



Mayor's Matters

Issue: # 11

May 2009

Greetings!

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you the loss of one of Wheat Ridge's most compassionate citizens, Dennis Mantas. Dennis owned Wheat Ridge Pharmacy and was tragically lost in a fire that took place in an Arvada home last week. Dennis was a generous, kindhearted person who spent much of his time giving back to others in the community. Over the past few years, Dennis invested a considerable amount of funds remodeling the Wheat Ridge Pharmacy located at 6650 W. 38th Ave. and was dedicated to showing his loyal customers the highest level of service through passion for his work and for his clients. Dennis was an active community member who invested his time and money in the local economy. He supported many local nonprofits by donating to their causes, employing their clients and participating in their organizations. He also spent time in schools talking to students about drug abuse.



Dennis is a true inspiration to our community and will be deeply missed. My thoughts are with Dennis' family as we remember his generous spirit and passion for others.

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

Annual Business Awards - Request for Nominations

It is always an honor to recognize the businesses within the City and their contributions toward making Wheat Ridge a strong, healthy and vibrant community. With all the activity that took place during 2008, we're hoping to receive a number of nominations this year.

Give us your feedback, win a FREE gift certificate!

As part of its ongoing commitment to continually improve the City's communication efforts, we'd like to invite you to participate in an online survey and give us your feedback on *Connections* - the City of Wheat Ridge's quarterly newsletter. It only takes a few minutes and as a thank-you for your feedback, respondents will be entered in a random drawing to receive one of two available prizes. One winner will receive **dinner for two at Amici's Restaurant** on Wadsworth Boulevard, while another will receive a **\$10 gift certificate to Big Sky Espresso Cafe** on 38th Avenue - both are Wheat Ridge small businesses!

Please take a moment to fill out the online survey located [here](#)! We appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts so we may continue to provide you with the highest level of service and value.

Comprehensive Plan Tip of the Month

The City of Wheat Ridge encompasses a total of approximately 5,500 acres. Of that, 390 acres are vacant

Click [here](#) to view the official entry form for 2009. If you would like a hard-copy nomination form, please contact Ryan Stachelski at 303-235-2806, or e-mail rstachelski@ci.wheatridge.co.us and one will be sent to you. We urge you to nominate a business within the City, including your own; after all who knows more about your business and its accomplishments than you!

The deadline for nominations is June 12, 2009. Award recipients will be honored at the Annual Business Appreciation Lunch on August 7, 2009. Please make sure to mark your calendar with this important date.

Thank you for being a part of the Wheat Ridge community. We look forward to your participation in the 6th Annual Business Appreciation Lunch and Awards Ceremony.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ryan Stachelski at 303-235-2806 or rstachelski@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

Be in the Know!

Economic forecast by Dr. Richard Wobbekind

Enterprise Wheat Ridge, a local business organization, will host guest speaker Dr. Richard Wobbekind at its meeting on **Tuesday, May 12, 2009**. The public is invited to join this meeting and hear from an expert about the state of the Colorado economy.

Dr. Wobbekind is a lead economist at the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business. He will enlighten the audience with his depth of knowledge on what makes Colorado tick and what he foresees for the economic environment in the next few months. Questions will be welcomed at the end of his presentation.

Due to the popularity of Dr. Wobbekind and his topic, early registration is strongly suggested as seating will be limited. The meeting will be held at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, starting with a breakfast served from 7- 7:30 a.m. The cost to attend is \$12 for Enterprise Wheat Ridge members and \$15 for guests. You may make a reservation online at www.ewheatridge.com or mail a check to EWR, PO Box 1231, Wheat Ridge, 80034-1231. Reservations and money are to be received by Friday, May 8, 2009. For questions about Enterprise Wheat Ridge or the event please call 303-594-1520.

Leaves of Hope 5K Walk/Run

Lutheran Medical Center Foundation wants to continue the strong tradition started last year by inviting you to join us for the second annual **Leaves of Hope 5K Run/Walk** scheduled for **Sunday, June 7, 2009**. Every dollar helps support the fight against cancer



(this does not include parks/open space or agriculturally zoned areas). Except for the proposed future Cabela's site, the majority of the vacant properties are less than 20 acres in size. This presents a challenge for the City in accommodating new commercial and retail development needed to generate sales tax revenue to support City services and programs.

To learn more about the Comprehensive Plan Update click [here](#).

Coffee with a Cop

Meet and visit with members of the Wheat Ridge Police Department over coffee! Ask questions about the department, special programs or law enforcement in general. The next opportunity is:

**Monday, May 11
9 to 11 a.m.**

Coffee with a Cop takes place at the Starbucks located at 3450 Youngfield Street in Wheat Ridge.

Upcoming dates:

**Monday, June 8
9 to 11 a.m.**

**Monday, July 13
9 to 11 a.m.**

**Monday, August 10
9 to 11 a.m.**

Celebrate Arbor Day!

Join us for a community celebration of free lectures

and offers hope for individuals in our community.

The cost to register is \$25 if you sign up before June 2. The cost to register on the day of the race is \$35. Youths age 14 and under are \$10.

To pre-register online by credit card, click [here](#). Credit card payments will be accepted until 3 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2009.

To pre-register in person, visit the Runners Roost in Lakewood, located at Wadsworth and Alameda. Cash and checks will be accepted at this location May 2 - June 2, 2009.

Strollers and dogs on leashes are welcome! The event will begin and end at Lutheran Medical Center. A map of the certified 5K course can be found by clicking [here](#).

For more information, contact Lutheran Medical Center Foundation at 303-467-4800 or visit the [Lutheran Medical Center Foundation Website](#).

Mountain View and the Elephant in the Room

A few weeks back a reporter called me from the Denver Post and interviewed me for about an hour about Mountain View annexing into the City of Wheat Ridge. The article can be viewed [here](#) and was written by the Denver Post reporter Allison Sherry. I found it interesting that none of my interview was documented in the Denver Post article.

Last fall, Councilmember Lawnie Gold contacted me and stated that Mountain View was interested in discussing the possibility of annexing into Wheat Ridge by a vote of Mountain View residents. I told him that we should discuss all of the pros and cons, but that Wheat Ridge was very interested in the proposal. We decided to set up a meeting between the two cities. We never heard back from Mr. Gold and now I see in the article that Mr. Gold is a "former" member of City Council. It is disappointing that Mr. Gold and other pro-active citizens were stifled before a full and public discussion could be held.

The City of Wheat Ridge fully acknowledges the history and background of Mountain View, and still would if Mountain View joined Wheat Ridge. There is power in numbers when it comes to leveraging funds and securing federal grants. Mountain View leadership needs to acknowledge that joining Wheat Ridge would deliver better and stronger services to their residents at no extra cost. Wheat Ridge would gain a commercial strip along 44th Ave. and would be able to better service the neighborhoods and businesses. Annexation would create a synergy that has been missing for years between the two entities. Denying the need for

and hands-on workshops May 1-2, 2009 at Olinger Crown Hill! Click [here](#) for more information.

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

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annexation due to pride and stubbornness is not good public policy in 2009 and only brings further deterioration to the area. Mountain View had to return approximately \$170,000 to Jefferson County because City leaders could not identify a project that could take advantage of the Community Development Block Grant Funds from the County.

Wheat Ridge is still willing to meet with Mountain View and begin an open and logical discussion about annexation. We hope to hear from Mountain View soon. The elephant in the room cannot be ignored any longer.

Stay Connected with Live and On Demand Videos

Wheat Ridge residents are now able to watch local City meetings broadcast live over the internet! Users can also instantly replay all or part of those meetings at their convenience through a link on the City's Website. The City launched the new videostreaming technology last month to enhance the accessibility of Channel 8 programming to citizens who may not have access to WRTV 8.

Click [here](#) to view the live and on demand videos!

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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