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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The Golden Informer
COLORADO GIVES DAY DEC. 8
Colorado Gives Day is an annual statewide movement to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. Golden’s non-profits have added a special twist to the event by coming together for one big celebration. The Holiday Celebration and Expo is on Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, Dec. 8 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Table Mountain Inn, 1310 Washington Ave. This is a great way for the Golden community to see all of the good work that local non-profits are doing, and to see if there are organizations that you want to support financially, or with your time and talent. Organizers ask for a $5 donation to get a drink ticket and unlimited trips to the buffet.

The idea behind this event is “plus one other.” According to event coordinator Marcie Miller with the Golden Civic Foundation, “We feel that if we work together to leverage our individual donor email lists, we can elevate not only our own agency but other nonprofits as well.” Over 30 nonprofits plan to participate. Groups range from cultural to educational to community oriented and more. Leadership Golden, a group known for giving many of Golden’s volunteers their start, will be joining for the first time this year. The Civic Foundation and the Golden Cultural Alliance are hosting the event. For more details, visit www.coloradogives.org.

REPURPOSING YOUR TREE
By the time the holidays are over, those of you with real trees notice they’re losing their needles and drying up. The City of Golden has an easy way for you to get rid of your tree and help give it a second life as it’s turned into mulch.

Drop off your trees from Dec. 26 through Jan. 24 at the Golden Recycle site, just west of Hwy 93 and north of Golden Gate Canyon Road. Please leave trees at the south end of the site; there will be a sign there for tree recycling.

Trees must be stripped of all ornaments, hardware, strings of lights and tinsel. The trees will be turned into mulch, which will eventually be available for free at the public pickup site on 11th Street, just west of the Clear Creek History Park. For further details, contact the City of Golden Forestry office at 303-384-8141.

CITY HOLIDAY HOURS
The City of Golden’s administrative offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Jan. 1 for the holidays.

The Golden Community Center will be open from 5:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24 and will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25. The GCC will also close at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 31 and will be open for modified hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 1.

GOLDEN OPTIMISTS
CHRISTMAS TREE SALE
The Golden Optimists will be selling fresh Christmas Trees at U.S. Bank on the corner of 19th and Jackson Streets. The sales are happening now until Dec. 24 or whenever they run out of trees. Local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be helping the Optimists manage the tree lot. Proceeds benefit the activities of the Golden Optimists, which include supporting the bicycle recycle program, providing school supplies for local schools, contributing to local food banks, and sponsoring Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. For more information, visit www.goldenoptimists.org.

Below is Golden City Council’s monthly calendar. Meetings are held on Thursdays and begin at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St., unless otherwise noted.

Dec. 3
Rescheduled business meeting
Dec. 10
Regular business meeting
Dec. 17
No meeting
Dec. 24
No meeting
Dec. 31
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.
On Being Mayor or Councilor
By Mayor Marjorie Sloan

Being mayor or city councilor isn’t just attending and running council meetings, it’s so many other things. The respected dean of American mayors, Charleston’s Joe Riley, broadly stated that the job means “be[ing] nice to people” and “find[ing] ways to help make the community better” – every day.

To work at these two tasks, Golden elected officials spend their time:

**Listening.** Residents, business owners, and organization representatives tell us what’s important to them during formal and informal discussions, open houses, neighborhood gatherings, casual encounters, and e-mails. Without active and up-to-date communications from stakeholders, City Council can’t do its job.

**Learning.** Election to a position in municipal government requires an openness to nonstop learning—about capital improvements, budgeting, bonding authority, social issues, sustainability initiatives, planning concepts, communication principles, and more. Council learns from the presentations of our talented and dedicated staff, community experts, board recommendations, regional and national discussions, and a steady stream of reading material. A newly elected councilor soon recognizes the breathtaking scope of knowledge needed – and the availability of necessary resources.

**Teaching.** Hand-in-hand with listening goes teaching -- providing relevant, clear, and accurate facts and conclusions about City programs, services, and operations. This duty has an especially gratifying subset, meeting with the children of our City. I have enjoyed talking with first graders about designing a community park; middle-school students on a variety of topics, including a comparison of Golden government with that of ancient Egypt; and high-school students about their extra-curricular activities. During these talks, I hope young people realize how much their community values them and their ideas. (A favorite recent discussion was whether Golden’s projects should be done solely with manpower like the pyramids, or whether we should use modern machinery.)

**Planning.** Attending to ongoing responsibilities is a key part of Council’s job. But perhaps more important is the need for Council to plan for future challenges. The Golden vision of an active, welcoming small-town requires the entire community’s engagement in planning to preserve our historic downtown character; support our neighborhoods, accommodate the free flow of vehicular traffic; and encourage pedestrian, cycling, and transit options.

**Connecting.** While listening, learning, teaching, and planning, elected officials establish meaningful connections with community stakeholders, regional players, and each other. Although it’s unlikely there will be complete agreement on any particular issue, establishing trust in the word and good faith of Golden officials is absolutely critical to moving forward with the Golden vision.

**Problem solving.** Council must remain cognizant of emerging problems and remain flexible enough to solve them in a way consistent with the Golden vision. Sometimes existing plans need to be updated, revised, and adapted in order to deal with a particular situation. For instance, Council is currently tapping into our community’s ingenuity in conducting a review of our City’s long-existing special-events policy and in re-evaluating parking needs and solutions.

**Celebrating.** Finally, Council is privileged to celebrate with our community. And at holiday time, Santa’s back on the arch and Golden is absolutely magical. We look forward to sharing holiday best wishes with residents during the Candlelight Walk (complete with fireworks), Olde Golden Christmas weekly parades, and our wonderful shopping and dining experiences.

Holiday Wishes,
Three people were elected for seats on Golden’s City Council in November. One face will be new to many, but the other two will likely look very familiar. In both seats where incumbents ran, they were re-elected.

Mayor Marjorie Sloan will preside over Council for another four year term. Mayor Sloan made history as the first female mayor elected by the citizens since the City became a Home Rule City. According to local historian Richard Gardner, she broke several more records for this election. Two were her own records for most votes for a mayoral candidate and most votes for a female candidate. She is also now the first person to surpass 4,000 votes in Golden’s History. With nearly 75 percent of the votes, Mayor Sloan also broke a record for most votes in a three-way election, giving her a resounding win. The Mayor’s thoughts on her continued role are on the opposite page.

The District One Councilor seat was also won by an incumbent, Saoirse Charis-Graves. When Councilor Charis-Graves began four years ago, she promised that she would initiate a monthly meeting with residents called “Coffee with a Councilor.” She has faithfully been at a coffee shop on the first Saturday of each month to chat with anyone who can come. In addition, she proactively seeks out the thoughts and opinions of her constituents. “Strategic communication is my top priority,” says Charis-Graves. “I’ve always been interested in identifying ways we can improve public participation to get better decisions that are supported and last longer. I’m also re-dedicating myself to re-connecting at the neighborhood level so that I can better understand and advocate for neighborhood goals as identified by community members within each neighborhood.”

The “new guy” on Council will be District Two Councilor Casey Brown. He is taking the seat vacated by long-time Councilor and community member Marcie Miller. Brown also broke Miller’s record for most votes for a District candidate. “Running for Golden City Council has been a lot of hard work and I’d like to thank my neighbors, family and the residents of Golden for all their support,” says Brown. “The number one concern of voters I talked to as I walked throughout District Two this campaign season was traffic congestion and the impact on pedestrian safety and parking. My top priority is to work collaboratively with my fellow councilors, residents and City staff to address these challenges.”

The newly elected members of council will be sworn in at the Jan. 7 council meeting. Please join us in welcoming them that evening.

Meet Your Newly Elected Council Members

Marjorie Sloan, Mayor
Saoirse Charis-Graves, District One Councilor
Casey Brown, District Two Councilor
O
ne of the best things about living in Golden is the wildlife. There is an abundance of deer and elk and we see them even more during the colder months. But with the beauty comes an increased danger on our roads. In particular, US Highway 6 is a place where cars and wildlife too often collide.

Due to frequent vehicle/animal collisions, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) installed an at-grade wildlife crossing on US 6, between Heritage Road and 19th Street, in late 2010. Last year CDOT recorded over 1,200 westbound crossings of elk in the at-grade crossing during the months of November and December. Although this is the peak time for crossings, the full season goes from September through February. Based on collision data collected by the City between 2007 and 2014, collisions between wildlife and cars significantly decreased in 2011, the year after the at-grade wildlife crossing was installed.

However, the number of collisions has slowly crept back up in recent years. Why? Motorists have become “immune” to the flashing lights, which can be triggered by other movements such as vegetation blowing in the wind. But even when the flashing lights are triggered by wildlife, motorists may not see the animals, which reinforces the perception that the signs are ineffective.

As a result, that wildlife crossing will be getting some enhancements. Rumble strips will be installed on the crossing as a reminder to slow down. Subtle lighting will be installed to allow drivers to see wildlife in the designated crossing area. And vegetation will be mowed and maintained to help prevent false positive readings from the infrared detectors.

A timeline has not yet been set for those enhancements. But you can play a part in making the area safer now and into the future by always slowing down when approaching the at-grade wildlife crossing on 6th Avenue. Also, be aware of wildlife along that stretch of road, especially at dawn, dusk and nighttime hours when visibility is lower.

JOIN THE GOLDEN SAFETY ACADEMY

H ave you ever wondered if your home is secure enough to protect your family? Do you know how to protect them and yourself? Learning skills and techniques in Crime Prevention can make you feel safer in your home and community. That’s why the Golden Police Department created the inaugural Golden Safety Academy.

The mission of the Academy is to partner with the community by educating and empowering citizens about personal safety and crime prevention. This FREE academy is twelve sessions, and classes will be held once a month from 6 to 9 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. The first class will be on Monday, Jan. 11, 2016. Some of the topics to be covered include identity theft, internet safety, bicycle and motor vehicle theft, locks and doors, fences, security lighting and much more. Seating is limited. To register, visit www.cityofgolden.net/links/SafetyAcademy. A maximum of two individuals per household.
Ready or not, here it comes. After years of planning, public meetings and public input, the construction project to rebuild the US 6 and 19th Street interchange will soon begin.

Golden citizens and city leaders came together in 2003 to outline a vision for improving transportation within Golden city limits. The result of a year of study and extensive community discussions, including nine public meetings and hundreds of citizen comments, found that traffic needs could be met through a specific set of upgrades or realignments of existing roads (including US 6 and SH 93). This Golden Plan, which would also maintain traffic noise to reasonable levels while connecting neighborhoods and preserving the natural and historic beauty of the area, was unanimously adopted by City Council. Elements of the Golden Plan have been the basis of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for future construction on US 6 and SH 93.

Last year, Golden applied for, and received, $20 million in funding from CDOT for the design and construction of the US 6 and 19th Street interchange. Again, several public meetings were held and input from those meetings was used to inform the final design which is currently under review at CDOT. The new intersection will be grade separated with 19th Street remaining at its current grade and US 6 lowered twenty-five feet to go under. The bridge over US 6 will be almost three football fields wide allowing for trails and park space in addition to 19th Street. Construction on the $25 million dollar project is expected to begin in early 2016. Watch for more information about the schedule, detours and how to stay informed and involved in the project during construction in the special January/February issue of the Golden Informer.
The Golden Optimists Bicycle Recycle program that has provided thousands of bicycles to kids, students, families, veterans, and homeless in the greater Golden area is losing its workshop. The Optimists have been very fortunate that Heritage Square provided free space for their Quonset hut and utilities for the last 20 years. Now the Optimists are reaching out to the community to find a practical solution to replacing their space in Golden so they can continue to get bikes to people who need them.

Serving the greater Golden area, the Optimists collect donated bicycles, repair them, teach bicycle maintenance, promote bicycle safety, and recycle bikes that cannot be repaired. High school students and other young people volunteer at the shop and learn valuable skills. One source of bikes is the City’s household waste drop-off program called “Golden Pride Days” in May. Just this year, the Golden Optimists repaired and put more than 400 bicycles back into use for locals, international students from the Colorado School of Mines, and referrals from social service programs.

The Optimists are looking for affordable short-term and long-term ideas for workshop and bike storage space. A major fundraiser for the Optimists is the annual Christmas Tree Sale underway at U.S. Bank (details on p. 3). If you have ideas on how to help, email goldenoptimists@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.goldenoptimists.org.

During the colder winter months we use our furnaces and fireplaces and sometimes even warm up our cars by idling them in the garage. Cold weather raises our risk for carbon monoxide poisoning, the “silent killer” which is a colorless and odorless gas that can be deadly. It is recommended that you install a carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home near sleeping areas and test them monthly. If you have solid or gas fuel burning appliances, a fireplace in your home, or an attached garage, this is even more important.

Be aware of common signs or symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure including headaches, dizziness, nausea, weakness, irritability and eventually unconsciousness. If you have one or more of these symptoms and/or your carbon monoxide detector sounds an alarm, be sure to ventilate your house, get out and call 911 from a cell phone or a neighbor’s phone.

Here are a few other cold weather tips:

- Avoid creating piles of snow that will obstruct a fire hydrant.
- Make sure that heavy snow does not obstruct combustion air inlets or exhausts for your fuel burning appliances.
- Shovel two paths in and out of your home in case of emergency.
- Make sure snow doesn’t block the address numbers on your home so emergency responders can see them.
- Inspect your holiday lighting for damage before installing. Replace if necessary.
- Avoid staples or nails that can penetrate holiday wiring and cause electrical shorting and possibly fire.
- Water fresh Christmas trees often but when they dry out, dispose of the trees. Keep candles and other heat sources well away from decorative trees.
- Extinguish candles and turn off holiday lighting when you leave home.

The Golden Fire Department wishes everyone a safe and happy winter and holiday season.

Keep Your Home Safe this Winter
The City needs to replace your water meter. The meters throughout the city are wearing out. With the exception of newer homes and businesses, most meters are dated and don’t have the technology to provide timely data.

The new meters are digital, so instead of a person coming to your house several times a year to read your meter, the meter transmits the data to the City. This can help you, for instance, if you have leaks, breaks, a stopped meter, or a problem like a toilet running or a broken sprinkler head. It can potentially save you quite a bit of money to catch those types of things quickly. And the instant information will allow the City of Golden to provide better customer service by contacting you when we see evidence of a problem.

There will be a website where you can monitor your usage. You can even set limits on water usage so when you go over your set limit, you will get an e-mail alert. This can help a lot during the summer months when extra water is used for lawns.

But in order to get these new meters put into place, the City will need your help. We will replace the meters by neighborhood and provide notice by mail on when we will be in your neighborhood. If your water meter is inside your home, you will need to schedule an appointment to have our crews come out to replace it. Appointments will be available during the day, in the evening and on weekends to accommodate all types of schedules.

It’s important that you look around and locate your water meter. Most houses built after 1990 have meters on the inside of the home. If it’s inside, you will need to be able to show us where it is located, since each home can be different. If your meter is on the outside, you will not have to set an appointment. We will knock on your door to let you know we are there, but the replacement can be done even if you’re not home. A typical replacement will only take about 20 minutes and your water will be shut off during the process.

The water meter replacement project is expected to begin around March and we hope to be completely done by December. You will receive information in the mail and we will have more details as we get closer to the beginning of the project.

The City’s Parks and Recreation department has been using the digital meters for about two years to test them out. The system has proven to be very successful, and we are excited to now present it to you.
Dec. 3
Golden Holiday Expo
Do your holiday shopping in one place at the Expo presented by Golden Women in Business. 6 to 9 p.m. at Connects Workspace, 1301 Arapahoe. Free and open to the public. Free gift wrapping. Details on Facebook at Facebook/goldenwomeninbusiness.

Dec. 4
Candlelight Walk
Walk down Washington Avenue, candle in hand, to the Visitors’ Center to marvel at the official lighting of the downtown and creek holiday lights. More details on p. 19.

Holiday Lights
at Clear Creek History Park
Your night doesn’t have to end with the Candlelight Walk. Follow the beautiful lights along the creek path and arrive at the Clear Creek History Park, which will be adorned with holiday décor. For details call Golden History Museums at 303-278-3557 or visit GoldenHistory.org.

Dec. 5
Coffee with a Councilor
Chat with your City Councilors about things that matter to you. First Saturday of every month. 10 a.m. at Bean Fosters, 720 Golden Ridge Rd. For details call Councilor Saoirse Charis-Graves at 303-279-7529 or scharisgraves@cityofgolden.net.

GHS Holiday Bazaar
Save on your holiday shopping at this event that features a wide variety of vendors and includes free parking and admission. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Golden High School, 701 24th St. For details email campcoop@comcast.net.

Dec. 5
Holiday Concerts
The Golden Community Choir performs “Stories of Christmas” with a special reading of ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas by Golden Mayor Marjorie Sloan. 7:30 p.m. at Golden High School, 701 24th St. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance. For ticket information visit www.goldencommunitychoirs.org.

The Jefferson Symphony
Orchestra performs La Boheme: Christmas Eve Arias/Duet and traditional holiday music featuring guest soloists. 7 p.m. at the Colorado School of Mines Green Center, 924 16th St. For tickets and info call 303-278-4237 or visit www.jeffsymphony.org.

Dec. 5, 12 & 19
Olde Golden Christmas Parades
The parades begin at 11 a.m. on the first three Saturdays in December. On Washington Avenue between 10th and 13th streets. More details on p. 18.

Dec. 6
Holiday Historic House Tour
Join the Golden Landmarks Association for the 2015 Holiday House Tour featuring homes from the 12th Street Historic District. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. $22 in advance, $25 day of tour. For more information visit goldencivicfoundation.org.

Dec. 8
Colorado Gives Day
Holiday Celebration & Expo
Join the Golden Civic Foundation and Golden Cultural Alliance for a celebration and expo highlighting Golden’s non-profits. 4 to 7 p.m. at Table Mountain Inn, 1310 Washington Ave. Enjoy delicious food, drinks and live entertainment for a $5 donation. Details at goldencivicfoundation.org.

Dec. 10
GHS Art Sale
Purchase student and teacher-made artwork from Golden High School including photography, ceramics, jewelry, drawings and paintings. 2:25 to 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Golden High School, 701 24th St.

Dec. 12
Golden’s Christmas Past Tour
Dec. 14
Kindergarten Open House
Come meet the teachers and tour Shelton Elementary, 420 Crawford St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. For more information call 303-982-5686.

Dec. 31
Noon Year’s Eve at the Golden Library
Ring in the New Year – 12 hours early – at the Golden Library with fun for the whole family featuring funny hats, games, stories and refreshments. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Golden Library, 1019 10th St. For details visit jeffcolibrary.org.

Through Dec. 20
A Tuna Christmas
In this hilarious sequel to Greater Tuna, it’s Christmas in the third smallest town in Texas. Miners Alley Playhouse, 1224 Washington Ave. For tickets and showtimes call 303-935-3044 or visit www.minersalley.com.

Through Jan. 23
Quilts by Carolyn König
Enjoy the intricate works of this quilter, who designed the quilts based on British tradition. Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, 1213 Washington Ave. For details call 303-215-9001 or visit www.rmqm.org.

Through Dec. 23
The Polar Express™
Enjoy the sights, sounds and intrigue of the classic children’s tale as it comes to life at the Colorado Railroad Museum, 17155 W. 44th Ave. Rides depart Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays. For tickets and information call 720-253-1023 or visit coloradorailroadmuseum.org/polarexpress.

FREE
Sales and Use Tax Workshops
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.

December 2, 2015 ....8:30 to 10 a.m.
January 6, 2016 ........8:30 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. 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.

February 3, 2016........ 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Class is free, but space is limited.
Please call 303-384-8024 for your reservation.
The sales tax refund is limited to senior, low-income or disabled individuals who have lived within the city limits of Golden for at least 90 consecutive days in 2015 and cannot be claimed as a dependent on any other person’s tax return. **The refund amount for 2015 is $50.** This will be adjusted for partial year residency in Golden and partial year at age 65.

Please check one box only:

- **Senior Refund** (must be 65 years or older)
- **Low Income Refund**
  - **Proof required.** Attach a photocopy of one of the following:
    - State of Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate approval notification
    - Proof of Medicaid benefits
    - Proof of LEAP eligibility
    - Proof of eligibility for food stamps
- **Disabled Refund**
  - **Proof required.** Attach a photocopy of one of the following:
    - State of Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate approval notification
    - Proof of full benefits from Social Security Disability Income, SSI or the Department of Human Services
    - Proof of total disability from a public or private insurance plan

Please print or type:

Name: Mr(s).  
Age: ______________  Date of Birth: ______________
Name: Mr(s).  
Age: ______________  Date of Birth: ______________

Address: __________________________ Golden, CO    ZIP: __________
Phone: __________________________

How many months did you reside in the city limits of Golden during 2015? _____ months
Were you claimed as a dependent on any other person’s income tax form?   yes   no

Signature: __________________________  Signature: __________________________

*This form must be submitted by no later than April 15, 2016.*

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

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

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Office Use Only:
Account #013031-6190   STR   Vendor # ___________   Received _________ Payable _________
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Instead of accumulating more stuff, why not try a few non-traditional gift ideas? This year consider consumables. Consumable gifts, as opposed to durable gifts, are meant to be used up, not stashed in a closet for the next yard sale. Think homemade, one size fits all, or things that can be used up. Here are a few ideas:

• **Garden In A Box kits.** Now is a great time to plan for spring. The City sponsors discounts for the first 100 kits ordered by Golden residents. Purchase a gift certificate toward a box here http://conservationcenter.org/gardens/shop.

• **Buy a CSA Share.** Community-Supported Agriculture keeps your dollar local and connects you with fresh fruit, vegetables, and meat. Many local farms offer year-round shares. Find a CSA at http://farmshares.info.

• **Give Experiences.** Can’t recall the gifts you received last year? Perhaps the most memorable gifts are the times we spend with others. Golden has many experiences to offer: Family in town? Try the Astor House or the American Mountaineering Center Museum. For kids? Try the Colorado Railroad Museum or studio classes at Art on the Brix. Get cultured with tickets to a Miner’s Alley Playhouse show.

**Winter Cycling**

Now is a good time to take that bike out of storage. With over 20 miles of paved trails and over 80 percent of city streets with bike lanes or paved shoulders, winter biking in Golden doesn’t have to be difficult. Even in winter, the streets are clear and the temperature hits the 60s many days throughout the season. And when it’s not, follow these common sense guidelines to stay safe and warm:

• Get a good light. Darkness, more than cold and ice, is the biggest challenge of year-round biking. Don’t forget the front and back light.

• Lower your seat. The best way to stop in a hurry is to plant your boots right on the pavement.

• Dress warm and in layers. The great surprise about winter biking is that being too hot can be a problem as much as being too cold. You warm up quickly once you start pedaling, so make sure to wear layers you can remove. Add a face mask when you venture out in sub-zero temperatures.

• Invest in snow tires: This is the innovation that has sparked the winter biking boom. Studded tires give you good traction in the snow or slush.

• Pay extra attention to motorists. Drivers are less likely to be looking for bikes in the cold weather. Often, taking a route with less-traveled streets can be more pleasant.

• Have fun and get outside!
Snowball Camp
Don’t sit around during winter break! This state-licensed day camp is guaranteed to keep your child busy. Activities include a field trip, arts & crafts, gym/sports, cooking, swimming, climbing and more. Forms and details are available at rec.cityofgolden.net under the Day Camps link.

- Age: 5 - 12 years
- Min/Max: 10/20 per day
- Monday through Friday, Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2016
- (No camp 12/25/15 or 1/1/16)
- Early pick-up on 12/24 and 12/31 at 3 p.m.
- $32/day Resident, $37/day Non-resident

Bob Ross
Landscape Oil Painting
Learn landscape oil painting using the “Bob Ross Wet on Wet Technique.” The teacher is a Certified Ross Instructor, CRI®, and at the end of each half-day class, you will leave with a ready-to-frame (frame not included), finished oil painting that you created! No materials are required – we provide everything! Questions in regards to painting call Chuck 303-238-6847 or www.mysticmountainart.com.

- Age: 14 years and older
- Min/Max: 5/8
- Saturday, Dec. 19, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Hunter Education Internet Conclusion Course – NEW!
Registration is a three-step process. First, students must register and pay $10 with the Golden Community Center. Second, students are required to register for the corresponding course on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website, www.cpw.state.co.us (click on calendar, then click on hunter education courses). Once registration with both the Golden Community Center and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife web page are accomplished, step three requires students to complete the internet portion of the course PRIOR to attending the class room portion. For more information contact the instructor, Kathy Hinkle, at kehinkle@comcast.net, call 303-940-7078 or visit www.cpw.state.co.us.

- Age: All Ages, Min/Max: 6/35
- Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- $110 Resident, $115 Non-resident

Holiday Sing-a-long
Join Miss Stephanie in a fun opportunity for the whole family to sing favorite holiday songs! Our family music class is perfect for children of all ages, focusing on ages 1-10. Infants under 6 months are free.

- Wednesday, Dec. 15, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.
- Age: 6 months - 10 years
- Min/Max: 8 families
- $10 Resident, $15 Non-resident - for first two children EACH, $3 for each additional child

Minecraft - Desert Island Survival
Discover, create and learn, as TechStars grants access to a proprietary Minecraft MOD you can’t get on your own! Learn fundamentals of computer networking through this Minecraft experience that also allows you and your friends to work in multi-player mode as you mine, craft and build together to survive. No matter whether you are new to Minecraft or already love the program, this program is for YOU!

- Age: 8-12 years, Min/Max: 6/14
- Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- $200 Non-resident

Lifeguard Training
This American Red Cross (ARC) designed course is one of the National Standards for Lifeguard Employment. Upon successful completion, the candidate will receive certification in ARC Lifeguard Training, First Aid and CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer. There are prerequisites. Candidate must attend ALL classes to be eligible for certification. No refunds or make-ups due to illness or injury.

- Age: Must be 15 years old by completion of course.
- Proof of birthday required on the first day of class.

For more information and to register, visit https://rec.cityofgolden.net.
For a variety of reasons, many of us find ourselves alone for the holidays. With the emphasis on families and being with others, the holidays can be an especially lonely and trying time, even for those of us who are usually okay being on our own. But you don’t have to feel alone.

Stay focused on acknowledging and meeting your needs, and you’ll be surprised at how quickly the holidays are over.

http://psychcentral.com/lib/10-things-to-do-if-youre-alone-for-the-holidays/

For more information:
• Stop by The Front Porch, upstairs at the Community Center, 1470 10th St.;
• Call 303-384-8130;
• Check out the Recreation brochure; or
• Visit www.cityofgolden.net/links/frontporch.

Here’s what’s happening this month:

Hours of Operation
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday
The Front Porch will be CLOSED on the following days in observance of the upcoming holidays:
Christmas Eve - Thursday, Dec. 24
Christmas Day - Friday, Dec. 25
New Years Eve - Thursday, Dec. 31
New Years Day - Friday, Jan. 1

A Gathering to Celebrate the Holidays
In December, in lieu of Celebrate Health, we will be having a Holiday Potluck at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 18 in the Front Porch. Start thinking today about your favorite healthful dish that you would like to share. Meal signups are available at the Front Porch.

**Massage and Reflexology appointments will still be available on Friday, Dec. 4. Please contact the Front Porch to make an appointment, 303-384-8130.

10 Things To Do If You Are Alone for the Holidays
by Laurie Stoneham
For a variety of reasons, many of us find ourselves alone for the holidays. With the emphasis on families and being with others, the holidays can be an especially lonely and trying time, even for those of us who are usually okay being on our own. But you don’t have to feel alone.

1. De-mythologize and adjust expectations.
2. Pick up the phone.
3. Be proactive.
4. Plan an outing.
5. Pamper yourself.
6. Reach out.
7. Remember your bonds and blessings.
8. Help others.
9. Travel.
10. Get through the day.

Stay focused on acknowledging and meeting your needs, and you’ll be surprised at how quickly the holidays are over. http://psychcentral.com/lib/10-things-to-do-if-youre-alone-for-the-holidays/

UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS
Forney Transportation Museum #35004-1
The Forney Museum of Transportation is a one-of-a-kind collection of over 600 artifacts relating to historical transportation. It began 60 years ago with a single 1921 Kissel, but soon expanded to include vehicles of all kinds. Today it includes not just vehicles, but also buggies, motorcycles, steam locomotives, aircraft, carriages, rail equipment, fire apparatus, public transportation, sleighs, bicycles, toys & diecast models, vintage apparel and much, much more!

**Discussion will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 8 NOT Dec. 22.**

If you are interested in joining, please email Jan Bradbury at bobjanbradbury@comcast.net.

Golden Book Club
This group meets in the Front Porch the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
December: Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf

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Check out the Golden Community Center’s Front Porch - designed specifically for people 50 and older.
The Front Porch offers respite and entertainment, coffee, healthy snacks and cookies. There is a full schedule of games, sports, social events, trips and volunteer activities. Shoot some pool, surf the internet, work on a puzzle, or just relax before you hit your next fitness class.

The Golden Community Center
FRONT PORCH NEWS

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Another great year is coming to a close for the Golden History Museums. We’ve already processed over 80 new donations for the collection. Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity. Here are my top picks for 2015.

**PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NORTH SIDE GARAGE**

Once located at 815 Washington Avenue. Marvin Swena ran this garage for years. His son, Harold, went on to run a very successful moving company named, Swena Transfer & Express Co.

**TOILET FROM RESIDENCE AT 1210 ILLINOIS**

When homeowner Ian Ferguson first called I had to think twice. Upon further consideration I realized it was perfect for the collection. This porcelain god is believed to be the original toilet installed in the house when it was built around 1903 for the George West family. Amazingly, it was in constant use until a 2013 remodel forced its removal. At the time of the donation, the house had its original tub and sink too. All kidding aside, a toilet is a great item for documenting the development of our municipal water system, which was operating by 1880.

**GOLDEN LIBRARY LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

The museum acquired the best items from this priceless collection of books, microfilmed Golden newspapers, and maps. While it’s inaccessible now, plans are underway for a new public resource room at the Golden History Center sometime in the future. Dedicated volunteers have already cataloged nearly 200 books.

One of my favorites is a 1927-1928 Boy’s Industrial Training School yearbook and report. These were printed in the school’s own print shop.

**HERITAGE SQUARE ALPINE SLIDE SLED**

It’s a little beat up, but it’s the real deal. Our blue plastic sled was used on the half-mile-long track, which closed for good on Oct. 11, 2015 after a 37-year run. We also acquired the wooden dedication sign that hung on the lift house.
ORE CAR USED AT THE ROCKWELL CLAY MINE
This rocker-style ore car was used for local clay mining. Built in Denver by the C. S. Card Iron Works around 1910, it spent most of its life moving clay in Golden. In recent years, it ended up in the Nederland Mining Museum before its homecoming this summer.

ADOLPH COORS CO.
40-QUART MILK CAN
In Colorado, Prohibition took effect in 1917. The Adolph Coors Company quickly retooled the brewery for malted milk production. Coors contracted with local family dairies for milk. Full cans were returned to the Golden brewery in exchange for empty ones. In addition to cans, dairy farmers often went home with spent grains as feed for their dairy herds.

OVERLAND HOTEL REGISTER
Built in 1859, the Overland once sat at 1117 Washington Ave. where the Buffalo Rose Bar operates today. It first served as a hospital. The Colorado Territorial legislature met there in 1865 when Golden was the territorial capital. It’s also where the deadly shoot-out between Ed Franklin and Sheriff Keith went down. The museum acquired two pages dated from Dec. 1, 1867 to Dec 5, 1867. The hotel was torn down in about 1910.

EUGENE FODOR RECORDING
A musical virtuoso and 1968 Golden High graduate, Eugene was the first non-Russian to win the prestigious Tchaikovsky Violin Competition. The 1974 recording features Eugene playing his prize-winning solos by Tchaikovsky, Ysaye, and Paganini.

WORLD WAR I TRAPUNTO (A DECORATIVE QUILTED DESIGN IN HIGH RELIEF) SOUVENIR PLAQUE
This personalized war service souvenir of Golden resident Sylvester Spieles depicts a stylized eagle flying over two unfurled American flags. It includes two photographs of Spieles in his dress uniform from the U. S. Army’s 27th Infantry. A miner by occupation, he served in Siberia with the American Expeditionary Forces and died at age 31 from tuberculosis contracted there.

SKI COUNTRY LIQUOR DECANTERS
Owls, eagles, blackbirds, and rams; these are just a few of the animals represented in a collection of 15 decorative decanters. In the early 1970s Foss Drug introduced a house bourbon called Ski Country. The bourbon came in bottles designed to look like anything but bottles; they were more like porcelain sculptures. The first bottle designed was a skier, but many subsequent designs reflected animal motifs. The decanters became wildly popular among collectors, a popularity that lasted nearly 25 years.

ONE GALLON BOTTLE OF CANDY-APPLE-RED LAVORIS MOUTHWASH AND GARGLE
It’s still in its original box with shipping label to longtime Golden dentist Doc Anderson. Dr. Anderson’s granddaughter held onto it until this year when she offered it to the museum.

Happy Holidays,
Mark Dodge,
Curator
All photos courtesy of: Golden History Museums, City of Golden Collection.
Olde Golden Christmas 2015

The Golden Chamber of Commerce invites you to come and enjoy the 2015 Holiday Season in beautiful historic downtown Golden. Take part in the traditional festivities of Olde Golden Christmas and join in the Candlelight Walk at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4. Families and friends will gather together to celebrate the season with the lighting of downtown Golden and Clear Creek, followed by fireworks courtesy of the City of Golden. We are presenting Holiday Parades on Saturdays: Dec. 5, 12, and 19. These free parades begin at 11 a.m. on 10th Street and will go up Washington Avenue to 13th Street. Featuring cowboys on horseback, floats, marching bands, old cars, and much more, including the Grinch, elves and Santa Claus, these parades have something for everyone. Come early and have breakfast at one of Golden’s restaurants, and after the parade have fun shopping as you listen to the Victorian Carolers strolling downtown. Brighten your holidays and enjoy dinner in the charming town “Where the West Lives.”

For more information about Holiday Parades visit www.goldencochamber.org.

Illuminating History

Enjoy a spectacular display of lights at the Clear Creek History Park this holiday season. For the first time ever, Clear Creek History Park will be set aglow for Homestead Holidays. Thousands of Christmas lights will illuminate the park and historic buildings to create a festive gathering space. The lights will be on view from sunset to midnight starting on Dec. 3 until the end of January.

“We’re working each year to make improvements at the museums, and lighting the history park is our way of adding some more fun and charm to the downtown area this winter,” says Museum Director Nathan Richie.

Enjoy frontier hospitality and holiday cheer from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4 during Golden’s Candlelight Walk. Explore the inside of the Pearce/Helps Cabin and take in the smell of freshly baked goods from the wood-fired oven. On that special evening a blacksmith will be shaping metal in the workshop and a variety of singers and dancers will be featured on the nearby stage. Then enjoy the fireworks from this unique vantage point. All activities are free.

Clear Creek History Park covers three scenic acres one block west of Washington Avenue along 11th Street.

GOLDEN HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

Each year the Golden Landmarks Association (GLA) selects historic homes and buildings of interest within the Golden community to be showcased in the Golden Holiday House Tour, which will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6. This year, the Twelfth Street Historic District will be featured. Hear tales of the area as passed down through the years, as you tour each home or property. This is a self-paced tour with your choice of two starting locations – at the new Marv Kaye Stadium, 1500 Illinois St. or the historic Donelson Architecture building, 1211 Cheyenne St.

Tickets can be purchased for $22 in advance at Foothills Art Center, the Golden Chamber of Commerce, or directly from GLA at www.goldenlandmarks.com. You can also buy tickets at either start location on the day of the event for $25. For more information email gold@goldenlandmarks.com or call 303-279-1236.

GLA is dedicated to preserving Golden’s history and historic places and educating residents and visitors alike about the Golden area.
The story of The Polar Express is theatrically re-created so you and your family can be immersed in the sights, sounds and intrigue of this classic children’s tale at the Colorado Railroad Museum, 17155 W. 44th Ave. As you and your family take in the festive holiday decorations, you can almost hear the faint sound of sleigh bells in the distance. Visitors will be greeted at the main entrance and will receive their souvenir “Golden Tickets” before being directed to their performance area.

Before long, scenes from the story come to life as dancing chefs and waiters arrive to serve cookies and hot chocolate. The wide-eyed children are invited to engage these winsome and inviting characters who are eager to hear from the youngsters about what makes the Christmas season special to them.

While the hot chocolate lingers in your mouth and warms your belly you will listen as the story of The Polar Express is performed in its entirety. A smile grows on your face as you watch your child become absorbed in the wonderment of the story like never before in anticipation of their own journey aboard The Polar Express™ Train Ride.

After the storytelling concludes, the train conductor invites you and the other passengers to assemble on the platform as your train arrives in a billow of steam. “All aboooooard!” Anticipation builds as you step onto the railcar to be escorted to your seat.

This event runs through Dec. 23 and sells out quickly, so get your tickets in advance. For tickets and show times call 303-279-4591 or visit coloradorailroadmuseum.org.

HOLIDAY ART MARKET

The Holiday Art Market is back to continue a Golden holiday tradition at the Foothills Art Center, 809 15th St. Now through the end of December, shop more than 80 Colorado artists working in the highest standards of handcraft. With fine ceramics, fiber, glasswork, jewelry, paintings, woodworking, photography, holiday items and more, there’s something special for everyone to celebrate the season. Admission is free.

Foothills Art Center also provides family-friendly activities each weekend in December. Make lasting holiday memories with photos with Santa, and create your own holiday sweater, greeting card or gingerbread house. For more information about the Holiday Art Market and related activities, call 303-279-3922 or visit www.foothillsartcenter.org.
Welcome to Golden

Olde Golden Christmas

Steam Trains. Roasted Chestnuts. Santa Sightings.

Proudly Unchanged Since 1865

VisitGolden.com