HELP ELECT THOSE WHO SUPPORT REAL TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

Youth Leadership Golden Program to be Held Again

Help Make Halloween More Safe Than Spooky

Prioritizing Highway Noise Mitigation Projects

Vanover Tree Removed

Movies and Music in the Park

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HEADS UP: Important Upcoming Items

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.

WATER REVIEW ON TAP

Golden’s water attorney, Glenn Porzak, will make a special presentation to City Council at its 7 p.m. Oct. 5 meeting in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St. He will review Golden’s water position in detail.

CITIZEN SURVEY TO INCLUDE QUESTIONS ON CHANNEL 8

At City Council’s direction, the City has scheduled for a Citizen Survey to be conducted in November and December. The survey will again be conducted by Customer Connections & Innovations, Inc., of Golden. CCI representative Amy Deitemeyer will present draft language for the survey to City Council at its 7 p.m. Oct. 5 meeting.

The survey includes questions asked in previous years’ citizen surveys, which enable the City to measure any changes in citizen satisfaction. Additionally, several questions have been included to measure citizens’ interest in and use of Golden’s government access station, Comcast Cable Channel 8.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BUDGET SET

The City’s Biennial Budget document is one of City Council’s strongest policy-making tools. City Council is currently in the midst of the Budget process. Below is the schedule of anticipated Council actions:

Oct. 12: Adopt rate and fee changes for 2007
Oct. 26: Public hearing on proposed 2007-2008 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
Nov. 2: Review draft 2007-2008 Budget
Nov. 9: Public hearing on proposed 2007-2008 Budget and CIP, amend and adopt 2007 Budget and CIP, and set Mill Levy for 2007

For more information, contact Golden Assistant Finance Director Don Warn at 303-384-8021 or dwarn@cityofgolden.net.

VANOVER TREE SAYS GOODBYE TO GOLDEN

The majestic Cottonwood tree that stood for an estimated 200 years in Vanover Park was removed due to interior rot Sept. 5 and 6. The tree did not go quietly, however: it took professional removal crews hours of work with chainsaws before the tree fell with a giant thud, cracking the sidewalk beneath it. The City donated salvageable pieces of the wood to local artists for carving purposes and preserved several large cross-sections of the trunk for historical analysis.

PHOTO BY SABRINA HENDERSON

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.

Oct. 5 Study Session
Oct. 12 REGULAR MEETING
Oct. 19 Study Session
Oct. 26 REGULAR MEETING

Council’s upcoming agendas, packets and meeting minutes are available online under the City Council link at www.cityofgolden.net, or by calling the City Clerk’s office at 303-384-8015. You can also view streaming video of Council meetings online at www.cityofgolden.net/Channel8.
The September issue of The Informer presented an article on the budgeting process and a time schedule for its preparation and approval is included in this issue. This column will provide more detail on how the City Council is involved in its development and approval.

City Council has a retreat at least every two years to discuss its vision for Golden and establishing some priorities for the City. About 15 years ago, the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) recommended that maintenance and upgrading of our sidewalks, water and sewer lines, curbs, gutters, and streets were high-priority items. Council accepted this recommendation and these are fairly strong commitments even today. Council has also emphasized the need to keep staff salaries competitive, have first-class volunteer fire and police departments, and provide excellent recreational facilities for citizens. Obviously, the City can’t afford to fully fund each of these items every year. However, these priorities give the City Manager the necessary direction to begin the preparation of the budget.

About mid-year, the City Manager and Finance Director develop a forecast for the revenues that could be expected over the next two years. Revenues come from property, sales and use taxes; charges for services such as the golf course, water and sewage; special assessments, such as the drainage utility; grants from state and federal organizations; and other miscellaneous sources.

The City Manager then directs the various City departments to develop their budgets, keeping in mind forecasted revenue expectations. The department managers develop their operating budgets (labor, supplies and any assessments) and forecast their capital needs. The input from the departments is compiled and the requested amounts are compared with the expected revenues. Through an interactive process between the City Manager and department managers, the revenues and expenditures are balanced. Typically, the balanced City budget at the beginning of the year has a general fund contingency of between 15% and 20%.

City Council has an early exposure to the draft budget and receives recommendations and input from CBAC. Later in the process, there are public hearings in which citizens can make suggestions and comments. Typically, the Council hears very little from citizens during these hearings. Following Council’s review and input from citizens, City Council can make changes. This presents a challenge.

Since the budget is balanced, a request for an increase in an item must be followed by a recommendation on what should be cut to maintain a balanced budget. (Sometimes the recommendation is to have the City Manager decide on what should be cut.) Four Councilors must agree to make changes or additions to the budget and to approve the final budget.

Once the budget is approved, then City Council, staff and CBAC monitor the budget regularly, closely looking at each line item for significant deviations. Each month, City Council also receives a report comparing actual revenues from sales and use tax against the original forecast. These two taxes represent about 80% of the tax revenues. These monthly reports provide early warning about any potential revenue problems. In the Council’s quarterly review, if expenses exceed revenues, then staff and Council can decrease some expenditures or begin using some of the contingency in the budget. If the contingency goes below 10%, then the City Manager is obligated to put severe constraints on expenditures. In addition to these overall budget reports, Council is also provided a detailed report on the status of major capital projects.

Throughout the year, Council is required to approve by resolution any significant changes in the budget.

Mayor Chuck Baroch
Help Elect Those Who Support Real Transportation Solutions

The City of Golden conducted a Candidate Survey on Transportation Policy this summer. Candidates for office in a number of races were sent a survey along with an explanation that addressing transportation needs in the Northwest Denver Metro area is a chief concern for residents of the City of Golden.

If elected to serve, these candidates will have an opportunity to shape transportation policy in this region and, therefore, we thought our citizens would be interested in learning more about their views.

Candidates were asked to circle one of the listed answers for each of five questions, and were allowed up to 100 words to elaborate on their position. Candidates’ submissions were not edited by the City of Golden in any way for content, grammar, punctuation or style.

To view the survey as an Adobe PDF file, visit http://www.cityofgolden.net/News.asp?NewsID=379. If you prefer to view a hard copy of the survey, it appeared in full in the August issue of the The Informer, which is also available online or by calling 303-384-8011.

Curb Painters Offering Illegal Service

Last month, an unregistered handbill was reported being stuck on front doors throughout Golden advertising that numbers would be painted on the curb in front of your home for a “donation.”

Painting your house number or anything else on the City sidewalk curbs is a violation of Municipal Code Section 8.04.240. If you find these solicitors in your neighborhood, please report them immediately by calling the Police Department’s non-emergency number at 303-384-8045, and do not take them up on their services, which are illegal.
The City of Golden has been committed to addressing the issue of highway noise impacts on Golden’s neighborhoods for many years. However, funding for such projects has been limited, and what funds have been available were previously directed toward engineering studies and other areas related to the Northwest Corridor beltway issue.

With the inclusion of $3 million over the next 10 years in the City’s current Capital Improvement Plan, City Council can now identify noise mitigation projects for design and implementation.

Earlier this year, City Council indicated its intention to utilize revenues on a project-by-project basis to incrementally install highway noise mitigation. The available resources for such projects would be approved annually in the updates of the Sales and Use Tax Fund component of the 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

In August, Council agreed to adopt a strategy for prioritizing noise mitigation projects that differentiates between opportunity-based projects and designed projects and includes a tiered approach for evaluating planned projects.

Opportunity-Based Projects

Opportunity-based projects are those on which the City should be ready to react on short-notice when opportunities arise to accept appropriate fill material from public or private projects, particularly based upon the locations identified in the 2003 Muller Plan (available online at www.bettertrafficsolutions.com under Alternatives). In these cases, the City should identify the nearest proposed berm location where:

- City right of way, easement, or land owner permission is in place;
- Necessary CDOT permission can be achieved;
- The berm can reasonably be constructed, stabilized, and revegetated; and
- Existing residents will benefit from the installation.

To be able to react to such potential opportunities on a short-term basis, the City will retain approximately $25,000 in project funds through the end of the third quarter of each year to cover costs associated with transport, placement, stabilization, and revegetation of such berms. At the end of the third quarter, available funds could be re-directed to planned projects instead.

Designed Projects

Beyond opportunity-based projects, noise mitigation projects will be evaluated and prioritized based on whether the existing noise in the area is louder than 65 decibels, and whether the estimated improvement would reduce noise by at least 8 decibels.

Projects that meet these criteria would be labeled as Tier 1. They would then go through a preliminary design process and be ranked based upon:

- Readiness to proceed, third party approvals in place;
- Cost per residential property benefited by the project;
- Multiple uses of improvements;
- Leveraging outside funds;
- Demonstration value of proposal; and
- Planned longevity of improvements.

City Council would then review the potential list of projects each fall in its Capital Improvement Plan review, and make adjustments accordingly. The list of desired projects would be included in the CIP by reference or footnote.

Projects that do not meet the Tier 1 criteria would be labeled as Tier 2 and delayed until sufficient funding is available.

Known projects that currently meet Tier 1 criteria, listed here from north to south, will be further evaluated later in the year, and include:

- East side of State Highway 93 north of Pine Ridge Road
- East side of State Highway 93 at Virginia Street
- West side of State Highway 93 from Iowa Drive south
- North side of State Highway 58 from New Loveland Mine Park east to edge of housing
- South side of U.S. Highway 6 near C-470
- East side of I-70 near Golden Heights neighborhood

Other projects recommended by the City’s long-term plans do not meet the Tier 1 requirement for a current noise level of 65 decibels or louder.
The Golden Municipal Court has been working hard to serve its customers better and make routine traffic summons easier to take care of.

Previously, if you received a traffic summons in Golden that was eligible for the mail-in plea bargain, you could accept the plea bargain agreement by signing the summons and mailing in the fine within 20 days of receiving the summons. Many customers would call the Court saying they wanted to mail in the plea bargain but had missed the 20-day time limit. After that 20-day timeframe, customers were required to appear in Court.

In order to better serve its customers and enable them to take advantage of the plea bargain beyond the initial 20-days, the Court extended the deadline to the day prior to the set Court date. Now, someone who receives a routine traffic summons can accept the plea bargain and pay the fine up to the day before they were scheduled to appear in Court. By doing this, the Court has allowed many customers to eliminate having to miss several hours of work to take care of a payable traffic ticket.

This procedure only applies to a traffic summons in which a customer was eligible for a mail-in plea bargain. Many summons issued require an appearance in court and do not offer the plea bargain option. So be sure to check any ticket carefully so as not to miss a mandatory Court appearance.

If you have questions about a traffic ticket you have received in Golden, contact Golden Municipal Court at 303-384-8006 or strujillo@cityofgolden.net.

The City of Golden is continuing its search for a possible partnership to incorporate solar technology into its new shops facilities. Golden had provided information and requests for proposals to three photo voltaic suppliers, but received only one proposal from a vendor.

Photo voltaic panels convert sunlight into electricity, much like the handheld calculators you’ve probably seen that don’t need batteries. You may also have seen larger solar panels on emergency road signs, call boxes, and even parking lots and power lights. The City of Golden was pursuing this alternative energy source as a possible option for the new shops facilities being built on north State Highway 93.

At its Aug. 11 meeting, Golden City Council decided not to accept the proposal from the Garland Company, Inc., to supply the shops with photo voltaic power, which would have had a negative cash flow for the first 25 years.

Given the rapidly changing landscape and technology, City Council felt it would be prudent to wait to see if Colorado follows the lead of other states and provides additional tax credits or incentives to improve the performance of the federal credits (which are currently all that is available). Council also indicated that a photo voltaic system can always be added to the shops and other municipal facilities down the road, and financial performance of such systems may be much stronger then.

In the meantime, the Golden Public Works Department will continue to seek out other possible options for making the City’s newest facility as environmentally friendly as possible.

As you may have been aware, all City of Golden employees’ email addresses are @ci.golden.co.us. For many years, this was a standard format used by government entities, but has more recently fallen off as various governments decide to use easier, more memorable and user-friendly web site and email addresses.

Since the City’s web site has already been changed to the easier-to-remember and more user-friendly www.cityofgolden.net, the City has decided its employee email addresses should follow suit. Beginning last month, all city email addresses will change to @cityofgolden.net instead of the old @ci.golden.co.us. Any emails being sent to the old email addresses will continue to reach the appropriate recipient for the time being, but we encourage you to please update any addresses you may have saved in your address book with the new information.
Volunteer Opportunities

The Golden Informer

Volunteer opportunities

The City of Golden is looking for a few dedicated citizens to serve as volunteers on Council-appointed boards. If you are interested in helping better your community by donating your time, please read on to learn more about current volunteer opportunities available. Other opportunities are listed online at www.cityofgolden.net as they become available.

Local (Liquor) Licensing Authority

Golden City Council is accepting applications for the Local (Liquor) Licensing Authority Board for two appointments that expire in December. Members must be residents of the City and at least 21 years of age. Additionally, members shall not have any financial interest in the operation of any business holding a liquor license pursuant to CRS 12-46-101 et seq. and CRS 12-47-101 et seq. The appointments will be for 4-year terms. The Authority meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Applications will be taken until 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to be held at the City Council Study Session on Thursday, Nov. 2 in the Council Chambers at Golden City Hall, 911 10th St.

The Local Licensing Authority board was formed by Ordinance No. 1501, adopted by City Council on June 8, 2000. The board holds public hearings on new license applications; considers transfers of ownership; holds show-cause hearings to determine if a liquor violation has occurred; and takes action on various other matters and has all powers and duties granted to local liquor license authorities by the Colorado Beer Code, Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) 12-46-101 et seq. as amended, Colorado Liquor Code C.R.S. 12-47-101 et seq. as amended, Colorado Special Events Code, C.R.S. 12-48-101 et seq. as amended and the Colorado Code of Regulations (1-C.C.R. 203-2) et seq. as amended.

Applications, on forms provided by the City Clerk or online at www.cityofgolden.net, will be accepted at the Office of City Clerk, City Hall, 911 10th St., Golden, CO 80401, until 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2006.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Golden City Council is looking to fill a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term that expires March 2007.

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

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

Applications will be taken until 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to be held at the City Council Study Session on Thursday, Nov. 2 in the Council Chambers at Golden City Hall, 911 10th St.

Questions regarding the Board should be directed to Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf Rod Tarullo at 303-384-8120 or rtarullo@cityofgolden.net.

Applications, on forms provided by the City Clerk or online at www.cityofgolden.net, will be accepted at the Office of City Clerk, City Hall, 911 10th St., Golden, CO 80401, until 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2006.
**Code Q & A**

*Are Pellet Rifles Considered Firearms?*

**Q:** Is a pellet rifle considered a firearm? If so, is it unlawful to discharge a pellet rifle within the Golden city limits? - T.F.

**A:** Per Golden Municipal Code, a pellet gun is classified as a “mechanical gun,” and not a “firearm.” Therefore per GMC Section 8.04.930 Unlawful use, a “mechanical gun” can be discharged within the city limits, providing it is discharged “in a person’s dwelling, place of business, property under one’s ownership or control…”

That would allow someone to shoot a pellet gun in the City of Golden, but the next section of the code places restrictions on how it can be fired.

Golden Municipal Code 8.04.980 Missiles states that it is illegal for a person to “willfully, maliciously or recklessly throw, shoot or project any stone, arrow, pellet…at or against, or in a manner which would endanger a person, animal, building, structure, personal property, fixture or vehicle of another.”

So, technically it is not illegal to shoot a pellet gun in the City of Golden, but it is illegal to shoot a pellet gun in any manner where a person or property could be injured. As with any type of firearm or rifle, common sense should be applied prior to even thinking about shooting one. Target backdrop, location of any other people or pets, surrounding property, direction of ricochet should all be taken into consideration before firing a pellet gun. If there is any chance someone could be hurt or any property damaged, it would be best not to shoot. If a person was accidentally hurt or property damaged, the person firing the gun could be held criminally and civilly liable.

If you would like to look up the Golden Municipal Code on your own, you can find it online at www.cityofgolden.net, in the left-hand navigation bar. The section on firearms is located under Sections 8.04.900.

**Golden Cares**

*About Citizens With Special Needs*

More than 30 years ago, the Golden Police Department initiated a program called “Golden Cares” for people with special needs who live on their own. The program is designed to provide added security and daily communication with elderly and special needs residents in town.

Participants who are enrolled in the program are asked to contact the Golden Police Department dispatch center before noon every day to let the department know they are okay. If the dispatch center does not hear from a participant, a dispatcher will attempt to call them at home. If the dispatcher is unable to contact anyone, a police officer will be dispatched to the participant’s house to check and make sure no one is hurt and they are all right.

The program is not solely for senior citizens. We highly encourage people with Alzheimer’s, special needs or health related issues who are placed at risk to sign up. Participants are asked to provide information such as medical concerns, doctors, hospitals, medications, photographs and emergency contact information. All the information provided is kept strictly confidential.

If you or someone you know fits the criteria for the Golden Cares program and would like to enroll or obtain additional information, call the Golden Police Department at 303-384-8045.
GOLDEN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THROUGH OCT. 22
George Orwell’s “1984” at Miners Alley Playhouse
Miners Alley Playhouse presents “1984” written by George Orwell and adapted for the stage by Walter L. Newton as directed by Rick Bernstein running Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 22. “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Is Big Brother watching? Mr. Newton has crafted a riveting version of this story that will please diehard fans of the book, as well as those unfamiliar with the story. This is an important story of our times. Make sure you don’t miss it. Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 6 p.m. Sundays. Box office and lounge open an hour prior to curtain. Tickets are $18 Fridays and Saturdays and $16 Sundays. For information or reservations, call 303-935-3044.

OCT. 1 & 2
Yom Kippur

OCT. 7
Final Golden Farmers Market
The final Saturday of the 2006 Golden Farmers Market season will be Oct. 7. Be sure to stop by and stock up on all your fresh produce and other goodies before winter! The market is located in the parking lot west of the Golden Library on 10th Street in historic downtown Golden.

OCT. 7
CSM Homecoming Parade
Colorado School of Mines will hold its annual homecoming parade in downtown Golden.

OCT. 9
Columbus Day
City of Golden offices remain open.

OCT. 24
Fourth Tuesdays with Councilors
Ward One Councilor Mary Weaver and District One Councilor Lynne Timpeiro are holding meetings at 9 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at Faith Lutheran Church to meet with citizens. Citizens are invited to come and talk with their Councilors.

OCT. 16
Flu Shot Clinic
The City of Golden will host its annual flu shot clinic from 7 to 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m. Oct. 25 in the Windy Saddle room at the Golden Community Center. The clinic is open to the public and flu shots cost $26. You must be at least 4 years old to receive a flu shot. Other immunizations available include Pneumonia for $40, Tetanus/Diphtheria for $30, and or the new Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis for $50.

OCT. 28
Opening Reception for Two Quilt Exhibits
Two new exhibits will be unveiled at an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum: “Aunt Grace Visits the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum - Challenge Quilts” and “Fibers of the Purple Sage: Quilts from The Art Quilt Association.” For more information, call 303-277-0377 or visit www.rmqm.org.

OCT. 29
Daylight Savings Time ends
Turn your clocks back one hour (and change your smoke detectors’ batteries — see Page 17).

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@cityofgolden.net. Listings should include the date(s), the event name and a brief description of the event, which may include cost, location and contact information. Submissions must be received by the first of the month prior to the issue you would like them printed in (i.e., Jan. 1 for the February issue). Call 303-384-8132 with questions or for more information.
**OCT. 29**

*Jefferson Symphony Orchestra*

The Jefferson Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Dr. William Morse, will commence its 2006-2007 classical music concert series with its Oct. 29 concert. The overall theme of the 2006-2007 concert season is “World Tour: Join the Adventure” and the theme of this October concert is “From Austria and Russia – a Birthday Bash!” On this particular program, the orchestra will play Comrade di Ravello, “A Celebration Piece for Sir Georg Solti” by John Corigliano; Le Nozze di Figaro, K.492 (Overture) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; Concerto No. 25 in C Major, K.503 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with Pianist, Crystal Lee; Symphony No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 10 by Dmitri Shostakovich; and The Bolt (Ballet Suite) by Dmitri Shostakovich. All concerts are held at the Green Center on the Colorado School of Mines campus in Golden. Concerts start at 7 p.m. Call 303-278-4237 for tickets.

**OCT. 31**

*Halloween*

City of Golden offices remain open.

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**OCT. 31**

*Safe City Trick-Or-Treat*

Downtown Golden merchants and museums will once again host a safe city trick-or-treat event for Golden’s little ghosts and goblins from 3 to 6 p.m. Oct. 31. Come downtown with your goodie bags and stop in at each of the participating stores.

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**NOV. 11**

*Golden Civic Foundation Auction and Dinner*

The 51st annual Golden Civic Foundation Auction and Dinner – considered by many to be Golden’s social event of the year – will be Nov. 11 at the Denver Marriott West. The theme of the event is “Winter Wonderland.” Tickets are $80 each or $750 for a table of 10 and no invitation is required to attend, as the event is open to the public. Most of the proceeds from the event go to the Foundation’s grant programs to help schools, city projects and other charitable organizations in Golden. Seating is limited to 400 and tickets go quickly, so make your reservation now by calling Auction Chair Cathy Pattridge at 303-526-0524.

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**Golden Cemetery**

- Upright Monuments
- Single/Family Sites
- Cremation Garden
- Columbarium Niches
- Veterans Section
- Open to Residents & Non-residents

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**A beautifully maintained cemetery nestled at the foot of the Rocky Mountains**

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Youth Leadership Golden Program to be Held Again in 2007

The Leadership Golden Alumni Association Board of Directors is pleased to announce the continuation of the leadership program for high school students in 2007. The program, known as Youth Leadership Golden (Formerly Junior Leadership Golden), was first held in 2003. This year’s program will begin in January 2007 and complete at the end of April 2007. There will be seven sessions, each beginning at 6 p.m. and ending around 8:15 p.m. There will also be a tour of City facilities lasting about 3 hours on the Saturday after the first session in January.

The program is an extension of the adult Leadership Golden program, which began in 1984 and has had more than 400 graduates. The youth-oriented program is designed to educate emerging young leaders and volunteers to the realities, opportunities and challenges in Golden.

Youth Leadership Golden will be similar to the “adult” program in that sessions will be held in the evenings at various locations, but each session will be shorter in length given the workload of high school students when school is in session. The topics are also similar to the regular leadership program; the speakers are typically the same and, of course, the program will be free of cost to the students.

The program will accommodate as many as 20 students. Students must attend all sessions in order to complete the program and if you don’t think that is possible, please don’t apply. Although most past graduates attended Golden High School, the program is open to any high school student who resides in Golden.

The program is coordinated through Golden High School, where applications can be picked up and returned at the main office by Dec. 1. Any inquiries about the program can be directed to Ed Dorsey at 303-384-9923 or dorsey38@comcast.net, or GHS Principal Mike Murphy.
Children and adults alike enjoyed another great summer of Movies and Music in the Park. Rain and cold forced the rescheduling of several evenings, but didn’t dampen the fun for attendees.
Community Open House Scheduled for South Table Mountain Park Planning

South Table Mountain Park, including the property acquired from the Trust for Public Land/Coors Brewing Co. in December 2004, is currently undergoing park management planning by Jefferson County Open Space staff.

As part of the process for establishing management strategies for this property, the public is being invited to view conceptual plans, make comments and ask questions about the overall management objectives, potential trail alignments and possible access points. An open house will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24 at the Open Space offices, Ponderosa Meeting Room, 700 Jefferson County Parkway. A short presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m.

A conceptual map and narrative of the planning process is available on the Open Space Web site for review at http://openspace.jeffco.us.

The conceptual plan will show proposed locations for trails on the mesa top, as well as proposed access locations from below. At this time, all trails are proposed as multi-use, non-motorized. In addition, there are a number of social trails located throughout the property that are proposed for closure and reclamation pending input from the public.

To date, Open Space Staff have coordinated with the City of Golden, Pleasant View Metro District and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory on the plan.

Community members unable to attend the open house can find more details online about how to participate in the comment period.

South Table Mountain Park consists of 842 acres of mesa top and side slopes, plus 658 acres in separate ownership on which Open Space holds trail and conservation easements. Open Space first acquired 84 acres in 1977 on the eastern portion of the mesa and established a walk-in trailhead from Foothills Circle. In 1999, the Division acquired conservation and trail easements upon the 256 acres owned by the State of Colorado and 176 acres owned by the U.S. Department of Energy. In November 1999, Golden Properties conveyed a conservation easement upon 214 acres overlooking Rolling Hills Country Club. Most recently, Open Space acquired 25 acres at Quaker Street and 736 acres previously owned by Coors Brewing Co. Today, approximately 400 acres of South Table Mountain remain in private holdings. Park management planning will recognize these private holdings as part of the conceptual planning.
Temperatures are dropping and the leaves are turning colors, and that means everyone is preparing for the upcoming winter, including our local bear populations.

Bears primarily feed on berries, plants and dead animals. And while preparing for winter hibernation, a bear can feed up to 20 hours per day and may ingest more than 20,000 calories a day. That is the equivalent of 36 McDonald’s Big Macs every day! While fattening up for winter, bears frequently come into town looking for an easy snack, usually found in trash cans, pet food and bird feeders.

Bears are known as “walking stomachs” when eating because they will eat any type of food they can find. By not leaving any available food source in your yard, you help discourage the bears from coming into your neighborhood to eat, allowing for safer fall months.

If you do discover a bear in your neighborhood, leave it alone and contact the Golden Police Department at 303-384-8045. For additional information on bears and other local wildlife, visit the Colorado Department of Wildlife’s Web site at www.wildlife.state.co.us.

Native Grass Seed Mix for Sale
There’s no need to wait until spring to plant!

Native grasses are adapted to our natural conditions and don’t require additional irrigation, fertilizer or maintenance. The grass seed mixes you find at many stores contain introduced species, many of which are aggressive and can displace native vegetation and disrupt the ecological balance. Use caution when buying grass and wildflower seed mixes. Make sure all species are listed and native to Colorado.

Seeding of native grasses can be performed in the fall, up until the ground freezes. This is referred to as dormant seeding. The grass seed lies dormant over the winter – providing conditions that many native species require in order to germinate. Dormant seeding enables grasses to begin growth as early as conditions are favorable, taking advantage of wet, spring snow.

You can also purchase a drought-tolerant native grass seed mix, which works well in the Golden area, from the Jefferson Conservation District. For more information, call the District at 720-544-2870.

As of Oct. 2, the City will be moving the Community Mulch Site to a new location. Trees and limbs will no longer be accepted, nor will mulch be provided at the site on 11th and Maple streets next to the Clear Creek History Park. Instead, citizens are encouraged to visit the new location at the south end of the Splash water park’s parking lot, 3151 Illinois St. You may be familiar with the location as it will be sharing space with the City’s current recycling drop-off location.
The Astor House Museum is going to be making one of the best views of Golden available for the first time in more than 100 years… its balcony is going to be restored to its original grandeur and opened to visitors.

The balcony had been reconstructed by volunteers in the mid-1970s when the building was saved from demolition and rehabilitated to a museum. At that time, the balcony was not intended to support groups of visitors on a daily basis. In addition to addressing safety concerns and the engineering of the structure, rebuilding the balcony gives the Museum an excellent opportunity to recreate the look and feel captured in historic photographs of the Astor House in its glory days.

And this is just the beginning – Phase Two of the project will include installation of interpretive panels highlighting stories about the historical landscape, plenty of parasols to shelter visitors from the sun, and a long-distance viewing telescope from which to take in the splendid views.

Stop in and see the progress yourself and learn more about the history of this grand building.

Did you know that the City of Golden coordinates an innovative “Adopt-A-Spot” program that enables citizen volunteers to help keep our City beautiful by contributing to drainage maintenance programs? Volunteer groups can sign up to help save the City dozens of man-hours by helping clean up our waterways. Thank you to those who have volunteered with the program this year. If you are interested in getting involved with the program, please contact Stormwater Supervisor Dave Ackley at 303-384-8165.

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

Did you know that the City of Golden coordinates an innovative “Adopt-A-Spot” program that enables citizen volunteers to help keep our City beautiful by contributing to drainage maintenance programs? Volunteer groups can sign up to help save the City dozens of man-hours by helping clean up our waterways. Thank you to those who have volunteered with the program this year. If you are interested in getting involved with the program, please contact Stormwater Supervisor Dave Ackley at 303-384-8165.
Every year, many children die because of injuries received in motor vehicle crashes. In fact, motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of children in the United States. Many of these injuries and deaths could be avoided if adults transporting youngsters would take the time to secure them in a child safety seat that is properly anchored to the vehicle.

Children without the protection of a child safety seat become “flying missiles” during a crash. Even an adult’s arm cannot hold back a child in a collision. The best protection for children is to use a correctly installed, approved child safety seat every time they ride in a vehicle.

The Golden Fire Department has trained Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians to assist citizens in properly installing safety seats. Times are available by appointment only on the first and third Thursdays of each month by calling 303-215-8886 for assistance.

### Watch What You Heat:

**National Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8-14**

This year’s National Fire Prevention campaign is focusing on the leading cause of home fires and injuries – cooking.

More home fires start in the kitchen than anywhere else. In fact, cooking equipment is involved in more than 100,000 reported home fires each year. This number could be greatly reduced if people paid more attention when they cooked and followed simple fire safety rules.

- Pay attention when you cook;
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling or boiling food;
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove; and,
- When you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home and use a timer to remind you of when it is done.

For more information on fire safety and prevention, call Golden Fire Department Program Specialist Kelli Hilborne at 303-215-8886.
As Oct. 31 quickly approaches, the Golden Police Department reminds citizens to keep your eyes open for roaming monsters, ghosts, superheroes and princesses. Please drive slowly and safely through town to avoid hitting any trick-or-treaters. Police also remind parents and kids to follow a few Halloween safety tips:

- Make sure costumes allow easy movement and allow the person wearing them to see clearly;
- Make costumes visible to traffic and other trick-or-treaters;
- Young children should be accompanied by an adult or a responsible older sibling;
- Don’t eat any candy before having an adult inspect the packages, and upon inspection, if anything looks suspicious, don’t eat it;
- Never go inside a stranger’s house; and,
- Keep lit candles in jack-o-lanterns away from areas that might set fire to props or costumes.

If you plan on handing out goodies on Halloween, please make sure to leave on a porch light and remove any potential obstacles that might create a tripping hazard.

For additional safety tips, visit www.halloween-safety.com. Have a fun and safe Halloween.

You Are as Young as You Feel

Ask any senior participating in the Golden Community Center’s senior sports programs and they will tell you – you really are as young as you feel! From seasonal bicycling treks to medal-winning ladies basketball, the Community Center offers a variety of athletic opportunities for the mature sports set.

Four senior softball teams, ranging from a 70+ team to a competitive B-Division team, play from April through July in the Colorado Senior Softball Association. In the summer, you can catch the seniors Monday and Wednesday mornings at the Tony Grampsas Sports Complex hitting homeruns over the fence.

When softball season concludes, a majority of the athletes begin back-to-back seasons of volleyball with the Colorado Senior Volleyball Association, competing with teams from all over the Denver metro and Front Range areas. Practices for senior volleyball are held Tuesday mornings with games on Wednesday afternoons. This is what dedicated sportsmanship is all about!

For the active senior lady who prefers to dribble over spike, the Colorado Columbine, Golden’s award-winning senior ladies basketball team, practices year-round, playing and winning national competitions. No experience or skill is necessary to join. The senior ladies meet every week to play 3-on-3 half-court basketball. Peruse the permanent display of newspaper articles and team trophies next to the Eighth Street entrance of the Community Center.

For those seniors with sports aspirations that are less team-oriented, the weekly cycling group meets Thursday mornings in various locations throughout the Front Range and the metro area’s bike paths. The cycling group pedals out approximately 20 miles a day for fitness and camaraderie.

For more information on Golden Community Center 50+ programs, or to sign up to join a class or team, call 303-384-8130 or email Shelley Davis at sdavis@cityofgolden.net.
Community Center Remodel Update

As you may know, an exciting expansion and renovation project is underway at the Golden Community Center. The project includes renovation of the preschool area, game room, front desk, locker rooms, climbing wall and fitness area, as well as square footage being added to a number of areas. While the Parks and Recreation staff is making every effort to continue providing service throughout construction, there will be times when certain amenities of the Center are not available for use. Weekly updates on construction are being provided online at www.cityofgolden.net/projects.asp and are posted at the Community Center.

The swimming area and locker rooms are scheduled to reopen in mid-October, complete with new tile floors and walls, countertops, lockers and benches. The women’s locker room will now have privacy showers and the family locker room will be slightly expanded.

Any major renovation project brings inconvenience. The City thanks customers for their patience and understanding throughout this project as we all look forward to a beautiful, new facility at the completion of the project.

If you have questions or concerns, call the Golden Community Center at 303-384-8100.

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Golden Community Center activities calendar

Easy Yoga for 50+
This class is now available and included in the annual membership, drop in, punch card or admission fee. All Silver Sneakers are also welcome! This class is designed for the older adult who wishes to improve their general health and well-being through stretching and balancing exercises. In class we will use the chair and wall, as well as do some mat work, to help build strength, increase mobility and improve lifestyle.

Mondays 11-11:55 a.m. with Diane Wright
Wednesdays 11-11:55 a.m. with Debbie Van Dyke

Evening Meditation
Meditation is the art of taking yourself in by learning to focus and listen to your inner self. Meditation and deep breathing are excellent stress reducers. Regular practice helps lower blood pressure, increase immunity and good health. In this class you will learn various techniques which will enable you to relax, focus, enrich and balance your life.

Tuesdays 7:15-8:15 p.m. with Loralei Matisse

Cardio Dance
Try the latest high energy workout sensation! Build your strength and increase your endurance in this fun, full body workout. Learn various dance moves including hip hop, funk and jazz through constant low impact aerobics. Great for all levels of fitness - dancers and non-dancers - who want to learn something different!

Thursdays 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. beginning Oct. 5
Instructor: Jill Aucoin

Pilates Level 2
Intro to Pilates (or previous Pilates training) required before beginning this class. We will build on what you have learned so far, and increase your pilates practice. Based upon the original 500+ exercises of Contrology, Pilates is designed to stretch, strengthen and balance the body. With systematic practice of specific exercises coupled with focused breathing patterns, you will gain greater strength, leaner muscles, and increased muscle awareness.

Thursdays 7:30 - 8:15 p.m. beginning Oct. 5
Instructor: Jill Aucoin

To sign up for these or other classes, call the Golden Community Center at 303-384-8100 or visit www.goldenrec.net.
A Venue With a View

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY TODAY!
Located at the base of the foothills, the Golden Community Center is perfect for weddings, parties and other events. Bring in your own caterer or we will provide a list of reputable caterers.

Contact Larry Rock at 303-384-8133 for space availability, facility tours and rates