-5803	303-582-5798	120
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	303-582-3813	300

Gilpin County Administrative Services Building, 495 Apex Valley Road, Golden, CO 80403

Office	Area of Service	Main Number	Fax Number	Mailing Address
Finance Department	County Finances, Vouchers, Payments	303-951-3671	303-951-3675	P.O. Box 366, Central City, 80427
Human Resource Department	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 366, Central City, 804

Other County Offices

Office	Area of Service	Main Number	Fax Number	Mailing Address
Community Center	Recreation, Classes, Meeting rooms	303-582-1453	303-582-5404	250 Norton Dr., Golden, CO 80403
CSU/Gilpin Extension Agent	Mtn. Gardening, 4-H Youth	303-582-9106	303-582-5062	230 Norton Dr., Golden, CO 80403
Library	Information Services	303-582-5777	303-582-3938	15131 Hwy. 119, Golden, CO 80403
Road & Bridge	County Road Maintenance	303-582-5004	303-582-3291	278 Jankowski Dr., Golden, CO 80403
Veteran's Officer	Veteran Services	303-582-5444	303-582-5798	P.O. Box 366, Central City, CO 80427

TRASH COMPACTOR: Open Wed. 12:00pm to 5:00pm, Fri. 10:00am to 5:00pm, Sat. 9:00am to 5:00pm. For prices and more detailed information please check the website below or call **303-582-5214**. Compactor is located on Highway 119 at mile marker 15. You can recycle the following items, but please do not include the bags you bring them in, they are NOT recyclable:

1. Plastics (Types 1 & 2), aluminum cans and glass can be mixed together in their marked receptacles.
2. Newspapers and white paper can be mixed together in their marked receptacles.

We're on the Web! <http://co.gilpin.co.us>