SAVORING SUMMER SAFELY

The Splash is Open
National Night Out Is Coming
Swiftwater Rescue in Action

Citizen Survey Results Are In

Growth Update

The Official City of Golden Community Newsletter
July 2004
Golden City Council

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

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Police Department: Bill Kilpatrick
Fire Department: John Bales
Finance: Jeff Hansen
Human Resources: Teresa Reilly
Communications Manager: Sabrina Henderson
City Attorney: Jim Windholz

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.
July 1, No meeting in observance of Independence Day holiday
July 8, Study Session
JULY 8, REGULAR MEETING
July 15, Study Session
JULY 22, REGULAR MEETING
Aug. 5, Study Session
Council’s upcoming agendas and previous meeting minutes are available online at www.cityofgolden.net under the City Council link, or call Deputy City Clerk Karla Leibelt at 303-384-8015.

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To reach the entire City Council, e-mail citycouncil@ci.golden.co.us
Citizen Survey Results Are In

The 2004 Golden Citizen Survey results are in and the results are quite impressive. The National Research Center, which conducted the survey, concluded that the great majority of Golden citizens believe Golden is an “excellent” or “very good” place to live. Compared to national data, the survey shows that Golden ranked 30 out of 184 jurisdictions, putting Golden in the 84th percentile.

Most significantly:
- 46% of Golden citizens could not think of a single service that the City should provide more of,
- 68% could not think of any services the City should provide less of,
- 50% said there are no issues that the City is not currently addressing and should be,
- 85% said that of the issues we are addressing, there are none that we should be spending less time on,
- 43% could not think of anything else the City could do to improve their quality of life or this community,
- 79% of our citizens are pleased with the overall direction that the City is taking.

Because of the length of the survey and the long download time, the executive summary and appendices have not been included on the Web site for download. Download the 2004 Golden Citizen Survey at www.cityofgolden.net under Documents.

If you are interested in a complete copy of the survey, please call the City at 303-384-8000 or e-mail Communications Manager Sabrina Henderson at shenderson@ci.golden.co.us.

Editor’s Note

By Sabrina Henderson
Communications Manager

My name is Sabrina Henderson, and I started in a new position as the communications manager with the City of Golden in late March. Some of you may recognize my name from another publication – I was previously the editor at the Golden Transcript. Having reported on the City of Golden for the past three years, I was excited by the opportunity to help the City Council and staff communicate better with you – the public.

In addition to many other improvements we’ll be trying to make, we are now publishing the Informer on a monthly basis, beginning with this July issue. If you live inside Golden city limits (which is different than having a Golden mailing address in unincorporated Jefferson County), you will automatically receive a copy of each Informer in your mail on the first of each month. If you happen to live outside the area but are interested, you may pick up a copy at City Hall, 911 10th St., or download a PDF from the City’s Web site at www.cityofgolden.net by looking under Residents & Visitors, and then clicking on News & Events.

The goal of the Informer is to bring timely information to Golden residents and businesses about what the City is up to. We know that not everyone has time to attend City Council meetings each Thursday – not to mention that not everyone is interested in everything covered at those meetings (don’t tell city staff that!). And we also know that citizens often wonder what on Earth is happening to all their hard-earned tax dollars.

The Informer is published by the City to help you understand what direction your elected officials are providing to city staff and the status of City projects being undertaken with public monies. We also hope to give you enlightening information about day to day operations of the City, inform you about fun upcoming family events, give you tips on safety, and remind you of classes and activities at your local recreational facilities.

The skeptics among us will say that the Informer is here to spin what the City does in only a positive light, and cover up wrongdoings. Having been a journalist, I take a different view of public relations when it comes to government. I hope to let you know when the City of Golden has a problem and what the plan is for addressing it – not covering it up.

But communication is a two-way street, and the City needs you to let us know how we’re doing. I encourage you to write to me with your thoughts and suggestions for how I can improve the Informer and other communications in the City of Golden. I can be reached at 303-384-8132, shenderson@ci.golden.co.us or 911 10th St., Golden, CO 80211.
There is no denying that Golden has put itself on the map as a recreational haven, with a variety of activities for outdoor enthusiasts of all types. Many of those activities take place on Clear Creek in the heart of Golden.

White-water rafting, kayaking and canoeing are popular activities on Clear Creek that the City has encouraged with the installation of the Clear Creek Whitewater Course that starts near Lions Park off 10th Street and extends downstream just east of the Washington Avenue bridge.

Clear Creek’s cool waters also are tempting for those not trained in whitewater sports. Unfortunately, it is extremely dangerous to inner tube, swim or play in or along the banks of Clear Creek, especially without protective gear like helmets and lifejackets.

The Golden Fire and Police departments recommend that residents and visitors DO NOT inner tube or play in Clear Creek. Instead, play safely away from the water’s edge and say “NO” to pushing, shoving or daring others to do dangerous things. Jumping or diving into Clear Creek is particularly dangerous because of the historic low water levels in the creek during these drought years, when sharp rocks are closer to the surface than they may appear.

So far this year, the Golden Fire Department has had to rescue five people from the creek, four of whom were on inner tubes or air-filled devices not approved for whitewater conditions, and none of whom were wearing proper safety gear. Last year, a young boy drowned upstream from the City on Clear Creek despite an extensive rescue effort after he slipped and fell in while picnicking with his family on the banks.

“We do not want to lose someone on Clear Creek again this year just because the cool water appears to be an inviting play place when the temperatures are hot,” said Fire Chief John Bales. “Clear Creek is extremely dangerous and should be treated as such.”

If you aren’t professionally trained in swiftwater activities, it is extremely dangerous to be in Clear Creek. Instead, enjoy watching those who are trained in their sport, and perhaps take lessons from a local kayaking group.
If you are involved in any fast water activities, please follow the recommended guidelines:

• Never visit the creek alone. Tell someone where you are going, when you expect to return and where to call if you don’t.
• Be a competent swimmer. Be smart and take swimming classes and other recreation programs that teach about water safety.
• Wear a personal floatation device (life jacket) that is snug fitting, offering back and shoulder protection, as well as flotation needed to swim safely in rapidly moving water.
• Wear a helmet designed for water sports.
• Wear shoes approved for use in water to protect your feet from cuts and bruises.
• Be aware of the limitations of yourself, your party and your equipment. Watch your surroundings, including the weather.
• Know and be aware of creek signs, both natural and man-made, such as holes, rocks, undercuts, rapids and “strainers” (brush, trees in the river) that can trap and hold you under water. Even a moderate current can sweep a person into an underwater obstacle and pin them there.
• Always consider consequences, be practiced in self-rescue, rescue skills, CPR and first aid.
• Your skills and experience must equal the river and its conditions.

Streetwise:

“What do you like best about Clear Creek?”

“It’s fun to come down and chill out and watch my boyfriend kayak.”
– Amber Brecht, Castle Rock

“I think being able to kayak here is great. It’s a beautiful place to come after work and then go downtown.”
– Don Dowling, Denver

“It’s accessible – right here in the middle of the City and everyone’s here using it.”
– Mike Moniz, Providence, Rhode Island

“The fact that it’s here. It’s amazing water and I like to come watch and do some kayaking”
– James Clegg, Centennial

“The path because it’s right along the water.”
– Jason Golloher, Golden

“The water! It’s cold!”
– Golden High School students (left to right) Pedro Rabadan, James Andregg, Carl McEncroe, Peter Rockvam and Sam Jennings

Courtesy on the Creek

Clear Creek is a beautiful place to spend time in Golden, watching or participating in water sports, walking its banks, picnicking at nearby parks and otherwise hanging out this summer. Because it is such a destination spot, it is important for all its users to remember to be courteous to others, so that they may enjoy Clear Creek as well.

Please walk to the right on the path so those traveling the opposite direction can easily pass you.

Those carrying canoes, kayaks and other water sports equipment should be particularly careful to watch where they are going. It’s always kind to step to the side to let those pass you who aren’t carrying bulky gear. Additionally, don’t leave gear sitting on the trail obstructing others’ path.

If you are walking a dog on Clear Creek Trail, the City code requires it to be on a leash at all times. It is illegal to tether your dog to any object, such as a rock or tree, while it is unattended. Please leave your pets at home if you plan to participate in water sports. Also, please pick up after your pets – the City provides waste bags in boxes along the creek trail.

By being courteous to others on Clear Creek, you help ensure that it remains an enjoyable place to visit for everyone, including yourself!
What about West Nile?

Although there have been few reported cases of people and animals contracting West Nile Virus in the state so far this year, the mosquito-carried virus remains a concern. The Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment is reporting very low mosquito activity in the county, but continues multiple preventative efforts.

The City of Golden contributes $8,633 to the county’s program, and also treats open water locations inside the City limits at the beginning of each month with a larvicide that keeps mosquitoes from developing.

The City of Golden keeps an updated map available on its Web site at [www.cityofgolden.net/files/skeeters.pdf](http://www.cityofgolden.net/files/skeeters.pdf) that shows locations where larvicide has been dropped. The Public Works Department encourages residents who know of open pools of water to report them to the City by calling 303-384-8000 so they can be treated. Residents should also treat all standing water on their own private property with a larvicide that keeps mosquitoes from developing.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

**BBQ GRILLS:** Remember to keep barbecue grills away from anything that can burn. Stay with the grill when lighted, and keep children and pets well away from the grill. If you get burned, run cool water over the burn for 10 to 15 minutes. (Don’t use butter or a salve on burns because these seal in the heat and damage tissue further. For charcoal grills, only use starter fluids designed for barbecue grills (never use gasoline). Don’t add liquid fuel to re-ignite a fire, since a flash fire can result. Soak the coals with water before you discard them. Be cautious about hot ashes if you barbecue on a wood deck. For gas grills, always store the gas cylinder outside, away from structures and turn off the valves when not in use.

**FIREWORKS:** The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend an outdoor public display put on by professionals. Fireworks are designed to burn and explode, and are a leading cause of injuries in the U.S. Every year, fireworks used by amateurs cause thousands of injuries serious enough to require emergency room treatment. Children between the ages of 10 and 14 are at greatest risk of injury from fireworks. In 1995, more than 11,000 people suffered severe fireworks injuries in the U.S., including burns, lacerations, amputations and blindness. Even sparklers, often mistaken as safe, burn at 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

**REMEMBER: ALL FIREWORKS are illegal in the City of Golden.**

*(The Golden Lions Club will hold its annual display – see page 11)*

**GASOLINE:** Store gasoline outside the home and store just enough to power your gasoline-fueled equipment. Keep gasoline up high, inside a clearly marked container that’s labeled and approved for gasoline storage. Make sure gasoline and all flammable liquids are well away from any heat source or flame.

**CAMPING:** Pitch your tent (flame retardant is best) well away from your campfire. Only use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns inside the tent, as opposed to liquid-fueled heaters or lanterns. Before building your campfire, be certain there aren’t any burning restrictions in effect. Build your campfire downwind, away from your tent, clearing away all dry vegetation and digging a pit surrounded by rocks. Pour water over the fire, stir the coals and pour on more water or cover the fire with dirt, stir and cover with dirt again, making sure the coals are cool before going to sleep or leaving the campsite.

**WATER:** Always swim with a buddy. Remember – Feet First, First Time … Feet First, Every Time. Dive only in designated pool areas. Swim in pools that provide lifeguards on duty.

By following these quick and simple steps, we can all keep summer activities fun and safe. For more information on summer fire safety or other injury prevention topics, please contact the Golden Fire Department at 303-384-8000.
Summer fun officially began in Golden with the season opening of The Splash at Fossil Trace water park Saturday, May 29.

The water park is open from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily. Built by the City and opened in 2002, The Splash features two huge water slides, a water playhouse with extensive water features, a giant bucket that dumps 300 to 500 gallons of water every three to five minutes, a toddler slide, a sand play area, a spray pad, an 8-lap pool with a 1-meter diving board, and a full-service concession stand.

Prices are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Golden Resident</th>
<th>Jeffco Resident</th>
<th>Out of County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 and younger</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 to 18 years old</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 19 and older</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
<td>$8.50</td>
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</table>

The Splash is located at 3151 Illinois St., just east of Sixth Avenue and Heritage Road in Golden. The Splash is also available to rent for special events. More information and photos are available online at www.cityofgolden.net/splash or by calling 303-277-8700.
By Genevieve Hale

Former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill once said that “all politics are local” – yet many ordinary citizens understand this level of government the least. Indeed, various studies and opinion polls have documented the current extent of civic disengagement.

You don’t have to be an academic to know this. Just reading the papers about low voter turnouts at elections, talking to people around the water cooler about current events or watching television personalities like Jay Leno asking basic civic questions during his “Jaywalk” episodes can give you a pretty good idea of the lack of civic awareness and participation in the United States.

The conspicuous absence of many ordinary citizens from political and civic life jeopardizes the health and vitality of our representative democracy. So, in response to the critical need to raise civic awareness and participation, a series of monthly columns will appear in the Golden Informer that will help explain the ins and outs of your local city government.

“All politics are local.”

– Tip O’Neill

So What Does Municipal Government Do?

Since the founding of this nation, local government has been revered. It is local government that is nearest to the citizens it serves. It most often has direct responsibility for providing services that meet the needs of the local citizenry. Municipal governments vary widely in their structure but they have many functions in common including:

• Providing services and infrastructure such as water, wastewater, drainage, sidewalks, streets, parks and recreation, fire and police protection, and so on;
• Passing laws, regulations, ordinances and codes;
• Enforcing the laws through local law enforcement;
• Assessing property and collecting taxes to raise revenue needed to run the government;
• Providing administrative services such as, among other things, record keeping, issuing business and liquor licenses, supervising elections, and publishing annual reports;
• Managing conflicts, disputes and law violations through the local court system; and,
• Community planning that takes into consideration human, physical, social and economic factors.

Golden’s city government performs the above functions and more. A local government only furnishes the services and infrastructure its citizenry wants and will pay for, so citizen participation is extremely important.

In Colorado, municipalities are either home rule or statutory. A statutory municipality has limited authority mainly in the area of taxes and tax collection, and it is governed by the powers expressly given it by the state legislature. Home rule municipalities, like Golden, on the other hand, are based upon the idea that the citizens of a municipality should have the right to decide how their local concerns should be addressed. In other words, home rule municipalities have local sovereignty independent of the state legislature. Home rule powers can be limited, however, by their own city charters, federal laws, state and national constitutions, court decisions, and state legislation.

Golden incorporated in 1871, and in 1967 a city charter was created by the authority of Article XX of the Colorado Constitution. The charter was voted on and passed by the citizens of Golden at a regular election held on Nov. 7, 1967, with Golden thereby becoming a home rule city.

Stay tuned as the next edition of the Golden Informer will explain the city charter and council-manager form of government.

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Genevieve Hale is pursuing a master’s degree, and is participating in an internship at the City of Golden.
In November 1995, Golden residents passed a citizens’ initiative that effectively limited growth in the City to a 1 percent annual increase.

The growth restrictions went into effect Jan. 1, 1996, and a growth management system developed by City staff and residents was established.

The maximum building levels dictated by the system have never been exceeded and the City has maintained complete compliance with the requirements of Chapter 18.70 of the City Code, which implements and administers the growth management system.

The City of Golden was able to maintain 1 percent growth limitations by determining how many dwelling units existed in the City as of Jan. 1, 1996, and issuing only as many building permits as would increase the number of dwelling units by 1 percent per year.

There were 7,164 dwelling units in Golden on Jan. 1, 1996. Based on that number, 71 allocations were made available for construction of new dwellings in 1996. The same process has been used for each year since, with a cumulative average annual growth of only 0.98 percent since the growth limitations went into effect.

Golden’s 1 percent growth restrictions do not prohibit the replacement of existing dwellings with new units, such as scrapeoffs.

Also, the restrictions allow potential exemptions for senior housing and for one specific downtown project, Clear Creek Square. Currently, 71 dwellings have been constructed under these exemptions, including 24 townhomes at the Ulysses Senior Housing project and 47 senior apartments at Clear Creek Commons. Even when these exemptions are included, Golden’s growth has only increased by 1.1 percent annually.

Another 37 senior apartments will be completed this summer at the Golden Pond development on North Ford Street.

For more information on Golden’s growth limits, please contact the City Planning and Development office at 303-384-8097 or visit www.cityofgolden.net under Departments.

In Almost No Time At All You Could Be Having The Time Of Your Life.

A great day away from the city is minutes away in Golden. Kayak, hike, shop, explore, or simply relax.

Visitor Info: 303.279.3113 or www.InGolden.com
Tai Chi Sun Style, Part 1: This form of Tai Chi has a higher stance, so it’s really good for people who have arthritis and joint problems. Tai Chi consists of gentle, fluid, graceful circular movements that are relaxed and slow in tempo. Experience the benefits of body relaxation, mental alertness, strengthening and joint mobilization. Ages 8 through adult welcome to attend Wednesdays 6:35-7:35 p.m. Session runs July 7 through Aug. 18 for only $42 resident/$47 non-resident, or drop in for $8 a class. Class size is limited, so register early!

For people who have already taken a Tai Chi class, the Golden Community Center also has a Tai Chi Practice session every Saturday from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. Practice your exercises as well as continue with breathing exercises. The next session runs July 10 through July 31 for $11 resident/$16 non-resident, or drop in for $6 per class.

"You will feel better in 10 sessions, look better in 20, and have a whole new body in 30 sessions." –Josef Pilates. Pilates Level 2 is a no-impact workout and is easy on your joints, but don’t be fooled... it’s a tough workout! Lengthen and tone your muscles, improve posture, increase core strength, and heighten body awareness. Refine what you learned in the intro class, and learn new exercises to strengthen and tone your body! Session starts July 22nd runs through Aug. 26, Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is $46 resident/$51 non-resident, or drop in for only $8 per class.

Kids ages 3 to 7 can learn yoga in a non-threatening way while having fun in Barnyard Yoga. We’ll use different animal poses, bark, roar, and practice all the noises! Fun for kids, and parents are welcome to participate. The next session runs from July 26 through Aug. 16, every Monday from 11 a.m. to noon. $24 resident/$29 non-resident, or $8 to drop in.

The next Intro to Pilates class starts Monday, Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Sign up early, this class fills up fast! A 3-week Introduction to Pilates class is required before taking any Pilates class we offer, and is a great way to discover the benefits of Pilates! Only $20 resident/$25 non-resident. If you like it, you can continue onto Pilates Level 2, which starts Sept. 2 (the following Thursday night).

Spend six weeks doing intense, heart-pounding, sweat-pouring, muscle-screaming exercise. Join us for Boot Camp, every Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m. Boot Camp is run in 6-week sessions, starting Aug. 3 for only $72 resident/$77 non-resident. You can still drop in for just $8 a class. Just the thing to get over a plateau or kick up your routine to the next level!

Don’t miss our hike to Bergen Peak on Saturday, Aug. 7. We meet at the Golden Community Center front lobby at 7:15 a.m. SHARP. Bergen Peak is a steep trail with meadow and wooded areas reaching an elevation of approximately 10,000 feet. The trail is packed with good views of the Continental Divide and wildlife. The trail has approximately 27 switchbacks, and the hike will last 4½ to 5 hours. Bring water and snacks! For more information, call 303-384-8159 or stop by the Golden Community Center. Only $7 resident/$10 non-resident, or if you wait until the day of the hike, it’s $12. Register early!
Don’t forget to attend the

Golden Lions Club 33rd annual

Fourth of July Festival

in Lions Park, 10th and Maple streets.

The day-long event features food, entertainment, live bands and

CULMINATES WITH A SPECTACULAR

FIREWORKS SHOW AROUND 9:30 P.M.

(Remember, all other fireworks are illegal in Golden!)

The Golden Lions Club sponsors FREE RIDES for kids,

including lake paddle boats, a climbing wall, trackless train and more.

This year’s Fourth of July Raffle features a $1,000 grand prize, as well as TVs, radios, patio furniture, camera equipment, camping gear and more. Raffle tickets are $1 each or a book of 10 for $5 and can be purchased in front of Foss Drug, Safeway and King Soopers. You need not be present to win.

The Fourth of July Festival is a major fund-raiser for the Golden Lions Club’s Community Betterment Fund. This year, the fund will help pay for construction of two new pavilions in Norman D. Park.

For more information and a map to the park, visit www.GoldenLionsClub.org.

BUFFALO BILL DAYS

Golden’s premiere community event, BUFFALO BILL DAYS, will be held July 21 through July 25 in downtown Golden. Some of the fun-filled events will be a golf tournament at Golden’s new Fossil Trace Golf Club; the Best in the West parade which, this year, is a celebration of the Golden Volunteer Fire Department’s 125th anniversary; children’s rides and games and a Mutton Bustin’ contest; Arts, Crafts and Food booths; ’40s and ’50s Car Show and Orphan Car Show; The Shady Ladies presentation of a Victorian Parlour House; and nonstop free entertainment (listed below), and many other fun-filled events.

Bring your family and come on out to downtown Golden! For more information, call 303-384-0003 or visit our Web site at www.buffalobilldays.com.

The schedule of musical entertainment appearing on the Parfet Park show wagon is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pairadeux (Acoustic Rock Duo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sons of the Burbs (Musical Trio)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Featured Entertainment: Rockin Jake Band (Harmonica Driven Blues From New Orleans)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blu Jazz (Jazz Musical)</td>
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<td>Route 66 (Rock)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blues Posse (Blues Rock)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due West (Creative Country Music)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Featured entertainment: The Hot Tomatoes Dance Orchestra (Music from the Great Jazz Age)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joy Egan’s Westside Dance School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aspen Santa Fe Ballet (ethnic dance)</td>
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<td>The Sidekickers (Western Dance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mile High Banjos (Dixieland Jazz, Ragtime)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runaway Express (Contemporary &amp; ’50s)</td>
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</table>
Code Enforcement in the Community

Golden is a safe and clean community – qualities that contribute to the small town charm and sense of community pride that Golden residents enjoy.

The Golden Police Department’s Code Enforcement Officers help maintain the beauty and safety of Golden for all its citizens and visitors. They do this by looking for violations, or responding to complaints and assessing whether one of the City’s codes is being violated. If so, Code Enforcement Officers work with the violator to resolve the issue. Sometimes they just give warnings, and other times their work results in the issuance of a summons to municipal court. When a problem is particularly difficult to resolve, Code Enforcement Officers will go the extra mile to help resolve the situation by calling in a mediator to sit down with involved parties. By helping neighbors work out disputes and enforcing the City’s codes, Code Enforcement Officers help keep Golden such a great place to live.

While Golden has only two Code Enforcement Officers, they act proactively to seek out violations and correct them. Residents are encouraged to call in and inform them when they are aware of a problem, so it can be brought to the Officers’ attention and resolved.

Additionally, the Golden Police Department has recently started a Citizen Code Enforcement Patrol. Members of the Patrol are trained on several city codes and once their training is complete, they patrol neighborhoods looking for violations. The volunteer explains the violation, asks for compliance with the code and reports any unresolved violations back to Code Enforcement for further follow up. In many ways, the volunteer Citizen Code Enforcement Patrol extends that small town feeling of Golden by enabling neighbors to take care of small infractions themselves, without draining police resources unnecessarily.

To be a volunteer patrol member, you must:
• Be a citizen of the City of Golden;
• Meet the same conditions for employment as all volunteers within the Police Department;
• Commit a minimum of two hours per week to the program;
• Be willing to contact citizens in a professional manner and give them notification of a violation; and,
• Successfully complete all training prior to entry into the program, including a 5-hour ride-along with a Code Enforcement Officer and 1-hour observation of Dispatch.

For more information or to volunteer, call 303-384-8106. To report a code violation, call dispatch at 303-384-8045.

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**Code Corner**

**Grass and Weeds:** It is unlawful for any person who is an owner, owner’s agent, occupant, or lessee of any occupied or unoccupied lot or any parcel of land in the City to permit or maintain any accumulation, collection, presence or growth of weeds; turf grass over 8 inches in height; or herbaceous plants (excluding trees, shrubs or bushes) over 8 inches in height within 10 feet of any building or adjacent property.

**Trees, shrubs and bushes:** Every owner of any property with a tree, shrub or bush overhanging any sidewalk, street, alley, or right-of-way within the city shall prune so it will not obstruct the view or line of sight of any street or alley intersection. There should also be a clear space of at least 8 feet above the surface of the sidewalk and a clear space of at least 15 feet over any street. All dead, diseased, or dangerous trees, shrubs, bushes or broken or decayed limbs, or stumps to a depth of at least 5 inches below grade which constitute a menace to the safety of the public, shall be removed by the owner.

**Failure to comply:** The City may inspect and notify a property owner, owner’s agent, occupant or lessee wherever a code enforcement officer determines that such property is not in compliance with the requirements above. If the property is not brought into compliance upon receipt of notice, a summons may be issued to appear in court, where a judge may mandate fines, or the City or its designee can do the necessary work at the expense of the property owner.
Neighborhoods and citizens throughout Golden are invited to join thousands of communities nationwide Tuesday, Aug. 3 for “A Golden Night in the Park.” The event starts at 5:30 p.m. in Parfet Park at 10th Street and Washington Avenue and will go until 9 p.m.

The Golden Police Department will host this local event as an extension of “National Night Out,” a national program designed to heighten crime awareness, generate support for local anti-crime programs, and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. Your participation also helps to send the message that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The event this year features numerous fun-filled activities and entertainment for all ages, including face painting for the kids, a baseball throw and K-9 police dog demonstrations.

If they are not handling an emergency, AirLife is expected to land on 10th Street at 5:30 p.m.

Door prizes will be given away and local vendors are providing free food and beverages. Bring your blankets and your family and enjoy an evening of fun, music and education in Parfet Park.

For more information, call 303-384-8051.
Gene and Arlone Child

Gene and Arlone Child grew up in Kansas, but can’t agree on how they met. They both concede they graduated from college and married a year later in 1958. They were both teachers, and took jobs with the U.S. Department of Defense teaching in a military school in Munich, Germany, in 1960. By 1964, they had decided not to make a career of teaching overseas, and Gene applied for a job with the Jefferson County R-1 School District while visiting a friend in Colorado.

In 1964, the Childs moved to Golden, where Gene had been assigned to teach at Golden High School. When he reported to work his first day on the job, he was informed that he had been transferred to Arvada West High School, where they had just lost a physics teacher. Gene fit the bill. Having already rented a home in Golden, Gene worked at Arvada West for 17 years but the family stayed in Golden and raised their two children.

That ironic twist of fate helped Golden get its first site on the National Registry of Historic Places – the Astor House Hotel Museum.

“It started in August 1971,” Arlone Child recalls when her husband, Gene Child, and his close friend, Larry McWilliams, found out that the Golden Downtown Improvement District (GDID) wanted to buy the Astor House, and began rounding up support for saving the hotel. By February 1971, they had drummed up enough momentum to incorporate as the Golden Landmark (note, it was singular at the time, and only later became ‘Landmarks’) Association. GLA promoted a referendum to save the Astor House that passed and, later, City Council entered an agreement with GLA to renovate and operate a museum on the site.

Room by room, they removed as many as 14 layers of wallpaper, Gene remembers. They repaired broken rafters, replastered and wallpapered the walls, and refinished woodworking and hardwood floors. More than 300 volunteers worked the first year to get the museum ready to open.

In 1976, Gene was involved in efforts to move the Guy Hill School to the old Mitchell School site.

Gene served as an officer for GLA for 10 years, the last several as treasurer before retiring from the board. But being the nearest person to the Astor House with a key, he was often called down late at night to turn off a faulty alarm.

Shortly thereafter, when Irma Wyhs asked GLA to sponsor moving several log cabins from Red School Ranch to the Clear Creek History Park, the Childs once again enlisted to help.

During all this time, Arlone Child said her role was to send their two children down two blocks to the museum to call their father home for dinner. But Arlone’s work was just as consistent as Gene’s, although less visible. She was responsible for coordinating GLA’s ice cream socials, putting together its annual historic calendar, writing its 20th anniversary booklet, and sitting on its board twice over the past 33 years. She worked on various committees, helped renovate the Astor House and develop Clear Creek History Park, became an amateur historian in the process, organized fund-raisers and volunteered to do a computerized and video inventory of the museum’s artifact collection. She remains chairwoman of GLA’s current collection committee.

After the GLA and the Astor House were split in 1998, Gene rejoined the GLA board, first as treasurer and then president. Gene helped coordinate the annual Holiday Historic House Tour, which has been co-sponsored by GLA and the Daughters of the American Revolution board of the Golden Pioneer Museum for the past 21 years.

Gene also served on the Golden Parks and Recreation Advisory board in the early ‘80s, for one term as chair, and helped save an old organ from Golden High School by moving it to the Golden Methodist Church.

Arlone worked with the League of Women Voters from 1965 to 1969, served on the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra’s board from 1973 to 1975, and was the Democratic Party precinct chair from the 1980s through 1994. She tutored at Lookout Mountain School from 1992 to 1994, and continues to tutor at McClain High School today.

Gene retired his position with GLA in March, but those who know him doubt he’ll take much of a break. Gene said he plans to continue his involvement with GLA’s oral history project and may write a second book. His first book, “Shaggy Dogs Have Punny Tales” was self-published and has been quite successful, selling nearly 2,000 copies.

Gene and Arlone Child will be honored in conjunction with Buffalo Bill Days by GLA and the Friends of Astor House Museum and Clear Creek History Park with the Keystone Award at noon July 25 in the Astor House Museum’s backyard gazebo. The award honors individuals or groups who have notably and persistently contributed to and sustained the highest purpose of GLA and, by extension, to the betterment of the City of Golden. The Childs will receive a commemorative plaque at the event.
Many times we talk about littering without really understanding what it means, without knowing what it is doing to our environment, and that there are things we can do to prevent littering.

Litter includes cigarette butts, soda cans, coffee cups, beer bottles, plastic bags, gum wrappers, animal waste, and various other items you may see strewn along the side of the road, blown up against a fence, or swirling around in an empty lot.

The City of Golden needs groups and individual volunteers to be part of its Adopt-a-Spot program. Much like the Adopt-a-Street program, adoptees are responsible for keeping a specific site (rather than street) free of trash and debris. The City helps by providing trash bags, gloves and safety vests.

Spearheaded by the Public Works Department, the program is aimed at beautifying the City and encouraging community involvement.

Types of spots you can adopt include: drainage ways, creek areas, ditches, gullies, channels, detention ponds, Open Space areas, trails, parking lots, and other unattractive or unsightly areas that need attention.

To apply for the Adopt-a-Spot program, contact Ron Reavis at 303-384-8155 and request an application form. You can commit to a one-time pickup or set up an agreement for a one year period. If the area is highly visible, the City of Golden will post a sign naming you or your group as a sponsor.

Extraordinary Service Professional:

Public Works Inspector Les Major

Each quarter, City of Golden employees are asked to nominate deserving colleagues for the Extraordinary Service Professional award. The award is designed to acknowledge employees who go beyond the scope of their jobs to ensure extraordinary service for Golden residents.

Public Works Inspector Les Major was nominated and awarded for his consistent demonstration of higher productivity, willingness to provide extra assistance to fellow employees, commitment to regular duties while working with other departments, and his enthusiastic and motivational attitude. Major demonstrated these achievements recently when he was assigned the role of Acting Utilities Superintendent, in addition to his regular duties. At the same time, Major also found himself covering certain aspects of the City engineer’s position.

“Les has accepted these additional responsibilities with no apprehension or complaints, and has proven to be very knowledgeable and capable of performing any task that is presented to him,” the nomination from Public Works said. “While this is typical of Les, the way he consistently demonstrates his leadership abilities and work ethic has deservedly earned him the respect of all his peers in the Public Works Department. Thanks again Les for accomplishing the many goals of Public Works!”

Adopt-a-Spot:
Help Keep Golden Beautiful

Many times we talk about littering without really understanding what it means, without knowing what it is doing to our environment, and that there are things we can do to prevent littering.

Star City Employees

Congratulations to the following City of Golden employees who worked hard going to school while working and graduated between January and June 2004:

Julie Brooks
Colorado State University
M.S. in Communication Management

Bill Meiderhoff
University of Phoenix
B.A. in Business Management

Phil Morgan
Colorado Christian University
B.S. in Business Administration

Jane Parker
Boston University
M.S. in Criminal Justice

All four of the City’s most recent graduates are Golden Police Officers.
Golden residents have waited four years to find out whether recreation improvements would be made that voters approved bonds for in November 2000.

On June 1, Jefferson County District Court Judge Jack W. Berryhill granted the City of Golden a summary judgment and dismissed claims made by plaintiffs Kathleen Busse, Irene Oliver and Virginia Cusack that were holding up the recreation improvements at significant cost to taxpayers.

In his decision, Berryhill said the plaintiffs had taken “an unreasonably narrow view” in their arguments, and the City had provided “ample proof” that the ultimate purpose of voter-approved bonds was met.

In November 2000, Resolution No. 1128 was placed on the ballot as Referred Issue 2A, and voters approved the City of Golden issuing sales and use tax revenue bonds to allow the City to acquire and construct park and recreation facilities and open space. In particular, the question asked for up to $26,420,000 for facilities to include a “satellite community center, family aquatic park, golf course with club house and open space land for recreational purposes.”

On May 17, 2001, the City of Golden issued $21,620,000 in bonds to finance construction of Fossil Trace Golf Club, The Splash water park, and to purchase land for the City’s parks system. On June 14, 2001, the Council directed remaining bond proceeds be used to enhance the existing Golden Community Center rather than building a new one, to modify the Tony Grampsas Gymnasium, and to enhance or expand the new water park and golf course.

In September 2001, Busse, Oliver and Cusack filed a complaint against the City of Golden, alleging the Council’s use of the bond proceeds were not properly within its discretion. They contested the Council’s use of bond proceeds to purchase and improve the land for Fossil Trace Golf Course. They also argued that the City used “bait and switch” tactics to get voters to approve a new satellite community center facility, and then decided instead to improve the existing community center.

In his decision, Berryhill ruled that the plaintiffs had filed their lawsuit too late. He further ruled that the claims challenging the Council’s discretion were of a political nature, and not for the courts to decide.

On Jan. 15, 2002, Judge Berryhill ruled that the plaintiffs had filed their lawsuit too late. He further ruled that the claims challenging the Council’s discretion were of a political nature, and not for the courts to decide.

The plaintiffs appealed and on June 30, 2003, the Colorado Supreme Court sent the case back to trial court, asking Judge Berryhill to determine whether the Council’s decision was a “material departure” from the purpose of the bond measure and whether incidental expenditures made were necessary for the approved purpose of the bonds. Berryhill released his decision June 1.

“(The) plaintiffs take an unreasonably narrow view that Referred Issue 2A did not contemplate the purchase of land in conjunction with the (golf course) project,” Judge Berryhill wrote in his June 1 decision. He added that other incidental improvements at the golf course and water park “were clearly within the City’s discretion.”

Judge Berryhill also ruled that the decision to modify the plan was made only after extensive public discussions and hearings, which led the City Council to decide that a satellite community center made no sense,” said City Manager Mike Bestor. “Council determined that it made more sense to use the money for improvements to the existing recreational facilities. These would generate additional usage, but not require additional staff, as another facility would have.”

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“The citizens of Golden approved funding for the purpose of constructing recreational facilities,” Berryhill wrote. “The City provides ample proof that expanding the existing facilities will provide the same recreational amenities as constructing a new community center ... the ultimate purpose of the bonds is met.”

City Manager Mike Bestor said the City will likely request the plaintiffs pay a sizeable bond if they further appeal the case and request that construction be delayed pending an appeal, as the cost of construction materials and interest on the bonds continues to rise. The City estimates inflation since the bond issue was passed in 2000 has already cost it more than $500,000.
Golden Police Department Citizen Survey

The Golden Police Department is conducting a survey to assist us in providing better services to the community. Please complete the following survey and return it in the enclosed, stamped envelope. Please check the box next to the answer that best fits your opinion. All information from this survey will remain confidential. Thank you for your participation.

1. Which neighborhood do you live or work in?
   - North Golden
   - Downtown Area
   - Beverly Heights
   - Golden High school Area
   - South Golden
   - West Third Area
   - Eagle Ridge
   - Heritage Dells

2. How long have you lived or worked in Golden?
   - Less than 1 year
   - 1 to 5 years
   - 6 to 10 years
   - 11 to 15 years
   - More than 15 years

3. What type of dwelling do you occupy?
   - Single Family Home
   - Duplex
   - Townhouse/Condominium
   - Apartment Complex
   - Mobile Home
   - Business

4. What are the major problems in your neighborhood? (Please check all that apply.)
   - Speeding
   - Abandoned Vehicles
   - Ordinance Violations (weeds, garbage, animal issues)
   - Juvenile Problems
   - Noise Complaints
   - Parking Violations
   - Drugs
   - Vandalism (including graffiti)
   - Stolen Vehicles
   - Other:

5. How many times have you had contact with the Golden Police Department?
   - 0 (please skip to question 10)
   - 1
   - 2
   - 3
   - 4
   - More than 4

6. What was the reason for the contact? (Please check all that apply.)
   - Traffic Contact
   - Witness to a crime
   - Suspect in a crime
   - Victim of a crime
   - Arrestee
   - Other:

7. On average how do you feel you were treated?
   - Very Professionally
   - Professionally
   - Somewhat Professionally
   - Not Professionally
   - Very unprofessionally (please explain):

8. How quickly did the Golden Police Department respond when you requested a police officer?
   - Very quickly
   - Somewhat quickly
   - Somewhat slowly
   - Very slowly
   - Not applicable

9. On average was the Golden Police Department helpful in addressing your needs?
   - Very helpful
   - Somewhat helpful
   - Somewhat unhelpful
   - Very unhelpful (please explain):

10. How visible are Golden Police Officers to the public?
    - Very visible
    - Somewhat visible
    - Almost never visible
    - Never visible

11. How safe do you feel in Golden?
    - Safe
    - Somewhat safe
    - Somewhat unsafe
    - Unsafe

11a. Why?

All information from this survey will remain confidential.
12. Which of the following services are important to you? (Please check all that apply.)
- Crime Prevention Education
- Vacation Watch
- Neighborhood Watch Programs
- Citizen’s Academy
- Neighborhood Meetings
- Traffic Enforcement
- DUI Enforcement
- Foot Patrols
- Bicycle Patrols
- High School Resource Officer
- Middle School Resource Officer
- Responding to Residential/Business Alarms
- Volunteer Programs
- Code Enforcement (weeds, zoning ordinances, animal problems, abandoned vehicles)
- Other services you would like to see: __________________

___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________

13. If available, which of the following methods would you use to report a crime or incident? (Please check all that apply.)
- With an officer at my residence/business
- By appointment
- Over the telephone
- At the Golden Police Department
- On-line
- By Fax

14. Please offer any other comments you may have or list any other problems you would like to see the Golden Police Department address:

___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________

15. What is your gender?
- Male
- Female

16. What is your age?
- 18 - 25
- 26 - 35
- 36 - 45
- 56 - 65

17. What is your ethnicity?
- Caucasian
- African American
- Hispanic
- Asian
- Native American
- Other

18. What level of education have you completed?
- High school/GED
- Some College
- College Graduate
- Other

19. Which of the following best describes your level of income?
- Less than $25,000
- $26,000 - $50,000
- $51,000 - $75,000
- $76,000 - $100,000
- More than $100,000

Would you like someone from the Golden Police Department to speak with you further? If so, please provide your name and telephone number:

___________________________________________
___________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with this information.

Please fold the survey along the gray dotted lines, seal with tape and drop in the mail.
When a child falls into a rushing river or a kayaker is injured in a creek, whitewater rescue teams are often the difference between life and death. As one of the best swiftwater rescue teams in the country, the Golden Fire Department and its whitewater rescue professionals hosted a series of public safety programs June 2 through 7 designed to train emergency responders from throughout the country how to conduct these inherently dangerous rescue operations.

“Waterways like Clear Creek claim many lives each year. Golden is extremely fortunate to have one of the premier swiftwater rescue teams in the country,” said Fire Training Chief Kevin Milan. “Competent training is our best tool to prepare emergency responders. Through a partnership with Dive Rescue International, Golden’s swift water team will offer this training to responders from across the country.”

Golden Fire Chief John Bales said the department is honored to host the programs, which meet the National Fire Protection Agency’s standards for whitewater rescue training.
Water Update

The severe drought experienced in Colorado during 2002 is not yet over, as evidenced by continued historic low water flows on Clear Creek. The flows in Clear Creek compared to the 29-year median flows showed the lowest flow on June 2 was 220 cubic feet per second (cfs). The 2004 flow on June 2nd was only 227cfs -- indicating the drought is not over. The highest flow on June 2 was 1,380 cfs, and the mean is 618 cfs. (Residents can monitor Clear Creek’s flow rates through a link on the City’s online Water Update.)

Due to the continued drought, Golden City Council adopted Resolution No. 1495 regarding water restrictions for the summer of 2004:

“The City of Golden strongly urges its residents to remain vigilant in their voluntary water conservation efforts, including limiting outdoor watering to only two days per week for 15 minutes in each watering zone (sprinkler section), and by not watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.”

The City of Golden was able to drastically reduce its water consumption in previous years by asking residents to voluntarily conserve water. For more information on conservation, contact the City’s Environmental Services Division at 303-384-8181.

Conservation Info

There are many simple ways that you can increase your water savings by using water more efficiently in your home and yard. The City of Golden has many of these tips listed in its “Water Conservation in Golden” brochure. Educational materials are available year round. Call 303-384-8181 for more information on water conservation brochures, reference books, seminars or to borrow a video.

Water saving devices that reduce flush volumes in older model toilets and moisture probes are available for free to residents to encourage their participation in wise water use inside and outside their home. If you are interested in these products, please call 303-384-8151.