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.

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HEADS UP: Important Upcoming Items

CEMETERY FEE INCREASE
After several years without fee increases the City of Golden Cemetery is raising fees as of Jan. 1, 2010. Cemetery staff is generally on site Monday through Friday until 4:30 p.m. to assist the public with questions, funeral arrangements and discounted headstone design and sales. For questions on the 2010 fees please call the City of Golden Cemetery at 303-279-1435.

CIRCULATOR BUS STUDY AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW
Over the past several months, the City has been conducting a technical feasibility study regarding the idea of instituting a local circulator bus system in Golden. City Council secured a grant from the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and directed staff to complete a technical evaluation so that Golden residents could determine the priority of such a bus service, to connect some of our central neighborhoods and to extend to the new light rail station, to be open in 2013. The feasibility study and background report are now available for your review. Visit the City Web site at www.cityofgolden.net and go to the Planning & Development Department page. Staff will be briefing City Council about the report at the Jan. 14, 2010 City Council meeting, and will announce the dates of community meetings or discussions about the idea. It is expected that City Council will determine whether to proceed further with consideration of the idea by mid 2010.

HOLIDAY HOURS
The City of Golden’s administrative offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Jan. 1. City Hall and other administration offices will close at 3 p.m. on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

The Golden Community Center will close at 4 p.m. on Dec. 24 and remain closed on Dec. 25. The Community Center will also close at 4 p.m. on Dec. 31 and will be open for modified hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jan 1.

Golden City Council will not meet Dec. 17 or Dec. 24 in observance of winter break. A regular business meeting has been rescheduled for Dec. 3 instead.

FASTRACKS UPDATE
Winter is upon us and West Corridor light rail construction is moving forward. Work on the Colfax bridge, just west of the 6th Avenue and Colfax interchange, will prompt an overnight full closure of Colfax Avenue in early December. This closure is dependent on weather and is subject to change, as is all construction over the next few years. Operations on the Indiana bridge continue to require intermittent lane closures. A full weekend closure of Indiana and 6th Avenue is scheduled for early 2010. The bridge girders on the new I-70 light rail tunnel are set; crews have begun excavation of the tunnel underneath the roadway. The tunnel will run under 1-70 on the north shoulder of 6th Avenue. For questions or concerns, please contact Kathy Berumen, Denver Transit Construction Group, 303-626-6762 or kberumen@dtcgjv.com. Up-to-date information is always available on the West Corridor Web site at www.RTD-FasTracks.com.

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. All meetings are at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St., unless otherwise noted. Council does not normally meet on the fifth Thursday in any month.

December 3
Rescheduled regular business meeting

December 10
Regular business meeting

December 17
No meeting

December 24
No meeting

Council’s upcoming agendas, packets and meeting minutes are available online under the City Council link at www.CityofGolden.net.

Public comment is welcome on the agenda at all regular business meetings.
MAYOR’S MESSAGE

EnVISIONing Golden's Future
By Mayor Jacob Smith

This is the last Informer issue of the year, which means it’s a good opportunity to reflect for a bit on where we’ve been this past year and where we are headed in the next. The recession was a dominant issue in 2009, and one of our highest priorities has been protecting and sustaining our community’s quality of life in the face of declining revenues. As a result of thoughtful management over many years and smart responses on the City's part as the recession unfolded, we’ve been able to do that. Aside from scaling back on some services and postponing some projects, Golden has weathered the storm in solid fashion.

Some of our other efforts this year:

• We published our first ever Community Accountability Report, and we expanded and improved access to City Council meetings and documents.
• We engaged in extensive neighborhood outreach and input as part of the Golden Vision 2030 process.
• We continued investments in pedestrian and bike safety, Safe Routes to School, and street improvements.
• We implemented many of the recommendations in the Housing Affordability Task Force report.
• We began the planning process for a new community bus linking our downtown with the new light rail station.
• We announced a coalition plan for fixing the congestion and safety problems along the entire Highway 93 Corridor and on U.S. 6 through Golden while keeping the beltway out of Golden and protecting open space and our community.

Over the course of several meetings early in 2010 we’ll orient our two new City Council members, get everyone up to speed, and set the agenda for the following twelve months. Although we are starting to see signs of recovery, we don’t know for sure that we’ve seen the worst of the recession, so budgeting conservatively and managing the City’s resources carefully will remain a priority. Some of the other major priorities will include sustaining our high performance community services, retooling and updating our economic vitality strategy, adding parks to under-served parts of town, and moving the ball forward on our renewable energy and other sustainability efforts.

Another key agenda item for 2010 is completing the Golden Vision 2030 process. By summer we hope to complete the Vision document and then turn our attention to updating the Comprehensive Plan. If there are things you like about Golden, this is your chance to make sure we protect them. If there are things you want to change, this is your chance to make sure the Vision 2030 and the new Comprehensive Plan reflect that. We’ve already collected a tremendous amount of community input and will continue to do so all year. You can get updates and provide your thoughts and ideas at www.cityofgolden.net/goldenvision2030.

In addition, the City Council may identify other projects or priorities to tackle during the year. If there are projects you’d like to see in your neighborhood, this is a good time to start talking with your City Council representatives about it (including the new incoming Councilors in Ward 1 and Ward 3). You’ll find everyone’s individual contact info on the City’s Web site or you can email the entire City Council at citycouncil@cityofgolden.net.

I wish for everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a happy New Year as well.
Beltway Extension Needs
Regional Government Group’s OK

Golden Residents Have Chance to Make Their Voices Heard

The proposed extension of the beltway comes to a crossroads in December.

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) will hold a public hearing on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 16 about whether the proposed multi-lane toll road should be added to its Fiscally Constrained 2035 Metro Vision Regional Transportation Plan.

While this sounds complicated, the bottom line is fairly simple.

Inclusion in this DRCOG plan is no guarantee that the Jefferson Parkway toll road will get built and its backers still would have other significant hurdles to jump.

However, the toll road would suffer a huge setback if it’s not included in the DRCOG plan. As one proponent of the beltway extension told the Denver Business Journal: “We absolutely have to have that approval.”

Golden believes the Jefferson Parkway proposal is misguided because it would:
• Prompt sprawl that would blemish the mountain backdrop.
• Worsen traffic on surrounding roads, including S.H. 93.

The City of Boulder, Boulder County and Golden recently unveiled a plan that offers a smarter way to address traffic in the region. It will make much-needed improvements to S.H. 93 and U.S. 6.

S.H. 93 is a critical corridor yet it is frequently congested and always dangerous. Our plan will increase S.H. 93’s safety and capacity, while abating problems caused by snow, wind and wildlife. It also will add separated bike lanes while enhancing trails and connecting recreation areas.

You can tell the DRCOG board — which includes local officials from around the metro area — that the Jefferson Parkway is the wrong approach by attending the Dec. 16 meeting.

You can also submit your comment online. Go to www.cityofgolden.net/beltwaynews and click the link at the bottom of the page.

New and Re-elected Councilors to Be Sworn In

Congratulations to the four City Council ward candidates who were elected by voters on Nov. 3, 2009 in the General Municipal Election. Marcia Claxton will be the new representative for Ward One; Joe Behm will continue to represent Ward Two; Bob Vermeulen is the new representative for Ward Three; and Bill Fisher will continue to be the Ward Four representative.

The newly elected and incumbent City Councilors will be sworn in at the Organizational Meeting of City Council on Jan. 14, 2010 in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th Street. In some other municipalities the elected officials are sworn in shortly after the election, however Golden’s Charter states, “The first regular meeting in the month of January following each general municipal election shall be known as the organizational meeting of the Council.”

At the Organizational Meeting after the new and re-elected Councilors are given the Oath of Office by City Clerk Susan Brooks, they will take their seats and officially begin their four-year term of office.

The Rooney Road Recycling Center Foundation (RRRCF) will host an open house to help recruit new members on Wednesday, Jan. 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Lakewood Civic Center North, 480 S. Allison Pkwy., Lakewood.

The RRRCF’s mission is to protect our communities and environment by providing a community-based pollution prevention program as well as serving as a regional recycling resource for hazardous household waste. The City of Golden is an active member of the organization.

In 2008, the RRRC recycled more than 350,000 pounds of materials and provided subsidized service benefitting more than 3,300 residents. For more information, call 303-753-0905 or visit www.rooneyroadrecycling.org/
The City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department was recognized for excellence in the field of parks and recreation management by becoming the first municipality in Colorado and one of only 88 agencies in the country to hold national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA.)

The process of accreditation is extensive and took several years to accomplish. National accreditation requires parks and recreation agencies to respond to 155 standards representing elements of effective and efficient parks and recreation operations. To become accredited, agencies must fully meet 36 standards deemed fundamental to a quality agency and at least 102 of the remaining standards. Accreditation requires an annual report and re-accreditation every five years to ensure the department maintains and improves upon the standards.

The Parks and Recreation Department was also honored as a National Gold Medal Finalist. The National Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials. Golden was one of four finalists in the population category 25,000 and below. The award of finalist recognizes the department as one of the top four national leaders in the provision of high quality parks, trails and recreation facilities.

“Strong support for parks and recreation facilities and services from Golden citizens, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council has enabled the department to provide quality amenities that are worthy of national recognition,” said Rod Tarullo, Golden’s Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf. “Congratulations to department staff for working diligently and professionally to preserve Golden as a great place to live, work and play.”

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) announced these distinguished achievements at their 2009 Congress and Exposition in Salt Lake City, Utah. Representatives from NRPA also honored the Parks and Recreation Department at the Golden City Council Nov. 5 meeting.

The Golden Parks and Recreation Department joins its esteemed colleagues in the Golden Public Works Department and the Golden Police Department which are also nationally accredited departments through the American Public Works Association (APWA) and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) respectively. The City of Golden is one of only seven agencies in the nation who have achieved accreditation in all three departments.
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It is a bittersweet moment for the City of Golden, as we bid farewell to one of our finest employees. John Green started with the City in 1988 as a Utility Maintenance Worker. He worked alongside the City’s meter technician and in less than two years, John took over the City water meter reading and maintenance program. In 1991, the City changed out all of the meters to a computer read or “touch read” system, and John oversaw the installation of the current meters. But most residents don’t know John as the meter man. They know him as the friendly face showing up in the middle of a water or sewer disaster, whose politeness and kindness can help make any situation more bearable. And the man who fixes the problem… any problem… even changing a tire on the car of an elderly man who wrote to the City to thank John, saying he “came along and saved my day.”

John Green has a degree in social work, which Public Works Director Dan Hartman says contributes to his concern for others and makes him such a great person. “We joke around here that two weeks can’t go by without someone calling to say great things about John,” says Hartman. “Or that there must be no one left in town who hasn’t called to thank us for something he has done above and beyond the norm.”

John’s employee file is packed with letters of commendation or thanks for John’s work and caring attitude. One letter stated, “I felt he had a genuine concern for my situation even though I had never previously met him.” Another says, “He was a genuine professional and an employee who represents your department well.” One resident wrote directly to John, “You’ve been a very nice surprise and you deserve to know that you are appreciated by us all.”

No one knows John’s worth more than his coworkers. “He’s a very calming influence. He knows what needs to be done, how to do it, and if people get wound up he remains calm in any situation and has excellent customer service skills,” said Utilities Superintendent Les Major. “I wish him well in his retirement and hope that he enjoys the opportunities that having free time will present. He is of course, welcome to come read meters any time!”

John will depart in December, ending nearly 22 years of service with the City, to join his wife in retirement. He plans to do volunteer work, which is right up his alley. His position will be filled by someone else, but John Green will never be replaced. We wish him the very best.

A Gift That Will Keep on Giving

The Rolling Hills Country Club Foundation recently awarded The Golden Rotary Foundation a generous gift of $100,000 in support of the Rotary’s charitable work in Golden. Each year, Rolling Hills picks a local charity to benefit from its fundraisers, which include a gala and golf tournament. The money will be used to support the rotary Club of Golden and its programs, which include providing weekend food to about 250 needy school children from local elementary and middle schools. Students are sent home with a backpack full of food to help them, and sometimes their families, get through the weekend when school lunches are not provided.

Golden Rotary also provides a monthly luncheon program for seniors at Canyon Gate Apartments, a senior living community in Golden. The friendly faces of the Rotary members give seniors on fixed incomes a monthly event to look forward to, in addition to a healthy meal.

“Obviously Golden Rotary is very happy to be the recipient of this year’s fundraising by the Rolling Hills Foundation,” said Tom Hughes, president of Golden Rotary. “We will use these funds to continue our current charitable projects in the Golden area, and it will hopefully allow us to expand our programs to benefit more and more people.”

The group also provides scholarships to high school students and works on other quality of life projects in the Golden community.

Farewell, Friend

Members of the Rolling Hills Country Club Foundation present a check for $100,000 to members of The Golden Rotary and its foundation.
Safe Travels

Winter driving in Colorado is something we all must endure. With the ever-changing Colorado climate, drivers need to be prepared for winter driving from October to April. It is a good practice to be prepared for any situation you may encounter on the roadway on a regular basis, but it is especially important to be prepared in the winter. From Oct. 1, 2008 to Feb. 28, 2009, the Golden Police Department handled a total of 301 accidents. Although winter conditions were not the cause of all accidents, using the following tips on safe winter driving and how to properly prepare your car for the winter months will hopefully reduce the total number of accidents this winter.

PREPARE YOUR CAR:
- Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:
  * Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
  * Battery and ignition system - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
  * Brakes - check for wear and fluid levels.
  * Exhaust system - check for leaks and cramped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
  * Fuel and air filters - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives.
  * Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.
  * Lights and flashing hazard lights - make sure all lights are working.
  * Oil - check for level and weight.

- Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- Thermostat - ensure it works properly.
- Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- Install good winter tires. Make sure tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are generally suitable for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require vehicles to have chains or snow tires with studs.
- Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.

SAFE DRIVING TIPS:
- Be sure to carry plenty of windshield wiper fluid as liquid de-icers may stick to your windshield.
- Let the snowplow drivers do their jobs by giving them extra room.
- Slow down! Even roads that have been treated with liquid de-icers may be slippery.
- Don’t use cruise control when traveling in winter conditions.
- Be prepared. Use the following emergency kit guidelines to prepare yourself.

EMERGENCY KIT:
- windshield scraper and brush
- flashlight - extra batteries
- battery powered radio
- water - snack food
- matches - blanket(s)
- extra hats, socks, mittens and coat
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- tow chain or rope
- road salt and sand
- booster cables - shovel
- emergency flares - fluorescent distress flag

FREE
Sales and Use Tax Workshop

The City of Golden is hosting FREE Sales and Use Tax workshops taught by our professional staff of auditors and geared toward individuals who need to learn sales and use tax concepts on an in-depth level.

The workshops will be held in the Golden City Hall Conference Room, City Hall, 911 10th St.
Dec. 2, 2009 - 8 to 10 a.m.
Jan. 6, 2010 - 8 to 10 a.m.
March 3, 2010 - 8 to 10 a.m.
April 7, 2010 - 8 to 10 a.m.

Although these classes are free, space is limited. Please call 303-384-8024 for your reservation.

FREE
Building Use Tax Workshop

The City of Golden is hosting a FREE Building Use Tax workshop taught by our professional staff of auditors. This class is geared toward individuals who need to learn about building use tax concepts on an in-depth basis.

The workshop will be held in the Golden City Hall Conference Room, City Hall, 911 10th St.
Feb. 3, 2009 - 8 to 10 a.m.
May 6, 2010 - 8 to 10 a.m.

The class is free, but space is limited. Please call 303-384-8024 for your reservation.
350 Golden Voices Captured

You spoke, and we’re listening! The Golden Vision 2030 project team spent the past six months listening to the stories of Golden residents. The idea is to find out what people, places, values and characteristics residents believe make up the heart and soul of our City. These community values will then be incorporated into future City policy-making decisions.

Golden Vision 2030 is a two-year grant awarded to the City by the Orton Family Foundation for the purpose of exploring better community engagement techniques in City planning. This is a grass roots effort to inform our City’s decision-makers on what our community thinks about Golden’s past and present and what they want to see for our future.

The project team, along with the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) held eight neighborhood block parties to help collect stories. They also gathered stories at events like Buffalo Bill Days, Movies and Music in the Park, chili socials and the weekly Farmer’s Market. In all, they recorded 350 Golden voices.

The Golden Vision 2030 project team believes that by listening to the stories of residents, they can help shape policy far beyond the information learned in a black and white survey. “We believe that by daring to find new ways to define community we actually build community,” said Golden City Planner Nancy York. “So thank you to those who have participated in this very unique and ground-breaking process of community engagement, and we hope to continue to hear from many residents in the coming months!”

The project team will be recruiting for and hosting more than 10 focus groups from December 2009 through February 2010. In March 2010, when all stories have been gathered and reviewed, a city-wide Golden Vision 2030 Community Summit will be held to share the results and move toward creating policy in the form of a comprehensive community plan.

For more information, and to sign up for a focus group or story listening session, please go to the Golden Vision webpage at www.cityofgolden.net/goldenvision2030 or contact Nancy York at 303-384-8096 or email her at nyork@cityofgolden.net.

Museum Open

Family or friends in town for the holidays? Be sure to bring them by the Golden History Center. It is open for business! The Golden History Center features a new gift shop, a new welcome area, and hundreds of artifacts from Golden’s past.

Exhibits include Coors porcelain, a Jolly Rancher candy cutter, a photograph of the 1903 Golden Reds baseball team, a gold velvet piano and items from Golden’s mining past. The new gift shop includes vintage buttons, Rockmount Ranch Wear shirts, wooden pop guns, chicken mugs, ceramics by local Golden artists and many more surprises. Spend some quality time with your family and friends by showing off the uniqueness of your home town. For hours and more information go to www.GoldenHistoryMuseums.org.

MAYOR’S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Mayor Jacob Smith will present nine Mayor’s Awards for Excellence at the City Council meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10 at City Hall, 911 10th St. The awards will be presented for Excellence in Education, Excellence in Community Service and for Entrepreneur of the Year. The Mayor selected the recipients because of their contributions to the Golden community. The full list of recipients will be in the February issue of the Informer.
GOLDEN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Through Dec. 11
North Pole Golden!

Through Dec. 20
“It’s a Wonderful Life”
This classic is brought to life as a 1940’s radio broadcast at Miners Alley Playhouse, 1224 Washington Ave. Thursday through Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m. Tickets are $20. For tickets and information, call 303-935-3044 or visit www.minersalley.com.

Through Dec. 30
Holiday Art Market
The 2009 Holiday Art Market, at Foothills Art Center, 809 15th St., will be displaying works by more than 120 Colorado artists, with arts and crafts for gift-giving. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Call 303-279-3922 for information.

“The Christmas Rescue”
An hour of fun on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. for ages 2 to 12. Reservations recommended. Heritage Square Music Hall, 18301 W. Colfax Ave. Tickets $6, seniors $5. Call 303-279-7800 or visit www.hsmusichall.com for information and special show times.

Through Dec. 31
Free Pilates Classes!
Golden Pilates is offering two FREE Pilates mat classes per week through the end of 2009. The classes are Mondays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. For information, call 303-279-8008.

Dec. 4
Jim Hyatt Band and Silent Auction
This fundraiser, supporting The WiLLiv Center in Lakewood which helps women and children going through divorce, is from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Buffalo Rose Event Center, 1119 Washington Ave. Enjoy dancing and a silent auction. Tickets $40/person, $70/couple. Contact Marla at 303-232-2143.

Candlelight Walk
Gather at 6 p.m. at Foothills Art Center, 15th & Arapahoe streets, for caroling before the walk at 6:30 p.m. Afterward the Golden Visitors Center will serve hot beverages and cookies. Enjoy live reindeer and a puppet show. Call 303-279-3113 for information.

Photos with Santa
Bring your camera for photos with Santa from 5 to 6 p.m. at Foothills Art Center, 809 15th St. Call 303-279-3922 for information.

Golden History Museums
Celebrate holiday traditions at the Astor House Museum, Clear Creek History Park, and the Golden History Center. Enjoy free music, stories, hot cocoa and cookies at each location after the Candlelight Walk until 9 p.m. Call 303-279-3557 for information.

CSM Seasonal Sing
At 7:30 p.m. in the Bunker Auditorium in the Green Center, 924 16th St. Seating is on a first come basis. Call 720-934-4539 for information.

Dec. 4 and 5
Book Sale
Shop from a collection of more than 2,000 gently used books at the Golden Library, 1019 10th St. Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 5 from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 303-275-2216.

Dec. 5
Chili Cook-Off
The Chili Appreciation Society International has a chili cook-off beginning at noon outside The Golden Hotel, 800 11th St. For $5 you can taste 25 different chili recipes. Proceeds benefit Golden area charities. For information, call John Montgomery at 303-831-5061.

Holiday Story Telling
Clear Creek Books, 1200 Washington Ave. “Grandma Karen” (City Councilor Karen Oxman) with her granddaughter Claire Osmun playing violin, accompanied by Dad, Mark Osmun. 3 to 3:30 p.m. Call 303-278-4593 for information.

Old Time Radio Show and Christmas Concert
The Golden Concert Choir and Confluence present their Old Time Radio Show and Christmas Concert at 7:30 p.m. at Applewood Valley United Methodist Church, 2035
ELLIS ST. CALL MARtha at 303-234-9384 for more information.

Dec. 5, 12, 19
Olde Golden Christmas on Parade
Olde Fashioned Hometown Parade down Washington Ave. with floats, clowns, characters, music and Santa. From 11 to 11:30 a.m. each Saturday. Call 303-279-3113 or visit www.goldencochamber.org for information.

Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20
Free Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
Ride through Historic Downtown Golden. Pick up on 12th St. between Washington Ave. and Arapahoe St. Noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, weather permitting. Call 303-279-3113 or visit www.goldencochamber.org for information.

Newfoundland Dog Cart Rides
These rides are for children. Pick up point between 12th and 13th streets at Miners Alley, noon to 3 p.m.

Dec. 7
Rick Steves Visits
Jefferson County Public Library is proud to welcome best-selling travel author and television host Rick Steves, to its sixth annual InSight & InPerson Distinguished Author Series. Begins at 7 p.m. at the Mile Hi Church in Lakewood. For free tickets and information, visit www.jeffcolibrary.org/steves.

Dec. 15
GHS Holiday Concert
Golden High School’s Vocal Music Program presents its holiday concert at 7 p.m. in the Golden High School theatre, 701 24th St. Tickets $2 at the door. For information, call Angela Becker at 303-982-6306.

Dec. 16
GHS Jazz Band Concert
Golden High School’s Jazz Band performs at 7 p.m. in the Golden High School Commons, 710 24th St. Tickets $2 at the door. For information, call Dr. William Graves at 303-982-4153.

Jan. 18 to Feb. 26
Boot Camp Challenge
A six week fitness program designed for all levels of fitness.

Meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:45 to 6:45 a.m. at the Golden Community Center. Cost is $240. For information, contact Kim Cragg at 720-628-2901 or kim@bootcamp-challenge.com.

Opening Early 2010
Golden Gem Cinema
The cinema is looking for volunteers and movie fans to kick start this new cinema. This is a community-based theatre which will feature family friendly fare, classics and recent favorites screened at the Foss Auditorium in the American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th St. For information, visit http://www.goldengemcinema.org or email info@goldengemcinema.org.

Tell them you read about them in the Golden Informer!

Information is subject to change. Please use contact information to confirm the details of an event. To list a community event happening in Golden here, please send your listing to:

Golden City Hall, Communications Dept., 911 10th St., Golden, CO 80401,
or by e-mail to ktilley@cityofgolden.net. Listings should include the date(s),
the event name and a brief description of the event, which may include cost, location
and contact information. Submissions must be received by the first of the month prior
to the issue you would like them printed in (i.e., Jan. 1 for the February issue).

Call 303-384-8132 with questions or for more information.
**Donate Your Old Bicycle**

Many new bicycles will be given as gifts this holiday season. If you’re wondering what to do with your old bike, why not pay it forward and give it as a gift to someone in need. The Golden Optimists Club refurbishes, repairs and donates more than 200 bicycles each year to children and adults who cannot afford one. Most of the bikes go to people in the Golden area including international students at the Colorado School of Mines. But some of the bikes go to needy families on Indian Reservations in Arizona and even as far away as Tanzania in Africa.

The Golden Optimists Club currently has just ten members, which means they work hard every week to get donated bicycles ready. They’ve been doing this for more than 15 years, in addition to many community service and community youth programs they participate in throughout the year. The club’s mission: “By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.” In keeping with that mission, the Golden Optimists encourage high school or college students to donate their time to the bicycle donation program and learn all about bicycle repair in the process.

All types of bikes are given out, but the biggest demand right now is for children’s bicycles. Each donated bicycle also comes with a new helmet. A grant from the Golden Civic Foundation makes it possible for the Optimists to provide the helmets.

The rest of the money needed for this program comes from Christmas tree sales. The Golden Optimists Club sells Christmas trees in the parking lot of the Wells Fargo Bank on the corner of 14th and Ford streets through Dec. 23. They are open for business weekdays from 1 to 7 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To find out more about Christmas tree sales, donate a bicycle or donate your time, visit www.goldenoptimists.org.

**Man’s Best Friend**

Dogs are often considered man’s best friend. Unfortunately, whether it is out of necessity or just convenience, we sometimes make decisions about our dogs that are not in their best interest. One area of concern for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) involves tethering.

Tethering is the practice of fastening a dog to a stationary object or stake, usually in the owner’s yard, as a means of keeping the dog under control. Tethering does not refer to periods when a dog is being walked on a leash. While not generally illegal, absent other behavior that is considered cruel, the HSUS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture both believe tethering is inhumane and a threat to the safety of the confined dog, other animals and humans.

Studies show that an otherwise friendly and docile dog can become neurotic, unhappy, anxious and often aggressive because of frequent tethering. Improperly fitted collars, constant yanking and pulling, as well as tangled tethers can potentially cause serious injury to a dog.

Dogs are naturally territorial. A tethered dog, unable to flee, may feel forced to fight, attacking any unfamiliar animal or person, often a child, who unwittingly wanders into its territory.

The HSUS recommends taking several precautions if a dog must be tethered. First, collars used to attach the dog should be comfortable and properly fitted. Choke chains should never be used. The tether should be secured in such a way that the tether cannot become entangled with other objects. The dog should be able to move about and lie down comfortably. Dogs should also not be tethered during circumstances of severe weather or for extended periods of time. For more information about tethering and other animal care concerns, visit www.humanesociety.org and click on Issues and then Pet Protection.
W

ho’s on your list this holiday season? Think about making or buying gifts that don’t unintentionally pollute water downstream! Many personal care gifts contain chemicals called “contaminants of emerging concern” (CECs) that are harmful to wildlife, even in small concentrations. Use this guide to find or make contaminant-free gifts. This season, give your friends and family the gift of clean waters!

GIFT GIVING

Find great contaminant-free products at Golden merchants. Mix and match to make your own gift baskets. Check labels for contaminants like fragrances, benzophenone, butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), musk ketone, triclosan and n-butylparaben. These contaminants are found in cosmetics, soaps, bath and beauty products.

Artificial fragrances are either known or suspected to be carcinogens that do not readily biodegrade. A product contains artificial fragrance if fragrance or perfume is listed as an ingredient. Avoiding artificial fragrances is easy — stick to unscented products or products that use plant-based fragrances. Cosmetics can contain the preservative BHA and the UV-blocker benzophenone. These contaminants are found in cosmetics, soaps, bath and beauty products.

Toothpastes may list triclosan as an ingredient. Triclosan does not make hands or teeth cleaner, and it is harmful. It can cause thyroid disorders in wildlife and produce harmful pollutants when exposed to sunlight on surface waters. Read the labels of all personal care and household products, and avoid anything that contains triclosan.

MAKE IT!

Making presents yourself is a resourceful and inexpensive way to offer beautiful and contaminant-free gifts. Check out the recipes below for some easy gift ideas.

**Olive Oil Moisturizer**

This light, nourishing moisturizer works well for the face and neck but can be used all over the body. Grape seed, jojoba, and other light oils work as well.

- 1-3 ounces pure, extra virgin olive (or other) oil
- A few (3-5) drops of essential oil, such as lavender, neroli, or rose, for fragrance. (Essential oils can be found in the personal care section of stores that carry natural and organic products.)

Fill a clean glass container with oil then add the essential oil. Stir or turn container upside down a few times to mix.

**Bath Powder**

- ½ cup cornstarch
- 2 tbsp. arrowroot powder
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- A few drops of essential oil

Mix all ingredients well, and let stand three days. Sift through a flour sifter, and put into a powder shaker.

**Lip Balm**

- ¼ cup sweet almond oil
- ¼ ounce beeswax (Beeswax can be found in stores that sell candle and soap making supplies.)
- A few drops of essential oil

Pour ¼ cup almond oil into a larger measuring cup and heat in a saucepan of warm water. Slowly add beeswax and wait for it to completely melt. Use an old metal spoon to blend. Add in five drops of essential oil at a time.

To test mix: Remove spoon, leaving a bit of the oil and wax mix on the spoon. Put in the refrigerator to cool, then use your finger to test consistency. Add oil or wax as needed. When mixture is just right, spoon into jars and let cool.

**Naturally Scented Moisturizer**

Add natural essential oils to unscented moisturizer in reused glass containers to create a personalized and contaminant-free holiday gift.

- 4 ounces unscented moisturizer
- 15 drops essential oils

Pick a blend:

- 8 drops orange oil and 7 drops rose oil
- 8 drops grapefruit oil and 7 drops clove oil
- 9 drops lemon oil and 6 drops oregano oil
LED Holiday Lights – A Bright Idea

Twinkling lights on trees and houses are signs of the holiday season, but their energy consumption can put a damper on your festive mood. There are a variety of ways to decorate the home without added electricity use, but families that enjoy the look of holiday lights can save money and energy by using LEDs (light emitting diodes.)

LED string lights use much less energy than incandescent bulbs and can save money in the long run, though it may take more than one holiday season for consumers to realize the savings. Incandescent holiday lights can be initially less expensive, but LEDs last up to 10 times longer and are also cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.

When Consumer Reports compared LED and incandescent holiday lights, LEDs won on both energy use and durability. They used just 1 to 3 kilowatt hours of electricity, while the incandescents used from 12 to 35 times as much. Alternatively, the incandescent mini-bulbs used about 12 kilowatt hours and the standard incandescent bulbs used a whopping 105 kilowatt hours.

Those energy savings translate to a dollar savings of between $1 and $11 per string.

For the holidays, first consider creative options for decorating without electricity, but if you’re still thinking of purchasing new lights, be sure to look for LEDs with the Energy Star® label.

Winter Checklist: Thermal Underwear, Turtlenecks and Thermostats

Residents can save about 10 percent a year on their heating bills by simply turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours. You can do this automatically without sacrificing comfort by installing a programmable thermostat.

Programmable thermostats cost an average of $25 to $75 depending on the options, and allow you to adjust the times for heating or air conditioning according to a pre-set schedule. As a result, your furnace or air conditioner doesn’t need to operate as much when your family is away or asleep. For best results, buy a thermostat that can be programmed for every day of the week and can be set for morning, daytime, evening, and night hours.

One common misperception is that your furnace will have to work harder to warm the space back to your preferred temperature so there will be little actual savings. Studies show that the fuel required to reheat your home back up is about equal to the fuel saved as the building drops in temperature. The advantage? You’ll save fuel from the time the temperature hits the lower level you programmed it for, until it starts rising again. The longer the time period, the greater the savings, and that’s something we can all warm up to.

HOLIDAY TREE RECYCLING

The City of Golden will be accepting holiday trees for recycling beginning Saturday, Dec. 26 and extending through Sunday, Jan. 24. Trees may be dropped off at any time between these dates at the Golden Recycle site, just west of Highway 93 and north of Golden Gate Canyon Road. Please leave holiday trees at the south end of the site where a sign announcing the recycling will be visible. Trees must be stripped of all ornaments, hardware, strings of lights and tinsel.

Mulch from the chipping process is free and available any time at the public pickup site on 11th Street, just west of the Clear Creek History Park. For further information please contact the City of Golden Forestry office at 303-384-8141.
Golden Business Goes Green

The City of Golden supports efforts of local businesses to “go green” and work towards sustainability. The most recent efforts are seen on the top of The Original Woody’s Wood-Fired Pizza in downtown Golden, 1305 Washington Ave.

Woody’s is among the first of the downtown businesses to go solar, with a 48-panel 9.8-kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system. Solar PV systems use solar panels made of silicon to convert sunlight into electricity. The electricity they generate is then added to traditional electricity sources. The system is expected to off-set 27,889 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

Woody’s has been an active member of the Golden community since 1993 and in that time, has implemented many sustainable business practices. Jon Bortles, son of Woody’s owner Bart Bortles, draws from his CU-Boulder education as a MBA student in sustainable business enterprise to help the family’s business. Two years ago, he persuaded his family to install waterless urinals to conserve water. Prior to that, Woody’s ramped up their efforts to reduce waste by recycling cardboard and single-stream materials which resulted in a 50 percent decrease in their overall waste. Now, even the oil from their fryers is collected for use as biodiesel.

Bortles says that their sustainability efforts have paid off and are good for business. And he says now is a good time to invest in solar projects: the technology is better than in previous years, prices are lower and financial incentives are at their highest. Taking advantage of the current 30 percent federal tax credit, Xcel Energy rebates, and assistance from the Golden Urban Renewal Authority and Buglet Solar, Woody’s was able to purchase the system for 18 percent of the total retail value.

“Incorporating sustainability into your business can seem like a very daunting task from the beginning,” says Bortles. “In reality, the hardest part of these types of projects is simply making the commitment to act. Once you begin the conversation with local experts and your staff, the details will eventually work themselves out as long as you are committed to the project.”

Finding out if solar is right for you doesn’t have to be difficult, just do what Bortles did. Contact a few local solar companies and start a conversation. Sometimes, Bortles says, the best way to advance sustainability is to simply look around you.

WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER?

The Golden Fire Department is seeking a few good volunteers. Volunteer firefighters are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job. The tradition of the fire service across our nation has always been one overflowing with pride, bravery and a sense of duty. Founded in 1879, the Golden Fire Department has faithfully protected the lives and property of Golden citizens and visitors for more than 12 decades.

Today, the Golden Fire Department responds to more than 1,300 incidents yearly. Responses include structural fires, wildland urban interface fires, vehicle fires, hazardous material spills, medical assistance calls, as well as a vast array of technical rescue calls. To answer these challenges, we need dedicated people like you to volunteer with the Golden Fire Department. You can help keep more than 125 years of volunteerism alive.

The Golden Fire Department provides initial certification and training, equipment and uniforms, annual length of service awards, and volunteer pension plans. To be considered, you must be at least 19 years old, have a valid Colorado driver’s license, and you must pass required testing and a thorough background check. Both residents and non-residents of Golden are welcome to apply.

We will be running a recruiting academy starting in early April of 2010. You can apply beginning Monday, Nov. 30, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 29, 2010. You can get additional information at www.cityofgolden.net or contact Captain Gene Quador at 303-215-8885.
Community Walk A Success

A beautiful fall day greeted more than 90 people who gathered for Golden’s Community Walk in late October. The City of Golden hosted the walk which was organized by CBS4 News. Their Fit 4 Colorado walking program is designed to promote physical activity in local communities. Each month, the TV station features a different community. We were told we had one of the largest turnouts for this event of any other city! Many residents came out to walk and we had some participants from as far away as 50 miles who came to town for the event. Because of our successful turnout, CBS4 plans to come back for another walk in the future.

The Community Walk began in Lion’s Park and took participants down the Clear Creek Trail, up and down Washington Ave., and back up the path to Lion’s Park, where a breakfast awaited them, provided by The Golden Hotel.

Mayor Jacob Smith and CBS4’s Jennifer Zeppelin lead the two-mile walk. Also in attendance were City Councilors Marjorie Sloan, Diane Chesbro and Bill Fisher along with Counselor-elect Bob Vermeulen. Additionally, Golden was featured in a newscast and on the station’s Web site. CBS4 also featured Golden’s city employees in a story about fitness. You can find those stories on our Web site, www.cityofgolden.net.

Fit 4 Colorado is a statewide initiative that promotes the health and well-being of children and adults and was launched by CBS4 in January 2007. CBS4 airs regular Fit 4 Colorado segments providing viewers with educational information and resources to help change behavior, increase activity and eat healthier. The program is designed to educate and inform the public about the benefits of increased activity and healthier eating, provide tips on how to maintain a healthy weight and be more active. Fit 4 Colorado is a partnership between CBS4, America on the Move, the Anthem Foundation and HealthONE.

Recreating in the Snow

Oct. 10, 2009 was the first snow of the season. It was also the day of the 2nd Annual Recreate 5k for Golden. Despite the snow and cold, 50 participants ran, walked and shivered their way through the 5k course along beautiful Clear Creek. Coffee, hot chocolate and granola from the Windy Saddle in downtown Golden kept runners and walkers warm, while the weekend Parks and Recreation crew made sure the course was safe by taking care of icy spots.

Some local businesses, including Coors Credit Union, BootCamp Challenge and Environmental Solutions, braved the cold. And Golden Body Worker provided chair and table massages. City Council members Bill Fisher and Marjorie Sloan brought in the finishers of the race.

“A good time was had by everyone in attendance,” said City of Golden Wellness Coordinator Angela Shea. “Volunteers from the Front Porch and people from the Community Center made sure everyone stayed warm and happy even when the water at the water stations froze!”

Organizers of the Recreate 5k would like to thank its sponsors, Scott Bristol with State Farm, Golden Cliffs Chiropractic, Meyers Hardware, The Golden Hotel and Nancy E. Gill, DDS. “Without your help this year our loyal participants could not have played in the snow,” said Shea. “Thank you to all the participants for having fun and we will see you next year, hopefully in the sun!”
Celebrate Health!

Fridays, Dec. 4 and Jan. 8

Free blood pressure checks and healthy goodies!
- Chair massages .................. $13 for 15 minutes
- Reflexology sessions ........ $13 for 15 minutes
- Footcare with Chalyce...... $15 per pedicure

Receive the Front Porch News online!
Stay up-to-date about Games, Classes & Clubs, Volunteer Activities, Wellness, Trips & Events.
www.cityofgolden.net/page.asp?navid=334 or sign up for email!

DECEMBER EVENTS

Holiday Potluck with Granbear - #35070
Monday, Dec. 7 - Register/Cancel by Dec. 3
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
FREE – Registration required.
Our local storyteller Granbear (Goldenite Lev Ropes) will entertain you with a variety of holiday short stories. Please sign up at Front Porch and let us know what you are bringing (based on last name): A-E: Salad, F-K: Vegetable; L-P: Main Dish; Q-Z: Dessert

Zoo Lights, Denver Zoo - #35075
Tuesday, Dec. 15
Register/Cancel by Dec. 11
4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
$10 (van, admission)

Stress Management for Seniors - #35080
Thursday, Dec. 17
Register/Cancel by Dec. 15
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
FREE – Registration required.

LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY!

The Masterworks of Charles M. Russell, Denver Art Museum - #15105
Thursday, Jan. 7 - Register/Cancel by Jan. 5
9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. - $18 (van, parking, admission)
Explore the career of this Western legend, and you'll find that Russell was much more than a "cowboy artist." The first major retrospective of his work.
Lunch afterwards.

Cowboy Poetry Sessions, Arvada Center - #15110
Friday, Jan. 15 - Register/Cancel by Jan. 13
9:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.*
$20 (van, parking, admission; bring $$ for lunch)
A great opportunity to participate in various sessions of cowboy poetry. You also can purchase a true cowboy chuck wagon lunch or bring your own lunch.
*If the majority agree that this is too long of a day, we will leave at 2 p.m.

An Evening of Dancing Horses, Stock Show - #15111
Wednesday, Jan. 20 - Register/Cancel by Jan. 4
6:30 to 11 p.m. - $25 (van, parking, admission)
This show is packed full of dressage, freestyle reining, drill elements and plenty more equestrian disciplines, all choreographed to the music of the Denver Brass.

Understanding Memory Loss and Dementia - #15113
Wednesday, Jan. 27 - Register/Cancel by Jan. 26
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
FREE – Registration required.

Here’s what’s happening this month:
Check out the programs offered this winter at the Community Center
To register, visit www.goldenrec.com

Snowball Camp
Don’t miss out on Snowball Camp during your child’s holiday break. State-licensed day camp activities include field trips, arts and crafts, gym, cooking, swimming, climbing and more. Visit www.goldenrec.com for more information and to register.

Tumbling Basics
This is a great new class which combines jazz, ballet and tap at a discounted rate! Tumbling techniques and skills will be introduced to help with balance, coordination, strength and flexibility. If your child attends a dance class, a $5 discount is applied per session.

- **Age:** 6 to 8 years
- **Wednesdays, Jan. 6 to Jan. 27**
- **6 to 6:45 p.m.**
- **$35 Resident, $40 Non-resident**

Advanced Care Babysitting Courses
This course is designed for the pre-teen and helps prepare for their first babysitting opportunities. Home and fire safety, infant and child CPR, rescue breathing and choking procedures will be covered. A certification is provided.

- **Age:** 11 years and older
- **Saturday, Jan. 2**
- **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
- **$65 Resident, $70 Non-resident**

Dino Dig
Budding paleontologists learn about dinosaurs and the techniques used in extracting fossils in this hands-on class. Go on your own fossil dig, analyze and assemble skeleton pieces, produce a fossil reconstruction and create a mural.

- **Age:** 3 to 5 years
- **Wednesdays, Jan. 6 to Jan. 27**
- **1 to 2 p.m.**
- **$40 Resident, $45 Non-resident**

- **Age:** 6 to 12 years
- **Tuesdays, Jan. 5 to Feb. 9**
- **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**
- **$84 Resident, $89 Non-resident**

I Want to be an Astronaut Workshop
In this workshop, your child will see and feel what it is like to train for launching into space and exploring the planets, moon, comets and asteroids of our Solar system.

- **Age:** 5 to 12 years
- **Saturday, Jan. 16**
- **10 a.m. to noon**
- **$19 Resident, $22 Non-resident**

Junior Engineering Using LEGO®
Explore basic engineering concepts while building simple machines from LEGO® Dacta kits. Projects include exploration of lever classes, a rotating sign, cars, even a dinosaur and amusement park ride!

- **Age:** 6 to 8 years
- **Thursdays, Jan. 7 to Jan. 28**
- **4 to 5:30 p.m.**
- **$60 Resident, $65 Non-resident**

**Located at the base of the foothills, the Golden Community Center is a venue with a view!**

Perfect for weddings, graduations and other events, put your mind at ease with the support of professional staff members and the convenience of an adjoining caterer’s kitchen.

Call Larry Rock at 303-384-8133 for availability, facility tours and rates.

**Make your event special – have it at the Golden Community Center.**
Whether you are a seasoned outdoor enthusiast, someone who finds the thought of working out in the weight room boring, or looking for a fun group of friends, climbing the rock wall at the Golden Community Center is your chance to increase your fitness and learn a multi-dimensional sport.

Climbing develops strength and flexibility as well as a high degree of endurance and skill. It offers a balance between physical exercise and mental discipline. Climbers of all ages report a heightened sense of self-confidence and independence as a result of gaining new skills and successfully completing climbs.

The Golden Community Center provides top rope climbing and bouldering walls for ages four and over. Adults may bring in kids and supervise while they use the bouldering wall, or get certified (ages 18 and older) and belay on the top rope climbing wall during unsupervised hours.

For those looking to climb solo during unsupervised hours, certification clinics or “test out” certifications are available. Climbing equipment, including harnesses (youth or adult), belay devices and carabiners, may be checked out during unsupervised hours at the front desk of the Golden Community Center.

Women looking for an alternative activity to get in shape and build strength should consider joining the Women’s Climbing Club. The Women’s Climbing Club is a great opportunity to build camaraderie while learning the fundamentals of climbing. The club is looking for ladies interested in climbing on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Youth ages 6 to 18 are invited to join Golden’s Youth Climbing Club on Monday afternoons/evenings. Youth Club includes optional competitions, a T-shirt and prizes as well as free admission to climb during supervised hours. The fee for each club is $30 per month.

Climbing wall rentals are available for groups, troops, camps, team building, birthday parties or any other event. Climbing wall birthday parties may be combined with swimming parties. For more information on “going vertical” at the Golden Community Center, getting certified or to schedule a rental, call 303-384-8196 or visit www.goldenrec.com.

The City of Golden and surrounding Jefferson County have a remarkable history. Many of our area’s treasures are highlighted in the new book, “Jefferson County, Colorado: A Unique & Eventful History!”

This book celebrates the 150 years since Colorado’s initial “Provisional Territory Government” began at Mount Vernon and Golden in 1859. Once an agricultural and mining area, JeffCo residents developed a thriving economy where the great plains meet the Rocky Mountains with some of the most magnificent scenery around.

Local author Carole Lomond describes the book as the first comprehensive history of Jefferson County, a Colorado “Crown Jewel” with extraordinary natural splendors, historic treasures, recreation pleasures and 15 unique communities. Lomond has been writing about Jefferson County in her City and Mountain Views magazine since 1993.

The book is for sale locally at The Golden History Center Gift Shop, 923 10th St. and at Clear Creek Books, 1200 Washington Ave.
Come celebrate in a place that’s as close to your home as it is to your heart. Downtown Golden offers a unique shopping experience, friendly entertainment, and more holiday ambiance than you can imagine. Find your holiday getaway, a listing of shops and restaurants, and a complete schedule of events at 2HourVacation.com.

**OLDE GOLDEN CHRISTMAS ON PARADE**  See a true hometown parade complete with floats, holiday characters, Santa, music, and much more. Saturdays in December at 11am on Washington Ave.