



Winter 2020 |

“Good friends are good for your health. Friends can help you celebrate good times and provide support during bad times. Friends prevent loneliness and give you a chance to offer needed companionship, too.”
 -The Mayo Clinic

Amped-up Alumni Association web page coming

We are redesigning the [Boulder County Alumni Association](#) web page to add a little dash. Over the coming weeks, you'll find member event news, a newsletter library, treasured recipes, photo gallery of alumni out and about, and more. Bookmark the page for easy reference.

Spread the word . . .

Alumni Association membership is free, and there is no obligation. How cool is that! Any former Boulder County employee in good standing with at least three years of employment is welcome to join. Members are invited to at least two social events a year and may choose to take part in community service activities.

MEET NEW COUNTY RETIREE



Barb Garner

I retired from Boulder County in December, after 18-1/2 years.

I started at Public Health on June 11, 2001. I was the Office Manager for the Addiction Recovery Center. As time passed, I was reclassified to an Admin Manager. I moved to Admin Services in 2013 and took on the role of Board of Equalization Coordinator. In 2015, I moved to the Admin Supervisor for Administrative Services Business Operations Division.

"Social connections are important, and the Alumni Association is a great way to keep in touch with former colleagues," says Ron Stewart, Board Member.

[Studies](#) support Ron's opinion, arguing that social relationships affect our physical health. You can stay healthy and have fun at the same time by participating in events sponsored by the Alumni Association.

Board Member Tom Shomaker puts it this way: The association, for me, is about staying connected with men and women who shared a common purpose with me over the four decades I worked for the County. I came to know, respect and appreciate my colleagues, and I don't want to completely lose touch."

To join or request more information, simply send an email to alumni@bouldercounty.org or to Lisa Krebs at lkrebs@bouldercounty.org

Meet your Board of Directors



Pam Stonecipher, Alan Watkins, Peggy Jackson, Tom Shomaker, Margaret Parish, Ron Stewart, Rick Meyers.

Thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors for their time, talent and energy in successfully launching the Alumni Association three years ago.

In 2020, new Board Members may be appointed. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please send an email to alumni@bouldercounty.org or to Lisa Krebs at lkrebs@bouldercounty.org

Spring Social



The Board is already planning an exciting spring event. Watch for information when details are nailed down. If you would like to be part of the planning team, please send us an email.

As a retiree, I can see that my free time will be very busy. My first priority is spending time with my family. My Mom has been ill, and I am treasuring the time I have with her. I also look forward to spending more time with my kids and grandchildren.

Last year, we purchased a 23-foot trailer, and I am so looking forward to heading off on great adventures with my husband, Daniel, and our pets!

Other favorite activities that I hope to do more of include wine tasting and listening to live music. I also hope to become much more active hiking and riding my bike.

CATCHING UP WITH FORMER COUNTY EMPLOYEES



Anne Berg (in Santa Fe)

I retired from Boulder County in April 2017, after 38-1/2 years. My last position was HR Manager/Benefits.

Travel is one of our favorite activities. This past year, my husband and I visited Panama, Costa Rica, Santa Fe, France, Iceland, California, and several East Coast states, including Washington, D.C., with a very special stop along the Chesapeake Bay for Blue Shell Crabs. We also enjoy day trips, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, concerts and out-of-state baseball and football games. Both of our sons live nearby, and we see them and their significant others often.

I keep in touch with several retired county employees. We meet weekly to walk and/or chat over a cup of coffee. I volunteer at Longmont United Hospital twice a month and participate in various Y exercise classes.

My favorite new activity is line dancing. I have about 10 different dances firmly under my belt....still just a rookie!

NEWS AROUND THE COUNTY

Boulder County innovates operating structure

Boulder County is restructuring its operating framework to gain more efficiency and continuity in daily operations-- a move that will free up County Commissioners to promote critical programs, increase public engagement, and support county initiatives.



Effective Jan. 14, **Jana Petersen** has been named County

Administrator and will take over day-to-day operational management of the county. Previously Administrative Services Director, Jana brings to the

new role a thorough knowledge of county operations, heartfelt investment in the county's visions and values, and a deep understanding of how the county meets community needs.

The most significant change is that department heads and other staff will now report to Jana instead of the County Commissioners. In addition to Jana, four other members of the leadership team will continue to report to the commissioners: County Attorney Ben Pearlman; Chief Financial Officer Ramona Farineau; Chief of Staff Michelle Krezek, and Susie Strife, the new Office of Sustainability, Climate Action, and Resilience.

Enjoy free BOCOWifi in county buildings



When you visit any county office, you'll be able to connect to BOCOWifi, a public guest network. You won't need a password. Just confirm the user acceptance agreement. You will not have access to the Boulder County internal network, only the public internet.

TRAVEL TIPS

Nederland's "Frozen Dead Guy Days"



Gene Myers (2nd from left)

After 22 years with the county, I retired on November 1, 2017. I proudly served kinship foster and adoptive families as a caseworker for Boulder County Housing and Human Services Department during my last 12 years.

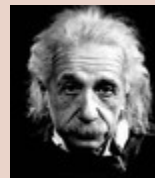
I now live in Niwot and drive part-time for my son's Colorado Courier Company. It's wonderful having a day off following each day of work, plus a four-day weekend!

I also provide companionship to a 91-year-old WWII veteran through Seniors Helping Seniors once a week.

My passions remain family and friends, sports, swimming, cooking and traveling. Sunday family dinner finds me cooking for eight to 10 family and friends. My oldest son's boyhood friend, whom we took in during high school, gave my wife and me a kinship family of our own. We have a seven-year-old kin granddaughter who calls me Papa Geno.

I often travel to New York to visit my 90-year-old Mom and sister, and I recently attended my 50th high school reunion at Archbishop Molloy High School. The photo is with three lifelong friends. I'm the tall guy, second from the left.

Words of wisdom



"Do not grow old, no matter how long you live. Never cease to stand like curious children before the Great Mystery into which we were born."

--Albert Einstein

6 helpful tax deductions, plus EV tax credits

As the year crosses over into 2020, many of us start thinking about income taxes. Helpful information flourishes on the web, but it's important to check genuine IRS sites for specific questions.



March 13-15. [Frozen Dead Guy Days](#) in Nederland is perhaps the quirkiest winter festival in the country.

The frosty festival features 30 live bands in heated super tents and outrageous events, like coffin racing, costumed polar plunging, frozen T-shirt contests, and more. Celebrating its 19th year, the home-grown festival pays homage to Bredo Morstol, who is frozen in a state of suspended animation and housed in a Tuff Shed on dry ice high above Nederland.

Ouray Ice Festival



January 23-26. For three days and four nights, [Ouray](#) turns into an ice-climbing mecca. Both novice and pro ice climbers from around the world celebrate the growing sport of ice climbing. Festival goers line the top of the gorge on Saturday and Sunday to watch the world's best ice- and mixed-climbing talent battle for prizes.

[NOLO](#), a legal site, provides simplified information on six tax deductions that you may find helpful: (1) Standard Deduction; (2) Medical and Dental Expenses; (3) Charitable Contributions; (4) Selling Your House; (5) Retirement Plan Contributions; and (6) Business Expenses.

For those of you riding e-bikes or other types of electric transportation, be sure to check out Colorado **tax credits for electric vehicles**:

<https://www.energysage.com/electric-vehicles/costs-and-benefits-evs/ev-tax-credits/>

Tips to winterize your home



Boulder County is often hit with several feet of snow each winter. To make sure your home stays warm and cozy these next few months, check out these [tips](#) on winterizing important areas of the home, such as pipes, furnaces and windows.

Save with senior discounts in Colorado

This [website](#) has put together a listing of discounts for restaurants (from Applebees to Whataburger), retail stores, grocery stores, and travel. Discounts change frequently, so please consider the listing as a "guide" only.

CELEBRATING A NEW DECADE: 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As trusted stewards of Boulder County's future, we provide the best in public service

--Boulder County Vision Statement

We'd love to include social and out-and-about news and photos in our quarterly newsletter! Visit anywhere interesting? Volunteer? Have a new grandchild? Were you out and about with other alumni? Submit photos and

info to alumni@bouldercounty.org!

Suggestions for the newsletter? Submit those as well!