

From the Office of the Mayor and City Council



# Mayor's Matters

Issue: # 20

April 2010

**Greetings!**

It's official, spring is here! Spring is a time of new growth and while the occasional spring snow may keep our flowers from blooming, there are many signs of development within the City. The Wheat Ridge Department of Community Development is currently drafting a new form of zoning that will promote mixed use development in targeted areas of the city, supporting a resilient local economy and promoting a more vibrant community. Additional information on the initiative is provided in this issue of *Mayor's Matters* so read on to learn more!



*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

## Easter Egg Hunt rescheduled for this Saturday April 3!

Children ages 2 through 9 years old are invited to participate in the City's annual Easter Egg Hunt. Due to field conditions and inclement weather, the event has been rescheduled for **Saturday, April 3 at 10 a.m.** The Easter Egg Hunt will take place at Panorama Park, located at 35th Avenue & Fenton Street.

The event is FREE and children should bring a basket. Age Divisions are: 2 years; 3-4 years; 5-6 years; and 7-9 years.

In case of inclement weather on April 3, go to the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center (4005 Kipling St.) gym for egg pick-up. The decision to move to the Recreation Center will be posted on-site.

For additional information please contact the Recreation Center at 303-231-1300. Hope to see you there!



**Check out what's happening in your community!**

Did you find the City's quarterly *Connections* newsletter in your mailbox? *Connections* is a great way to stay connected with the community!

The newsletter is produced and published by the Wheat Ridge City Manager's Office and distributed as a source of news and information to residents and businesses in the community. If you are not receiving your copy of *Connections*, please contact Heather Geyer, Assistant to the City Manager/Public Information Officer at [hgeyer@ci.wheatridge.co.us](mailto:hgeyer@ci.wheatridge.co.us).

*Connections* is also available on the City's [Website](#).

**Share your input on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Project**

Click [here](#) to learn more about upcoming meetings and how you can provide input on

## 38th Avenue Mixed Use Forum rescheduled due to weather

The March 24 38th Avenue Mixed Use Forum has been rescheduled for **Thursday, April 8 at 6 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building located at 7500 W. 29th Avenue.

"Community involvement in the Mixed Use Zoning project is a very important part of shaping the future of Wheat Ridge," said Mayor Jerry DiTullio. "I encourage residents to use the interactive online tools and public meetings as a way to stay engaged in what is happening in our community. Be sure to view the April edition of Top of the Hour on Mixed Use Zoning on WRTV8."

## Mixed Use Zoning 101

### What is Zoning?

Zoning is a tool that local governments use to regulate land development. Traditional zoning sets where certain land uses - such offices, houses, apartments or warehouses - are allowed. It also establishes development standards, like how tall a building may be and how much parking is required.

### Why Mixed Use Zoning?

Wheat Ridge's current zoning code is like many codes from the 1950s and 1960s. It focuses on a suburban pattern of development that separates uses and is difficult to apply to redevelopment and infill, the primary development type that occurs in Wheat Ridge. The new mixed use zoning is intended to:

- Provide a more flexible approach to zoning within important commercial centers and corridors.
- Encourage development that is walkable, compact and contains a mix of land uses. This means that people can access a variety of amenities - from restaurants and shops to their office or home - by walking.
- Create a balanced mix of land uses that will promote long-term economic growth for our community.

### Learn More

Please visit the project Website [here](#) to learn more about the project. At the site, you can view upcoming meeting dates, take a survey about important issues in the mixed use code and participate in a community photo journal.

For more information about this meeting and/or the project, contact Sarah Showalter, Planner II at 303-235-2849 or [sshowalter@ci.wheatridge.co.us](mailto:sshowalter@ci.wheatridge.co.us).

## Federal stimulus dollars come to

bicycle and pedestrian routes and connections in the City.

### National League of Cities Prescription Discount Card Program

Save on prescriptions that are not covered by insurance. Click [here](#) for more information.

Prescription Discount Cards are available at the City Municipal Building, Recreation Center and Senior/Community Center.

### 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:

**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 City's Website found [here](#).*

### Meet Cody the Code Ranger and his new dog, Tag!

Cody and Tag are working with the Community Services Team to provide information on animal related ordinances.

Whenever you see Cody and Tag you will find helpful information on being a responsible pet



## Wheat Ridge for housing

*Wheat Ridge 2020 enters into contract with Jefferson County*

On March 22, Wheat Ridge 2020 announced a contract for over \$1.5 million to purchase, rehabilitate and resell foreclosed homes in the City. The funding source for this activity is the Community Development Block/Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant Fund made available through the Community Development Program of Jefferson County. To learn more about this initiative, visit the WR2020 Website [here](#).

## Did you complete your Census form?

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 this 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](http://www.census.gov).

## East Wheat Ridge Neighborhood Project

Neighborhoods are built on a sense of community and pride among residents in their property and surroundings. A partnership between the Wheat Ridge Police Department, Wheat Ridge 2020 and LiveWell Wheat Ridge, is interested in doing its part as a member of the community to reduce crime and quality of life issues as well as prevent neighborhood decline.

This partnership has received grant dollars to assist in efforts to reduce crime, increase quality of life and create a healthier community. To learn more about this project and how you can share your input, visit the City's Website [here](#).

## Now on Wheat Ridge Top of the Hour...

owner in the City of Wheat Ridge.

Click [here](#) to access the current issue of *Connections* and read more about Cody and Tag and the City's animal related ordinances.

### Would you like to receive City Council agendas and meeting minutes electronically?

Wheat Ridge City Council agendas and *draft* meeting minutes are sent electronically, free of charge, from the City Clerk's Office.

For additional e-mail subscriptions, please send a request with your name and e-mail address to Michael Snow, City Clerk, at [msnow@ci.wheatridge.co.us](mailto:msnow@ci.wheatridge.co.us) or call 303-235-2823.

### Green Tip

Reducing your speed to 55 mph from 65 mph may increase your fuel efficiency by as much as 15 percent; cut it to 55 from 70, and you could get a 23 percent improvement.

*Source: TheGreenGuide.com*

### 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

The current edition of the award-winning WRTV8 Top of the Hour is now playing and features information about the Mixed Use Zoning project.

In case you missed it, check out last month's edition which highlighted the City's Therapeutic Recreation Program.

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](#).

## Emergency Warning System Testing

On **Wednesday, April 14 at 10 a.m.**, the City will conduct an audible test of the 11 recently installed Emergency Warning System (EWS) sirens.

To learn more about these siren locations and future tests, read the article on page 4 of the *Connections* newsletter [here](#). A map is provided on page 15 of the newsletter.

## Now accepting naming proposals for 38th and Kipling park

The City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Commission is accepting names for the new park at 38th and Kipling for a 4-week period from March 22 through April 16, 2010.

Click [here](#) for full details, guidelines, submission requirements and instructions.

All proposals must be received by **5 p.m. on April 16, 2010** to be considered.

If you have any questions, please call 303-231-1307.

## 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](mailto:hgeyer@ci.wheatridge.co.us)

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