
The Voice of Golden

Vol. 7, No. 5. >< Golden, Colorado >< September 2007

INSIDE –Voter Registration, City Rejects Settlement, Fraud Alert

Resources Fair

FREE! Food! Door Prizes!

Every household attending will receive a compact fluorescent light bulb!

Saturday, September 29, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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Resources include people, energy, water and the materials used for various aspects of our lives. The more we know about our options, the better able we are to make our own decisions.

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Colorado State University Extension,
Richard England – co-generation, Family Tree
Golden Solar, Tom Graham – mass transit
Home Depot, Jefferson County Library
Jefferson County Emergency Management
Jefferson County Health Department
District Attorney’s Office – Identity Theft
Laura McCall – 1% Growth, Next Generation Energy
Optimist Club – recycle bicycles, Sunflower Solar
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USA Solar, Xcel Energy, Voter Registration**

**Door Prizes; 2 pairs of tickets to the Broncos/Kansas City, Dec. 9
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City Rejects Weaver's Offer to Settle Open Meetings Case

WHY ? You Decide.

Councilor Mary Weaver asked to listen to a tape of an executive session she had attended to confirm her recollection of that meeting. There is nothing in the State Open Meetings Law or case law that even remotely suggests that there should be any control or prohibition of such listening by a councilor who had attended an executive session. Nonetheless, Golden's city attorney Jim Windholz, citing the Open Meetings Law as it applies to members of the public wishing to listen to a recording of an executive session they did not attend, advised that the city council should vote on whether or not Weaver could listen to the tape.

In order to better understand what Windholz was saying, Weaver read the Open Meetings Law. Until then, she had relied on Windholz, Mayor Chuck Baroch and City Clerk Susan Brooks, assuming council was following the proper procedure for convening executive sessions.

The Open Meetings Law provides:

C.R.S. 24-6-401. *It is declared to be a matter of statewide concern and the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret.*

This means that the state law must be followed by local jurisdictions.

C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4) provides specific steps to be followed to convene an executive session. It specifies that the local public body may hold an executive session only at a regular or special meeting after announcing to the public the topic for discussion and securing the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the quorum present to hold the executive session.

Regular and special meetings are discussed in the Golden Charter. These are the only council meetings at which a vote may be taken.

Weaver began to see that the Golden City Council, following the guidance of Windholz, had not been convening its executive sessions in accordance with the Open Meetings Law.

A look back at agendas over the years shows that executive sessions have commonly been held before, rather than at, regular meetings and before study sessions where no vote can be taken.

In 2004, the Colorado Court of Appeals ruled in *Gumina v. City of Sterling*, 119 P.3d 527, "If a local public body fails strictly to comply with the requirements set forth to convene an executive session, it may not avail itself of the protections afforded by the executive session exception. Therefore, if an executive session is not properly convened, it is an open meeting subject to public disclosure requirements of the Open Meetings Law."

This means that none of Golden's "executive sessions" held before regular meetings and before study sessions were properly convened and are open meetings subject to public disclosure requirements of the Open Meetings Law.

C.R.S. 24-6-402 provides that the courts *shall have jurisdiction to issue injunctions to enforce the purposes of this section upon application of any citizen of this state. In any action in which the court finds a violation of this section, the court shall award the citizen prevailing in such action costs and reasonable attorney fees.*

Why did Weaver go to Court?

Anyone who watches city council meetings is aware that Councilor Weaver is the one who asks the most tough questions and generates displeasure among councilors and staff who do not like to deal with the issues she raises. Council already had an opinion letter from Windholz that said council had to vote to permit her to listen to a tape of a meeting which she had attended. Any opinion by Windholz about the convening of executive sessions would surely say that what they had been doing was correct. He had a great deal to lose, if what they had been doing was wrong. It is obvious that the only place she could get a resolution to this serious issue is through the court. Behavior of the council and other named defendants since the case was filed supports this idea. All the city would have had to do was say, "Oh, yes, you are right, we have not been convening properly." And, then, start doing it right. They could have amended the ordinance that provides for executive sessions in conjunction with study sessions. They are the ones who chose to deny any failure to follow the law and to let the legal process drag on.

The evidence is clear. Why is the city stonewalling on this?

Keep in mind that the city attorney serves at the pleasure of the city council and his billings are in the hundreds of thousand of dollars a year.

The pertinent section of the Open Meetings Law has been in effect since the early 1970's.

Windholz is aware of Golden Municipal Code section 2.04.040 that provides: "...The city council may hold executive sessions at regular (including study sessions) and special meetings in compliance with applicable laws." He has to know that holding an executive session in connection with a study session cannot comply with state law because a vote cannot be taken there. He has to know that holding "executive sessions" before a regular meeting rather than at a regular meeting does not comply with applicable laws. He has to know that local jurisdictions have to comply with state laws that are matters of "statewide concern." "...with regard to matters of statewide concern, the state legislature has supreme authority and home-rule cities have no power to act unless authorized by the constitution or by state statute." *City and County of Denver v. Qwest*, 18 P.3d 748 at 754 (Colo. 2001).

Why didn't Windholz explain this to the councilors so they could make an informed decision about continuing with the case?

Why has Windholz provided guidance to Golden city councils for twelve or so years that puts the content of most of their "executive sessions" in the open meeting category?

THE VOICE OF GOLDEN

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The attorney for the city council in this case was amazed to learn what had been going on in Golden all these years. It surely wasn't his idea to pursue this rather than settle. So who has what to gain here?

There is ample evidence available to prove that Windholz falsely testified in a campaign finance hearing that probably saved Mayor Baroch and Councilor Oxman about a thousand dollars each and saved the Golden Good Government League what could have amounted to \$40,000 or so. In addition to that, he must have given an opinion that it was okay for the city to pay attorney fees in that case to Baroch and Oxman, even though they were candidates, not councilors, when the events occurred for which they were charged.

What Windholz has done in this case could allow matters to be public involving contract negotiations, personnel matters, conspiring to do illegal acts – whatever. You would think that city council and Windholz would want to settle and start following the law.

Instead, they have declined to settle. They have improperly convened additional “executive sessions.” It may be that they don't want to get a resolution or decision before the election because they will have to admit they were wrong and that might affect the candidacy of those councilor/defendants running for office. An admission that the conduct was wrong would reflect seriously on Windholz. A complaint could be filed against him with the Attorney Regulation Counsel for incompetence or some such.

It may be that some of them are protecting Windholz as pay back for his protecting Baroch, Oxman and the Golden Good Government League.

And, then there are those councilors who are annoyed with Weaver because she didn't talk to council about this before going the court route. Then there are those who blindly accept whatever Windholz says.

As noted above, the prevailing citizen will receive attorney's fees. Whatever their motive for not settling, it is resulting in additional attorney fees on both sides that will eventually have to be paid by the city.

Whatever is going on behind the scenes appears not to be in the best interest of the citizens.

Golden Good Government League (3GL) Exposes itself in Criticism of Weaver

The Golden Good Government League, Golden's powerful 527 political action committee, has controlled the Golden city government for years. Now they have attacked City Councilor and candidate for mayor Mary Weaver because she is asking the court to compel the city to adhere to the Colorado Open Meetings Law. This proves what many have known all along that 3GL, the councilors it supports and the candidates it supports, believe they are above the law and certainly should not have to obey it.

Do you think any small group of individuals should be above the law? Do you think people who think they are above the law should control the government of every one else?

GOLDEN CITIZEN SUES CITY OVER CONSTITUTIONALITY OF MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

DENVER – On Tuesday, September 4, 2007, John S. Zakhem of the law firm, Zakhem Atherton, LLC, filed a federal lawsuit against the City of Golden and the Golden Campaign Election Board on behalf of Marian Olson, publisher of *The Voice of Golden* – a newspaper with circulation in and around the City of Golden. The suit claims that the Golden Municipal Code's campaign finance reporting requirements (GMC §§ 1.05.000 *et seq.*) violate First Amendment protections for freedom of speech and the press.

On Wednesday, Zakhem stated that Olson is bringing this suit because the Golden Municipal Code mandates reporting of editorials and endorsements by the press as expenditures for or against candidates for municipal office. Zakhem believes this law constitutes an unconstitutional burden on the First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and the press. “It also appears that the City of Golden is singling out *The Voice of Golden* for enforcement of this law based on the fact that this publication has been critical of numerous elected officials from Golden in the past.” Zakhem added, “This law fails constitutional muster due to the fact that it, unlike its state and federal campaign finance counterparts, fails to provide an exemption from reporting for the press. Apparently, the City Council did not consider it important to protect the freedom of the press in passing this ordinance. It has the effect of chilling protected expression and press conduct; therefore, it is unconstitutional.” John Zakhem may be reached for comment at 303.725.1460.

BACKGROUND

Zakhem Atherton, LLC is a six-attorney law firm with offices in Denver. The firm's practices include governmental affairs and election law, business and civil litigation, wealth preservation, tax planning, real estate, criminal defense, and business law.

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It is interesting to note that the city does not apply its campaign finance ordinance to the Transcript, the Rocky Mountain News or the Golden Informer. What does that tell you?

Why is Windholz still the city attorney?

Repeated serious legal missteps on the part of Windholz, yet the city council does not replace him. There is every appearance that a majority of city council and the controlling organization, the Golden Good Government League, want to do whatever they want to and they can depend on Windholz to help them do that. What do you think?

Candidate Night

Each election year there is a candidate night where candidates come to a meeting to answer questions. This year it is going to be at city hall and will be televised. A significant host is the Leadership Golden Alumni Association. They prepare the questions.

Recall that Leadership Golden is a privately operated course that is used by the Golden Good Government League to “educate” people about Golden government. Participants have been asked to leave, in the past, when they asked questions that the manager of the course did not want to have discussed.

In the past, it has been noticed that candidates who were endorsed by the Golden Good Government League seemed to have had access to the questions prior to the meeting.

It was suggested to the Alumni Association that all the candidates be given the questions in advance. They did not reply. If you watch this year, keep an eye out to see if you can figure out who got the questions in advance.

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Here are some questions that have been asked of candidates for city council in the past and a few more.

Pretend you are a candidate for city council. What would your answer be? What other questions would you like to ask? e-mail to moaa@ix.netcom.com

1. Do you think that downtown Golden benefits from too large a percentage of our tax dollars?
2. Do you think that growth and development are diminishing Golden's small town feel?
3. The Code now allows developers to "bank" building permits for big projects. Do you think "banking" should be removed from the Code?
4. Do you think charter amendments and/or ordinances initiated and adopted by the citizens should be followed by the city council the way the citizens intended?
5. Do you think a variance should be granted just because an applicant does a lot for the city?
6. Do you think a variance should be granted just because the project is commendable?
7. Do you think government should pass laws that will prevent you from disposing of your property to anyone except the government?
8. Do you think it is appropriate for the city to do things not in conformance with state law?
9. Do you think city council should convene its executive sessions in conformance with the Open Meetings Law?
10. Given that state law only gives responsibility to urban renewal authorities to eliminate blight, do you think Golden's urban renewal authority (GURA) should limit its projects to eliminating blight?
11. If there is no blight, do you think GURA should be abolished according to the law?
12. Should Golden make an exception to 1% growth in order to permit dense residential (TOD) development near the train station at the county building?
13. Do you think Planning Director Glueck should speak for citizens at meetings with RTD and FasTracks officials?
14. Do you think the city's mobile home parks, Golden Ridge condominiums, and Heritage Town Homes should be removed so a transit oriented development village can be built there to support the light rail station at the County building?
15. Do you think the northwest corner of Heritage Road and Highway 6 should be developed to include a 300 unit apartment house and commercial business to support the light rail station at the county building?
16. Do you think that the urban renewal authority area should be changed to include Golden Hills and Golden Heights for "redevelopment"?
17. Do you think the urban renewal authority area should be changed to include the mobile home parks, Golden Ridge condominiums, Heritage Town Homes so these properties can be taken in eminent domain for redevelopment?
18. Do you think it was acceptable for the city to "spotzone" a Planned Unit Development at the corner of 13th and Washington to allow construction of a 62 foot high building where the limit in the downtown zone is 50 feet?

Your suggestions for more ...

City's Sustainability Initiative Backfiring

Seven months of staff and committee's time wasted. Tons of information about energy efficiency and alternative energy projects are available on the internet, in the library, in the home improvement stores. Seven months of reinventing the wheel does not get you where you want to go.

People are becoming fearful that this is just another move by the city to control property owners.

The past issues of the Golden Informer have not included articles designed to encourage people to become more efficient energy users.

You don't need a city staff and dozens of people to get the ball rolling! One person and \$175 got the Resources Fair going. The city could have had six of these in the last six months!

The Informer could have had six issues that talked about energy efficiency to get people enthused about the ideas. The city could have had six events to get the kids and families involved. They could have gone through the city facilities and swapped out incandescent bulbs for compact fluorescent bulbs. They could have invited in Sun Edison to consider a plan to install photovoltaic electric systems on city buildings at no up front cost to the city. Etc., etc.

INSTEAD, they chose to have a bunch of people sit around, taking up staff time, to think up rules to control property owners. Recall that there is every appearance that THIS is supposed to make Jacob Smith look GREAT because he is promoting the "greening" of Golden. Based upon the reaction heard here, this approach shows a lack of understanding of human nature. It also shows a lack of leadership skills. Remember the old adage, "Lead by Example." And – "honey catches more flies than vinegar." And – try a "carrot" before you use a "stick."

A recent mailing out of Congressman Perlmutter's office is a good positive example. It gives a good pep talk about energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. It lays out steps he has taken to set a good example for energy efficiency. It lists "Ways You Can Save Energy Now." Change or clean your furnace filter once a month. Install more attic insulation. Seal up your home before winter. Make your appliances work better. Switch from light bulbs to CFC bulbs. Go green at the grocery store. (Recycle plastic bags.) Insulate your water heater. Save energy, save some cash, as well. Get the whole family involved. He then provided a list of helpful resources to help you save energy every day:

Save energy in your home: <http://www.energysavers.gov/>

Save energy everywhere:

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/>

Buy energy efficient products: <http://www.energystar.gov/>

Energy Calculator:

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/calculators/>

Be your own boss where energy efficiency is concerned. Come to the Resources Fair to get more ideas, visit with your neighbors, eat food, get a compact fluorescent light bulb, maybe win one of many door prizes, including tickets to a Bronco football game!

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AES is a Boulder based company specializing in energy efficiency and solar energy system design and installation for residential and commercial clients in the Colorado Front Range area. They strive to be an industry leader in quality and customer satisfaction.

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THE INTERNET, CHILD SEX OFFENDERS AND OUR CHILDREN

Do you know the dangers which exist for your child on the Internet?

Many parents worry a sex offender may be living in their neighborhood. Have you ever wondered if a sex offender may possibly be talking to your child in your home via the Internet?

In the last year several children in Jefferson County and Colorado have been approached by sex offenders Online. Some of these same children were sexually assaulted by these sex offenders.

Many parents of these children were shocked to find their child had been communicating with a sex offender.

Some parents might not feel this is an area of concern since their particular home does not have Internet access. We have cases where children have gone to their friend's homes and communicated through their Internet access.

Our children and the Internet is a growing problem in Colorado. Worried about Myspace.Com? How about ANYPLACE Online. Any site is a concern where personal information is posted. Learn about "Just 3 Things!"

Mike and Cassandra Harris are Investigators who work on Crimes Against Children cases with the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office. This husband and wife

police team is dedicated in protecting children. Since 1996, Mike and Cassandra have been active in their fight against sex offenders who prey on children through the Internet. They were the first in Colorado and the Western Regional United States to go after sex offenders on the Internet. Their efforts have resulted in over a 180 sex offenders being arrested. They have presented over 800 times throughout the Nation and in Colorado. They have been featured on Oprah, Court TV with Al Roker, and ABC Evening News to mention a few.

Take an hour out of your busy schedules to hear how daring these sex offenders have become with our children right here in Colorado. Learn what we as parents can do to make our children safer. We teach our children not to talk to strangers. However, these strangers are now coming into some of our homes via the Internet.

Global Meltdown

In the AARP Magazine, July/August 2007, Andrew Revkin reports meeting with Joe McConnell, snow scientist. “But the current warming trend is happening much faster than previous hot spells, says McConnell, and none of the forces that usually affect climate – such as variations in the sun’s strength – are in sync with this recent change. Should these patterns continue, he believes, the consequences are clear. ‘If Greenland melted, it’d raise sea levels by twenty feet,’ he explains. ‘There goes most of the Mississippi embayment. There go the islands in the South Pacific. Bangladesh is obliterated/ Manhattan would have to put up dikes.’ “

Addressing what is changing attitudes about taking warming seriously, Revkin continues, “A report released earlier this year by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change- made up of hundreds of the world’s leading climate experts-said with 90 percent certainty that most of the warming since 1950 has been driven by the buildup of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The report concluded with ‘high confidence’ that human-causes climate change was already affecting regional conditions from the poles to the Tropics, and that hundreds of millions of people could be harmed by coastal flooding, dwindling water supplies, and shifting weather patterns within a few decades. The changes could also drive many species toward extinction, particularly those with rapidly shrinking habitats, such as polar bears. Warming in this century, by many estimates, could be between three and eight times the warming in the 20th century, when the planet’s average temperature rose just over one degree Fahrenheit in all. The United States was among the 113 countries that endorsed the report.”

Another Side of the Global Warming Story

S. Fred Singer, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia

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S. FRED SINGER is professor emeritus of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia, a distinguished research professor at George Mason University, and president of the Science and Environmental Policy Project. He performed his undergraduate studies at Ohio State University and earned his Ph.D. in Physics from Princeton University. He was the founding dean of the School of Environmental and Planetary Sciences at the University of Miami, the founding director of the U.S. National Weather Satellite Service, and served for five years as vice chairman of the U.S. National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere. Dr. Singer has written or edited over a dozen books and monographs, including, most recently, *Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1,500 Years*.

The following is adapted from a lecture delivered on the

Hillsdale College campus on June 30, 2007, during a seminar entitled “Economics and the Environment,” sponsored by the Charles R. and Kathleen K. Hoogland Center for Teacher Excellence.

Global Warming: Man-Made or Natural?

IN THE PAST few years there has been increasing concern about global climate change on the part of the media, politicians, and the public. It has been stimulated by the idea that human activities may influence global climate adversely and that therefore corrective action is required on the part of governments. Recent evidence suggests that this concern is misplaced. Human activities are not influencing the global climate in a perceptible way. Climate will continue to change, as it always has in the past, warming and cooling on different time scales and for different reasons, regardless of human action. I would also argue that—should it occur—a modest warming would be on the whole beneficial.

This is not to say that we don’t face a serious problem. But the problem is political. Because of the mistaken idea that governments can and must do something about climate, pressures are building that have the potential of distorting energy policies in a way that will severely damage national economies, decrease standards of living, and increase poverty. This misdirection of resources will adversely affect human health and welfare in industrialized nations, and even more in developing nations. Thus it could well lead to increased social tensions within nations and conflict between them.

If not for this economic and political damage, one might consider the present concern about climate change nothing more than just another environmentalist fad, like the Alar apple scare or the global cooling fears of the 1970s. Given that so much is at stake, however, it is essential that people better understand the issue.

Man-Made Warming?

The most fundamental question is scientific: Is the observed warming of the past 30 years due to natural causes or are human activities a main or even a contributing factor?

At first glance, it is quite plausible that humans could be responsible for warming the climate. After all, the burning of fossil fuels to generate energy releases large quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The CO₂ level has been increasing steadily since the beginning of the industrial revolution and is now 35 percent higher than it was 200 years ago. Also, we know from direct measurements that CO₂ is a “greenhouse gas” which strongly absorbs infrared (heat) radiation. So the idea that burning fossil fuels causes an enhanced “greenhouse effect” needs to be taken seriously.

But in seeking to understand recent warming, we also have to consider the natural factors that have regularly warmed the climate prior to the industrial revolution and, indeed, prior to any human presence on the earth. After all, the geological record shows a persistent 1,500-year cycle of warming and cooling extending back at least one million years.

In identifying the burning of fossil fuels as the chief cause of warming today, many politicians and environmental activists simply appeal to a so-called “scientific consensus.” There are two things wrong with this. First, there is no such consensus: An increasing number of climate scientists are raising serious questions about the political rush to judgment on this issue. For example, the widely touted “consensus” of 2,500 scientists on the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an illusion: Most of the panelists have no scientific qualifications, and many of the others object to some part of the IPCC’s report. The Associated Press reported recently that only 52 climate scientists contributed to the report’s “Summary for Policymakers.”

Likewise, only about a dozen members of the governing board voted on the “consensus statement” on climate change by the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Rank and file AMS scientists never had a say, which is why so many of them are now openly rebelling. Estimates of skepticism within the AMS regarding man-made global warming are well over 50 percent.

The second reason not to rely on a “scientific consensus” in these matters is that this is not how science works. After all, scientific advances customarily come from a minority of scientists who challenge the majority view—or even just a single person (think of Galileo or Einstein). Science proceeds by the scientific method and draws conclusions based on evidence, not on a show of hands.

But aren’t glaciers melting? Isn’t sea ice shrinking? Yes, but that’s not proof for human-caused warming. Any kind of warming, whether natural or human-caused, will melt ice. To assert that melting glaciers prove human causation is just bad logic.

What about the fact that carbon dioxide levels are increasing at

the same time temperatures are rising? That's an interesting correlation; but as every scientist knows, correlation is not causation. During much of the last century the climate was *cooling* while CO₂ levels were rising. And we should note that the climate has not warmed in the past eight years, even though greenhouse gas levels have increased rapidly.

What about the fact—as cited by, among others, those who produced the IPCC report—that every major greenhouse computer model (there are two dozen or so) shows a large temperature increase due to human burning of fossil fuels? Fortunately, there is a scientific way of testing these models to see whether current warming is due to a man-made greenhouse effect. It involves comparing the actual or observed *pattern* of warming with the warming pattern predicted by or calculated from the models. Essentially, we try to see if the “fingerprints” match—“fingerprints” meaning the rates of warming at different latitudes and altitudes.

For instance, theoretically, greenhouse warming in the tropics should register at increasingly high rates as one moves from the surface of the earth up into the atmosphere, peaking at about six miles above the earth's surface. At that point, the level should be greater than at the surface by about a factor of three and quite pronounced, according to all the computer models. In reality, however, there is no increase at all. In fact, the data from balloon-borne radiosondes show the very opposite: a slight *decrease* in warming over the equator.

The fact that the observed and predicted patterns of warming don't match indicates that the man-made greenhouse contribution to current temperature change is insignificant. This fact emerges from data and graphs collected in the Climate Change Science Program Report 1.1, published by the federal government in April 2006 (see www.climatechange.gov/Library/sap/sap1-1/finalreport/default.htm). It is remarkable and puzzling that few have noticed this disparity between observed and predicted patterns of warming and drawn the obvious scientific conclusion.

What explains why greenhouse computer models predict temperature trends that are so much larger than those observed? The answer lies in the proper evaluation of feedback within the models. Remember that in addition to carbon dioxide, the real atmosphere contains water vapor, the most powerful greenhouse gas. Every one of the climate models calculates a significant positive feedback from water vapor—i.e., a feedback that amplifies the warming effect of the CO₂ increase by an average factor of two or three. But it is quite possible that the water vapor feedback is negative rather than positive and thereby *reduces* the effect of increased CO₂.

There are several ways this might occur. For example, when increased CO₂ produces a warming of the ocean, a higher rate of evaporation might lead to more humidity and cloudiness (provided the atmosphere contains a sufficient number of cloud condensation nuclei). These low clouds reflect incoming solar radiation back into space and thereby cool the earth. Climate researchers have discovered other possible feedbacks and are busy evaluating which ones enhance and which diminish the effect of increasing CO₂.

Natural Causes of Warming

A quite different question, but scientifically interesting, has to do with the natural factors influencing climate. This is a big topic about which much has been written. Natural factors include continental drift and mountain-building, changes in the Earth's orbit, volcanic eruptions, and solar variability. Different factors operate on different time scales. But on a time scale important for human experience—a scale of decades, let's say—solar variability may be the most important.

Solar influence can manifest itself in different ways: fluctuations of solar irradiance (total energy), which has been measured in satellites and related to the sunspot cycle; variability of the ultraviolet portion of the solar spectrum, which in turn affects the amount of ozone in the stratosphere; and variations in the solar wind that modulate the intensity of cosmic rays (which, upon impact into the earth's atmosphere, produce cloud condensation nuclei, affecting cloudiness and thus climate).

Scientists have been able to trace the impact of the sun on past climate using proxy data (since thermometers are relatively modern). A conventional proxy for temperature is the ratio of the heavy isotope of oxygen, Oxygen-18, to the most common form, Oxygen-16.

A paper published in *Nature* in 2001 describes the Oxygen-18 data (reflecting temperature) from a stalagmite in a cave in Oman, covering a period of over 3,000 years. It also shows corresponding Carbon-14 data, which are directly related to the intensity of cosmic rays striking the earth's atmosphere. One sees there a remarkably detailed correlation, almost on a year-by-year basis. While such research cannot establish the detailed mechanism of climate change, the causal connection is quite clear: Since the stalagmite temperature cannot affect the sun, it is the sun that affects climate.

Policy Consequences

If this line of reasoning is correct, human-caused increases in the CO₂ level are quite insignificant to climate change. Natural causes of climate change, for their part, cannot be controlled by man. They are unstoppable. Several policy consequences would follow from this simple fact:

- > Regulation of CO₂ emissions is pointless and even counterproductive, in that no matter what kind of mitigation scheme is used, such regulation is hugely expensive.
- > The development of non-fossil fuel energy sources, like ethanol and hydrogen, might be counterproductive, given that they have to be manufactured, often with the investment of great amounts of ordinary energy. Nor do they offer much reduction in oil imports.
- > Wind power and solar power become less attractive, being uneconomic and requiring huge subsidies.
- > Substituting natural gas for coal in electricity generation makes less sense for the same reasons.

None of this is intended to argue against energy conservation. On the contrary, conserving energy reduces waste, saves money, and lowers energy prices—irrespective of what one may believe about global warming.

Science vs. Hysteria

You will note that this has been a rational discussion. We asked the important question of whether there is appreciable man-made warming today. We presented evidence that indicates there is not, thereby suggesting that attempts by governments to control greenhouse-gas emissions are pointless and unwise. Nevertheless, we have state governors calling for CO₂ emissions limits on cars; we have city mayors calling for mandatory CO₂ controls; we have the Supreme Court declaring CO₂ a pollutant that may have to be regulated; we have every industrialized nation (with the exception of the U.S. and Australia) signed on to the Kyoto Protocol; and we have ongoing international demands for even more stringent controls when Kyoto expires in 2012. What's going on here?

To begin, perhaps even some of the advocates of these anti-warming policies are not so serious about them, as seen in a feature of the Kyoto Protocol called the Clean Development Mechanism, which allows a CO₂ emitter—i.e., an energy user—to support a fanciful CO₂ reduction scheme in developing nations in exchange for the right to keep on emitting CO₂ unabated. “Emission trading” among those countries that have ratified Kyoto allows for the sale of certificates of unused emission quotas. In many cases, the initial quota was simply given away by governments to power companies and other entities, which in turn collect a windfall fee from consumers. All of this has become a huge financial racket that could someday make the UN's “Oil for Food” scandal in Iraq seem minor by comparison. Even more fraudulent, these schemes do not reduce total CO₂ emissions—not even in theory.

It is also worth noting that tens of thousands of interested persons benefit directly from the global warming scare—at the expense of the ordinary consumer. Environmental organizations globally, such as Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, and the Environmental Defense Fund, have raked in billions of dollars. Multi-billion-dollar government subsidies for useless mitigation schemes are large and growing. Emission trading programs will soon reach the \$100 billion a year level, with large fees paid to brokers and those who operate the scams. In other words, many people have discovered they can benefit from climate scares and have formed an entrenched interest. Of course, there are also many sincere believers in an impending global warming catastrophe, spurred on in their fears by the growing number of one-sided books, movies, and media coverage.

The irony is that a slightly warmer climate with more carbon dioxide is in many ways beneficial rather than damaging. Economic studies have demonstrated that a modest warming and higher CO₂ levels will increase GNP and raise standards of living, primarily by improving agriculture and forestry. It's a well-known fact that CO₂ is plant food and essential to the growth of crops and trees—and

ultimately to the well-being of animals and humans.

You wouldn't know it from Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, but there are many upsides to global warming: Northern homes could save on heating fuel. Canadian farmers could harvest bumper crops. Greenland may become awash in cod and oil riches. Shippers could count on an Arctic shortcut between the Atlantic and Pacific. Forests may expand. Mongolia could become an economic superpower. This is all speculative, even a little facetious. But still, might there be a silver lining for the frigid regions of Canada and Russia? "It's not that there won't be bad things happening in those countries," economics professor Robert O. Mendelsohn of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies says. "But the idea is that they will get such large gains, especially in agriculture, that they will be bigger than the losses." Mendelsohn has looked at how gross domestic product around the world would be affected under different warming scenarios through 2100. Canada and Russia tend to come out as clear gainers, as does much of northern Europe and Mongolia, largely because of projected increases in agricultural production.

To repeat a point made at the beginning: Climate has been changing cyclically for at least a million years and has shown huge variations over geological time. Human beings have adapted well, and will continue to do so.

* * *

The nations of the world face many difficult problems. Many have societal problems like poverty, disease, lack of sanitation, and shortage of clean water. There are grave security problems arising from global terrorism and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Any of these problems are vastly more important than the imaginary problem of man-made global warming. It is a great shame that so many of our resources are being diverted from real problems to this non-problem. Perhaps in ten or 20 years this will become apparent to everyone, particularly if the climate should stop warming (as it has for eight years now) or even begin to cool.

We can only trust that reason will prevail in the face of an onslaught of propaganda like Al Gore's movie and despite the incessant misinformation generated by the media. Today, the imposed costs are still modest, and mostly hidden in taxes and in charges for electricity and motor fuels. If the scaremongers have their way, these costs will become enormous. But I believe that sound science and good sense will prevail in the face of irrational and scientifically baseless climate fears.

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What you think about global warming, one way or the other, should be pale in comparison to your concern about burning petroleum that has so many other and higher uses. One day, those who come behind us will ask, "Why did they burn the oil?"

I (Marian Olson) worked for Governor Love in the Energy Policy Office of the White House during the energy crisis in the early '70's. The oil companies had very powerful lobbyists in Washington. Alternative sources of energy received very little attention and very little funding for research. While that has changed somewhat, you are aware of the efforts that had to be made recently to support the NREL budget.

The July/August AARP Magazine reports that if every American swapped one ordinary light bulb for a compact fluorescent bulb (CFL), we'd save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes in a year. Come to the Resources Fair. Get a CFL. Learn about things you can do that can make a difference.

FRAUD ALERT!

**From the Office of Jefferson/Gilpin Counties
District Attorney Scott Storey**

Avoid Foreign Lotteries!

Foreign lotteries are illegal in the United States. Let me repeat that: Foreign lotteries are illegal in the United States! It doesn't matter if they come from

Canada, the Caribbean, England, Ireland, Germany, or Nigeria. All of them are illegal. So much heartache would be prevented if just that word would spread.

I receive calls every week from someone who has sent money to pay a 'Registration Fee,' 'Intergovernmental Tax' ("We're Canada and you're the United States"), or a 'Custom's Fee' so that a sweepstakes check can clear customs. Remember the dictum: "Ignorance of the law is no excuse!" No one, including your bank, is obligated to return money sent to crooks running a foreign lottery.

Just when I think that everyone knows that foreign lotteries are illegal, I get another call from a victim. Crooks do change their scheme a bit from time-to-time. Currently they send a check for the fees; it looks very real but is bogus. Your bank will typically cash this check because banks may not know it is counterfeit. Many feel safe sending off the 'required' fees once the money from the check is in their account. Days later the check returns and the victim has been defrauded.

Some Prevention Advice:

- ◆ **Never respond to a phone call, letter, or E-mail stating that you've won a foreign lottery. Foreign lotteries are illegal—only crooks act outside the law!;**
- ◆ **Avoid entering any sweepstakes or lotteries because your name will be added to marketing lists that are eventually purchased by crooks;**
- ◆ **If you believe that Ed McMahan and the Prize Patrol are coming to your door—stand outside and invoke, "May lightning strike me!" You have a better chance of the latter succeeding;**
- ◆ **Send a brief letter asking to be removed from marketing lists to the Mail Preference Service; P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512. Include your name, address, and \$1. Sign the letter. You name will be removed from lottery, sweepstakes, and junk mail lists;**
- ◆ **Remember that crooks don't buy the Direct Marketing OPT OUT List...they will continue to phone, send mail notifications, and E-mails.**

To schedule a Fraud Alert, Identity Theft and Crime Prevention seminar, call 303-271-6970

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Coffman Delivers Ultimatum to Electronic Voting Machine Vendors

Secretary Coffman sent a clear message to the four vendors who supply electronic voting equipment in Colorado last month, demanding their full cooperation in providing the necessary information for retesting of their equipment or face decertification that would render their equipment unauthorized for use in Colorado in 2008.

"Despite repeated demands since the beginning of this process, to this day we have still not received all of the information from each of the vendors that we need to complete testing," Coffman said. "Throughout this entire process, they have been slow to cooperate in getting us the documentation, hardware or other necessary information that we have requested."

The Secretary of State is required by state law to test and certify all new equipment purchased by the counties after May 28, 2004 in order to make sure that it meets the State's standards for security and accuracy. In 2006, the former Secretary of State Gigi Dennis was sued by various plaintiffs opposed to the use of electronic voting systems. They alleged that the testing process was flawed, inadequate and failed to prove that the electronic voting equipment was both secure and accurate.

The plaintiffs also asked the court for an injunction on the further use of electronic voting machines until the equipment could be retested. The judge declined the request, stating that forcing counties to find an alternative voting system just before the 2006 election would create more potential harm to the process

than allowing the machines to be used. However, the court ordered that all previously certified equipment must be retested prior to the next primary, general, or statewide ballot issue election.

"I am strictly following both the law and the court ruling and conducting a process that is both tough and fair to everyone involved," Coffman said. "It is the most comprehensive look at electronic voting equipment ever to take place in Colorado."

Since there are no statewide issues on the 2007 ballot, the testing does not have to be completed by this November's election. Because of repeated vendor delays, Coffman does not expect the results to be completed until December. According to Coffman, had the vendors cooperated with the testing process from the beginning, the work would have been completed by July 1st.

In a letter sent to the four vendors (Diebold, Hart InterCivic, ES&S, and Sequoia), Coffman states that vendors must provide all information or documentation to the Secretary's office within 30 days of receiving a request. Failure to do so will immediately suspend the certification process for the vendor until the request is fulfilled. All requests for information, files or equipment related to electronic voting must be turned over to the Secretary of State by no later than 5:00 PM, November 16, 2007. If a vendor fails to turn over requested information that is deemed necessary for the certification process by the November 16th deadline, the electronic voting equipment from that vendor will not be certified for use in the 2008 Primary and General elections.

"My job is to make sure that the elections in Colorado are always fair and honest, and that every ballot cast is done so in a system that is secure and will accurately count every vote," said Coffman.

Learn more about the retesting process and read the letters from Secretary Coffman to the four vendors by clicking here. The Denver Post editorial board urges Coffman to "take the steps needed to ensure election integrity."

Read more on this issue from the Rocky Mountain News and the Grand Junction Sentinel.

=====A DIFFERING VIEW: RTD nickel-and-dimed projections from the start

Friday, August 31
Contrary to the Rocky's Aug. 27 editorial ("Taking the heat/RTD needs to resist requests for upgrades"), the Regional Transportation District's budget problems are of its own making, not that of the communities that will "enjoy new rail service."

RTD used overly optimistic projections, and poor — even invalid — assumptions as to the true cost of building new rail lines, including FasTracks. As early as 2000, when the West Corridor Environmental Impact Study was just getting under way, RTD received public comments identifying shortcomings in their proposed design — not simple amenities or a "wish list" as you say — but fundamental errors in judgment as to just what the true impacts will be of putting a light-rail line right through the middle of a mature residential community.

The final EIS document (2003) contains many warnings of insufficient detail of cost items, missing design elements and the lack of a sufficient contingency fund; warnings that RTD chose to ignore.

RTD has touted the rising cost of commodities as the main reason for cutting back on the design. The fact is, the design was inadequate from the start.

It is unfair and irresponsible for RTD to now want to hold local communities accountable for budget problems that RTD itself failed to anticipate, especially when given ample warning.

RTD sold this region a bill of goods with the FasTracks program — it has never acknowledged the true cost of building light rail in a sensitive and responsible manner, and apparently has not learned the lessons from the Alaska pipeline and Boston tunnel projects regarding the end cost of building a system on the cheap.

Paul Ditson is a resident of Lakewood. Dpolhill@aol.com wrote: **Taking the heat - RTD needs to resist requests for upgrades** August 27, 2007

You can't blame the communities that will eventually enjoy new rail service from FasTracks for having a wish list about the amenities they'd like to see along the forthcoming lines.

Jefferson County has objected to the plan to reduce the West Corridor from two tracks to one between the Federal Center and the County Government Center in Golden; the line was pared to a single track as a cost-cutting move a few months ago.

Meanwhile, community leaders and other residents along the Northwest Corridor between downtown Denver and Longmont

have inquired about electric rather than diesel trains, because electric units are quieter and pollute less.

Neither wish could come true without busting the budget - in the case of electric units to Longmont, by hundreds of millions of dollars. At some point, fiscal reality must prevail. So must the calendar.

For the Regional Transportation District to meet voters' expectations to roll out FasTracks on time and within an ever-tightening budget, some hoped-for niceties just aren't possible. Local leaders should acknowledge as much and let FasTracks move forward.

Jeffco's request is nothing new; officials there have bristled at the notion of a single track from the time it was floated late last year. But eliminating one track will save a bunch of money - \$36 million - and RTD's ridership forecasts found that a second track isn't necessary.

Trains can run at intervals of no more than every 15 minutes on a single track, yet that should satisfy anticipated demand.

Jeffco hasn't backed down. It's refusing to sign an agreement with RTD to allow the project to proceed.

The county says the line will attract enough riders to justify 10-minute intervals, meaning the second track would have to be built. Or RTD would need to build an additional "passing" lane to allow additional trains to run.

The passing track would cost \$3 million to build.

On Tuesday, the RTD board voted 14-0 to authorize the single-track plan, with or without Jeffco's approval; the district is nearing a deadline to apply for federal transit funding and needs to move forward.

Fortunately, the two sides are still talking. RTD is expected to offer Jeffco an agreement with "triggers" that would let FasTracks add cars to each train and even possibly build the passing track later if ridership exceeds the district's forecasts. Jeffco should accept that deal.

Meantime, some local officials and residents along the Northwest Corridor asked RTD if it was realistic to electrify the lines, which will mostly run in a right-of-way alongside freight trains.

This was more of an inquiry than a demand, and RTD asked the BNSF railroad about the possibility. The answer should give those who'd prefer electric units there sticker shock.

The railroad cited "significantly increased capital [and] future maintenance costs," including the need to rebuild bridges to accommodate the power lines that would fuel electric units. RTD estimated rebuilding could require between \$405 million and \$565 million more than is now in the budget.

So electrification isn't a realistic alternative, unless communities along that line can come up with the extra money.

And that's what others who are near FasTracks' footprint should expect from this point forward. Daydreaming is fine, but this region will be fortunate if FasTracks is completed on schedule without cutting too many more corners.

Emergency Planning

Immediately after an emergency, essential services may be cut off and local disaster relief and government responders may not be able to reach you right away. Even if they could reach you, knowing what to do to protect yourself and your household is essential.

Creating a Disaster Plan

One of the most important steps you can take in preparing for emergencies is to develop a **household disaster plan**.

1. Refer to the Hazard Threat table to **learn about the hazards** that could occur in your community. Contact your community emergency management coordinator or American Red Cross chapter to learn whether hazardous materials are produced, stored or transported near your area. Learn how to prepare for each potential emergency and how to respond.

2. Talk with **employers** and your **school officials** about their emergency response plans.

3. **Talk with your household** about potential emergencies and how to respond to each. Talk about what you would need to do in an **evacuation**.

4. Plan how your household would **stay in contact** if you were separated. Identify **two meeting places**: the first should be **near** your home-in case of fire, perhaps a tree or a telephone pole; the second should be **away** from your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.

5. Pick a friend or relative who lives **out of the area** for household members **to call** to say they are okay. Easier to call "out" than "into" a disaster area.

6. Draw a **floor plan** of your home. Mark **two escape routes** from each room.

7. Post **emergency telephone numbers** by telephones. Teach children how and when to call 911.

8. Make sure everyone in your household knows how and when to **shut off water, gas and electricity** at the main switches. Consult with your local utilities if you have questions.

9. Take a **first aid** and **CPR** class. Local American Red Cross chapters can provide information. Official certification by the American Red Cross provides "good Samaritan" law protection for those giving first aid.

10. Reduce the **economic impact** of disaster on your property and your household's health and financial well-being:

* Review property **insurance policies** before disaster strikes-make sure policies are current and be certain they meet your needs (type of coverage, amount of coverage, and hazard covered-flood, earthquake). **Inventory** your personal property, **take a video** of all you own to assist in filing claims and to document what you own and keep in your safety deposit box, not at home.

* Review **life insurance** policies and consider saving money in an **emergency savings account** that could be used in any crisis. It is advisable to keep an adequate amount of cash or traveler's checks at home in a safe place where you can quickly gain access to it in case of an evacuation.

* Be certain that **health insurance** policies are current and meet the needs of your household.

11. Consider ways to **help neighbors** who may need special assistance, such as the elderly or the disabled.

12. Make arrangements for **pets**. Pets are not allowed in public shelters. Service animals for those who depend on them are allowed.

Emergency planning for people with special needs

If you have a **disability or special need**, you may have to take additional steps to protect yourself and your household in an emergency. If you know of friends or neighbors with special needs, help them with these extra precautions. Examples include:

* **Hearing impaired** may need to make special arrangements to receive a warning.

* **Mobility impaired** may need assistance in getting to a shelter.

* Households with a **single working parent** may need help from others both in planning for disasters and during an emergency.

* **Non-English speaking** people may need assistance planning for and responding to emergencies. Community and cultural groups may be able to help keep these populations informed.

* People **without vehicles** may need to make arrangements for transportation.

* People with **special dietary needs** should have an adequate emergency food supply.

1. Find out about **special assistance** that may be available in your community. Register with the office of emergency management or fire department for assistance, so needed help can be provided quickly in an emergency.

2. Create a **network of neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers** to aid you in an emergency. Discuss your needs and make sure they know how to operate necessary equipment.

3. Discuss your needs with **your employer**.

4. If you are **mobility impaired** and live or work in a high-rise building, **have an escape chair**.

5. If you live in an apartment building, ask the management to mark **accessible exits** clearly and to make arrangements to help you evacuate the building.

6. Keep **extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, medication, food for guide or hearing-ear dogs**, or other items you might need. Also, keep a list of the type and serial numbers of **medical devices** you need.

7. Those who are not disabled should **learn who** in their neighborhood or building **is disabled** so that they may assist them during emergencies.

8. If you are a care-giver for a person with special needs, make sure you have a **plan to communicate** if an emergency occurs.

Disaster Supply Kits

Assembling the supplies you might need following a disaster is an important part of your **disaster plan**. You should prepare emergency Supplies for the following situations:

- A **disaster supply kit** with essential food, water, and supplies for at least three days-this kit should be kept in a designated place and be ready to "grab and go" in case you have to leave your home quickly because of a disaster, such as a flash flood or major chemical emergency, or forest fire. Make sure all household members know where the kit is kept.

- Consider having **additional supplies** for sheltering or home confinement for up to two weeks.

- You should also have an **additional disaster supply kit at work**. This also should be in one container, ready to "grab and go" in case you have to evacuate the building.

-A **car kit of emergency supplies**, including food and water, to keep stored in your car at all times. This kit would also include flares, jumper cables, and seasonal supplies.

The following **checklists** will help you assemble disaster supply kits that meet the needs of your household. The basic items that should be in a disaster supply kit are water, food, first-aid supplies, tools and emergency supplies, clothing and bedding, and specialty items. You will need to **change the stored water and food supplies every six months**, so be sure to write the date you store it on all containers. You should also re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your household changes. Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supply kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as an unused trashcan, camping backpack or duffel bag.

Water: the absolute necessity

1. Stocking **water reserves** should be a top priority. Drinking water in emergency situations should not be rationed. Therefore, it is critical to store adequate amounts of water for your household.

>Individual needs vary, depending on age, physical condition, activity, diet, and climate. A normally active person needs at least two quarts of water daily just for drinking. Children, nursing mothers, and ill people need more. Very hot temperatures can double the amount of water needed.

>Because you will also need water for **sanitary purposes** and, possibly, for cooking, you should store at least one gallon of water per person per day.

2. **Store water** in thoroughly washed plastic, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Don't use containers that can break, such as glass bottles. Never use a container that has held toxic substances. Sound plastic containers, such as soft drink bottles, are best. You can also purchase food-grade plastic buckets or drums.

>Containers for water should be rinsed with a diluted bleach solution (one part bleach to ten parts water) before use.

Previously used bottles or other containers may be contaminated with microbes or chemicals. Do not rely on untested devices for decontaminating water.

>If your water is treated commercially by a water utility, you do not need to treat water before storing it. Additional treatments of treated public water will not increase storage life.

>If you have a well or public water that has not been treated, follow the treatment instructions provided by your public health service or water provider.

>If you suspect that your well may be contaminated, contact your local or state health department or agriculture extension agent for specific advice.

> Seal your water containers tightly, label them and store them in a cool, dark place.

* It is important to **change stored water every six months**. Google for water purification.

Food: preparing an emergency supply

1. If activity is reduced, healthy people can survive on half their usual food intake for an extended period or without any food for many days. **Food, unlike water, may be rationed safely**, except for children and pregnant women.

2. You don't need to go out and buy unfamiliar foods to prepare an emergency food supply. You can use the **canned foods, dry mixes and other staples** on your cupboard shelves. Canned foods do not require cooking, water or special preparation. Be sure to include a manual can opener.

3. Keep canned foods in a dry place where the temperature is fairly cool. To protect boxed foods from pests and to extend their shelf life, store the food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers.

4. Replace items in your food supply **every six months**. Throw out any canned good that becomes swollen, dented, or corroded. Use foods before they go bad, and replace them with fresh

supplies. Date each food item with a marker. Place new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in front.

5. **Food items** that you might consider including in your disaster supply kit include: ready-to-eat meats, fruits, and vegetables; canned or boxed juices, milk, and soup; high-energy foods like peanut butter, jelly, low-sodium crackers, granola bars, and trail mix; vitamins; foods for infants or persons on special diets; cookies, hard candy; instant coffee, cereals, and powdered milk.

You may need to **survive on your own** after a disaster. Emergency responders and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours, or it may take days. Basic services, such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones, may be cut off for days, even a week or longer. Or you may have to **evacuate at a moment's notice** and take essentials with you. Non-replaceable family photos can be backed up to a Web site now to preserve them. You probably won't have the opportunity to shop or search for the supplies you'll need. Your household will cope best by **preparing for disaster** before it strikes.

First aid supplies

Assemble a first aid kit for your home and for each vehicle:

Topics for your first aid kit should include:

- First aid manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agents (isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide)/soap/germicide
- Antibiotic ointment, - Latex gloves (2 pairs)
- 2-inch and 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6 each size)
- Triangular bandages (3)
- 2-inch and 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls each)
- Cotton balls, - Scissors
- Tweezers - Needle
- Moistened towelettes - Antiseptic
- Thermometer - Tongue depressor blades (2)
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Sunscreen

It may be difficult to obtain **prescription medications** during a disaster because stores may be closed or supplies may be limited.

Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications. Be sure they are stored to meet instructions on the label and be mindful of expiration dates -- be sure to keep your stored medication up to date.

Extra pair of prescription glasses or contact lens.

Have the following nonprescription drugs in your disaster supply kit:

- Aspirin and nonaspirin pain reliever
- Antidiarrhea medication - Antacid (for stomach upset)
- Syrup of ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the poison control center)
- Laxative - Vitamins

Tools and emergency supplies

It will be important to assemble these items in a disaster supply kit in case you have to leave your home quickly. Even if you don't have to leave your home, if you lose power it will be easier to have these items already assembled and in one place.

Tools and other items:

- A portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries - Signal flare
- Matches in a waterproof container (or waterproof matches)
- Shut-off wrench, pliers, shovel and other tools
- Duct tape and scissors - Plastic sheeting
- Whistle - Small canister, A-B-C-type fire extinguisher
- Tube tent - Compass - Work gloves
- Paper, pens, and pencils - Needles and thread
- Battery-operated travel alarm clock

Kitchen items:

- Manual can opener
- Mess kits or paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils
- All-purpose knife
- Household liquid bleach to treat drinking water
- Sugar, salt, pepper - Aluminum foil and plastic wrap
- Re-sealing plastic bags
- If food must be cooked, small cooking stove and a can of cooking fuel

Sanitation and hygiene items: - Washcloth and towel
- Towelettes, soap, hand sanitizer, liquid detergent

- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorants, comb and brush, razor, shaving cream, lip balm, sunscreen, insect repellent, contact lens solutions, mirror, feminine supplies

- Heavy-duty plastic garbage bags and ties-for personal sanitation uses-and toilet paper

- Medium-sized plastic bucket with tight lid

- Disinfectant and household chlorine bleach

- Consider including a small shovel for digging a latrine

Household documents and contact numbers:

- Personal identification, cash (including change) or traveler's checks, and a credit card

- Copies of important documents: birth certificate, marriage certificate, driver's license, social security cards, passport, wills, deeds, inventory of household goods, insurance papers, immunizations records, bank and credit card account numbers, stocks and bonds. Be sure to store these in a watertight container

- Emergency contact list and phone numbers

- Map of the area and phone numbers of places you could go

- An extra set of car keys and house keys.

Clothes and bedding

One complete change of clothing and footwear for each household member. Shoes should be sturdy work shoes or boots. Rain gear, hat and gloves, extra socks, extra underwear, thermal underwear, sunglasses

Blankets or a sleeping bag and pillows for each household member

Specialty items

Remember to consider the needs of infants, elderly persons, disabled persons, and pets; include entertainment and comfort items for children.

For baby For the elderly For pets

Entertainment: books, games, quiet toys, and stuffed animals. It is important for you to be ready, wherever you may be when disaster strikes. With the **checklists** above you **can now put together** an appropriate disaster supply kits **for your household:**

A disaster supply kit kept in the home with supplies for at least **three days**

Although it is unlikely that food supplies would be cut off for as long as two weeks, consider storing additional water, food, clothing and bedding and other supplies to expand your supply kit to last up to **two weeks**

A work place disaster supply kit - It is important to store a personal supply of water and food at work; you will not be able to rely on water fountains or coolers. Women who wear high-heels should be sure to have comfortable flat shoes at their workplace in case an evacuation requires walking long distances.

A car disaster supply kit - Keep a smaller disaster supply kit in the trunk of your car. If you become stranded or are not able to return home, having these items will help you be more comfortable until help arrives. Add items for severe winter weather during months when heavy snow or icy roads are possible-salt, sand, shovels, and extra winter clothing, including hats and gloves.

What else can you add to the list to BE PREPARED?

Subject: The threat posed by the HPB recommendations to City Council

To the Editor and Members of "The Golden Wire:"

I would like to thank you, and commend you, for your headlining of the threat to private property rights posed by the HPB's suggested changes of the City ordinances. I need to re-read all of your comments and the links you provided, but on first scanning, it seems that we agree completely on both the practical and the philosophical issues involved.

I have been researching the issue of Historic Districts and the general threat of government confiscation of individual property rights and prerogatives and am very alarmed at the thought that Golden will take even the smallest of steps in the direction suggested by the HPB. I would like to strongly recommend that you and your group read the following book which is a primer and practical roadmap for the imposition of strong historic preservation restrictions on a community. It is a book that would be valuable to anyone trying to establish historic districts and is an alarming eye-opener to anyone who values their often naïve belief in individual rights.

The book is *The Politics of Historic Districts* by Bill Schmickle. The author chairs the Historic Preservation Commission in Annapolis Maryland. He was a co-founder of a historic district in N. Carolina, a former "professor of politics," owns and operates a "historic" inn, and consults on preservation. His book is an

arrogant but thorough and pragmatic exposition of the steps and strategies needed for a minority of historic preservation zealots to impose strict historic district standards on a hesitant but disorganized opposition of private property rights advocates. He has a website at www.preservationpolitics.com.

Two other books I am still working on are: *Takings: Private Property and the Power of Eminent Domain* by Richard A. Epstein and *Abuse of Power: How the government misuses eminent domain* by Steven Greenhut

I have been motivated to do the research using these books and online sources because of the recent actions of the HPB and the fact that I live in a building in the 12th Street Historic District (1205 12th St.). I am directly threatened by the suggested changes and the general direction toward the "back-door" taking of my property rights through local regulation and police power.

One thing that has become clear to me is the fact that court decisions, including U.S. Supreme Court rulings, have steadily eroded the legal standing of individual property rights vs. the official definition of community interests. That is why the recent moves by the HPB are so alarming.

I have been following Golden "politics" since 1974 and while I have often disagreed with the actions of Council and the City Manager and the staff, I also respect both the motives and the sacrifices of the professionals in our City government and the citizens who get up off their couches and volunteer their time and energy by taking part in government and putting themselves on the line in very under-appreciated and often thankless jobs both on the council and on the various boards and commissions.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that the very admirable quality of pro-active civic involvement can also lead to a well-meaning but biased advocacy of strong government and central planning to the detriment of individual freedom and rights. When a person is a "true-believer" and has a vision of what "should be" in a community, especially in the face of what seems like general apathy, it is easy to extrapolate one's own vision for the community vision and to believe that the only way to move forward is take the reins of government police power and lead people in the "right" direction....sometimes with the use of a whip.

The folks on the HPB are almost by definition strong advocates of historic preservation. I generally agree with the arguments supporting preservation myself. But I do not believe it is in the best interest of any community, especially in this country, to sacrifice individual rights on the alter of "community interest." My research suggests that we are on a very dangerous path both locally and nationally in the direction of too-strong government and central authority at the expense of both a free and viable marketplace but also at the expense of some of the basic innovations and affirmations of individual rights that have made this country unique in world history. It may seem like an overstatement to imply that a local "strengthening" of a historic preservation ordinance is a threat to our national interest, but after reading some of the court precedents and horror stories of local government overt and effective "takings" of property and property rights, I believe our local situation truly is a part of a very general corrosive and disturbing trend away from individual freedom.

That is why I once again commend you for your stand on the issue and for your advocacy of individual citizen involvement and action to oppose the HPB recommendations. Equally important is your suggestion that City Council affirm the "historic" reality of individual property rights and freedoms.

FAMILY TREE

7th Annual Feast for Families October 4, 2007. Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Main Auditorium 15200 W. 6th Ave., Golden, CO 80401

Doors Open @ 5:00 P.M. Dinner Served @ 6:00 P.M.

Family Tree - safe, strong, self-reliant families.

Family Tree invites you to attend the 2007 Family Tree Feast for Families. Come hungry for some Colorado Cuisine featuring delicious grilled meats, vegetable, potato cakes and pie, all served family style. Enjoy your dinner along with the sounds of a local bluegrass band and be ready to bid on some fabulous silent and live auction items.

Dust off your boots -- we encourage western wear or Colorado casual. Please RSVP by calling 303-422-2133, no later than September 28th. No admission charge. A request for contributions will be made. If you are interested in hosting a table, contact Kathy Wells at 303-2133. If your company is interested in a

corporate sponsorship, contact Angie Overlie at 303-467-3794, ext. 705.

For more information about Family Tree and the 2007 Feast for Families, visit www.thefamilytree.org. Dig deep in your pockets to support Family Tree.

Jeffco Budget cuts hit Family Tree and similar organizations hard. About one and a half million dollars a year have been budgeted in the past for these organizations to apply for grants. This will probably not be available in the future. They will have to raise the money to help people in need some other ways.

The Article on Resignations of 6 City Employees in the Last Issue Brought an interesting Response.

It is common in situations where employees are doing something quite unacceptable or illegal, they are given the opportunity to resign immediately and no other personnel action will be taken or charges filed. Given the sudden nature of the six resignations and that they came all at the same time, there is a clear suggestion that something serious had been occurring. This means it is possible that the city should have reported the conduct to the District Attorney. If you have any knowledge about the situation that should, at least, be checked out, call chief investigator Fred at the District Attorney's office at 303-271-6900.

VOTING

Important things to know:

- * This election is by mail-in ballot**
- * The last day to register to vote is October 9, 2007**
- * Ballots will be mailed out beginning October 12, 2007**

Recall that the Golden Good Government League (3GL), a 527 political action committee, was formed in 1987 for the purpose of controlling city council elections. The councilors elected with their support have controlled the city ever since. Our tax money has been spent overwhelmingly to benefit downtown merchants and to generate more development that gives government more to spend.

They have managed to get us almost \$60,000,000 (Yes, that is \$60 Million) in debt.

They have increasingly taken power and rights away from the citizens.

They have increasingly given more power to Planning Direct Steve Glueck and City Manager Mike Bestor.

Their goal is to have 40,000 people in Golden.

There are about 10,000 people listed on the registered voter list in Golden. About 1,000 of those not longer live in Golden and will not vote here.

There are probably two or three thousand people living in Golden who are eligible to register but are not registered to vote.

If you want to continue to be controlled by this self-serving 3GL group, then vote for their candidates or a candidate who votes with them or just don't vote.

If you want to be represented instead of controlled, if you want a city council that will care about the whole city and care about all the citizens, vote for candidates who have no connection with the controlling group.

If you are not registered, please do so.

When you get your ballot, please vote.

Don't let the controlling group or apathy keep you from voting.

You can get a voter registration form on the internet at the Colorado Secretary of State's web site or at the County Clerk and Recorder's office. Include the last 4 digits of your SS# when you mail it. If you want to be sure you are registered to vote, call the Clerk at 303-271-8111 or Marian Olson at

303-279-7479. If you would like to have a form brought to you, call Ma