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Twenty is Plenty, Food Trucks again, Flavored Tobacco, USPS

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Dear Neighbors,

Twenty is Plenty is happening - The three E's of bike, pedestrian, and motorist safety are Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. Ideally the roads are engineered in a way that they work for different users. When speeds are high, sidewalks and protected bike lanes exist. At lower speeds you can have some mixed use in the travel lane (bikes and cars) and at even lower speeds, all users, like on a Woonerf. Our geography and historical development have made getting all of these right very hard. So, for the short term (how long?) city council is supporting Golden police and public works in their efforts around Education and Enforcement of lower speeds in residential neighborhoods. Initially there will be focus on school zones, but hopefully all neighborhoods will see an improvement in courtesy, shared space, and safety.

Bike Ped Master Plan - Want to help set priorities for missing connections and other capital projects? There is a **Public Open House** (Monday, August 7, 5:30 - 7:00 pm in Council Chambers - 911 10th Street): More details to come shortly, but come and learn about the final walking and biking recommendations, experience the online pedestrian prioritization tool and meet the community organizations helping the plan come to life.



Food Truck Survey Results - By putting my survey link in the title, or perhaps just

apathy, or survey fatigue, I only received four people's input on my food truck survey so far. So...since I didn't specify a deadline, and we're going to talk about outdoor dining again in September, I thought I'd leave it open. So, here is the link on Food Trucks. Have more, have fewer, let me know.



Single Use Plastic - On Monday the 17th, and again on the 24th, I joined some others from Share the Table, a Methodist church sponsored community group, in picking up some trash along Clear Creek. The goal of the city sponsored creek cleanup is to build community and defray expenses of keeping the creek corridor clean after the busy summer weekends. You can join in near the library or history museum every Monday at 8:00 AM. I titled this single use plastic because that is mostly what I picked up (two plus 5 gallon buckets worth). When you open a single-use water bottle, what do you do with the cap? Ideally you replace it on the empty bottle and it goes in a recycle bin. But the caps are small and easily lost. That's a common find. The picture above on the left is just emblematic of, and I can't sugar coat it, how ef-ed up our consumer society is. There is an entire supply chain that thinks the creation of little plastic circles, which I suppose create a festive atmosphere (remember flowers, and flower petals?!), are a good use of limited resources! What toxic chemicals and waste were created in making a slew of plastic circles, the only purpose of which is a single use scattering? Do this in our beautiful park and what have you done? Added to the 10s of millions of tons of plastic that enter the environment. Of course you did not do this, nor did I. But have I always, always kept track of the edge of an energy bar wrapper upon opening it? Or did a triangular shaped corner fall off? My personal pledge is to avoid plastic packaging where I can, bring my own bags, even for vegetables to the store (NZ has banned all single use plastic bags). The problem does not start with

littering, it starts with how we choose to eat, hydrate, and recreate. When you hear about "producer responsibility bills", get behind them. If as a consumer you have no choice but to contribute to single use plastic pollution, then we have to push up the supply chain so producers change their habits. Litter is a symptom of a much, much bigger problem. Due to the amount of trash we're seeing now, a Thursday morning (7:30 AM start) pick up has been added. Meet behind the history museum.

Golden Terrace Resource Fair - I've been working with Kathy Smith wearing my Golden United Housing Task Force hat to create and promote a resource fair for the 650 homes in the Golden Terrace Mobile Home park community. On Saturday morning August 12th we need volunteers to help set up for county and other non-profit groups who will meet with residents about resources they can provide around food, health, and SNAP and medicare benefits. If you have a couple hours to spare, [sign up here](#).

USPS downtown office - After a few months of complaints to the USPS and getting the staffers at our local congressional office involved (Brittany Petterson), we have seen some improvement in the appearance of the USPS office in downtown. Through taking many pictures of what I believe are code violations (ADA access broken, debris that can get in our storm sewers, noxious weeds), and sharing them with USPS management and others, progress is being made. I even suggested, and DDA was amenable to the idea of helping the USPS pay for improving their landscaping as a way to beautify our downtown, and this important building that brings many people to the area. USPS will have to follow through with a grant application, but you never know. Did you know there is a Works Projects Administration (WPA) painting in the lobby of the post office? Check it out even if you don't have business to transact there.

Flavored Tobacco Limits - City council discussed on second reading and voted to ban flavored tobacco product sales in Golden. I have recently blogged about it. To me the issue is more about nicotine addiction and less about the harms of cigarettes which are already well documented. See [my blog](#) link about.

Quick Hits and Things I've been reading

Leadership Golden. This unique tuition-free program holds sessions September through May that introduce Golden citizens to city government, history, public finance, education, the arts, and more. Applications are now being accepted for the 2023-24 class. Visit their website (www.leadershipgolden.org) to complete an application online or for more information contact: Elaine Marolla 804-432-3973 or leadershipgolden@gmail.com.

Be an election judge or join the county STEAM activities - An email from our new county clerk about some district maps and a new county board. STEAM stands for Service, Transparency, Equity, Access, and Modernization

Not your Dad's route 17 bus - The RTD 16 bus is changing! Starting September 3rd, the 16 will end at Oak Street station. But exciting news, **the new 17** will have 15 minute headtimes instead of the current 30 minutes. Continuing along west Colfax will be the 17, which will start at the Federal Center, continue to Oak Street (at a nearby stop to the 16), continue to Golden following what used to be the 16, and terminate at 10th and Washington. Long term Golden residents may remember a different 17 that went to Red Rocks and Warren Tech. This is NOT that route, but essentially a renaming of the 16 to Golden. Also there are lots of new shuttle options and on-demand connections to the G-line. See [transit](#) from Guiding Golden for more info. RTD is still FREE in August, and will remain free for those under 19 starting in September.

Clear Creek Holistic Plan - My neighbor Ashley Giles from Trout Unlimited has an interview with the Colorado Sun about how Clear Creek needs to be managed more holistically so that all users can benefit, including our non-human neighbors.

Fourteeners see a drop in numbers of visitors - My neighbor Lloyd Athearn is the director of the 14ers Initiative. He speaks to how post-Covid the number of hikers has fallen back a bit, and some thoughts on why that might be.

The best explanation on homelessness I've heard - The Ezra Klein show has a story that brings a lot of data about what has, and what has not worked to address homelessness. Why have ADUs not made a difference? Can market forces fix the problem? What are the root causes? It really helped me see, I hate to say it for those opposed, why government intervention is needed, but not to provide services per se, but to provide land and incentives for housing that otherwise will not be build. I also read somewhere this month that 4.5 million rentals below \$600 have left the market in the US in just the last few years. Building upscale rentals is not somehow creating lower cost rentals. Golden is not immune.

Tires and Brakes cause a lot of pollution - I have been trying for years to get someone at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to help us measure particulates in Golden, particularly near the [311 10th street](#) property near HW58. If we're considering workforce housing there we should make sure the air is safe. And, we need to consider workers there too! Finally in early July city staff have met with CDPHE to talk about monitoring around Golden to see if we have any issues. See this article about why it matters.

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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