The Golden Informer
The Official City of Golden Newsletter

December 2007/January 2008
Vol. 12, Issue 11

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The Golden Informer is produced and published monthly by the Golden City Manager’s Office and mailed as a source of news and information to all residences and businesses inside the City limits. Comments on The Informer are welcome.

Please write to: City of Golden, 911 10th St., Golden, CO 80401, Attn: Sabrina D’Agosta; call 303-384-8132; or e-mail sdagosta@cityofgolden.net.

The Golden Informer is the proud winner of the City/County Communications and Marketing Association’s prestigious 2005 and 2007 first place Savvy and 2006 second place Silver Circle national awards for city- and county-produced external printed newsletters in communities of up to 45,000 people nationwide.

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The Votes Are In

The results of the City’s general municipal election Nov. 6 are in. Jacob Smith was elected as Mayor, Marjorie Sloan was elected as District 1 Councilor and Karen Oxman was reelected as District 2 Councilor. Complete election information is available at www.co.jefferson.co.us/elections or by calling 303-271-8111. The swearing in ceremony and organizational meeting will be held at the Golden City Council meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10 in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St.

A farewell reception honoring outgoing Mayor Chuck Baroch and Dist. 1 Councilor Lynne Timpeiro will precede the meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Planning in Process

Golden Planning Commission intends to continue with the neighborhood planning process in the beginning of 2008. Watch for information online at www.cityofgolden.net or in your mail regarding the draft plan for the North Neighborhoods Area (north of State Highway 58) and the beginning of the next two areas, which include the East Street Neighborhood (south of downtown) and the area south of U.S. Highway 6 and west of C470 (including Golden Terrace, Golden Ridge, Heritage Dells, Eagle Ridge, Stonebridge).

Expect Survey Calls in January

The City of Golden has again contracted with Customer Connections and Innovations of Golden to conduct its annual citizen survey. Phone calls were originally scheduled to be made in November, but because of the early Thanksgiving holiday, the City postponed the survey until after the busy holiday season. Citizens should expect to start receiving phone calls in January.

If you receive a phone call, please help us get an honest assessment of our community and answer the questions. The survey shouldn’t take more than 10 minutes of your time, but it helps us become a more responsive government.
I am providing you a brief summary of the accomplishments in Golden during 2007.

• Golden’s Finance Director Jeff Hansen provided reports to Council showing the financial position of the City remains strong. The debt carried by the City is viewed by the financial institutions as being very acceptable.

• The City has continued to keep our infrastructure in good repair. The infrastructure includes streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, the water system and sewage lines. We do this mostly with our normal revenues, and not many cities, counties or states have a program like Golden’s.

• Our recreational facilities, Fossil Trace Golf Club, The Splash water park and Clear Creek whitewater park continue to be outstanding successes.

• City funded improvements that were completed or nearly completed in 2007 include the new shops facilities, the Rooney Road Sports Complex, Golden Community Center upgrades and improvements at Tony Grampsas Park. Construction of the new Fire Station No. 1 is well underway and ground has been broken for the addition to the Golden Pioneer Museum. The new parking deck on Jackson Street, funded by the Golden Urban Renewal Authority, was completed as well.

• Colorado School of Mines opened a new recreation facility, the Gateway Station has been topped off and the building should be completed in mid 2008, two buildings of Millstone are now occupied and the third building is nearing completion. The community suffered a setback when the Foss Company closed, but a bookstore, doctor’s office and spa have opened. An ice cream and candy parlor are to open soon. Staples is going in at Interplaza. The new Golden High School will be open for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

• The battle over the towers on Lookout Mountain was lost by midnight legislation introduced by Senator Wayne Allard. The Environmental Impact Study for the extension of the beltway has been delayed until sometime in 2008.

• Golden’s sustainability program was started in early 2007. Fifteen of the 45 suggested activities recommended by the citizens’ committees are underway.

• City Manager Mike Bestor was selected to serve on the CIRSA (Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency) board. Police Chief Bill Kilpatrick was selected by Governor Bill Ritter to be on a state task force. The Golden Informer and our annual financial report continue to receive national recognition for their content and format. Our water treatment plant is considered by American Water Works as being top rate, one of the best in the country.

All in all, the City has performed very well in 2007 and heads into 2008 in great shape. Last, but not least, I want to wish you very happy holidays and much success, good health and happiness in 2008.
City Receives GFOA Financial Report Award

The Certificate for Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Golden by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its 2006 comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the City of Golden’s Finance Department for being primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This is the 16th consecutive year Golden has received the GFOA award.

“It’s a great honor to receive this award because it reflects the day-to-day efforts of the entire finance staff to maintain proper records for the City,” said Finance Director Jeff Hansen.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. The City of Golden’s award-winning 2006 CAFR is available to the public by visiting www.cityofgolden.net, just scroll to Department and click on Finance.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 16,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

City Newsletter, Marketing Campaign Nationally Recognized

The City of Golden’s monthly newsletter, The Golden Informer, and the logo and website for its marketing campaign, 2HourVacation.com, were recognized as being among the best in the nation at the City and County Communications and Marketing Association’s Savvy Awards competition and 19th annual conference Oct. 24-26 in Kansas City.

The Golden Informer received the national first place Savvy award for “Printed Publications – External Newsletter” in communities with populations of up to 33,000 people. The Informer received the second place award in 2006 and was also first place in 2005. The Informer is published monthly and mailed to all of the more than 10,000 residences and businesses in Golden. It is also posted online at www.cityofgolden.net for those who live outside the city limits or prefer to read it electronically.

The City’s 2HourVacation.com marketing campaign, coordinated by the Economic Development Commission with CCT Advertising, brought home two more top awards. The campaign’s branding received the national first place Savvy award for “Marketing Plans & Tools – Branding/New Logo” in communities with populations up to 94,000 and the 2HourVacation.com web site received the national second place Silver Circle award for “Communications Technology – Web site” in communities with populations up to 44,000. CCT Advertising, based in Denver, developed the 2HourVacation.com campaign and web site as part of its 3-year contract for community marketing with EDComm.

Golden’s Communications Manager Sabrina D’Agosta and Graphic Designer Ellie Cox accepted the awards on behalf of the City at the awards ceremony held the evening of Oct. 25 at the American Heartland Theater in the Crown Center in Kansas City.

Each year, the number of entries in the 2CMa awards competition grows in quality, array and scope. This year, 780 entries were received. The program reflects the growing skills of local government professionals, as more and more governments and agencies embrace and employ the concepts of enhanced marketing and communication with citizens.

“It is an honor to be nationally recognized for the third year in a row after having made significant efforts to improve The Informer over the past several years,” said Communications Manager Sabrina D’Agosta. “This national recognition reaffirms that governments can be successful at communicating effectively with citizens, and we will continue to strive to do even better.”
said Preston Driggers of his service on the board of the Golden Urban Renewal Authority.

Do you love the place you live? Are you occasionally struck with a sense of civic pride? Do you brag to others that you live in Golden? Do you feel a sense of duty to your community? If you could be part of ensuring that same sense of pride for the next generation of Goldenites by volunteering a few hours of your time each month, would you?

“A firm believer in giving back to a community that offers so much to me, I applied to sit on the Golden Historic Preservation Board. Protecting the historic nature of our city is important, as it is one thing that makes us so unique,” said William Kistler, a Historic Preservation Board member.

Golden City Council relies on advice and recommendations from more than 75 citizens who generously volunteer their time and expertise on City boards and commissions. These are your neighbors — people just like you — who want to make a difference in this community … and they are.

“I joined [the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee in 1994] to give back to the community and found it to be an incredible place to learn about the workings of the City from a budget perspective and sometimes just generally,” said Jan Martynuska. “I love being in the information loop and the fact I can answer other citizens’ questions.”

Being “in-the-know” is one of the most common benefits of volunteering their time that board and commission members cite.

“From a selfish standpoint, I want to know what is going on in the City in which I live, and what better way to do so than to serve on a committee? But I also feel compelled to actually be a part of the decision-making process rather than just stand by and complain when things don’t go ‘my’ way,” said Jill R. Powers, a Planning Commissioner.

Indeed, it always comes back to an altruistic desire to serve the community in which you live.

“My wife and I moved to Golden 4 years ago after 30 years in Evergreen and were immediately struck by the sense of community that exists here. I realized this was due in great part to the many volunteers that selflessly give their time in an effort to make Golden an even better place to live,” said AJ Johnston, the Chair of the GURA board. “I wanted to contribute to that effort and currently am pleased to serve on the GURA board. I would certainly encourage other citizens, if they have the time, to become involved.”

Beginning in 2008, there will be seats open for citizens to join the City’s new Sustainability Board, the Historic Preservation Board and Planning Commission.

You must be a Golden resident to apply for Planning Commission, the Historic Preservation Board or the Sustainability Board.

You can learn more about these volunteer opportunities and download an application by visiting www.cityofgolden.net and clicking on Boards and Commissions in the left-hand navigation bar, or call the City Clerk’s Office at 303-384-8015.

Applications should be submitted to the City Clerk’s Office, City Hall, 911 10th St. or to sbrooks@cityofgolden.net.

The deadline for applications to the Sustainability Board is 5 p.m. Dec. 14 and interviews with City Council are tentatively scheduled for Jan. 17. The deadline for applications to HPB or Planning Commission is 5 p.m. Feb. 6, and interviews with City Council will be scheduled for Feb. 21.
In 2007, Golden City Council made the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability the top priority of the City of Golden. It’s looking like 2008 is shaping up to be an extension of the many exciting things that have been started in this arena.

On Aug. 23, 2007, Golden City Council formally adopted Resolution No. 1793, 10-year goals for the City in seven areas of sustainability as revised and recommended by seven citizen working groups (also available online).

Council ranked its Top 13 recommendations from the report and directed City staff to review them for cost and workload requirements, in addition to further analysis of creating a sustainability board and hiring a sustainability director. The remaining recommendations made by the working groups are to be reviewed over time.

In November, City Manager Mike Bestor presented City Council with Ordinance 1789, which, if adopted by Council Dec. 6, will establish the Community Sustainability Advisory Board, a step overwhelmingly recommended by the community working groups.

The board will be comprised of seven volunteer members appointed by the Mayor with approval by the Council. Members must be residents of Golden. Of the initial appointments, three members will serve 6-year terms and four members will serve 4-year terms.

Council indicated it would like to represent the following interests in the appointments to the Board:

- Three members of the community at large;
- One member who is a professional in the sustainability industry (e.g., renewable energy production, energy efficiency);
- One representative of a public research facility;
- One representative of the education profession; and
- One small business owner, or a representative of a medium or large business.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to indicate if they meet one or more of the interest areas above. Applications are being taken now through 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14. Council is tentatively scheduled to interview applicants at its meeting the evening of Thursday, Jan. 17. To apply, download an application from www.cityofgolden.net under News Items, Volunteer, or call the City Clerk’s Office at 303-384-8014. Applications should be submitted to the City Clerk’s Office, City Hall, 911 10th St. or to sbrooks@cityofgolden.net.

The primary purpose of the Board is to assist the City in achieving the 10-year sustainability goals set by Council in Resolution No. 1793 (you can review them online at www.cityofgolden.net/sustainability).
By the time you read this, the new Gateway Station Public Parking Garage should be open. This $4.5 million project contains more than 250 spaces in the garage and about 16 additional spaces along Jackson Street. The garage, located one block east of Washington Avenue along Jackson Street between 12th and 13th streets, is free and open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Golden Urban Renewal Authority financed this project to complete the 1989 Urban Renewal Plan goal of adding 500 parking spaces to the downtown area and to accommodate anticipated demand from the Gateway Station mixed-used project. The construction of the garage, the associated cleanup of the former dry cleaner’s contamination, and the land exchanges among GURA, the City of Golden, and the Banks Family were critical elements of the overall redevelopment of this important downtown corner. Thanks to our partners for helping make this happen.

Gateway Station Mixed-Use Project

Anyone driving through downtown recently has seen this exciting project underway. Gateway Station, at the northeast corner of Washington Avenue and 13th Street where Hested’s was, will bring 35 new residences and more than 16,000-square-feet of new business to downtown.

The project had a “topping out” ceremony Nov. 16 and, by the end of January, the Washington Avenue façade and sidewalk are expected to be nearing completion. About 75% of the residences have already been purchased and two businesses have announced plans to move in, including a locally-owned, old-fashioned ice cream parlor/candy store. GURA and the Golden Civic Foundation are major financial partners in this project, which should be complete by summer.

Downtown Commercial Leasing

GURA maintains a web page showcasing available commercial properties in the GURA district. Visit www.gura.com and click on the “Commercial Properties Available” link.

In 2007, more than 15,000-square-feet of commercial space has been leased or sold for a variety of businesses. Some of these have already opened their doors and others will soon follow. Remember, shop local!
SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER

Olde Golden
Christmas on Parade
Come see a true old-fashioned hometown parade down the main street of historic Golden, Washington Avenue, complete with floats, clowns, holiday characters, music and Santa from 11 to 11:30 a.m. each Saturday in December through Christmas. There is no charge and parking is free and easy. For details, visit www.2HourVacation.com.

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
Pick up your free horse-drawn carriage rides through historic downtown Golden on 13th Street between Washington Avenue and Arapahoe Street in historic downtown Golden from noon to 4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday in December through Christmas. There is no charge and parking is free and easy. For details, visit www.2HourVacation.com.

THROUGH DEC. 14

North Pole Golden:
P.O. Box for Santa
Bring your letters to Santa’s mailbox at the Golden Visitors Center, 1010 Washington Ave., and Santa will answer them. Available Nov. 10 through Dec. 14.

THROUGH DEC. 31

Visitors Center
Snowflake Decorated Tree
See the handmade snowflakes decorating the Golden Visitors Center tree. Esther Papenfus of the Foothills Art Center has again decorated a tree full of beautiful snowflakes.

DEC. 1

Mountain Fest
Designed for beginning to expert mountain enthusiasts, the Colorado Mountain Club’s 3rd annual Mountain Fest is a full day of mountain recreation skills and conservation clinics, an art exhibit, exceptional food, displays of outdoor gear, indoor rock climbing opportunities, a silent auction and dinner. Aron Ralston will present the evening’s keynote. The author of Between a Rock and a Hard Place, Ralston is famous for escaping death in a Utah slot canyon by cutting off his arm. All events will take place at the American Mountain-Eering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden, CO. Proceeds from the event benefit the CMC’s Youth Education Program (YEP). For Mountain Fest ticket information, visit www.cmc.org/mtfest information or call 303-279-3080, ext. 2.

Visitors Center
Holiday Open House
The Golden Visitors Center will host a Holiday Open House with cookies, Luna Gourmet coffee and punch from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This occasion is sponsored by Love and Logic Institute, Inc.

Olde Golden
Christmas on Parade
Voted the “Best Yuletide Celebration” by Westword in 2007, come and see this true old-fashioned hometown parade with floats.

Holiday Chili Cook Off
Come enjoy a holiday chili cook off from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the Golden Hotel, 800 11th St. Contestants will be from Wyoming, New Mexico, Nebraska and Colorado.

To list a community event happening in Golden here, please send your listing to:
Golden City Hall, Communications Dept., 911 10th St., Golden, CO 80401, or by e-mail to sdagosta@cityofgolden.net. Listings should include the date(s), the event name and a brief description of the event, which may include cost, location and contact information. Submissions must be received by the first of the month prior to the issue you would like them printed in (i.e., Jan. 1 for the February issue). Call 303-384-8132 with questions or for more information.
clowns, Christmas characters, music and Santa from 11 to 11:30 a.m. on Washington Avenue in historic downtown Golden. Pickets, 1118 Washington Ave., will have live music, artist demonstrations, hot cider and cookies after the parade. Victorian Carolers will stroll the Avenue after the parade, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Holiday storytelling “Snowflake” (a.k.a. Sharon Wheatley) will tell children’s tales from 11:30 a.m. to noon at Loveland Gardens, 1101 Washington Ave. Santa Claus will be at Avenue Gifts, 1212 Washington Ave., from noon to 3 p.m. Free holiday Newfoundland dog cart rides will be available from noon to 4 p.m. at Miner’s Alley between 12th and 13th streets, and free horse-drawn carriage rides begin at 13th Street between Washington Avenue and Arapahoe Street from noon to 4 p.m.

**DEC. 1 & 2**

**Colorado Railroad Museum’s Santa Claus Special**

Kids, bring your lists because you can visit Santa and Mrs. Claus in the big red caboose at the Colorado Railroad Museum, 17155 W. 44th Ave., and ride the train behind an historic steam locomotive. Train rides start at 10 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. Food will be available. Call 303-279-4591 or visit [www.crm.org](http://www.crm.org).

**Free Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides**

Pick up your free horse-drawn carriage ride through historic downtown Golden between noon and 4 p.m. on 13th Street between Washington Avenue and Arapahoe Street.

**Golden Concert Choir Christmas Concert**

The Golden Concert Choir, with Confluence and the Children’s Choir of Golden, will perform a Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2 at Applewood Valley United Methodist Church, 2035 Ellis, Golden. The performance will include:

- Welcome Yule!- Parry;
- Salvation is Created- P. Chesnokov;
- O Magnum Mysterium- M. Lauridsen;
- Beams of Gentle Light- R.E. Holmes;
- Little Drummer Boy;
- 3 Christmas Carols- PDQ Bach;
- Musicalological Journey through the 12 Days of Christmas- Courtney;
- with additional pieces performed by Confluence and the Children’s Choir of Golden.

Ticket prices are $12, or $9 for seniors and students and $5 for children ages 6 through 11. Special prices for groups of at least 10. See [www.golden-communitychoirs.org](http://www.golden-communitychoirs.org).

**DEC. 2**

**The Jefferson Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert**

The Jefferson Symphony Orchestra will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at the Green Center, Colorado School of Mines Campus, 16th and Cheyenne Streets in Golden. This year’s theme is Who could Ask For Anything More! Under the leadership of Dr. William Morse, music director and principal conductor, the symphony will perform the L’Oiseau de feu (Firebird) Suite by Igor Stravinsky. After intermission the orchestra will present traditional holiday music including the Hallelujah Chorus by George Frideric Handel, Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson, and Suite 1 of Many Moods of Christmas with guest artist Rhonda York and the Arvada Center Chorus. Tickets are $17 for adults, $15 for seniors with other discounts for students and children and may be purchased in advance from the Jefferson Symphony office by calling 303-278-4237, by visiting [www.jeffersonsymphonyorchestra.org](http://www.jeffersonsymphonyorchestra.org), or at the door before the concert.

**DEC. 5**

**Photographer John Fielder Presents “Best of Colorado”**

Nationally renowned photographer and preservationist John Fielder will present photos from his book, John Fielder’s Best of Colorado at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Ave. The event is a fund-raiser for Denver West Trout Unlimited, which is creating a fishery on Clear Creek just west of Golden’s kayak course. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner by Carrabba’s Italian Grille at 6 p.m., and the presentation begins at 7 p.m. Only advance tickets are available to the general public and must
be purchased by Dec. 3. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for kids 12 and younger. Call Jackie Edwards at 303-278-2282 or Rob Medina at 720-261-2058.

DEC. 6
CSM Concert Choir:
“A Messiah-Sing-Along”
Under the direction of Dr. Bob Klimek, the Colorado School of Mines Concert Choir presents “A Messiah Sign-Along” at 7 p.m. at Bunker Auditorium in the Green Center. Admission is free and open to the public. The audience is encouraged to sing along to the Messiah, which will be followed by carols and holiday music from the CSM Concert Band and Orchestra. Come and help start this new holiday tradition in Golden. Call 720-934-4539.

DEC. 7
First Friday
Downtown Golden merchants are open until 8 p.m. the first Friday of each month! Golden Greeters will be all along Washington Avenue handing out “Golden Tickets” with discount offers and other giveaway items. The Golden Civic Foundation stagecoach offers free rides through historic downtown and past Clear Creek History Park. Musical entertainment will be on-hand, as well as face painting, balloon animals, a jumping castle, puppet shows and more! Come unwind after your workweek and take in the ambiance of downtown Golden.

First Friday Art Walk
Artist David Caricato will be at Spirits in the Wind Gallery, 1211 Washington Ave., with a large array of fine wood sculptures depicting the Southwest in Northwest Masks, Ravens, Earth Dancers and unveiling new wall art. Refreshments served. Meet the sculptor.

DEC. 8
Visitors Center
Holiday Open House
The Golden Visitors Center will host a Holiday Open House with cookies, Luna Gourmet coffee and punch from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This occasion is sponsored by Love and Logic Institute, Inc.

Make a Gingerbread House
The Golden Pioneer Museum, 923 10th St., will help parents create a decorative gingerbread house with their children and learn the history of gingerbread at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required at $10 per child, ages 3 and older. Adults are free and will build the house with their children. Call 303-278-7151.

Olde Golden Christmas on Parade
Voted the “Best Yuletide Celebration” by Westword in 2007, come and see this true old-fashioned hometown parade with floats, clowns, Christmas characters, music and Santa from 11 to 11:30 a.m. on Washington Avenue in historic downtown Golden. Pickets, 1118 Washington Ave., will have live music, artist demonstrations, hot cider and cookies after the parade. Victorian Carolers will stroll the Avenue after the parade, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Holiday storytelling “Grandma Oxman” (a.k.a. Karen Oxman) will tell children’s tales from 11:30 a.m. to noon at Loveland Gardens, 1101 Washington Ave. Santa Claus will be at Avenue Gifts, 1212 Washington Ave., from noon to 3 p.m. Free holiday Newfoundland dog cart rides will be available from noon to 4 p.m. at Miner’s Alley between 12th and 13th streets, and free horse-drawn carriage rides begin at 13th Street between Washington Avenue and Arapahoe Street from noon to 4 p.m.

Children’s Free Day at Foothills Art Center
Children’s admission is free at Foothills Art Center, 809 15th St., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Browse the Art Market at your leisure while your children create wonderful gifts and crafts in the classroom. Call 303-279-3922.

Holiday Book Fair and Local Author Book Signing
The Golden Visitors Center, 1010 Washington Ave., will host local author Alice Dempsey promoting her book “Their Heritage and Hope of five generations of the Oglala Sioux Family” from noon to 2 p.m.

Newfoundland dog cart rides will be available from noon to 4 p.m.

DEC. 9
27th Annual Holiday House Tour
Enjoy a self-guided tour of some of Golden’s historic homes from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Take a stroll through history and learn bits of information of how people lived during Golden’s historic times. Tickets are $12 and available at the Golden Pioneer Museum, 923 10th St.
Music and Merriment by Baroque Folke
Foothills Art Center, 809 15th St., presents Music and Merriment by Baroque Folke from noon to 1 p.m. Enjoy live music for free, no tickets required.

Dec. 15

Olde Golden Christmas on Parade
Voted the “Best Yuletide Celebration” by Westword in 2007, come and see this true old-fashioned hometown parade with floats, clowns, Christmas characters, music and Santa from 11 to 11:30 a.m. on Washington Avenue in historic downtown Golden. Pickets, 1118 Washington Ave., will have live music, artist demonstrations, hot cider and cookies after the parade. Victorian Carolers will stroll the Avenue after the parade, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Holiday storytelling “Peppermint Patty” (a.k.a. Bernice Bertolli) will tell children’s tales from 11:30 a.m. to noon at Loveland Gardens, 1101 Washington Ave. Santa Claus will be at Avenue Gifts, 1212 Washington Ave., from noon to 3 p.m. Free holiday Newfoundland dog cart rides will be available from noon to 4 p.m. at Miner’s Alley between 12th and 13th streets, and free horse-drawn carriage rides begin at 13th Street between Washington Avenue and Arapahoe Street from noon to 4 p.m. Pick up your ride on the Polar Bear Express Christmas Train on 13th Street between Washington Avenue and Arapahoe Street from noon to 4 p.m., weather permitting.

Breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Claus
Come have breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and enjoy spectacular entertainment at 9 a.m. at the Buffalo Rose Event Center, 1119 Washington Ave. Admission is a canned food item or a cash donation for the Christian Action Guild. Reservations are required. Call 303-279-0200.

Visitors Center
Holiday Open House
The Golden Visitors Center will host a Holiday Open House with cookies, Luna Gourmet coffee and punch from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This occasion is sponsored by Love and Logic Institute, Inc.

Tea Time at the Astor House: Victorian Christmas Carols
Enjoy “Tea Time at the Astor House: Victorian Christmas Carols” at either 11:30 a.m. or 3 p.m., 822 12th St. Hear traditional 1800s Carolers, and the lilting voices of a women’s A Cappella quartet soothe your soul for a peaceful break from the hectic holidays. Back by popular demand, 4-Ever More will delight you with their harmony and fascinating facts about historic carols. Paid reservations are required. Call 303-278-3557

Make a Gingerbread House
The Golden Pioneer Museum, 923 10th St., will help parents create a decorative gingerbread house with their children and learn the history of gingerbread at 1:30 p.m.. Reservations are required at $10 per child, ages 3 and older. Adults are free and will build the house with their children. Call 303-278-7151.

Dec. 16

Silver Winds Christmas Concert
Come see The Silver Winds perform a Christmas Concert at 2:30 p.m. at the American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th St. This group is composed of flutes, harp and percussion instruments. The members come from all over the United States, Canada and England. Tickets are $12 or $8 for students and seniors. Call 303-772-2577.

Dec. 22

Olde Golden Christmas on Parade
Voted the “Best Yuletide Celebration” by Westword in 2007, come and see this true old-fashioned hometown parade with floats, clowns, Christmas characters, music and Santa from 11 to 11:30 a.m. on Washington Avenue in historic downtown Golden. Pickets, 1118 Washington Ave., will have live music, artist demonstrations, hot cider and cookies after the parade. Victorian Carolers will stroll the Avenue after the parade, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Holiday storytelling “Peppermint Patty” (a.k.a. Bernice Bertolli) will tell children’s tales from 11:30 a.m. to noon at Loveland Gardens, 1101 Washington Ave. Santa Claus will be at Avenue Gifts, 1212 Washington Ave., from noon to 3 p.m. Free holiday Newfoundland dog cart rides will be available from noon to 4 p.m. at Miner’s Alley between 12th and 13th streets, and free horse-drawn carriage rides begin at 13th Street between Washington Avenue and Arapahoe Street from noon to 4 p.m. Pick up your ride on the Polar Bear Express Christmas Train on 13th Street between Washington Avenue and Arapahoe Street from noon to 4 p.m., weather permitting.

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For more up to date information or other things to do in Golden, visit www.2HourVacation.com.
The Golden Police Department is proud to assist the Christmas Crusade for Children again this year. The Department has sponsored children and provided volunteers for 8 years. The Crusade provides donated gifts to low income and needy children to open on Christmas. Law enforcement officers sponsor children by providing names to the Crusade and later delivering the wrapped gifts. Officers also volunteer to man phone lines and shop for gifts.

Eligible children must be under 15 years-old and an officer must confirm they are in need of the donated gifts. If you know a child in need of Christmas gifts, please contact Officer Melissa Manzanares at 303-215-8870 and provide the child’s name and contact information. Officer Manzanares or another officer from the Golden Police Department will contact the child and find out what they would like for Christmas. Nominations can be kept confidential if requested.

The Crusade is partnered with FM country music station 98.5 KYGO, which will air requests throughout December. The Crusade works hard at matching the donated gifts to the specific requests of recipient children. If you would like to donate a gift or make a financial contribution, call 303-322-KIDS (5437). All donated gifts must be unwrapped. For more information or a list of drop-off locations, visit www.KYGO.com.

**CODE CORNER**

With the holiday season knocking on our doors, the Golden Police Department would like to remind residents that not everyone does their holiday shopping in stores. Below are a few suggestions to help you have a fun and safe holiday season.

- Keep your house doors and windows locked when you are not home. Occasionally walk around the outside of your house and check seldom used doors and windows. Often you will be surprised to find one or two open.
- Close your garage door when you are not in it and keep doors and windows in the garage locked. Garages offer ample opportunities for potential thieves to make a quick theft of easily accessible items including bicycles, sports equipment, tools and items inside a vehicle.
- Do not leave your vehicle running unattended on cold mornings, even if you are only going to be gone for a minute. Car thieves are specifically targeting neighborhoods on cold mornings hoping for an easy steal. A professional car thief can break into your vehicle and drive away in just a few seconds.
- When shopping, lock your car and place your gifts in your trunk or cover them with a blanket. Thieves frequently cruise through mall and shopping center parking lots looking for easy items to steal.
- Over the last few years, the Police Department has noticed an increase in lawn decoration thefts. If you have an expensive lawn decoration, place it next to a large tree or solid object and use a bicycle chain and lock to secure it in place.
- Beware of holiday donation solicitations. If you would like to make a donation to a charity, contact the organization directly. If you receive a phone solicitation, ask for a main phone number, confirm it in the phonebook or online and call them back.
- After opening any gifts, place empty boxes, manuals and assembly instructions inside a black trash bag before leaving them curbside for trash pick up. Thieves are able to inventory all the new items houses have inside by driving through neighborhoods on trash day and noting what gifts they received.

If you have questions about other steps you can take to prevent crime, call the Golden Police Department Support Services Division at 303-384-8031. The Golden Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.
As Coloradans prepare to face another bitter cold winter, help is available for Jefferson County residents struggling to pay their heating bills through the Colorado Department of Human Services Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP).

LEAP provides cash assistance to help families and individuals pay winter home heating costs. The program pays the highest benefits to those with the highest heating bills and lowest incomes by family size. Applicant income cannot exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty index, which equals a maximum gross monthly income of $3,184 for a household of four people. The anticipated average LEAP benefit for 2007-2008 is approximately $316 per household.

According to the Colorado Department of Human Services, in 2006-2007 approximately 93,000 Colorado households received LEAP payment assistance giving them much needed warmth. In Jefferson County, approximately 7,360 people received assistance last year.

To qualify for LEAP, applicants must be responsible for paying heating costs either to a utility company or to a landlord as part of rent. Applicants must also be permanent legal residents of the United States and Colorado or have household members that are U.S. citizens.

Recent Colorado legislation now requires LEAP applicants to provide a copy of valid identification and a completed affidavit indicating that they are lawfully present in the United States with their program applications. (See website or call for list of accepted documents.)

LEAP applications are accepted from Nov. 1 to April 30 of each year. Potential program applicants can apply in several ways:

- Call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) to have an application mailed to your home.
- Apply at Jefferson County Human Services, Suite 110, 900 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, CO 80401.
- Download an application from www.cdhs.state.co.us/leap/apply.htm.
- Mail or deliver completed applications to Jefferson County Human Services, Attn: LEAP Department, 900 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, CO 80401; or fax applications to 303-271-4315.

For more information about LEAP, call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) or visit www.cdhs.state.co.us/leap/index.htm to view the most current program application requirements.

If you have a live Christmas tree, the City encourages you to recycle it at an appropriate location. Golden will provide tree recycling beginning Dec. 26 at the City recycling facility off of Golden Gate Canyon Road. Just take your tree to the south end of the site. Be sure you have removed all decorations, including any tinsel or garland, before you drop it off.

To get to the recycling facility, take State Highway 93 to Golden Gate Canyon Road and head west, up the canyon, and take your first right turn onto the dirt road. You will see the signs. If you have questions about tree recycling, contact City Forester Dave High at 303-384-8141 or dhigh@cityofgolden.net.

The ICMA (International City Managers Association) Center for Performance Management’s Fiscal Year 2006 Police Services report shows Golden among the top five cities in the country reporting DUI arrests. Golden reported 16.35 DUI arrests per 1,000 population – that equates to roughly 294 DUI arrests in 2006!

This compares to 6.14 arrests per 1,000 population in Denver and 3.62 arrests per 1,000 population in Ft. Collins. Duluth, Lilburn and Woodstock, Ga., were the only cities reporting more DUI arrests in 2006 than Golden.

To avoid being arrested for a DUI in Golden, designate a driver if you will be consuming alcoholic beverages at all this holiday season.

Jefferson County Offers Helpful Home Heating Assistance

The Golden Informer
The Golden Lions Club has been busy with three community projects since putting on a fantastic Fourth of July Festival and completing the Club’s major fund-raiser at Buffalo Bill Days.

Roy Claar Memorial
The first is a memorial in Lions Park to Lion Roy Claar. A founding and charter member of the Golden Lions Club in 1943, Claar is best remembered for 61 years of community service in the Golden Lions Club. He was President of the Club in 1948 and District Governor of the Lions Organization in 1958. He provided the motivation and leadership in building Lions Park and the adjacent ballfield complex in the 1970s, and many other Lions projects since. Claar was active in the Golden Lions Club until he died in 2004.

The Roy Claar Memorial is on the southeast corner of Lions Park and features a beautiful bronze lion mounted on a brick and flagstone base, with a plaque memorializing Claar’s activities with the Golden Lions Club.

Southridge Gazebo
The second is the purchase and construction of a new gazebo in Southridge Park, just east of the roundabout at South Golden and Johnson roads (the one with the statue of the American Indian on horseback). This is the fourth gazebo to be purchased and constructed by the Golden Lions Club in neighborhood parks since 2004. Two gazebos were built in Norman D. Park on North Ford Street and a third gazebo was built in Beverly Heights Park. The gazebos are well received and utilized by the local neighborhoods.

History Park Repairs
The third is a series of small construction and repair projects at the Clear Creek History Park. First, the Lions built two 20-foot replica historic gold sluices and two rocker gold sluices for use in the History Park’s mining and history educational programs. A 1,000-foot water line for the sluices was also installed. Currently, the Lions are repairing and rebuilding the rail fence around the Park, which has been increasingly unstable. Previously, the Lions were stabilizing and replacing broken sections of fence. The replacement is an ongoing project expected to last well into Spring. The Club will also build eight replica historic benches for use with classes and larger groups that visit the Park.

“Without the outstanding assistance of [Parks Supervisor] Shawn Sprenger and his hard working Parks Department crew, none of these projects would be possible,” said Golden Lion John Spice.

Likewise, the City of Golden would like to sincerely thank the Golden Lions Club for its continued investment in and dedication to the Golden community. It is the service of dedicated volunteers with vision like the Golden Lions that make Golden such a special place.
Power Training
Power Training at 9 a.m. Mondays and Fridays is an incredible workout. A new format for Golden Community Center fitness, this class utilizes weights, fit balls and gliders (what are those? Join and find out!). You are guaranteed to work up a sweat and see results.

Zumba
Two time slots are available to check out Zumba. Held at 7 p.m. Mondays and 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Zumba will make you dance away calories and stress with Latin music and moves.

Ballroom Dancing
Do you enjoy watching “Dancing with the Stars” and long to learn the steps? Now is your chance! All skill levels are welcome to have fun and let out your inner Fred Astiere or Ginger Rodgers. Dance the night away at the Golden Community Center at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays with Latin dancing at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

Spinning
Cycle enthusiasts, it’s getting cold and dark outside. Join great instructors (avid cyclists) indoors this winter with awesome music and a warm ride. Spinning classes are available at noon five days a week with other rides available in the early mornings and evenings. Come in and give it a spin.

Opera For Beginners
Opera for Beginners will empower beginners and regulars alike – exposing the most melodic and moving operas ever written. Learn the musical highlights, plots, composers, backgrounds and translations of each opera. Presented by Tom Powers, Opera for Beginners begins Jan. 9.

Genealogy for 50+
Genealogy for 50+ will give you the opportunity to trace your ancestral past and pass it on to the next generation. The four-week course will introduce you to the art of research and census work and includes a visit to the federal archives. You will collate information, pictures and documents, and leave the course organized and ready to continue your search!

Snowball Camp
Don’t miss out during this Holiday Break! Snowball Camp for 5- to 12-year-olds is held during the Jefferson County school break and is guaranteed to keep everyone busy. Activities include field trips, arts and crafts, gym, cooking, swimming, climbing and more. Registration is now available at www.goldenrec.com.

Young Rembrandts Cartoon Drawing
Learning to draw can be fun, especially when creating silly characters, funny expressions and drawing sequences that tell a joke. This program combines innovative, step-by-step drawing methods with light-hearted subject matter that engages children, their sense of humor and their vivid imaginations.

Call 303-384-8100 or visit www.goldenrec.com for more information.
Terry Sanchez, the childcare coordinator at the Golden Community Center, considers herself lucky. She is an early riser and frequently enjoys early morning workouts before work. After her workout, a busy day begins when she opens the door to greet children ages 6 months to 7 years in the Community Center Childcare Center.

“The environment at the Community Center is a friendly and positive experience for both parents and children,” she said. “I feel very fortunate for my family and me to be a part of it.”

An active Golden resident for 12 years, Terry has become a fixture at the Community Center for the past 5 years as a childcare coordinator and more recently a facility coordinator in Guest Services. A mother of two, she has enjoyed working with children since her teenage years as a summer camp counselor. Terry has joined forces with a professional childcare staff, Kristan and Lindsay, who work evenings and Saturdays in the Childcare Center.

Terry and her team offer childcare services to children whose parents or guardians are utilizing the facility, whether participating in a class or just browsing the internet in the lobby at the Golden Community Center. Childcare rates are $2.50 per child for 1 hour with a maximum of 2 hours. A 30-punch card is also available for purchase at Guest Services for a reduced fee.

The Childcare Center is open mornings Monday through Friday, evenings Monday through Thursday, and Saturday mornings. The childcare team strives to meet the needs of clientele by staying late on Thursday nights to accommodate Thursday night yoga participants. Visit the Community Center for a schedule of childcare hours.

While Terry enjoys Julie Messa’s boot camp and core conditioning classes at 5:45 a.m., the Community Center offers a variety of fitness classes for all ages and skill levels. Relax in morning yoga on Wednesday mornings or crank it up a notch with spinning and boot camp throughout the week. Mid-morning to early afternoon offers stretching and low-impact classes, as well as muscle strength, yoga and cardiovascular classes.

The after-work crowd will have aerobic opportunities such as step, muscle plus and fitball, or specialty classes, including pilates, yoga, meditation and spinning.

Many of the Community Center classes are included in facility admission.

For those who prefer specialty classes, a 10-visit or 25-visit Fitcard is available for purchase, which allows the user access to any specialty class on the schedule.

For schedules and additional information on the Golden Community Center, call 303-384-8100 or visit www.cityofgolden.net/parksandrecreation.
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The “So and Sews,” a group of 
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sewed more than 500 holiday stockings they donated to Denver Human Services on Nov. 14.

The “So and Sews” had the idea to sew the new stockings while volunteering with Denver Social Services stuffing holiday stockings that were not well made – some were glued together and falling apart. Dorothy Plattenburg, from the group, was inspired and challenged the group to sew 500 stockings for this year. The group accepted the challenge and, after hundreds of volunteer hours of cutting patterns, sewing and decorating, they are delivering the goal of 500 stockings.

Plattenburg cut and sewed more than 300 of the stockings herself, setting up a mini assembly line to sew and decorate each one.

“I remember a long time ago when I was in an orphanage in Nebraska and these stockings would have brought Christmas cheer to [us] children,” Plattenburg said.

The group stuffed stockings with goodies for neglected and abused children and low-income senior citizens Nov. 14 and delivered them to Denver Human Services. These stockings are sure to bring much joy to the many children and seniors in the metro area who receive them this holiday season.

Loved Clear Creek RV Park

My name is Tom Hayden and my wife and I spent last week at Clear Creek RV Park. We had a wonderful time because of the experience with your staff and Marie Schmitt in particular. I would like to thank you and Marie for her outstanding help with our stay at your facility. I would like you to know that the people working for your RV Park were very helpful and exceeded in their efforts to make the campers comfortable.

I thank you and complement you on the condition and upkeep of the park. My wife and I had one of the best times I can recall because of your facility. 

Thomas Hayden, Evansville, Indiana

Fossil Trace “A Steal”

I was recently in Denver visiting my best friend from high school, and he recommended we play your [Fossil Trace] golf course. I am so glad he did. I have played golf all over this country and in a few others. Fossil Trace immediately jumped to my top 5 courses. The course is beautiful. The staff was very friendly and accommodating. The cart girls, especially Sara, were the nicest I have ever met. The course was in amazing shape. The fairways were immaculate, the greens were perfect, very quick but very fair. The cost, $65 for a weekday afternoon, was a steal. I have paid three times that much for courses that don’t even compare. I am looking forward to my next trip to Denver so I can play the course again. And I hope to get at least 2 rounds in on that visit. Thank you for having such an amazing place. 

Randy Sumrow, Charlotte, North Carolina

Staff Greatly Enhanced Community Center Reception

You have a wonderful staff member on your team [named Larry Rock] and I hope he is recognized for that. My husband and I had our reception at your Community Center – not only was the place beautiful, but Larry was the most helpful person to deal with. Larry is filled with kindness and very patient. He made things so easy for us and we felt well taken care of on our important day. I will refer and recommend our family and friends to your facility anytime. 

Dominique Trujillo
Winter's back, and the holidays are just around the corner. Literally. So swing on over to downtown Golden for a few hours and escape the typical holiday madness. Not to mention the cookie-cutter atmospheres. Golden offers a unique shopping experience, friendly entertainment and more holiday ambiance than you can imagine. Find your holiday getaway, a listing of shops and restaurants, and a complete schedule of events at 2HourVacation.com.

**OLDE GOLDEN CHRISTMAS ON PARADE.**

See a true hometown parade complete with floats, holiday characters, Santa, music, and much more. Saturdays in December at 11am on Washington Ave.
A Venue
With a View

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY TODAY!
Located at the base of the foothills, the Golden Community Center is perfect for weddings, parties and other events. Bring in your own caterer or we will provide a list of reputable caterers.

Contact Larry Rock at 303-384-8133 for space availability, facility tours and rates