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Our Growth Ordinance is Overturned, Food Trucks, Grant Wins and more

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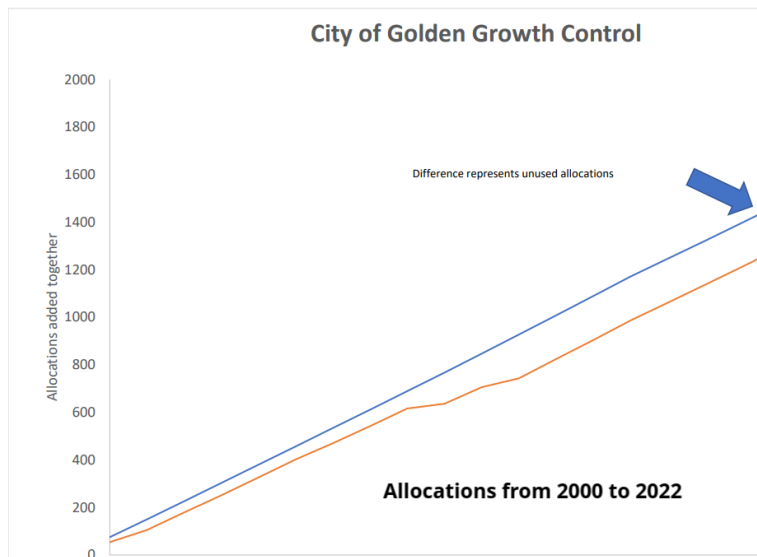
Thu, Jun 29, 2023 at 9:22 PM

Reply-To: cameronforgolden@gmail.com

To: Don Cameron <cameron2021don@gmail.com>

Dear Neighbors,

Sorry for the length of this month's email, there is just a lot going on. On the bright side, you can **just read the bold text** and decide if you care enough to read more.



Our Growth Ordinance is Overturned - As I have been reporting since about March the Colorado house and senate, and now the governor, have overturned our growth ordinance. We protested the loss of local control but lost this battle. We have not discussed what to do next, which could include suing the state (I'm opposed to this), or combining efforts with other cities to get a ballot measure on the state ballot to overturn this. (I'm opposed to this too). I'm opposed because of two things, firstly, I don't think we would prevail in either scenario. Secondly I have been saying for years that our growth ordinance did not preserve the character of the town and I'm truly hopeful that our new zoning code will do a better job of preserving the character. As to controlling growth itself, there is no data I have seen to say it has done so as all the building that was going to happen did happen, and we left hundreds of allocations unused over the years.

Other Legislative News - My co-chair of the Golden United Housing Task Force, in one of her other roles, has provided [this summary](#) of some key bills from the 2023 legislative session.

City Council approves loan to Golden Hills Mobile Home Park - I've been working with Golden United for years to help the residents of the Golden Hills Mobile home park buy their park. The park is located behind Mitchell Elementary and houses 39-40 families. They are moving forward with this purchase after seeing the price of the park nearly double in two years. The city approved using ARPA funds to help "buy down" the rents as the financing of this, even at 4.88% interest, and capital costs, put the monthly lot rental at over \$1400. For comparison in fall of 2020, lot rent was about \$550. With the city's contribution this will be now slightly under \$1100/mo. Ninety percent of the park has household incomes at or below 80% of AMI (\$71,500 for a 2-person household), with 75% below 50% of AMI (\$46,900 for a 2-person household). This preservation activity of what is called "naturally occurring affordable housing", is important to Golden in support of our comprehensive plan. Besides the city's contribution, the county contributed \$1M as well, and will relieve Golden of the same amount of money to remove the Rooney Road Soccer fields in 2025 at the end of their useful life. It's complicated, but it allowed the county to contribute to what will be the first Resident Owned Community (ROC), in Jeffco.

Should Food Trucks be allowed more generally in the Right of Way? - The link to the left will go to a survey that I am running on my Google drive. It asks about your opinion on Food Trucks in the ROW. Please consider sharing your views with me. They are not anonymous, especially to me, but you can ask that your comments not be shared with attribution later. I will summarize and report on the results at a later date. This is NOT a city run survey nor sponsored by the city in any way, please do not share the link in an effort to affect the input that I only seek from my readers.

Golden and CSM Shuttle - Eventually four routes of a free hop on/ hop off shuttle will be available to get around town or even to the light rail. Please ride the shuttle! The only way to justify the expense is if it gets used. Initially it will be only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but when CSM is in session it will be more widely available. Speaking of buses, [RTD has free fares for July and August](#) to encourage taking the bus or light rail instead of driving. And this fall, under age 19 students can ride for free too. We often talk about building habits in youth that last a lifetime. How about a lifelong public transportation habit!

E-bike Rebates - Thanks to the passage of [SB22-193](#), Colorado will implement statewide e-bike rebates available to low- and moderate-income Coloradans. CEO anticipates that rebates will be available to individuals in August 2023. The e-bike rebate will not be retroactive to previously purchased e-bikes. Interested individuals will need to apply for the program prior to purchasing an e-bike. To ensure all

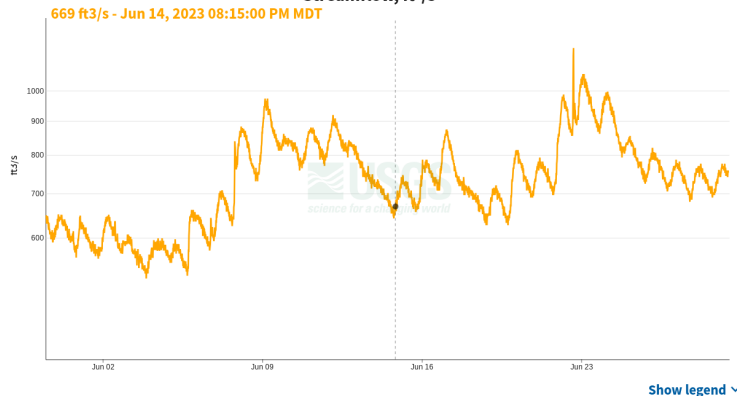
eligible Coloradans have an opportunity to apply for an e-bike rebate, CEO will open applications for a period of one week each month, then randomly select individuals to receive the rebate after each application round closes. Selected applicants will receive a rebate voucher that they can redeem at a participating retailer for a discount at the time of e-bike purchase.

Ford/Tucker/Cressman - One of the groups I'm engaged with is [Bike Walk Golden](#). We provided a letter in support of this grant award from DRCOG (Denver Regional Council of Government). The City has been awarded \$1.2 million from CDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to complete design of the North Ford Complete Street Project (SH58 to SH93). The grant will fund 90% design of the complete street corridor that includes improvements to Ford Street, Tucker Gulch Trail, and Cressman Gulch Trail. The project goal is to increase accessibility, safety, and use of this important north-south multimodal corridor. This is money to design, not build, so stay tuned!

Clear Creek at Golden, CO - 06719505

May 30, 2023 - June 29, 2023

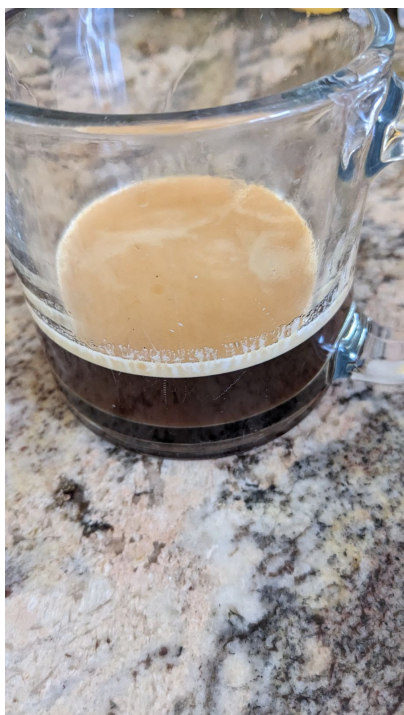
Streamflow, ft³/s



The above graph shows [data I grabbed](#) for Clear Creek flows over 30 days. It is amazing how quickly it picked up the increase due to the heavy rain last week. The creek is closed to tubers when it is above 700 cfs, and is trending down for a couple days. We have yet to have a period of time when it is staying below 700 cfs yet.

[Volunteer Opportunities](#) - The city of Golden has revamped its volunteer page. You can find groups looking for volunteers, or volunteer for the city. Mondays near the library you can volunteer to pick up trash, which is particularly helpful after busy weekends. On Thursdays you can go to DeLong park and pull weeds from 8:00 to 10:00. Click the link above for many, many options.

Things I've been reading or am up to



[Roasting my own coffee](#) - See my hacked popcorn popper and how I roasted my own coffee.

[Thank God for Mississippi](#)- Many years ago I had the honor of taking my Lakewood Science Bowl team to Washington DC to compete in the National Science Bowl representing Colorado. This quiz bowl about science and math was very competitive and we only won a match or two. But one of my goals for sure was to not be beat by Mississippi, a state at the time that put less money into education than Colorado, and had poor academic outcomes. We did beat them, thankfully. But they have really turned things around, and deserve credit for the hard work in moving up in reading skills in particular. The article linked above explains how they did it.

Growth Challenges in Jeffco - [Read this article about how 60 year old zoning](#) is affecting residents in Arvada. Could this happen in Golden? Absolutely. [Any commercial zoning near residential](#) (Read the fine print next to a form type to see underlying use zoning, C for commercial) has the potential to be a use that is different from existing use, and seem like an illegal change. It may be unwelcome, but it likely to be legal.

[Can we build big infrastructure projects any more?](#) - With all the money from the Feds flowing to states for infrastructure, we have our challenges of where to allow it. For example, if new power lines are needed to run power from northern Colorado to the front range, just where do we put those power lines? Again, we're not alone in this issue. [Read an opinion piece about the struggles California](#) is facing on infrastructure.

[We are living past our Golden Age](#) - From the New York Times, "As long as we

believe in this illusion [the Golden age was years ago], we are susceptible to the promises of aspiring autocrats who claim they can return us to a golden age that exists in the only place a golden age has ever existed: our imaginations."

Summer is a great time for reading. On my completed list are Neither Wolf nor Dog by Kent Nerburn; The Girl Who Sang to Buffalo by the same author, both of which blew me away and I would highly recommend; The Wager by David Grann, that was not as good as his Children of the Flower Moon; The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison, which was amazing and challenging; If it Sounds Like a Quack by Matthew Hongoltz-Hetling, a light read about quack medicine.

If you have input for city council, please use councilcomments@cityofgolden.net. Always feel free to reach me at my website, [set up a meeting](#). Or, let's run, walk or bike together if you'd like and just have a chat!

Peace,

Don

Feel free to forward this to friends or neighbors who may like to get more information. To join the list fill out the contact form at cameronforgolden.org



Join me and save lives by giving blood (or platelets or plasma). Here's a referral code SaveLife-0814-Z you can add to your appointment, so we know the impact we are both making for hospital patients. Go to vitalant.org or call 1-877-25-VITAL to get started.

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