Smart Car Saves City Gas and Money

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DTV is Here, Are You Ready?

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Golden Pioneer Museum Under New Management

Sales Tax Refund Form Now Available
HEADS UP: Important Upcoming Items

BUS SERVICE IN GOLDEN: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The Golden Planning Department is looking for community participation in an online survey regarding possible downtown bus service. The survey is intended to gather input about the viability of a circulator bus system. This service would likely cover the core areas of Golden and the Colorado School of Mines, in addition to providing a link to the planned light rail station adjacent to the Jefferson County Government Center.

Please go to www.goldentransitproject.com to help envision the future of transit in Golden.

CITY SEEKS INPUT ON JACKSON STREET PLAN

For the past few years, City Council and the affected neighborhoods have been discussing potential changes to Jackson Street from downtown to the new high school in an effort to improve conditions for pedestrians, bike riders, and motorists. Many of the ideas have involved reducing Jackson Street from three lanes to two lanes (to match Ford Street) and using the extra space for a bike lane and wider sidewalks. This idea was included in the Bicycle Master Plan adopted in 2003, and is again recommended in the 2008 task force reports as part of the walk ability and the Bike Master Plan Update. City Council has identified funds to start a Jackson Street project beginning in 2010, but a final plan has not been developed or approved by Council.

At this time, the City is asking for your input on options for this corridor, and to make recommendations to City Council. Please plan to attend an Open House meeting to review the options from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday Feb. 11, 2008 at the Golden Community Center (1470 10th Street) in the Bear Creek Room. Even if you have weighed in on this project in the past, please plan to attend to provide your ideas. If you can’t attend, feel free to send comments directly to planningcommission@cityofgolden.net.

ELECTION BOARD SEEKS APPLICANTS

The Golden City Council is accepting applications for the Campaign Election Board. Two positions are currently open on the board and a third will become available in March of 2009.

If needed, the board convenes to hear allegations about violations of the Local Campaign Finance Reporting Requirements outlined in the Municipal Code.

The board, which is appointed by the city council, is comprised of three residents of the City of Golden who are registered electors and are not currently serving on any another board or commission. Each member is appointed for a four year term.

Applications will be taken until 5:00 p.m. Thursday, February 12, 2009. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to be held by City Council, in the evening, Thursday, February 19, 2009, in the council chambers at City Hall, 911 10th Street.

Questions regarding the board should be directed to City Clerk Susan Brooks 384-8014 or Deputy City Clerk Andrea Banks at 303-384-8015 or clerks@cityofgolden.net.

Applications can be found on the City of Golden web site, www.cityofgolden.net, under Boards and Commissions, Campaign Finance Board, and will be accepted at the Office of City Clerk, City Hall, 911 10th Street, Golden, CO 80401, or by email to clerks@cityofgolden.net, until 5:00 p.m., Thursday, February 12, 2009.

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.

Feb. 5 Study session
Feb. 12 Regular business meeting
Feb. 19 Study session
Feb. 26 Regular business meeting

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

Public comment is welcomed and on the agenda at all regular business meetings.
While the economists may argue about when exactly Colorado slipped into a recession, everyone knows that times are tough. The City of Golden, however, is well prepared to weather the storm because of responsible financial management, intelligent investments in our quality of life and infrastructure, strong cash reserves, a very conservative debt policy, a particularly cautious 2009 budget and informed, caring and smart citizens.

We know that many Golden families are struggling and I want you to know that the City is committed to doing its part to assist our citizens. In December, City Council voted to delay a planned increase in water rates because the current rate was deemed sufficient to cover costs and improvements in 2009. Once again, we will be offering sales tax rebates to low-income families and seniors, promoting energy efficiency audits and other programs that reduce energy costs and protecting your property values with careful investments in our streets, sidewalks, parks and playgrounds.

Golden’s high quality of life is one reason our property values have held stable while property values elsewhere have been dropping. We continue to protect our historic, small-town character, we have an amazing system of parks and trails, our arts and culture communities are thriving, we’ve got top-notch fire and police departments, and we energetically promote neighborhood and family-friendly events all year long like Movies in the Park and the Candlelight Walk.

City Council is also continuing its diligent efforts to promote responsible transportation solutions that also protect our neighborhoods from noise, pollution, and other impacts. One priority is making sure that light rail comes to Golden and that it works well for the community, while we continue to ensure Golden doesn’t end up with a new high speed superhighway running the entire length of our valley.

Another priority for the coming year is a continued emphasis on transparency in government. Our City Council broadcasting program continues to receive high marks, and late last year we took another step forward by upgrading our audio equipment and by implementing a new web-based system that broadcasts our City Council meetings live on the web and allows easy access to previous meetings.

What else can we look forward to in 2009?

• We will remain focused on careful, thoughtful financial management of the city.
• We will continue advancing our Golden Sustainability Initiative, improving energy efficiency, expanding the use of renewable energy, and saving money.
• The Golden Vision 2030 process will give us all a chance to make sure all of the city’s decisions actually match the community’s vision.
• We have a regular election coming up in November for all four of the Ward City Council seats.

We know this will be a challenging year but the Vision 2030 process and our regularly scheduled election give us an outstanding opportunity to continue our community discussions and, if we all stick together, we’ll emerge on the other side of this recession a stronger and healthier community.

The Golden Pioneer Museum will reopen as the Golden History Center. The center is currently closed for a collections inventory. However, the Golden community is invited to an open house from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26. This will be a good opportunity to chat with staff and volunteers about the recent changes and to get any questions you may have answered.

“The mission of Golden History Museums is to connect people to the history of Golden, Colorado through innovative exhibits, dynamic programs and historic collections,” said Executive Director Shannon Voirl. “We strive to foster a sense of place and to build community by being the leading source for local history.”

The Golden History Center will continue working to bring Golden’s past to light through interesting stories and artifacts that demonstrate Golden’s unique history. Golden History Museums is dedicated to protecting and caring for the collections under their stewardship. Their goal is to be a resource for the community and to be your starting place for exploring Golden’s unique history, whether it is through exhibits, lectures, programs, or events.

In addition to the Golden Pioneer Museum, Golden History Museums also manages and operates the Astor House and Clear Creek History Park. The Astor House Museum continues its regular hours, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday thru Saturday. Golden History Museums will begin its annual Tea Time at the Astor House Museum series on Feb. 7. The tea will feature Opalanga Pugh as Aunt Clara Brown, a remarkable person born into slavery who crossed the country on foot to join the frontier communities of Colorado in the 1850’s and eventually became one of the wealthiest women in the west.

The Clear Creek History Park is now open from sunrise to sunset year-round. You can take your own self-guided tour of the History Park for free. Golden History Museums will continue to host major events like the Summer Solstice Music Festival, Golden Fine Arts Festival and Candlelight Walk at the Park.

For updates and more information on our ongoing programs check our website at www.goldenhistorymuseums.org.

Municipal Election Scheduled for November

Before we know it winter and spring will be over and it will be time to start thinking about the 2009 Golden Municipal Election which will take place on Nov. 3. This year the 4 ward offices are up for election. The terms are for four years.

Anyone who wishes to run for election must meet the following criteria: lived in the City of Golden for one year prior to Election Day, currently reside within the ward they are trying to represent, and be a registered voter.

The City of Golden participates in a coordinated election with Jefferson County. The election is mail-in ballot only which requires a longer timeline for pre-election activities. The first dates, and the most important for potential candidates, are between Aug. 5 and Aug. 24, when candidates may circulate nominating petitions.

Anyone considering running for one of the offices should contact the City Clerk’s office at 303-384-8014 or 303-384-8015 or by email at clerks@cityofgolden.net to obtain information.

Watch future issues of the Informer and the City’s website, www.cityofgolden.net, for further information.
Former Golden Police Chief Russell “Russ” Cook passed away at his Jefferson County home on November 21, 2008. He was found by deputies from the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department during a welfare check.

While Cook was best known for his work with the City of Golden and the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department, his law enforcement career spanned more than three decades. He began his career in Wisconsin before joining the Lakewood Police Department in June of 1973. He was promoted to sergeant in 1981 and eventually made the rank of lieutenant before leaving the department in 1988 to become chief of the Golden Police Department.

Cook served as the chief of police for the City of Golden from 1988 until he was elected as Jefferson County sheriff in 2002. During his 14-year tenure as chief, Cook was credited with being the driving force behind a change in attitude and practice within the Golden Police Department.

“Russ had a significant impact on the City of Golden and was responsible for bringing a new level of professionalism to the police department,” said City Manager Mike Bestor. “He played a large role in making the police department into the first class organization it is now.”

Current Police Chief Bill Kilpatrick first met Cook in 1976 when he interned under him at the Lakewood Police Department. The two developed a personal relationship before Kilpatrick joined the Golden Police Department in 1989. Kilpatrick was appointed chief after Cook’s election to sheriff.

“He was a great man and a great chief,” said Kilpatrick. “He was a true asset to this community and this department.”

Kilpatrick credits Cook with bringing the department into the 20th century through changes in attitude, training, equipment and personnel. Many of the personnel hired during Cook’s tenure are still with the department and have been promoted through the ranks into positions of leadership, including Kilpatrick.

In addition to serving as the chief of police, Cook worked as the acting city manager for several months in 1993 until current City Manager Mike Bestor was appointed.

Former City Councilman and Mayor Chuck Baroch remembers Cook as a leader who was open minded and listened to his constituents.

“I got to know him very well when he was the acting city manager and I was chairman of the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee,” said Baroch. “He served the City well as acting city manager and chief of police. I liked his style of management and willingness to seek and value input from subordinates, peers and superiors.”

Cook left the City of Golden in 2002 when he was elected sheriff of Jefferson County. Those close to him say this was the culmination of a life-long dream for Cook. Unfortunately, after six months on the job, he resigned as sheriff due to personal issues.

An autopsy conducted by the Jefferson County coroner found that Cook had multiple health issues that may have contributed to his death.

He was memorialized by friends and family during a small, private service on November 29, 2008. Cook is survived by his two children. He was 59-years-old.
The Golden Police Department is starting 2009 by putting several new faces on the streets and in the news. Since September of 2008, the department has hired two new officers, promoted two veteran officers to the rank of sergeant, and selected a new Public Information Officer to handle media inquiries and recruitment.

Jeff Hesalroad, a 25 year veteran, was selected for the Public Information Officer (PIO) position from four internal candidates. The PIO handles media inquiries and is heavily involved in the recruitment and retention of quality personnel.

Hesalroad began his career with Golden as a patrol officer in 1984 and moved to the motorcycle unit in 1990. In 2002, he teamed with Captain John Garavaglia and began the push to form a dedicated traffic enforcement unit which became a reality in 2004. In 2005, the traffic unit issued more than 3,000 summonses and brought roughly $1,000,000 in funds to the City through fines, federal grants and court fees.

A couple of 10 year veterans are also stepping into new roles within the department. Drew Williams and Doug Allen were promoted to sergeant in November of 2008. They each serve as shift commanders four nights a week from 8:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.

Drew Williams and Doug Allen were promoted to sergeant in November of 2008. They each serve as shift commanders four nights a week from 8:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.

Williams is a Golden native and has been with the department since 1998 when he became a cadet. His interest in the program began while he was still a student at Golden High School where he developed a relationship with the school resource officer. After joining the department as a patrol officer, he worked in the motorcycle unit for five years and was a member of the S.W.A.T. team for four years.

Allen grew up in Lakewood and graduated from Red Rocks Community College in 1996. He joined the Golden Police Department in 1997 as a reserve officer and was hired as a patrol officer in 1998. For the past four years he has been working in the investigations unit.

The newest members of the Golden Police Department are Abby Adam and Jerimiah Tipton. Adam is a recent graduate of Red Rocks Community College and has a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from the University of Colorado. She grew up in Lakewood.

Before beginning his law enforcement career, Tipton spent three years playing professional baseball in the Cincinnati Reds organization. Signed as a free agent pitching prospect, he made it to the “AA” level of the minor league system before deciding to pursue a career as a police officer.

Abby Adam, Officer

Jerimiah Tipton, Officer

He began his law enforcement career in Aspen, Colorado in 2000. After one year with the department, he accepted a position with the Henderson Police Department in Nevada where he worked as a patrol officer and as an investigator.

The Golden Police Department strives to hire only the best personnel available. The continued promotions of internal applicants such as Williams, Allen and Hesalroad are a credit to that effort and to the members of the department who choose to make Golden their home and their place of employment.
The Golden Fire Department is looking for a few good recruits to serve as volunteer firefighters. Volunteers are no longer required to live in the City of Golden. When the Golden Fire Department was founded in 1879, local residents volunteered their time and energy by responding to calls from their homes. While the tradition of the fire service remains grounded in that same sense of duty to community, gone are the days when the needs of the City can be met in this manner. Today, the department relies on a combination of personnel who work scheduled shifts at the firehouse and volunteers who respond from home. On average, the Golden Fire Department responds to more than 1,200 incidents a year, including structural, wildland, and vehicle fires, hazardous materials spills, medical assistance, and a wide variety of technical rescues. To answer the volume of calls, the department needs dedicated people to help keep more than 125 years of volunteer firefighting alive.

While the Golden Fire Department received national recognition in 2008 for its non-resident volunteer program, the department still depends on a solid base of Golden residents to respond to calls. The department currently has over 70 volunteers, more than half of which are Golden residents. In 2008, the department dedicated the new Station 1 which houses six fire apparatus in addition to a state of the art training center, administrative offices and crew quarters that can sleep up to eight personnel. The new station sits on the same location of the old Station 1 at 911 10th Street in downtown Golden. The Golden Fire Department has three other stations strategically located throughout the city.

To become a volunteer firefighter in Golden, there are no residency requirements. Non-residents who join must work a minimum of three 12-hour shifts per month and attend additional training, meeting and fundraising events. While residents of Golden respond to calls from home, they also have the option of working shifts alongside the non-resident volunteers. Recruits go through a rigorous academy where they receive extensive training and certification in the areas of fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials and basic medical care. All volunteers are provided with equipment, uniforms, annual length-of-service awards and volunteer pension plans.

To be considered you must be 19-years-old at date of application, possess a valid Colorado driver’s license and pass a medical and drug screening. No previous firefighting or medical experience is required.

Applications will be accepted through February 27, 2009.

Joining the Golden Fire Department is a great way to be directly involved in helping your community when your neighbors need you the most.

For more information about joining the Golden Fire Department and an application, visit www.cityofgolden.net. To apply, contact Cpt. Gene Quador at 303-215-8885 or gquador@cityofgolden.net.
Renovation, Contract Change
Paying Dividends

Despite concerns about a struggling economy, improvements made at two Parks and Recreation facilities continue to yield positive results. Extensive renovation to the Golden Community Center and a change in the food and beverage vendor at the Fossil Trace Golf Club has resulted in significant increases at both facilities.

Since the 2006 renovation of the Community Center, total admissions have increased by 39 percent. The center had more than 191,000 admissions in 2007 and that number grew to more than 222,000 in 2008. Improvements are continuing in 2009 with a new, more energy efficient lighting system in the aquatics area and a new frog slide in the children’s pool area.

In 2005, Fossil Trace Golf Club selected a new food and beverage vendor. Three Tomatoes was awarded the contract to provide club house service, catering and special events, and a restaurant that is independent of the golf operations. Since the transition, commissions paid to the City of Golden have increased by roughly 75 percent.

The City has also teamed up with Three Tomatoes to make improvements to the club. In the spring of 2008, a ceremonial garden was built on the north side of the clubhouse. The project improved landscaping in the area and provided an additional venue that can be rented out for events such as weddings.

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.
- March 4, 2009........... 8 to 10 a.m.
- April 1, 2009............ 8 to 10 a.m.
- June 3, 2009............. 8 to 10 a.m.
- July 1, 2009............. 8 to 10 a.m.

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

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

The workshops will be held in the Golden City Hall Conference Room, City Hall, 911 10th St.
- Feb. 4, 2009............ 8 to 10 a.m.
- May 6, 2009............. 8 to 10 a.m.

Classes are free, but space is limited.
Please call 303-384-8024 for your reservation.

The City of Golden has invested in a new computer system that allows City Council meetings to be broadcast live on the City website. Previously, video of council meetings was only available after the video had been processed and uploaded to the site. That meant anyone wanting view a portion or all of the meeting had to wait several days for the process to be completed.

The new system, known as Granicus, not only broadcasts the meetings live but once the meeting has been completed it allows the viewer to select the portion or portions of the meeting they want to view by clicking on the agenda item. Once the viewer selects an item, the system takes them directly to that portion of the meeting. With the old system, anyone wishing to view a specific item on the agenda would have to fast-forward through the meeting until they reached the portion they were interested in watching.

If you would like to check out the new system, log onto the City website www.cityofgolden.net and click on link on the homepage or on the City Council homepage.
Opening Feb. 27
THE VISITOR
Vienna, 1938. The Nazis have invaded Austria and are persecuting the Jews. Sigmund Freud is still confident in the future and refuses to leave. But on this April evening, the Gestapo arrest his daughter Anna and take her for questioning. Freud remains alone and desperate when, suddenly, a stranger enters through the window. The visitor, a frivolous and cynical dandy in a tuxedo & top hat, has some incredible things to say. Who is he? A mad man? A magician? Is this merely a dream? Or is he really as he claims, God in person? Like Freud himself, each of us will have to decide, in the course of this serious, crazy evening, who the visitor really is. Performances at the Miners Alley Playhouse located at 1224 Washington St., Suite 200. Tickets: $20. Running Fri. Sat. Sun. thru April 5. For more information call 303-935-3044 or go to www.minersalley.com.

Through Feb. 28
“Blanket Golden”, Heart and Soul month
Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, 1111 Washington Avenue
The Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum is proud to bring a tradition back to Downtown Golden. Helping to chase away the cold, winter blues.....thru the warmth of colorful quilts which will be featured in participating merchants storefronts throughout Downtown Golden. The quilts will be hung from February 1 thru 28, 2009. There will be a viewer’s choice voting until February 16, 2009. www.rmqm.org

Feb. 6
New Quilt Exhibit - Opening Reception on First Friday
Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, 1111 Washington Avenue.
Join us on First Friday to celebrate the opening of our new exhibit featuring “Block Obsession,” “Lacey Lou & Sunbonnet Sue,” and the “1790’s Camden Quilt.” Refreshments will be available from 5 to 8 p.m. FREE.
www.rmqm.org
303-277-0377

Feb. 7
SCFD Free Day
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Foothills Art Center, 89 15th Street.
Valentines created by Kids with a printing press. Gallery Talk with Exhibiting Artists at 11 a.m. www.foothillsartcenter.org
303.279.3922

Feb. 7
Astor House Tea Time - Aunt Clara Brown
The Astor House Museum, 822 12th Street.
11:30 a.m. Luncheon 3 p.m. Just Desserts
She was a pioneer, crossing the country on foot to join the frontier communities of Colorado in the 1850’s. She was an entrepreneur and philanthropist, eventually becoming one of the wealthiest women in the west. She was a mother, tirelessly searching throughout her life for her lost daughter. Determined, savvy, generous, and faithful; Aunt Clara Brown was a remarkable person born into slavery, not free to begin her journey until she was 55 years old. Featuring Opalanga Pugh. www.clearcreekhistorypark.org/astorhousemuseum.php
303-278-3557

Feb. 9
ScramBowl for Lights “A Part of Golden History”
5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Golden Bowl, 525 24th Street.
ScramBowl is a benefit to help light the trees along South Golden Road during the holidays. Reserve your historic moment in Golden’s history for team’s theme and name!
Options available! Sponsor the event! Come have fun with the entire community! Enjoy fun, food, entertainment and lots of bowling! Trophies and prizes will be awarded! Creative costuming is encouraged. Participating Team Sponsor $300. www.goldencochamber.org 303-279-3113

Feb. 14
Valentines Day

Feb. 16 President’s Day
City offices will remain open.

Feb. 21
Boettcher Mansion Bridal Affair
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Free Bridal Shows offer a wonderful opportunity to tour our venue, meet our vendors and sample treats from our caterers. Let us help you plan your special day! Many of our preferred vendors will give presentations on wedding and reception planning and be available to answer any questions. Please go to the website www.jeffco.us/boettcher for more details or contact Laurie Vogt by phone at 720-497-7633 or via email at lvogt@jeffco.us.

Feb. 22
Jefferson Symphony Orchestra - Midwinter Celebration
3 p.m., Green Center, Colorado School of Mines (924 16th Street – 16th and Cheyenne) www.jeffersonsymphonyorchestra.org

Feb. 27
Living Landmarks Dinner
Social hour 5:30 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m.
Mt. Vernon County Club, 24933 Clubhouse Cr.
The Golden Landmarks Association will celebrate the service of three volunteers. This year’s honorees are former mayor and civic leader Chuck Baroch, skiing instructor for the deaf and disabled, Hal Leith and his wife Helen, and a special posthumous award to Arlone Child, an amazing educator and traveler, who was instrumental in cataloguing and managing many of Golden’s museum collections. Tickets are $45 For more information please call 303-279-1236.

Through May 31
On High: Cartography of Topography
American Mountaineering Museum, Corner of 10th and Washington Ave. This map exhibition includes some of the more important maps in the history of world cartography, as well as maps from the exploration of the western United States. Highlights of the exhibit include a map from the Lewis and Clark Expedition, world maps from the 15th-18th centuries, Zebulon Pike’s map of the exploration of the Southwest, and many more. For more information please call 303-996-2755.

Tell them you read about them in the Golden Informer!

Buffalo Bill Cody, circa 1886. Photo courtesy of the Buffalo Bill museum

March 1
Buffalo Bill Birthday Celebration
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, 987½ Lookout Mountain Road. Come celebrate Buffalo Bill’s birthday with free cake and ice cream starting at noon. www.buffalobill.org 303-526-0744
City Buys First Smart Car

After almost a year of waiting, the City of Golden has received its first smart car. The two-seater was ordered in early 2008 but did not arrive until the first week of January. The smart fortwo pure has a 1.0 liter, 70-horse-power, 3-cylinder engine and is capable of speeds up to 90-miles-per-hour. While it is not a hybrid, it boasts an EPA estimated 33-miles-per-gallon in the city and 41-miles-per-gallon on the highway.

The car was purchased as part of the effort to reduce fuel consumption which is one of the City’s sustainability goals. Employees needing to conduct City business can use the smart car instead of their personal vehicles. In 2008, City vehicles logged a total of 650,560 miles which was down 90,000 miles from 2007. That’s a 12 percent reduction in one year.

Smart cars became available in the United States in January of 2008 and cost between $12,000 and $17,000.

Downtown Arch Renovation Complete

The famous welcome arch over Washington Ave. underwent a facelift just before Thanksgiving. Due to the deteriorating condition of the sign and safety concerns, the City of Golden contracted with Advantage Sign Company to replace the panels and to repaint the “Welcome to Golden” message that has graced the downtown area for more than 50 years.

The new sign has aluminum panels and a powder coat finish on the paint to help slow the impacts of weather and sunshine. The project was completed in one week at a cost of roughly $60,000.
The federal mandate that requires full-power television stations to turn off their analog signal and begin broadcasting in digital only goes into effect on February 17, 2009. The question is are you ready for the change?

For those of you who subscribe to a cable or satellite service provider, you are already receiving a digital signal and will not be required to make any changes to your current system. Those of you who are still using an over-the-air antenna have two weeks to make the changes necessary to receive the digital signal.

Analog televisions can display a digital signal with the help of a converter box. The boxes take a digital signal and convert it into an analog format for display on analog televisions. The converter boxes are available at most electronics stores.

In an effort to offset some of the cost associated with purchasing the boxes, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has been offering a coupon program that allows two coupons per household, each valued at $40, to be used towards the purchase of the converter boxes.

The coupon program started on January 1, 2008 and was supposed to last until March 31, 2009, but the program has already reached its funding limit. Anyone who has not requested a coupon may go to their website, www.DTV2009.gov, to be put on a waiting list. Coupons will be issued as funding becomes available from coupons that have expired. Each coupon is valid for 90 days after mailing.

In anticipation of this signal change, the FCC enacted the digital tuner rule which went into effect on March 1, 2007. The rule prohibits the manufacture, import, or interstate transport of any device that does not contain a digital tuner. While this rule prohibits the manufacture of devices that do not have a digital tuner, it does not prevent the sale of analog devices already in stock. If you decide to purchase a new television, be sure to ask if it is equipped with a built-in digital tuner.

While the digital converter box will allow your analog television to display a signal, it does not guarantee that you will get the full spectrum and quality of a digital signal. It is also important to point out that a digital signal is not necessarily a high-definition signal. HDTV requires a television designed to provide the video and audio quality necessary to be considered a high-definition display.

By switching from analog to digital signals, television stations will be able to offer better picture and sound quality. They will also be able to offer multiple programming choices and interactive capabilities to a wider audience. The analog signals that will be freed up by this change will be utilized for public and safety services such as police departments, fire departments, and advanced wireless services.

For more information about the transition from analog to digital television signals you can go to www.dtv.gov.

THINKING OF BUYING A NEW DIGITAL TV?

It’s tempting to justify that new plasma TV with the federal digital TV mandate, but consider that your analog TV may still have several useful years ahead. More than 3.2 million tons of electronic waste is laid to rest in landfills each year. You can put your working analog TV in the hands of someone who really needs it by donating it to a local charitable organization or by giving it away on craigslist.org or freecycle.org. To recycle your non-working TV, residents may bring it to the Rooney Road Recycling Center or store it until Golden’s Pride Days (annually in May of each year) for electronic waste drop-off.

If you are considering a new plasma or LCD TV, consider that the energy for that new TV may be more than your existing TV. Before you purchase, compare the wattage and electricity requirements of different TVs at www.energystar.gov. Energy Star qualified TVs use about 30% less energy than standard units. You can find the Energy Star label on many standard TVs, to HD-ready TVs, even your coveted flat-screen plasma TV. Remember, saving energy prevents pollution and helps to prevent global warming, not to mention saves your wallet.
New Xcel Energy Rebates for Energy Efficiency

Are you thinking of how to better insulate your home? Do you need a new furnace or water heater? Would you like an expert to evaluate your home’s energy efficiency? Xcel Energy has several new programs that Golden residents can take advantage of.

Home Energy Audits - Xcel’s home audit program can provide detailed recommendations by a local home energy expert. The cost to homeowners for the audit is $35 (a $150 value) and includes an inspection of your home’s doors, windows, attic spaces, furnace and appliances.

Cash Rebates are also offered for heating appliances and insulation. Rebates increase with the level of energy efficiency rating:

For more information, please see Xcel’s website or call the customer service number on your bill.

FURNACE
92 – 93.9 (efficiency) = $80
94 and above (efficiency) = $120

WATER HEATER
.62 (efficiency) = $40
.65 (efficiency) = $60
.67 (efficiency) = $80
.82 or tankless heater = $100

INSULATION PROJECTS
20% or up to $300 of insulation costs can be rebated. Homes must achieve specific insulation standards (r-values of 38 or greater for attics or ceilings; r-13 for walls, or include air sealing or weather stripping).

New Incentives for Installing Solar Energy Systems

Is a solar energy system right for your home? There are many benefits of solar energy, including a reduction in pollution, stabilization of your electric costs, preservation of our natural resources, and lessening our dependence on fossil fuels. Now, installing a solar system just got easier.

Beginning January 1, any system installed in 2009 is eligible for a tax credit worth 30% of the net value of the system. In addition to the tax credits, Xcel customers are eligible for two types of rebates. Renewable energy credits (RECs) are payments to owners of a solar system for providing renewable energy back to the grid system and amount to $1.50 per watt of electricity. Xcel also rebates $2.00 per watt for qualified systems. This means, for the average Golden home that uses a 4.5 kilowatt system, the initial cost of installation would be $36,000. Subtract Xcel’s rebate ($9,000), REC rebates ($6,750) and the new federal tax credit of 30% ($6,075) and the net cost would be $14,175.

Homeowners can choose smaller or larger systems up to 10 kilowatts and still qualify for the rebates. Are you interested but wondering where to start? Check out the “candidate checklist” at www.xcelenergy.com to find if PV is right for you.

ORDER YOUR GARDEN-IN-A-BOX

Landscaping in our arid climate doesn’t have to be a challenge. There are many wonderful plants that require little water and do well in our clay soils. Put a few of these species together and you’ve created a beautiful Xeriscape or water-wise landscape. The City has partnered with the Center for ReSource Conservation to bring you three different Xeriscape designs. Each kit includes a design layout, 30 or more plants, planting and maintenance instructions, and helpful tips about xeric gardening. The kits are being offered at a significantly reduced rate to City residents and range from $65 to $120. The three designs were created by professional landscape designers with the do-it-your-selfer in mind. They thrive in Golden’s climate and prefer full sun.

For more information on the different garden kits, see the city website at www.cityofgolden.net/sustainability/gardeninabox or www.ConservationCenter.org.

Residents may order directly through the Center for ReSource Conservation and will be able to pick up their garden kits at a city location in early May.
Photo Contest for Street Light Pole Banners

The banners hanging from downtown Golden’s street light poles are showing some wear and tear, so the Golden Urban Renewal Authority (GURA) is sponsoring a photography contest. Winners will have their images turned into sets of light pole banners which will be displayed throughout downtown. GURA is hoping to attract the great talent of Golden’s photographers in an effort to involve the community in the on-going beautification of downtown.

Photographs selected will be made into three sets of banners: Spring/Summer, Fall/Winter, and Patriotic. The Patriotic set will feature an American flag. The two season sets will feature landscapes and outdoor activities associated with Golden during those seasons.

The banners will be vinyl rectangles and will be hung vertically from alternating street light poles. The banners will be rotated roughly every six months, and periodically through the year for the patriotic holidays. “Golden,” “www.cityofgolden.net” and the photographer’s name will be overlaid across the image.

The contest is open to Golden residents and business/property owners only. Photographs must be in portrait orientation and need to be at least 100 DPI, 44MB and very crisp. For Golden’s many passionate amateur photographers, these technical requirements may be beyond the capabilities of the average digital camera. GURA wish it could be otherwise, but these high standards are required due to the size of the banners and the sharpness needed to have the images reproduced.

GURA will pick 5 images for the Patriotic set, 5 Activities and 5 Landscapes for each of the Fall/Winter and the Spring/Summer sets, for a total of 25 photographs.

The submission deadline is March 31. GURA will select the images to be used on April 13.

Installation of the first set of banners is expected to take place on May 29 with a formal dedication on June 12.

GURA retains the right to crop, color, or otherwise edit all submitted entries. All submitted images become the property of the Golden Urban Renewal Authority, which will have the exclusive and unencumbered rights to use the images.

Stock images may be used if the submitted photographs cannot meet the technical requirements.

Please visit www.gura.com/bannercontest for more details and examples of the kinds of images GURA is looking for.
Lap swimmers, swim lesson participants, and Splash sun bathers will have many opportunities to interact with the new leader of aquatics in Golden, Kristi Marosy.

In December, Kristi was welcomed as the new Aquatics Supervisor in the Recreation Division. Kristi will manage both the Golden Community Center pools and Splash Aquatic Park.

Kristi has already encountered many exciting challenges in her first month at Golden. She assisted with the coordination of sustainability improvement projects including the addition of solar panels to heat the pool, a redesign of the lighting system to make it more energy efficient and the installation of new pumps for the hot tub.

Her love for the water began early in life. Kristi joined the swim team at age 11 and before long she became a lifeguard at Foothills Parks and Recreation District. Kristi draws from many unique experiences including working for the YMCA Orlando, Amelia Island Plantation and Walt Disney World. Kristi graduated from Colorado State University with a Degree in Health and Exercise Science. After graduation she returned to Foothills, this time as one of four full-time aquatics staff. In addition to aquatics management, Kristi has coached high school swimming and diving for Columbine High School since 2002.

With a career in aquatics already under her belt, Kristi welcomes the challenges of her new position. “I am very excited to work with such an amazing community,” she said, “I look forward to providing excellent customer service, healthy recreation and beautiful pools for Golden residents and visitors to enjoy.”

In addition to sustainability improvements, the Golden Community Center installed a new frog slide for young children to replace the coal mine slide that was removed in December. Another change to aquatics includes a revamped private lesson program for youth and adults who need additional help learning a stroke or refining a skill. Private and semi-private lessons are available and are scheduled for 30 minutes.

For more information, contact Kristi Marosy at kmarosy@cityofgolden.net, or Dustin Sprick, Aquatics Coordinator, at dsprick@cityofgolden.net.

For more information on Golden Community Center aquatics programs and to register, visit www.goldenrec.com or contact a Customer Service Representative at 303 384 8100.
Check out the programs offered this winter at the Community Center

Preschool
Golden Community Center
Preschool strives to offer a creative place where children learn through play. The program is designed to encourage the intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of each child. The program utilizes the Jefferson County Public Schools benchmarks and standards and the National Association for the Education of Young Children’s Developmentally Appropriate Practices.

The Golden Community Center Preschool registration via lottery will be held Tuesday, March 3, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Computer Explorers Classic
In Computer Explorers your child will learn to use a computer as a tool, rather than a toy, along with occasional digital cameras, microscopes, etc. The curriculum reinforces readiness skills in reading, math, science, fine arts, cultural awareness and technology. Popular software is used including Dora the Explorer, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Cabriola, Caillou and more.

Ages: 3 to 5 years
9:45 to 10:30 a.m. or 10:45 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesdays
Feb. 3 to Feb. 24
Fee: $40 Resident, $45 Non-resident

Mud Makers
Together parents, tots and preschoolers will explore and experiment with shape, texture and tools as they create with clay. Finished projects will be glazed. All glazes are non-toxic and food safe. All materials will be provided.

Ages: 3 to 6 years
3:30 to 4:15 p.m., Thursdays
Feb. 5 to Feb. 26
Fee: $40 Resident, $45 Non-resident

Alien Adventures Workshops
Is there alien life beyond Earth?
With SpaceTime’s Alien Adventures Workshop you will go on a virtual space mission to explore the possibilities of life on other worlds. You will have a stellar time making your very own Space Slime, building and launching your own Galactic Glider, searching for aliens in the classroom and more.

Ages: 5 to 12 years
4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday
Feb. 17
Fee: $17 Resident, $20 Non-resident

Mars Explorers Workshops
Get ready for a trip to The Red Planet. In SpaceTime’s Mars Explorers participants will see Mars up close and personal with some of the most amazing 3D images ever assembled, test out their piloting skills trying to land their own SpaceTime Mars Landers on the surface of Mars and see if they can navigate the Red Planet by operating a remote controlled Planet Rover.

Ages: 5 to 12 years
1 to 3 p.m., Saturday
Feb. 21
Fee: $17 Resident, $20 Non-resident

Advanced Care CPR and First Aid
Injuries are one of the leading causes of death and disability, second only to cardiac arrest. This course gives you the knowledge and confidence to step forward if needed in an emergency. An American Heart Association Certification is issued and fulfills all State, OSHA and Social Service requirements. Manuals are included. Bring a sack lunch to class.

Ages: 14 years older
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday
Feb. 7
Fee: $60 Resident, $65 Non-resident

Wikis & Podcasts
Wondering about Wikis? Pondering Podcasts? Join us to review your favorite restaurant, post your review and develop an advertisement. We will teach you when to use a Wiki or Podcast, and how to develop, post and maintain. Parent permission to use the internet during class is required.

Ages: 8 to 12 years
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays
Feb. 5 to Feb. 26
Fee: $65 Resident, $70 Non-resident

Youth Clay
Students will learn how to hand build with clay through pinch, coil and slab construction. The finished product will be fired in an electric kiln and the students will decorate with a glaze which is non-toxic and food safe. All materials will be provided.

Ages: 7 to 12 years
4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Thursdays
Feb. 5 to Feb. 26
Fee: $45 Resident, $50 Non-resident
Celebrate Health!

*Fridays, February 6 and March 6*
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

Athletics & Wellness
For a complete schedule of exercise programs, stop in at the Front Desk and ask for information. You can also check classes online at www.goldenrec.com.

Games, Classes & Clubs
All week long, everything from Bridge, Pinochle, Dominoes, Mah Jongg and Billiards, Quilting, Pottery and lots more.

Volunteer Activities
Whether you want to sew, provide administrative duties, or converse with International School of Mines students – we have people who could use your help!

Receive the Front Porch News online!
The Front Porch News is now available on our website, and you can also receive the newsletter via email! Or you can subscribe for $7.00 per year and receive it at home.
http://www.cityofgolden.net/page.asp?navid=334

For more information:
• Stop by The Front Porch, upstairs at the Community Center, 1470 10th St.,
• Call 303-384-8130,
• Subscribe to the Front Porch Newsletter ($7/year),
• Check out the Recreation brochure, or
• Visit www.cityofgolden.net/page.asp?navid=334

Here’s what’s happening this month:

**TRIPS & TOURS**

**Africa: The Serengeti, IMAX - #15180**
Wednesday, February 11
3 to 7:30 p.m.
$18 (van, admission; bring $$ for dinner)
This film introduces the audience to the Great Migration. Dinner at Steuben’s.
Register/Cancel by February 9

**Tour of Coors Field - #15185**
Friday, February 20
1 to 5 p.m.
$15 (van, admission; bring $$ for afternoon coffee break)
Tour lasts 1.5 hours walking, elevators available.
Afternoon coffee in LoDo. Wear sturdy walking shoes.
Register/Cancel by February 18

**Lunch at the Broadmoor, Colorado Springs - #15190**
Monday, February 23
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
$25 (van, tour; bring $$ for lunch)
Take a one-hour historic walking tour of the Main Complex, with lunch at The Tavern afterwards.
Register/Cancel by February 19
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 2008 and cannot be claimed as a dependent on any other person’s tax return.

The refund amount for 2008 is $50. This will be adjusted for partial year residency in Golden.

Please check one box only:

- **Senior Refund** (must be 65 years or older)
- **Low Income Refund**
  
  
  **Proof required.** Attach a photocopy of one of the following:
  - State of Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate approval notification
  - Proof of Medicaid benefits
  - Proof of LEAP eligibility
  - Proof of eligibility for food stamps

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

Please print or type:

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

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

Address: __________________ Golden, CO  ZIP: _________

Phone: ____________________

How many months did you reside in the city limits of Golden during 2008? _____ 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, 2009.

*Refund Donation Option:*

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

- Golden Volunteer Fire Department  
- Golden Cemetery  
- Golden Senior Front Porch

- Other City program or department (please identify): __________________________

*Office Use Only:*

Account #013031-6190  STR  Vendor # _________  Received _________  Payable _________
2009 Summer Employment Opportunities

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

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

OR

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