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2006 Golden City Council

Chuck Baroch
MAYOR
303-278-9697
E-mail: cbaroch@ci.golden.co.us

Lynne Timpeiro
DISTRICT ONE
303-273-9302
E-mail: ltimpeiro@ci.golden.co.us

Mary Weaver
WARD ONE
303-384-3659
E-mail: mwaver@ci.golden.co.us

Arthur Chen
WARD TWO
303-384-9834
E-mail: achen@ci.golden.co.us

Karen Oxman
DISTRICT TWO
303-278-0400
E-mail: koxman@ci.golden.co.us

Diane Chesbro
WARD THREE
303-279-7603
E-mail: dchesbro@ci.golden.co.us

Jacob Smith
WARD FOUR
303-216-1680
E-mail: jsmith@ci.golden.co.us

To reach the entire City Council, e-mail citycouncil@ci.golden.co.us

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Please write to: City of
Golden, 911 10th St.,
Golden, CO 80401,
Attn: Sabrina Henderson;
call 303-384-8132;
or e-mail shenderson@ci.golden.co.us

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City of Golden Department Managers

Mike Bestor
City Manager
303-384-8010
mbestor@ci.golden.co.us

Dan Hartman
Public Works
303-384-8150
dhartman@ci.golden.co.us

Steve Glueck
Planning and Development
303-384-8095
sglueck@ci.golden.co.us

Susan Brooks
City Clerk
303-384-8014
sbrook@ci.golden.co.us

Rod Tarullo
Parks and Recreation
303-384-8120
rtarullo@ci.golden.co.us

Bill Kilpatrick
Police
303-384-8033
bkilpatr@ci.golden.co.us

John Bales
Fire
303-384-8090
jbales@ci.golden.co.us

Jeff Hansen
Finance
303-384-8020
jhansen@ci.golden.co.us

Teresa Reilly
Human Resources
303-384-8017
treilly@ci.golden.co.us

Sabrina Henderson
Communications
303-384-8132
shenderson@ci.golden.co.us

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A fire that broke out at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 3 in the Loveland Building (which housed the Old Capitol Grill restaurant) heavily damaged the second floor, but quick work by the Golden Fire Department spared the loss of the historic structure.

Several 9-1-1 calls were received by the Golden Dispatch Center at 3:31 p.m. reporting smoke in the building. Tenants of the second-floor offices and the restaurant were evacuated by Golden Police Officers Matt Cole and Glenn Moore as the Golden Fire Department arrived on scene, less than four minutes from receiving the call.

Firefighters immediately entered the building, but were ordered out as large flames shot up from the roof of the building that housed the Territorial Legislature when Golden was the Territorial Capitol (thus the name of the Old Capitol Grill). Firefighters attacked the flames from ladder trucks, soaking the structure from above at both the front and rear of the building.

Assistance was requested to help fight the two-alarm fire. Fairmount, Pleasant View and West Metro fire departments responded, while Genesee Fire Department was on standby at Golden Fire Station No. 1 to respond to any additional calls that came in from elsewhere in the City.

Once the main body of the fire on the roof and second floor were extinguished, three crews were sent inside the building to battle flames primarily in the rear of the second floor. The fire was contained there and extinguished within minutes.

Firefighters did a sweep of the building, laying down Class A foam to prevent rekindling and then began salvage work.

No one was injured as a result of the fire and it did not spread to the adjacent building.

The Golden Fire Department determined that roofers accidentally started the fire. A roofing contractor’s employees were using a propane torch to make repairs around some duct work on the roof. The torch ignited combustible material in the flex ducting that led into the building’s attic. The fire extended from the attic into the second floor offices in the rear two-thirds of the building, where it was confined.

There was no fire damage to the front third of the second floor due to a brick wall dividing the two. While there was no fire damage to the front third of the second floor or the main floor (where the restaurant was located), there was heavy smoke and water damage in those areas. The Golden Fire Department preliminarily estimated damage to the structure to be $600,000 and contents of the building to be $700,000 – totaling $1.3 million in total damage.

The south wall of the building along 12th Street, particularly toward the rear, was structurally supported so that a compromised corrugated metal roof could be removed and replaced. The building owner indicated that he planned to rebuild as quickly as possible, and believed it would take six months to a year to complete.

In the meantime, local businesses helped displaced workers by hosting benefits throughout the holiday season. The Golden Landmarks Association and the Historic Preservation Board are actively working with the building owner to pursue grants and to provide consultation on the history of the building.
MAYOR’S MESSAGE

Legal Constraints Delayed Decision, but Council Acted Responsibly

By Mayor Chuck Baroch

Recent discussions on the new Washington Square project to re-develop the old vacant Hested’s building downtown were an excellent illustration of a very important role City Council plays.

This project was a land use case in which the Council was required to consider a rezoning in what is called a “quasi-judicial proceeding.”

In a quasi-judicial proceeding, which is mandated by law, City Council may only consider certain information presented to it. Council can consider the official record of the Planning Commission’s hearings and deliberations and decision on the land use case. Council can also consider public comment and other information provided by staff at its own meeting on the matter.

The quasi-judicial procedure places significant constraints on Councilors. Individual Councilors are to avoid receiving any information that is not submitted as part of the public record or having any discussion outside of the official City Council meetings. This is to ensure that all information considered is part of the record and that it is public.

During the initial Council meeting on this project, several Councilors had a number of questions, but because Councilors are not permitted to talk directly with the applicant outside of formal Council meetings, City Council tabled (put off to hear at a later date) the discussion. This way, City staff and the applicant had time to develop answers to the Council’s many questions about the project.

The answers to these questions were collected into a single document by the Planning and Development Department, and this document then became part of the public record. The document was provided to Councilors several days in advance of the next study session. At the study session, the Planning Director read each question and answer aloud for the public to hear, and made sure that all Councilors had all of their questions answered completely.

As a result, Councilors were able to have an open discussion on the project with the benefit of all the facts at the next formal Council meeting.

The quasi-judicial role Council plays is much like a court, in which only certain “evidence” may be entered for consideration. These constraints can make it quite difficult for Council to have the necessary understanding of the facts to reach a decision. By briefly delaying a decision and tabling this item, the City Council did the right thing and allowed each Councilor to have sufficient information on which to reach a decision while staying within the legal constraints of the quasi-judicial process.

If you haven’t joined us at a City Council meeting lately, I invite you to come see this hometown democratic process at work. We meet in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St. Our meeting schedules are always published in “Council’s Corner” in the Informer. Our schedules and agendas are available on the City’s Web site at www.cityofgolden.net, or call the City Clerk’s office at 303-384-8015.
The Golden Informer

HEADS UP: Important Upcoming Items

New Councilors to Be Seated in New Year

This regular column in the Golden Informer identifies some of the items of greater community interest that are likely to be scheduled for community discussion in coming weeks. For specific agendas and schedules, visit www.cityofgolden.net.

The four Ward representatives elected in November to represent you on City Council will take their seats at an organizational meeting Thursday, Jan. 12 at City Hall, 911 10th St.

A reception will begin at 5:30 in Council Chambers to thank outgoing Councilors Dave Ketchum and Bob Nelson for their service and to welcome new Councilors Diane Chesbro and Mary Weaver. Councilors Jacob Smith and Arthur Chen were re-elected to serve their wards, and they too will take the oath of office with Chesbro and Weaver during the regular Council meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

CITY SHOPS FINANCING TO BE CONSIDERED

City Council will discuss the City Shops project at its Jan. 19 meeting, including financing for the plan. If you are interested in learning more about the project or have comments, you are encouraged to attend.

ROONEY ROAD SPORTS COMPLEX NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE SCHEDULED

At its Jan. 19 study session, Golden City Council will receive an update on the status of the Rooney Road Sports Complex project and discuss agreements to move the project forward.

Plans have been in the works to transform the Rooney Road landfill into as many as 18 synthetic turf athletic fields of various sizes. Jefferson County finished recapping the landfill in the fall of 2004. The City has been in the process of negotiating use, operating, maintenance and reimbursement agreements with Jefferson County and the Table Mountain Soccer Association, as well as putting together specifications and bid documents for the construction of the fields. Funds from Jefferson County Open Space, the City of Golden, Table Mountain Soccer Association and a grant from Gates Rubber Co. have been set aside for the first phase of construction.

The City will keep you posted on Council’s discussions in upcoming issues of the Informer.

KATRINA VOLUNTEERS TO GIVE REPORT

Golden firefighters and Public Works staff who volunteered to assist in the Hurricane Katrina aftermath have returned to Golden. They will visit with City Council and talk about their experiences in the field during the Jan. 19 study session.

COUNCIL RETREAT TO IDENTIFY PRIORITIES

Golden City Council will meet for a day-long retreat Saturday, Feb. 11. The session will focus on helping the new Council identify its goals and priorities. If you have ideas or suggestions for your representatives, their contact information is located on Page 2, or e-mail the entire Council at citycouncil@ci.golden.co.us.

CITIZEN SURVEY TO BE RELEASED

Marketing research firm Customer Connections and Innovations (CCI) conducted a new Citizen Survey on behalf of the City in November and December 2005. The telephone survey is being conducted to obtain citizen input on the City of Golden and the city government. If you were surveyed, thank you for taking the time to provide us with your feedback. The results of the survey are being compiled into a report which will be reviewed by Council and released to the public in coming weeks. Watch for it online at www.cityofgolden.net or call 303-384-8132.

PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR TREE

If you have a live Christmas tree, the City encourages you to recycle it at an appropriate location. Golden will provide tree recycling beginning Dec. 26 at 11th and Maple streets. Please remove ALL decorations from your tree before bringing it to the drop-off site. Call City Forester Dave High at 303-384-8141 if you have any questions.

ROONEY ROAD WINTER HOURS

Rooney Road Recycling Center has winter hours available through March 2006. They are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Single Christmas trees can be disposed of for $1, or regular tipping fees apply for multiple trees. Rooney Road is located at 151 S. Rooney Rd. Call 303-710-9120 for more information.
In September 2000, the City of Golden, along with other Jeffco cities, backed the results of a comprehensive study by renowned CH2MHill, which said the best way to handle traffic in the northwest corridor was to improve arterial roads. Golden set out making plans to improve the roads traversing its city, but rather than making plans to improve local roads, Arvada and others began making plans to build a high-speed beltway to spur more development. In April 2003, Gov. Bill Owens and CDOT announced an Environmental Impact Study would be conducted to “proceed with planning of this final beltway segment.” Despite this predetermined outcome, Golden has participated in that process in good faith in an effort to help find the best traffic solution for the region. This is a timeline of where the EIS process has taken us, what is still to come and a summary of what we stand for. For more detailed information and updates, visit www.BetterTrafficSolutions.com.

**OCTOBER 2004** – The third round of public meetings of the Northwest Corridor Environmental Impact Study are held. The 24 remaining alignment options are presented. More than 700 people attend.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) announces that the $7.5 million for the Northwest Corridor Environmental Impact Study has run out. Joe Jehn and Tom Norton of CDOT ask Jefferson County for an additional $2 million of taxpayer money to finish the study.

**APRIL 2004** – The second round of public meetings of the Northwest Corridor Environmental Impact Study are held. More than 300 Golden residents pack the auditorium at the Colorado School of Mines to speak out against a highway in their community. Engineer consultant Steve Holt announces that all 72 road alignment options are still under consideration and that it had been “premature” to eliminate options at the March meeting. (*Quote from 4-21-2004 Golden Transcript, ‘Residents uneasy after beltway forum.’*)

**APRIL 2005** – The Northwest Corridor Environmental Impact Study announces that all potential alternatives other than a highway through Golden using Highways 6 and 93 have been eliminated.

**MAY 2005** – The fourth round of public meetings on the Northwest Corridor Environmental Impact Study are held. More than 300 Golden residents attend to register their objections that the four remaining alignment alternatives all run through Golden.

**AUGUST 2005** – Golden City Council adopts regulations requiring that the Colorado Department of Transportation get permission from the City of Golden before building any highways in the City.

**OCTOBER 2005** – Officials from Boulder County, and the cities of Boulder, Louisville and Superior write a letter to CDOT expressing “deep concerns” about the Northwest Quadrant Environmental Impact Study, including specific concerns about open-space impacts and that improvements to existing arterial roads were not adequately considered. (*Quote from 10-14-05 Denver Post, “Four governments raise concerns over beltway-link process.”*)

**TO COME IN 2006** –
- CDOT will release draft Environmental Impact Statement for review
- Public input on the draft EIS will be taken
- Public participation will be needed for public hearings on draft EIS
- Golden will continue to update and notify citizens about new developments and opportunities to weigh in on this important issue.
### SEPTEMBER 2000 –
The results of the [Northwest Quadrant Feasibility Study](#) are released showing that a beltway connection is not the best solution to traffic needs in the region. This study was paid for and supported by DRCOG, Jefferson County, Lakewood, Wheat Ridge, Westminster, Arvada and Golden.

### APRIL 2003 –
Governor Bill Owens announces the start of $7.5 million [Northwest Corridor Environmental Impact Study](#), paid for by the state, to "proceed with the planning of this final beltway segment." *(Quote from 4-16-2003 Denver Post, ‘Owens: beltway’s missing link on the way.’)*

### NOVEMBER 2003 –
Based on the findings of the Northwest Quadrant Feasibility Study, Golden presents an alternative to a high-speed beltway connection. Known as the “[Muller Study](#),” the plan would make improvements to Highways 6 and 93 that would be implemented with other arterial road improvements to meet traffic needs throughout the region without compromising the quality of life in the community *(see “We’re for Real Traffic Solutions” sidebar below)*.

### MARCH 2004 –
The Technical Study Committee of the Northwest Corridor Environmental Impact Study eliminates all options other than a highway through Golden. Officials from Boulder County, City of Boulder, Superior, Louisville and Golden voice objections.

### JANUARY 2004 –
The first public meetings of the Northwest Corridor Environmental Impact Study are held. More than 100 Golden residents attended the meetings to voice their concerns.

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### WE’RE FOR REAL TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS –
Both the CH2M Hill Northwest Quadrant Feasibility Study and the EIS traffic studies show that the best way to improve traffic in the region is to improve arterial roads throughout the northwest corridor, including Golden’s Highways 6 and 93. As a result, the City of Golden invested in developing its own plans for those improvements. The plan is known as the Muller Study. Key elements of the plan include widening 93 to four lanes, speed limits of no more than 55 mph, extensive noise mitigation, and a short tunnel section that would be covered by a park to avoid bi-secting our community. These improvements were arrived at after much study and public involvement and they will improve traffic in the region much more than a high-speed, 6- to 8-lane tollway through Golden. To view the Muller Plan, visit [www.BetterTrafficSolutions.com](http://www.BetterTrafficSolutions.com) or call 303-384-8132 for a copy.
Washington Square Approved

The “Washington Square” redevelopment proposal of the old Hested’s site is the best chance in decades to redevelop this blighted central part of downtown Golden. The new residents, businesses and customers generated by this development will boost vitality at a time when downtown is under increasing competitive pressure from other communities that have attempted to duplicate Golden’s charm.

Over the past several months, the proposal worked its way through the approval process of the City Council, the Planning Commission and the Golden Urban Renewal Authority, and has been reviewed and commented on by many other organizations including the Golden Civic Foundation, Historic Preservation Board, Golden Landmarks Association and the Golden Chamber of Commerce.

Dozens of citizens weighed in on the project at the many public meetings held over the past several months. These comments resulted in a variety of significant improvements to the design.

All land purchases and contracts are scheduled to be finalized by January 2006, and an exciting new chapter in Golden’s history will have begun. To view images of the proposal, please visit www.gura.com/hesteds/index.htm.

NexCore Group, the developer, plans to redevelop the entire site in several phases. Details of the phases are included on the Web site listed above or by calling the GURA offices at 303-279-4162.

The development will ultimately include parking, street-level retail and/or restaurant use, office space, and about 35 residential condos and penthouse suites. Steps have been taken to preserve key elements of the historic façade of the Linder Building.

This development will also provide environmental clean up of a parcel that used to house a dry cleaning operation.

The multi-phased development will create some inconveniences and challenges in the downtown area throughout 2006 that the City and GURA will be working with the developer to minimize. We appreciate your patience and encourage you to contact us with questions or concerns.
NEW JUNIOR LEADERSHIP CLASS BEGINS

Congratulations to the latest Junior Leadership Golden class, which will begin meeting in January:

Kaylynn Asmussem
Alex Buehler
Alise Cohen
Mitchell Gillepsie
Hannah Goedert
Lauren Goh
Ellie Gustafson
Nicholas Hazell
Hilary Huff
Rosemary Kalasz
Cara Kulbacki
Hannah LaFalce
Justin Midyet
Darcy O’Donnell
Cody Rex
Amy Rogers
Taylor Sands
Taylor Stolte

Wal-Mart Does Not Have Plans in Golden

A Wal-Mart memo that referred to the opening of a new or expanded store in Golden in September 2006 should have referred to the site as an Evergreen location. A story published in the Nov. 15, 2005, Rocky Mountain News cited an internal Wal-Mart document that named Golden as one of 484 previously undisclosed stores the company plans to open or expand nationwide. The document, which Golden officials have not seen, reportedly states that the company plans to bring a 103,633-square-foot store to Golden, to open Sept. 18, 2006. City officials, who have not been approached by Wal-Mart about any interest in Golden as a possible location, inquired about the address of the site. The Golden location referred to by the memo is actually an existing store at 952 Swede Gulch Road in Evergreen. The store is in the 80401 Golden ZIP code, which may have caused the confusion, but is several miles outside of the City limits.

Pleasant View Annexation Denied

At its Dec. 1 meeting, City Council denied a proposal for Golden to annex approximately 15-acres along the north side of South Golden Road east of Ulysses Street to facilitate a residential and commercial development proposed for the site. The proposed purchaser of the property requested annexation in order to build a mixed-use development that would have included condos and townhomes, as well as some commercial development. Golden Planning Commission also had recommended denial. Ultimately, City Council voted 3-3 on the proposal, with one Councilor absent. According to Council rules, when a tie vote occurs, the item fails.

Council Denies Proposal to Build 10 Townhomes

At its Dec. 8 meeting, City Council voted 4-2 against a rezoning proposal that would have allowed 10 units in a proposed townhome development on Eighth and Cheyenne streets. The owner of the property wanted to construct an entirely residential project on the land, which is not allowed under the property’s existing C-1 zoning, but would be under R-3.

Job Opportunities Online

Did you know that you can learn all about employment opportunities with the City of Golden online? That’s right. If you visit www.cityofgolden.net/employment.asp, you can search all of the jobs currently available with the City.

Windblown

The City of Golden was hit by blustery winds Dec. 5 that caused extensive damage throughout the City. Two semis were overturned by the wind and many very large trees were completely uprooted. Golden Police responded to damage reports, the Streets Division cleared obstructions from the roads, and the Forestry Division helped remove fallen trees.
JAN. 1
Happy New Year!

JAN. 2
City Offices Closed
City of Golden offices are closed in observance of the new year.

Choir Rehearsals Begin
The Golden Concert Choir, directed by Carma Romano-LaMorte, will meet at 7 p.m. Mondays beginning Jan. 9. New singers should arrive at 6:30 p.m. No auditions are required; singers must be able to match pitch. The Spring Concert will consist of Regional American Music. The choir will also perform Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony with the Timberline Symphony Orchestra. Both concerts will be offered in April. For more information, call 303-279-5177 or visit www.goldencommunitychoirs.org.

JAN. 6
Steel Magnolias opening
A Muse of Fire presents “Steel Magnolias,” written by Robert Harling and directed by Robert Kramer at Miners Alley Playhouse, 1224 Washington Ave. Truvy’s beauty salon is the place where six Southern belles learn about life, love and our inevitable passing. Plays Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Feb. 5. Call 303-935-3044 for show times and tickets, or visit www.minersalley.com.

JAN. 9
Children’s Choir Rehearsals
The Children’s Choir of Golden, directed by Allison Olsson, will hold rehearsals from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays beginning Jan. 9 in Calvary Church’s Great Hall, at the corner of 14th and Arapahoe streets. Children in first through sixth grades are invited to participate. There will also be a Training Choir for children ages 4 to 7. No auditions are required. The Dance Around the World concert will be presented April 22 and will include the Westside Flyers String Ensemble under the direction of Laura Barnette. For more information, call 303-279-2932 or visit www.goldencommunitychoirs.org.

JAN. 14
Opening Reception
An opening reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday Jan. 14 to celebrate the opening of two new quilting exhibits: “Improvisation: An African-American Tradition” and “Pictorial Visions: Quilts by Kathy McNeil” at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, 1111 Washington Avenue, Golden. Call 303-277-0377 or visit www.rmqm.org to learn more. Both exhibits open Jan. 10.

JAN. 16
Taste of Golden with Casino Night
The Golden Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 5th annual Taste of Golden with Casino Night from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Rolling Hills Country Club, 15707 W. 26th Ave., featuring food from Golden’s many fine restaurants, entertainment by Route 66 and Alpine Junction, $1,000 fun money to try your luck at the tables from Crystal Rose, several great prizes and gift certificates, plus more exciting happenings. “Catch the Fever” at this year’s event. Call 303-279-3113 for tickets.
JAN. 21
**SCFD Free Day**
The Golden Pioneer Museum will participate in a Scientific and Cultural Facilities District free day. Come see all the museum has to offer at 923 10th St.

JAN. 26
**Chamber Annual Meeting and Luncheon**
The Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce is having its annual meeting and luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rolling Hills Country Club, 15707 W. 26th Ave. The program will include installation of the 2006 officers, award presentation, entertainment, superb networking opportunities and more. Call 303-279-3113 to reserve your seats for this special annual event.

JAN. 28
**Town Hall meeting**
Senator Moe Keller and Representative Gwyn Green will host a town meeting from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Jan. 28 in Council Chambers at Golden City Hall, 911 10th St. They will discuss upcoming legislation and the funds from Referendum C. For more information, call Sen. Keller’s office at 303-866-2585.

FEB. 11
**CS Lewis & Joy**
Come and enjoy Tea Time at the Astor House Museum with a lunch at 11:30 a.m. or desserts and tea at 3 p.m. Rick Scheideman will enact the heartwarming and tragic love story behind the famed author of The Chronicles of Narnia. Call 303-278-3557 for ticket prices and reservations.

FEB. 17
**Amy’s View opening**
“Amy’s View,” written by David Hare and directed by Richard Pegg opens at Miners Alley Playhouse. Plays Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through April 30. Call 303-935-3044 for show times and tickets, or visit www.minersalley.com.

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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 shenderson@ci.golden.co.us. 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.
For over a century, Lookout Mountain has been eyed and used for park purposes, from private entrepreneurs to government Open Space programs.

The City of Golden has offered to purchase several properties on Lookout Mountain for Open Space purposes, including about 65 acres of land owned by Lake Cedar Group. This major media conglomerate (comprised of Channels 4, 7, 9 and 20) had proposed to build a supertower on this parcel, but were denied necessary rezoning by the County Commissioners on Sept. 27.

The parcels now examined for acquisition by the City of Golden have been identified in previous years by both the City and Jefferson County as valuable for Open Space. However, the parcel of land owned by LCG in particular was not only prioritized as such, it has also been a park before, and the City of Golden wants to restore it to its proper historic purpose.

By Richard J. Gardner

The effort to create a Lookout Mountain park began Nov. 9, 1889, when the Denver Real Estate Exchange voted to pursue creating a 1,500-acre resort on Lookout Mountain. A committee had visited many places in Jefferson County, but ultimately chose this location because of “its general surroundings and the magnificent, unsurpassed view of the plains.”

The Denver and Lookout Mountain Resort, Land Improvement and Transit Company was formed, with a number of prominent Coloradans backing it. In fact, William A.H. Loveland was among the original stockholders, and Horace A.W. Tabor was also involved.

By the beginning of 1890, the company controlled nearly 5,000 acres of land, including this site, and billed it as Denver’s Lookout Mountain Summer Resort. It attracted the attention of health-seekers as well as metro-area tourists. Plans were in place for boating lakes, reservoirs, trout ponds, drives, groves and even a cog railway.

The company hired famed Boston landscape architecture firm Frederick Law Olmsted and Codman for the project. Olmsted was famous for designing the World’s Colombian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, which inspired the City Beautiful architectural movement. The entire grounds of Lookout Mountain park were laid out in Olmsted design, including clusters of summer cottages and winding trails.

The park opened and work on the resort began, but unfortunately, the Silver Crash of 1893 stymied plans, and several of the owners died, paralyzing the resort company. Olmsted’s design went largely unrealized except for Cedar Lake, constructed in 1895.

Area citizens did not give up on the park, however. Harry Hartzell, whose family had owned land at the foot of Lookout since the 1870s, actively promoted the park. As of 1906, he was regularly running stages of visitors to the park, and the area had become a popular campsite (pictured). Promoters such as Hartzell and Charles F. Quaintance realized the value of the park for bringing visitors to Golden as well.

June 1, 1907, signaled a rebirth for Lookout Mountain park, when Georgetown mining millionaire Rees C. Vidler purchased the entire park for $50,000. At the time of the purchase, Lookout Mountain enjoyed great popularity as picnic grounds, and a stage line was maintained for taking pleasure parties up the mountain. The mountain was already visited by hundreds of tourists and Vidler built new cottages, bungalows and house tents to accommodate them.

Plans evolved for golf links, tennis courts and a grand new hotel. A dance pavilion was built in 1908 and in 1911, the first electrically-operated funicular west of the Mississippi River was built up the face of the mountain. It began operating in August 1912. By that same year, the first proposals for Denver to own a mountain parks system had been proposed and had the support of Denver Mayor Robert W. Speer.

In May 1912, voters approved the mountain parks plan in a special election. Denver hired Olmsted’s son, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and assistant George Gibbs, Jr., to design a new Lookout Mountain park as part of the entire mountain parks system. Roads that eventually created the Lariat Loop were built to connect these parks.

Lookout Mountain Park was officially the third mountain park acquired by Denver in 1917. Upon his death in 1917, the famous scout and showman William “Buffalo Bill” Cody was buried atop Lookout Mountain, reportedly at his request. Vidler’s resort was sold at sheriff’s auction in 1919, but the Denver mountain parks thrived.

After the creation of the Jefferson County Open Space program in 1972, much of Lookout Mountain has been preserved, including those parts that were historically parkland. Today, the parcel controlled by Lake Cedar Group remains one of the last undeveloped pieces of the historic park that is so important to this area’s history. It has been viewed as ideal for a park for 116 years.
Established in 1948 by City ordinance, the Golden Planning Commission is a mechanism by which Golden residents can actively participate in City planning. Planning Commission members have general oversight of all planning for the development, expansion and growth of the City and occasionally develop comprehensive long-term plans for City development.

In developing comprehensive plans for the City, the Planning Commission has the authority to conduct open public hearings, undertake studies and surveys, and prepare maps, charts, exhibits and reports on an as-needed basis. Furthermore, the Planning Commission may perform any other duties necessary in order to promote the public interest and to foster understanding of its programs. However, the Planning Commission is ultimately responsible to the City Council.

The above activities are not all the duties Planning Commission performs. The Commission also makes recommendations to City Council concerning a number of other things such as:

- The location, character and use of public ways and spaces and the general location of major public buildings, structures and facilities;
- Opening, closing, vacating and abandoning streets, alleys and other public ways;
- Standards and regulations affecting land subdivisions;
- The land use plan and the general distribution, location and extent of residential, industrial, business, recreation and education areas, as well as other categories of public and private uses of land;
- The location, maintenance and operation of highways, streets, alleys, boulevards, parkways, waterways, airways, public transit facilities;
- Regulations concerning land use and the height, area, bulk and uses of public and private buildings and structures; and
- Regulations and ordinances that promote the healthful and convenient distribution of the City’s population and that promote public safety, as well as the development of an aesthetically pleasing overall civic design and the development of natural resources.

The Planning Commission is made up of seven members and one alternate all of whom must be Golden residents who serve for four year terms. Current Planning Commission members are Margeret Van Ness (Chair), Carol Russell (Alternate), Gary Leak, Marjorie Sloan, Ted Smathers, Frank Young (Vice Chair) and Randy Giles.

Planning Commission meetings take place the first Wednesday evening of each month in public hearing at City Council Chambers in City Hall, 911 10th St. Study sessions may also be scheduled the third Wednesday of each month.

For more information, or for minutes and agendas of Planning Commission meetings, visit the City of Golden Web site at www.cityofgolden.net and click on Boards and Commissions.
The Golden Fire Department is pictured above as it existed in 1885. Today’s Golden Fire Department, pictured below, reenacted the 1885 pose as part of its 125th anniversary celebrations in 2004. The department’s 125 years of service have been documented in a detailed television history, narrated by former KUSA anchor Ed Sardella, which airs on Cable Channel 8 this month.

Fire Department Documentary Televised

The Golden Fire Department has produced a documentary titled “Golden Fire Department: 125 Years of Service, 1879 - 2004.” This video covers the history of the department and the dedicated men and women who provide fire and rescue services to the community.

Narrated by retired KUSA anchor Ed Sardella, you will see how in the 1800s, three separate fire companies merged. This organization grew to become the highly qualified and professional group the Golden Fire Department is today. If you live in the Golden City limits, you can watch this informative documentary on Comcast Channel 8 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays or at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

This video will be available for purchase for a limited time. You may order it online at www.customflix.com/207728 or call Capt. Tom Young at 303-384-8091.

Q: Does the City of Golden have a law requiring you to shovel your sidewalks?
A: Yes. Golden Municipal Code section #11.08.140 requires any owner or occupant of any property, whether a private residence or business, to remove any accumulation of snow more than 1-inch no later than 24 hours after the snowfall stops. The Municipal Code also requires the removal of any accumulation of mud, ice or any other obstruction from the sidewalks around the property.

If you have any Code Enforcement related questions please call the Golden Police Department at 303-384-8045 and ask to speak to a Code Enforcement Officer, or check out the Municipal Code on the web at www.cityofgolden.net.

The Golden Informer
Volunteers Needed to Help Crime Victims

Do you want to become more involved in your community? Victim Outreach Information (VOI) offers opportunities to work directly with crime victims, offering support and access to resources during a critical stage of trauma.

Volunteer Victim Advocates work closely with law enforcement and the court system to ensure victims’ rights are upheld and needs are met.

VOI was established in 1986 and serves residents in Wheat Ridge, Edgewater, Golden, Mountain View, Lakeside and the Colorado School of Mines in Jefferson County.

The application process is selective and applicants must be at least 21 years of age, submit to a background check, and attend a 40-hour training. No experience necessary.

Applications are being accepted for February 2006 training. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Jen Mutton at 303-202-2196 or victimoutreach@aol.com.

Prepare Your Family for a Disaster

The Web site, www.READYColorado.com, is designed to help every Coloradan become prepared to respond to and recover from a wide array of disasters, both natural and human-caused.

The site includes tools to develop a plan that keeps you and your loved ones safe; checklists for building well-stocked emergency kits for your home, car and even your workplace; strategies for managing specific types of disasters; and information about how you can become involved in community preparedness activities.

Every citizen has a role to play in emergency readiness because when Coloradans are ready, Colorado is ready. Do your part today by resolving to make a plan and make a difference. Visit www.READYColorado.com today and learn more about how you can be prepared.

Winter Safety Tips for Your Home

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood-burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly. All of these methods of heating are acceptable, but they can cause residential fires. These fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire-safe home this winter:

PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

Keep blankets, clothing, curtains, furniture and anything else that could get hot and catch on fire away from portable heaters. Plug heaters directly into the wall socket and unplug them when they are not in use. Make sure your portable heater is UL approved, so that if it is tipped over it will shut off automatically.

FURNACE HEATING

When we talk about it getting cold outside, the first thing we tend to do is turn up the furnace, here are a few tips to keep you safe while you are staying warm. Make sure your furnace filter is clean and fits properly in your appliance. Make sure all vents are clear of debris and anything combustible is kept at least 3-feet away from any source of flame or direct heat. Have your fuel-burning appliances inspected by a qualified technician at least once a year. Make sure all of the air intakes into your home are clear and uncovered for proper ventilation. Remember, if you have a crawl space, your air intakes are probably at ground level around the home, so removing debris and keeping those areas clear will help your appliances get the air they need to function properly. Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.

FIREPLACES and WOOD STOVES

Wood-burning stoves and fireplaces are a common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize the fire hazard. Have the chimney inspected and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time. DO NOT use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire. Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance from combustible surfaces, and proper floor support and protection. Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide. Before you go to sleep, be sure your fire is out. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away for the house.

The Golden Informer
**Book Your Event at the Community Center**

If you are looking to book a wedding ceremony and/or reception, graduation, or any other special event, call Larry Rock at 303-384-8133 for availability, facility tours and rates. Make your event special — have it at the Golden Community Center.

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**What’s NEW at Golden Parks & Rec? DODGEBALL!**

You wanna relive those old high school glory days? The City of Golden is offering an 8-week dodgeball league for anyone with the fortitude to step out onto the court. Bring it on! Leagues are forming now and will begin Monday, Jan. 23, 2006. All games will be played on Monday evenings at the Golden Community Center and will be played under current Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics (CARA) Rules. Call 303-384-8194.

**Can You Dig It?**

Can you dig it? Bust out the kneepads, its volleyball season! Register your team now for Winter 2006 adult volleyball programs. Golden Parks and Rec has three levels of play to choose from so your team can be as competitive or as recreational as you would like to be! All teams will play a 10-game season. **Registration deadline is Jan. 9** and league play begins the week of Jan. 22. Call 303-384-8194.

**Don’t Ride the Pine – Get in the Game!**

Golden Parks and Recreation is currently accepting team registrations for winter basketball leagues. With four levels of play to choose from, there’s a division that’s right for every team. **NEW LONGER SEASON, SAME PRICE!** All teams will play a 10-game season at the Tony Grampsas Sports Complex. **Registration deadline is Jan. 9** and league play begins the week of Jan. 22. Call 303-384-8194.

**Kundalini Yoga**

Promote physical health, stimulate the mind’s potential and touch your innermost being with Kundalini Yoga. This class is $36 for residents or $41 for non-residents, or you may drop-in for just $8 a session. Classes run from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 10 through Feb. 14, or from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 11 through Feb. 15, or from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 12 through Feb. 16.

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**Hunter Education Online**

Come and learn about wildlife conservation and management, firearm safety and survival skills in our new hunter education class.

This class is structured as a home study or Internet course, allowing you the flexibility of learning at your own pace and when it is most convenient for you. However, all students must attend the first class from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19 at the Golden Community Center and go out in the field for the Colorado Division of Wildlife’s range date from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 4.

This class is available for students of all ages and only costs $10 whether you are a resident or non-resident! Sign up today!
Corporate Rates Available

Did you know that Golden businesses are eligible for corporate rates at the Golden Community Center? That’s right!

Cost is just $358 for an annual pass. Your business must have a minimum of five employees to join. Or, pay just $69 for 20-visit punch cards with a minimum purchase of five cards.

For more information, contact Amber Speedy at 303-384-8191 or aspeedy@ci.golden.co.us.

And Much More!...

Don’t forget to check out our aerobics drop-in schedule (all drop-in classes are covered under the facility fee) at www.goldenrec.com and see what other great classes we offer, such as cardio kickboxing, step aerobics, Silver Sneakers, muscle classes, basketball drop-in and total body classes. They’re a great way to get in shape for the New Year!
The City of Golden’s third quarter 2005 Extraordinary Service Professional award was presented to Public Works, Utilities Division, Meter Technician John Green on Dec. 9.

John was nominated for his consistent demonstration of higher productivity, willingness to provide extra assistance to fellow employees, commitment to his regular duties, willingness to work with others, and his enthusiastic attitude.

These qualities were demonstrated in late Spring 2005 when Utilities received a call from a concerned citizen and John responded. The man’s elderly mother had a water leak at her home, and was both confused and upset by the problem. The man did not live in the area and could not get to Golden to help her.

John first tried to fix the leak, but not having the required plumbing equipment, he talked to the woman’s son. He was able to convey the problem in sufficient detail so that her son was able to understand the steps to make the repair. However, since the man did not live in Golden and therefore didn’t know of any reputable plumbers in the area, John helped him arrange to get quotes for the repairs.

John had no obligation to do anything beyond identifying that the problem was the homeowner’s, but John’s commitment to the customer went further. Friday of the week that this leak occurred, John, on his own time and of his own volition, called the son to be sure the problem was taken care of, and his mother was okay.

This commitment to the needs of all Golden’s citizens has been a hallmark of John Green’s career with the City. The City routinely receives several similar letters about John each year. John epitomizes the qualities of an Extraordinary Service Professional.

Once again, the Golden Municipal Court had a successful food drive for the Christian Action Guild.

From Nov. 17 through Dec. 29, all defendants sentenced in the Golden Municipal Court were ordered to bring in seven food items from a list provided to them by the Court. This replaced the $25 Court Costs fee that is normally assessed throughout the year.

Each week, the Public Works or Facilities staff assisted the Court in delivering the collected items to the Christian Action Guild in Golden.

This food drive is successful in assisting local families in need during the Holidays. The Golden Municipal Court would like to thank all who assisted in the food drive.

Golden Dispatch Awarded Communication Center of the Year

The Golden Dispatch Center was recently recognized as the Colorado Communication Center of the year by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APSCO) and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). The criteria for the award include accomplished teamwork, service to the community and public information.

The Golden Dispatch Center is staffed 24-hours a day and is responsible for receiving all calls for service, including 9-1-1 emergency calls, while dispatching police, fire and medical services.

During 2004 and 2005, the Golden Dispatch Center overcame substantial challenges related to staffing shortages from resignations, medical leaves and promotions. At one point, the center was operating with only half the staff of an ideal unit. The remaining dispatchers pulled together and overcame the challenges of long shifts and limited time off to continue serving the community with uninterrupted service and no complaints.

The APSCO/NENA award came with a $300 check, and instead of holding a celebratory party, the dispatchers continued to demonstrate their commitment to Golden by deciding instead to give the money to the community. The dispatchers used the money to adopt a needy local family to provide meals to during the holiday season.
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2006 Claim Form for 2005 Sales Tax Refund

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 2005 and cannot be claimed as a dependent on any other person’s tax return.

The refund amount for 2005 is $40. This will be adjusted for partial year residency in Golden.

Please check one box only:

☐ Senior Refund (must be 65 years or older)

☐ Low Income Refund

*Proof required.* Attach a photocopy of one of the following:
- State of Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate Form 104PTC
- Proof of Medicaid benefits
- Proof of LEAP eligibility
- Proof of eligibility for food stamps

☐ Disabled Refund

*Proof required.* Attach a photocopy of one of the following:
- State of Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate Form 104PTC
- Proof of full benefits from Social Security Disability Income, SSI or the Department of Human Services
- Proof of total disability from a public or private insurance plan

Please print or type:

Name: Mr(s). __________________________________________
Age: _____________ Date of Birth: ________________
Name: Mr(s). __________________________________________
Age: _____________ Date of Birth: ________________
Address: ___________________________ Golden, CO ZIP: _________
Phone: ______________________________

How many months did you reside in the city limits of Golden during 2005? _____ 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, 2006.

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 _________
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