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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 newsletter format and its content 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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The Golden Informer
The multi-track efforts to improve Golden’s use of energy and improve its overall sustainability are well underway.

The City staff committee is drafting a request for proposals that will attract “Energy Service Companies” to bid on conducting an audit of the City’s facilities and operations. This audit will result in a series of energy saving recommendations that may be implemented at the City’s discretion.

Concurrently, this staff committee is developing its own list of ideas for saving energy on the way the City operates municipal buildings and operations. If all works as planned, the City should be able to cut costs and improve efficiency.

Back in February, Council adopted a series of sustainability goals on topics such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, economic health, etc. Dozens of citizen volunteers have been working since February to add their thoughts to these goals. One Community Working Group was formed for each one of the topics. The seven groups have completed a first draft of their comments on City Council’s preliminary sustainability goals and proposed some new ones. These Community Working Groups will continue refining their research through the summer, and will present their findings to Council later this year.

The City will send a team of six to Grand Junction to attend the three day Community Energy Futures Institute. The Sonoran Institute, www.sonoran.org, organized this conference to help communities such as Golden develop and implement sustainability plans. This was a competitive process, and the City is excited to be chosen among just eight communities who will attend to learn from experts and each other.

For regular updates and background information on these efforts, please visit www.cityofgolden.net/sustainability.

HEADS UP: Important Upcoming Items

Public Hearing on Golden Road Zoning

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.

City Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing June 7 regarding a proposal to amend the zoning at 520 Golden Ridge Road to allow potential construction of multi-family dwellings on a parcel near the proposed light rail station at the Jefferson County Administration Building.

The proposal has been discussed in neighborhood meetings and in a Planning Commission public hearing. Interested parties are encouraged to review the case materials on the City’s website at www.cityofgolden.net and communicate with City Council.

First Fridays Begin in June
The downtown area merchants will begin holding evening activities on the first Friday of each month, starting June 1. Planned activities include entertainment and special features in a number of stores. For more information, visit www.2hourvacation.com or call the Golden Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center at 303-279-3113.
Ward 1 City Councilor Mary Weaver held her ward meeting May 1 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Ward 2 Councilor Joe Behm held his meeting May 8 at the Golden Community Center. This report covers some of the highlights of these two meetings. A report covering the Wards 3 and 4 meetings that were held after press time may be included in the July Informer if those meetings provide any significant items not discussed in the Wards 1 and 2 meetings.

About 60 people attended the Ward 1 meeting held at the Fairgrounds and about 40 people attended the Ward 2 meeting held at the Community Center. The formal meetings lasted from 65 to 75 minutes with some informal discussions taking place both before and after the meetings.

Both Mary and Joe started off the meetings with prearranged discussion topics, followed by questions and answers from the attendees that covered other areas of interest. Since it appeared that all attendees had their questions answered, the attendees obtained information they wanted.

Wards 1 and 2 have a large common boundary, so there was some commonality in the items discussed. The end of line station for Fast Tracks has a potential impact on both wards, as well as possible development of property near Heritage Road. There are a couple of sites where development will probably occur. The sites are zoned for office and commercial development. However, one of the sites might be rezoned for residential, i.e., apartments or condos. These developments concerned the citizens because of the increased traffic and congestion created by the development.

The subject of continued development in Golden continues to be of concern. There is still some doubt that Golden is abiding by the 1% growth limit. Planning Director Steve Glueck assured citizens that, other than the exemptions for the Millstone Project in the GURA district and the senior housing projects, the City has abided by the growth limit. He indicated that new home construction in Golden has slowed. He also reaffirmed that the 1% growth limit only applied to residential units not retail or commercial. City staff also reviewed the status of several other developments including Big Tree, Overlook and the new Fire Station No. 1.

Traffic speed and congestion, motorcycle noise, and parking (especially around Colorado School of Mines, on 19th Street and in the vicinity of Golden High School) remain big issues with the citizens. Police Chief Bill Kilpatrick discussed these issues. The parking problems at Mines and Golden High will be addressed at a May 17 meeting of City Council. Neither problem has easy answers. However, the problem around Golden High should go away when the construction of the new school is completed in August 2008.

Public Works Director Dan Hartman reviewed the status of the beltway project. The Colorado Department of Transportation's Environmental Impact Statement is undergoing internal review and the draft should be issued in the summer, more than a year late. At this time, it is difficult to predict the findings as there have been no external meetings for several months.

The supertower on Lookout Mountain is under construction and it appears that the County is not going to enforce any of the agreements in the ODP. The City continue exploring options to oppose this development.

The development of a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan was briefly discussed. This study will assess the adequacy of the existing parks and the needs for others. The downtown development plan will address how downtown should be developed to retain the historic character of the City.

Both meetings demonstrated democracy at its best. It is a great way for citizens to have a dialogue with the staff and Council in an informal manner. More people should take advantage of this opportunity. Watch for next year’s meetings and plan to attend!
The City has opened a new location for citizens to continue recycling at after it closed the former recycling location in the Splash parking lot May 15. The City hopes the new location, which is also being operated with the generous support of Coors Brewing Co. and Ball Corp., will be better able to accommodate the tremendous demand for recycling in Golden.

The relocation was primarily necessary because the capacity needed to handle the high demand for recycling is not compatible with the Splash water park’s operations during the summer. The recycling program originally started with a capacity of just 16 cubic yards and one pick up per week. Since that time, capacity has been more than doubled to 36 cubic yards and those bins are being picked up five times a week! That’s 9,360 cubic yards of recyclables being hauled away each year!

To get to the new recycling location, citizens can take U.S. Highway 6 to State Highway 93, turn westbound onto Golden Gate Canyon Road and take the first right turn. The City is increasing capacity and pickups at the new location, but reminds citizens not to jeopardize the facility by littering, dumping or leaving items outside of full bins.

Likewise, leaving items at the Splash location since it was closed is considered illegal dumping and carries a fine of up to $999 and/or imprisonment of up to 6 months. Please take all recyclable items to the new location and dispose of them properly.

The City also urges citizens to contact their own trash haulers to request curbside recycling service at their homes. Every trash hauler that operates in Golden is required by the Municipal Code to provide residential curbside recycling services. Rates and types of materials recycled vary between haulers, so citizens are encouraged to compare. If your HOA has a trash hauling agreement negotiated for all its residents, work with the board to get curbside recycling included for your entire neighborhood. Licensed haulers’ names and phone numbers are listed below.

For curbside recycling, call:
B.F.I. Allied Waste, 303-286-1200
Camelback Disposal, 303-227-3035
E.D.S. Waste Solutions, 303-278-8600
Republic Services, 303-289-9045
Rocky Mountain Waste Systems, 303-478-4717
Waste Management of Colorado, 303-797-1600
Westside Recycling, 303-940-0128
We are now just weeks away from completing construction on a new municipal facility to house the City’s Fleet, Streets, Utilities, Parks and Facility Maintenance Divisions. The new facilities, located west of State Highway 93 and north of Golden Gate Canyon Road, replace the current facilities located off of 8th Street, west of the Golden Community Center.

The existing facilities, which are between 30 and 80 years old, just haven’t kept pace with the City’s current equipment and activities. About one-third of the City’s fleet is too large (too long, too wide or too tall) to be serviced inside the vehicle maintenance building. Materials that should be stored inside (salt/sand, deicing chemicals, traffic control signs, fleet equipment with water tanks) have to be stored outside. The fuel tanks are too small to take advantage of bulk pricing or to have adequate emergency supplies (the City ran out of fuel during the March 2003 blizzard). The wash facility does not comply with the strict requirements of the Clean Water Act. Bulk materials are stored in piles rather than in bins making them susceptible to washing away during rain or snowmelt.

The new shops facilities address all of these deficiencies and incorporate the following sustainable approaches into the design:

- The orientation of buildings on the site is based on the location of overhead doors and winter conditions (i.e., doors face south on heated vehicle and covered vehicle storage buildings and east on salt/sand building – away from the wind!)
- The north high bay windows are clear to allow greatest amount of light and heat into bays.
- Sun shades and translucent panels are used on south side windows to control solar effects but provide natural light (natural light in fleet building is almost enough)
- Office windows have low E, insulated glazing that reduces heat loss but allows warming from the sun.
- Electric conduit has been provided to the parking lots to allow for future electric vehicles
- Recycled carpet and sheet floor covering (linoleum) has been used in office and bathrooms areas
- Bathrooms have automatic on/off faucets and low flow urinals and toilets, saving water
- There are a variety of occupancy sensors and day-light detectors for lighting control, saving energy
- The Fleet maintenance bays have in-slab hot water heat (why heat the top of the high ceilings when the

New Golden Municipal Shops Facility to Open

NOW!

Then
people are near the floor?)

- Lighting meets Xcel’s energy efficiency standards and qualifies for rebates
- White coating on rubber roofs, creating a cooler surface, which can lower cooling costs
- Porous concrete in front of salt/sand building (stormwater that comes in contact with snow control chemicals will percolate through concrete and filter system below before flowing to storm sewer – providing cleaner water when it reaches Tucker Gulch)
- Vehicle wash facility has a water recycling system
- Siding at the shops is Hardy Panel, a fiber cement board recognized for its environmental benefits by Built Green Colorado
- Office furniture will be supplied by AIS, a company that won the Shingo Prize for lean manufacturing and producer of Greengard Certified office furniture
- Recognizing that the Jefferson County Road and Bridge Department is located adjacent to the new shops site, a connector road is included in the project. The road was constructed to allow cooperation and future partnerships between the City and the county.

The team that worked to design the new facilities was RNL Design (architect), Maintenance Design Group (equipment), Pinkard Construction (general contractor, constructability and estimating), TST (civil), ACR Engineering (value engineering), and Golden’s Public Works Director Dan Hartman and Deputy Directors Anne Beierle and Vince Auriemma. The team designed the facility to meet the needs outlined in the City’s 20-year growth projections and the site can be expanded to meet needs over a 50 year horizon.

Construction started in April 2006 and included extensive site work (including some blasting) and infrastructure (roads, water, sewer and drainage utility installation). Five lots that will be serviced by the new infrastructure will be sold to offset most of the land purchase costs.

One ¼-acre lot has been dedicated to historic preservation. The structure on the site, the former home of the brickyard manager, is to be restored by the Golden Landmark Association.

Construction is expected to be complete in early June. The Public Works Department, in fact, plans to hold its quarterly meeting there the morning of June 4! Move in for all of the Divisions should be complete by July 1.

The old shops facilities will house the Golden Fire Department during reconstruction of Fire House No. 1 (read more about this project in next month’s issue of the Informer), then they will be demolished. Much of the property will be held by the City for public parking and in anticipation of future needs, however, the upper lot off 8th Street may be sold.

Special thanks to the City Shops Project Manager Anne Beierle for her vision and tireless efforts to make this project a reality.
Cool Cars Come to Golden for Wild West Auto Roundup

Family Visit Perfect for Father’s Day Weekend

While Clear Creek can be an enticing place to cool off in the hot summer months, the City of Golden would like to remind citizens that the creek is extremely dangerous and has taken many lives. Currents are so fast, especially during the spring runoff season, they can easily knock a person off their feet and sweep them down the river.

The Golden Fire Department’s swift water rescue team regularly pulls people innertubing and swimming in the creek to safety. When using Clear Creek for recreational purposes, citizens should take all necessary safety precautions. You should never swim or innertube in the creek, especially without proper safety devices (including a life vest and helmet). Young children should never be allowed to play near the creek’s banks.

Also, do not let dogs swim in Clear Creek, where harsh currents can pull them into the middle of the river and tire them out before they make it safely back to the shore.

If you want to use Clear Creek recreationally, please contact a professional to learn a water sport, or instead, keep it safe and attend the Splash Aquatic Park to cool off (see page 18).

More than 200 vintage automobiles line Washington Avenue in historic downtown Golden for the annual Wild West Auto Roundup from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 16. The festival provides plenty of music, including Van Jeffries as DJ, and live music on two stages with performances by Hot Flash and Local Disturbance. The family will find fun kids games, rides and entertainment by circus characters. Local barbecue, Italian sandwiches, soft drinks, Coors beer and other food and beverage stations will be set up throughout downtown. Fly fishing and kayaking demonstrations will wow visitors on scenic Clear Creek.

The auto display showcases many different makes, models and years of muscle cars, vintage cars, hot rods, original stock cars, street rods, trucks and race cars. Entrants will be judged in 14 different categories with 26 trophies awarded at the main stage in front of Foss General Store at 2:30 p.m., including a popular vote, the People’s Pick.

Downtown Golden features 30 different retail shops and restaurants (most of them independently owned), many cultural attractions and nine different museums, recreational opportunities including biking and walking paths, fishing and kayaking, easily turning a two hour visit to Golden into a mini-vacation.

Organized by the merchants of historic downtown Golden, the Wild West Auto Roundup is sponsored by Coors Brewing Co., the Golden Civic Foundation and Golden’s Economic Development Commission.

For more details and other great things to do in Golden, visit www.2HourVacation.com.
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS

GURA Projects, Big and Small, Underway

The Golden Urban Renewal Authority, GURA, has a number of projects underway this Spring. Here’s the latest update on the projects, big and small.

BIG: Gateway Station

After a long spell of utility work, the construction of the Gateway Station mixed use project and the parking structure are both in full swing. In April and May, crews excavated the sites and then poured the foundations. Once the parking garage foundation is finished, the rest of garage will be constructed by a large crane placing precast panels to form the walls and floors of the structure. The crane is so large that it has to be constructed with the help of yet another crane – this ought to be quite a sight!

The wall panels are concrete with bricks placed in the concrete as it is poured into a horizontal mold. Then the panels are simply welded together. This is a much more efficient and cost effective way to make a brick wall, and the concrete is more durable than mortar. The garage should be finished this fall.

Gateway Station is a much more complicated building, so it will not be complete until next spring or summer. The phases after the foundation will begin with completing the elevator shaft and putting up steel framing.

You can view webcam snapshots of the construction and construction updates at www.gura.com.

SMALL: Loveland Rest Stop

Have you ever noticed that small, neglected patch of ground on Washington Avenue next to the Century 21 building? It was easy to forget because there was not much to look at. According to local historian Richard Gardner, back in the early days of Golden, it was the site of the Loveland Building, downtown’s first storefront, a site of pretty major historic significance.

Gardner believes that William A.H. Loveland built his original mercantile and public hall there in 1859, and that the building was the site of Golden’s first Christmas celebration, the Jefferson Territorial Legislature (1860-61), the Colorado Territorial House of Representatives (1862-66), the Jefferson County government (1860-68), probably the first city government, probably an early home to our Methodist and Baptist churches, and the original home of the first Masonic Lodge in Colorado (still operating at 400 10th St.).

The building was razed in 1930 and nothing replaced it. That has now changed, thanks to a project initiated by GURA and constructed by the volunteers of the Table Mountain Garden Club.

GURA and Century 21 agreed to a $1/year lease to allow the creation of a community park area. With financial and in-kind support from GURA, Century 21, the Golden Civic Foundation, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden Lions Club and Golden Rotary Club, GURA is building a small slice of heaven in the heart of downtown. Contact GURA at 303-279-4162 to help finish or maintain this tribute to volunteerism and relaxation.

Downtown Survey

Please go to www.gura.com/downtownsurvey to answer a few questions and share your vision of the future of downtown.

Representatives from four City boards have been working for more than a year to develop a new set of planning documents for downtown Golden and the Clear Creek Corridor. The Downtown Character Committee (two members each from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Historic Preservation Board, Planning Commission and GURA) convened 11 focus groups and organized two open houses to solicit public opinion on changes to the Golden Urban Renewal Plan and the Downtown Design Guidelines, as well as to get reactions and feedback on ideas for a master plan for the Clear Creek Corridor (from U.S. Highway 6 to Coors). The Committee is also studying the optimal business mix and best land use for the greater downtown area. A summary of the input so far is available at www.gura.com/projects.

While the Committee received hundreds and hundreds of ideas, it recognizes that more input is required before they can finalize recommendations to Council. The survey at the link above should help the Committee gain that final boost of input – but only if you help out. Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey.
JUNE 1
First Friday
Downtown Golden merchants are stay-
ing 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 will offer free rides through historic downtown
and past the Clear Creek History Park.
Musical entertainment will be onhand,
as well as face painting, balloon ani-
mals, a jumping castle, puppet shows
and more! Come unwind after your
workweek and take in the ambiance of
downtown Golden.

JUNE 1
Golden Rotary’s 6th Annual
Golf Tournament
Golden Rotary’s 6th Annual Golf Tour-
nament will be held June 1 at Fossil
Trace Golf Club. The event includes
dinner and a silent auction. All proceeds
benefit the charitable programs of the
Rotary Club of Golden. For information
and to sign-up, call Tom Hughes at 303-
278-2823.

JUNE 1 THROUGH JUNE 31
Summer Reading Club
Join the Summer Reading Club from
June 1 through July 31 at the Golden
Public Library, 1010 10th St. This year,
if children and teens read 150,000 total
hours, the Jefferson County Library
Foundation will donate $1,000 to the
Victim Services Kids Program of the
Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office. The
donation will go toward books for chil-
dren working through times of crisis.

JUNE 2
Golden Supercruise
For the third year in a row, the Golden
Super Cruise brings several hundred
car enthusiasts with cars of all types
to South Golden Road on the first Sat-
urday evening of the month through
October. Cruisers meet at 6 p.m.,
park, eat, socialize and listen to tunes
by DJ Van Jeffries before cruising
as a group at 7:30 p.m. down Wash-
ington Avenue in historic downtown
Golden. Spectators are encouraged.

SATURDAYS,
JUNE 2
THROUGH
OCT. 6
Golden
Farmers’
Market
See article on Page12.

JUNE 5 AND 19
Intercambio/Language
Exchange
Practice English or Spanish and help
others in a friendly atmosphere at 7 p.m.
Tuesdays, June 5 and 19 at the Golden
Library, 1019 10th St. Participants speak
half the time in English and half in
Spanish. This is not a class, but rather an
opportunity to improve Spanish/English
skills through conversation. There is no
need to register, and beginners are wel-
come. This program takes place the first
and third Tuesdays of each month.

PHOTO BY SHAWN STEINGER
JUNE 9

**Gallery Talk**
The Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, 1111 Washington Ave., hosts the Ellen Ann Eddy Gallery Talk from 4 to 6 p.m. June 9. The event is an opportunity to talk with the creator of quilts on display in Gallery II. Call 303-277-0377 for reservations.

JUNE 15

**Good News Social**
The Golden Civic Foundation’s 16th annual Good News Social will be from 5 to 9 p.m. June 15 at the American Mountaineering Center. Tickets are $15 and reservations can be made by calling 303-278-9697 or 303-279-3113 by June 11.

JUNE 16

**Wild West Auto Roundup**
See article on Page 8.

JUNE 16

**Summer Solstice Concert**
Friends of Astor House Museum and Clear Creek History Park present the annual Summer Solstice Concert from 5 to 9:30 p.m. June 16 at Clear Creek History Park. Spread your blanket on the natural hillside amphitheatre and hear the harmony of voices, fiddles and guitars as the light lingers in the summer sky. The hay barn and pioneer cabins frame the frontier setting on Clear Creek, with views of the table mesas and foothills. Enjoy microbrews from the Golden City Brewery, grilled burgers, kettle corn and homemade root beer. Dance if you want, the chickens don’t mind. CCHP is proud to be a community partner with Swallow Hill Music Association for this popular event featuring the Riff Raff Boys, Timberline and more. All proceeds support Friends of the Astor House Museum and Clear Creek History Park, a nonprofit museum. Tickets are available at the Astor House Museum or Swallow Hill box office. Call 303-278-3557 for more information.

JUNE 18 THROUGH 22

**Let’s Make a Quilt**
The Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, 1111 Washington Ave., hosts “Let’s Make a Quilt,” where campers will learn how to use a sewing machine and the basics of constructing a quilt. All supplies are provided, including machines. Open to boys and girls ages 7 and older. Cost is $75 for the week. Call Kathy Gill at 303-232-7848.

JUNE 26

**Tuesday Night Books**
Join the Tuesday Night Books for a discussion of “Fluke: Or, I Know Why the Winged Whale Sings” by Christopher Moore at 7 p.m. June 26 at the Golden Library, 1019 10th St. For information, call 303-279-4585.

JUNE 27

**Unfinished Objects**
Work on and talk about your UFOs – unfinished objects – at 6:30 p.m. June 27 at the Golden Library, 1019 10th St. Crafters of all types are welcome. Participants may stay the entire length or come and go as they please. The group meets every fourth Wednesday of the month.

AUG. 17

**55th Annual Golden Flower Show**
Bring your entries to the Golden Gardeners’ and Table Mountain Garden Club’s 55th annual Golden Flower Show from 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 16 and 8 to 11 a.m. Aug. 17 at the First United Methodist Church, 1500 Ford St. Not restricted to Golden residents, cash prizes are offered for winners and juniors are encouraged to enter as well. The show is free and open to the public for viewing from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, with more than 300 flowers, vegetables, floral designs, potted plants and special exhibits. For more information, call Deb Robinson at 303-503-4117 or Swiss Hoffman at 303-200-0964.

For more up to date information or other things to do in Golden, visit www.2HourVacation.com.
The Golden Farmers’ Market begins June 2. Locals and visitors alike should get ready to eat, talk and buy their way through this fun and tasty weekly event from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through October 6 (except for during Buffalo Bill Days on July 28) in the lot just west of the Golden Library on 10th Street.

There will be new vendors this year along with old favorites. Live music and free horse-drawn carriage rides through historic downtown Golden will entertain visitors of all ages and an antique John Deere tractor will be on hand to admire. Garden décor, specialty treats, flowers and plants, and hard-to-find items fill up many of the booths. But the star of each market is always the great food: fresh fruits and veggies, frozen fish and meats, fresh breads, canned condiments and sweets, locally-made wines, plus wonderful pasta and unique cooking ingredients.

The Golden Farmers’ Market is always a welcome addition to the summer lineup of outdoor events. It’s where people hang out, buy fresh veggies and specialty items for picnics and enjoy the beauty of the seasons in Golden. To bring even more people to enjoy the benefits of shopping and spending time at a farmers’ market, the Golden Farmers’ Market managers have worked hard to bring new features to the market this season.

As a result of a grant from the Colorado Farmers’ Market Association, Golden’s market is going to be one of only a handful of Colorado farmers’ markets able to participate in the Federal EBT/Food Stamp program. In an effort to bring healthy food to those who are served by the program, the market will accept the food stamp card for market dollars that can be spent on eligible items – namely non-prepared foods intended to be eaten at home and seeds and plants with which to grow food. The cash program will also be accepted at the market.

In addition, the wireless machine at the market can also accept debit cards. Market managers will offer $20 increments of “Market Bucks” to be spent at the market like cash.

Another added feature this year, the Golden Farmers’ Market will bring in Master Gardeners from the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension office to do weekly demos and projects for both seasoned gardeners and kids who just want to get their hands in the dirt. Weekly topics will include: container vegetables, kids’ terrarium making, hanging baskets, rock gardening and forcing bulbs. They will also offer tips and general gardening information.

Signs and flags throughout downtown will mark the way to the Market location in the parking lot west of the Golden Library. Stop by and enjoy all that this year’s Farmers’ Market has to offer.

For more information, contact the Golden Chamber of Commerce at 303-279-3113 or info@goldencochamber.org.
When you see the familiar bright gold vests of the Golden Lions Club in front of supermarkets, Foss General Store and the Farmers’ Market selling raffle tickets, you know the 4th of July can’t be far behind.

For the past 36 years, Golden Lions have been hosting a community celebration in Lions Park on July 4 as a way of giving back to their community and country. Starting at noon and ending with a dramatic fireworks display in the evening, the event draws thousands each year. It is designed to be a day for families to get together at the beautiful park on 10th Street to picnic or purchase food and drinks, enjoy music throughout the day and let the kids enjoy the many free rides provided by their hosts. Most of all, it is a day to join with neighbors and friends in celebration of the birth of this great country with its many freedoms, and this year, to support our men and women in uniform who are defending those freedoms.

Why the raffle tickets? Well, an event with free rides, free music and fireworks gets to be pretty expensive even with all of the volunteer labor of the Lions members, so the ticket proceeds are primarily used to fund the event. Any excess goes back into the community through the many Lions projects. It is also a way for the community to support the Lions and what they do to make Golden a great place to live.

The raffle is well worth the price of the tickets. For a dollar each or the real bargain of 10 tickets for $5, you get a chance to win one of nearly 200 prizes ranging from beginner gold panning kits to the grand prize of $1,000 donated by the Lions Club. And you don’t have to be present to win. Winners are announced throughout the day with the grand prize winner identified just before the fireworks. Local merchants, as their way of supporting the event and the community, donate most of the raffle prizes.

The event is truly a community get-together supported by citizens who buy raffle tickets and attend; the City, which provides security and traffic control, as well as financial support; businesses that provide the raffle prizes; and the Golden Lions Club, which puts it all together.

So, when you see those guys in their funky vests with raffle tickets in hand, make sure you become part of the celebration by buying some tickets.
The Tree Project is a scientific study that aims to quantify the environmental costs and benefits of trees. This includes, for instance, how much it costs to purchase and maintain a tree versus how much it could save you on your electric bill. To do this, the City of Golden and the Institute for Environmental Solutions (IES) is taking field measurements throughout Golden in June.

IES will study a random sample of plots throughout the City. Staff members and volunteers will collect a variety of data at each plot, such as tree species, height and health. Examples of the data that IES will collect are listed below. The Tree Project will study air quality, energy conservation, water conservation and carbon sequestration (for global climate impacts). Some plots will be chosen for a more rigorous analysis.

IES and City of Golden staff contacted property owners in May to request permission to include their property in the study. Each of the properties selected received a letter with information on the project. IES will make follow-up calls to request permission to take data on the selected properties. Some properties will be private and/or residential and some will be public. Once property owners agree, Golden and IES teams will conduct measurements in June, visiting each location and recording information about the trees.

The data collected will be analyzed in late summer and fall. Later in the year, IES will provide the City of Golden with detailed information about the value of its urban forest and the potential it has to further improve environmental quality. For more information about The Tree Project, visit www.InstituteforEnvironmentalSolutions.org/TreeProject.html or send an email to Solutions@I4ES.org.

Golden Tree Project Gets Off the Ground

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Field Survey Data Items

- **LOCATION**
  - Land Use
    - Tree cover
    - Shrub cover
    - Ground cover percent and type
    - Number of shrub types
    - Shrub height
    - Slope

- **TREE DATA**
  - Species or genus
  - Diameter
  - Total height
  - Percent impervious surface under tree
  - Percent shrub cover under tree
  - Street tree (Y/N)
  - Crown width
  - Foliage absent
  - Dead
  - Transparency
  - Crown light exposure
  - Building direction
  - Building distance
  - Condition (roots, trunk, branches, twigs, leaves)
  - Utility line conflict
In the May Informer,
The City of Golden asked citizens to help battle a noxious weed prominent in the area called Myrtle Spurge (Euphorbia myrsinites). Myrtle spurge is listed as a List A Noxious Weed by the State of Colorado and is designated for statewide eradication. Because it is a noxious weed, it is considered a violation of Golden Municipal Code Section 5.05.030 to not remove myrtle spurge from your property.

The Golden Parks Division has been inventorying, mapping and treating myrtle spurge on trail corridors, open space areas and roadside rights-of-way within the City limits. Chemical control efforts have been successful where the noxious weeds have been sprayed. A few plants were missed and staff will spot spray previously treated sites to get any stragglers.

Citizens have been very helpful by reporting myrtle spurge populations within the community. Many have reported the weed growing at neighbors’ private residences, commercial properties and private properties managed by home owners associations.

City staff estimates that there are several hundred myrtle spurge populations actively growing and spreading on private property. Effective control of the noxious weed to achieve the community goal of eradication cannot be accomplished unless the populations of weeds on private property are addressed, treated and removed. Golden Code Enforcement staff will therefore be placing door hangers with noxious weed control information at properties that have myrtle spurge growing on the grounds.

Myrtle spurge got its foothold in the Golden area when it was purchased and planted as a landscape plant in yards. Observations of how effectively it escaped those original gardens can be viewed throughout town. Golden staff members are relying on private property owners to address and eliminate the noxious weed on their own properties to make the City- and state-wide eradication goal a reality.

For more information and to view photos of myrtle spurge, visit www.CityOfGolden.net and view the news item. To report myrtle spurge sightings, call 303-384-8045 and ask to speak with a Code Enforcement Officer.
Come Celebrate Completion of Clear Creek Trail

Jefferson County Open Space, the cities of Golden and Wheat Ridge, and the Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment invite citizens to celebrate the completion of Clear Creek Trail as a major biking and walking connection within the County.

Join us on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 2, on Clear Creek Trail, which runs between North and South Table Mountains. Start at any point and explore at your own pace. Information stops will provide maps and materials between 9 and 11 a.m. along the way. You'll be able to pick up trail maps, learn about user protocols, and gather material about the health benefits of walking and biking.

Clear Creek Trail was first envisioned in the late 1970s and became a portion of the County’s Trails 2000 initiative. Cooperative planning and negotiations with individual landowners, Burlington Northern Railroad, Coors Brewing Co., Colorado Division of Transportation, Church Ditch, Great Outdoors Colorado and the Cities of Golden and Wheat Ridge allowed for construction of a 10-foot-wide concrete surface to connect Ford Street on the west to Youngfield on the east.

Although Open Space has completed this portion of the trail, additional connections to other trails still need to be made. Today, you can walk or ride from the mouth of Clear Creek Canyon east to the Platte River in Denver.

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Clear Creek Trail Day event partners share the vision of connecting communities. Both Golden and Wheat Ridge have been significant partners in developing trail opportunities within their cities and are part of a larger County and Metro area plan. Jefferson County Open Space has built more than 190 miles of trails for hikers, bikers and equestrians providing unmatched recreational opportunities and connections between municipal and unincorporated public lands. The Jeffco Health and Environment Department encourages using these connections for fitness.

Plan now to explore Clear Creek Trail on Saturday, June 2, in celebration of National Trail Day. Be prepared for Colorado’s spring weather conditions. Only severe weather the morning of the event would be cause for cancellation.

The City of Golden has teamed up with the Center for ReSource Conservation to offer citizens free sprinkler system inspections in an effort to “Slow the Flow” and conserve water by getting the right amount of water in the right place at the right time.

There are lots of great reasons to participate, including to:
• Save money on your water bill;
• Improve the appearance of your landscape;
• Increase efficiency of water usage;
• Receive a customized watering schedule;
• Maximize the life-span and effectiveness of your sprinkler system; and,
• Help conserve one of Colorado’s most precious resources.

The program, now in its third year in Golden, is totally free to citizens as it is funded by grants and the City. Commercial sites and HOAs may also be able to participate, and should call for more information.

The service is available until August. Schedule your free appointment as soon as possible by calling the Center for ReSource Conservation at 303-441-3278, ext. 17, or visit www.conserva-tioncenter.org.
Looking for a good time this summer? Enjoy sun time at the largest water park in Jefferson County, The Splash Aquatic Park!

Splash is a slide-filled water park located on Illinois Street adjacent to the Fossil Trace Golf Club in Golden. Splash offers two twisty water slides, a sand box, a 25-meter lap pool, bustling activity pool complete with fountains, wading areas and a spectacular 500-gallon dump bucket!

Splash is perfect for families of all ages with multiple slides and a playground built right into the water to entice the kids, and separate lap lanes and diving boards that are inviting to older children and adults.

What about lunch? Splash has a full service concession stand with burgers, hotdogs, sodas and much more. For those who like to pack a lunch, coolers are welcome in the aquatic park. There are plenty of lounge chairs and shaded areas to round out a fantastic picnic location.

Looking for more incentive to visit Splash this summer? Admission to Splash is free for seniors and tots under two when they are accompanied by a paid admission. Community Center Annual Pass Holders are eligible for reduced price season passes!

Splash also offers private rentals and birthday party packages to make your event extra special. If you are looking for a place to have a company picnic, church outing or family reunion, Splash is available for private rentals from 6:30 to 10 p.m. If a worry-free birthday party is what you’re after, Splash offers multiple birthday party packages to fit your needs.

Splash is easily accessible from all major highways. Travel time takes approximately 10-20 minutes from the Denver-metro area and surrounding communities. For more information, rates and hours of operation, call 303-384-8700 or visit www.splashingolden.com.

**Stingray Package**
- Up to 15 child entries
- 4 adult chaperone entries
- Reserved picnic table in the party pavilion for 1 1/2 hours
- You bring the goodies (plates, cake, drinks, etc)

Just $99!
Each additional child is $3
Each additional adult is $4

**Dolphin Package**
- Up to 15 child entries
- 4 adult chaperone entries
- Reserved picnic table in the party pavilion for 1 1/2 hours
- 1/4 sheet cake
- 1/2 gallon ice cream
- 3 pitchers of soda
- Paper products

Just $119!
Each additional child is $3.50
Each additional adult is $4.50

**Shark Package**
- Up to 15 child entries
- 4 adult chaperone entries
- Reserved picnic table in the party pavilion for 1 1/2 hours
- 1/4 sheet cake
- 1/2 gallon ice cream
- 5 pitchers of soda
- Paper products
- Combo meal for each child and chaperone

Just $159!
Each additional child is $4
Each additional adult is $5
Golden Channel 8 Partners with Students to Create Local Programming

The City of Golden’s public access Comcast cable Channel 8 has partnered with Ohio Center for Broadcasting students to create local programming in a unique series called “Into Golden,” which looks at local people, places and events in Golden.

This entirely student-produced program is helping students get the experience necessary to pursue careers in broadcasting after graduation. Ohio Center for Broadcasting faculty Tim Sabaska and Mike Martin and student producer Jenny Hopkins have created a program that will help keep Golden citizens informed.

“We are so excited about this partnership and the opportunities it creates for the City to communicate with citizens, as well as the experience it provides for the students producing it,” said Media Services Captain Tom Young, who runs Golden’s Channel 8.

The first show, which began airing in May, highlights the City’s Streets Division, Miner’s Alley Playhouse, the Golden Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center volunteer program, and Buffalo Bill’s Birthday Bash. To view the show, Golden citizens can tune into Comcast cable Channel 8 during the following times:

- 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sundays
- 12:30 and 6:30 p.m. Mondays
- 3 and 5 p.m. Tuesdays
- 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Wednesdays
- 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursdays
- 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Fridays
- 5 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. Saturdays

For more information, email Tim Sabaska at IntoGolden@hotmail.com or Tom Young at tyoung@cityofgolden.net.
Sometimes, it’s even within running distance. Because when you live in Golden, there’s two hours of fun just two minutes from home. So we suggest getting away by staying right here. Get a double scoop of ice cream and meander down Washington Avenue. Take in one of Golden’s many events. You’ll be surprised at all the entertainment that’s mere minutes from your front door. Visit 2HourVacation.com for more great ideas.
Come Get Splashed

- Five waterslides for kids of all ages
- Water playhouse with 500-gallon dumping bucket
- Birthday parties

303-277-8700 www.splashinggolden.com