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 residents. All City departments contribute material for use in this publication. Comments on the newsletter format and its content are welcome. Please write to:
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Council’s Corner

Below is a copy of the Golden City Council’s calendar. Council meetings and study sessions are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Thursdays in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St., unless otherwise noted.

Jan. 6 Study Session
Jan. 13 REGULAR MEETING
Jan. 20 Study Session
Jan. 27 REGULAR MEETING

Council’s upcoming agendas and previous meeting minutes are available online at www.cityofgolden.net under the City Council link, or by calling Deputy City Clerk Karla Leibelt at 303-384-8015.

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As 2005 begins, the City of Golden sets out with a new biennial budget and Capital Improvement Plan to guide it through the coming years. But in order to identify the City’s priorities, it’s also important to look back at the accomplishments of the past.

This special January 2005 issue of the Golden Informer will help reflect on the past two years and forecast the coming two, which correspond with the City’s biennial budgets of 2003-2004 and 2005-2006. If you have more interest in any particular item, the City urges you to download a PDF of the new Budget at www.cityofgolden.net, or view a hard copy available at the Golden Public Library.

2003-2004 Accomplishments

Golden City Council has had a busy and productive past two years. Several councilors said they are quite pleased that the current members of Council work together so well and have maintained civility and ethics on the Council. This professionalism has enabled the Council to work together on tough issues to accomplish their goals.

City Council has kept its focus on important environmental and quality-of-life issues. The Council has remained determined to stop a high-speed beltway from being built through Golden. It has worked to prevent the construction of a supertower on Lookout Mountain that could adversely impact residents’ health and scientific equipment in town. And of course, committed to the addition of more Open Space lands in the City.

Of particular accomplishment, the current City Council has pushed hard to complete the sale of the City’s Beaver Brook watershed lands to the U.S. Forest Service (see story on Page 18). This sale not only preserves this beautiful land as open space, but also protects Golden’s watershed as a source of clean water.

Other open space acquisitions that the Council was instrumental in helping to achieve through policy decisions or funding include purchases on both North and South Table Mountains, the Maurer property, the Rooney Road Soccer Fields, and several other small parklands.

The Council has led the City in continued economic development and revitalization efforts, developing and opening Fossil Trace Golf Club and The Splash water park, and extending the Clear Creek Whitewater Park. The Council funded and constructed the new and improved Washington Avenue bridge, which brings the main access to downtown where the road crosses Clear Creek up and out of the floodplain. With its pedestrian suspension bridges on both sides, the bridge acts as a gateway entrance piece for the downtown area, something remarkably missing before.

The Council responded to the drought of 2002 by accelerating the construction of Guanella Reservoir near Empire, and completed and filled it by the end of 2004. This reservoir will ensure that Golden has more than enough water to provide for its anticipated growth over the next 50 years.

Council decided to encourage the addition of affordable housing through its regulatory powers and said it would seriously consider all affordable housing proposals that wish to receive priority allocations under the City’s Growth Limitation Ordinance.

And last but far from least, the Council has continued to put public safety and welfare first by purchasing new equipment for and making additional hires in the Golden Police and Fire departments. These improvements help ensure public safety and help stay on top of code enforcement, parking and pedestrians safety issues the Council made a priority.

Reflections & Forecasts

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Coffee & Politics

Nothing goes better with a great cup of coffee than talking politics with your very own representative.

Ward One Councilor Dave Ketchum and District One Councilor Lynne Timpeiro will meet for coffee, conversation and maybe even a light breakfast at 7:30 a.m. the second Thursday of each month at Cousins (formerly Jake’s), 17695 S. Golden Road, near Johnson Road. The restaurant is smoke-free and the coffee is free.

Golden citizens, particularly those in District One (Wards One and Two) are encouraged to stop by and chat with your councilors. The goal is to wrap up the discussion by 9 a.m. to get everyone off to work on time.

The first meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 13, and then again on Feb. 10. If you have any questions, call 303-384-8132.
In a City Council-City Manager form of government, such as Golden has, the City Council directs the City Manager, who in turn directs the City staff.

As such, the City Manager’s accomplishments can be measured by the successes of the City departments combined as a whole, cohesive unit. Furthermore, these can be measured by how well those successes are communicated to the City Council and the general public that they represent.

A citizen survey conducted in March 2004 found overwhelming support for the way the City of Golden conducts its business and provided strong direction to continue down this path.

The Golden Citizen Survey provided residents the opportunity to give their opinion about their community and its future. The survey permitted residents to provide feedback to us on what is working well and what is not, and to communicate their priorities for community planning and resource allocation.

This survey found that the vast majority (83%) of citizens feel Golden is an “excellent” or “very good” place to live. Golden ranked “significantly above national norms” on this question.

Golden also rated “above the norm” on most questions relating to the direction the City is taking:

- 82% feel that we are taking adequate measures to promote quality of life;
- 79% are pleased with the overall direction this City is taking;
- 82% know that we welcome citizen involvement;
- 76% would recommend the City of Golden government as an example of how to provide local government services;
- 62% of respondents could not think of one single new service that we should be offering; and
- 94% could not think of any services that we should stop providing.

This survey is a tremendous endorsement of past budgeting decisions, but we can never afford to stop trying to do a better job.

The City Manager’s goals for the coming two years are the goals of the City Council, which were described on Page 3. The City Manager will continue to implement Council’s agenda in a fiscally responsible manner that preserves the City’s strong financial position.

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City Clerk’s Office

2003-2004 Accomplishments

The City Clerk’s Office was responsible for conducting a coordinated mail ballot election with Jefferson County for the election of the City’s mayor and two district councilors in November 2003. The office also conducted a coordinated polling place election with Jefferson County for the adoption of an amendment to the City Charter regarding the City’s general election dates.

Of considerable importance, the Clerk’s Office adopted and implemented comprehensive Municipal Retention Schedules that cover all City departments.

The Clerk’s Office also completed training to keep important information current on the City’s Web site for public access, including the timely posting of City Council agendas and action minutes, and newly codified ordinances.

The Clerk’s Office worked with the City Attorney’s office on the City’s Campaign Finance ordinance, which is scheduled to be adopted in January.

The Clerk also hired a part-time records clerk to assist in record management.

Goals for 2005-2006

The City Clerk’s Office will conduct a coordinated mail ballot election with Jefferson County to elect four Golden Ward councilors in November 2005. The Clerk will implement the City’s new Campaign Finance ordinance for this election.

The office anticipates the need to train pertinent department personnel City-wide regarding new records retention schedules. The office also plans to develop a program for systematic scanning and microfilming of permanent records, purging of records according to retention schedules, and filing and storage of active and inactive records.
**Human Resources**

**2003-2004 Accomplishments**

The City’s Human Resources Department has accomplished multiple goals to ensure that Golden citizens are served by the best qualified City employees in the region. In cooperation with the IT Department, HR made online applications available on the City’s Web site, along with subscription notification of open positions.

Applicants to the City of Golden can now subscribe to the Web site to be notified via email of new openings in departments they may be interested in, particularly if a position is not currently open. They may also apply online for current openings and receive immediate notification that their application has been received. This greatly increased the opportunity for individuals to rapidly respond to openings. It also reduced the amount of paper and storage required to maintain applications. The City still accepts paper applications and posts job opportunities via its Web site, City offices, local colleges and job banks, and other print media venues.

The city continues to recruit and retain top-notch employees.

The HR Department’s analysis of current compensation and benefits trends results in competitive total compensation packages that attract employees. The thorough hiring process, including background and reference checks, yields qualified employees and volunteers to serve the organization and its citizens.

This was recognized as the City of Golden was selected as one of the **Top 10 Best Places to Work** in the large employer category by the Denver Business Journal in November 2004, and was the only government agency to receive such recognition.

**Goals for 2005-2006**

The HR Department plans to institute a comprehensive supervisory training program for all new supervisory staff. This training will be aimed at providing additional human resources tools needed by supervisors in their daily management of staff. The department also will continue to enhance the City’s Intranet Web site with valuable resources and information for employees and supervisors.

**Council Sets 2005-2006 Priorities**

continued from Page 3

**Goals for 2005-2006**

A community-wide citizen survey was conducted in March 2004, enabling Golden City Council to identify community needs and set goals to address them during its retreat May 14, 2004.

After reviewing the citizen survey, City Council listed 22 issues it wants to address in coming years, and this 2005-2006 Biennial Budget was tailored to address those desires. Several of these items require Council attention but no budget allocation. Other issues are designated for future Council discussions. The issues with Council consensus and that have Budget impacts are:

- The struggle to keep the U.S. Highway 6 and State Highway 93 corridor from becoming a 6- to 8-lane, high-speed beltway
- Communications
- Historic preservation
- Downtown redevelopment
- Code enforcement
- Open Space
- Parking
- Youth involvement

Council has directed the City Manager, who has in turn directed the City staff to set about accomplishing these items over the next two years. What follows in this issue of the Informer is a departmental breakdown of how Council’s objectives have been met over the past two years and how they will be met over the coming two in more detail.
2003-2004 Accomplishments

Along with the City Manager’s office, the Finance Department was responsible for publishing the City’s first Biennial Budget for 2003-2004. This new document received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The Finance Department also was recognized for the 2003 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

In 2003, the City’s Finance Department established a Sales and Use Tax amnesty program where businesses could remit back-taxes during a three month period penalty and interest free. This amnesty program resulted in collections in excess of $100,000.

In 2004, the Finance Department established a business compliance program, designed to identify local businesses that had never licensed or remitted sales and use tax to the City. Phase one of the program is focused on getting those businesses properly licensed and encouraging voluntary compliance in remitting any delinquent taxes. Phase two calls for a City audit of those businesses that do not comply voluntarily.

Both Finance Department programs have been highly successful and help the City to collect sales and use taxes.

But the Finance Department also oversees several other City divisions that have made major strides in 2003-2004.

The Municipal Court staff earned its certification with the Colorado Crime Information Center in 2004. This enables the court staff to access criminal information online without having to process this request through the Golden Police Department. This has improved efficiency of operations in both court and the Police Department.

The Information Technology (IT) division launched a major upgrade and overhaul of the City’s Web site and its Golden Info phone technology Interactive Voice Response system. These improvements were made as part of the City’s e-government plan, for which IT Manager Greg Mortimer was recognized by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). In addition, the City was also recognized by multiple industry organizations for the Web site and a new online recreation registration process.

2005-2006 Goals

The Finance Department has set its sights high for 2005 and 2006, hoping to again receive the prestigious GFOA awards for the City’s budget and annual finance reporting. The department will continue to ensure that the City’s financial position remains sound, funds are invested wisely and safely, proper reserves are maintained, and debt issued is evaluated regularly and refinanced if and when appropriate.

The department also aims to continue improving the collection of sales and use taxes due to the City through education efforts that promote voluntary compliance and only using audits when necessary.

The Municipal Court will continue its efforts to better serve the public. The IT Department will work to maintain the City’s Web site, and add value to it by implementing new technology that allows the public to pay utility bills online, set tee times at Fossil Trace Golf Club online, etc.

Finance Department

Left, the City’s Finance Department works throughout the year to develop voluntary compliance with sales and use tax remittance. Above, the City’s Information Technology personnel are structured as a division of the Finance Department.
Communications Office

2003-2004 Accomplishments

The 2003 Citizen Survey revealed that the City’s newsletter, The Informer, led all other sources from which Golden citizens get their information about City government. Recognizing the importance of this publication in communicating with the public, the Communications Office was able to cut the cost of production in half, allowing the City to publish it twice as often, making it a monthly news source. The Informer also was expanded by four pages (for a total of 20 pages) each month, allowing the City to provide more content for citizens.

The special events permitting process was reevaluated with representatives from each City department and community stakeholders. The result is a new, more user-friendly special events application that will go into effect in 2005. The Communications Office also created a fee structure that will enable the City to recover its costs associated with special events.

Related to special events, the Communications Office organized and held two Concerts in the Park, sponsored by the City for residents during the summer. More than 400 people attended each concert.

The Communications Office was responsible for writing, distributing and posting on the City’s Web site more than 40 press releases, and responded to more than six dozen media requests. Outside of the local weekly newspaper (the Golden Transcript), the Communications Department was made aware of more than two dozen separate pieces of positive publicity generated through proactive contacts with the media by the Communications Office.

Finally, the Communications Office also contributed to public involvement planning and coordination, participated in Emergency Operations Center practices and planning, consulted with Channel 8 operators, updated the City Web site with news items, responded to police and fire department emergencies as the Public Information Officer, participated in the Public Art Committee, and helped plan and coordinate strategy and communications for opposition to the Jefferson Parkway and the Lake Cedar Group’s rezoning proposal for the Lookout Mountain towers.

Goals for 2005-2006

In 2005, the Communications Office will initiate a new special events application and fee structure. As part of this new process, the office will be able to develop a special events calendar that seamlessly coordinates the permitting process with the event’s placement on the City Web site calendar, in the Informer and on Channel 8.

The office plans to propose centralization of all City-wide communications into a cohesive and skilled department, at a substantial savings to the City that will increase the effectiveness of City-wide communications.

Other plans include the development of an editorial calendar for The Informer and a City-wide communications plan. The Communications Office will reinvent the City’s Ward meetings to generate larger attendance and more citizen input. An operating plan will be established and implemented for Public Access Channel 8 cablecasting, including the purchase of new, updated equipment.
Parks & Recreation Department

2003-2004 Accomplishments

The Parks and Recreation Department has had a busy and successful past few years, with multiple major accomplishments under its belt, many of which have received national attention.

In Fossil Trace’s first full season, Golden’s municipal golf course was recognized with multiple national honors for building a world-class golf course, clubhouse, restaurant and maintenance facility that provide top-quality golf course conditions and experiences.

In 2003, Fossil Trace was voted the Second Best Affordable Golf Course by Golf Digest; Top 10 New Courses You Can Play by Golf Magazine; runner up for Golf Development of the Year by Golf, Inc. Magazine; ColoradoAvidGolfer named Fossil Trace the Best New Course in Colorado, Best Opening Hole In Colorado and Best Course to Bring Out-of-Staters (Avid Staff Pick); Fox Sports Net gave it the Ultimate 18 in Denver for both Holes #4 and #12; it was selected as one of America’s Crown Communities by American City & County; and voted Project of the Year by the Colorado Chapter of the American Public Works Association. In 2004, Westword named Fossil Trace the Best Golf Course in Denver. And the list continues to grow.

A new dog park was opened at Tony Grampsas Park. The dog park was recognized in a national magazine and the City has received much positive feedback about the dog park, spurring the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to begin creating plans for several other possible dog parks. In 2004, the department installed a concrete, handicapped-accessible sidewalk through Tony Grampsas Park all the way back to the dog park.

The department replaced the Billy Drew pedestrian bridge over Clear Creek in 2003. The new bridge is wider, allowing two-directional traffic to pass easily, and accommodating strollers and bicycles more safely.

The department also contributed significantly to the new Washington Avenue bridge by installing its traffic islands, landscaping and trails. The department spent multiple hours stringing up lights on the pedestrian bridges’ tension cables to add a touch of extra flare to the holiday lighting along Clear Creek.

Southridge Park got a brand new playground, Norman D. Park has two new pavilions thanks to the Golden Lions Club, and New Loveland Mine Park received a new drinking fountain. Flagpoles were installed at the Lions Park Ballfields and the Golden Community Center. Landscaping was completed at the South Illinois Open Space area, the Lubahn Trail loop construction was completed and the Sixth Avenue Trail was opened from Colfax Avenue to 19th Street.
The Golden Cemetery completed phases two and three of its paving project. About 5,000 feet of new pavement was installed at a cost of $49,000.

The Golden Community Center has undergone a number of upgrades to its facilities, including carpet replacement, fitness equipment upgrades, PA system upgrade, leisure and lap pool resurfacing, and pool slide railing construction.

**Goals for 2005-2006**

There are many more wonderful projects that add to the quality of life in Golden in the works for the next two years.

Within the next two years, Fossil Trace Golf Club intends to construct a Tournament Pavilion adjacent to #1 tee. The pavilion will house as many as 160 guests at a sit-down banquet, and will include a turn grill and restrooms. Budget allowing, the course hopes to also construct two rain shelters on the course. The golf course maintenance staff has plans to construct a nursery green to eliminate the need for using the course’s existing chipping green for sod.

Improvements will be made to the lighting at the Ulysses Park and Lions Park ballfields to reduce light pollution to the neighborhood.

Ulysses Park will have its 20-year-old irrigation system replaced with a new, more efficient one.

The treated timbers at Ulysses, Heritage Dells and Norman D. parks will be replaced.

An interpretative trail signage program will be implemented, as will several additional traffic-calming landscaping projects, including Illinois and 19th streets. The North Illinois Park will be constructed and the Norman D. Park trail connection will be made.

The Golden Cemetery plans to complete phases four and five of its road paving project, but has yet to determine how many feet of new pavement will be installed as part of the funding is based on private donations. The cemetery will spend $11,000 in Spring 2005 to install a new 64-niche Columbarium in the Cremation Garden.

As the City makes plans to expand its Community Center offerings and facilities using voter-approved bonds, the Golden Community Center is considering a number of improvements in the interim. Cardiovascular equipment will be purchased and other fitness equipment will be upgraded. Locker rooms will be improved with new lockers and the aquatics area will be repainted.
**2003-2004 Accomplishments**

The City of Golden’s Public Works Department has had a busy two years.

Perhaps most visibly, Public Works was responsible for completing the Washington Avenue Bridge replacement. The new bridge includes two pedestrian suspension bridges with plaza areas to sit and admire the view of Clear Creek, riverfront park trails, and most importantly, the bridge is in full compliance with the Clear Creek Master Plan, bringing the bridge out of the 100-year floodplain.

Along with the bridge improvements, Washington Avenue also received a facelift from State Highway 58 to Clear Creek with added streetscape elements, including drought-tolerant plantings.

Improvements shown on the Urban Drainage Master Plan were completed by Public Works on Kinney Run, removing Golden High School and more than 100 additional homes from the floodplain.

And Public Works is also responsible for $1.3 million in curb, gutter and sidewalk replacements and $1.1 million in new street pavement. This includes completed traffic-calming medians installed on 19th Street, which accomplished reducing the speed in the neighborhood by 7 mph, making a more livable community for neighbors of that thoroughfare.

The Vidler Tunnel was purchased by the City and operated by the Public Works Department, greatly enhancing the City’s water supply. Additionally, the construction of Guanella Reservoir was sped up to meet drought-year demands. Completed in a record-time of just two years, the reservoir was full to its banks in mid-December 2004 for the first time. These major water storage increases ensure that Golden’s citizens have ample water for the community’s needs for at least the next 50 years.

This water supply was further protected and improved by $2.4 million in water quality and security improvements to the City’s water system, and $1.7 million of water and sewer line replacements. More than $200,000 was spent to complete local drainage improvements.

In addition to ensuring public safety and maintaining the City’s infrastructure, the Public Works Department was responsible for clearing 230-lane-miles of snow-covered streets.

The Public Works Department completed the development of Fossil Trace Golf Club in close cooperation with the City’s Planning and Development and Parks and Recreation departments.

The Public Works Department
The Golden Informer

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has served as the lead City department in the Colorado Department of Transportation’s Northwest Corridor Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) study. Public Works staff attends regular EIS meetings. The department also conducted and completed the Muller Study, Golden’s plan to improve the U.S. Highway 6 and State Highway 93 corridor in a manner that was consistent with community standards that protect the quality of life in Golden.

One of the most significant accomplishments of the past two years was the department’s accreditation from the American Public Works Association. Golden is the second city in the state and 13th in the nation to achieve this recognition, and is the smallest city to have done so.

**Goals for 2005-2006**

Over the next two years, the City will spend $1.1 million to repave about 10% of all the City’s streets. An additional $1.1 million will be spent to replace curbs, gutters and sidewalks, totaling about 5% of the City’s concrete. Another $210,000 will be spent on various measures to make neighborhoods more livable.

Water quality, reliability and security improvements will be made to the City’s water system with a $5.35 million planned investment, and Public Works will continue ongoing utility line replacement totaling $2 million.

Multiple drainageway improvements will be made in accordance with the Urban Drainage Master Plan, including $250,000 to improve Lena Gulch and $500,000 in local street drainage systems. The Arapahoe Gulch Master Plan is currently being reevaluated and the City is working toward completing drainage improvements there.

As the City’s Public Works Department continues to maintain and improve the City’s infrastructure, its own shops have fallen into disrepair. Much of the Streets Division’s fleet has outgrown existing facilities, or they are unable to properly store needed materials. As such, regularly used materials are stored outside and vehicle repairs often must be performed in the elements, even in the cold of winter. Because the City of Golden believes its employees serve the public better when they are provided with an appropriate environment from which to work, the City is in the process of planning a $12 million investment in improvements and repairs to the City shops. It is anticipated that these improvements will allow for other needed upgrades in the Police and Fire departments’ facilities, as well.
Planning the City of Golden can be no small task, but it is through the efforts of the five-member Planning and Development Department that it is a worthwhile and important responsibility of the City.

2003-2004 Accomplishments

In 2003, the Planning and Development Department and Planning Commission finished an update of the Golden Comprehensive Plan, the City’s guiding document for the future.

The Comprehensive Plan is perhaps one of the most important documents of the City, because it outlines the community’s wishes with regards to land uses, growth management, housing, economic sustainability and public facilities. During the Comprehensive Plan update, the Planning Commission and staff devoted a tremendous effort to assuring that the new sections were not only an accurate statement of City goals and recommended policies, but were also more strategic and usable in decision-making.

The Comprehensive Plan continues to promote the goals and objectives shared by the community for future growth, development, and stability of the community.

Another major accomplishment achieved between 2000 and 2005 is the sale of a large piece of land to the U.S. Forest Service. The Beaver Brook watershed is 5,700 acres located in Clear Creek County just west of Evergreen.

The property was originally acquired in the early 1900s by the City for the purposes of securing future water rights. Literally taking an act of Congress, Golden was able to sell the Beaver Brook property to the U.S. Forest Service after Congress appropriated funding in the U.S. Forest Service budget over a series of years.

The City is using the funds from the sale of the property to pay for water rights, the construction of Guanella Reservoir and other water system infrastructure. The U.S. Forest Service currently manages the area through the Arapahoe National Forest district to preserve the scenic mountains, forest and meadows for the enjoyment of the public. (See more on Page 18.)

With regards to Open Space and recreation, one of the Planning and Development Department’s newest projects is the completion of the Golden Bike Master Plan, which outlines the City’s current and future needs for trail and path connections.

With the construction of the new pedestrian and bike trail along Sixth Avenue, a popular amenity was also added to the City’s recreational path system. If you would like to view the master plan, please visit the City website at www.cityofgolden.net.

The Planning and Development Department continues to provide support for Open Space purchases and, to that end, has facilitated the
purchases of four new parcels: two parcels on the slopes of South Table Mountain, and two neighborhood parcels on Illinois Street.

Currently, the department is working on acquiring several new parcels for Open Space that will contribute to Golden’s unique recreational opportunities.

In the past two years, the staff also assisted the Historic Preservation Board in the creation of two new historic districts: the East Street district and the Eighth and Ninth Street district.

The East Street district is indicative of the period from the 1870s through the 1950s, and includes important structures such as the Welch Ditch, Kinney Run Creek and the Golden railroad that was built to support the mining industry.

The Eighth and Ninth Street district’s architecture is more reflective of the latter half of the 19th Century and shows the evolution of the Victorian style.

The staff and the Historic Preservation Board will strive to preserve important historic structures within both of the districts.

**Goals for 2005-2006**

The Planning and Development department will review Title 17 (Subdivision Regulations) and Title 18 (Zoning) and assess the need for major revisions to content and structure in the coming years. The department’s goal is to provide user-friendly documents that adequately address the City’s needs.

The department will also continue to update the Golden Comprehensive Plan as needed in an annual review.

In order to streamline the development review process, the staff will implement an improved, more efficient timeline for getting applicants through development review, Planning Commission hearings, and finally on to the building code review to issue a permit.

Through clear and detailed standards, thorough communication from the staff to the applicant, and consistent follow-through to the final inspection, the staff hopes to provide applicants with a pleasant and efficient approval process.

The Planning and Development department strives to promote the type of community and development that is reflective of the citizens’ wishes. Public input in the process of creating and amending the City’s zoning codes is vital to its effectiveness. The Planning and Development Department invites the public to stop by or call a city planner any time to discuss thoughts and opinions on the future of Golden.

The Planning and Development Department is located at 1445 10th St., or call 303-384-8097.

The interpretive signs that adorn the pedestrian suspension bridges on the new Washington Avenue bridge were researched and designed cooperatively by the Historic Preservation Board, Golden Landmarks Association, and the Planning and Development Department.
The Golden Police Department

2003-2004 Accomplishments

The Golden Police Department has accomplished numerous improvements to the department and its ability to serve Golden citizens over the past two years.

The department added a new school resource officer/public information officer to assist with school-related issues, as well as media response and promotion of the police department. An additional sergeant position was added in the Patrol Division.

The department was able to increase staffing with the addition of four new police officers through grant funding. These new patrol officers will have a focus on community-oriented policing and homeland security issues for the City.

The City’s traffic team has been increased by two officers: two full-time motorcycle officers are focusing on neighborhood complaints, as well as pro-active accident reduction.

An aggressive DUI enforcement program was continued. Golden continues to employ a full-time DUI enforcement officer who makes more than 200 arrests per year.

The Golden Police Department converted its vehicle fleet to a new black-and-white color scheme (designed and voted on by officers), and is phasing out the old all-white cars.

New Tasers were purchased for the department to provide officers with less-lethal options for dealing with aggressive offenders. These Tasers aid in reducing injury to both offenders and officers.

An increased focus on crime-analysis has enabled the department to begin to develop crime mapping, which helps identify criminal trends and keeps officers department-wide aware of criminal activities in their respective districts.

The Golden Police Department has worked closely with the City’s Human Resources Department to enhance recruitment efforts that enable the City to hire the best-qualified candidates.

The department also completed department-wide strategic planning to lead it into coming years.

Golden Police officers designed, submitted and voted for the new black-and-white patrol car design, shown above on the right car. The new design will be rotated in as the old cars with the all-white design (shown above on the left) are rotated out.
Goals for 2005-2006

The Golden Police Department has numerous goals it hopes to accomplish in coming years. Among those, a priority has been placed on creating a new officer position to focusing on crime prevention, community policing, quality of life issues and homeland security.

The department will also increase officer involvement with quality of life and community issues. Officers are being encouraged to become more involved with the community by focusing on special projects in the community. An increased focus on accident reduction will be possible through grant-funded programs.

The police department plans to continue to conduct annual citizen surveys to address citizen needs. The information collected from these surveys aids the department in focusing on specific problems identified by the community.

The department is also pursuing the purchase of Automatic Vehicle Locating (AVL) GPS technology and COPLINK crime data sharing system through grants and other funding sources.

Finally, the Golden Police Department will be focusing its efforts on preparing for the national accreditation application process to ensure the department is compliant with national standards for law enforcement.

The Golden Police Department protects the community in many ways, including DUI checkpoints (left), training top notch police dogs for the K-9 unit (center) and putting in the necessary hours at target practice (right).
2003-2004
Accomplishments

The work of the Golden Fire Department during the 2003-2004 budget years has had an emphasis placed on increased efforts in the area of Fire and Life Safety.

Over the last few years, the Golden Fire Department became increasingly concerned about fire safety on the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) campus. This concern resulted from national reports of fatal tragedies on college campuses, particularly in college housing. With this in mind, the Golden Fire Department certainly did not want to get caught in an “it won’t happen to us” mentality, as the consequences could simply be devastating.

CSM was in the process of planning capital improvements for the majority of its housing, many of which are older facilities in need of upgrading; namely the Morgan, Thomas, Bradford and Randall residence halls. The Golden Fire Department was able to include fire alarm and fire sprinkler protection in these halls over the past two years. CSM added 11 student housing apartment buildings with the expansion of Mines Park, a fraternity, and three new sororities that are school-owned. These new buildings were required to be provided with fire sprinkler systems. Over the past two years, the fire department has assisted two of the five older fraternity houses in upgrading their fire alarm systems. The department is also in the process of helping the remaining three houses get their fire alarm and/or kitchen hood fire suppression systems upgraded.

Through the application of modern codes and standards, and inspections with an educational approach where appropriate, the Golden Fire Department has made great strides during the past two years in making CSM one of the safest college campuses in the state of Colorado.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants have enhanced the department’s ability to provide fire safety education to senior citizens, establish a Jefferson County Outdoor Lab wildfire mitigation program and a new juvenile fire-setter intervention program. The Outdoor Lab program received the International Association of Fire Chiefs Award of Excellence in 2004.

Operationally, the department placed a new apparatus into service. Attack 1 was placed into service in 2003. It is a wildland/urban interface pumper that combines the capabilities of structural fire protection and wildland firefighting capabilities.

There were 1,229 emergency incidents in 2003 and the fire department projects a similar pattern for 2004. Fires, technical rescues and emergency medical situations keep the department’s Operations Division quite busy.

One of the most notable events of 2004 was the department’s 125th anniversary. The department was honored for its years of service by the Buffalo Bill Days board and the Golden Civic Foundation. A weekend of celebration was held in August that included a golf tournament, parade and a formal
The Golden Fire Training Division’s major accomplishments over the past two years include the dramatic increase in certification levels of our firefighters. As of September 2004, 100% of our membership is credentialed as a Firefighter or Fire Officer. This is the first time in the department’s 125-year history this benchmark has been reached. All firefighters are trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and use of defibrillators. Beyond this basic medical training, 91% carry a medical certification ranging from Medical First Responder through Paramedic. In addition, 93% of the City’s firefighters carry a hazardous materials credential.

Above and beyond the competencies required by the National Fire Protection Association, the Golden Fire Department has identified “Core Skills” essential to being an effective firefighter in our unique community. With the abundance of swift water, rock faces and industry in our response area, the department insists on its firefighters being trained to face these challenges. One training class each month is dedicated to “Core Skills” training.

**Goals for 2005 and 2006**

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Golden Fire Department will receive a new pumper apparatus that will replace a 1980 model. This unit will be state-of-the-art and include many new safety features for firefighter protection. Additionally, the department will replace a 20-year old extrication tool utilized at the scene of auto accidents and other technical rescues. The department will continue to pursue the latest technologies available while being financially responsible in order to provide the best possible service to the community.

A strategic planning team has been formed, and is comprised of both volunteer and career members of the department. The planning team’s focus will be on how to enhance the continuing role of the volunteer firefighter and look for ways to improve emergency response and staffing. This team’s efforts will shape the direction of the department over the next five years.

Also in the planning is the future of fire department facilities. Most of the facilities are between 20 and 40 years old. A strategic plan will be developed for building improvements and/or relocation of some existing facilities.

With an eye toward the future of training, the Golden Fire Department seeks to maintain and improve certification levels in the next two years. Most of what the department does is outside the traditional role of fighting fires. The fire department is committed to providing the finest service to our citizens and recognize the importance of certification. As new certifications become available through the Colorado Division of Fire Safety, Golden’s fire crews will be among the first in the state to acquire them.

We are very proud and the community of Golden is fortunate to have progressive professional firefighters serving its emergency service needs.
A century after the City of Golden began acquiring the Beaver Brook watershed lands on Squaw Mountain, their sale to the U.S. Forest Service as open space will be complete, and the reservoir near Empire built with funds from the sale of the land is at its banks.

The City initially began buying the 6000-acre property in 1903 as a means to boost the City’s water supply. In the late 1940s, the City began transferring its main water supply to Clear Creek and supplied its citizens through a new filtration plant at the west end of 10th Street. The City eventually quit using the Beaver Brook system for residents, but because of previous agreements, continued the service to mountain customers.

Then, in the mid-1970s, Golden entered into an oral agreement with Paul Byron Guanella to construct a water storage reservoir on property he owned near Empire that was being mined as a gravel pit. The agreement was formalized in 1982, and the City began work designing a 1500-acre-foot reservoir.

Due to a severe drought in 2002, the City accelerated construction of Guanella Reservoir, completing it several years ahead of schedule. The new reservoir began filling last winter and reached its capacity for the first time Dec. 11, 2004. The water storage available in Guanella is expected to exceed the needs of the City’s estimated population for the next 50 years.

To acquire the land, design and build Guanella Reservoir cost the City of Golden about $11.8 million. This cost was provided for by the City’s sale of the Beaver Brook property, sparing the taxpayers significant water rate increases.

In 1999, the U.S. Forest Service announced that purchase of the Beaver Brook property from the City of Golden was its third highest priority for recommendation to the national office and Congress. The beginnings of a win-win agreement were set into motion. The City agreed to sell the land as open space to the U.S. Forest Service in parcels over multiple years.

This agreement accomplished multiple goals for the City of Golden: it found a way to preserve the pristine Beaver Brook lands as managed forests while the City fulfilled its legal and fiduciary responsibility to preserve, maintain and maximize Golden’s capital assets. By selling Beaver Brook to the U.S. Forest Service in parcels over a period of years, Golden City Councils have balanced their desire to find a responsible and appropriate future use for the land while ensuring the City would receive fair return based on market value of the property.

According to the purchase agreement, the final payment from the US Forest Service was to be due on April 1, 2005. In order to be ready if Congress did not appropriate the full amount needed, MALT and a group of others, including City staff began working on a plan to secure funds from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) if needed to complete the purchase. It turns out that this was a good plan since the Congressional appropriation to the U.S. Forest Service for 2005 only included about $2 million for the Beaver Brook purchase.

On Dec. 1, GOCO approved a loan to Clear Creek County to cover the balance of the 2005 purchase amount: just one more example of the strength of the partnership between the City and MALT to realize the preservation of this significant property and a fair return for the citizens of Golden.
Want to Give Back to Your Community?

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is accepting applications to fill three appointments for seats on the board. Each appointment is for a four-year term.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was established by the Golden City Council in 1982 and serves in an advisory capacity to the Planning Commission and City Council regarding the development, expansion and growth of the parks and recreational facilities within the City. It is made up of seven regular members and one alternate, all must be residents of the City of Golden.

Regular meetings are held at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each calendar month. Study sessions are currently held on the first Tuesday of each month and special meetings may be called as necessary.

Questions regarding the board should be directed to Parks, Recreation and Golf Director Rod Tarullo by calling 303-384-8120.

Applications are available from the City Clerk’s office or on the City’s Web site, www.cityofgolden.net. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, by the City Clerk’s office at City Hall, 911 10th St. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to be held at the City Council’s Feb. 3 study session.

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Arapahoe Gulch Drainage Public Hearing Notice

A public hearing will be held during the Thursday, Jan. 13 City Council meeting regarding proposals by Wright Water Engineering for an update of the Arapahoe Gulch Drainage Master Plan. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St. For more information, call 303-384-8132.

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Coors, Chamber and City Welcome Convention Center

The Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce took the lead in organizing and staffing a 10- by 20-foot booth at the opening of the new Colorado Convention Center in downtown Denver on Dec. 9. The chamber was joined by Coors Brewing Company, which helped create much of the scenery for the booth. The City of Golden helped sponsor the booth by paying for Polaroid film that was used to take pictures of the Convention Center visitors under a mock “Howdy Folks! Welcome to Golden” arch with Wild West and Victorian characters. Chamber President Gary Wink said there were so many visitors in line to get information from the Golden booth that Convention Center security had to ask chamber staff to try to control its lines. Needless to say, chamber volunteers felt that their presence at the Convention Center opening was a huge success that will help attract new visitors to the Golden area. This additional publicity is especially helpful to City merchants during the holiday shopping season.
The Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce’s Olde Golden Christmas Candlelight Walk on Dec. 3 brought out record crowds. Estimates ranged from 2,500 to 5,000 people turned out to walk Washington Avenue singing carols and carrying candles. Attendance may have been up this year due to cooperative weather.