

February 2012



Mayor's Matters

Deep Roots, Short Commutes

AS AN ASIDE

YOUNG ADULT JOB FAIR

March 6, 2012, 1:30 – 5:30 p.m., young adults ages 14-21, at Jefferson County Fairgrounds, more [information here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: 22ND ANNUAL GOOD NEWS BREAKFAST

Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 6:59 a.m. – 8:29 a.m., Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Ave., Golden, CO 80401

QUICK LINKS

[City of Wheat Ridge Mayor's Office Quarterly Connections Newsletter](#)

[Enterprise Wheat Ridge](#)

[Jefferson County](#)

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

[Wheat Ridge 2020](#)

[Wheat Ridge Channel 8](#)

[Wheat Ridge High School](#)

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

GREETINGS!



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 newsletter on to others.

Hope you enjoy the new format of the e-newsletter, my goal is to go to the next level with improved graphics and a Council Corner section to increase communication between Elected Officials and our community.

Mayor Jerry DiTullio

As we head into 2012 the greatest issue that faces Wheat Ridge and other cities across the state relates to reaching a balance between the funding of existing and new services versus a decrease in revenues coming into the City. Read about this issue in [2012 State of the City of Wheat Ridge](#).

GROUNDBREAKING EVENT: RENEWAL WHEAT RIDGE, WAZEE PARTNERS, AND WESTON TEAM UP TO BUILD APARTMENT COMMUNITY





The groundbreaking event for the new 88-unit affordable housing community at the Wheat Ridge Town Center site at 44th and Wadsworth was held on February 17th.

The age-restricted apartment community, which will include an exercise facility, library, coffee/bistro room and community room, as well as an outdoor courtyard and garden area, will be located on approximately 2.25 acres of an 8-acre redevelopment site that was purchased by Renewal Wheat Ridge, the Urban Renewal Authority for the City of Wheat Ridge, in spring 2008. The additional acreage is up for sale.

John Reinsma, Weston Development Manager, commented, "This public-private partnership is helping to revitalize the City of Wheat Ridge, and we're excited to be a part of the redevelopment." Tyler Downs, Principal of Wazee Partners, LLC, stated, "This exciting urban redevelopment project would not have been possible without Renewal Wheat Ridge, the City of Wheat Ridge, and Weston Solutions."



Information on the Wheat Ridge Town Center Apartment Community can be found at www.wheatridgeseniorliving.com. For information about Urban Renewal and the City of Wheat Ridge, contact Steve Art at sart@ci.wheatridge.co.us or visit the City [Website](#).

WHEAT RIDGE "FEED THE FUTURE" BACKPACK PROGRAM

Wheat Ridge takes pride in the many services and programs it provides to their residents, many through volunteer efforts of community members. One of these is the Wheat Ridge Feed the Future Backpack program, mirrored after the National Backpack program. A committee of volunteers, lead by Chief Dan Brennan, manages Feed the Future for our City. The purpose of the program is to serve the needs of Title I elementary children who have been identified as those "at risk" and without food on the weekends.

In Wheat Ridge we have three elementary schools – Pennington, Kullerstrand and Stevens – with students that are in need of these services. At this time, we have over 300 students that require assistance from the program, all pre-screened to ensure the need is essential. Each Friday, children take home a sack filled with food including breakfast, lunch and snack items, along with fruits and vegetables to see them through the weekend.

If you have considered donating to the program, following is a guideline on how far your donation will go:

- \$50 – Feeds one student for half a school year.
- \$100 – Feeds one student for a school year.
- \$1,000 – Feeds one classroom for a school year.
- \$10,000 – Feeds one school for a school year.

Donations may be made online at www.arvadacommunityfoodbank.org or you can send a check * to:

Arvada Community Food Bank 8555 W. 57th Avenue Arvada, CO 80002

* Please note Wheat Ridge Feed the Future on the memo line.

If you, or your company, would like further information on the program, please contact Mike Herman at Mike.GWS@advisorfocus.com or Loretta DiTirro at lorettaditirro@comcast.net.

Council Corner

*New Construction
will bring essential
healthcare services
and jobs to
Wheat Ridge*



Davis Reinhart, District 1

It is exciting to see construction moving forward at the intersection of Wadsworth and 29th. For years, the idle and much discussed Olinger Mortuary site remained vacant and underutilized. Today, you see earthmovers transforming the site into what will be home to a new medical office building for Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN).

MCPN is a non-profit healthcare organization that provides medical, dental, mental health, substance abuse, pharmacy, and community based services which include case management, outreach to the homeless, adolescent services, health education, and maternal child health to the underserved. MCPN has a network of 11 health centers located throughout metro Denver. The new facility will complement and enhance access to health care services.

The site is currently being graded, but soon you will see construction begin on an attractive 57,000 sq.ft., 2½ story building that is strongly oriented toward Wadsworth creating a new destination for the City. MCPN and their architects were responsive to comments from the neighbors: preserving mature trees, providing buffers and walkways, but not roadways, thereby protecting the adjoining neighborhood from traffic impacts.

Beyond the delivery of essential health services, MCPN supports the City's efforts to create a resilient local economy with a balanced mix of land uses. During construction, MCPN will invest in excess of \$1.3 million in the local economy. It is estimated that construction will take approximately 12 months. Once up and running, MCPN plans to employ a staff of 83 full-time employees. Many of these staff members will be highly paid medical professionals, some of whom will wish to live and shop in Wheat Ridge.

MCPN is a development that will benefit the community at-large and help build a foundation for a sustainable Wheat Ridge.



Election Information -

2012 Republican Primary Election – June 26, 2012

- **Registration Deadline for the Primary Election is Tuesday, May 29, 2012**

General Election – November 6, 2012

- **Registration Deadline for the General Election is Tuesday, October 9, 2012**

For information visit the Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder [Website](#).



SNOW SHOVELING

If you are currently shoveling your sidewalks after a snow storm, thank you! Although we do not currently have a law requiring snow removal from sidewalks within the City, we would ask that you take a proactive approach and shovel the sidewalks around your residence and/or business location. Shoveling your sidewalks will help keep our neighborhoods safe by keeping the sidewalks clear for our students, pedestrians and RTD riders. Please note it is always better to clear your sidewalks after the City snow plows have completed their work. As you know, the plows do throw

back snow onto sidewalks as they pass.

I would rather not see another law and fine on the books requiring residents and businesses to shovel their sidewalks. Instead, we are encouraging stakeholders in the community to take pride in their property and be proactive.



I am sad to report the sudden passing of Louise Turner on February 13. Louise was an advocate for the City of Wheat Ridge and an active supporter of the City's Incorporation in 1969. Louise was the first elected City Clerk from 1969-1974, served on City Council from 1974 – 1981 and represented District III on the Animal Welfare Control Commission since 1982. Louise will truly be missed and on behalf of myself, City Council, City Management and Staff, we send our condolences to the Turner Family.

I would like to share an article Louise wrote in 2009 for the City's 40th Anniversary Recognition.

Nutshell History of Wheat Ridge

By Louise Turner

"After 100 years of history Wheat Ridge, Colorado, became a City. It had resisted two previous attempts at Incorporation hoping to remain a part of Unincorporated Jefferson County. People enjoyed County life.

However, in 1969, after narrowly escaping Annexation by Denver and seeing Lakewood's plan that Wheat Ridge be part of Jefferson City, it became clear that county life was no longer an option. The only way a community could protect itself was to become an incorporated city or town.

The proud residents of Wheat Ridge (descendants of settlers), wanted to keep their identity, their Post Office, their volunteer firemen and above all – the name of Wheat Ridge. They filed petitions for an incorporation election and on June 17, 1969 voted to become the City of Wheat Ridge.

The incorporation became final upon the swearing in of the first elected officials on August 29, 1969. Incorporating the City guaranteed that it would be for all time an Independent City with no fear of being annexed or taken into any other community.

That was 40 years ago! Happy 40th Birthday Wheat Ridge, August 20, 2009."

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.