



Mayor's Matters

Issue: # 19

February 2010

Greetings!

Happy February! With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, I hope this edition of Mayor's Matters finds you surrounded by those you love. Although it sounds like we're in store for six more weeks of winter, there's a lot of great community news this month that I'm excited to share with you.

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



Wheat Ridge Recreation Center Celebrates 10 Years

Happy Anniversary to the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, which will celebrate 10 years on February 19, 2010!

Beginning next week, the Recreation Center will kick off its "10 Days to 10 Years" countdown with drawings for a free massage, free golf bag, free fitness assessment and more. Then on Friday, February 19 at 10 a.m. join the Recreation Center for light refreshments in celebration of 10 wonderful years!

Visit the Recreation Center [page](#) on the City's Website for more details.

Applewood Bridal Fair - February 21

Planning an upcoming wedding? Looking for ideas for your big day? Join the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center and A to Z Rental for the Applewood Bridal Fair on Sunday, February 21.

The fair is FREE and will take place from 12 - 3 p.m. at the Recreation Center, located at 4005 Kipling St. in Wheat Ridge. Vendors from all wedding categories will be

City Encourages Residents to Participate in 2010 Census

Beginning in March, the U.S. Postal Service will be mailing forms for the 2010 Census in order to gather information from more than 225,000 households in Jefferson County. The data collected from the 2010 Census will affect how more than \$400 billion per year in Federal funding will be distributed to local governments, including Wheat Ridge, and helps determine locations for child care and senior centers, hospitals, schools, community centers and new roads. When households do not return their surveys, Census workers must attempt to reach each resident at their home, which increases the cost of the Census.

The City of Wheat Ridge encourages all residents to complete their 2010 Census forms. The questionnaire is only 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes. Every person living in your residence, both relatives and non-relatives, should be included on the Census form. Individuals should be counted in the residence where they live and sleep most of the time.

Be on the lookout for your 2010 Census in the mail next month. In May, Census workers will follow up with households that did not

return their questionnaires, and in December the U.S. Census Bureau will deliver final data to the President.

Visit the City's [Website](#) for more information on the 2010 Census or log onto www.census.gov.

Kissing Frogs is Dangerous to Your Health (Even for Princesses)

This Valentine's Day, Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) is advising residents that while kissing a frog in the movies, such as the recently released "The Princess and the Frog," may have a fairytale ending, in real life it is dangerous for your health. JCPH Director, Dr. Mark Johnson, MD, MPH, explains that amphibians, such as frogs, as well as reptiles, (e.g. turtles, snakes) are commonly infected with *Salmonella* bacteria.

Visit the Jefferson County Public Health [Website](#) for more information and tips on preventing the spread of *Salmonella* infection.

38th and Kipling Park Design Development Moving Forward in 2010

In 2009, Wheat Ridge City Council approved a master plan for the future park site at 38th and Kipling. With the support of Jefferson County Open Space funds, construction of Phase I and II are underway.

Phases I and II will be constructed back to back and will include utility installation, storm drainage and site preparation. Additionally, construction of the parking lot, interior walkways, lighting and electrical, signage, benches and picnic tables, playgrounds and play area surfacing will also be completed. Construction is currently underway, weather permitting, and is planned to be completed by the summer. Phase III design development will begin in January of 2011. This phase includes the skate park, climbing wall, additional shade shelters and restrooms, trees, landscaping, and construction of two gateway structures and the maze.

For more information, click [here](#) to view a news release on the project.

Fire Department Seeks Community Support for Mill Levy Increase

It has been 15 years since the Wheat Ridge Fire Protection

there and prizes will be given away so don't miss out!

For more information visit www.applewoodbridalfair.net.

Free Steering Wheel Clubs

The Wheat Ridge Police Department Crime Prevention Team is offering free locking steering wheel clubs to residents who have been victims of motor vehicle theft.

Please contact Officer Betsy Sailor at 303-235-2940 for more information.

Save the Date!

March 27, 2010 marks the City's annual **Easter Egg Hunt** at Panorama Park, located at 35th Ave. and Fenton St. The event is FREE to attend so bring the kids for a day of fun in the park! The festivities will begin at 10 a.m.

Wheat Ridge State and Local Elected Official Town Hall Meetings

Hosted by Senator Moe Keller and Representative Sue Schafer and local elected officials. Meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month from 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Upcoming 2010 meeting dates:

Feb. 27 - Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, Dahlia Room, 4005 Kipling St.

March 27 & April 24 - Wheat Ridge Senior/Community Center, Art Room, 6363 W. 35th Ave.

Meeting notes will be posted on the Mayor's page of the

District (WRFPD) has increased the operating Mill Levy. During this time, the WRFPD has seen tremendous growth in residential and commercial development, a substantial increase in call volume, as well as an increase in its workforce from 30 volunteer firefighters to approximately 100 professionals.

Because of factors beyond the control of the WRFPD (e.g. inflation, increased service demands, etc.), the District is seeking support from the community. On May 4, 2010 the WRFPD will ask constituents to consider a Mill Levy increase to improve community safety, response times, firefighter training and equipment.

"As Mayor, I support an increase in the Mill Levy and believe it will be of enormous benefit to not just the Fire District, but to the community as a whole," said Mayor Jerry DiTullio. "I encourage Wheat Ridge citizens to support this initiative."

The authorization to increase the Mill Levy would be used to fund the mail goals of the WRFPD as outlined in the 2010-2012 Strategic Plan.

For more information on what the Mill Levy would fund, go to www.wrfire.org.

City Tests New Emergency Warning System

On Wednesday, the Wheat Ridge Police Department conducted a test of its newest phase 2 All Hazards Emergency Warning System (EWS) sirens. The City will use the five new EWS units, which cover the I-70 corridor through Wheat Ridge, in conjunction with the six existing units from phase 1, which cover the Lena Gulch floodplain and most of the Clear Creek floodplain. A third phase of EWS units will cover the remaining areas of the City and will be implemented as funding becomes available. The City's objective is to eventually have 15 units throughout Wheat Ridge.

"The goal of having an All Hazards Emergency Warning System for the City of Wheat Ridge is to not only have the capability to alert our citizens and motorists of the typical dangers we may encounter, such as tornados or floods, but also of hazardous material spills in the area, and other emergency situations that can occur," said Wheat Ridge Police Chief Dan Brennan.

Future system tests will take place annually on the second Wednesday of April at 10 a.m., which coincides with the cities of Aurora, Denver and Lakewood.

For more information, contact the Wheat Ridge Police Department Public Information Officer Lisa Stigall at 303-235-2930 or E-mail lstigall@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

City Website [here](#).

East Wheat Ridge Neighborhoods Project Going Strong

The East Wheat Ridge Neighborhoods Project, a partnership of the Wheat Ridge Police Department (WRPD), Wheat Ridge 2020 and LiveWell Wheat Ridge, continues to move full speed ahead in its effort to reduce crime, prevent neighborhood decline and enhance quality of life for the local community.

In the beginning stages of the project, the WRPD has gathered data through crime analysis, officer observations and input from its partners. Wheat Ridge residents are invited to offer input and share their concerns so the project can develop strategies to best address these challenges.

Click [here](#) to visit the project's Website. For more information, contact Detective Kyle Eversole at 303-235-2948.

Green Tip

Washing your clothes in cold water saves energy required to heat the water. It's easy to go green now that there are many laundry detergents available specifically for use with cold water.

Source: Green Energy Sustainability

Mayor's Matters available online

Did you know past issues of the Mayor's Matters e-newsletter are available

Citizen Police Academy Scheduled for 2010

The Wheat Ridge Police Department is proud to announce that it will host another session of the Citizen Police Academy in March of 2010.

More information on the program can be found in the City's [Website](#). To download an application, click [here](#). If you are interested in applying for the Citizen Police Academy, please complete the application form and return it to the Patrol Administrative Sergeant at the Wheat Ridge Police Department. Please contact Sergeant Cohen at 303-235-2951 with any questions.

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 the City's new Off-Street Parking Requirements.

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. WRTV8 Top of the Hour is also available on [YouTube](#).

City Treasurer Participates in CML Statehouse Day

Last month, City of Wheat Ridge Treasurer Larry Schulz participated in the Colorado Municipal League's (CML) Statehouse Day, an event focused on learning how the Colorado General Assembly works and how it impacts cities and towns such as Wheat Ridge.

"The CML Statehouse Day was a great opportunity," said City of Wheat Ridge Treasurer Larry Schulz. "We had the opportunity to discuss state issues firsthand with legislative leaders. As Treasurer, budget and finance issues are of the utmost importance to me so it was compelling to hear the State Budget Director Todd Saliman and Senator Joyce Foster speak candidly about the issues facing the State budget."

The CML hosts three Statehouse Days during each legislative session. Officials from local cities



online? Click [here](#) to access the City's Website and download past issues of *Mayor's Matters*!

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and towns were invited to participate in the first one of the 2010 session that took place on January 21. The event included a tour of the Capitol, followed by a state budget briefing with the State Budget Director and lunch with Senator Joyce Foster of Denver and CML's legislative and policy advocates.

For more information visit the CML [Web site](#).

City Offers Online Tax Return Service

Wheat Ridge businesses now have the option to submit tax returns online through the City's [Website](#).

This is a great resource and it only takes a couple clicks to file your taxes. Computer-generated calculations and printed returns will reduce errors and save both taxpayers and the City time in resolving them. Taxpayers will also have instant access to their account information.

Payments must be made on or before their due date by check, cash or money order and a copy of any return(s) must accompany payment. There will be a grace period until the 27th of the month for receipt of payment in the Tax Office. Please note that returns submitted online that are not paid by the end of the grace period will result in receivables subject to collection procedures.

For more information about this service, please visit the Taxes page on the City's Website by clicking [here](#) or call the Tax Office at 303-235-2820 or 303-235-2825.

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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