City of Wheat Ridge

Connections

A publication from the City of Wheat Ridge Issue 45 Winter/Spring 2013

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7500 W. 29th Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

Many areas along the Greenbelt need additional planting to prevent erosion of the river and creek banks. The *Revive the Greenbelt!* Project will restore and revitalize the Clear Creek habitat.

Revive the Greenbelt!

Revive the Greenbelt! is an urban forestry project, a brainchild of the Institute for Environmental Solutions (IES), and a collaborative community effort with the City and other project partners to restore and revitalize the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, a jewel in the community where residents come to enjoy nature and engage in recreational opportunities.

The community forestry project will use scientific analysis and strategic tree selection, planting, and maintenance to restore and revitalize the Clear Creek waterway in the Greenbelt, following similar urban forestry projects recently completed by IES in Golden and Broomfield. The ultimate goal is to reduce air pollution, improve storm water management, increase energy conservation efforts, mitigate climate change, and improve water quality. These environmental benefits lead to improved community health and invigorated local economies.

Trees along the riverbank also provide homes for birds and other wildlife. The shade provided by trees helps to regulate water temperatures for fish and water-bound plants. Trees prevent riverbanks from eroding, improve the chemical balance of the water and provide important nutrients for fish through their fallen leaves.

The project site is located in the heart of the City along the banks of Clear Creek just south of Prospect Park in the Greenbelt Conservation Area. The site presents multiple environmental challenges including invasive species, degraded waterways, tree loss from the 2009 hailstorm, low tree survival, and threatened habitat of a native orchid species.

Community Support Needed!

This project's success relies on the participation of community members to plant and maintain the trees. Tree planting for *Revive the Greenbelt!* will take place on April 27, 2013 and coincide with the City of Wheat Ridge's Arbor Day celebration at Prospect Park. (see right)

In addition to the planting day activities IES is organizing a community outreach advisory committee, Wheat Ridge Tree Standards Program, for the project. Volunteer tree stewards will be responsible for watering and monitoring the health of the planted trees for three years to make sure they have a chance to establish roots and thrive. The Tree Stewards program is an excellent opportunity for volunteer groups to get outside and enjoy nature, learn about urban forestry, and contribute to the environmental health of their community. Volunteers will receive special training and support, and will be asked to commit to caring for a small number of trees.

Revive the Greenbelt! is supported by generous grants from Xcel Energy, Colorado State Forest Service Urban Waters Partnership, Colorado Tree Coalition, and Wells Fargo. Support is also being provided by Denver Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and Confluent Design. Sponsorship opportunities are available for Wheat Ridge and Jefferson County businesses and residents to contribute to this vital effort. To register to volunteer or to learn more about the project, contact Michael Haney (mhaney@i4es.org) or visit *i4es.org*.

Wheat Ridge Arbor Day Celebration April 27th

Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation will be hosting its annual Arbor Day celebration on April 27, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Prospect Park, West 44th Avenue and Robb Street. This year's celebration will serve as the kick off for *Revive the Greenbelt!*

One hundred new trees and shrubs will be planted to launch the project and honor the City's 33rd year as a Tree City USA. Informational stations will be available for people to learn more about various environmental issues.

People interested in planting trees and shrubs during the Arbor Day celebration are asked to register in advance with Michael Haney at mhaney@i4es.org.

For questions about the Arbor Day celebration, contact Margaret Paget at 303-205-7554 or mpaget@ci.wheatridge.co.us

Mayor DiTullio's Corner

Being a Good Neighbor Means Protecting Neighborhoods and Property Values

Did you know there is an actual day of each year devoted to reminding people to be a good neighbor? It seems simple, but with all the demands of daily life, sometimes being a good neighbor can fall off the to-do list. I have heard from you, my citizens, that you desire and expect peaceful and safe neighborhoods in the City. We all expect neighborly behavior from our residents, businesses and property owners especially when it has to do with keeping our properties in good condition.

The City of Wheat Ridge Municipal Nuisance Code is intended to benefit everyone while making our neighborhoods safe, strong and attractive. The Nuisance Code is a collection of local laws approved by City Council and enforced by the Community Services Team, a unit of non-sworn staff committed to enforcing safe, healthy and attractive living conditions for all residents of the City.

Compliance with Code can reduce vandalism, deter crime, maintain property values and prevent deterioration of your neighborhood and the City overall. I believe that being a good neighbor involves taking care of your property. I, along with some members of the City Council, have taken a proactive approach to the education of citizens regarding enforcement. In partnership with the Police Department, we are supporting:

- Families to feel safe and secure in any place in the City
- People to move to and live in the City for the sense of community values
- The City to be attractive and clean
- Homes to be well-maintained and attractive

In 2012, the Community Services Team responded to 3,000 calls for service and 160 administrative citations were issued.

In the City, the Top 10 Code Violations are:

- Tall grass and weeds
- Inoperable vehicles
- Outside storage of junk
- Graffiti
- Illegal dumping
- Deteriorating residences and buildings
- Outside storage
- Littering
- Garage sales without a permit (permits are free at City Hall)
- Residential parking

As your Mayor and as your neighbor, some of you have contacted me about issues in your neighborhood and asked me to contact the police or code enforcement on your behalf because you wished to remain anonymous or to avoid retribution by the offending party. I have experienced first-hand, as a residential property owner in the City for 30 years, the positive results of working with your neighbors and the Police Department in resolving neighborhood code enforcement issues. In my neighborhood, we have seen the negative impact of: chronic barking dogs, incidents of disturbing the peace, graffiti, speeding vehicles, excessive weeds, trash and junk complaints. The Community Services Team uses a proactive approach in providing property owners with a warning/education in working to gain compliance with the code within 10 days.

It is rare, but when necessary, Jefferson County Mediation Services is available to work with property owners to resolve code enforcement disputes between neighbors. I have taken part in this mediation service to correct some issues in my neighborhood. This is a free service which allows parties (two neighbors for example) to meet with a professional facilitator. The parties and the facilitator are able to discuss the issues in a neutral setting and will hopefully come together to find a solution. For more information about this program, please contact me (303-235-2800) or the Wheat Ridge Police Department.

For example, in reviewing documentation provided by the Wheat Ridge Police Department's Records Management System, calls for service data in my neighborhood alone focusing on the 3200-3300 block of Lamar, Marshall, Newland and Otis Streets from January 1, 2009 to March 21, 2012, indicated 75 calls for service consisting mostly of chronic barking dogs, disturbing the peace, graffiti, speeding vehicles, excessive weeds, trash and junk complaints.

Of the 75 calls for service, I was the reporting party in 16 calls on my behalf or on the behalf of other neighbors. In 54 of the 75 calls for service, warnings were given and in only 3 cases, citations were issued to the property owners. I believe the limited number of citations can be attributed to the success of the warning/educational approach our Community Services Team uses in working with property owners to gain compliance with the code.

Again, elected officials often receive concerns from citizens related to code enforcement issues. I believe that it is important in my role as Mayor to educate and reinforce the importance of proactive code enforcement in moving the City's revitalization efforts forward. When I travel throughout the community on a daily basis, I am proud and excited to see the positive changes taking place. Both businesses and residential property owners are investing in the City through property upgrades.

I ask you to be a good neighbor. Let's work together to keep our neighborhoods safe, peaceful and attractive. Meet and talk with your neighbors and work together to solve problems. If you see trash in your neighborhood or on your property please pick it up. If you have a neighbor who is a senior, ask them if they need help with anything. It's the neighborly thing to do!

As always, if you have an emergency please dial 911. In the case of a code enforcement complaint, please call the Police Department non-emergency number at 303-237-2220. Please feel free to contact me at City Hall at 303-235-2800 with questions or comments.

Tips for Being a Good Neighbor

- **Maintain your home or property.** Know and keep your property within the standards in the Nuisance Code. This will keep your home safe as well as attractive.
- **Lend a Hand.** Many people in our community could use a little help here and there. Taking a few minutes to help your neighbor will build goodwill and encourage others to do the same.
- **Get to know your neighbors.** Do this BEFORE there is a disagreement and it can help resolve disputes easily.
- **Be seen, but not heard.** Not everyone keeps the same schedule, so keep loud noises to a minimum.
- **Keep your eyes open.** Alert authorities if you notice unusual or unsafe behavior.
- **Volunteer in your community.** Everyone that lives in Wheat Ridge has the ability to make our community a better place.

Working Together for Wheat Ridge

In speaking with Guy Nahmiach, Chair of the Parks Commission, we believe we have found a compromise regarding a ban on outdoor smoking in the parks, playgrounds and the Greenbelt. Instead of implementing a new law that would be enforced by the Police Department and result in a criminal penalty, we feel a more prudent path would be the creation of a new park rule to address smoking in City parks.

The Parks Commission has recommended a new park rule which would ban outdoor smoking in parks. City Council would need to ratify the new rule via resolution for it to take effect. The rule would not be enforced in the courts via a citation, fines or jail sentence since it is a rule and not a law in the code book. In essence, it accomplishes what I recommended which is "No Smoking" signs in the parks.

While I think banning smoking outdoors is a slippery slope for more draconian laws on businesses and other public places, I am willing to support this new park rule. I will encourage Council to ratify it and I would vote for it on a 4-4 tie of Council. The Parks Department would erect "No Smoking" signs in the parks once approved by Council.

I am willing to compromise and to demonstrate that I am a reasonable person. As I stated previously, the outdoor smoking bans proposed by Breathe Easy Wheat Ridge will not have my support.

New board and Commission members

I would like to thank the six new board and commission members as well as those current members that were recently re-appointed. Your commitment and dedication to your community is appreciated and does not go unnoticed. We still have district four vacancies for the Cultural Commission and Liquor Licensing Authority. If you are interested in applying please contact the City Clerk's office at 303-235-2816.

Metro Mayors Caucus Annual Retreat

In January I hosted the Metro Mayor's Caucus Retreat. This was the first time the retreat had been hosted at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center. The Metro Mayors Caucus is a voluntary and collaborative regional organization comprised of mayors from throughout the Denver metropolitan area.

Thirty-eight area mayors attended the retreat this year, as well as representatives from the Colorado Municipal League and Denver Regional Council of Governments. It is always a pleasure to showcase our Recreation Center and our City.

City Council

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Brownfields Assessment Grant Funds Available

In June of 2012 the City was awarded a $400,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of the grant program is to help assess and revitalize brownfield sites which are generally abandoned or underused industrial and commercial properties/ facilities that are available for reuse.

The focus for use of the funds is economic development opportunities along Wadsworth; however, these funds can also be used for private property throughout the City. The City can provide grant funds for Phase I and Phase II assessments with no funding required from property owners. A Phase I assessment involves investigation of current and historical land uses on a site through research of public records. If the records search indicates there is or could have been a land use with the potential to have left contamination in soil or groundwater (gas stations, auto shops, dry cleaners, greenhouses and other industrial uses), a Phase II assessment is then conducted. Phase II involves drilling or boring on the site to determine if contamination is present, to what degree and where. If environmental contamination is present, funds can then be used to prepare clean-up plans for the site. These funds cannot be used to perform any needed clean-up or remediation although the City hopes to receive additional grant funds in the future that could assist with the actual clean-up of properties.

The City will be conducting an informational public meeting this spring to provide information about the grant. The target group for this meeting will be property owners along Wadsworth but anyone who might be interested in utilizing the brownfields funds is welcome to attend. Grant funds are limited and will be used on a first come first served basis. For more information, contact Sally Payne, Senior Planner, Community Development Department at 303-235-2852 or spayne@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

Exempla Lutheran Receives Award

Exempla Lutheran Medical Center announced that it has received the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™. The distinction places Lutheran among the top five percent of more than 4,500 hospitals nationwide for its overall clinical performance as measured by Healthgrades, Inc.

The ratings are based on data collected between 2009 and 2011, and reported by hospitals to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and state agencies. The data was measured by objective clinical outcomes across 19 of 27 of the most common conditions and procedures.

Lutheran has implemented several quality initiatives, including programs that focus on the special needs of the growing elderly population and prevent avoidable readmission to the hospital, especially among heart patients.

In addition to the overall award for clinical excellence, Lutheran also received several other quality awards and five-star ratings from Healthgrades, including five Excellence Awards for critical care, stroke care, pulmonary care, emergency medicine and gynecological surgery.

For more information visit *www.exempla.org* or contact Sarah Ellis at 303.425.4500

Revamped Civic Academy Coming this Fall

The City of Wheat Ridge will host its annual Civic Academy again this fall. The goal of the program is to introduce Wheat Ridge citizens to the City's organization - how it works and how it impacts your neighborhood. The focus of this year's Academy will be on the "results" the City departments are collaboratively working to achieve; how these efforts affect the community and how residents can be involved. The Academy also provides participants a great opportunity to meet other interested residents, City staff and elected officials. If you are interested in attending Civic Academy please contact Nathan Mosley, Management Analyst, at 303-235-2867 or nmosley@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

CITY MANAGER'S Column

Creating A Strong and Healthy Economy In Wheat Ridge

City Manager Patrick Goff

Economic development might best be described as sustained, concerted actions to improve the standard of living and economic health of a City; and it can be a very challenging endeavor. Why is it so difficult? Many obstacles exist today in Wheat Ridge that work against a strong and healthy local economy, some of which are out of the city's control. Regional competition, the national economy, local demographics, and politics can all be seen as major hurdles to local economic development programs. Local government land use regulations and restrictions can also have a major impact on the type and quality of development in a city.

The City of Wheat Ridge is unique in Colorado in that its city charter imposes building height and density limitations. Building height is limited to 35 feet for residential and 50 feet for commercial, and densities are limited to 21 units per acre of land. There is no flexibility with these restrictions because they are included in the city charter, which is similar to the state or federal constitution. Any change to the city charter requires a vote of the citizens of Wheat Ridge. Around us we have seen the revitalization of Downtown Golden, Olde Town Arvada, the Highlands and the creation of Belmar. While Wheat Ridge is starting to build its own momentum, the charter restriction continues to prevent significant investment from occurring in our community.

These height and density limitations represent one of the most critical bottlenecks to smart growth and a strong local economy. When commercial or residential developers approach Wheat Ridge and are told these limitations exist, it usually does not take them long to pack up their bags and look elsewhere. The simple fact is that these limitations make many redevelopment projects in Wheat Ridge economically unfeasible. Projects in Wheat Ridge do not "pencil-out" for developers – the cost of development exceeds the return on investment.

Under the existing city charter, citizens really have no voice in the height and density of what is developed in the community; but by removing these limitations from the charter, citizens will be able to participate through the zoning code processes.

In 2009, a vote of the people removed these city charter restrictions along parts of the Wadsworth, Kipling and I-70 corridors. Because of this change, we have seen some of the first new construction in a long time with the building of the Wheat Ridge Town Center Apartments, a four-story building with 88 quality apartments for seniors. Hopefully this is just the beginning of attracting investment and revitalization to our community.

Nodes of more intense development can help achieve local economic development goals, provide housing options, create walkable neighborhoods, and protect air, water and open space. This balance helps create a sense of place – a place to walk, a place to talk to neighbors, a place to know the children are safe to walk to school.

Height and density limitations still exist in the city charter for some areas of the City. As community conversations continue on this issue I encourage you to reevaluate the effects of limiting height and density in the city charter – ask questions and get involved. You have a voice and you can help Wheat Ridge become a vibrant, strong and sustainable community.

In Memorium

The City would like to remember and recognize Enos "Dean" Gokey for his dedicated years of service to the City of Wheat Ridge. Dean was a former Council member (2001-2009), member of the Planning Commission (1997-2001) and also served on the Urban Renewal Board.

Dean was a master craftsman who worked in residential construction and remodeling, and lived in Wheat Ridge community for more than 22 years. He passed away on February 27th at age 65. He was an active member of the community and will be missed.

Jefferson County Crown Hill Project

The trail work at Crown Hill Park is now complete. Other improvements, including restroom and fitness station replacement, a shade structure and nature play areas are on hold, pending additional citizen input.

"We asked citizens for input on these amenities over the past several years through a park visitor survey, an Open House and three-week public comment period last May. When we started to perform the trail work a number of citizens contacted us with concerns. Since these amenities are for our visitors we want to be certain that what we do is what most folk's desire," said Tom Hoby, Director of Parks for Jefferson County.

In order to gather additional citizen input, Jefferson County Open Space conducted additional meetings last month. Results of those meetings will be posted on the Jefferson County website at *www.co.jefferson.co.us/openspace/openspace_T56_R7.htm.*

Renewal Wheat Ridge Has a Busy Year Ahead!

Renewal Wheat Ridge (RWR), the Urban Renewal Authority for the City, has elected Kristi Davis as its chairperson and Walt Pettit as vice Chair of the Board for this year. Davis and Pettit will lead the board through the implementation of the following redevelopment project areas.

- Continued development of the Town Center North project at the southeast corner of Wadsworth and 44th
- Reviewing a public/private partnership on construction of a new housing complex along 38th Avenue.
- The anticipated development of the old Go Ford parcels at Wadsworth and 38th Avenue

Other board members include James Bahrenberg, Jessie Hill, Janet Leo, and the newest member, Shane Nicholson. RWR meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month as needed. There is currently one vacancy on the board in District III. To learn more about RWR or to apply for the vacant position, log on to the city's website at *www.ci.wheatridge.co.us* or contact Steve Art sart@ci.wheatridge.co.us

Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation

Athletics/Sports

RUGBY CLINIC FOR YOUTH!

Ages 5-15 years
Girls and Boys

Equipment Included!

Young rugby enthusiasts will learn the baics of the game in a safe and supportive atmosphere, including positioning, game strategy, and terminology.

Mondays/Wednesdays
April 15-May 1
5:30-6:30 p.m., Discovery Park, 3700 Kipling St.

Cost: $25 Wheat Ridge residents
$30 Non-residents

City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation
4005 Kipling St.

Registration:
303-231-1300
www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/registration

NW Subarea Plan Update

The City is working on an update to the Northwest Subarea Plan, adopted in 2006. The plan establishes a vision for future development around RTD's Ward Road commuter rail station at approximately 50th Place and Ward Road. Part of the FasTracks project, the station will be constructed by RTD as the end-of-line station. Construction is already underway and RTD predicts that the commuter rail will be complete and operational by 2016.

The 2006 Plan called for a long-term vision to transform the area around the transit station into a pedestrian-friendly, mixed use district with an urban form. Redevelopment in the area, which would be privately developed, would include building new streets to better connect the station to the surrounding area. The update that is being considered in 2013 will not alter the main vision or basic structure of the plan. Rather, it will focus on incorporating important accomplishments and milestones that have occurred since the plan's adoption, including:

- RTD's completion of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and station design
- The City's adoption of major plans including Envision Wheat Ridge (2009) and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2010)
- The creation of an urban renewal area, in 2009, that includes the Northwest Subarea and allows for higher density development in that area.

Other updates include potential changes to the future land use map, such as expanding the area envisioned for mixed use transit-oriented development, and formalized bicycle and pedestrian connections to the station. A public meeting was held in February to receive comments on the proposed update. Another meeting will occur in the spring, with public adoption by Planning Commission and City Council anticipated for summer of 2013.

For updates on the project, visit the City's webpage: *www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/NWSubarea* or contact Community Development Director Ken Johnstone at 303-235-2844. To learn more about the Gold Line, visit *www.rtd-fastracks.com/gl_1*.

FasTracks Update

Denver Transit Partners (DTP), the Regional Transportation District (RTD) concessionaire for the Gold Line, Northwest Rail Line (Westminster Segment) and the East Rail Line, will be increasing construction activity this year as project design reaches 98% completion. Construction is 16% complete from Wheat Ridge to Denver International Airport.

When completed in 2016, the RTD FasTracks Gold Line will be an 11.2-mile electric commuter rail line that will connect Denver Union Station to Wheat Ridge. There will be eight stations on the Gold Line: Denver Union Station, 41st and Fox, Pecos, Federal, Sheridan, Olde Town Arvada, Arvada Ridge and Ward Road.

The Gold Line is part of the $2.2 billion, 36-mile commuter rail project called Eagle P3, a public- private partnership that includes federal grant funding of $1.03 billion and $450 million in private financing from DTP in addition to RTD's local funding.

A neighboring spur, the West Line Rail, will bring 12.1 miles of light rail and will connect Denver, Lakewood, and Golden. The West Rail opens on Friday, April 26th. There will be a grand opening ceremony on April 26th at the Jefferson County Government Center, and station parties on Saturday, April 27. For a full schedule, visit *www.rtd-denver.com*.

If you have any questions about the Gold Line, contact Christina Zazueta, at 303-576-3352 or christina.zazueta@dtpjv.com.

New Plow in Town

There's a new snow plow in town! In January a new tandem dump truck was delivered to the City and outfitted to effectively perform various City services, in particular snow and ice removal. This truck replaces a high-mileage, obsolete snow plow truck which will be retired after more than 14 years of service. Joining a fleet of five other snow plows, this new truck represents the latest in snow plowing equipment and chemical application technology. The new truck will enhance the City's environmentally-safe snow and ice removal operations and improve the reliability of the fleet during snow storm emergencies.

Update: City Roadway Maintenance Projects

Funding for preventive maintenance projects, which includes asphalt overlay, slurry and crack sealing and street resurfacing, was approved through the 2013 Capital Improvement Program Budget in the amount of $1,600,000.

The street resurfacing project was developed to provide necessary maintenance treatments to a number of streets selected and prioritized in accordance with the citywide maintenance plan. The streets selected this year are:

- 41st Avenue from Fenton Street to Sheridan Boulevard
- Otis Street from 38th Avenue to 44th Avenue
- Jay Street from 29th Avenue to 35th Avenue

A number of local streets and alleys will also be included, by priority. The project also includes concrete and handicap ramp replacement on streets being resurfaced, striping maintenance of high volume streets by priority, and spot pavement patching citywide. Implementation of this project will extend the useful life of the streets from seven to fifteen years. This project will go out to bid in the spring.

The slurry seal project will provide the needed maintenance treatment to 33rd Avenue, Teller Street to Sheridan Boulevard and various local streets throughout the City. This treatment will reduce water infiltration under pavement and extend the life of these streets. This project has already gone out for bid and construction will start this spring.

For more information on these and other Capital Improvement Projects, please visit the City's website at *www.ci.wheatridge.co.us* or call Public Works at 303-235-2861.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE TRAFFIC ALERTS

Road construction projects are underway—32nd Avenue Widening Project, Gold Line/RTD FasTracks Project and 2013 Street Maintenance Projects. This could mean possible lane or road closures or possible delays.

To help you prepare for your travels, the City of Wheat Ridge offers you the following tool. Notify Me is a communication service that delivers information to you. You can get information such as Traffic Alerts from the City of Wheat Ridge. All you need is a valid email address. Once signed up, you can choose to receive alerts via email and/or phone.

Visit the City's website at *www.ci.wheatridge.co.us*
and sign up for free email and text message alerts through NOTIFY ME.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT in Wheat Ridge

Kudos to Able Planet and Rocky Mountain Bottling Company!

Two Wheat Ridge Businesses were honored by the Jefferson County Economic Development Council (Jeffco EDC) at its annual Industry Appreciation Awards Ceremony on March 21.

Kevin Semcken and the employees of Able Planet received the Innovative Technology Award for their work in the hearing aid field. The company won the 2012 Best of What's New Award from Popular Science magazine for its award-winning Personal Sound™ Amplifier. Earlier in the year at the Consumer Electronics Show, Popular Science magazine awarded the device Product of the Future.

As an expert in audiology and speech language sciences, Able Planet was founded on a hearing technology that enables people with profound hearing loss to distinguish hard-to-hear sounds that enhance sound quality, clarity and speech intelligibility. And, while the company continues to focus on the design and development of products that enable hearing ability, it is equally invested in technologies that help preserve hearing.

Rocky Mountain Bottling Company CEO Bill Dillaman accepted a Business Recognition Award. from Jeffco EDC for a large capital investment in equipment. Rocky Mountain Bottling produces longneck and Pelforth bottles for the Coors plant in Golden. The bottling company has been in operation in Wheat Ridge since 1970 and employs more than 200 people at their plant on 50th Avenue north of I-70.

As one of the largest users of recycled glass, Rocky Mountain bottling is also noted for their work with public and local organizations on ways to increase recycling in the community. One of the most innovate plans to come from their outreach efforts was Veterans Gone Green: A Glass Recycling Company. They employ veterans to collect recyclable glass, known as cullet, which Rocky Mountain can turn into new amber and clear glass bottles. For each ton of recycled glass they receive, more than a ton of natural resources are preserved.

The City of Wheat Ridge congratulates both companies on their awards. For more information about starting a business in Wheat Ridge, contact Steve Art at 303-235-2806.

Growth and Progress!

Tommy's Slalom Shop moves to Wheat Ridge in April

King Soopers remodel to be completed early this summer.

Colorado Plus, the City's first brew pub to open in the spring

King Soopers on the northwest corner of Sheridan Boulevard and 38th Ave., is working in partnership with the owners of Ridge Village Shopping Center on an interior and exterior remodeling and upgrade to the existing center.

The store was built in 1982 and first remodeled in 1995. This remodel will include interior changes to accommodate the expansions and additions of the meat and seafood section, dairy and organic produce and products, deli offerings, health and beauty, floral and baby departments and a coffee shop. The improvements will also add a new façade to their building creating a friendlier pedestrian mall and entrance feature, and should be completed in the early summer of this year

Colorado Plus will open the City's first brew pub later this spring. Located at 6995 W. 38th Ave., in the former Valenti's restaurant site, the 44-year-old structure is currently undergoing major improvements to the plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems. Design improvements will include glass roll up garage doors opening to an outdoor patio. The interior is being designed by Lakota Skye, and will feature an industrial look with open ceilings and exposed I-beams. A 17-foot bar will feature native rocks and lumber.

Tommy's Slalom Shop, the area leader in water sports equipment, competition towboats, and gear, is moving from the western edge of Denver to a new location off I-70 and Ward Road in Wheat Ridge. The new facility will offer a wide variety of wakeboards, wake surf equipment, water skis, apparel, Malibu and Axis boats. They also offer full service on tournament style ski and wakeboard boats.

Tommy's is one of the largest and oldest wakeboard and waterski shops around. They were founded by Tommy Phillips after selling one waterski out of the back of his 1967 Chevy pickup truck in 1981. Tommy's was purchased last October by Matt Borisch. "We have been looking at the Wheat Ridge area for quite a while and this site will be perfect for our expansion plans," said Matt. "The new facility will give us more room to offer a larger variety of products, but more importantly, the new location is more conducive to serving our customers, which is our number one priority."

The new location will be at 12900 W. 43rd Avenue, the site of the former Steve Casey RV lot. The new Tommy's will hold grand opening celebrations on April 5th from 10 am to 10 pm, and April 6th from 9 am to 5 pm. The public is invited. For more information, contact Tommy's Slalom Shop at 303-455-3091.

More than 44 reasons…

Swiss Flower and Gift Cottage owner Heidi Haas-Sheard noticed two years ago that 44th Avenue was never mentioned in any marketing material. It was then that Haas-Sheard decided to take matters into her own hands and promote the diverse and history-laden businesses along this four-mile strip.

Haas-Sheard wanted everyone to know that there are more than 44 reasons to shop 44th. "I took it upon myself to come up with a simple and cost effective way to promote all of the businesses on 44th," said Haas-Sheard. She designed and distributed her Shop 44th postcards to businesses with the goal of educating shoppers about the many businesses that continue to thrive on 44th. The postcard features a map of 44th from Ward Road to Harlan Street. It gives a quick reference to surrounding businesses and drives them to the shop44th.com website where they can learn more about the individual businesses.

"I look for every opportunity I can to promote a whole range of business opportunities," says Steve Art, the City's Economic Development Manager. "Heidi's done a superb job of creating a whole new brand for 44th Avenue and I'm glad we can partner with her on this endeavor."

The City reimbursed Haas-Sheard for the postcards and a portion of the website development. The City also created the 'Shop44th.com' signs on all of the bus shelters along 44th Avenue to promote the corridor.

To learn more about the business community along 44th Avenue, log onto www.shop44th.com. For more information contact Steve Art at 303-235-2806 or Heidi Haas-Sheard at 303-424-7421.

Home Health Care in Wheat Ridge

By 2030 Colorado's population of 65 and over will be 150% larger than in 2010, swelling from 540,000 to 1,350,000. While Colorado's overall demographics are younger than the nation as a whole, Jefferson County and Wheat Ridge have a higher percentage of residents 65+ compared to the nation.

In addition to the dramatic increases in the aging population there has been a shift to home-based care that allows individuals to age in the comfort of their homes. As the need for home-based care increases throughout the region, Wheat Ridge is proud to have two businesses providing this needed service.

Home Instead Senior Care opened their Wheat Ridge offices in September 1999 and has been located on 44th Avenue near Harlan Street since 2010. Owned by Ann and Doug Allen, Home Instead Senior Care was created to help seniors remain safely in the comfort of home and to provide support to the family and friends. Home Instead Senior Care addresses its clients concerns by providing non-medical services such as companionship, help with groceries and errands, medication reminders, household chores, personal care and transportation. For more information on Home Instead Senior Care call 303-463-1900.

FirstLight HomeCare, a provider of quality, affordable, non-medical in-home care for adults just opened their doors in Wheat Ridge in November 2012. Owned by Amanda and Chris Koch who relocated to Denver from California, FirstLight HomeCare is customized for seniors, new mothers, adults with disabilities and those recovering from illness, injury or surgery. With more than 80 years of collective senior care experience, this franchise is an emerging market leader in a fast-growing industry. For more information on FirstLight HomeCare call 303-953-9575.

Jefferson County Historical Commission and the City of Wheat Ridge wishes to invite you to the

Tenth Annual

Historic Preservation Symposium

Active Adult Center, City of Wheat Ridge.

Theme: "What is Old is New. Embracing Our Agricultural Past While Shaping a Sustainable Future"

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 4, 2013

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Active Adult Center

6363 W. 35th Avenue, City of Wheat Ridge

For additional information contact Dennis Dempsey at:

303-271-8734 or ddempsey@jeffco.us

http://historicjeffco.wordpress.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

WHEAT RIDGE Carnation FESTIVAL SINCE 1969

The **44th Annual Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival** returns to Anderson Park on

August 16th and 17th

Returning again as the main attraction is the **Zoppe' Italian Family Circus**, with 13 public performances during its 10-day run. The Circus will be accompanied by the traditional Carnation Festival activities, food, vendors, carnival rides, live music, and fireworks.

Zoppé AN ITALIAN FAMILY CIRCUS

August 16th through 25th.

Mark your calendar now to join in the fun with Nino the Clown and friends. Book your family reunion, company picnic or group event now to receive the discount tickets. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more info, contact Gina at 303-726-6111 or *getconnected events.com*

For vendor or volunteer opportunities, visit *www.thecarnationfestival.com*. Circus tickets go on sale June 1st.

Cleaning Up Stormwater Pollution

Residential and commercial property cleaning and maintenance activities can be a great way to remove pollution (spilled oils, food debris, sediment, etc.) before it is washed into our creeks, gulches and lakes during the next rainstorm. Although individual activities may appear insignificant, combined runoff from residential and urban areas is a leading cause of water pollution in our rivers and lakes.

Spray or pressure washing of vehicles and equipment, building exteriors, dumpster areas, parking lots, driveways and parking areas can deliver pollutants such as heavy metals, oil and grease, and toxic chemicals directly to storm drains which lead directly to waterways. Remember that anything sent to the curb washes into the City storm drain system, which is not treated or cleaned to remove pollutants. Our storm drain systems flow directly to Clear Creek, Lena Gulch, Rocky Mountain Ditch and many of the small ponds and lakes within the City's boundaries.

Wash water, which is laden with detergents, cleaning compounds and soap (even biodegradable soap), is a major culprit and should not be discharged to the curb. A good way to avoid sending these pollutants to our waterways is to wash your car on a lawn or a grassy area. Additional techniques to reduce stormwater pollutants include:

- Keep your property clean! Trash, soil and other debris is the first to get washed off in a storm.
- Sweep & use a dustpan instead of spraying.
- If you have to use a sprayer or hose, minimize the overall amount of water used for cleaning (e.g., high-pressure washing).
- Take your car to a commercial car wash or wash your car on your lawn instead of washing it in your driveway.
- When your pet makes a deposit, turn a baggie inside out over your hand and use like a glove to pick up the waste and then drop it in the trash.
- Do not pour oil or other liquid wastes onto the ground or into storm drains.
- Drop off used motor oil at the City of Wheat Ridge for recycling. There is no charge for Wheat Ridge residents.
- Drop off leftover solvents and detergents and other hazardous materials at Rooney Road Recycling Center. Call 303-316-6262 for an appointment.

Stormwater pollution comes from many sources, and its control is everyone's responsibility. For more information, or to report an illicit discharge, please contact the Public Works Department, 303-235-2871, or stormwater@ci.wheatridge.co.us

City Working to Diversify Housing Stock

A goal in the City Council's 2012 Strategic Plan is to address and meet anticipated housing needs in the coming years. U.S. Census Bureau data shows that Generation Y, born between 1977 and 1994, is the largest segment of the U. S. population. Baby Boomers, born between 1946 and 1966 are the second largest. Together Generation Y and the Baby Boomers represent 50% of the total U.S. population, and set the standards for desirable housing trends.

Studies from the Urban Land Institute indicate both Generation Y and the Baby Boomers prefer living in more walkable, transit-oriented developments in or near urban locations. They also prefer to rent rather than own their homes.

Given these trends, the current Wheat Ridge housing stock will not meet the needs of the anticipated demand. Wheat Ridge primarily developed in the 1950s and 1960s, and some of the housing is outdated and in need of revitalization. In addition, diversity is lacking in the housing options with few choices for newer, quality, rental units or more high-end single family homes. The City's proximity to downtown Denver can be considered a close-in urban location. The unique character and small-town charm of the City are assets to be maximized and marketed to attract new families and households.

The purpose of the Housing Diversification Strategy (HDS) plan is to provide strategies on how to better position the City to capture its share of the market by providing housing options and community amenities. The City intends to contract with a firm with housing expertise to pull together data, trends and recommendations. Information about the HDS will be provided via the City's website and in future issues of the Connections as work progresses. For more information or to provide input, contact Sally Payne, Senior Planner, at 303-235-2852 or spayne@ci.wheatridge.co.us

Live in a Floodplain? Have Flood Insurance?

FLOOD INSURANCE

There are more than 505 acres of property located in the 100-year floodplain within the City of Wheat Ridge. Only about 50% is managed by the City, and the other half is privately owned property, most of which is residential.

Residents with homes located in floodplains are 27 times more likely to have a flood during their 30-year mortgage than they are to have a fire. While fire damage is typically covered, losses due to flooding are not covered under most homeowner insurance policies.

The National Flood Insurance Program makes federally guaranteed flood insurance available to property owners in communities that adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. Because Wheat Ridge participates in this program, it has been able to reduce insurance rates. Flood insurance policies are sold through licensed insurance agents and companies and require a 30-day waiting period for coverage to take effect.

DEVELOPMENT IN A FLOODPLAIN

If you have property in the 100-year floodplain, be aware that any development requires a special exception permit. A permit is required for the construction of new structures, house additions, fences, storage sheds and the placement of fill.

For additional information about construction in the floodplain, or to determine the floodplain status of your property, contact the Wheat Ridge Community Development Department at 303-235-2846. Property owners can direct requests or concerns about flooding or drainage problems to the City Engineering Division at 303-235-2861.

More information about flood insurance can be found at *www.floodsmart.gov*, the official website of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Measuring Up

City maintenance supervisor Mike Ferrell weighs recycled materials, to set a baseline for recycling efforts at the City. The new employee Sustainability Committee will be leading the way in implementing additional recycling measures throughout the City facilities.

Wheat Ridge Building Division

News Flash

The Building Division has a 2013 goal of adopting the latest versions of the National Electrical Code and the International (building) Codes. The code versions proposed for adoption are the 2011 National Electrical Code and the 2012 versions of the International Codes. Adoption of these versions of the codes will help ensure that the City is using the most up to date codes and also help align the City's codes with those of neighboring jurisdictions. The division met with contractors to discuss the adoption process and to offer contractors an opportunity to provide input. Public meetings are conducted by City Council as a part of the adoption process. Adoption of the NEC is slated for early spring, while adoption of the International Codes is anticipated for summer 2013. Comments or suggestions are welcome and may be submitted in writing to the Building Division or via e-mail prior to the formal process.

Service Enhancements

Did you know the Building Division handles complaints related to structures covered by the International Property Maintenance Code? That code sets minimum standards for the condition and function of structures within the City, and is enforced by the Building Division. Contact the Building Division at 303-235-2853 with questions or concerns related to the Property Maintenance Code. Look for a new page on the City's website this summer explaining the International Property Maintenance Code and its requirements.

By The Numbers

The first quarter of 2013 started off at a brisk pace, with the number of permits issued exceeding permits issued in the same period of 2012 by 30%. Building permit inspections are also up, with an increase of more than 50% compared to the number of inspections performed during the same period last year.

Home Improvement Spotlight on Basements

One of the most common ways to increase the living space or to increase your home's value is to finish an existing basement area. Homeowners often add guest rooms, recreation rooms or a home theater. While the addition of a few rooms to your basement may seem like a simple process, it can trigger various code requirements.

Basement additions typically trigger requirements for egress (exiting) from the basement, which is accomplished by adding windows or increasing existing window sizes to meet code. Alteration of the foundation may require consultation with a registered structural engineer. There are often additional requirements for smoke and carbon monoxide alarms not only in the basement but throughout the house.

The addition of a bathroom requires compliance with codes related to piping size, slope and venting, proper spacing of fixtures, ventilation of the room and can require demolition or alteration of the existing systems.

Other common requirements for basement finishes relate to firestopping and draftstopping, construction techniques required by code to prevent the spread of fire, and protect the stairs leading from the basement. Electrical requirements include lighting, outlets and switches, and proper heat and ventilation of the area.

Homeowners can view a brochure outlining and explaining many of code requirements related to finishing a basement, on the City's website at *www.ci.wheatridge.co.us*.

For questions or information on any of the information in this column, visit the City's website at *www.ci.wheatridge.co.us* or contact John Schumacher, Chief Building Official at 303-235-2853 or via e-mail at jschumacher@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

2013 Large Item Pick Up Program

In response to citizen requests, the City has scheduled two dates for large item pick up within Wheat Ridge City limits. The program is for *residential* participants only, and citizens must register to have an item picked up. Absolutely no pick ups will be scheduled for businesses and apartment complexes. Pick up dates are:

- **Saturday, May 11, 2013 (150 residences)**
- **Saturday, May 18, 2013 (150 residences)**

The first 300 Wheat Ridge residents that register will be eligible to have **ONE** large bulky household item picked up (examples are listed below). These are items residential trash services will not collect without extra payment.

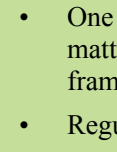
Registration will begin **Monday, April 1** and continue **through Tuesday, April 30.** Calls will be accepted between the hours of 7 a.m. 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Verification of Wheat Ridge residency and pre-approval of the type of item to be picked up will be required at the time of registration. The number to call is 303-205-7600.

Additional Program Guidelines

- Your large item must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on your registered pick up date
- Pick up hours are 7 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is no designated schedule or route so specific times can not be determined or assigned.
- Place large pick up item well away from refuse to be collected by your regular service.
- Trashcans, trash bags and additional large items will not be picked up.
- Pick ups will be made from private streets only if they are wider than 20 feet and loop or connect to a public street at both ends, or end with a standard size cul-de-sac.
- Items will not be picked up if two workers cannot safely lift it into the collection truck.

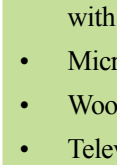
If you wish to have additional large items picked up, you should contact your private trash service to determine costs and availability, which will be your responsibility.

Contact Karen Scott in Public Works at 303-205-7600 with questions about the large item pick-up program.



One Acceptable Item

- One piece of furniture
- One bed (includes mattress, box springs & frame)
- Regular oven or stove
- Dishwasher
- Washing machine
- Dryer
- One sink, toilet or bathtub
- Water heater
- Bicycle
- Door or window
- Gas grill (no propane bottle)
- Swing set (disassembled)



Items that will NOT be picked up

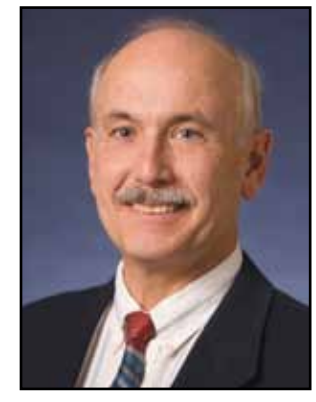
- Refrigerator, freezer or any item with Freon
- Microwave oven
- Wood stove
- Television, computer or monitor
- Garbage bags, trash bags or cans
- Trees, branches or lawn debris
- Household chemicals, paint, fuel tanks, batteries, propane bottles or closed drums
- Gravel, asphalt, rock, sod, earth, concrete, brick, clock, pavers, roofing materials or pipe
- Tires
- Engine blocks, car parts or gas engine equipment
- Materials or debris from a contractor's work

City Of Wheat Ridge Directors

Patrick Goff
City Manager
303-235-2819

Ken Johnstone
Community Development Director
303-235-2846

Joyce Manwaring
Parks & Recreation Director
303-231-1307



Tim Paranto
Public Works Director
303-235-2861

Dan Brennan
Chief of Police
303-235-2913

Heather Geyer
Administrative Services Director
303-235-2826

Child Safety Fair

Free Fun for the Family

In celebration of Children's Day, April 27, the Wheat Ridge Police Department will partner with local businesses and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to sponsor the 3rd Annual Child Safety Fair for Wheat Ridge residents. The event will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wheat Ridge Middle School, and is intended to increase community awareness about the dangers facing today's children.

The Child Safety Fair is also an outreach event coordinated with the inclusion of our Hispanic community in mind. All events and literature will be provided in both English and Spanish. The primary event of the Safety Fair will be the FREE inspection and replacement of child safety seats. There will be bi-lingual car seat inspection technicians

on hand to perform car seat inspections and educate participants on proper use. Car seats that fail the inspection will be discarded and replaced for FREE, while supplies last. Car seats were provided through a grant from CDOT, and while replacement car seats are free, donations will be accepted.

Residents should bring their bicycles too! There will be a bike rodeo for the children that will teach them how to safely operate their bicycles. Wheat Ridge Cyclery will be conducting **FREE** bicycle safety inspections and Exempla Lutheran Medical Center donated bicycle helmets that will be given for a $1.00 donation to those in need. There will be **FREE** face painting and a jumping castle for the kids and **FREE** Child I.D. Kits as well as traffic and crime prevention information for the parents, all provided in both English and Spanish. Last but not least, there will be a drawing to give away two children's bicycles that were donated by the Wheat Ridge Police Department FOP. For more information call Betsy Sailor at 303-235-2910.

Early Warning Siren System Tests April 10

The City continues its efforts to increase the flood warning options for the citizens along Lena Gulch and Clear Creek, and the entire City. In cooperation with the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD) Wheat Ridge and Lakewood will test the Emergency Warning System (EWS) sirens, on April 10th at 11:00 a.m.

These sirens are capable of issuing pre-recorded or live messages that provide specific information about emergency situations and instructions about the precautions or actions citizens should follow. Wheat Ridge has also implemented an emergency telephone notification system via reverse 911, and local radio and television stations can also provide important warnings.

For information about the EWS sirens, contact WRPD Emergency Manager Mark Cooney at 303-235-2931.

Dog Licensing - A Ticket Home

Should your beloved dog go missing, wouldn't you want to do everything possible to ensure he or she comes back to you? Licensing will give your pet the best possible chance to return home to you and your family. At the same time, you will be helping thousands of orphaned pets find new homes. Your fee goes toward the care and sheltering of nearly 8,000 orphaned animals that Foothills Animal Shelter takes in each and every year.

It's easy. The law requires dogs four months and older to have a rabies vaccination prior to getting a license. The licensing cost is only $15 for altered animals and $30 for intact pets. Register your dog at Foothills Animal Shelter, one of their offsite community clinics or at one of the many designated veterinary offices across Jefferson County.

If you decide to license at Foothills Animal Shelter, 580 McIntyre Street (on the Jefferson County Fairgrounds), you can do so any day of the week. Hours between Monday and Friday are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. No appointment is needed. Simply bring your pet's current rabies vaccination records and proof of a spay or neuter.

For your convenience, the Shelter also offers many offsite vaccination and licensing clinics throughout the community during evening and weekend hours. No appointment is necessary.

Dog licensing reunites lost dogs with their owners and encourages responsible pet ownership. It also helps thousands of the community's homeless dogs, cats and critters find new homes

For more details, a listing of upcoming community clinics and the veterinary offices who offer licensing, visit www.FoothillsAnimalShelter.org/clinic.

Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation

Athletics/Sports

ADULT SPORTS LEAGUES

Softball, Kickball, Soccer

It's time to get the team together for 2013! Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation is the place to play softball, kickball, and/or soccer.

Team Fees:

Men's and Coed Softball
$540 Wheat Ridge resident
$580 Non-resident

Coed Kickball
$400 Wheat Ridge resident
$440 Non-resident

Coed Soccer
$325 Wheat Ridge resident
$350 Non-resident

Contact Alexis Rankey for more information including dates, times, and locations and/or to register: 303-231-1306.

Registration Deadlines:
Softball - April 7
Kickball - April 14
Coed Soccer - April 21

City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation

4005 Kipling St.
www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/registration

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/wheatridgerecreation

What Might Have Been

In honor of his family's Wheat Ridge roots, Jason Binkley purchased a 1930 Model A Ford and restored it to what he believed a Wheat Ridge Police squad car might have looked like in the '30's, if Wheat Ridge had been a city at that time.

WHEAT RIDGE 2020
Partners in a Vibrant Wheat Ridge

Wheat Ridge 2020 Promotes Sustainability in Properties

One of the best ways to be more sustainable with energy is to be more efficient in existing structures. Wheat Ridge 2020 assisted 27 commercial properties in pursuing that goal through Xcel Energy's lighting and energy audit program. Participating property owners received detailed reports on the best investments they could make to save energy and costs. The owners also received assistance in applying for rebates.

Building on that success, Wheat Ridge 2020 offered forgivable loans for energy-efficiency upgrades for income-eligible homeowners. Replacing windows, adding attic insulation and upgrading old roofs are just a few of the ways you can reap energy savings. Funding for this program is from the Federal Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), made available through Jefferson County Community Development.

To get ideas and learn more about how you can make your home more efficient, visit *www.xcelenergy.com/Save_Money_&_Energy/For_Your_Home/Home_Efficiency*.

Wheat Ridge citizens joined the Live Local Winter Fitness Challenge.

Have you seen the video?

Please go to the City of Wheat Ridge webpage and click on the Top of the Hour December 2012 video. This video features a conversation about height and density; how Wheat Ridge has regulated this and the impact on developing new community amenities. Another way to find videos, articles and conversation about community development is by liking Wheat Ridge 2020 on Facebook. We also have pages for Live Local Wheat Ridge and Ridge at 38.

Ridge at 38 planning more events for 2013

Building on the 2012 success of the grand opening Celebrate Ridge at 38 event and the Holiday Celebration on Ridge at 38, the leadership committee is planning additional events for 2013. Wheat Ridge 2020 hosted thousands of visitors at the first two events. Citizens loved the events and the feedback was to keep growing - do more and have more of everything!

In order to deliver even more, WR2020 needs volunteers to help us out at these community events. They need help with directing people to parking, loading and unloading vendors and assisting with activities. If this sounds like fun, please email volunteer@ridgeat38.com and indicate your interest. The leadership committee will let you know about volunteer needs for the different events and hopefully find a great match for your schedule and talents.

The Ridge at 38 Leadership Committee continues to grow. Business owners are working together to market the area. By summer of 2013 we will have new content plus all the event information at *Ridgeat38.com*. Thanks everyone for your support as Ridge at 38 continues to emerge and grow. Don't forget to shop at your local businesses. Look closer and you may be surprised what delights you can find.

Live Local Winter Fitness Challenge success

Wheat Ridge 2020 offered a Winter Fitness Challenge through the Live Local Active program. Seventeen people joined the challenge and participated in yoga classes, pilates classes and running and walking club. Participants were energized, met new people and stayed active during the winter months. To learn more about the Run/Walk Club or other active events, like Live Local Wheat Ridge on Facebook or visit *WheatRidge2020.org*.

As a resident or business person in Wheat Ridge, you have many opportunities to serve your community by referring people to local establishments. Encouraging people to eat, shop, and play in Wheat Ridge is one of the things Wheat Ridge 2020 does best!

Live Local
Building Community in Wheat Ridge

April 11, 2013
Large Marge's Philly Cheesesteak
3890 Kipling Avenue, Wheat Ridge
5 - 7 p.m.

May 9, 2013
Teller Street Gallery & Art Studio
7190 West 38th Avenue, Wheat Ridge
6 - 8 p.m.

Live Local Wheat Ridge is a series of social events at Wheat Ridge businesses to help residents live locally and support local restaurants and businesses. Live Local Dines is usually scheduled for the second Thursday of the month. If you have a suggestion for where an upcoming event should be held or would be interested in hosting a Live Local event, please contact Kim at WR2020 via email at kim@wheatridge2020.org or by phone at 720-259-1030.

everytripcounts.org

Make Every Trip Count!

Never taken the bus? Does your bike need a tune up? Get rewarded for your pledge to reduce two car trips per week! The City of Wheat Ridge and the Regional Air Quality Council are teaming up again this year to reward Wheat Ridge residents for helping to make the air cleaner.

The Every Trip Counts program will reward the first 1000 participants with their choice of a bike shop gift certificate or a pack of RTD bus passes.

The program's goal is to reduce auto emissions during the summer months, when ground-level ozone pollution is the worst. Sign up today at ***www.EveryTripCounts.org***!

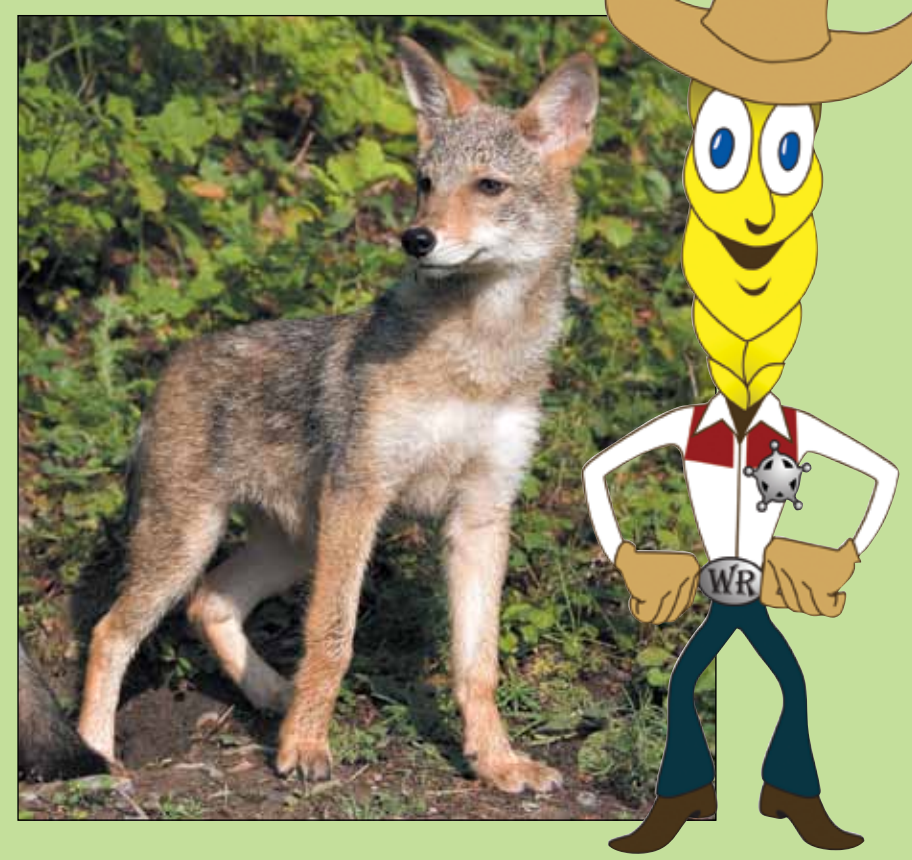
CODY SAYS:

Wildlife in Wheat Ridge

Spring is just around the corner and with the change in seasons comes urban wildlife baby season. The opportunity to view wildlife with their offspring can be a spectacular experience for the whole family, but remember, wildlife animals can become territorial and extremely protective during mating and birthing season.

The City is home to many wildlife species and one especially adaptable resident, is the coyote. The coyote's average weight is 30-40 pounds, their average length is up to four feet, and they may live up to 20 years. The average hunting area is a three to four-miles radius. They may prey on domestic pets and livestock. The coyote breeds once a year, in January to March and can produce an average litter of up to six pups. During mating season and after the birth of the pups the coyote can become extremely protective and will defend the territory surrounding the den.

The Community Services Team's primary goal is to educate the public about safely and successfully coexisting with wildlife animals, and to minimize human behaviors that attract wildlife. The Police Department provides public notifications on wildlife animals that may pose a threat to the safety of the public. For more information contact the Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 303-291-7227 or *www.wildlife.state.co.us*. Citizens can also call the City's Community Services Animal Control **303-235-2926** or our non-emergency dispatch number 303-237-2220.



Foothills Animal Shelter

A Simple Fix

Mobile Spay/Neuter Services near you!

Foothills Animal Shelter's Mobile Spay & Neuter Surgery Program

Help your pet live a happy and healthy life while controlling pet overpopulation. Foothills Animal Shelter makes it easy to spay and neuter your pet. A mobile surgical unit provides spay/neuter procedures for cats and dogs in a variety of convenient locations throughout the community. Drop your pet off in the morning and pick them up later that same day. This service is based on a first come first served basis and some restrictions may apply, such as size and age of the pet. The cost is $20 for cats and $60 for dogs. Additional services may be available at an extra cost such as vaccinations, mircochipping, and licensing. For more information contact 720-407-5215 or visit *www.FoothillsAnimalShelter.org/SimpleFix*.

Upcoming Wheat Ridge Clinics

Best Friends Pet Care
at 11440 W. 44th Ave.

April 12 **May 3** **June 7**

Safety Tips on Avoiding Coyote Conflicts and Encounters:

- If approached by a coyote, do not run, back away slowly
- Appear as large and be as loud as possible
- Throw rocks or objects in the direction of the coyote
- Stay away if a coyote has a den in the area
- Keep pets on a six-foot leash at all times when walking
- Pick up small pets when confronted by a coyote
- Never allow a pet to play with any wildlife animal
- Do not leave pet food outside; this is an attractant to all wildlife animals
- Keep pets in a secured area and supervise when outside
- Remember to never handle wildlife animals, even if they are injured

Community Calendar

MARCH

25 Wheat Ridge City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. Wheat Ridge City Hall

APRIL

8 Wheat Ridge City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. Wheat Ridge City Hall

22 Wheat Ridge City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. Wheat Ridge City Hall

29 District I & II Community Meeting, location TBD

MAY

13 Wheat Ridge City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. Wheat Ridge City Hall

27 City Administrative facilities will be closed for Memorial Day