

November 2016

City of
Wheat Ridge
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mayor's Matters

AS AN ASIDE

Deep Roots, Short Commutes

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Mayor Joyce Jay

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

Feel free to share this newsletter with any friends or family who may wish to know more about our great city.

Wheat Ridge Police Department Joins Nextdoor

Neighborhoods around Wheat Ridge have access to an online community called Nextdoor, which offers recommendations for a handyman, baby and dog sitting services, and lists requests for help with lost and found pets.

Starting this month, Wheat Ridge Police Chief Brennan sent a note to all "Nextdoor" neighbors that the Wheat Ridge PD will be periodically posting crime alerts and other safety information. Local conversations by Nextdoor neighbors are not accessible by agencies like Wheat Ridge PD, however, neighbors can send messages directly to WRPD via the Nextdoor Administrators Officer Justin Paugh and Public Information Officer Sara Spaulding. If you have concerns about crimes in your area, you can also call the non-emergency number 303-237-2220, and if you ever have an emergency, continue to use 911 as your first point of contact.

Coffee with the Mayor

**Saturday December 3rd
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at Vinnola's
7750 W. 38th Ave.**



Wheat Ridge Holiday Celebration

Localworks and the City of Wheat Ridge are excited to kick off the season with the annual Holiday Celebration on Ridge at 38 on Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 3 -7 p.m. at the Green along 38th Avenue from Upham Street to High Court.

The Holiday Celebration will continue to provide the favorite activities of past years including free horse-drawn hayrides down 38th Avenue and free hot chocolate and cookies. The magic continues for children with holiday crafts, activities and free train rides on the Polar Express. Crafters and artisans will be selling their wares at Four Seasons Farmers and Artisan Market at 7043 W. 38th Ave. just in time for holiday shopping. Local restaurants and food trucks will provide convenient cuisine for the crowds while holiday carolers, the Jingle Singers, serenade shoppers along 38th Ave. and other musical groups entertain from the main stage.

Santa and his elves will be at Wheat Ridge Cyclery for photos with the kids. There is always a wait so get there early! New this year is the Wheat Ridge Business Association Christmas Tree Charity Auction so stop by and make a bid. Donations benefit the Ralston House.

At 6:30 p.m. gather in front of Stevens Elementary at the west end of 38th Avenue, for the City's official tree lighting ceremony as more than 12,000 multi-color bulbs light up the spectacular 25- foot ever-green! For more details go to www.ci.wheatridge.co.us



Photo caption left to right:

Graduates include: Desiree Lane, Rebeca Prado, James Gurley, Larry Harper, Sally Harper, Irena Wardrip, Sgt. Brian Wilkinson, Mary Margaret Coates, Hal McCloud, Brian Whitehorn, Judy Swift, Vance Kolesar, Sharon Hebenstreit, Barbara Wyngarden, Dick Coulson

Wheat Ridge Citizen's Police Academy Fall Class of 2016

Congratulations to the Wheat Ridge Police Department Fall 2016 Citizen Police Academy (CPA) class. The purpose of the CPA is to give people who live and/or work in the City of Wheat Ridge an opportunity to learn first-hand about the inner workings of the Wheat Ridge Police Department. Police and civilian personnel present lectures and demonstrations in order to give CPA participants an understanding of the department's mission, practices and operations.

The next CPA is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2017 and classes will be held from 6-9 p.m. every Wednesday night for 12 weeks. Watch for announcements on the Wheat Ridge Police Facebook page and the City of Wheat Ridge website at www.ci.wheatridge.co.us.

Wheat Ridge's First Bicycle Repair Stand Is In!

The repair stand is located at the new Kipling Trailhead (Clear Creek Greenbelt) on the west side of Kipling. The repair stand was donated to the City by Whole Foods.





Holiday Shopping Safety Tips from Chief Brennan

As you begin your holiday shopping remember to keep a watchful eye out for thieves just waiting for a chance to steal your treasures. Cover shopping bags and wrapped gifts if you leave them in your car. Keep valuables like cameras, purses, wallets and laptops/iPads out of sight and inside your home. Also take your garage door opener with you instead of leaving it in your car. If a thief breaks into your car, they can use the garage opener to gain access to your home. Talk with neighbors who are home during the day and ask that they bring your package deliveries to their house until you arrive home. If your employer allows delivery at your office, have online purchases delivered to that address instead. Park under lights if you are shopping after work, and find your keys **before** walking to your car.

**For the Holiday Season
City Hall will be closed on:**

**Monday,
December 26th
and
Monday,
January 2nd**

City Receives HEAL Grant

Wheat Ridge is part of the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) campaign which is a partnership between LiveWell Colorado and the Colorado Municipal League. The campaign provides technical assistance to help City staff and officials adopt policies that improve access to physical activity and healthy food.

The vast majority of Wheat Ridge residents are within a one-mile radius of a park and can walk to a park in under 10 minutes. The City was recently awarded a HEAL grant to add signage that will increase awareness of parks and encourage walking or biking. Walking, biking, and participating in park activities provides many benefits such as increased physical activity and enhanced individual well-being.

City staff members are currently evaluating sign design options and locations. Signs are scheduled to be installed by April 2017. If anyone is interested in contributing to this project, contact Matt Anderson at 303-231-1307 or email manderson@ci.wheatridge.co.us.



Winter Tips from CATT

Winter is finally starting to make an appearance here in Wheat Ridge and the Crash and Traffic Team would like to make sure everyone stays safe. Follow these tips and enjoy your winter.

- Keep your tires properly inflated
- Keep your gas tank at least half full
- Don't use cruise control on snowy/icy roads
- Always buckle up
- Drive slowly in snowy/icy conditions; your all wheel or 4-wheel drive vehicle may feel stable, but it won't stop on ice any better than a 2-wheel drive
- Start off in 2nd gear on icy roads; you are not as likely to lose traction
- Clear the snow and ice off of all of your windows and your headlights/taillights
- Check to make sure your windshield washing fluid is full
- Remember that speed limits are for dry conditions, not snowy/icy roads. Slow down
- Make sure you have your cell phone, and it is charged, in case you need to get assistance
- Move over for emergency vehicles



Exciting News for Wheat Ridge. (The Denver Business Journal 10/31/16)

Wheat Ridge Ranked # 7 as one of Colorado's Top 14 Small Cities in America. The Washington, D.C.-based WalletHub ranked the 2016 "Best Small Cities in America," an annual report that analyzed 1,268 cities with populations of between 25,000 and 100,000 across the U.S. based on metrics in five categories:

- Affordability, including housing costs, costs of living, median household income and homeownership rates
- Economic health, including unemployment rates, percentage of people living below poverty, population growth and income growth
- Education & health, including graduation rates, obesity rates, percentage of adults with diplomas and more
- Quality of life, including average commute times, mean hours worked per week, percentage of people who walk to work, number of restaurants, cultural institutions, and other entertainment venues per capita and more
- Safety, based on violent and property crime rates

Read the entire article: <http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2016/10/31/how-colorados-14-small-cities-rank-from-best-to.html?ana=tw#g7>

Clearing Sidewalks of Snow Within 24 hours Becomes Responsibility of Wheat Ridge Property Owners

On October 24, 2016, City Council passed Council Bill No. 24-2016 (Ordinance 1611) amending the Wheat Ridge Code of Laws to add a new section entitled Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks.

The new snow removal policy requires property owners to clear walkways within 24 hours of snowfall equaling 2 inches or more. Failure to remove snow on sidewalks can result in public safety and liability issues, and impacts access to transit, businesses and other destinations.

Previously, Wheat Ridge was one of only two cities in the metro area without a snow removal ordinance.

Under the new ordinance, sidewalks are the responsibility of the adjacent property owners. Exceptions include City-owned property and facilities such as City Hall, the Recreation Center, and multi-use trails constructed and/or owned by the City, such as the Clear Creek and Kipling Trails, and the multi-use trail adjacent to Crown Hill Park.

The City does contract some snow removal at City-owned bus shelters as part of contracts for shelter maintenance and refuse collection. Also, the City provides snow removal on sidewalks along 38th Avenue between Harlan St. and Sheridan Blvd., as these sidewalks are a part of streetscape improvements constructed by the City.

This Bill went into effect on November 7, 2016; however, its adoption will include broad public education and outreach and complaints will be addressed on an individual basis with initial enforcement consisting primarily of warnings.



To get yours, call us at (303) 231-1300 or visit our facilities:

Wheat Ridge Recreation Center
4005 Kipling St. or the

Active Adult Center
6363 W. 35th Ave.

Parks & Recreation Holiday Gift Card Promotion

Bonus bucks are back! This holiday season, you'll receive \$5 in bonus bucks for every \$25 you spent on gift cards!

Take the guess work out of gift giving; Wheat Ridge Parks & Rec gift cards are redeemable towards any parks and recreation program or service! Offer ends Saturday, December 31st, 2016. Bonus bucks are redeemable just like gift cards and are valid January 1st - 31st, 2017.