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.

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Cover photo by Ellie Cox

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The Golden Informer
HEADS UP: Important Upcoming Items

This regular column in the Golden Informer identifies some of the items of greater community interest that are likely to be scheduled for community discussion in coming weeks. For specific agendas and schedules, visit www.cityofgolden.net.

Special Election to Be Held in Ward Four

At its Jan. 17 study session (after press time), Golden City Council was scheduled to discuss the type of election to hold in Ward 4 in order to fill the vacancy created when Jacob Smith resigned his Ward 4 Council seat to be sworn in as Mayor on Jan. 10.

The Golden City Clerk, who is responsible for administering the election, was recommending the election be held in April. Updated information was to be posted on the City’s web site at www.cityofgolden.net after the Jan. 17 Council meeting and will be included in the March 1 issue of the Informer.

Ward 4 residents should check with the Jefferson County Election Division at 303-271-8111 if they have questions about whether they are registered to vote and whether their registration is active.

A zoomable PDF map of the City’s ward boundaries is available online at www.cityofgolden.net by rolling your mouse over Residents & Visitors and scrolling down to Maps, click and then select the City Council Wards & Districts map.

Annual Citizen Survey On Hold

The City of Golden intended to conduct its annual survey in January, but decided to put it on hold indefinitely. After an evaluation of the survey questions, City staff decided that it may prove more productive to instead create multiple surveys that can go in to more detail on specific subject matter. For example, rather than asking one question on code enforcement, as has been done in past surveys, staff believed more could be gained if an entire survey be done on code issues with more detailed questions. These more targeted surveys could provide staff with additional information to better help expand programs that are working well and correct problem areas.

Staff is currently working to identify survey areas and create new questions before it schedules the surveys for the year. More information will be posted online and published in the Informer as it becomes available.

Council Discussing 2008 Priorities

One of Mayor Jacob Smith’s first items of business was to start the new year off by asking City Council to agree to a list of priorities for the year.

Mayor Smith outlined his priorities and those that remained carry-overs from last year, and then asked City Council to weigh in with its input. Council was expected to discuss the priority list at its Jan. 17 meeting after press time.

An update on the Council’s final priorities will be available online at www.cityofgolden.net. The initial draft included:

- Sustainability initiative
- Walkability
- Bikeability
- Housing affordability
- Neighborhood plans
- Policy governance
- Billion dollar boondoggle (i.e., norheast quadrant superhighway)
- Golden Vision 2030
- Inclusive cities

Mayor Smith also said he’d like to wrap up smaller but important projects previously started but still incomplete, such as the dark skies initiative and updating the historic preservation code.

Below is the Golden City Council’s calendar. Regular study sessions are scheduled for the first and third Thursdays and regular business meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Thursdays of each month 7 p.m. Thursdays in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St., unless otherwise noted. Council does not normally meet on the fifth Thursday in any month.

Feb. 7
No Meeting – Boards and Commissions Appreciation Dinner

Feb. 14
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Feb. 21
Regular Study Session

Feb. 28
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Council’s upcoming agendas, packets and meeting minutes are available online under the City Council link at www.CityofGolden.net. Public comment is welcomed and on the agenda at all regular meetings.
The start of a new year is always a good time to talk about priorities. I am excited to be Golden’s mayor and I am committed to working hard, along with my colleagues on the City Council, to address our priority issues, tackle the unexpected challenges and help guide our vision for the future.

Over the next several months, we will create ad-hoc citizen task forces on three important issues: walkability, bicycle friendliness and housing affordability. The task forces will allow City Council to tap into our community’s experience and knowledge of these issues. They will each have a short, fixed lifespan, and will be charged with making specific recommendations to Council about plans and priorities. The walkability task force will make recommendations about prioritizing spending on improving pedestrian friendliness; the bicycle task force will make recommendations about updating our Bicycle Master Plan; and the housing affordability task force will make recommendations to City Council about what sort of program we should consider adopting.

Last year, we created the Golden Sustainability Initiative; this is the year we move beyond planning and begin taking action. Our new Community Sustainability Advisory Board will be responsible for shepherding our initiative, taking its cues from the ambitious renewable energy, water conservation and other goals we adopted last fall.

Continuing our involvement with the Inclusive Cities Partnership is also important. Our efforts in walkability and bicycle-friendliness, housing affordability, and keeping City Council transparent and accessible will contribute to the inclusiveness of our community in a variety of ways.

We will also dust off, update and hopefully adopt a set of clear performance expectations for our City Manager. This certainly makes it easier for the City Manager to do his job, since we will have clearly spelled out what we expect of him.

Of course, we will continue energetically promoting responsible transportation solutions in the Denver Metro region, working judiciously to ensure a high-speed superhighway through Golden is never built.

Growth remains one of Golden’s greatest challenges: in addition to honoring our 1% residential growth limit, we also can do a better job of making sure that changes in the community are compatible with our neighborhoods and our small town, historic character. We completed one neighborhood plan and started several others last year, so this year we’ll want to complete these and queue up whichever neighborhoods are ready to go next.

Finally, effective democracy depends on government that is open and accountable to the community. We do a lot to make sure that we are transparent and accessible: we broadcast both our City Council business meetings and study sessions, we make all the City Council packet materials available to everyone online, and we publish and distribute the *Golden Informer* to everyone in Golden. But we can always do better, and we will continue looking for ways to improve.

We on the City Council represent all of you, and city government is your government. On behalf of the entire City Council, I invite you to be part of this vital community institution. Join us at City Council meetings or watch us on Comcast Channel 8 or online at www.cityofgolden.net/channel8, participate in open houses or public meetings on issues that interest you, serve on one of the community’s boards, commissions or task forces. You can stay informed by reading the *Golden Informer* when it comes in the mail, reading our local newspaper and subscribing to one or more of several community email newsletters (I have one and there are several other good ones you can get). You can always call your City Councilors to ask about issues or express your thoughts. It is an honor and a privilege to serve our exceptional community, and I look forward to the challenge. Please always feel welcome to contact me with your questions or concerns.

By Mayor Jacob Smith

Looking Forward: 2008

The Golden Informer
The long-time City Attorney for the cities of Golden, Lafayette and Sheridan, Jim Windholz, 65, president of Boulder-based Windholz & Associates law firm, died of a heart attack Jan. 1. Windholz was in California to attend the funeral of his sister, Mary Beth Lind, who died on Christmas Day.

Windholz had been appointed and served as the City Attorney in Golden since January 1990, in Lafayette since May 2004 and in Sheridan since October 2002. His firm wrote the Charter that made Sheridan a home-rule city. Other public agencies his firm currently represents include the Estes Park Urban Renewal Authority and the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

In his role as City Attorney, Windholz advised the City Councils he served on legal issues pertaining to their duties and functions, attended Council meetings, handled litigation, and drafted ordinances, resolutions and contracts. Windholz advised all three cities’ Councils on many significant legal issues and led them through many legal cases. He was particularly well versed in Colorado’s urban renewal law, and all three of the cities he has served saw notable urban renewal during his tenure.

“Jim had a winning record in court that would make any football coach jealous,” said Golden City Manager Mike Bestor. “He led Golden to victory time and time again in many difficult cases, some of which have set legal precedent in the State of Colorado. He will be remembered for his wisdom, honesty and integrity. To say he’ll be sorely missed is an understatement.”

Sheridan Mayor Mary Carter worked with Windholz in writing the city’s home rule charter beginning in December 2001 and presided over the Council that hired him as City Attorney in October 2002.

“He’s been absolutely invaluable to our city as far as the urban renewal we are doing,” Carter said. “He’s been an integral part of our city for about seven or eight years. His loss is going to be sorely felt by all of us. Several of us on Council are personal friends with him. This has been a very sudden blow to us, to say the least.”

Under Jim’s direction, Windholz & Associates assisted Lafayette through the process of updating sections of the City’s Municipal Charter, organizing a special election in February 2007, and the successful negotiation of sev-
Golden Continues to be a Municipal Model of Sustainability Efforts

In 2007, Golden City Council set its sights on sustainability, for both the City as an organization and as a community.

As you may know, Golden took the unique approach of inviting the community in to evaluate the initial goals set by City Council, and asked citizens to form working groups to study and make recommendations on how to achieve those goals.

Golden citizens spent months establishing sustainability goals in a number of areas and presented their recommendations to City Council in August. City Council ultimately adopted the goals and identified 13 of the recommendations for additional study. The Community Sustainability Advisory Board is in the process of being formed and will carry on this work over the next 10 years.

Concurrently, the City is engaged in an internal sustainability effort led by staff. An audit of the City’s current facilities has been completed and recommendations are being formulated for presentation to Council. Staff has also launched a new comprehensive employee recycling program (see below).

In approaching the sustainability initiative by heavily involving the public and employees in both establishing goals and in making implementation recommendations, the City of Golden has positioned itself as a leader in municipal sustainability efforts.

The Sonoran Institute featured the City of Golden in its recent newsletter on sustainability, specifically highlighting the innovative ways Golden has involved the community from the inception of the program.

The League of Women Voters contacted Golden and is using our Sustainability initiative as the model for input it will give to a similar program being created by Jefferson County.

Cherry Hills Village City Council and Arvada representatives have contacted Golden for information on our initiative, and City Manager Mike Bestor was invited by Ft. Carson to speak at a sustainability conference about our program.

Crested Butte, Mt. Crested Butte and the City and County of Gunnison are also working collaboratively using Golden’s system.

The City of Golden is proud to be recognized as a leader for our sustainability initiative and we plan to continue to provide leadership as the program continues. For more information, visit www.cityofgolden.net/sustainability.

City Launches Expanded Internal Recycling Program

One component of the City’s sustainability initiative analyzes internal city operations. While the employees have been recycling materials for several years, an expanded and comprehensive recycling program is being implemented to capture and divert greater volumes of recyclables.

A group of employee volunteers worked over several months in 2007 to create new procedures for all city employees to follow. In addition to existing efforts to recycle paper, aluminum, motor oil from city vehicles, and asphalt and concrete from street projects each year, the new program will expand to include the “single-stream” recycling concept. Single-stream recycling includes all types of plastics, all colors of glass, metals, paper and fiberboard, and can be collected together in one bin. The intent is to make it easier for people to participate in recycling and, therefore, increase the amount recycled.

By comparison, the City has recycled approximately 320 cubic
Mark Your Calendar for the 2008 Tree Sale

It’s not too early to plan for spring landscape planting – and the City of Golden’s annual Parks and Recreation Department tree sale is just around the corner.

Research indicates that the advantages we seek from the plants we grow – including shade, improved air quality, cooling, stormwater control, aesthetics and carbon storage – are best obtained through the planting and nurturing of trees. For this reason, the City of Golden encourages citizens to purchase trees for planting in their yards with the wholesale prices offered through the tree sale.

The City of Golden purchases high-quality deciduous trees at low cost from Trees Across Colorado, a program of the non-profit Colorado Tree Coalition, an organization dedicated to the enhancement of Colorado’s community forests. The City will also continue to offer a selection of coniferous trees, as well.

In order to make the best use of City resources and provide the most beneficial service to the community, there will be two significant changes to the program this year: the City will no longer sell shrubs, and the sale will be open to residents living within Golden city limits only. To purchase trees through the sale, participants will need to present proof of residency through either a valid driver’s license or a current water bill.

Purchases can be made between March 1 and April 7 via forms available at the Golden Community Center and online at www.cityofgolden.net. Quantities of deciduous trees are limited, so consider ordering early. Prices range from $43 for any of the selection of 11 different deciduous trees to $115 for a 4- to 5-foot Colorado Spruce.

Trees purchased will again be distributed during the latter half of April. More detailed information will be printed in next month’s Informer, or contact City Forester Dave High at 303-384-8141 or dhigh@cityofgolden.net.

Recycling from page 6

yards of common materials (glass, plastic, aluminum and paper) per year, whereas it is estimated that the new program will recycle more than 1,600 cubic yards of material. That’s a 500% increase in the amount of materials recycled!

Additionally, staff is looking further into several other programs that will target recycling or reuse of existing materials, including:

- Opportunities to increase the City’s recycled asphalt and concrete program, which is part of street reconstruction projects each year and reuses old street materials in the creation of new streets;
- An expanded brush and mulch program that continues to use the north recycling location as a drop-off site for vegetation, such as leaves and Christmas trees;
- A new demolition program that is intended to reduce the amount of building materials that end up in landfills by connecting landowners with nonprofits, such as Habitat For Humanity, to reclaim building materials and fixtures that can be used again; and
- Research of the potential to provide recycling services in City parks and at events.

An internal survey of City employees showed great enthusiasm and willingness to participate in the new recycling efforts. The staff efforts in 2008 show great potential toward the City’s sustainability efforts and goals.
Fire Station No. 1 Construction Progressing

The construction is progressing on the new Golden Fire Station No. 1. There have been limited impacts due to winter weather, and construction remains on schedule. Golden Triangle Construction (GTC) completed all the structural masonry and veneer brickwork in early January.

The second floor steel and concrete are complete and roofing was expected to be up by the end of January. Interior framing and stucco work was also scheduled for completion last month.

The interior of the building will begin to come together in February. “The project is coming along nicely,” said Fire Chief John Bales.

The fire station will be home to Fire Administration, Fire and Life Safety, and Training Division personnel, as well as housing up to eight volunteer firefighters working day and evening shifts.

The Department will have six fire and rescue apparatus responding out of the new station, which will also have facilities for some minor maintenance, an upgraded breathing apparatus room, an area for cleaning contaminated turnout gear and equipment and a hose tower for proper drying of fire hoses.

The second floor will house a large training classroom that will also be utilized by the City of Golden as a computer training center for city employees. “It will provide one-stop shopping for our customers when they need to conduct business with the Fire Department,” said Chief Bales.

The project is expected to be complete by late spring or early summer 2008. A public dedication ceremony will be planned following completion.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS

Free Public Parking Garages Open in Downtown Golden

The new Gateway Station Public Parking Garage is open. The entrance to the garage is located on Jackson Street between 12th and 13th streets. There are nearly 300 parking spaces in and around the structure, which replace the 100 spaces previously available on the site. This garage features an elevator and enclosed stair wells.

The 315-space Clear Creek Square Public Parking Garage is also open. Its entrance is also on Jackson Street, just north of 12th Street.

Both parking structures are free and are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please use these parking structures whenever possible so that the 2-hour on-street parking remains available for shorter errands.

Both garages were constructed by the Golden Urban Renewal Authority to encourage downtown commerce. Please remember that when you shop in Golden, you are supporting your community and all the resources it offers you.
The Golden Fire Department is looking for a few good recruits, and now non-Golden residents can join up too!

Golden is one of just a few remaining volunteer-based municipal fire departments in the metro area. When the Golden Fire Department was founded in 1879, local merchants volunteered with the Department and would close up shop when calls came in. While the tradition of the fire service remains grounded in that same sense of duty to community, gone are the days when the needs of the City can be met in this manner.

The Golden Fire Department responded to more than 1,200 incidents in 2007, including structural fires, wildland urban interface fires, vehicle fires, hazardous materials spills, medical assistance calls, and a wide variety of technical rescues. To answer these challenges, the Department needs dedicated people to volunteer and help keep more than 125 years of volunteerism alive.

The Golden Fire Department provides volunteers with equipment and uniforms, annual length-of-service awards, a great pension plan, and training and certifications in the following areas:

• Firefighter 1;
• Hazardous Materials Operations;
• Medical First Responder; and
• Opportunities for advanced certifications.

To become a volunteer firefighter in Golden, there are no residency requirements. Non-residents who join up must work a minimum of three 12-hour shifts per month. Other requirements include:

• 19 years old at date of application;
• Valid Colorado Driver’s License; and
• Pass required testing and thorough background check.

For more information about joining the Golden Fire Department and an application, visit www.cityofgolden.net. To apply, contact Lt. Gene Quador at 303-215-8885 or gquador@cityofgolden.net.
American Mountaineering Museum to Open

The Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum public grand opening is Saturday, Feb. 16. The museum will detail the history of mountaineering and highlight the role Americans have played in its evolution. In addition to the emphasis on current achievements and issues facing contemporary climbers, the topics of climate change, conservation, mountain cultures and science will be explored. The museum will answer the age-old questions, “Why do people climb?” and “How do they get those ropes up there?”

The museum is a joint venture of the American Alpine Club, the Colorado Mountain Club and the National Geographic Society. Both the AAC and CMC have long histories and are in possession of the artifacts, oral histories and engaged members necessary to tell the story of mountaineering well. The NGS is a world-renowned institution devoted to the dissemination of geographical knowledge and their partnership greatly enhances the museum.

In addition to the opening of the museum, the American Mountaineering Center has also opened a gift store, featuring exciting items from the museum and the world of mountaineering that can be found few other places in the country.

Golden is excited to be home to the nation’s mountaineering museum – the only museum of its type – and encourages citizens to visit it at 710 10th St., Suite 150. Admission is $6.50. For more information on the museum, visit the blog at http://bwamm.blogspot.com.

Show Your Love Through A Quilled Valentine

Make special Valentines for those you love with paper quilling at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 9 at the Golden Pioneer Museum. Enjoy this activity with your child and learn the history of this celebrated tradition. Adults are free and will assist their children during this activity. Cost is $10 per child and prepaid reservations are required. Call 303-278-7151.

Wild Mountain Celts Concert

Well-known local Celtic band, Wild Mountain Celts, will perform a benefit concert for Heritage Irish Stepdancers at 7 p.m. Feb. 13 in Acoustic Alley at Miner’s Alley Playhouse, 1224 Washington Ave. Cost is $15 in advance or $18 at the door. Call 720-870-0397 or visit www.acousticalley.org.

American Mountaineering Museum Opening

See sidebar at left.

A Proper Lady’s Dressing Secrets

Sharon Guli arrives for tea in her Victorian underwear (oh my!), then adds and explains each layer of historic clothing until she is at last “properly and decently” attired. Including far more than corset, see all a Victorian lady’s secrets revealed. Enjoy your choice of a $25 luncheon at 11:30 a.m. or $15 dessert tea at 3 p.m. with this dramatic performance Feb. 16 at the Astor House Museum, 822 12th St. Paid reservations are required by calling 303-278-3557.

Benefit Tea and Silent Auction

Attend a presentation by a local author while enjoying tea sandwiches, cookies, tea and coffee at the 54th Annual Benefit Tea and Silent Auction for the Golden Pioneer Museum from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 16 at the First Methodist Church, 1500 Ford St. There will be a silent auction of items donated by local businesses. Call 303-278-7151.

Presidents Day

City administrative offices remain open.

Total Lunar Eclipse Viewing

The moon will undergo a total eclipse as it passes through the Earth’s shadow between 8 and 9 p.m. Feb. 20. Join
Lookout Mountain Nature Center astronomy team members at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at either Crown Hill Open Space Park or Elk Meadow Open Space Park’s Lewis Ridge Trailhead for a clear view of the whole event (weather permitting) through a variety of telescopes. Be sure to bundle up and bring binoculars. The event is free and suggested for ages 10 and older. Call 720-497-7600 to register and receive directions to the park.

FEB. 23
Buffalo Bill’s Birthday Bash
The Buffalo Bill Days Committee invites re-enactors and history buffs to attend Buffalo Bill’s Birthday Bash from noon to 8 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Buffalo Rose Events Center. Re-enactors may enter contests on character presentation with costume or costume only in character categories covering the 1840 to 1917 timeframe including Buffalo Bill, Old West (male and female) and Military. Call 303-384-0003 or email goldenbuffalobilldays@msn.com.

FEB. 24
Jefferson Symphony Orchestra Concert
The Jefferson Symphony Orchestra will perform “Who Could Ask for Anything More” at 3 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Green Center on Colorado School of Mines campus. Under the leadership of Dr. William Morse, music director and principal conductor, the symphony will perform Olympic Fanfare and Theme by John Williams; Symphony No. 2 in B Flat Major, Op. 21 by George Whitefield Chadwick, and jazz selections by Brubeck, Evans, Gershwin and others. Tickets are $17 for adults, $15 for seniors, with other discounts available for students, children and groups. Call 303-278-4237 or visit www.jeffersonsymphonyorchestra.org.

FEB. 26
Living Landmarks Dinner
The Golden Landmarks Association is hosting its 7th annual Living Landmarks Dinner at 6 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Golden Hotel in conjunction with Sweetheart Month. The dinner honors local volunteers who have made a large commitment to Golden. Call 303-279-1236 for information and tickets.

For more up to date information or other things to do in Golden, visit www.2HourVacation.com.
SpaceTime
SpaceTime, Colorado’s premier science education provider, is bringing cosmic fun and learning to the Golden Community Center. Throughout the winter and early spring, SpaceTime will offer rocketry- and Mars-themed camps. Workshops and afternoon enrichment programs are designed to help kids ages 6 to 12 learn about and explore the wonders of outer space while having serious out of this world fun. SpaceTime’s programs will take kids on interactive journeys through the cosmos with activities such as building and launching SpaceTime Cosmic Cruisers, touring the Red Planet in 3D, building and piloting mini Mars Landers, exploring the challenges of space travel, building and launching different kinds of rockets, making “Mars Mud” and much more. For more information on SpaceTime programs offered at the Golden Community Center, check out the website at www.SpaceTime-Kids.com. If you are interested in registering for a SpaceTime class, contact The Golden Community Center at 303-384-8100.

Adult Softball and Kickball Leagues
Golden Parks and Recreation will once again host a variety of adult softball and kickball leagues for all ages and abilities beginning in Spring 2008. All registration information is available online at www.cityofgolden.net/adultsports. To sign up for the adult sports mailing list, call Becky Richmond at 303-384-8194.

A New Year to Recreate

The definition of recreate is to “impert fresh life to” or “to refresh mentally or physically.” The Golden Community Center offers a variety of fitness equipment and classes to help you achieve your definition of recreation. If you are a beginner looking for fitness strategy, or just need an extra push to get started, personal training staff is available to customize a workout for all ages and skill levels.

The New Year brings a new addition to the Golden Community Center. Angela Shea joins the team as Wellness Coordinator. Shea graduated from Colorado State University and has enjoyed a career in corporate wellness including at the Coors Wellness Center. A Coloradan native, she began in the wellness field at 17, working at local gyms and playing sports in and around Golden. She reminisces about swimming in Golden’s outdoor pool when it was located in the lot west of the library, where the Farmers Market is now held each summer. In her spare time, Angela coaches volleyball and spends time outdoors with her miniature Pinscher puppy.

“I can’t wait to begin a new chapter in my life at the City of Golden working in wellness! I am very excited to get to know the staff and patrons at the Golden Community Center,” she said.

Shea encourages residents to recreate at the Golden Community Center by purchasing an annual pass or 25 visit fitcard. Fitcards may be used for admittance to any separate fee class not included in facility membership or daily admission. New and renewing annual and fitcard pass holders will receive a free Golden Parks and Recreation water bottle. Water bottles are available while supplies last. Sign up and keep your body healthy and hydrated.

For more information on fitness programs and personal training, or to take a virtual tour of the 2007 weight and cardiovascular addition, visit www.cityofgolden.net/parksandrecre.
You can now tour a variety of City facilities without leaving the comfort of your own home. The City of Golden is offering virtual tours thanks to the generous work of local photographer Shawn Steigner.

Now, when you visit www.cityofgolden.net, you can click on Residents & Visitors, then Community Center, and then Facilities and take virtual tours of the places you may be interested in taking a class or renting for an event.

There are virtual tours available for the Community Center’s lobby and main entrance, indoor playground, lap pool, leisure pool, the Front Porch senior center, fitness area, lower aerobics room, community room, gymnasium, and climbing wall.

Steigner has lived in Jefferson County since 1996 and in Golden proper since 2005. His work regularly appears in The Golden Informer, often on the cover. But Steigner’s specialty is in panography – taking a series of photos and digitally creating a full panoramic view by fusing them together into one virtual image. You may have seen similar photography used on real estate web sites to show a full 360-degree view of a room, for example.

“I’m enthralled with the possibilities this photography forum offers for viewers and photographers alike,” Steigner said. “It can help those who are unable to climb to the top of a mountain … to witness the majesty. Panography holds the promise of opening doors to those who are so often shut out of the natural world.”

In Golden’s case, his virtual tours allow those who live far away or just don’t have time to view the Community Center’s many amenities without physically being there. That means booking a wedding or birthday party, or checking out the new fitness equipment available since the Community Center remodel last year is all possible from your own home.

Steigner generously made his panographic services available to the City at no charge because he said he loves living in Golden and wanted to give something back to his community.

Steigner also is helping document history with his panography. He was able to capture a virtual tour of the inside of Golden Fire Station No. 1 before it was razed to make room for the new station, now being built adjacent to City Hall. Once the new station is open, Steigner will create a virtual tour of the new facility and both will be available online for viewers to compare.

For more information on Steigner’s work, visit www.photosurveyor.com or view the virtual tours at www.cityofgolden.net.
Take an Active Role in City Planning

Are you interested in the planning of your city and how it will look in 10-, 20 or even 100-years? Ever wonder how the 1% residential growth limit works? How all the various facets of city regulations work? Ever been interested in taking an active role in regulation changes involving zoning and subdivision activity?

If so, you might be just the person City Council is looking for to fill four terms on Golden Planning Commission that expired in January 2008 and another to fill a vacancy for a seat that expires in January 2010.

The Planning Commission affords citizens like you with the opportunity to actively participate in the planning of the City and its welfare; to learn all facets of the regulations governing such functions; interact with a wide variety of citizens participating in the shaping of Golden’s future; and assume an active role in any regulation changes involving zoning and subdivision activity.

Regular meetings are held at least once each calendar month, generally on the first Wednesday in the evening, as well as study session and special meetings when necessary.

“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 Powers, a current Planning Commissioner.

If you’re interested in serving on Planning Commission and would like more information, contact the Planning and Development Department at 303-384-8097.

To apply, you must be a resident of the City of Golden. Applications are available online at www.cityofgolden.net or through the City Clerk’s Office by calling 303-384-8014 or at City Hall, 911 10th St., Golden 80401. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14 to the City Clerk’s Office. Interviews with City Council are tentatively scheduled at the 7 p.m. regular meeting, Thursday, Feb. 28.

Volunteer Victim Advocates Needed

Victims Outreach Information (VOI) is looking for volunteer victim advocates to be trained to offer emotional support and crisis counseling to crime and trauma victims in Jefferson County.

Advocates will also provide information about the criminal justice system, community referrals, and aid in acquiring emergency shelter and other immediate needs. Victim Advocates carry a pager four to six shifts per month and must respond on-scene to assist crime victims when requested by Law Enforcement within 20 minutes. VOI serves the cities of Wheat Ridge, Golden, Edgewater, Lakeside, Mountain View and Colorado School of Mines.

To qualify, applicants must submit to a background check, be at least 21 years old, have an open and non-judgmental attitude toward victims and survivors, and the ability to communicate well, use common sense and respond quickly.

Advocates will be provided with in-depth and ongoing training in dynamics of victimization and will gain direct experience in providing support to people in need. The initial 40-hour training begins Feb. 19. You must make at least one year commitment to the program. College internships will be considered.

For a volunteer application, contact the volunteer coordinator Aneesha at 303-202-2196 or email victimoutreach@aol.com.
Seniors Receive Coors Community Service Award for Recycling

The Golden Community Center’s Front Porch senior center received the 2007 Coors Volunteer Community Service Award on Dec. 13. Front Porch Director Debbie Van Dyke accepted a plaque and fleece jackets on behalf of the volunteers for the contributions to the Coors Can Recycling Program.

The partnership is a unique and rewarding union – a public-private partnership that benefits everybody and sets an example of how businesses can take action to keep the environment safe and clean. Volunteers collect cans from various pick up points around the Coors complex, at Golden City Hall and the Golden Community Center. Coors provides the truck, the senior volunteers provide their time, and items that may have otherwise ended up in a landfill are instead recycled and reused.

There are currently six volunteers working with the program. They are Chuck Korus, Harold Payte, Harold Lees, Shirley Vincent, Charlie Driste and Beyer Patton. Ralph Frang, Bob Vogel and Clyde Harbor recently retired after 10 years of can collecting with the program.

“All of these people show true dedication,” said Van Dyke on accepting the award. “As one example, Shirley Vincent, our can collecting secretary and resident tiny lady, has been witnessed climbing into dumpsters on route with two burley men. She climbs in to get at the cans that have fallen out of the sacks. After she passes the cans over, one of the men will literally lift her out ... Shirley is truly a dumpster-diving diva!”

Van Dyke said the program is always looking for additional can-collecting volunteers, and assures anyone interested that dumpster diving is not a requirement of the job. For more information about the program or volunteering, contact Van Dyke at 303-384-8131 or dvandyke@cityofgolden.net.

Golden has the following assets as of the end of 2007:

- Miles of Water Lines: 108.25
- Miles of Storm Lines: 52.39 Of these, 23.24 are maintained by the City of Golden while 29.15 are considered privately held (property owner, Jefferson County, CDOT, etc.).
- Miles of Sanitary Lines: 76.48 Of these, 75.72 miles are maintained by the City while less than a mile is considered private.
- City Trails: 20 miles
- Acres of Parks: 179.42 acres
- Acres of Open Space: 377.7 acres
- Miles of Roads: 78.49 miles that are owned and maintained by the City. There are over 149 “centerline” road miles in the City, which include not only City maintained but also private, federal, state and county roads. Please contact Ron Reavis at 303-384-8155 or rreavis@cityofgolden.net to determine the number of lane miles within the City.
This is my last article for the Informer as Mayor of Golden as my term ended Jan. 10, 2008, and Jacob Smith took over the helm as Mayor. Congratulations to Jacob, Karen Oxman and Marjorie Sloan on their victories in November. Thanks also to Lynne Timpeiro for her dedicated service to the citizens of Golden during the last four years.

I want to thank city staff, the many City Council members and citizens who worked with me during my 12-year tenure on Council, the last six as Mayor. Many changes that greatly improved Golden have taken place during those 12 years.

Golden added many amenities for our visitors and citizens. We built the nationally recognized Fossil Trace Golf Course. We added the Tony Grampsas complex, expanded the community center, built the Splash swimming facility and added to and improved our parks. We improved the operations of the City by expanding City Hall, building the new shops facilities and are in the process of building a new Fire Station No. 1 next to City Hall. Guanella Reservoir was completed with storage capacity that would last the city 90- to 120-days.

The economic health of downtown was greatly improved through a combination of City, private enterprise and community organizations. Millstone, two parking decks, the Gem Theater building, Gateway Station (currently under construction), Golden Hotel, Table Mountain Inn expansion, Clear Creek Square, and the American Mountaineering Center have provided residential, retail, office and entertainment facilities without increasing the sprawl of Golden. These facilities also improved the attractiveness of the city to visitors and tourists.

Clear Creek Commons, Golden Pond and the Ulysses senior complexes were built. These facilities provide a complete range of services to our senior citizens who wish to remain in Golden.

The City and State helped build new trails and the kayak course that attract so many outdoor enthusiasts. The public art partnership and two new bridges helped beautify downtown. The City continued to be selected as a “Tree City USA” because of our attention to planting new trees.

Interplaza and the King Soopers shopping centers were built and the Coors Tech Center was annexed into the City. These facilities generated sales and property tax revenues that helped make many City projects possible. These revenues also helped recruit and retain a quality City staff and provide very excellent police and fire protection.

Three citizen initiatives were approved. The 1% residential growth limit contained sprawl and resulted in Golden remaining a nice, small town. The limit on incentives without voter approval has proved that incentives aren’t the only factors that attract commercial and retail businesses to a city, as Golden has added a number of businesses without significant incentives. Beginning in 2003, the citizens were able to elect their mayor rather than having Council select the mayor from amongst themselves. I had the privilege of being the last appointed and first elected mayor in Golden’s recent history.

I believe that during the last 12 years, the City had more significant changes than any period in Golden’s history. I thank the citizens who allowed me to serve on Council during this time. Even though I am no longer on City Council, I plan to continue to be involved in Golden as a private citizen.
By former Councilor Lynne Timpeiro

This is a shortened version of Councilor Lynne Timpeiro’s farewell speech to Council on Jan. 10. The full version can be viewed online at www.cityofgolden.net/channel8.

The last four years have been a true learning experience for me. Not only has it been a learning experience, it has been one of growth – a growth of love and respect for many.

I owe my constituents and everyone on staff and on Council an apology. I came on board with a mission: to find out what the hidden agenda was for the City. I had been thoroughly convinced that one existed. … I’m going away with the knowledge that it can’t be found because it doesn’t exist.

To say that I was going to change the ways and outlooks of the various people already in place within the City is putting it mildly. But it didn’t take me long to figure out that these people are doing their jobs for the benefit of the residents and the City; and, they are doing their jobs in a fantastic manner. So, the next time you read that certain individuals need to be replaced or have deceived the residents of this City, I would ask that you think again.

As with any city, we have downfalls, but overall we have a water supply that will last many years; our streets are better maintained than most; and, we have a staff that closely monitors our 1% growth factor. …

I want to thank [Public Works Director Dan Hartman] and [our] water attorneys for teaching me everything about water and water laws that are so mind-boggling, I’m still not sure I have a full grasp on them.

[Planning Director] Steve [Glueck has] been a gem by simply putting up with my 2, 3 and sometimes 4 pages of questions on land and zoning use questions. I hope that you will miss those emails.

[City Clerk] Susan [Brooks], [Communications Manager] Sabrina [D’Agosta], [Finance Director] Jeff [Hansen] and [Parks Director] Rod [Tarullo] – thank you all so much for making my position on City Council much easier!

[Police] Chief [Bill] Kilpatrick and [Fire] Chief [John] Bales, …your work (and that of your staff) is greatly appreciated, not just by me, but by everyone. These are probably the toughest jobs around, but you have managed to keep great working crews! A huge thank you to both of you and your staffs. …

My thanks to [City Manager Mike Bestor] for teaching me about the inner workings of city government and how to read a budget. You have come up with some ingenious, workable ideas that have benefited the City all around. Your work with biennial budgets has allowed the residents to have benefits that other cities envy. You have taken time out to go over minor things with me that no one else would have given thought to. Your staff is a mirror-image of your workings.

Councilors, what can I say? Thank you so much for putting up with my constant questioning of issues that may seem clearer to you than to me. Thank you for being there for me when I needed to sound off or ask opinions.

To the residents who have stuck with me for four years: THANK YOU! You have supported me; given me opinions when I asked for them – and, when I haven’t. Yours are the voices that this and all future Councils should be listening to, so speak up and tell them how you feel about the issues as that’s the only way they will know how to properly represent you.

Council, the people elected you to represent their interests in the City, so that is what you should do. You need to back burner your own wishes and desires, putting theirs ahead. Talk to the residents, the property and business owners and really, really LISTEN to what they say. This is a small community. Keep it that way. Don’t have Golden trying to compete with Cherry Creek, LoDo or any place else. Golden is unique unto itself and, again, the residents are basically satisfied with the way it is.I wish you the best in your endeavors to keep Golden golden!
THE PASSING OF THE GAVEL

In November 2007, voters elected then Ward 4 Councilor Jacob Smith to serve as Mayor, ending Mayor Chuck Baroch’s 12 years of service on City Council as the gavel was passed at the Jan. 10 Council meeting. Marjorie Sloan took the oath of office to serve as District 1 Councilor in place of Lynne Timpeiro, and District 2 Councilor Karen Oxman was reseated to serve her second 4-year term. A special election will be held in April to fill the Ward 4 seat.

Photos by Shawn Steigner

Mayor Chuck Baroch passes the gavel to Mayor Jacob Smith at the Jan. 10 City Council meeting.

Mayor Jacob Smith

Mayor Pro Tem/District 2 Councilor Karen Oxman

District 1 Councilor Marjorie Sloan

Golden’s City Councilors take their seats Jan. 10. From left to right: Councilors Joe Behm, Diane Chesbro, Marjorie Sloan, Mayor Jacob Smith, Karen Oxman and Mary Weaver.
The sales tax refund is limited to senior, low-income or disabled individuals who have lived within the city limits of Golden for at least 90 consecutive days in 2007 and cannot be claimed as a dependent on any other person’s tax return. The refund amount for 2007 is $40. This will be adjusted for partial year residency in Golden.

Please check one box only:

- Senior Refund (must be 65 years or older)

- Low Income Refund
  Proof required. Attach a photocopy of one of the following:
  - State of Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate approval notification
  - Proof of Medicaid benefits
  - Proof of LEAP eligibility
  - Proof of eligibility for food stamps

- Disabled Refund
  Proof required. Attach a photocopy of one of the following:
  - State of Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate approval notification
  - Proof of full benefits from Social Security Disability Income, SSI or the Department of Human Services
  - Proof of total disability from a public or private insurance plan

Please print or type:

Name: Mr(s). __________________________________________
Age: ___________ Date of Birth: _______________
Name: Mr(s). __________________________________________
Age: ___________ Date of Birth: _______________
Address: __________________________ Golden, CO ZIP: _______
Phone: __________________________

How many months did you reside in the city limits of Golden during 2007? _____ months
Were you claimed as a dependent on any other person’s income tax form? yes no

Signature: __________________________ Signature: __________________________

This form must be submitted by no later than April 15, 2008.

Refund Donation Option:
You have the option to donate your refund to a City of Golden program or department by checking one of the boxes below:

- Golden Volunteer Fire Department
- Golden Cemetery
- Golden Senior Front Porch
- Other City program or department (please identify): __________________________

Office Use Only:
Account #013031-6190 STR Vendor # __________ Received __________ Payable __________
2008 Summer Employment Opportunities

The City of Golden will soon be accepting applications for seasonal and part-time positions at the Golden Community Center, The Splash Aquatic Park, and Fossil Trace Golf Club. Opportunities include Lifeguards, Swim Instructors, Field Crew, Day Camp Leaders, Youth Program Leaders, Parks, Cemetery and Golf Maintenance, Pro-Shop Guest Services, and Cashiers and Food and Beverage Workers at The Splash.

Be sure to watch our website at http://www.cityofgolden.net/Employment.asp for job availability

OR
subscribe to our website at http://www.cityofgolden.net/Login.asp where you can enter your email address and ask to be notified each time a new job is posted.