

From the Office of the Mayor and City Council



# Mayor's Matters

Issue: # 21

May 2010

**Greetings!**

*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



### Wheat Ridge Fire Department mill levy vote

Voters in the Wheat Ridge Fire Protection District overwhelmingly approved an increase in their mill levy from 3.5 mills to 7.5 mills.

This is the first increase in the mill levy since 1995 and will go to improve call responses, firefighter training, equipment and apparatus replacement, enhance and strengthen the public education programs.

For more information visit [www.wrfire.org](http://www.wrfire.org).

### Mayor's Public Art Campaign Update

Thank you to Steve Huppert, General Manager of Corrugated Packaging for Temple-Inland of Wheat Ridge, for the \$5,000 donation for the sculpture planned at the 38th and Kipling Park.

Wheat Ridge also thanks Blue Sky Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for their \$500 donation.

To date, the Mayor's Public Art Campaign has received \$16,280 in private donations.

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

### The 41st Annual Carnation Festival "Getting to Know You"

This year's Carnation Festival theme is a perfect fit! Our annual Festival this August 20th and 21st incorporates several factors to ensure success: Wheat Ridge City Government support, sponsorship from local and regional businesses, and, believe it or not, our citizens. That's right, YOU and ME. As you read this, plans are being made, numbers crunched, and new ideas are gaining traction. Come be a part of an event that is in its 41st wonderful year.

While it is always tons of fun to show up for the famous fireworks show and stay for the music, midway and events, why not volunteer for a committee and have a direct effect on what happens at this year's Carnation Festival!

There are lots of jobs to help with:

If you love live music, dancing, and performance groups, join the Entertainment Committee and help find, book, contract, and assist our two stages worth of talented acts. Bands need help moving equipment, or you can help by introducing the next act!

Maybe you have a knack for fundraising - a true skill. Our Festival relies heavily on sponsorship, and this requires legwork and persistence. Different levels of sponsorship are available, and you will see the results of your efforts in the program, advertising, and on the banners hung along 38th Avenue.

There is also a need on the weekend of the Festival to staff the information booth, hand out programs, answer questions, fetch water for the petting zoo animals, assist vendors, and more!

What better way to give back to your community than to join a team that takes your ideas and makes them reality? What better way to "Get to Know" your neighbors than to work together? Who knows, you might even make some friends! The Carnation Festival Committee is made up entirely of volunteers - some have been involved since the very beginning, and others are brand new.

The Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival continues to evolve and improve, but it can't be done without the dedication and continued efforts of volunteers- that's YOU and ME. The best part of it all - IT'S FUN. Check out the website [www.TheCarnationFestival.com](http://www.TheCarnationFestival.com) for more information on how you can help.

## City-wide Open House - Mixed Use Zoning

What if Wheat Ridge had a vibrant Town Center along Wadsworth, complete with shops, offices, and maybe even lofts? What if 38th Avenue - between Sheridan and Wadsworth - became a lively main street with a unique mix of stores and restaurants that drew people on foot from one destination to the next? The City is working a new form of zoning that would encourage this kind of mixed use development along major commercial corridors - such as Wadsworth and 38th Avenue - and at the future Ward Road commuter rail station.

Since city staff started meeting with property owners in areas targeted for the new mixed use zoning in January 2010, two drafts of the proposed code have been released. We want your input on the draft code. Come to an open house on May 12th to learn more and give us your feedback on important items, from building heights to permitted uses. In the meantime, please check out the project website, where you can learn more information, take a survey, and download a copy of Draft 2 of the code: [www.wrmixeduse.com](http://www.wrmixeduse.com)

### Event Details:

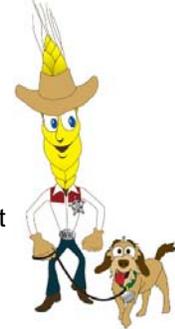
Mixed Use Zoning Open House  
Wednesday, May 12th 6:00-7:30pm  
Municipal Building, City Council Chambers  
7500 W 29th Street

## DRCOG honors Wheat Ridge for Comprehensive Plan

The City of Wheat Ridge has captured a Local Government Award from the Denver Regional Council of Governments

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 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.

### Green Tip

Debating whether to have your car washed or DIY? Go with the pros!

Commercial car washes require an average of about 45 gallons of water per car, whereas home washers typically use between 80 and 140 gallons, according to the trade group International Carwash Association.

Source: *TheDailyGreen.com*

### 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

(DRCOG) for its Envision Wheat Ridge Comprehensive Plan. The award was presented to Wheat Ridge Community Development Director Ken Johnstone at the regional council's 2010 Awards of Excellence Dinner, held April 28 at the Infinity Park Event Center in Glendale.



The plan earned the Silver Award in the awards program's Planning with Vision category. That category, which changes emphasis each awards cycle, recognized local government efforts to integrate land use and transportation planning.

## Check out high tech materials at Jefferson County Public Library

Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL) has expanded its collection to meet the ever-changing needs of Jefferson County citizens. New high-tech offerings include:

- Playaways (portable audiobooks),
- downloadable eBooks, and
- downloadable audiobooks for children, young adults and adults.

"At JCPL, we're committed to providing convenient access to a broad, diverse collection of books and materials," said Marcellus Turner, executive director JCPL. "These new offerings complement our collection by providing 24/7 access to a wealth of information, education and entertainment for our patrons on the go."

To access these and other downloadable resources, visit [JCPL's Download Center](#).

For more information visit your local library or our website at [www.jeffcolibrary.org](http://www.jeffcolibrary.org).

## Jeffco Health Champion Award

On April 7 Ken Johnstone, Community Development Director and Sally Payne, Senior Planner were recognized by the Jefferson County Public Health Department as 2009 "Public Health Champions of the Year." Ken and Sally were among nine other individuals/organizations that were recognized. The March 19 news release issued by Nancy Braden of Jeffco Public Health

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or call 303-235-2823.

### 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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noted, "Jefferson County Public health's diverse group of 2009 public health champions demonstrates the power of partnerships to improve health in our populations."

Specifically, Ken and Sally were recognized for their work on developing and implementing the "Envision Wheat Ridge, City of Wheat Ridge Comprehensive Plan" in October of 2009. It was noted that this "visionary document provides



a blueprint for creating a healthy and sustainable Wheat Ridge" and was the result of highly participatory process that provides strategic guidance for future development. Congratulations to Ken and Sally for a job well done.

Click [here](#) for more information.

## 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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