Help Define Golden’s Sustainability And Energy Efficiency Goals

Downtown Character Planning Open Houses

2006 Citizen survey... Results are in

Severe Winter Weather Review

Clear Creek Plan Advances

Making the Best of the Snow

Police Need Public’s Help to Find PetCo Robber

Community Input Sought for Wildfire Planning
Cover photo by Ellie Cox

Thanks Golden Citizens for Your Support ................................................................. Page 3
Council’s Corner ........................................................................................................ Page 4
Mayor’s Message ....................................................................................................... Page 4
Help Define Golden’s Community Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Goals .......... Page 5
Community Input Sought for Wildfire Planning ...................................................... Page 5
How Much Snow??? ................................................................................................ Page 6
Severe Weather Stirs Up Potholes .......................................................................... Page 6
Hmmm, What to do With All this Snow? ............................................................... Page 6
And You Thought Your Sidewalk Was a Lot to Clear ........................................ Page 7
Elk Forage for Food After Snow ........................................................................... Page 8
Survive Being Stuck in Your Car in a Blizzard ...................................................... Page 8
What Does “Accident Alert” Mean? ..................................................................... Page 9
Code Corner ............................................................................................................. Page 9
Peteo Robbery: Police Need Public’s Help ............................................................ Page 9
Golden Community Calendar ............................................................................... Pages 10-11
Golden Clerk Honored .......................................................................................... Page 12
Volunteer Opportunities ....................................................................................... Page 12
Technology Allows City to Better Serve Citizens ............................................. Page 12
Supertower Update ................................................................................................ Page 13
GHS Update ........................................................................................................... Page 14
What’s Your Vision of a Vibrant Downtown? ...................................................... Page 14
Corp of Engineers Approves Plan for Clear Creek Restoration ......................... Page 15
Extraordinary Service Professional ................................................................... Page 16
Entire Street Division Certified ............................................................................ Page 16
Golden Community Center Activities Calendar ............................................... Page 17

City of Golden Department Managers

Mike Bestor
City Manager
303-384-8010
E-mail: mbestor@cityofgolden.net

Dan Hartman
Public Works
303-384-8150
dhartman@cityofgolden.net

Steve Gueck
Planning and Development
303-384-8095
gueck@cityofgolden.net

Susan Brooks
City Clerk
303-384-8014
sbrooks@cityofgolden.net

Rod Tarullo
Parks and Recreation
303-384-8120
tarullo@cityofgolden.net

Bill Kilpatrick
Police
303-384-8033
bkilpatr@cityofgolden.net

John Bales
Fire
303-384-8090
jbales@cityofgolden.net

Jeff Hansen
Finance
303-384-8020
jhansen@cityofgolden.net

Teresa Reilly
Human Resources
303-384-8017
treilly@cityofgolden.net

Sabrina D’Agosta
Communications
303-384-8132
dagosta@cityofgolden.net

To reach the entire City Council, e-mail citycouncil@cityofgolden.net
The City of Golden deserves a huge vote of appreciation for its snow removal after the blizzard. Residential streets (all? some?) were already plowed Thursday afternoon. Many in Denver still didn’t have their residential streets plowed on Sunday. Golden also does a fine job sanding crucial areas. And it wasn’t long until the huge mountains of snow in the middle of the main streets were removed too. Good job, Golden!

Judy Denison

Please extend my thanks to the Streets Division for another job well done! The crews have kept our dead-end street open during snow events for the past 23 years. The plow crews are committed to keeping our town open during even the most severe storms; their professional attitudes are to be commended and rewarded. Thank you for providing a very much appreciated service, which requires a large amount of dedication from numerous employees.

Larry Trumble

As I walk around Golden, I stop to thank the workers who are out and have been out for quite some time now, for the outstanding snow removal job they continue to do in OUR TOWN. Yes, there is still snow around, however, all one has to do is visit neighboring towns to REALLY appreciate what Golden has accomplished with the removal of snow. I commend each and every person involved with the snow removal. I just wanted to be one person in town who lets you know that I appreciate the hard work and dedication involved with removing the snow....a LOT of snow.

Sharon Wheatley

I’d like to acknowledge the City’s snowplow operators for the great job they did on the second blizzard in particular. I live on a street where there are houses only on one side, and I was impressed not only with the speed with which they got to my street, but the extra effort made to push the snow only to the side of the street with no homes instead of to each side. Every time we have had a snowfall, the operator has made this same extra effort, but of course it made a bigger difference when the snow was 3-feet deep!

I observed this same effort made on another Golden street with homes on only one side of the street. Please let your drivers know how much that little extra touch is appreciated. It gave me a warm feeling about our city government on a very cold day!

Jim Smith

I am a resident of Golden and wish to thank [City Manager Mike Bestor] and your staff for the great job managing snow removal during the past three storms. I believe the staff must have been working very long hours to clear our streets and their efforts are noticed and appreciated.

Teresa Mills

---

DID YOU KNOW...

As of the beginning of 2007, here are some fun facts about Golden’s infrastructure:

**Miles of waterlines:** 109 miles

**Miles of storm lines:** City maintains 21 miles, 27 miles is privately maintained, another mile is of unknown custodianship due to lack of information, totaling 48 miles of storm lines within the City

**Miles of sanitary lines:** 74.5 miles

**City trails:** 20 miles

**Acres of parks:** 153 acres

**Acres of open space:** 404 acres

**Miles of road:** There are 149 “centerline” miles of road in the City, which include City maintained, private, federal, state and county streets. Of the 149 centerline miles, 78.3 miles are owned and maintained by the City.

**Number of hydrants:** 838 (that’s 91 per square mile)

**Number of manholes:** 2,619 (includes sanitary and storm sewers)

**Number of signs:** 4,701
Mayor’s Message

City Sights in on Sustainability

By Mayor Chuck Baroch

During 2006, City Council took care of routine business and spent considerable time on the proposed completion of the beltway, proposed Lookout Mountain supertower and closure on the Guanella Reservoir settlement. During the year, various Councilors suggested that we begin addressing other subjects. About 10 ideas were suggested and in the fall this list was reduced to the following six:

- Affordable Housing,
- Transit-Oriented Development,
- Sustainability,
- Historic Preservation,
- Walkable Community, and
- Becoming an Inclusive City.

City Council is already addressing becoming an Inclusive City, information is being gathered on transit-oriented development, the Golden Urban Renewal Authority is conducting a study on affordable housing, and the Historic Preservation Board is holding community meetings to discuss possible ways to strengthen our historic preservation regulations.

In the coming weeks and months, expect to see the City Council and staff focusing in on developing a sustainability program. Sustainability as related to energy matters addresses both conservation and the use of alternate and renewable energy sources. Golden, being the home of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Colorado School of Mines, has access to sustainability experts and is ideally situated to set a leading example for other cities. Golden City Council will discuss this subject and develop a more detailed plan in coming weeks, and we will be seeking public input. I encourage you to contact your City Council representatives with your ideas. You can email all of us at citycouncil@cityofgolden.net or find more contact information on Page 2 of the Informer each month.

City Council will doubtless be reaching out to all of the local experts available to us, and some outside experts where applicable. Council will also solicit input from our citizens at a public forum to be held on Feb. 28 (see page 5). Watch for an invitation in your mailbox and online at www.cityofgolden.net. Various members of City Council have considerable access to best practices used in other cities through membership on the Metro Mayors Caucus’ Energy Committee, Jefferson Economic Council’s Energizing Tomorrow Task Force, Colorado Municipal League’s Energy Committee, and the Colorado Energy Coalition.

I expect the sustainability plan will be approved by Council in March and the implementation will begin shortly thereafter. Citizens will be informed of Council’s plan every step of the way.
Help Define Golden's Community Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Goals

The City of Golden is inviting citizens to a forum to help define the City’s sustainability initiative at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28 in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St.

Golden City Council recognizes that it has an opportunity to reduce the use of non-renewable resources within the community of Golden, in order to:

• Save tax money;
• Maintain and improve the efficiency of municipal service delivery;
• Practice fiscal responsibility and predictability;
• Be a leader or “beacon” in municipal government;
• Create jobs in the fields of alternative energy development and provision; and
• Contribute to a nationwide effort to improve larger scale environmental conditions.

Golden is uniquely positioned to be a leader in sustainability because of its proximity to and relationships with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Colorado School of Mines, and many others.

Help the City define what our sustainability and energy-efficiency goals should be. Should the initiative focus solely on making the City government more efficient, or be more broad and also help the wider Golden community and its citizens reduce their energy costs? Should the City be focusing its efforts on just renewable energy, or should it be expanded to include other environmental issues, such as water, green building codes, waste reduction, improvements to recycling locations, etc.? The City needs your help. Please join us for an educational presentation, a kick-off celebration of the City’s commitment to making this effort a success and to share your ideas.

For more information, call 303-384-8132.

Community Input Sought for Wildfire Planning

The Golden Fire Department is hosting a community meeting to discuss the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the City. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 in the Coal Creek room at the Golden Community Center, 1470 10th St. in Golden.

Community involvement is essential in order to write and implement the best plan possible. The Golden Fire Department is especially urging citizens living in wildland urban interface areas of the City to attend; areas such as: North Table Mountain (Mesa Meadows, Mountain Ridge), South Table Mountain (Rimrock, Southridge), and Lookout Mountain (Beverly Heights, Stonebridge, Heritage Dells).

The Jefferson County Division of Emergency Management has secured grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to write CWPPs for nine Jefferson County fire departments. The CWPP for West Metro Fire Rescue was recently completed, and can be found on the Jeffco Emergency Management website at www.co.jefferson.co.us/emerg/emerg_T151_R12.htm.

These plans are being written in accordance with the provisions of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. This planning process will continue through March 2008.

For more information, contact Public Information Officer Sabrina D’Agosta at 303-384-8132 or sdagosta@cityofgolden.net.

Partners in this project include Jefferson County Emergency Management, Colorado State Forest Service, Denver Water, U.S. Forest Service, Jefferson County Open Space, private landowners and home owners associations. In addition to the Golden Fire Department, other Jeffco fire agencies involved in this process include Coal Creek, Evergreen, Fairmount, Foothills, Genesee, Indian Hills, Inter-Canyon and West Metro fire protection districts.
Parts of Golden received as much as 34-inches of snow in December’s first major storm (which began Dec. 20) and another 29-inches in the second storm (beginning Dec. 28).

The City’s snowplow crews plowed 2,300-lane miles in the first storm alone — that is roughly the equivalent of driving from here to the northernmost tip of Maine! By the time the second storm had ended, 3,929 miles had been plowed — that’s farther than driving from Golden to Prudo Bay, Alaska!

It is estimated that these two storms cost the City upwards of $150,000, which included:
- 130.5 tons of ice slicer,
- 100 tons of sand/salt,
- 350 overtime hours,
- 410 regular hours.

As the snow and ice begins melting off and the roads become dry again after a series of severe storms like we have had, you are likely to notice a lot more potholes.

Ideally, water should and does flow over the road’s impervious surface to a nearby gutter, storm drain or ditch and quickly flow away. But, when water seeps through into the subbase — whether from cracks in the surface, from ponding due to ice clogged ditches and storm drains, melting ice on the road surface or from a rising water table — it attacks the subbase from beneath and softens it, much like dry, hard ground softens into mud. Over a period of time, the subbase material shifts or oozes outward to the sides of the weakened point, leaving a void and nothing to support the pavement above it.

Repeated flexing of the pavement above the void due to passing vehicles causes the now unsupported pavement to weaken, seriously crack and ultimately fail or collapse into what we call a pothole.

In cold climates like ours, this process is dramatically accelerated due to freeze-thaw action. Water is the only substance that expands as it freezes and passes from a liquid to a solid state. When water in cracks and the subbase freezes, it acts like a can of soda pop left in the freezer, expanding and pushing the pavement up. Under repeated freeze-thaw conditions, like we have had with recent snow storms, a flexible asphalt pavement may generate localized humps and a rigid concrete pavement will develop cracks. If the expansive forces are severe, a piece of pavement may actually pop out of the ground! This is why the street crews work so hard to get streets, especially the traveled lanes, back to black asphalt as quickly as possible.

To repair these potholes permanently, the City uses a hot-mix asphalt product that is not available this time of year. A cold-mix product can be used instead, but has a limited service life, making it necessary to repatch these potholes in the spring when the weather is better and hot-mix is available.

After major storms like we experienced in December, City of Golden crews will finish plowing and begin cutting out ice and drainages for melting snow first. They will then work on patching potholes as they are found or reported.

To report a pothole, call the City’s Pothole Hotline at 303-215-8882, ext. 2901. It may take a couple of days for crews to get to that pothole, but it will be patched as soon as crews are available. Thank you for reporting potholes to the City so we can keep our roads in good condition.
And You Thought Your Sidewalk Was a Lot to Clear

Twenty-one miles of trails and sidewalks. Stairways totaling more than 400 steps. Seventy-seven individual locations throughout town. Entrances into Golden City Hall, Community Center and other municipal facilities. Add a good snowfall. Who gets the call? The City of Golden Parks Division.

The Parks Division is responsible for clearing snow on all walkways either adjacent to or within City property. This includes sidewalks, walks on the sides of vehicle bridges, pedestrian bridges, and entrances to municipal buildings. It also includes the community’s trail system, park sidewalks and municipal parking areas. The total area to be cleared of snow after each storm is 928,984 square feet. This is equivalent to nearly 10 Parfet Parks. In compliance of City ordinance, Parks staff initiates snow removal operations when there is 1-inch of snow or more on paved surfaces.

Operations begin at 4 a.m. A 4x4 pickup truck equipped with a snow plow begins clearing the Community Center lots and entries to be ready for the facility’s 5:30 a.m. opening.

At 6 a.m., three compact tractors with plows leave the City Shops facility and begin clearing snow in the downtown areas, the trails and parks to the north. At the same time, staff with hand shovels and ice control materials begin clearing entryways to all municipal buildings to be ready for an 8 a.m. opening.

Normally, by mid-morning the northern part of town has been cleared and the compact tractors are loaded onto trailers and transported to the southern areas of town. Parks staff completes clearing their areas of responsibility by late afternoon. If snow continues to fall during the course of the day, a tractor and hand shoveling crew circulates on the 10th Street corridor and downtown area as they are top priority. Heavy, wet snows or wind driven blizzards are sometimes not entirely cleared until the next day.

The safety of the public using the walkways is the City’s first consideration. Entryways to City facilities are completed by opening. Ice control materials are applied to assist in melting of remaining or continuing snow. If one encounters City machinery on sidewalks or trails, operators are instructed to stop and pull over if possible to let pedestrians pass. Tractors and trucks are well lit with safety lighting to aid in their visibility to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Hand shovelers wear orange vests at all times. All tractors stay on sidewalks and trails, or are transported by trailers to minimize travel on streets and roadways.

The wonder, beauty, and refreshing effect of a fresh snowfall are some of nature’s gifts for those who live, travel and recreate in the Golden area. Occasionally there are footprints in the snow preceding snow removal operations from the folks who love an early morning walk in the fresh powder. The Parks Division staff loves snow, as well. It’s fun to clear (don’t ask the hand shovel crew) and provides much needed moisture to the grasses, shrubs and trees within the Parks system. Parks staff is ready to help folks enjoy our winter wonderland by keeping the sidewalks and trails in a safe, usable condition. Let it snow!
Elk Forage for Food After Snow

The Golden Informer

PHOTOS BY NOY SPARKS

Elk frequently travel down the foothills and into Golden when food becomes scarce, and this winter’s severe snowstorms have brought them into town in large numbers. Dozens of elk were seen several mornings in late December and early January at Fossil Trace Golf Club foraging for food. While the elk are certainly beautiful to look at from a distance, they can be a serious hazard when crossing roads, especially busy, high-speed roads like U.S. Highway 6 and State Highways 58 and 93. Please drive with caution and be on the lookout for elk and other wildlife near and on the roads.

Survive Being Stuck in Your Car in a Blizzard

Whenever possible, you should avoid driving in winter storm weather. However, if you are out and caught in a storm and your car becomes immobilized, it is important that you know what to do.

If you have a cell phone and can make a call to 9-1-1, do so. Even if you have not been able to contact help, stay in your car and await rescue. Do not attempt to walk from the car unless you can see a definite safe haven at a reasonable distance. Disorientation during blizzard conditions comes rapidly and being lost in the snow is exceedingly dangerous.

Turn on your vehicle’s engine for brief periods to provide heat, but always leave a downwind window open slightly to avoid deadly carbon-monoxide poisoning. Get out of the car and make sure the exhaust pipe of your vehicle is clear of snow.

Exercise occasionally by clapping your hands and moving around. Do not remain in one position for long periods of time, but avoid overexertion and exposure from shoveling or pushing the vehicle.

Leave the dome light on at night as a signal for rescuers. If more than one person is in the car, sleep only in shifts.

You should also always carry a candle and matches or lighter, a gallon or jug of drinking water and granola bars or other non-perishable snack foods.

For more information on being prepared for disaster conditions, contact Golden Fire Department Public Education Specialist Kelli Hilborne at 303-215-8886 or khilborne@cityofgolden.net.
What Does “Accident Alert” Mean

What exactly does accident alert mean and what should you do differently if there is one?

When severe weather strikes, motor vehicle accidents within the City, whether major crashes or minor fender-benders, quickly start to pile up. To prevent department resources from being overwhelmed, the police department will go on what is called “accident alert” status, allowing officers to only respond to only certain types of accidents.

Accident alert is usually used during snowstorms, but can be used during times when department resources are being used for major incidents, such as a large crime scene or parade security. Each individual City and law enforcement jurisdiction determines when they will go on accident alert, so not all agencies will be on accident alert at the same time.

While on accident alert, officers will only respond to accidents where there are potential injuries, a suspicion of alcohol or drug involvement, hit and runs, where disabled vehicles are creating a traffic hazard, and those involving governmental vehicles.

If you are involved in an accident that does not meet the above officer response guidelines, and are unsure if the jurisdiction is on accident alert, you should call that agency’s non-emergency line and ask. If that agency is not on accident alert, an officer will be dispatched. If the agency is on accident alert, the dispatcher will ask that you complete and file a report at their department within 24 hours.

Make sure to write down the following information from the other driver, as it is required on all accident forms:

• Name, address and phone number(s)
• Copy information from the driver’s license, including their date-of-birth
• License plate, make, model and color of the vehicles involved
• Insurance information, including company, agent name and policy number
• Date, time and location of the accident

You must respond as soon as possible after the accident to make the report at the department. It is very important to make sure you are going to the law enforcement agency that has legal jurisdiction over the location where the accident occurred, otherwise your report will be invalid. The agency where you make the report will provide you with all the necessary paperwork to complete the accident report.

The non-emergency police phone number for the Golden Police Department is 303-384-8045. Please remember to drive safely during inclement weather.

Petco Robbery: Police Need Public’s Help

At about 1 p.m. Dec. 2, Golden Police responded to the Petco store at 17132 W. Colfax Ave. (at U.S. Highway 6) on a reported robbery. An unknown male robbed a cashier at gunpoint, taking an undisclosed amount of cash and fleeing the store on foot toward the north.

The suspect is described as a Caucasian male, in his mid 30s, standing about 6’1” tall, with a full dark brown beard and mustache. The male was wearing a tan heavy “Carhart”-type denim coat and a black beanie style hat.

The Golden Police Department is requesting the assistance of anyone who might have seen the suspect during the robbery or recognizes the male from the composite photo.

Anyone with information is requested to contact the Golden Police Department at 303-384-8045 or their local police agency.

Did you know that Golden Municipal Code 5.01.070 (c)(2) specifically prohibits any person “…to throw, deposit or scatter…upon any public place, other than the curb line, snow or ice removed from any property.”

Snow plowed from private property onto the public roads can create additional hazards to motorists and pedestrians, and requires the City to allocate additional resources to re-plow the area. The code also ensures that drains aren’t clogged and pools of melting snow on the asphalt won’t cause potholes.

You can be ticketed and fined up to $999 and up to a year in jail for placing snow onto public roads.

If you would like additional information about the Golden Municipal Code, visit www.cityofgolden.net and click on “Municipal Code.”

If you would like to report someone placing snow onto a city street, or if you have questions about the code, contact the Golden Police Department at 303-384-8045.
Gingham Dogs & Calico Cats

Since 1974, Cindy Vermillion Hamilton has been creating exquisite medallion quilts. Her hand-pieced, hand-appliqued, and hand-quilted work is an anomaly in an age of quick reward. Her authenticity of design, fabric selection and construction is an art few have mastered, and she executes it flawlessly. This exhibit is a retrospective of her work in medallion quilts spanning the past 30 years.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 28

Cindy Vermillion Hamilton: Medallion Quilts

NOW THROUGH APRIL 28

Gingham Dogs & Calico Cats

Dogs and Cats appear everywhere: on fire trucks, high in a tree, and even in our prized flower gardens. Why should quilts be any exception? All of the quilts in this exhibit will feature dogs and cats, our best friends and family members.

COMES CRAWLBOWL FOR LIGHTS

Citizens are encouraged to come and join the Scrambowl for Lights, a bowling tournament to raise funds to light the trees along South Golden Road during the holidays, from 5 to 10 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12 at the newly renovated Golden Bowling Center, 525 24th St.

The holiday lights on South Golden Road have historically been funded through the generous contributions of merchants along South Golden Road, but their costs continue to increase each year. The entire community benefits from beautifying the trees and adding to the holiday cheer during the winter season, and the merchants are seeking help from the community.

You can put together a team of five people and play for just $250 or come as an individual and be joined up with a team for just $50. There will be goodie bags for 250 participants and great prizes for 1st and 2nd place, lowest score, best team name and best team shirt, not to mention food, fun and even karaoke.

City Council and staff will be there competing and encourage you to join them.

Space is limited, so call today to make your reservation. Contact the Golden Chamber of Commerce at 303-279-3113 or Colleen Kennedy at 303-278-2682 or colleen@golden-frames.com.

THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY

Art display at Golden Library

The Golden Library, 1019 10th St., will feature an art display by Compass Montessori School throughout the month of February.

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Homework Help at Golden Library

Homework help is available at the Golden Library, 1019 10th St. Toddler time is at 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays. Preschoolers’ storytime is at 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Family nights are held at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and another all ages group is held at 11 a.m. Thursdays.

WEEKLY

Children’s Storytimes at the Library

Mother Goose Times are at 10:15 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays throughout February at the Golden Library, 1019 10th St. Toddler time is at 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays. Preschoolers’ storytime is at 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Family nights are held at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and another all ages group is held at 11 a.m. Thursdays.

FEB. 3

Gallery Talk for REALationships Exhibit

Twelve regional artists challenge your perceptions of human relationships at Foothills Art Center. The exhibition features nine limited edition etchings created by participating artists using the surrealist Exquisite Corpse technique. Artists Bill Amundson and Wes Magyar, and Curator Michael Chavez will be on hand for a talk about the exhibit.

FEB. 8

“The Greatest Good” Free Film

The Colorado Mountain Club (www.cmc.org) will present “The Greatest Good,” a film that portrays the history of the U.S. Forest Service, at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8, at the American Mountainaineering Center, 710 10th St. in Golden. Admission is free to this 80-minute-long edited version of the film. Dave Steinke, director and producer, will answer questions after the movie.

FEB. 8

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Open House

The Golden Fire Department is hosting a Community Wildfire Protection Plan open house to gather input from citizens on perceived fire dangers in your neighborhoods. See more information on Page 5.

FEB. 10

Victorian Dating and Courtship

Tea Time at the Astor House presents “Victorian Dating and Courtship” with a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. and just desserts at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. Cynthia Meador shares the rituals of Victorian
FEB. 11 THROUGH FEB. 17

Heart & Soul Romance Book Sale
As part of Golden’s Heart & Soul month, the Golden Library, 1019 10th St., will host a used romance paperback book sale from Sunday, Feb. 11 through Saturday, Feb. 17 during normal library hours. Pick up used books at a dozen for a dollar (or 10 cents each). For more information, call 303-279-4585.

FEB. 19

Home Exchange – Do You Dare?
The Golden Library, 1019 10th St., will host an informative session on the home exchange vacation trend at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19. Free tickets will be given out at the library information desk beginning two weeks in advance of the program. For more information, call 303-279-4585.

FEB. 21

Free Internet Basics
Class at Golden Library
The Golden Library, 1019 10th St., will offer a free Internet Basics class at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21. For more information or to register for this class, call 303-279-4585.

FEB. 22

After School Fun at the Golden Library
The Golden Library, 1019 Tenth St., will offer After School Fun for students in grades 1 through 6 at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22. The event will focus on “Crispin” by Avi. For free tickets to this event, call 303-279-4585.

FEB. 23 AND 24

Family Free Day at Foothills
Foothills Art Center proudly offers the opportunity to experience the REALationshipships exhibit free of charge, including youth activities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Family free days are made possible by a generous grant from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

FEB. 24

Buffalo Bill’s Birthday Bash
The Buffalo Bill Days Committee invites re-enactors and history buffs to attend Buffalo Bill’s Birthday Bash from 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Buffalo Rose Events Center in historic downtown Golden.

Re-enactors may enter contests on character presentation with costume or costume only ranging from the years 1840 to 1917 in the following categories: Buffalo Bill, Political, Native American, Old West, Victorian, Madam-Dance Hall Girl, and Fur Trapper/Mountain Man.

For more information, call 303-384-0003 or email buffalobilldays@msn.com.

FEB. 25

Buffalo Bill’s Birthday Party
This annual event at the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave celebrates Buffalo Bill’s birth in 1846. It includes free birthday cake and ice cream, musical entertainment, and birthday party games like a buffalo chip toss. This year, the event will also include the opening of a new exhibit of Western movie posters entitled “Reel West: Cliche and Character at the Saturday Matinee.” Call 303-526-0744 for more information.

FEB. 27

Tuesday Night Books at Golden Library
The Tuesday Night Book group will discuss “Diary of a Provincial Lady” by E.M. Delafield at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27 at the Golden Library, 1019 10th St. For more information about this discussion group, call 303-279-4585.

FEB. 27

For kids! Songs with the original Eddie Spaghetti
The Golden Library, 1019 10th St., will host the original Eddie Spaghetti at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27. All ages, children under six with an adult, are invited to sing along with Eddie and his guitar. From “Everybody Calls Me Sleepyhead” to “Ants, Ants,” everyone will have a hand-clapping, toe-tapping good time. For information on how to receive free tickets to this event, call 303-279-4585.

FEB. 28

UFOs – Unfinished Objects – at the Golden Library
The Golden Library, 1019 10th St., will host UFOs – Unfinished Objects from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28. Work on and talk about your unfinished objects. Crafters of all types are welcome. Participants may stay the entire length or come and go as they please. This group meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 303-279-4585.

To list a community event happening in Golden here, please send your listing to:
Golden City Hall, Communications Dept., 911 10th St., Golden, CO 80401, or by e-mail to sdagosta@cityofgolden.net. Listings should include the date(s), the event name and a brief description of the event, which may include cost, location and contact information. Submissions must be received by the first of the month prior to the issue you would like them printed in (i.e., Jan. 1 for the February issue). Call 303-384-8132 with questions or for more information.
Help Give Back to Our Firefighters:
Join the Pension Board

The Golden Fire Department Pension Board has a seat that expires and will become available in April. As such, Golden City Council is taking applications to fill the volunteer position until 5 p.m. Feb. 22.

The Golden Fire Department Pension Board includes three fire department members, two citizen members, the Mayor, City Manager and Finance Director. Duties and responsibilities of the citizen participants are:

• To serve as advisors to the Golden Fire Department Pension Board;
• Participate in quarterly meetings, including additional planning sessions as needed (usually no more than six per year);
• Listen to pension issues, evaluate options, make recommendations and vote accordingly;
• Be involved in the evaluation and decision-making process relating to issues that affect the City’s volunteer firefighters’ pension program;
• Protect confidential information discussed at board meetings, essential to protect the rights of individuals;

Applicants must be residents of the City of Golden, and should have a demonstrated knowledge of pension and investment issues and a desire to be involved with the process. Prior pension and/or financial experience is helpful. The terms of appointments for citizen participants are two years.

If you have questions about the Fire Pension Board, contact Deborah Testroet in the Fire Department at 303-384-8094 or dtestroet@cityofgolden.net.

Interviews are tentatively scheduled to be held at the City Council Study Session the evening of Thursday, March 1, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St.

Application forms are available through the City Clerk’s Office or online at www.cityofgolden.net. Applications are accepted by the Office of the City Clerk until 5 p.m. Feb. 22, at City Hall, 911 10th St.
On Jan. 11, Golden City Council voted unanimously to drop the City’s eminent domain case against the media conglomerate that wants to build a supertower on lookout Mountain, Lake Cedar group.

This action came after Senators Wayne Allard and Ken Salazar quietly introduced and passed Senate Bill 4092 on Dec. 7. The bill essentially gives Lake Cedar Group (a conglomerate of Channels 4, 7, 9 and 20), and arguably any other broadcaster with an FCC permit, permission to completely ignore local and state laws to build on Lookout Mountain.

The Senators held no hearings and spoke to no one from the opposition before running the bill the day before the Congressional session ended.

Jefferson County, Golden and their citizens weren’t supposed to know about the bill until all was said and done, but when word got out prior to the House of Representatives vote on it, citizens contacted their Congressional representatives. Hundreds of citizens flooded the Congressional offices urging their representatives not to vote for the bill. In the end, none of the Colorado delegation (Congressmen Bob Beauprez, Tom Tancredo and Mark Udall and Congresswoman Diana DeGette) voted against it.

“While Senators Allard and Salazar may choose to ignore local land use laws, it is incredibly disrespectful to their constituents to do this in the manner they chose to,” said Councilor Jacob Smith. “They waited until the last possible moment, made the decision in secret and tried to sneak the bill through Congress without anyone noticing. Unfortunately, none of our Congressional representatives were any more respectful of the principles of transparent government and the democratic process.”

At Golden City Council’s final meeting of 2006, on Dec. 14, Golden Mayor Chuck Baroch told the citizens in a packed Council Chambers that Golden would not give up the fight, but that the passage of Senate Bill 4092 did not bode well for the cause. He said that the City Council would continue to assess its options for protecting the people of Golden and Jefferson County.

In early-January, the President of the United States signed the bill into law and Lake Cedar Group filed a motion in the Jefferson County District Court requesting the dismissal of Golden’s land use case that sought to block the supertower for public health and safety reasons. The City had 14 days to respond to that motion and had not done so as of press time.

Updates will continue to be posted on the City’s web site at www.cityofgolden.net and local community group websites www.c-a-r-e.org and www.HDTVhonestly.com.
What’s Your Vision of a Vibrant Downtown?

Golden’s historic downtown area is one of our prized community assets. Citizens and visitors have a vision of what the downtown should look like, what types of businesses and recreational opportunities it should have, and what other characteristics would draw them to spend their time and money here.

Throughout most of 2006, an ad-hoc committee (made up from representatives of the Golden Urban Renewal Authority, Golden Planning Commission, Golden Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Golden Historical Preservation Board) has been meeting in preparation for an extensive 2007 community planning effort to help guide future decisions about the downtown area.

Now it is the community’s turn to get involved and provide valuable insights about what you’d like to see in downtown Golden. Two open houses will be held to gather public input from 2 to 5 p.m. Feb. 25 and 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 26 at the American Mountain-eering Center, 710 10th St. in Golden.

The end result will be a Downtown Golden Character Plan. It will include a revision of the 1989 Golden Urban Renewal Plan, including a possible expansion of the Golden Urban Renewal district; a major rewrite of the City’s Downtown Design Guidelines and boundary; and a comprehensive land use and preservation plan for the entire Clear Creek corridor.

The open houses will present the Committee’s preliminary findings and ask for the public’s feedback on a number of topics, including:

- The goals and strategies of the many existing planning documents and studies;
- Potential areas of expansion of the GURA district;
- Potential improvement of the public domain along Clear Creek;
- Important historical and architectural elements of downtown;
- The need for affordable housing programs;
- Strategies to improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy;
- Strategies to improve the business mix of the downtown and keep it competitive into the future; and
- Strategies to improve and organize collaborations with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Colorado School of Mines.

Input received from the community at these meetings will be incorporated into future presentations to smaller community groups and City Council throughout the year, with the final result being a new direction and better plan for the downtown.

For more information, contact GURA Executive Director Mark Heller at mark@gura.com or 303-279-4162, or Planning Director Steve Glueck sglueck@cityofgolden.net or 303-384-8095.
The U.S. Corp of Engineers announced Dec. 26 its approval of a plan submitted by West Denver Trout Unlimited (WDTU) to restore approximately 2,400-linear-feet of Clear Creek.

Miles Williams, director of the chapter’s Clear Creek initiatives, said the Corp’s action is a crucial step that may permit WDTU to begin work on its plan as early as late February 2007, provided some other fine points on permitting and contracting are worked out in time.

The plan includes placement of a number of in-stream structures beginning just upstream of the Clear Creek Whitewater Course near Lions Park and extending upstream of the Canyonside condominiums.

Four objectives are set forth for the project: improve habitat, provide an educational resource for area youth, improve opportunities for recreational fishing, and provide accessible fishing for those with ambulatory problems. The project will entail placement of a series of cross vanes, j-dams, and boulder fields to improve stream habitat.

The Chapter has budgeted $150,000 on what it describes as Phase 1 of The Golden Mile project. In addition to $50,000 in leadership funding from the City of Golden, $74,000 will be provided in federal Fishing is Fun monies, more than $12,000 will come from the Chapter and individual members of WDTU, and an additional $10,000 from Coors Brewing Co. A substantial contribution of rock has also been committed by AFS quarry in Idaho Springs.

In Phase 1, approximately 1,800-feet of stream will be restored. A proposal is pending before Jefferson County for Conservation Trust Fund monies that would permit a Phase 2 extension of restoration activity about 600 additional feet upstream. Three structures plus about 300 feet of boulder fields would be included in Phase 2, if fully funded.

For more information on the project, visit www.westdenvertu.org.
The Golden Informer

Extraordinary Service Professional

The City of Golden’s third quarter 2006 Extraordinary Service Professional award was presented to Golden Division Chief/Fire Marshal Jerry Stricker on Dec. 8.

Stricker was nominated by Fire Chief John Bales for consistent demonstration of productivity, willingness to provide extra assistance to fellow employees, commitment to regular duties, and enthusiastic and motivational behavior.

Stricker has been employed by the City of Golden for 14 years. During that time, he has been responsible for all Fire and Life Safety duties, including fire code enforcement and administration, reviewing more than 200 sets of building plans each year for new and retrofitted construction, and investigation of fires as they relate to arson and/or code violations.

Additionally, Stricker supervises the Fire and Life Safety public education programs, which have received national awards. The Fire Wise Program has reached out every year to all sixth graders in Jefferson County R-1 Schools, for example.

In recent years, Golden’s redevelopment has caused dramatic changes. We now have a Home Depot and Kohl’s, the Millstone Condos, Clear Creek Commons, Colorado School of Mines Student Center, the Jefferson County Laramie Building, Golden Pond Senior Center and the City Shops complex, and will shortly add Gateway Station, Golden High School and a new Fire Station No. 1. All of these projects have and will demand many hours of intense plan review and on-site inspection with developers and contractors to ensure the construction, public safety and fire protection features are perfected.

There have been numerous other new construction sites, new developments and tenant finishes that have required the expertise of Stricker to make all of these projects a reality and in compliance with the various fire codes.

Stricker also found time to serve 2.5 terms as the President of the Fire Marshals Association of Colorado. Besides leading this organization for five years, Stricker was instrumental as an expert testifying in front of numerous State Senate and House of Representative committees on various fire and life safety bills, of which many have become law after receiving the Governor’s signature.

Stricker will, along with the new Chief Building Official, be instrumental in the adoption of the International Building and Fire Codes replacing the existing Uniform Building and Fire Codes.

“I fully believe that the high quality fire and life safety within the City of Golden is attributed to the dedication, expertise and longevity of Division Chief/Fire Marshal Jerry Stricker to the City of Golden,” said Fire Chief John Bales.

Entire Street Division Certified

The City of Golden’s Streets Division recently accomplished a goal, set for itself several years ago, of having the entire crew certified as “Road Scholars” through the Colorado LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program).

“We were very close many times but, with employees coming and going, we were just never able to hit our target,” said Streets Superintendent Ron Reavis.

Pictured above from left to right, Robby Zufelt, Dale Seitz, Mike Councilman, Rob Gibson, Bryan Wellensiek, Dan Garramone, Dave Ackley (the tall one), Chad Mills, Scott Ota, Dave Henkel, Mark Dugan and Steve Kurtz are all certified. Kurtz and Ackley also have completed the Supervisory Skills and Development Program courses. There are currently five other employees that are attending the Supervisory Skills Program. Both of these programs have been a tremendous asset to our training and education programs, according to Reavis.

The crew is wearing jackets that were given to them as awards in 2005 for having reduced property claim losses by 20% from the previous year.
JumpBunch Gets Golden Active

More than 10% of American children between the ages of 2 and 5 are already overweight or obese according to the January 2005 annual statistics report of the American Heart Association. The report says overweight children and adolescents have a 62% to 98% chance of being overweight at age 35, which increases their risk of heart disease. How can we change those statistics?

“JumpBunch is a structured program that introduces kids to a wide variety of sports and fitness activities in a fun, non-competitive environment,” said Alicia Hall, co-owner of the JumpBunch franchise in the metro Denver area, along with her husband, David.

JumpBunch instructors may choose from more than 70 fitness activities to be part of each class. “The kids are so excited to find out what activity we are doing each week that they come out of their classrooms just to find out and tell their friends,” said Alicia Hall. The coaches supply all of the equipment, and for most activities, each child has their own. “We want to keep the kids moving and participating in the activity for as much of the class as possible.” All of the activities help kids enhance their gross and fine motor skills, coordination and teamwork skills.

JumpBunch classes at the Golden Community Center are held Thursday afternoons. The 2- to 3-year-old class is held from 4 to 4:45 p.m., and the 4- to 6-year-old class is from 5 to 5:45 p.m. Cost for a 4-week session is $35 for Golden residents and $40 for non-residents. Activities this spring include lacrosse, bocce ball, giggle ball bounce, snowball toss, obstacle course and more.

To register, visit the Golden Community Center, call 303-384-8100 or visit www.goldenrec.com.

For more information about the JumpBunch program, call 720-979-9828 or visit www.jumpbunch.com.
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 2006 and cannot be claimed as a dependent on any other person’s tax return. The refund amount for 2006 is $40. This will be adjusted for partial year residency in Golden.

Please check one box only:

- **Senior Refund** (must be 65 years or older)
- **Low Income Refund**
  
  **Proof required.** Attach a photocopy of one of the following:
  - State of Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate Form 104PTC
  - 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 Form 104PTC
  - 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 2006? _____ 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, 2007.

**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 ________
Instructor Search

Have you always wanted to teach a fitness class? Are you interested in getting paid to work out?

We need male and female instructors for the following classes...

SPINNING  KICKBOXING  AEROBICS/STRENGTH  DANCE/SALSA

The Golden Community Center is looking for enthusiastic and qualified instructors!

City of Golden application required. To view job description and apply online, visit our website at www.cityofgolden.net, or submit to City Hall, 911 10th Street, Golden, CO 80401. Jobline 303-215-8882, Option #6000.

Questions?
Call Tracy H. Wellness Coordinator
303-384-8124

Try something new and discover the benefits of fitness teaching!
2007 Summer Employment Opportunities

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

VOTED ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO WORK TWO YEARS IN A ROW!

The City of Golden was named among the Top 10 Places to Work in 2004 and 2005 in the large business category by the Denver Business Journal. This is an excellent opportunity to join our team!

Be sure to watch our website at http://www.ci.golden.co.us/Employment.asp for job availability

OR

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