



# Mayor's Matters

JULY 2011

## Greetings!

I hope you are all enjoying our hot and stormy summer! Mayor's Matters is your monthly connection to learn about the great things happening in the City of Wheat Ridge! I encourage you to share this newsletter with any friends or family who may wish to know more about Wheat Ridge. Feel free to forward this on to others.



Please note we have changed the mailing date of this e-newsletter to the fourth Friday of every month.

*Mayor Jerry DiTullio*

## Partnership with LiveWell Wheat Ridge, Metro Mayors Caucus and Hunger Free Colorado helps bring Federal Summer Food Service Program to Wheat Ridge Children



I visited Healing Waters Family Center on July 7 and enjoyed a healthy summer meal with the children. We are proud to have the support of several local nonprofits as well as the Federal Summer Food Service Program to provide healthy lunches to the children in the City. Helping local parents provide wholesome lunches to their children helps improve the overall health of our community. For more information, visit the [Hunger Free Colorado Website](#).

## **National Night Out**

Monday, August 1, 2011  
3 – 7 p.m.

Hayward Park  
7500 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Ave.

[Click here for details on National Night Out!](#)

## **You Can Still Catch a Free Summer Performance in the Park!**

- **Children's Morning Performance – *Hunk-Ta-Bunk-Ta-Music* with Katherine Dines**  
Wednesday, August 3  
10 – 10:45 a.m.  
Anderson Park
- **Family Evening Performance – *Hot Tomatoes, Big Band Swing***  
Wednesday, August 3  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
Anderson Park

**Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival announces two nights of Fireworks!!  
Friday and Saturday, August 19 and 20**



**Festival Highlights:**

- Firework displays both evenings at 9:15 p.m.
- Parade at 10 a.m. Saturday on W. 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Two stages of live music; the Nacho Men are featured on Saturday night
- Adult and Kiddie Carnivals
- Spaghetti Supper –by the Wheat Ridge Fire Department
- Chili Cook-off – by volunteer cooks who want to enter their best chili recipe
- Saturday, noon to 1:00 p.m. , free children’s event featuring a kiddie parade, toy swap, hula hoop lessons, drum classes and free crafts



For more information visit [www.thecarnationfestival.com](http://www.thecarnationfestival.com).

**Nominate Your Favorite Business**

Each year, the City Appreciation Program is held to recognize Wheat Ridge’s outstanding Business Award winners, and to recognize the business community as a whole for their contributions to making Wheat Ridge a great community. I am honored to host the event and have an opportunity to highlight such an important component of our City’s success.

The City is seeking nominations for its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Appreciation Award Program in one or more of the following categories:

**Visit the Wheat Ridge Farmers’ Market**

Thursdays  
10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
4252 Wadsworth Blvd.  
[Click here for information on the Wheat Ridge Farmers Market.](#)

**Produce & Health Fair**

*Free Fruits & Vegetables, Cooking Demonstrations & Health Resources*  
Friday, August 12  
9 – 11:30 a.m.  
Healing Waters Family Center  
6475 W. 29th Ave.

**Who Do You Brake For?**

That’s the question the City of Wheat Ridge and other metro area



municipalities are asking this summer.

Earlier this summer, Wheat Ridge City Council passed a proclamation in support of the "Brake for Bela" safe summer driving campaign that aims to combat the seasonal increase in vehicle/pedestrian accidents.

- **Business of the Year** – This award recognizes a business that exemplifies the values of our community (aka the ‘Best in Business.’)
- **Reinvestment Award** – This award recognizes a business that has demonstrated one or more of the following: made a significant investment in its property, improved the overall appearance of the site, maintained property at the highest standards, or updated their building in a manner to make it more marketable.
- **Cultural Commission Award** – This award recognizes a business which has made an impact on our community through one or more of the following: promoting/encouraging culture and the arts, promoting awareness of our cultural activities, diversity, heritage, supporting opportunities in art education for all ages or incorporating art into the architecture and design of their building.
- **City Council’s Partnership Award** – This award gives the City Council an opportunity to recognize a company for their overall contributions to the City. It incorporates criteria from all award categories as well as contributions in volunteerism, leadership and community investment/involvement.
- **Mayor’s Business and Youth Partnership Award** – This award gives the Mayor an opportunity to recognize a company for their overall contributions. It incorporates criteria from all award categories as well as contributions in volunteerism, leadership and community investment, but must also include involvement with the mentoring, training, and partnering with youth.

Anyone wishing to nominate a Wheat Ridge business for an award this year should go to the Economic Development page of the City’s website at [www.ci.wheatridge.co.us](http://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us) to print a nomination form. Forms are also available at City Hall, the Public Library and the Recreation Center. All nominations for the Annual Business Awards Program must be received by Friday, September 2, 2011. For all media inquiries, please contact Steve Art, Economic Development Manager at 303-235-2806 or via email at [sart@ci.wheatridge.co.us](mailto:sart@ci.wheatridge.co.us).

This is the inaugural year of "Brake for Bela" and the campaign hopes to grow. To learn more, visit [www.cig-pr.com/bela](http://www.cig-pr.com/bela), or [www.facebook.com/brakeforbela](http://www.facebook.com/brakeforbela).

Show your support by "liking" Brake for Bela on Facebook!

#### QUICK LINKS

[City of Wheat Ridge](#)

[Mayor's Office](#)

[Quarterly Connections Newsletter](#)

[Wheat Ridge Channel 8](#)

[Mayor's Matters E-Newsletter](#)

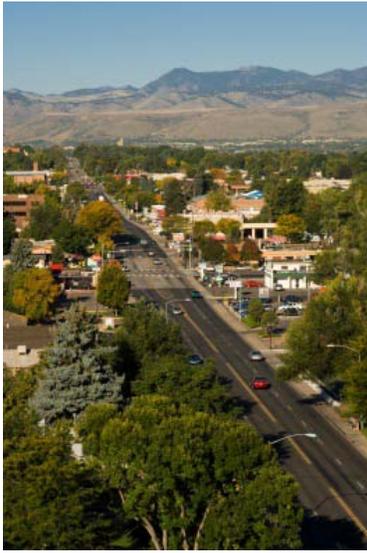
[WRTV 8 Live and On Demand Videos](#)

[Jefferson County](#)

[Wheat Ridge 2020](#)

[Enterprise Wheat Ridge](#)

## 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor Plan – What’s Your Vision?



The Department of Community Development invites you to attend the final community input session for the 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor Plan. The purpose of the plan is to develop a vision for the future of 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Sheridan and Wadsworth. The public has already provided valuable feedback about the future of this corridor at two previous meetings. At the final meeting on August 9, staff and the consultant hired for the project will summarize the plan’s major recommendations

and discuss important implementation steps. To learn more and to download materials from the previous meetings, please visit the City’s website: [www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/38thAve](http://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/38thAve)

**Date:** Tuesday, August 9

**Time:** 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

**Location:** Wheat Ridge Recreation Center – 4005 Kipling St.

**(\*Please Note New Location\*)**

### **Civic Academy 2011**

Registration is now open for this fall’s Civic Academy! The Civic Academy is designed to introduce citizens to the overall structure of the City, how it works and how it impacts their lives on a daily basis. It also provides participants with opportunities to meet other active Wheat Ridge residents, City staff and elected officials. Civic Academy is open to Wheat Ridge residents of high school age or older. For more information or to download an application please visit the City website at [www.ci.wheatridge.co.us](http://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us).



### **Discovery Park, Phase III Construction**

Construction of Phase III at Discovery Park is scheduled to begin in mid-July, including the skate park, climbing wall, trees, a permanent restroom, shade shelters, landscaping, and construction of two gateway structures and maze.

Anticipated completion is late November with completion of the skate park by early January 2012.

### **Wadsworth Trail Project**

A 10-foot wide multi use trail will be built along Wadsworth Blvd. from 32<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. Please click [here](#) for additional information.

### **Jeffco CARES Festival Brings Community Together**

Mark your calendars for August 6 from noon – 4 p.m. for a no-cost event with more than 50 vendors and resources assisting every day citizens at the Lakewood Heritage Center, 801 South Yarrow St. [Click here](#) for more information on the event.

### **News from the City's Sales Tax Department: Automated Clearing House (ACH) Tax Payments Off to a Robust Start**

On July 1, the City of Wheat Ridge introduced online ACH debit payments to complement the online tax filing program. For the first half of the month, which does not include the filing deadline period of the 20<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>, over eight percent (about \$25,000) of the tax revenues received were via ACH debit. Fifteen percent of the returns filed during the early-filer period were done online, including the ever-

present zero-due return. What a significant reduction in recording and document retention time as well as filing errors! The Tax Division is anticipating an even better response in the filing deadline period.

For returns paid by the ACH debit method, the total cost including fees and staff time is only 55 cents per item. In comparison, the total cost of receiving, banking, recording and retaining a return by the traditional paper method averages \$3.94. The cost efficiency is obvious, but added benefits are that tax staff has more time to lavish on customers seeking assistance and to explore and develop further cost-saving customer service improvements. The naturally resulting better understanding of how to follow City tax and licensing rules and feeling of significant support will lead to a more positive business experience in Wheat Ridge to further the City's goals of being attractive to business.

### **The Wheat Ridge Greenbelt is greener...**

...thanks to a \$4,000 grant from the Colorado Tree Coalition and Xcel Energy. Recently, more than 350 trees were planted along Clear Creek between Prospect Park and Kipling.



These trees along the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt are thirsty, and we're looking for some volunteers to water them on a regular basis through the rest of the summer. The young cottonwoods are all in need of water. If you hike or bike the greenbelt and are willing to help, please contact [mpaget@ci.wheatridge.co.us](mailto:mpaget@ci.wheatridge.co.us) or call Margaret Paget, Forestry and Open Space Supervisor, at 303-205-7554. This is a perfect opportunity for families, groups or individuals who want to help. Training and supplies are provided.

### **For more information**

If you would like more information about the Mayor's Matters e-newsletter, please feel free to contact Heather Geyer, Administrative Services Director, at 303-235-2826 or via e-mail at: [hgeyer@ci.wheatridge.co.us](mailto:hgeyer@ci.wheatridge.co.us).