Help Us Help Golden: Your Input Is Needed

Speeders Beware: Citizen Radar Patrol

Digging Deep to Preserve Golden’s Water Supply

Real Life Education for Golden Students
The Golden Informer is produced and published monthly by the Golden City Manager’s Office and mailed as a source of news and information to all residences and businesses inside the City limits. Comments to all residences and businesses are welcome.

Please write to: City of Golden, 911 10th St., Golden, CO 80401, Attn: Karlyn Tilley; call 303-384-8132; or e-mail ktilley@cityofgolden.net.

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The Golden Informer is the proud winner of the City/County Communications and Marketing Association’s prestigious 2005 and 2007 first place Savvy and 2006 second place Silver Circle national awards for city- and county-produced external printed newsletters in communities of up to 45,000 people nationwide.

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HEADS UP: Important Upcoming Items

HELP SHAPE GOLDEN’S FUTURE
Are you interested in helping to plan Golden’s future? Four appointments to the Planning Commission expired in January. City Council will be conducting interviews of interested Golden residents before their Feb. 25 regular business meeting.

This year the Planning Commission’s major topics will include the Vision 2030 Plan, evaluation of potential code changes to support the City’s sustainability efforts, working on some neighborhood plans and infill development issues.

The planning Commission meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. This month’s meeting is on Feb. 3 in City Council Chambers. If you are interested in applying, you’re encouraged to attend this meeting.

Applications are available at www.cityofgolden.net under Boards and Commissions, on the Planning Commission’s page. Applications are due to the City Clerk’s office no later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 18.

HELP PRESERVE GOLDEN’S PAST
In April, four appointments to the Historic Preservation Board will expire. Applicants must fill out an application form available on the City’s website www.cityofgolden.net, under Boards and Commissions, Historic Preservations Board. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to be held prior to the March 11 Regular City Council meeting.

You can mail applications for either board to the Golden City Clerk, 911 10th St., Golden, CO 80401; fax them to the City Clerk, 303-384-8001 or email your application to Clerks@cityofgolden.net. Applicants must be residents of the City of Golden. Terms are four years.

For questions, call the Golden Planning and Development Department at 303-384-8097 or contact Planning and Development Director Steve Glueck at sglueck@cityofgolden.net.

CLEAR CREEK CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN
The Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with other City departments, will be kicking off the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan this spring. The plan is designed to look at possible uses and opportunities for the land along Clear Creek. Start thinking about what you would like to see and watch for more information in upcoming editions of The Golden Informer.

GOLDEN VISION 2030 PROJECT
Golden Vision 2030 is planning a large-scale community summit next month. This community gathering will include the presentation of the heart and soul community values that resulted from the 2009 block parties and story-telling activities. Watch for the party in late March!

HONORING LOCAL BUSINESSES
The Golden Ethics in Business Awards honor one for-profit and one not-for-profit organization, for leading the way in business ethics. These organizations demonstrate the highest standards of ethical business practice, integrity and civic and social responsibility. The Golden Rotary Club seeks your assistance in identifying and honoring these businesses. Nominations must be given to the Golden Rotary by March 1. For more information, visit www.rotaryclubofgolden.org.

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.

February 4
Regular study session
February 11
Regular business meeting
February 18
No meeting
February 25
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 welcome on the agenda at all regular business meetings.
Welcome to 2010!
I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and peaceful holiday season and that your year is off to a good start.

A brief reflection on 2009: last year presented some very real challenges for the City and for our community members. A top priority was to make sure we weathered the economic storm. I’m pleased to be able to tell you that Golden fared well. We continued to maintain the community’s infrastructure, such as our water system, streets and sidewalks. We were also able to maintain high quality city services despite making some reductions because of revenue declines. Our foreclosure rate remained low, our property values held, and our bond ratings (the market’s assessment of the City’s financial health) remained extremely high.

We expect that restoring a strong economy will take some time, but it’s reassuring to see early signs of recovery. And right now, before the economy recovers and before pressure for new developments and redevelopment projects grows, is exactly the right time to make sure our plans reflect our community vision. What does that mean?

First of all, we are just beginning the process of creating a Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. This is a chance to spell out a long-term vision for this cornerstone of our community. For example, what is our vision for the old city shops land? Do we like the RV park, the ball fields, and the city buildings where they are, or would we prefer adding more public space along the Creek and moving one or more of those facilities elsewhere? What would we like to see happen if private property owners on the east end decide to redevelop? Do we prefer more restaurant or coffee shops along the Creek or not? These are critical questions, and I hope everyone with an interest gets involved and weighs in.

The area between Washington and Ford in downtown Golden – we’ve been calling it East Downtown – is another example. Much of the private property in that area is likely to redevelop over the next decade or two, and current zoning allows tall buildings across most of this area. Right now, before there is real redevelopment pressure, is the time to nail down our vision. Do we want any parks, plazas, or other public space in East Downtown? How do we improve the bicycle and pedestrian connections? What about a light rail station as part of a Gold Line extension? Are there community facilities that might be good additions to our downtown area? How does the post office building fit into our vision? Just as with the Clear Creek Corridor, these are really important issues, and I encourage everyone to be part of the process.

Finally, there is Golden Vision 2030, which is really an umbrella effort and which tackles the same sorts of questions but on a community-wide basis. If you have any opinions at all about what Golden should be like in 2030, you should get involved in Golden Vision 2030.

I know that community planning may not sound like the most exciting way to spend your time, but it is much, much easier to proactively shape changes in our community through plans like these than it is to react at the last minute to developer proposals. We’ll use the Golden Informer and all the other outreach tools we can think of to keep everyone up to date. Please stay tuned and consider being part of these important planning efforts.

Best wishes to everyone for 2010,
On Jan. 14, 2010, at the Organizational meeting of the City Council, the recently elected councilors took the Oath of Office. Councilors Joe Behm, Ward Two and Bill Fisher, Ward Four were re-elected to their positions. Councilor Behm was elected for the first time in April 2006, and Councilor Fisher was elected in April 2008, both to fill vacancies. This will be the first full term for each of them.

Marcia Claxton is newly elected to represent Ward One. Claxton grew up in Rockford, Illinois and moved to Colorado in 1992. She and her husband Brian, a medical IT salesman, have two sons; 25-year-old Doug, who works for a solar energy company in Boulder and 21-year-old Arne who is a college student. Before running for council, Claxton was President of the Golden High School PTA. She served as a member of Leadership Golden, the Sustainability and Walkability Task Force, Golden Vision 2030 Advisory Committee and was also a Golden Greeter at the Coors Brewery Tours.

Bob Vermeulen, also newly elected, represents Ward Three. Vermeulen was born and raised in Minnesota and moved to Colorado in 2006. He is married to Beth and has two children; 7-year-old Bobby and 5-year-old Anna. This past year, Vermeulen served on Golden’s Citizen’s Budgetary Advisory Committee and on the Golden Vision 2030 Local Advisory Committee. He served as President of his homeowner’s association, is active in the Cub Scouts and the Mitchell Elementary PTA. Vermeulen is a recreational tri-athlete and cyclist who competes in triathlons throughout the region. He also enjoys skiing and hiking with his family.

Each elected Councilor will serve a four-year term.

There is not much to see when you drive by the vacant area at 2200 Jackson St. It is about two and a half acres of undeveloped property and the location of an idea gone bankrupt before it could ever be built. But the City of Golden plans to change that, and your input can help shape what is seen there in the future.

2200 Jackson St. was the site of the Big Tree Mobile Home Park. It provided an affordable housing option for about 40 families. The last owners of the Park approached the City in early 2005, requesting the property be rezoned to allow a higher density of residents. The proposal was to build 30 townhouse-style condominiums, to be known as Jackson Street Villas. The owners pointed out that the existing infrastructure (water and sewer lines) at the mobile home park was deteriorating and the cost to replace it would be prohibitive.

All of the tenants of the mobile home park were assisted in relocating in the fall of 2005, and the townhome project was approved and underway. The developers cleared the site and installed some new infrastructure, but that is as far as it got. In early 2009, the bank foreclosed on the property.

Using Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds (part of the federal government’s Economic Stimulus initiatives), the Jefferson County Housing Authority (JCHA), in partnership with the City of Golden, acquired the site from the bank in December 2009.

Terms of this funding require that redevelopment of the site must include affordable rental housing for low to moderate income households. This will replace, update and improve the quality of affordable housing which was lost when the mobile home park was leveled. It is both an exciting and challenging project. That is why the City and JCHA would like to hear from members of the community.

Residents of the City are encouraged to attend an open house on Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in City Council chambers, 911 10th St.
Reserve Police Officers – Volunteering to Serve Our Community

For over 40 years the Golden Police Department has had a corps of dedicated individuals providing volunteer services to the City. These men and women are known as Reserve Police Officers. You can recognize Reserve Officers by the small rectangular patch they wear under their shoulder patch which says “Reserve.” They are sworn police officers for the department and perform all the same duties as regular full-time officers. The difference is, they do so without any compensation.

Becoming a Reserve Officer is no easy task. These individuals must complete regular police academy training, usually at their own expense, or be currently certified with another agency. They go through the same application and testing processes as full-time officers before being accepted into the department.

A majority of the Golden Police Reserve Corps consists of people who earn paychecks with their regular jobs and want to give back to their communities by volunteering. We have a surgeon, an airline executive, district attorney investigators, and many other professionals who make up the ranks of this dedicated unit. These volunteers help in every operational area of the department including patrol, traffic and community services. There is even one officer who is a member of the Jefferson County Regional SWAT Team.

On November 19, 2009, two new members joined the ranks of the Reserve Corps. Officer Frank Barr and Officer Ray Dziedzic were sworn in by City Clerk Susan Brooks during a special ceremony. A moment shared by their wives, who got to pin on their badges for the first time. For both officers, this is their first assignment as police officers for any agency. Both have already “hit the road” providing their valuable time and attention to protecting the citizens of Golden.

Be Safe

The recent cold weather has added some beautiful scenery along Clear Creek and around many of the small ponds and lakes within the City of Golden. But underneath the winter beauty is a hidden danger... THIN ICE!

When is ice safe? There really is no sure answer. In fact, ice is probably never 100 percent safe. You can’t judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature or whether the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors – plus the depth of water under the ice, size of

Stay Off of the Ice

the body of water, water chemistry and currents. For example, Clear Creek appears frozen and covered with snow but there is always water moving under the ice. And with frequent temperature changes, the ice could break loose at any time. Ice formed over flowing water and currents is extremely dangerous. This ice is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the current.

The Golden Fire Department’s Ice Rescue Team offers the following tips:

• Do not go onto the ice is the best advice we can give you
• Keep small children and pets off of the ice as well
• Do not attempt to go in after a pet or a person who has fallen through
• Immediately call 9-1-1 giving the exact location and situation for the Rescue Team and stay in the area to guide them

If you do fall through the ice, the water will literally take your breath away and cause severe pain.

• First, try not to panic
• Don’t remove your winter clothing. It may trap air inside of it and keep you afloat.
• Turn toward the direction you came
• Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface
• If you can pull yourself out, then lay flat on the ice and roll away from the hole.
Located 10 miles southwest of Georgetown near Grays and Torreys Peaks, you will find the Vidler Tunnel. It started out as a silver mine in the 1880’s and after many unsuccessful entrepreneurial schemes, it became a successful trans-basin water diversion tunnel in 1968.

The City of Golden began acquiring Vidler Tunnel water rights in the late 1970s and purchased the Vidler Tunnel in 2000. This water is a valuable addition to Golden’s water supply because it is storable, fully consumable, and it originates on the western slope. Vidler Tunnel water, along with the storage capacity in our three reservoirs, makes up the key component in our drought supply plan. Without the stored Vidler Tunnel water, a drought such as the one in 2002 could be detrimental. Vidler Tunnel water is also exclusively used for the Fossil Trace Golf Course. This allows the City to avoid further depleting the highly over appropriated Platte River watershed. Since we now own and operate the tunnel, we generate about $150,000 of revenue per year to the Water Fund by supplying excess water to various other customers, at the same time preserving Golden’s supply.

The Vidler Tunnel is now more than 100 years old and the water collection system over 40. After years of neglect, the system needed significant repair and maintenance. In 2003, the City began to upgrade the facilities and instituted a maintenance program to keep the facilities in good condition.

The first improvements were to the diversion points of the collection system on the western slope side, located about 10 miles northeast of Keystone. The collection system consists of over 5,000 feet of buried pipe which unloads water into the west end of the tunnel. The pipe is fed by six diversion structures. Several of these diversion structures were excavated and rehabilitated by hand in 2003. The work was accomplished through a joint effort between the Golden Parks and Utility departments. By utilizing internal resources, the City was able to complete many improvements to the collection system at a minimal cost while improving the efficiency of the system.

In addition to the 5,000 feet of buried pipe there are 350 feet of collection pipe above ground and exposed to the elements. The exposed pipe was severely deteriorated so, in 2005, it was replaced. The new pipe was unfortunately wiped out by an avalanche that winter so in the spring of 2006 it was again rebuilt.

A mined out ore vein (The Flossie Vein) crossing over the tunnel 800 feet from the east portal, was collapsing into the tunnel. City crews hauled out over 150 tons of material that had fallen into the tunnel. They then built steel supports throughout a 40 foot section of the tunnel where it crossed the ore vein.

A similar condition of rock falling existed about 150 feet from the west portal entrance structure. This area was progressively deteriorating until repairs were made in 2009. These repairs were accomplished through the joint effort of Golden’s Utility, Parks, Streets, Facilities, Cemetery, and Engineering Divisions. Everyone pitched in, worked hard, and still enjoyed a day or two in the high country. The area is now safe and stable for years to come.

The repairs and improvements have greatly increased the Vidler Tunnel’s water delivery capability while improving the overall safety and reliability. By working together, Golden employees have protected the City’s water supply and have had a positive impact on the City’s overall budget. There are other repairs still needed as well as ongoing maintenance, however by working together the process will continue to have a positive outcome.
Golden Opportunity for First Time Homebuyers

First time homebuyers have until April to take advantage of the federal government’s first time homebuyer tax credit of $8,000. But did you know that there is even more assistance available if you buy a home in the City of Golden?

The Colorado Housing Assistance Corporation (CHAC) provides down payment assistance to first time homebuyers in the form of a second mortgage. The loan amount is six percent of the purchase price, which averages $7,000 per buyer.

Properties within the City of Golden have consistently sold for more than similar properties in neighboring cities. In the past, this has prevented many qualified applicants from utilizing CHAC’s Down Payment Assistance Program to purchase a home in Golden. That’s why the City of Golden is partnering with CHAC to provide additional down payment assistance of approximately $7,000 to each qualified applicant. The money for this comes from Golden’s jurisdictional allotment of Federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

Here’s the breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Down Payment Assistance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAC</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assistance</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There is a deadline for federal assistance. First time homebuyers must sign a sales agreement by the end of April and have until June to close on a home.

The money offered by CHAC and the City of Golden has no time limit. This is a standing offer for qualified applicants. To find out how to qualify or for more information, visit www.coloradohousingassistance.org.

Making The Difference

Shawn Sprenger, Parks Supervisor

Though lacking three full time staff positions (nearly 40 percent of his full time staff) due to budget constraints, Shawn Sprenger has managed to do more with less. Shawn has continually reached for and achieved excellent status in the daily maintenance of the City of Golden Parks. Shawn is considered an integral part of the City community and is held in the utmost respect by his staff, coworkers, supervisors and most importantly the residents of Golden.

Julie Brooks, Communications

It has been a crazy two years in the Communications Department with employees coming and going. Ironically, the one constant has been part-timer Julie Brooks, who stepped up to the plate every time the City called on her. Julie’s knowledge, expertise and history with the City of Golden was vital in keeping the Communications Department running, not to mention her great work on The Golden Informer. Now, Julie is juggling work for several City departments and remains a crucial member of the team.

The City of Golden honors its exceptional employees with “You Make the Difference” awards which are handed out at quarterly employee meetings. Employees are nominated by their coworkers for consistent demonstration of higher productivity in their daily work performance; willingness to go above and beyond; ability to think outside the parameters of their daily duties; genuine enthusiasm for day-to-day tasks and special projects; ability to motivate others and encourage a positive work environment; and consistent demonstration of higher productivity. Two employees were recently honored with the award.

Shawn Sprenger and Julie Brooks received their awards at the December employee luncheon.
They sit on the streets of Golden every week, armed with a radar gun and binoculars. Their mission is to identify speeders. They are the Citizen Radar Patrol. Known to Golden Police by their radio call signs “Victor Five and Six,” they’re better known as Golden residents Cheryl Darragh and Carol Baroch. These women volunteer their time to serve as an extra set of eyes for the police traffic unit. Although they do not have the power to issue tickets, they certainly have the power to influence how people drive through Golden.

For a few hours every week, Darragh and Baroch sit along different streets throughout town and monitor the speed of drivers, using a radar gun provided by the police department. If they observe someone going more than 10 miles over the speed limit, they write down the license plate number and type of car. Within a few hours on any given day, they end up with 15 or more license plate numbers.

The information is given to Golden dispatchers, who compare the information to motor vehicle records and get addresses for the alleged speeders. Instead of a ticket, the driver of the car gets a letter in the mail describing the date and time they were clocked speeding. The letter is just a warning and nothing more. But the idea is to get drivers to pay more attention to their speed and make Golden a little safer. “The Citizen Radar Patrol is a great alternative to traditional traffic enforcement,” said Golden Police Chief Bill Kilpatrick. “This is a method to get concerned citizens involved in a traffic education program that warns drivers of their behavior as opposed to citing them for it.”

The program began in 2001, after concerned citizens approached Golden Police Volunteer Services Coordinator Jan Martynuska, asking how they could help make the roads safer. Since the program began, volunteers have sent letters to nearly 4,000 drivers. “We have had people who’ve gotten more than one letter,” said Baroch, who admits no one is safe. She and Darragh have issued letters to their neighbors and friends (and even to a few City employees). They say occasionally someone will get angry about the program, but mostly they receive positive feedback from residents. In fact, it’s been several years since a complaint has been filed.

Together, these volunteers have been patrolling the streets for five years. They say their close friendship is what keeps them coming back each week. “And we like to feel we’re giving some service back to the community,” said Baroch. “We like to feel it makes a difference,” added Darragh.

The Citizen Radar Patrol can always use more volunteers. It requires a few days of training with Golden Police and a few hours to patrol each week. For more information on the Citizen Radar Patrol, contact Golden Police Volunteer Services Coordinator Jan Martynuska at 303-384-8106 or jmartynuska@cityofgolden.net.
GOLDEN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Through Feb. 28

“Habeus Corpus”
Fast moving, hilarious and guaranteed to make you laugh out loud, Habeus Corpus celebrates the joys of the human body. Miners Alley Playhouse, 1224 Washington Ave. For tickets and information, call 303-935-3044 or visit www.minersalley.com.

Feb. 2 through 25

Tours for Prospective Parents & Guardians
Free Horizon Montessori School will have tours for parents by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. through February. To reserve space, call 303-231-9801 x229 or visit www.FreeHorizonMontessori.org.

Feb. 5

Golden’s First Friday
5 to 8 p.m. Enjoy extended shopping hours with Golden’s downtown merchants.

Feb. 6

National Wear Red Day
The Iota Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi at the Colorado School of Mines is sponsoring National Wear Red Day to support women’s cardiac health. Remember to wear red on Feb. 6! For more information, call Dana Morris at 303-931-4775 or damorris@mines.edu.

Feb. 8

ScramBowl for Lights 2010
Start times are 5:30 and 7 p.m. at Golden Family Bowl, 525 24th St. This event provides funding for the holiday lights on South Golden Road each year. Registration is $200 per 5-person team. For more information call 303-279-3113 or go to www.goldencochamber.org.

Feb. 14

Valentines Day

Feb. 15

President’s Day
City offices will remain open.

Feb. 20

30th Annual Buffalo Bill’s Birthday Bash
Celebrate Buffalo Bill’s 164th Birthday. Live entertainment, food, beverages, costume contest. Prizes awarded. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Buffalo Rose Events Center, 1119 Washington Ave. General admission $5. For more information, contact Ralph or Barb Melfi at 303-816-1435 or email goldenbuffalobilddays@msn.com.

Feb. 21

Latin Fiesta
A Jefferson Symphony Orchestra presentation. 3 p.m., Green Center, Colorado School of Mines Campus, 924 16th St. For more information or tickets call 303-278-4237 or visit www.jeffersonsymphonyorchestra.org.

Feb. 25

Golden High School Music Concert
GHS band, orchestra and choir will all perform. 7 p.m., Golden High School Theatre, 701 24th St. For more information, contact Ms. Angela Becker at 303-982-6306 or Dr. William Graves at 303-982-4153.
Feb. 27

Buffalo Bill’s Birthday Party
Live music, costume contests, Buffalo Bill look-alike contest and great prizes. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Buffalo Rose Events Center, 1119 Washington Ave. Admission is free. For more information call 303-975-1151 or visit www.monarchproductions.info.

Through May 16

Relay For Life of Golden
The Relay For Life of Golden Planning Committee is in search of volunteers interested in helping to chair or co-chair any part of the event, which takes place May 15 and 16. The Planning Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Utility Notification Center of Colorado, 16361 Table Mountain Pkwy. at 5:30 p.m. For more information contact Carla Maniscalco at 303-431-0424 or carla.maniscalco@gmail.com.

Through May 31

Thin Air: An Exhibit on Altitude and Oxygen
American Mountaineering Museum, 710 10th St. Whenever you go higher, you lose more and more of that crucial fuel: oxygen. Come explore the relationship between altitude, oxygen, energy and endurance. Also, discover how your body reacts to altitude! Visit www.mountaineeringmuseum.org for admission and ticket information.

Tell them you read about them in the Golden Informer!

For more up to date information or other things to do in Golden, visit www.2HourVacation.com.

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

EZMAPS ARE EASY TO USE
The City of Golden Geographic Information Department (GIS) recently updated its online mapping solution, Golden ezMaps version 2.0. The new version of ezMaps is the successor to the City’s first online mapping application that was released in 2003.

The City of Golden ezMaps application is a web-based mapping tool that not only shows different views of Golden but also presents information associated with specific properties including address location information, City Council ward information and zoning information. There are also links to Google Street View and Bing Maps Bird’s Eye View to give users several different perspectives of any given property search.

Just a click away is information on snow routes, parks and trails which will appear in different layers on the map. There are also a number of new tools available including the ability to adjust map transparency between looking at a traditional map and an aerial view that overlays the map area. ezMaps also has a measure tool that provides information in feet, miles, meters and kilometers, the ability to collect latitude and longitude information for any point within the City. The maps have drop down map layer interaction which allows users to overlay desired information to get a customized map.

Golden ezMaps was designed as a building block for an evolutionary web-based service of providing land-based data to the public. This tool was created by the City of Lakewood, who then made it available to the City of Golden for a nominal cost. By sharing resources, both cities are able to provide a useful service to their citizens in a very cost effective manner. Golden ezMaps was developed using ESRI’s ArcGIS Server and Microsoft’s Silverlight technology.

Please visit http://maps.cityofgolden.net/ to view Golden ezMaps or contact ezmaps@cityofgolden.net with any comments or questions.
Financial Incentives for Energy Efficiency

Starting in early 2010, the Colorado Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) will provide rebates to homeowners, landlords, and business owners who install energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in their home or building. GEO will be offering rebates for the following energy efficiency measures:

- Energy audits
- Insulation and air sealing measures
- Duct sealing
- Clothes washers
- Dish washers
- Refrigerators
- Water heaters (gas tankless, gas high performance and gas condensing)
- Furnaces (gas condensing)
- Boilers (gas)
- Energy monitors

The rebates will range from $50 to $500, depending on the appliance and will be offered statewide on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants must apply online through the GEO website and provide proof of recycling for the old appliance. New appliances must be purchased from businesses with physical locations within Colorado. For more information, please email GEO at rebates@state.co.us or visit their website at www.colorado.gov/energy.

Potential Changes to Waste and Recycling Collection

At upcoming City Council meetings in February and March, Councilors will consider the results of a Request For Proposals (RFP) for a city-wide trash and recycling collection contract for residential areas. The RFP asked waste hauling companies to provide pricing for curbside service for differing volumes of trash, unlimited recycling, and an optional service for curbside pickup of green waste. Results of the RFP can be downloaded from the City website at www.cityofgolden.net/solidwasteandrecycling. City Council will also consider a Pay-As-You-Throw pricing system and thoroughly weigh the costs and benefits to Golden residents. Your opinions are important and residents can provide input at upcoming public hearings or through the City website. For more information, please contact Sustainability Coordinator Theresa Worsham at (303) 384-8117 or tworsham@cityofgolden.net.

Sales and Use Tax Workshop

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

The workshops will be held in the Golden City Hall Conference Room, City Hall, 911 10th St.

- March 3, 2010........... 8 to 10 a.m.
- April 7, 2010............ 8 to 10 a.m.
- June 2, 2010............. 8 to 10 a.m.
- July 7, 2010............. 8 to 10 a.m.

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

Building Use Tax Workshop

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

The workshop will be held in the Golden City Hall Conference Room, City Hall, 911 10th St.

- Feb. 3, 2009............. 8 to 10 a.m.
- May 6, 2010............. 8 to 10 a.m.

The class is free, but space is limited. Please call 303-384-8024 for your reservation.
Clean House, Clean Water

When picking up a scrubber and heading into the abyss of a dirty bathroom, you want to have the best supplies – a cleaner that cleans, kills germs, and smells good. But what if that cleaner ended up back in your drinking water?

According to the Institute for Environmental Solutions, many chemicals found in everyday cleaning products are not removed by water treatment and are found in drinking water. These chemicals, known as “Contaminants of Emerging Concern,” are toxic to fish and wildlife.

Making one positive change when cleaning can help reduce water pollution. Try one or more of the following ideas, and do your part to keep water clean.

Use Less
- Wash your laundry with one-third less detergent than you use now – your clothes will be just as clean. Products will last longer and save you money, while improving water quality.
- Soak clothes in the washer before starting the cycle to dilute dirt and use less detergent.

Switch to non-toxic cleaners
- Use non-toxic cleaners such as vinegar and baking soda. They are just as effective as more expensive cleaning products.
- If you use a housecleaning service, talk to your housecleaner about using non-toxic cleaners or switch to a non-toxic service.

Homemade Cleaners
- For an effective all-purpose cleaner, fill a spray bottle with hot water. Add one teaspoon of borax and one teaspoon of white vinegar or lemon juice to cut grease. Add essential oils, such as grapefruit, for scent if desired.
- Spray the shower with a mixture of three tablespoons white vinegar, one teaspoon borax and two cups hot water after each use to keep dirt from building up.

2010 Tree Sale

For nearly two decades, the City of Golden has offered residents an opportunity to buy small trees at cost. The City wanted to encourage residents to plant trees and thought the best way to accomplish that was to make it practical to both purchase and handle them. This year, the tradition continues.

The 2010 sale will offer a diverse mix of 10 deciduous trees and four conifers. The small deciduous trees will have trunk diameters of approximately 1¼ inches and range in height from four to eight feet. The conifers are three to four feet tall.

Ornamental deciduous selections include: Tatarian maple, Ohio buckeye, Cleveland pear, Ruby Red horsechestnut and Turkish filbert. Shade deciduous include: Catalpa, Hackberry, Red oak, White oak and Kentucky coffeetree. Conifer selections include: Scots pine, Vanderwolf’s limber pine, Austrian pine and Bosnian pine. The cost for a deciduous tree is $45 each and the conifers will be priced around $50.

Quantities are limited and orders will only be accepted for five trees or less. Orders will be taken beginning March 1 through April 5, either on the City of Golden website www.cityofgolden.net or at the front desk of the Golden Community Center, 1470 10th St. The sale is restricted to City of Golden residents, who must show proof of residency.

Trees will be distributed during the last two weeks of April. Please contact City Forester Dave High for details at 303-384-8141 or dhigh@cityofgolden.net.
During the past several months, the Golden Fire Department received inquiries about the relatively new state law pertaining to carbon monoxide alarms. As a result, Deputy Chief and Fire Marshal Jerry Stricker has the following information for residents.

Carbon monoxide is known as the silent killer because it is a colorless, odorless gas that has a density only slightly less than air which can lead to permeation throughout a structure over time. Carbon monoxide can be lethal in relatively low but elevated concentrations, particularly when one is sleeping and not aware of the typical signs or symptoms such as headaches, dizziness and nausea.

During the 2009 legislative session, House Bill 09-1091 known as the “Lofgren and Johnson Families Carbon Monoxide Safety Act” was passed after members of those families died from the deadly effects of carbon monoxide. This bill applies to the installation of carbon monoxide alarms in single family and multi-family dwelling residential properties; both owner occupied and rental properties. The carbon monoxide alarm requirement applies only to residences that have fuel burning appliances or an attached garage.

House Bill 09-1091 basically says that all new or existing single or multi-family dwellings offered for sale or transfer on or after July 1, 2009, are required to have carbon monoxide alarms installed within 15 feet of any room lawfully used for sleeping purposes. The alarms are to be provided by the seller.

Laws adopted in the City of Golden in December of 2009, are a little more specific. Local law has a provision that in new homes, carbon monoxide alarms are to be installed in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms in dwelling units, or 15 feet as per state law. For existing single family residences, carbon monoxide detectors are required any time a building permit is required and when a dwelling undergoes alteration, repair, addition or fuel-burning appliances are replaced regardless of whether it is offered for sale or transfer.

For rental properties, whether single family or multi-family, the same provisions for carbon monoxide alarms apply. However, the state law is a little more specific on responsibility for the installation of the carbon monoxide alarms. Basically, the landlord is responsible for providing working carbon monoxide alarms with working batteries when a change of tenants occurs on or after July 1, 2009. Tenants, according to state law, are to notify the owner in writing of missing or non-operating carbon monoxide alarms during this time so the owner can provide properly operating carbon monoxide alarms. Once this is established, state law places the responsibility of the care and maintenance, to include regular testing and replacement of batteries, upon the tenant unless other arrangements are made in the lease agreement.

The same provisions apply for multi-family dwellings that have a central fuel-fired appliance such as a common heater in an apartment building. But there is an exception in the state law that allows carbon monoxide detectors to be within 25 feet of a central fuel-burning appliance or attached garage so long as there is a mechanism for a responsible person to hear the alarm and take appropriate action to investigate the alarm. There is not a current local ordinance for these systems, so state law would apply.

If you have more specific questions, call the Golden Fire Department Fire and Life Safety Division at 303-384-8093.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Hands and Hearts is a program for individuals who crochet, knit or sew. Members make baby blankets, hats, scarves, lap robes and other items which are given to those in need at various hospitals, nursing homes, churches and charities.

Hands and Hearts volunteers greatly need donations of four-ply yarn to continue their projects. Donations can be dropped off at the Front Porch office in the Golden Community Center, 1470 10th St. The Front Porch is open between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. You can also leave the donations at the GCC front desk, attention Hands and Hearts.

For more information call Irene Obermeyer at 303-279-2094 or Willetta Beaty at 303-279-7097.
For most people, the idea of putting musical instruments in the hands of toddlers is terrifying. But for Stephanie Sprenger, it is music to her ears. Stephanie is a music therapist and early childhood music teacher who brings her gifts to the Golden Community Center.

Sit in on one of her classes and you cannot help but clap along and smile. Imagine a dozen or so kids, ages one to two years, sitting in a circle with their parents just behind them. At first there are children running around everywhere and general chaos. But the moment Sprenger strums her guitar, the chaos quiets and all ears are focused on the gentle rhythms and words coming from their teacher.

Sprenger uses numbers, animals, and shapes (as well as heads, shoulders, knees and toes) to grab the children’s attention. Even though her classes incorporate rhythm and vocal skills, the real focus is on developmental skills. These include language and motor development, social interaction, following directions, body awareness and creativity. “They don’t realize all of this learning is taking place,” said Sprenger.

It is true that at times, some of the kids would rather put the rhythm sticks in their mouths than to beat along to the music. But in one way or another, they all get one of their first experiences having fun with their peers. “They get to find their confidence and I get to watch them really blossom,” added Sprenger.

In class, you will hear lots of music, banging, giggling and singing. What you rarely hear are the sounds of fussing or crying. “We tell him, you’re going to music class and he gets excited,” said Stefanie Tannery, whose 19 month old son Burke participated in the latest session. “I think if you come continuously it’s really beneficial for your child.” And Tannery admits it’s a great way for her son to expend some energy.

A class which both entertains and educates is a unique find for parents of toddlers. Sprenger knows that firsthand. She and her husband, Shawn, the Parks Supervisor for the City of Golden, have a three-year old daughter.

This is Sprenger’s ninth year teaching music classes at the Golden Community Center. She teaches classes for children six months old through preschool age. The classes are five week sessions, and the next session begins in mid-February. Register on-line at www.goldenrec.com or call 303-384-8100 for more information.

Making Beautiful Music

The clever name describes a group of Golden-area women who do just what it claims… they sew. The Sew N Sews Club has about 30 members dedicated to making handmade gifts for children and seniors. The Club focuses its efforts around two yearly events, Christmas and Easter, but the volunteers work all year long.

The Sew N Sews members make bags, lap blankets and walker bags for senior citizens. For children and seniors they make holiday stockings in the winter and totes in the spring, and they stuff them full of goodies to give away. The clients of Jefferson County Human Services are the grateful recipients of these handmade gifts.

Not everyone in the group sews. Many of the members work throughout the year to collect the fabric and the goodies. Fabric donations are always welcome, as they use quite a lot. Last December, the Sew N Sews Club handed out about 500 stockings to needy families. Now, the volunteers are gearing up for the Easter season.

If you would like to join the group or make a donation, contact The Front Porch at 303-384-8130.
Check out the programs offered this winter at the Community Center
To register, visit www.goldenrec.com

Digital Scrapbooking
(with digital photos)
The latest trend in scrapbooking is to use the computer to create pages of special memories. Insert your photos, make decorative borders, add stickers and stamps and customize your design. If you are not satisfied with your creation simply delete with a click of the mouse. From simple journaling to creating entire scrapbook pages, join us for basic tips and tricks to get started.

Age: 18 years and older
Fridays, Feb. 12 to March 5
10:30 a.m. to noon

Wilderness First Aid
This two day course teaches practical skills and drills in self-reliant medical training for emergency or disaster preparedness in the wilderness or a foreign setting. The focus of the class will be long-term care, transport and improvisational skills. There will be a test at the end of class and a card awarded with a passing grade. This class meets requirements for scouts, camps, guides and experiential teachers. Wilderness First Aid is approved by the American Camping Association and an appropriate prep class for Wilderness First Responder.

Age: 14 years and older
Saturday, Feb. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Advanced Care CPR and First Aid
Injuries are one of the leading causes of death and disability, second only to cardiac arrest. Rapid response and intervention increase the chances of survival. This course gives you knowledge and confidence to step forward in an emergency. The certification issued fulfills all state, OSHA and Social Service requirements. Manuals are included in the class fee. Bring a sack lunch to class. No refunds for no shows.

Age: 14 years and older
Saturday, Feb. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.


Spring & Summer Softball Leagues
The City of Golden will once again offer a full slate of adult softball leagues for the spring and summer seasons in 2010. Complete details can be found on our website! www.cityofgolden.net/adultsports.

L
ocated at the base of the foothills, the Golden Community Center is a venue with a view! Perfect for weddings, graduations and other events, put your mind at ease with the support of professional staff members and the convenience of an adjoining caterer’s kitchen.

Call Larry Rock at 303-384-8133 for availability, facility tours and rates. Make your event special – have it at the Golden Community Center.
Celebrate Health!
Fridays, Feb. 5 and March 5
Free blood pressure checks and healthy goodies!
Chair massages ................ $13 for 15 minutes
Reflexology sessions ........ $13 for 15 minutes
Footcare with Chalyce ...... $15 per pedicure

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

IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR TO GET FIT,
HAVE FUN, AND MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS!

SilverSneakers® Muscular Strength
and Range of Movement
Monday through Friday, 10 to 10:55 a.m.

SilverSneakers® Cardio Circuit
Monday, 8 to 8:55 a.m.
Tuesday and Thursday, 11 to 11:55 a.m.

Easy Yoga for 60+
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 to 11:55 a.m.

Arthritis Foundation Aquatics Program
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
8 to 9 a.m. and 9 to 10 a.m.

Aqua Aerobics
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 10 a.m.

Water Walking
Tuesday and Thursday, 10 to 11 a.m.

Line Dancing  Friday, 11 a.m. to noon

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Sirona Physical Therapy Balance Screening - #15121
Friday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to noon
FREE – Registration required.
Get your posture and body position analyzed and your
flexibility, strength and balance will be measured.
Register/Cancel by Feb. 4.

Institute for Environmental Solutions - #15122
Thursday, Feb. 11, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
FREE – Registration required.
Join IES for demonstrations of easy, practical ways
that you can reduce the quantity of pollution your
household creates, save money, and improve the
environment. Register/Cancel by Feb. 10.

International Hearing Dog, Inc. - #15123
Friday, Feb. 19, 9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
$8 (bring $$ for donation and lunch)
Come take a tour and learn how dogs are trained to
help others to hear. Register/Cancel by Feb. 12.

After the Diagnosis of Dementia: What’s Next? - #15124
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
FREE – Registration required.
Learn about services that can enhance the quality of life
for people living with Alzheimer’s or related dementias,
and their families. Register/Cancel by Feb. 23.

“Chicago” at Boulder’s Dinner Theater - #15125
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 5 to 10:30 p.m.
$55 (van, admission and dinner)
Very popular outing, make sure to register
early. Register/Cancel by Feb. 15.
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 2009 and cannot be claimed as a dependent on any other person’s tax return.

The refund amount for 2009 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 2009? _____ 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, 2010.

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 ________
Golden High School art teacher Tim Miller had a vision. He wanted to do a drawing of a homeless man from downtown Denver, so he went into the city to snap some photos. He passed out cookies to anyone who would let him take a picture. From one of the photos, he drew a picture which appeared in an art show. The piece sold, and shortly after Miller received a letter from the woman who bought the drawing saying that she fell in love with the piece immediately. “She told me that she volunteers at a soup kitchen downtown and personally knew the two homeless men in the drawing by name,” said Miller. “I thought it was a great story.”

That story inspired Miller to expand the project to his art class at Golden High School. With permission from their parents, 17 students took a field trip to seek out the homeless in Downtown Denver. The students each packed sack lunches to hand out in exchange for permission to take a photo. At first, Miller was very nervous about the trip and so were the students. Senior Briana West said it was scary to approach homeless men and women. “You see them on the street but you don’t talk to them,” said West. She admits she never thought of them as actual people. “I didn’t take the time to think about why they were there.” Miller says this project was an eye opener for the students, inspiring them to create amazing works of art.

West says the project became more personal because they took the photographs themselves and met the subjects. As she worked on drawing the details of her subject’s face, West says she could feel the emotion and the struggle each line and wrinkle revealed. The students worked on their drawings during every art class period for a month, even taking them home at night. They spent about 15 to 20 hours on the project overall. “That’s a big time commitment for one project,” said West.

Once the drawings were done, the students were asked to write an essay reflecting their opinions of the homeless before and after the project. The essays were displayed along with the artwork at the Jefferson County Administration Building in Golden during the month of December. Miller says he’s very proud of his students for opening their minds and hearts and for creating such beautiful pieces. “The students really grew from the experience.” West says she will never forget this project and appreciates the lessons learned. “This was my favorite project by far.”

Miller is trying to find a location in Denver to display the drawings, in hopes that the homeless men and women will get a chance to view them.
2010 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, Batting Cage Attendants, 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.