



Issue: # 25

September 2010

Greetings!

Mayor's Matters is your monthly connection to learning about the great things happening in the City of Wheat Ridge!

I encourage you to share this monthly e-newsletter with any friends or family who may wish to know more about Wheat Ridge. Feel free to use the "Forward" link at the bottom of the page to send a copy of this e-newsletter to others.



Mayor Jerry DiTullio

**Thank you Carnation Festival volunteers**

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the 41st Annual Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival a success!

Save the date!

Mark your calendars for the **Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony** scheduled for **Sunday, December 5** at 6 p.m. at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center.

For more information, please call 303-231-1300.

A Mayor's Matter of doggone high importance

Last November the Jefferson County Commissioners endorsed [Cedar Dog for Mayor](#). That's right, Cedar is a dog and a resident of Wheat Ridge. She is running for Mayor of everywhere to raise much needed funds for our county's NEW Foothills Animal Shelter located at the fairgrounds. My cat Bella and I have endorsed Cedar and I am working with other Jefferson County mayors to do the same.

Cedar's goal is to raise \$25,000, **one dollar equals one vote**, and proceeds go to the Table Mountain Animal Center Foundation. Her campaign is grassroots. She is asking you to donate whatever you can; one, five, or ten dollars, fifty, one hundred, or more; then ask five other people (and their pets) to do the same. Join me in donating to **Cedar Dog for Mayor**. You can [VOTE NOW](#) or send a check to Cedar

**Green Tip**

Being green is easy! Shop at a local farmers market. The Wheat Ridge Farmers' Market is held every Thursday through October 28. See details below.

Have you been out to the Wheat Ridge Farmers Market yet?

There is still time - the market runs through October 28!

The Farmers Market is held every Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 4252 Wadsworth Blvd. The Farmers

Dog for Mayor, P.O. Box 140664, Wheat Ridge, CO 80214-8150. Make checks out to the Table Mountain Animal Center Foundation.

Is your dog licensed? Any dog older than four months and living in Wheat Ridge must have an annual license. Consider a license as your dog's "ticket home" if he or she is ever lost. Licensure tags can be traced when you provide a phone number; it will be recorded as a contact for your best friend. License revenues help pay for shelter construction too. The old Table Mountain Animal Center was built in 1976 as a dog-impound facility. The facility was severely overcrowded and outdated. The NEW Foothills Shelter is the second largest animal shelter in Colorado. [Licensure](#) is easy; you can come by Wheat Ridge City Hall or go online; fill out the registration form and mail it in.

[Foothills Animal Shelter](#) will serve as a safe haven for lost animals and as an animal adoption center to our community. Cedar Dog and I urge you to visit the NEW shelter, consider adopting a cat or dog, or offer to foster a pet until they find their "forever home."



LiveWell Wheat Ridge donation

I am pleased to announce the City received a \$1,500 check from the [Kaiser Permanente Colfax Marathon](#) in August as a result of the City's participation in the Municipal Relay Cup event in May of this year! I have donated the award to [LiveWell Wheat Ridge](#) to support the Active Community Environments and Access to Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Task Forces.

Our City team place 4th overall in the Municipal Cup and had the highest percentage of runners among the City. I would like to thank our relay team for their fast feet and support of this worthy cause. Participants included Councilmember Davis Reinhart, District 1, City Clerk Michael Snow, Interim Administrative Services Director Heather Geyer, former Planner, Adam Tietz, and Sarah DiTullio.



Connecting the Dots Economic Summit

In August, leaders from nine separate economic, business and community development organizations that do work in Wheat

Market is food stamp friendly!

For more information click [here](#) or call 303-887-FARM.

Exercise your right to VOTE!

Don't forget to register to vote by **October 4**. Contact the [Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder](#) for more information.

Wheat Ridge Connections newsletter coming soon!

The next edition of the Wheat Ridge *Connections* newsletter is coming to your mailbox in mid-September.

Mayor's Matters available online

Did you know past issues of the *Mayor's Matters* e-newsletter are available online? Click [here](#) to access the City's Website and download past issues of *Mayor's Matters*!

Quick Links

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Ridge and Jefferson County shared background information about the mission and purpose for each of their organizations at the first Wheat Ridge Connecting the Dots Summit hosted by the City.

[Jefferson County](#)

At this Summit, Wheat Ridge Economic Development staff unveiled the 2010 Economic Development Strategic Plan, which integrates several previous planning and economic studies into a single, integrated economic development roadmap for the City. The session provided an excellent learning opportunity for all those who attended and several opportunities were identified to form strategic partnerships among the different organizations in the future.

To learn more about the City's new Economic Development Strategy, visit the City [Website](#) or contact the Community Development Department at 303-235-2846.

Wheat Ridge Business District offers revitalization resources for local businesses

The Wheat Ridge Business District (WRBD) was formed in a joint partnership between local business owners and the City of Wheat Ridge to help revitalize 38th Avenue - the City's traditional "Main Street." The effort has been expanded to serve businesses throughout the City of Wheat Ridge.

The Wheat Ridge Business District administers two grant programs. The Revitalization Incentive Program (RIP) offers up to \$11,000 in matching funds for facade and sign improvements, and architectural design assistance to commercial businesses in the City of Wheat Ridge in order to improve the appearance of individual buildings, as well as the overall look of the City. More funding may be available for extensive renovations done by those paid prevailing wages through the Large Project category. All improvements must be to areas visible from the public right-of-way. The goal of this program is to leverage private improvements while making revitalization efforts affordable, creative, and community-based.

Since August 2003 when the first grant project was completed, 80 grants have been awarded totaling over \$390,000 in grant funds. In addition to the grant dollars spent in our community, the property owners have contributed over \$1.5 million for a total of just under \$2 million total investment in improvements.

The Commercial Exterior Paint program is for mixed use or commercial properties located within the City limits of Wheat Ridge. The maximum reimbursement amount is up to \$500 but not more than 50 percent of the total cost of materials.

For more information on these grant programs visit the Wheat Ridge Business District [Website](#) or call 720-259-1030.

Senior/Community Center celebrates 30 years!

The Senior/Community Center has two reasons to celebrate during the month of September!

First, they will be celebrating a new name - the Wheat Ridge Active Adult Center. A national trend to look toward future users of senior centers showed that boomers did not care for the moniker "senior," thus starting a movement to change the name. The Active Adult Center will still offer recreational based programs under the City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department.

On Monday, September 20 at 1 p.m. the Active Adult Center will officially celebrate its 30th Anniversary during National Active Aging Week. The highlight of the event will be music provided by the Joe Peterson Dance Orchestra's Rhythm Trio and the Andrew Singers. Join us for refreshments, giveaways, demonstrations and the unveiling of the new outdoor sign.

Sponsors include Humana, The Argyle, Westland Meridian, Christopher House and FirstBank.

Now on Wheat Ridge Top of the Hour...

The current edition of the award-winning WRTV8 Top of the Hour is now playing and features information about **Wheat Ridge Economic Development**.

WRTV8 programming is available to subscribers of Comcast Cable on Channel 8. Non-cable subscribers may access WRTV8 programming on demand, online at the [City's Website](#). Click on the video streaming button on the left side of the homepage.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Safety Fair

Where else can you find a robot named Odie, a clown named Kookie and a German shepherd that only speaks Czech? Only at the Sheriff's Safety Fair at the Summerset Festival in south Jeffco's Clement Park!

The Sheriff's Safety Fair is a fun-filled event for all ages, featuring interactive booths, demonstrations and activities! The Sheriff's Office hosts this annual fair to engage our community in taking steps to stay safe and healthy.

Saturday, Sept. 18, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Learn about everything from disaster preparedness and child safety to identity theft and Internet predator information. Check out special units and community programs from the Sheriff's Office and other participating safety groups. We're offering free child fingerprinting, as well as crime-prevention tips and tools you can put to use at home and at work.

Whether you're eight or 80, you'll find something at the Sheriff's Safety Fair that can help you stay safe! Check it out at our [Website](#).

38th Avenue corridor planning to begin this fall

A priority area for redevelopment identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan, *Envision Wheat Ridge*, is the 38th Avenue corridor between Wadsworth and Sheridan. Many people in the community identify this section of 38th Avenue as "Main Street" for the City. A key implementation action from *Envision Wheat Ridge* is the development of a subarea or corridor plan focusing on 38th Avenue that would identify specific actions that need to be taken to make it a more desirable place for residents to gather and businesses to locate.

Development of a corridor plan for 38th Avenue would help create a cohesive vision and strategy for ensuring that the corridor becomes a desired community gathering place, attracting redevelopment in certain locations while retaining the character of the existing neighborhoods. Many residents have stated through the community meetings for *Envision Wheat Ridge* that they would like 38th Avenue to become a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly roadway with a more diverse mix of land uses.

On August 23, City Council approved a Supplemental Budget Appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of conducting a traffic study and roadway design analysis for 38th Avenue in conjunction with development of a 38th Avenue corridor plan. Community meetings for the 38th Avenue Corridor Plan will begin this fall.

Check the City's [Website](#) or Channel 8 for information about the upcoming meetings and planning process.

Walk to School Day

LiveWell Wheat Ridge is excited to promote Walk to School Day with schools, families and community members the week of **October 4, 2010!**

This annual event is a great way for parents, teachers and school administrators to come together to create safe environments for students and increase awareness about the importance of

physical activity. Participation is encouraged by promoting the event and providing incentives or breakfast for the children on the day of the event.

Consider hosting a Walk to School Day at your



school by contacting Molly Hanson, LiveWell Wheat Ridge Coordinator, at mhanson@jeffco.us or 720-345-8547. Click [here](#) to download a toolkit, register your event and sign up for free T-shirts.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the City of Wheat Ridge's e-newsletters, please feel free to contact Heather Geyer, Interim Administrative Services Director, at 303-235-2826 or via e-mail at: hgeyer@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

Subscription to the Mayor's Matters e-newsletter is subject to the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA).

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