

people in the process of our democracy. Whether you're at a city council meeting trying to gain support for a Stop sign, sidewalks or speed bumps in your neighborhood or calling your member of Congress on a particular National or Global issue that is important to you...it doesn't matter if you're 18 or 120 years old, it doesn't matter what color your skin is, it doesn't matter if you're male, female or in between, it doesn't matter who you sleep with or how or *if* you worship a god...this *is* America. We are "The Governed", and it is up to every single one of us to make sure that all our voices are heard and the government acts for "We the People". It is our burden as citizens of this great country to hold on to our Rights and use each and every one of them for the betterment of all. Not just black or white or rich or poor, Christian or Muslim or Atheist, but for All.

We may not agree with other people's points of view or their beliefs (or non belief), but that is the beauty of this unique and truly American ideal.

Thomas Paine wrote in The American Crisis on September 12, 1777: "Those who expect to reap the blessings of Freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it"

In closing, I would like to add; not only is it the most important thing you can do as a private citizen, but it is our *duty* as citizens of this great country to be engaged in the process of our Democracy and I encourage everyone reading this to become involved. It's not difficult. Talk to your friends and neighbors, read, educate yourself on the issues, register to Vote and show up at your polling place on Election Day or Vote by absentee ballot.

Attend City Council and Town Hall meetings to voice your opinion locally; call your State Representative (303) 866-2904 or call the Governor (303) 866-2471 for state issues or concerns. You can also call your Federal Congresspersons (202) 225-3121 for national or global issues. If you don't know who your Representative is, just give the operator your zip code and they will connect you to the right office.

Sincerely,

Your Fellow Citizen, Mike Richard

### Another Fellow Citizen

I think the VOG is the perfect example of our right as Americans to freedom of speech and freedom of the press. I do not know off-hand of any other newspaper that appears to be not for profit, laid out on a dining room table, printed and delivered to our homes free of charge. This is the only newspaper in Golden that anyone mentions in a conversation because we all receive this opportunity to read it, recycle it or toss it to the landfill. Regardless of whether or not anyone likes what is said in the Voice of Golden, this is still a walloping little enterprise. Millions of men and women including my ancestors, my father and uncle, my husband, my children and my children's' friends and comrades all have put their lives in harms way so that such an endeavor can be undertaken. I encourage the continued publications of this little paper and I hope that more and more residents of Golden take the opportunity to add their opinions, ideas, editorials, announcements, recipes and what not to the paper. The VOG presents an amazing opportunity for all of us to have a voice and I myself would like to hear what people have to say.

**A Lawsuit over a Nuisance of Light – exposing corporate arrogance of: Autonation, Inc. and Negligence of Golden Colorado City Officials A True Story and Opinions by Dave Nash. Read about it at <http://www.lightlawsuit.com/>**

### Helping Hearts and Hands Fall News

**Since the first of the year, HHH has helped over 525 families. In order to "bat 1,000," they are holding the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Harvest Happening to raise money. It is to be held September 6, 2007, 11:30 – 1:30, Arvada United Methodist Church, 6750 Carr Street, Arvada**

**You can choose to buy a ticket for a base hit \$30, \$50 for an extra hit, or \$75 for a home run!**

**Call 303-964-9043 to make a reservation.**

**Donated Auction Items include: Signed Baseball Bat (Matt Holliday, Signed Baseballs (Todd Helton, Garret Atkins and Jeff Francis), Jewelry from Purvis Jewelers, 240 Union Dinner Certificate, Bonefish Grille Dinner Certificate ...**

## Resources Fair is Coming! Save the Date – Sept. 29, Fairgrounds. 9:00 - 5:00

It is **FREE!** Free food as long as it lasts.

Door prizes include two tickets to the Dec. 9 Broncos v. Kansas City football game!

Here are some of the companies that will be there to talk to you.

**Astralux Environmental Systems (AES)** - Specializing in energy efficiency and solar energy system design and installation for residential and commercial clients in the Colorado Front Range area.

**USA Solar Power** - Mission to pursue a strong commitment to solar electric solutions while empowering homebuilders and homeowners with the opportunity to make changes. Goal is to help shift reliance from fossil fuels to cleaner solar energy. Installing renewable energy systems is a switch to green power for a positive impact on Earth's environment.

**Next Generation Energy, LLC** - Photovoltaic systems, solar water heating systems, solar pool heating systems, solar air heating systems, alternative homes and buildings, hydro energy systems (small), greywater solutions – manufacturer, wholesale supplier, installer.

**Golden Solar** - System installation and maintenance for homeowners and businesses as well as design and consulting services for builders. We are a licensed electrical contractor with residential, commercial, and industrial experience.

**Sunflower Solar** - Local, independent company helping visionary businesses and families take the first step toward energy independence. Sunflower Solar offers a full range of solar electric solutions to fit your needs.

**Xcel Energy**

**Jefferson County Library**

**Optimists – Recycled Bicycles**

**Colorado State University Extension**

**District Attorney's office**

*AND more ...*

## What can you do now?

**You don't need to have the city order you to conserve.**

**Do a home audit – Check out the Home Energy Saver <http://hes.lbl.gov> Help find the best ways to save energy in your home.**

**Go to [xcelenergy.com](http://xcelenergy.com) or call 1-800-895-4999 for the "60 Simple Ways to Save Money on Your Home Energy Bill" brochure.**

**Go the Home Depot to see the 2000 things they have to help you conserve.**

**Visit the National Renewable Energy Lab.**

**Wrap an insulation blanket around your hot water heater. Consider installing a whole-house tankless water heater, which instantly heats water when a shower or faucet is turned on. (Save up to 50 percent on utility costs and earn a \$300 federal tax credit.**

**Move your thermostat down two degrees in winter and up two degrees in summer.**

**And on and on...**

Hundreds of books and websites offer practical ways to deal with global warming and energy conservation.

Visit the library. If you don't have a computer, use one at the library.

**A special THANK YOU to Governor Lamm for coming to Golden to speak in July and for sharing with us his speech on COMMUNITY that appears in this issue of the VOG.**