



Office of the City Manager, City of Wheat Ridge
7500 West 29th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033-8001

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 1, 2013

Contact: Nathan Mosley, Management Analyst

Email: nmosley@ci.wheatridge.co.us

Phone: 303.235.2867

Fax: 303.234.5924

Cultural Commission Announces April “Meet the Artist” Event

WHEAT RIDGE, CO – The Wheat Ridge Cultural Commission will host the monthly “Meet the Artist” event on Thursday, April 18 at Compass Construction, 7018 W. 38th Avenue, Wheat Ridge. The event will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and light refreshments will be served.

The intricate artwork of Jim Stevens will be featured at the April event. Stevens is a sculptor and a graphite artist, but he is best known for his scrimshaw work. Scrimshaw, the art of scribing detailed images into ivory, horn, antler or bone, is the oldest of the very few art forms that are native to North America. Stevens’ work in the medium is internationally recognized and collected and he has authored three books on the topic.

Stevens began his artistic journey as a child, but gave it up after injuries from a gunshot wound in Vietnam resulted in the loss of his eyesight. With the support and encouragement of his daughter, Jim began exploring his creative side again.

“The more I did, the more I felt I could do,” Stevens states on his website. “I kept working and relearning the craft—learning how to do my art without the eyesight an artist so desperately needs. It has been a long process but I finally re-mastered the skills—using a variety of special lenses, but the art and the quality are finally there again. After years without art, once again, I love what I do.”

Stevens will describe the art of scrimshaw and his approach to the many art forms he works in during the Meet the Artist event in April hosted by Compass Construction.

Compass Construction is a residential and commercial general contractor specializing in tenant finish, custom building, and home remodeling including basements, additions, kitchens, bathrooms. The home office has been in Wheat Ridge since 2010, after moving from the Berkley area in Denver.

The owners of Compass Construction, Nathan and Janeece Hoppe, are active in the community and enjoy supporting the local artistic culture. They are happy to showcase Stevens’ work because he is their Wheat Ridge neighbor and friend.

The Wheat Ridge Cultural Commission was created to promote culture and arts in the City and foster cultural enrichment and education opportunities for the citizens of Wheat Ridge. For more information on the Cultural Commission or the “Meet the Artist” events, contact Milly Nadler at millynadler@gmail.com

###