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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wheat Ridge Business Association and City Honor 2013 Business Award Winners

Local businesses recognized for outstanding contributions to the community

WHEAT RIDGE, CO – The City of Wheat Ridge and the Wheat Ridge Business Association (WRBA) recognized outstanding businesses in the community at the 10th Annual Business Appreciation Awards Breakfast on September 25th. Local leaders and members of the business community joined Mayor Jerry DiTullio to celebrate the achievements of Wheat Ridge businesses in six categories. A Special Recognition Award was also presented during the ceremony to highlight a local company that received statewide recognition from the Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

The 2013 award recipients are:

- **Business of the Year – Swiss Flower and Gift Shop**
- **Reinvestment Award – Colorado Plus & West 29th Restaurant and Bar**
- **Cultural Commission Award – Teller Street Gallery and Studios**
- **City Council Partnership Award – Loretta DiTirro**
- **Mayor's Business & Community Partnership Award – Wheat Ridge Police Department and WRBA for the Feed the Future program**
- **WRBA Member of the Year Award – Teller Street Gallery and Studios**
- **Special Recognition Award – Able Planet**

Citizen's and local businesses nominated their choice for the *Business of the Year* and the *Reinvestment Award*. Nominations were reviewed and winners selected by a team of Jefferson County business professionals. The individual or organization sponsoring the other awards selected their winners.

Business of the Year: Swiss Flower and Gift Shop, owner Heide Haas-Sheard. This award recognizes a business that exemplifies the *Best in Business* and represents the values of the community.

Other nominees included: Big O Tires, The Brown Dog School, Christopher House, Food for Thought Catering, Golden Wealth Solutions, Right Coast Pizza, Teller Street Gallery and

Studios, Thank 'em Promotions, Vinyl Works, Walker's Quality Cage & Feed, and Wheat Ridge Liquors.

Reinvestment Award Winners: Colorado Plus, owner Eugene Khang, and West 29th Restaurant and Bar, owner Bud Starker.

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.

Other nominees included: Bob Perry and Associates, Colorado Plus, King Soopers, RDC Properties, and T-Bird Roadhouse

Cultural Commission Award Winner: Teller Street Gallery and Studios, owner Joe and Mandy Fulton.

This award recognizes a business that has made an impact on the community through one or more of the following: promoting/encouraging culture and the arts, promoting awareness of our cultural activities, diversity, or heritage, supporting opportunities in art education for all ages or incorporating art into the architecture and design of their building.

Other nominees included: The Art Lounge, Mod Mood and Retro Consignment, and Water Whispers

City Council Partnership Award Winner: Loretta DiTirro

The City Council recognizes a company or individual 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 & Community Partnership Award Winner: Wheat Ridge Police Department and Wheat Ridge Business Association for the Feed the Future Program

The Mayor recognizes a company or program for their overall contributions. The award incorporates criteria from all categories as well as contributions in volunteerism, leadership, and community investment, but must also include involvement with the mentoring, training, and partnering with youth in the community.

WRBA Member of the Year Award: Teller Street Gallery and Studios

This award is given to the WRBA member of the year for their contribution to the organization and the community.

Special Recognition Award Winner: Able Planet

A special recognition award was given to Able Planet for being named a 2013 *Colorado Company to Watch* by the state office of economic development and international trade and the Edward Lowe Foundation.

Detailed information about the award recipients and their companies is available on request. Contact Steve Art, Economic Development Manager, at 303.235.2806 or via email at sart@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

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