



Mayor's Matters

Issue: # 15

September 2009

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



Community Services Team Hosts Local Animal Vaccine Clinic

In partnership with the Table Mountain Animal Center, the WRPD Community Services Team is co-hosting a second animal vaccine clinic on **October 24, 2009.**

Dog and cat owners are encouraged to participate in this community service event at a substantial cost savings. The mobile clinic will be located in front of City Hall on **October 24 from 2 - 4 p.m.,** and will be staffed by a certified veterinarian and technician.

Participants are welcome to call the WRPD Community Services Team message line at 303-235-2926 with questions. Reservations are not required, and please plan to pay with cash or a check. No credit cards will be accepted.

For more information see the current issue of [Connections](#).

Updated "Who Ya Gonna Call?" Now Available

Wheat Ridge's Customer Service Telephone Directory has been updated and copies are available on the City's

Wheat Ridge Housing Authority Latest Project Ready for Buyers

The Wheat Ridge Housing Authority (WRHA) has two townhouse units for sale at their latest project located at 9690 and 9710 W. 41st Avenue. Just steps from Clear Creek Trail, near schools and the popular Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, these units are move-in ready. First-time home buyers will be able to take advantage of the First Time Homebuyer Credit as well as energy credits for the energy efficient appliances, water heaters, windows, insulation and storm doors installed in the units.

"This duplex is the nicest project WRHA has ever done," said Lena Rotola, City Councilor, District 4. "I was so pleased how beautifully they turned out."



Since 2002, WRHA has transformed 38 rental units into home ownership opportunities. To view additional details on the townhouse units, click [here](#). For more information visit www.cornerstonerealtyco.com or call 303-987-8821.

Protect Yourself this Flu Season

Flu season is just around the corner and now is the time to start

planning ahead on how to protect yourself and your family against both the seasonal flu and H1N1. Here are some tips for preventing the flu this season:

- **Get your annual flu shot and H1N1 vaccine** - Vaccines are the best way to prevent the flu. The novel H1N1 vaccine is currently in production and may be available to the public in the next few months.
- **Wash your hands** - Frequent hand washing prevents the spread of germs.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth and cover your cough or sneeze.**
- **Stay home if you are sick** - Officials recommend those with flu-like symptoms stay home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication).

For more information on seasonal flu and H1N1, visit www.flu.gov or the [JCPH Website Influenza page](#).

Wheat Ridge Welcomes New Denny's Location

Mayor DiTullio will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 22 at 3:30 p.m. for the new Denny's located at 32nd and Youngfield in Wheat Ridge. The new location at 3291 Youngfield Service Road (on the west side of I-70) was formerly used as Marie's Country Café. Denny's has invested more than \$300,000 in the project, adding 600 square feet to the existing building.

Please help Mayor DiTullio welcome Denny's to its new location!

Small Business Worksite Wellness Initiative

Small business continues to drive the United States economy, according to U.S. News & World Report. Newly released data show that in 2009, small businesses drive the nation's economy and more than 95 percent of all businesses in the United States have fewer than 500 employees. Given the enormous number of people who work in small businesses and the relative lack of access to benefits and healthcare, health promotion programs and wellness policies are rapidly gaining momentum (WELCOA, 2008). Research has shown that preventable illness makes up approximately 80 percent of the burden of illness and 90 percent of all health care costs (CDC, 2006).

To promote healthier small business/worksites in Wheat Ridge, LiveWell Wheat Ridge (LWWR) is currently recruiting 10 small

[Website](#). Feel free to call us at 303-234-5900 to request a copy be mailed to you.

"Who Ya Gonna Call?" is a great resource for residents in the community providing phone numbers for City, County and State services. Information is organized by topics such as "barking dog, recycling, building permits, etc." Call us today!

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Envision Wheat Ridge Comprehensive Plan project is nearly complete, with final public hearings scheduled this fall. The Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for October 1 and the City Council public hearing for October 12, both at the Wheat Ridge City Hall.

For more information visit [Envision Wheat Ridge](#) online or contact Sally Payne, Senior Planner, at 303-235-2852 or via E-mail at spayne@ci.wheatridge.co.us

November 3 Election

The Municipal Election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

This is an all Mail-Ballot Election - there will be no Polling Places on Election Day.

Early and Absentee Voting information may be obtained on the Elections page on the City's [Website](#).

You must be registered to vote by October 5, 2009 in order to participate in this Election.

businesses/worksites with 40 or less employees to adopt a worksite wellness policy or environmental change. LWWR will provide mini-grants to implement policies and environmental changes related to improving employee health.

For more information on how small business/worksites in Wheat Ridge can participate in the LiveWell Wheat Ridge Worksite Wellness Initiative please contact Kerry Ewald, LWWR Community Liaison at 303-358-4096 or ewaldk31@yahoo.com.



LWWR is funded by LiveWell Colorado, a non-profit committed to reducing obesity in Colorado by inspiring healthy eating and active living. For more information about LiveWell Colorado Community Initiatives, visit www.livewellcolorado.org.

Building Permit Rebate Program to Aide Residents in Storm Repairs

Homeowners continue to make repairs to their property after the July 20 storm. To aid residents, City Council passed an emergency ordinance on August 3 to establish a 50 percent rebate on all building permit fees as a result of storm damage. Property owners will be required to submit an application in order to receive a rebate. The application form and additional information is available on the City's [Website](#) or at the City's Building Division on the second floor of City Hall. Storm related building permits issued from July 21 - October 16 are eligible for rebate. Rebate applications must be submitted by May 31, 2010. Please note that the rebate program is subject to the availability of funds.

Additional information on the rebate program, as well as details on permit requirements, can be found in the current issue of the [Connections](#) newsletter.

For more information contact Melissa Mackey, Permit Technician in the Building Division at 303-235-2855 or email her directly at mmackey@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

Adapted Recreation Awareness Day

Learn about parks and recreation services for people with physical disabilities

Adapted Recreation Awareness Day will introduce people with all levels of physical disabilities to the services and facilities available through Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation. The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Saturday, September 12, 2009, at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, 4005 Kipling St.

On this year's Municipal Ballot:

- Election of one Council Member in each of the City's four districts
- Election of Mayor
- Voter approval of a Franchise with the Public Service Company of Colorado to provide utility services in the City of Wheat Ridge
- Voter approval of two proposed City Charter Amendments

Coffee with a Cop

Meet and visit with members of the Wheat Ridge Police Department over coffee! Ask questions about the department, special programs or law enforcement in general.

Due to the popularity of Coffee with a Cop, we've added additional dates and locations!

On Mondays, Coffee with a Cop takes place at the Starbucks located at 3450 Youngfield Street in Wheat Ridge.

Upcoming dates:

Monday, October 12
9 to 11 a.m.

Monday, November 9
9 to 11 a.m.

On Fridays, Coffee with a Cop takes place at Big Sky Espresso Cafe located at 7300 West 38th Avenue in Wheat Ridge.

The program is targeted to all ages and levels of disability, from young veterans with war injuries to senior citizens recovering from surgical procedures. Everyone can benefit from this one-day, interactive session.

Hands-on clinics will include hand cycling, aqua therapy, kettlebell usage, and the Z-Health exercise program. Kettlebell and Z-Health are two of the fastest growing fitness trends in the country and both programs have proven popular for people with physical disabilities. Anyone participating in the aqua therapy clinic should bring a swim suit.

For more information or to reserve a space for the clinic, call Rachel Wysuph, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator, at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center at 303-231-1342.

Citizen Concerns Bring Change to Off-Street Parking Surface Requirements

Due to concerns expressed by citizens to City Officials, City Council adopted revisions to the Wheat Ridge City Code of Laws, Section 26-501, which prohibits the parking of a motor vehicle on landscaping and other un-improved surfaces. The amendments became effective on August 31, 2009.

Citizens have expressed concerns regarding the unsightly practice of vehicles being parked on lawns and compacted dirt surfaces. They were concerned that properties that have vehicles parked in the front yard or on weeded or dirt areas diminished the aesthetics and property values of their neighborhood, and negatively affected community image. Additionally, utilizing lawns or soft surfaces for the purpose of parking or storage of vehicles has a negative effect on storm water quality when dirt and debris from yards is tracked onto the streets.

The Wheat Ridge Police Department, through the Community Services Team, will begin an educational campaign to help residents understand the changes in the ordinance and provide direction on how to comply with the new requirements. To read more, see the current issue of the [Connections](#) newsletter. Look for more information on the City's [Website](#) or on local Wheat Ridge Channel 8 programming.

Building Permit Fees Reduced

City Council recently adopted two amendments to the previously-adopted 2003 editions of the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC). The amendments achieve two things: (1) a reduction in the building permit fees

Upcoming dates:

Friday, October 9
9 to 11 a.m.

Friday, November 13
9 to 11 a.m.

Wines and Dines Event

Wheat Ridge 2020 presents the Wines and Dines event September 24 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Copper Fields Event Chateau.

Come enjoy an evening of great food and wine provided by local Wheat Ridge restaurants and businesses.

Buy your tickets online [here](#) or contact WR2020 at 720-259-1030.

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*!

Green Tip

One of the best and easiest ways to save energy is to simply turn down your thermostat by one degree. You won't notice the difference in temperature and it can save you approximately 10 percent on your electricity bill each month.

Source: DailyEco Tips, #210

Quick Links

[City of Wheat Ridge](#)

applicable to several small-scale home improvement projects; and (2) the elimination of the requirement (Appendix J) that small-scale remodeling and renovation projects require a homeowner to bring other areas of the home (not being worked on) into compliance with all applicable codes. The intent of both of these amendments was to reduce the burden on homeowners who wish to perform home renovation and remodeling projects.

For a list of the new building permit fees, click [here](#) to view the full article in the Connections newsletter.

For more information about the changes to the building permit fees, please contact Melissa Mackey, Permit Technician in the Building Division at 303-235-2855 or email her directly at mmackey@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

Stay Connected with Live and On Demand Videos

Wheat Ridge residents are now able to watch local City meetings broadcast live over the internet! Users can also instantly replay all or part of those meetings at their convenience through a link on the City's Website. The City launched the new videostreaming technology in the spring to enhance the accessibility of Channel 8 programming to citizens who may not have access to WRTV8.

Click [here](#) to view the live and on demand videos!

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, Assistant to the City Manager/Public Information Officer at 303-235-2826 or via E-mail at: hgeyer@ci.wheatridge.co.us

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