



*April 2026
Newsletter*

We will hold our next lunchtime meeting on Thursday, April 9

Noon to 2:30 p.m; Lunch is \$15.00

Idaho Springs Elks Lodge

RSVP is not required. Potential members are welcome!

Make a stained glass mosaic for your garden

Bring an item to mosaic (rock, brick, stepping stone, small bird house, bottle, etc) to the meeting. All other materials will be provided. Please bring gardening or other thick gloves for handling the pieces of glass.

Presented by Tobi Howell & Michelle Tyler.

There will be an evening meeting on this date also, at the Elks Club, starting at 6:00. If your mosaic project needs more time to complete, you can come to both meetings. No food will be provided.

We will discuss where our money is going at this meeting, and collect dues for 2026-27, which are \$12.00 for an individual or \$20 per couple.

2026 MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULE

May 9, 2026

Plant Giveaway and Bake Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Make plans now to donate something for the bake sale, or plants. Please save your small boxes to put sale items in.

Project Support Senior Center, 1402 Miner St., Idaho Springs

May 14, 2026

Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers; Seed Library assembly. At the Elks Club.

June 5-6, 2026

The Annual Plant Sale is on Friday and Saturday, JUNE 5 & 6. Plant delivery is Thursday morning, June 4, and the Member/Guest Party is that night from 3-6 p.m. All events will be held at the Elks Club. Please save these dates as volunteers will be needed.

**APRIL CGC MEETING
FEATURES A UNIQUE ART
PROJECT**

**Thursday, April 9th
Noon or 6 p.m.**

**Make a stained glass
mosaic for your garden.**

Bring an item to mosaic (rock, brick, stepping stone, small bird house, bottle, etc) to the meeting. All other materials will be provided. Presented by Tobi Howell & Michelle Tyler.



If you have a detailed design please contact Tobi so the glass can be cut before the meeting.

Please bring gardening or other thick gloves for handling the pieces of glass.



columbinegardenclub.com

Check our website for info on all of our past and future events!

If you would like to add the garden club events to your own calendar, use the "Subscribe to Calendar" button at the bottom of the "What We're Planning" page. There are four calendar types that are supported. If you have trouble and need help adding to your calendar, please contact Tobi Howell for help.

tobiannah03@gmail.com or 772-341-2349



Daffodils getting ready to bloom in Kerry Tierney's garden on March 17th. Your photos are always welcome – send to ahtomlinson@me.com by the 15th of the month.

Upcoming Events from Gilpin CSU Extension

Fire Lives Here - free Movie Matinee

April 25, 2026, 1:00-2:30 pm

Timberline Fire Station 3 - 19126 Highway 119, Black Hawk, CO 80422

Filmed over two years across Colorado's Front Range, *Fire Lives Here* showcases the year-round work of Fireshed Partners working to return controlled fire back to Colorado's forests. Directed by Aaron Colussi and Left of Frame Pictures, the film showcases the coordinated planning, implementation, and preparation involved in prescribed fire—and examines the effects of the Alexander Mountain Fire as it moved through areas that had undergone forest treatments. Created by the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative, in partnership with the National Forest Foundation, the US Forest Service Arapaho & Roosevelt, and Rocky Mountain PBS. A discussion and Q&A will follow, including new fire and building codes, defensible space, and fire mitigation in the County. Optional tour of new fire station immediately after event. Free event, but space is limited. [Advanced registration required here.](#)

Native and Firewise Landscaping – free event

April 28, 2026, 5:30-7:00 pm

Gilpin Library, 15131 CO-119, Black Hawk, CO 80422 or virtual

Learn proven methods to decrease wildfire risk on your property. This presentation will cover best practices in Home Ignition Zones (HIZ) and planning low flammability landscapes, including natives and pollinator-friendly mountain hardy plants. Presented by Derek Lowstuter, CSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Specialist and Jane Billings, Gilpin CSU Extension Master Gardener. [Virtual attendees register here for the event link.](#) In-person attendees do not need to register.

Clear Creek County is taking proactive steps to manage the recent increase in pine beetle populations

Strategic Trapping: We have placed traps around the Transfer Station to monitor and remove beetles from the landscape.

Safe Disposal: We continue to accept slash and mountain pine beetle-infested logs from Clear Creek County landowners and residents. Starting April 15th through Sept. 30th, slash and logs will be accepted at **HALF PRICE (\$10 dollars per cubic yard for residents).**

Containment: Bringing infested wood to the sort yard helps concentrate beetles in one already-impacted area, preventing them from spreading to healthier parts of the county.

Important Reminder: Moving infested wood as firewood, etc. is the fastest way to start a new infestation. Please be aware when moving or sorting logs.

[Click here for the Spring issue of the Clear Creek Connection Newsletter, March 2026](#)

How To Set Up Drip Irrigation in Your Garden - for Beginners



If you've been planning to install a drip irrigation system but have no idea where to start, this beginner-friendly drip irrigation guide is for you.

For new gardeners, a drip irrigation system can be easily set up for a small yard or garden using starter drip irrigation kits or by creating one with basic drip components. Drip irrigation systems have proven to be the most water (and time) efficient and cost-effective method to water your plants and vegetables. This system delivers water directly to the plant root zone using a network of tubing and emitters. As a result of precise and consistent watering, this irrigation method reduces water waste, saves water, and promotes healthy growth. It's the best investment for your garden's well-being and your own peace of mind.

For a complete guide, [Click Here](#). Dripworks shares drip irrigation ideas and tips to help you set up your system for a small yard and garden. Dripworks is also an excellent online source for supplies.

Poppy Mallow or Wine Cups is a native wildflower that decorates the garden with a summer-long display of bright magenta-pink flowers

- A sprawling grower, long branches spread across the ground to create a colorful groundcover of flowers and foliage
- *C. involucrata* serves as a larval host plant for several butterfly species, most notably the Gray Hairstreak Butterfly
- Drought resistant/drought tolerant



OH NO! DID I LEAVE THE HOSE ON????

KEEP YOUR PEACE OF MIND WITH AN AUTOMATIC HOSE TIMER



One irrigation component that is really helpful is an **automatic timer**, which does not require a professional to install. In the summer of 2025, your faithful newsletter editor tried a Bluetooth timer made by Melnor. The Model 93100 has the ability to control two separate hoses, each with various settings of watering duration and frequency. Melnor has a mobile device app that is used to program the automatic settings. The phone or tablet must be within thirty feet of the timer (which can be in-convenient and eliminates the ability to control the timer when you are away from home.) Water can also be started manually from the timer unit or the app. If rain is in the forecast, the Watering Delay feature can be used to pause the schedule for up to 7-days. The regular schedule will resume once the delay is over. The two-valve unit is available at Home Depot for about \$70.00. It requires four “AA” batteries. There are not many reviews for this unit but the reviews are mixed – some positive, some negative.

I have also used timers that are not Bluetooth-capable and have found them to be a great tool in my gardens. I add adapters to the main hose line to increase the number of hoses that are on timers, which increases the number of areas automatically watered. Watering can also be started manually, with a set running time.



Be sure to disconnect the timers in the Fall, and remove the batteries, which protects the timer from freezing over the winter. They seem to last four or five seasons before needing replacement. A non-Bluetooth timer is less expensive and there are several brands to choose from – Rainbird and Orbit, in addition to Melnor.

I’m not sure the Bluetooth is a necessity, but last season it was a successful experiment in my garden!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ECHTER'S

To get event descriptions go to:

<https://www.echters.com/Events/Calendar.htm>

Echter's is located at 52nd and Garrison



**Gal's Night Out - An Evening in Full Bloom
Thursday, April 16th, 4-8 p.m.
Join us for a special evening in support of
Hope House Colorado.**

WHAT YOUR TICKET INCLUDES:

- A vibrant spring market featuring 50+ local vendors and artisans
- See the greenhouses in full spring bloom and beautiful seasonal displays
 - 20% off all shopping at Echter's during the event
- Two drink tickets included (with additional drinks available for purchase) - wine, beer, hard seltzer, hard cider, soft drinks, and water
 - Live music from two talented local duos
- Food samples and tastings from select vendors, with delicious bites available for purchase
 - Raffles and giveaways hosted by participating vendors
 - Convenient event parking

Tickets are \$45.00 until 4/11, then they go to \$50.00

Spaces are limited, so grab your tickets today!

[Learn More](#)

Living in Clear Creek County means staying ahead of the weather...

Especially when things get dry. To keep our community safe, the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office has a streamlined safety protocol regarding Red Flag Warnings.

Red Flag Warnings

Whenever the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a Red Flag Warning for *any* portion of Clear Creek County, the *entire county* automatically enters a temporary Stage 1 Fire Ban.

A Red Flag Warning is triggered by a "perfect storm" of fire conditions:

- High winds that can carry embers for miles
- Low relative humidity that makes everything combustible
- Critically dry fuels (dead grass, brush, and timber)

The Stage 1 Fire Ban exists in conjunction with the NWS warning. For example, if the Red Flag Warning is active from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM, the fire ban is then active during those exact hours. Once the warning expires, the automatic ban is lifted—unless a permanent ban is already in place.

For more information on Fire Bans and the different stages, [Click Here](#)

Sign up for Lookout Alerts!

The foundation of our emergency response is the Lookout Alert system. This is the official notification platform used by Clear Creek County's emergency services to inform residents of immediate threats to their homes or workplaces. If you have not yet done so, please click the button below to register your contact information. Taking a few moments now to sign up for alerts, complete the preparedness survey, and attend the upcoming workshop ensures that our entire community is better equipped to handle the challenges of wildfire season.

[Sign Up here today!](#)



If you have a choice between anger and empathy,
choose empathy.

