

A City of Greeley Community Bulletin ~ January 2010

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Above: Celebrate everything that's great about Greeley - Happy New Year!



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### ***Scoop Subscribers Win!***

Congratulations to our December *City Scoop* winners, Greeley residents Maria Covarrubias and Craig and Melanie Kingman. Craig and Melanie selected a Colorado gardening book and Maria selected a water conservation kit. Prizes were donated by the City of Greeley Water Conservation Program. Forward this edition of the *Scoop* to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to subscribe - they'll automatically be entered to win!

## **Veteran Employees' Skill & Experience Will Be Missed**

*by Roy H. Otto, Greeley City Manager*

In December, the City of Greeley said goodbye to 15 veteran employees who retired after many years of service. The experience of these employees, when combined, represented over 400 years of institutional knowledge, experience and expertise - a truly valuable asset for City operations and our residents. They will be missed.

This relatively large number of long-term employees took retirement at this time in part because the City offered an early retirement plan. This plan took shape during 2009 to help address the significant revenue shortfall occurring due to problems in the economy. Budget savings will come as a result of many of these positions being left vacant. The work done by these employees will be absorbed by other employees and through a reorganization of departmental functions.

My thanks go to the following retirees for their outstanding service to Greeley: Tom Davis, 25 years; Greg Flebbe, 20 years; Ted Fryzek, 12 years; Gary Griffin, 38 years; Bob Harmon, 25 years; Brian Hendricks, 20 years; Dick Lefers, 54 years; Joe Lohman, 28 years; Keith Olson, 27

## te!! a neighbor

It was a big year for several Greeley residents who were selected as 2009 recipients of statewide and regional awards. Here are four outstanding examples:

**Bob Tointon**, chairman of the Greeley Downtown Development Authority, was named the Downtowner of the Year by Downtown Colorado, Inc. DCI also selected **Ron and Linde Thompson**, owners of Greeley's Kress Cinema and Lounge, as the winners of the Governor's Award for Downtown Excellence in the Colorful Colorado category. UNC Volleyball head coach **Lyndsey Benson** was named the 2009 Big Sky Coach of the Year after leading the Bears to their first-ever conference title. Congratulations to all of our residents who were recognized in 2009 for their outstanding contributions - helping to make Greeley [Great From the Ground Up!](#)

## What's Happening

### January Leisure Services Activities

Call or check on-line for hours and fees. [www.greeleygov.com/rec](http://www.greeleygov.com/rec)

### Family FunPlex

350-9401 • 1501 65th Avenue

### Holiday Swim Special

Through January 3

[www.familyfunplex.com](http://www.familyfunplex.com)

### Greeley Ice Haus

350-9402 • 900 8th Avenue

### Ice Haus Extended Holiday Skate

#### Sessions

January 1-5, 2010

December 25 • 6-9 p.m.

### Ice Haus "Bring A Buddy"

January 6 • 6:15 - 7:45 p.m.

Get 2 for the price of 1

### National Skating Month Celebration

January 27 • 6:15 - 7:45 p.m.

20 years; DICK LOTUS, 51 years; JOE LOMMES, 50 years; KEITH OLSON, 27 years; Jim Robinson, 34 years; Manuel Salazar, 25 years; Tom Van Buskirk, 29 years; Dennis Wagner, 34 years; Ron Williams, 19 years; Cathy Witte, 38 years.

## Snow Cooperation

Residents were very helpful during the cold and snowy weather that occurred in mid and late December. Most residents remembered not to park on posted snow routes - this was a big help for City snow plow operators who were able to clear the roads more quickly. (Illegally parked cars will be ticketed and towed.) When the snow flies again you can call the Snow and Ice Hotline at 970-351-SNOW (7669) or visit [www.greeleygov.com](http://www.greeleygov.com) for information or assistance. Also, remember to clear your sidewalks within 24 hours after a storm to keep them safe for pedestrians. To report any that haven't been shoveled call 350-9833.



## Meet the Chief

by Duane McDonald, Fire Chief

In October of 1871 the Great Chicago Fire burned much of Chicago. Greeley's town board knew the same could happen here and established its first Fire Department in November 1871. Greeley's Union Colony Fire/Rescue is now staffed by 107 men and women dedicated to preventing harm and minimizing the effects of harmful events.

On September 1, 2009 I was promoted to Greeley's Fire Chief. I have served in this organization since 1981 and know full well that the men and women of your Fire Department are top notch. It's an honor to serve with them in fulfilling our mission: "To prevent harm through professional compassionate service."

I encourage all residents to take advantage of our non-emergency services. We offer: free home safety inspections, car seat installation inspections, smoke detector assistance to the elderly and those with physical disabilities, and home escape planning. You can call 350-9500 for more information.



We've heard that some Greeley residents think their water, sewer and stormwater rates are increasing in 2010 to pay for the utilities on

Mountain View Skating Club demonstrations and public skate. \$1 off admission if you wear your school colors! [www.greeleyicehaus.com](http://www.greeleyicehaus.com)

**Greeley Recreation Center**

350-9400 • 651 10th Avenue

**Father/Daughter Dance**

January 29, 30 & 31

Find out more!

**Greeley Recreation Center & Family**

**FunPlex Swim Lessons**

Registration deadline - January 8

For a complete schedule visit

[www.greeleygov.com/rec](http://www.greeleygov.com/rec).

**Greeley History**

**Museum Starts**

**New Hours**

Starting January 2 the downtown Greeley History

Museum will have new hours. In 2010 the museum will be open 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday. Tour groups of ten or more and researchers may make appointments to visit Monday through Friday.

Interested in learning more about genealogy research? **You're invited** to a free January 23 Family History Workshop for beginners from 10 a.m. - Noon in the Hazel E. Johnson Research Center at the history museum. Call (970) 350-9220 for details. And while you're thinking about history, don't miss the "Headwear and Hatpins" exhibit that ends January 9!

[www.greeleymuseums.com](http://www.greeleymuseums.com)



**January-February Civic**

**Center Stars**

Pinocchio - Auditions •

January 4 at 4pm

properties that are in foreclosure.

**That's not Real. It's a Rumor.** "No Way!" according to Lezlie Philp, the City's Deputy Finance Director. If the water and sewer utilities are shut off at a property that is in foreclosure, no one is being charged by the City. If the water and sewer is not shut off, or is active, charges continue to accrue and are part of a lien the City places on that property. Stormwater charges continue to accrue as well and all charges are collected at the time of closing when the property changes hands.



**Help Greeley Get Its Fair Share of Federal Funding**

Census information collected in 2010 will be used by the Federal government to help allocate more than \$400 billion in federal funds. Therefore it is critical that all residents in Greeley are counted. If an undercount occurs, Greeley will not get its fair share of this funding.

Starting in March of 2010, all U.S. households will be mailed a 10-question form, one of the shortest forms in history. Forms will be available in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian and other languages and bilingual forms will be used in some parts of the country. If a household doesn't respond, Census employees will go door-to-door to follow up.

**When the form arrives in the mail, please fill it out and mail it.**

**It's Easy** - 10 questions in 10 minutes.

**It's Required** - By the U.S. Constitution.

**It's Safe** - Census data cannot be shared with anyone, not even other government agencies.

**It's Important** - Help Greeley get its fair share of Federal funding!

**Holiday Tree Recycling**

The City of Greeley, partnering with A-1 Organics, is accepting Christmas trees for recycling through the end of January 2010 for Greeley residents only. Trees may be dropped off Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Greeley's Green Cycle Center 1 mile east of Highway 85 on East 8th Street, just west of Andersen's Salvage. (No commercial dumping allowed.) The Green Cycle Center will be closed January 1. Visit

[www.greeleygov.com](http://www.greeleygov.com) or call 350-9336 Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or the Green Cycle Center at 590-4768 or

[www.greeleygov.com/recycle](http://www.greeleygov.com/recycle) for more info.



**PINOCCHIO - Performances •**

January 9 at 3 & 7pm

**LeAnn Rimes •** January 23 at 7:30pm

**Church Basement Ladies •**

January 28 at 2 & 7pm

**The Marshall Tucker Band •**

February 6 at 7:30pm

**A Year with Frog and Toad •**

February 10 at 6:30pm

**St. Vincent & the Grenadines**

• February 19 at 7:30 pm

**The 5 Browns •** February 26

at 7:30pm

Call the Ticket Office at 970-356-5000

or visit [www.ucstars.com](http://www.ucstars.com) for

information and tickets. The Ticket Office is open Monday-Friday, noon-6 p.m. and Saturdays noon-4 p.m.

## GURA Rehab Loans - NOT too good to be true!

If you could get a loan to do rehab work on your home and the interest rate was zero percent, would you hesitate? What if, in addition to no interest, up to half the cost could be deferred until the sale of the home, then would you hesitate?

GURA, the Greeley Urban Renewal Authority, offers just such loans to low/moderate income homeowners who reside in Greeley. It is NOT too good to be true. It is NOT a predatory loan with increasing payments. It is YOUR Federal tax dollars at work.

Low income homeowners can apply for loans for weatherization, electrical and plumbing updates, new roofing, and building safety improvements. Call the Greeley Urban Renewal Authority at 350-9380 to see if you qualify.

## Tips for Residents Need Help Keeping Your Home?

The Weld Foreclosure Coalition is hosting a "Housing Assistance Fair and Forum" on Saturday, January 16 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 10th Avenue and 11th Street in Greeley. The event is free and will feature several classes, including "How to Talk With Your Mortgage Company" and "How to Survive a Layoff." Housing and financial counselors from Consumer Credit Counseling Service, the Colorado Foreclosure Hotline and the Division of Housing will be available to meet confidentially with people. Several human service agencies will also be represented. Information: United Way of Weld County, 970-353-4300.

## Recycle Your Electronics

Happy New Computer! No, we didn't mean to say "Happy New Year" because chances are that you or someone you know got a new electronic device as a present this holiday season. Now the dilemma is what to do with the old one. You know it shouldn't



## Greeley Practices Emergency Response

Sports teams do it, actors do it and the military does it, practice, practice, practice. If you want to have the sharpened skills to meet the demands of an emergency, you also need to practice and exercise those skills.

In December, City staff practiced their response to a major hazardous materials spill in the heart of Greeley. While first responders, fire and police in a forward command post close to the incident were managing the on-scene response, the City Manager and his leadership team, professionals who run the day to day operations of the City, quickly transitioned into their emergency operations roles.

Staff practiced providing support resources, communicating with the media and local residents, and other critical functions. Everyone involved valued this exercise as a way to become more proficient prior to an actual emergency.

## Help Make Greeley Great From the

go in the trash where it will end up in the landfill and cause some type of air, ground or water pollution. And the closet or garage is already filled with stuff. Here are some electronics recycling options to help clear out the clutter:

**Schaefer Enterprises**  
500 26th Street, 970-353-0662

**Best Buy**  
4210 Centerplace Drive, 970-392-4139  
[www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com)

**National Recycling**  
19009 Hwy 392, Lucerne, CO  
970-353-2571  
[www.nat-recycling.com](http://www.nat-recycling.com)

**Weld County Household Hazardous Waste Site**  
They do not accept computers and other electronics, but do take cell phones, fluorescent lights, batteries, household chemicals, motor oil, paint, etc. for free.  
1311 North 17th Avenue  
*Closed until January 31*  
970-304-6415 ext. 2233

## Ground Up

Make a New Year's resolution today to get involved in your community. Volunteering on a City board or commission is a great way to make that happen and help Greeley reach its potential.

The City has vacancies on the following boards and commissions: Air Quality and Natural Resources Commission, Citizen Budget Advisory Committee, Golf Board, Human Relations Commission, Island Grove Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Urban Renewal Authority, Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority, Youth Commission and Citizen Transportation Advisory Board. The deadline for applications is January 14, 2010. For more information visit [www.greeleygov.com](http://www.greeleygov.com) or contact Russell Lenhart at 350-9741, [russ.lenhart@greeleygov.com](mailto:russ.lenhart@greeleygov.com).



\*City Scoop is a monthly publication produced by the Greeley City Manager's Office. You can subscribe to this and other City e-newsletters by visiting [www.greeleygov.com](http://www.greeleygov.com) and clicking the e-newsletter button in the left column.\*

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