

# AVA NEWSLETTER



Applewood Valley Association • P.O. Box 25 • Golden, CO 80402  
[applewoodvalley.homestead.com](http://applewoodvalley.homestead.com) • 720.346.6525 • Chartered 1959

September 8, 2014

## Message From the AVA President

Each year, we vigilantly look for issues that have a potential to affect the Applewood Valley community. During 2013, we continued watching the search for a property to house the County Community Corrections facility that is currently located at Kendall Street north of Colfax. Another potential site was identified near the Jeffco Fairgrounds and Foothills Animal Shelter. In May, that one site was also abandoned due to lack of neighborhood support. We will remain attentive for any other potential sites identified for the Jefferson County Community Corrections facility.

Zoning codes are very important to our way of life here. AVA stays on top of proposed changes in Lakewood and Jeffco. Major changes are close to approval in the Jeffco regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). A very clear explanation is contained at <http://tinyurl.com/nn82lfe>. AVA's comments are contained on pages 14-17 in the Draft 1 comments log. We continue working with planner Heather Gutherless to devise the best possible provisions for a neighborhood like ours. Heather is also an AVA member and will have a table at our annual meeting to discuss your thoughts. Please take action now!

There is grant money available from the City of Lakewood Neighborhood Participation Program. A neighbor has suggested a dedicated walk/bikeway from 20<sup>th</sup> to Colfax, along Simms. We are aware that there is an extensive Utility Reconstruction project slated for this same strip of Simms that will happen slowly over the next year or so. Grant money for a dedicated walk/bikeway along Simms will not be possible until the Utility Reconstruction project has been completed, but it is a great idea for a future grant. Does anyone have any additional ideas for neighborhood improvements that would qualify for this grant? The details to qualify for grant money can be found at: [www.lakewood.org/npp/](http://www.lakewood.org/npp/).

We have recently discovered a growing need to communicate with members quickly on breaking news. Please email us and ask to be added to our email list. Rest assured we will not use your address for anything beyond AVA communications.

You are cordially invited to attend the  
**2014 AVA Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 30**

*5:45 pm • Candidate Meet and Greet*

*6:30 - 7:30 • Business Meeting*

*7:30 - 8:30 • Key Topics Discussion*

Applewood Valley United Methodist Church  
20th and Ellis Street, Golden CO

## Annual Meeting

The Applewood Valley Association 2014 annual meeting will be held September 30. Five AVA Board positions are up for election. Member participation is encouraged. You need not be an active member to attend a meeting. We have invited current and prospective elected officials for a "meet and greet" at 5:45 pm, so please come early. As usual, we will also have tables with information on various topics pertinent to us.

The business meeting starts promptly at 6:30 pm with election of directors and presentations on various subjects including the featured ones. Our two featured topics cover the Jeffco and Lakewood proposed regulation of recreational marijuana and the opportunities for a new community focus on the shopping center at 20<sup>th</sup> and Youngfield. At 7:30 we will adjourn the regular business meeting and then have focused discussions on the two topics.

AVA has invited our adjoining homeowner associations, Daniels/Welchster and Applewood Property Owners to attend this meeting because of the importance of these topics and the applicability to their members. As we have done previously, our meeting protocol prioritizes our member's questions and answers while inviting their participation, too. And, as in the past, we do expect elected and staff representatives to attend and support these discussions as well as learn from our perspectives. Please bring your thoughts and concerns to this meeting. If you are unable to attend, you are welcome to send your questions via email to [AVABoard2007-8@comcast.net](mailto:AVABoard2007-8@comcast.net) and our Board will be glad to enter them in the discussion.

## ***Marijuana Regulation***

The City of Lakewood and Jefferson County are proceeding to implement provisions of Amendment 64. Lakewood Council voted to prohibit grow operations, manufacturing, laboratory testing, hash oil production and social clubs related to recreational marijuana. At the same time, the Council decided to refer the element of retail recreational marijuana stores to a citywide vote this coming November. Jefferson County Commission appointed a task force to evaluate and give recommendations for establishing Resolutions to govern each of these elements. The task force is due to complete its work during September and the Commission is anticipating the formal Resolution process to extend the next several months. Commissioner Casey Tighe is looking forward to hearing our discussion on this topic.

*As we go to print, we are adding the news that the Task Force voted to recommend "Opt Out" to the Commission. This includes all four functions; retail sales, cultivation, manufacturing and testing facilities.*

### ***Message from Ramey Johnson, Chairman of the Jefferson County Marijuana Task Force***

For four months I have been wearing two hats - one as your City Councilwoman and one as the Chairman of the Jefferson County Marijuana Task Force. I have learned that very good and decent people for all the right reasons see marijuana use very differently for all the right reasons. The County Commissioners decided to form a task force to ask questions and research the issue before they decided how they should address recreational retail marijuana stores in unincorporated Jefferson County. They chose members for this task force who had different backgrounds, thoughts and orientations regarding marijuana. For four months we have asked questions and challenged one another in very hearty debate. I believe that this debate is healthy and needed. I am writing this note before the task force votes on September 8<sup>th</sup> to decide which recommendations to give to the Commissioners. It was decided to have two subcommittees: one to "opt in for retail" and one "to opt out of retail". The recommendation to the Commissioners will reflect a divided opinion-we will not have 100% consensus. This committee reflects society. In the end, marijuana is a financial, political and values

opinion. The question we are ultimately asking ourselves to drive the two narratives is "How will Jefferson County benefit from retail marijuana?" Additionally, we will be voting on if the county should allow testing facilities, manufacturing and cultivation.

In the end, the commissioners will have a robust document that reflects two very different approaches in order to decide for themselves how they should vote. In Jefferson County, Wheat Ridge, Edgewater and Lakeview are currently the only municipalities that allow recreational marijuana stores. To my knowledge Lakewood is the only city in Jefferson County to put this issue back on the ballot.

On your November ballot you will find a question asking if you support retail marijuana stores in Lakewood. The wording on the ballot may seem contradictory. If you do NOT want recreational marijuana retail stores in Lakewood, you need to vote YES on 2A and vice versa. This vote does NOT affect medical marijuana stores. I urge you to ask many questions before voting such as; cost of enforcement, cost to healthcare facilities, impact in schools, and impacts to property values for a start. Everyone now has a second chance to rethink and vote again on this important issue.

It has been a pleasure to serve on this task force. I have learned a great deal.

### ***20<sup>th</sup> & Youngfield Shopping Center***

Over the years AVA residents have seen many changes on this property south of 20<sup>th</sup> and west of Youngfield. Often hopes have been raised for 'something more'. Now there is a unique opportunity. AVA member Cheryl Wise has been starting a new business in the old bowling alley building. Recently the owner of the center approached Cheryl for ideas on reusing the large portion which will soon be vacated when the Rocky Mountain School for the Deaf relocates to their new building at Kipling and Quincy.

AVA members and friends are invited to consider the possibilities and participate with ideas, concerns and expectations on using this as a community focal point. Do plan to take part in this discussion at the annual meeting.

**If you do not receive our email memos: Send  
us a message at AVABoard2007-8@comcast.net.  
We will add you to the list.**

**Participation in your neighborhood association makes a real difference.**

Your annual \$10 per individual or \$20 per household dues pays for AVA operations. Stay in good standing, or become a voting member today. AVA Annual membership runs from September 2014 to August 2015.

Please make check payable to Applewood Valley Association and mail it and this form to:

AVA, P.O. Box 25, Golden, CO 80402

- \$10 Individual (1vote\*)
- \$20 Household (2votes\*)

\*AVA By-Laws, Article III, Members, Sec 1 Membership

Name

2<sup>nd</sup> Name (if household)

Address

Email\*\*

Phone

\*\* Never shared/sold. For official AVA communications only.

**West Metro Fire District**

As we know, in May the Mill Levy issue failed to pass by a very narrow margin. This is requiring a number of firefighter/paramedic staff and equipment reductions. The District Board is considering the proposed cutbacks and recognizes that this will have impacts extending for perhaps five years. It is not assured that the District can retain its excellent rating although they are determined to provide the same levels of personal safety to all of us. If the cutbacks cause the rating to drop, our personal property insurance premiums would rise. From interest shown at our April 16 meeting it seems fair to conclude that Applewood would like to see as soon as possible another mill levy ballot issue presented for decision by a more knowledgeable public.

**Stober Elementary**

Our broad community commitment to keeping Stober continues to resonate and produce positive results. Enrollment by families in this neighborhood keeps increasing as does the pattern of test scores and our admiration of Principal Andrew Zapotoczny and teachers and staff.

We have a great new opportunity to participate in supporting the school! The Stober PTA has arranged fundraising from a major local source. We are presenting here a copy of their school website information about the special gift cards. Imagine how much our 2000 households could generate from this 5% donation!!

**King Soopers pays Stober 5% of all purchase made using Stober King Soopers cards!**

Do you shop at King Soopers and want to do some easy fundraising? Stober King Soopers cards are the answer! Use them like any other gift card; whatever you spend is deducted from the balance and any remaining \$\$ will be there the next time you shop.

Follow these easy steps to get underway:

1. Go to the Stober office to buy a Stober King Soopers gift card.
2. Do your grocery shopping at King Soopers and make your purchases using your gift card.
3. Once your gift card has a \$0 balance, reload it at customer service or at any checkout stand.

**Note:** please allow a few minutes for King Soopers' system to add the balance to your card.

Stober King Soopers cards can be used at any Kroger owned store nationwide, including CityMarket, Fred Meyer, and others listed at [www.thekrogerco.com](http://www.thekrogerco.com), so invite friends and family members to participate, too.

**Additional Tips:**

- Don't let your card go more than 90 days without a balance, or the link to Stober will expire.
- When your card balance is running low, stop at Customer Service on your way into the store (so the system has a few minutes to add the \$\$ to your card) to add money using cash, check or credit card.
- If you use the remaining balance on your card while paying, you can add money to your card in a separate transaction so it's ready to go for your next shopping trip.

The proceeds from this directly benefit students in the classrooms. Each year Mr. Z conducts a survey of the teachers to identify their greatest needs. District monies are applied to fundamental needs, but there are additional items requested which can only be provided through extra fundraising like this. Instructional materials (periodicals, graphics) and technology (chromebooks, lpads, software) are main examples. The coordinator is Liz Smalley and she can answer your questions if you call 303-489-3083.

Also - don't forget those wonderful plants and gifts that can be found at Stober sales. Watch for their yard signs!

# Applewood Valley Association

P O Box 25  
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## ***Message from City Council Member Ramey Johnson***

First, I apologize that I cannot be with you in person for your annual meeting. A loss for me as it is always good to see and hear you.

In addition to marijuana regulatory issues I mentioned above, there are some other city challenges involving cost increases. Lakewood will be looking at costs to remediate storm water issues - which are substantial in some neighborhoods. There are different ways to address this: council to increase fees, or take to the ballot to pose if you want to increase debt or a percentage of fees. Some areas have substantial flood plains and incur damage to property and other neighborhoods are not affected. Topography drives the needs. I want to hear your input on how you think this should be addressed. Lakewood has \$36.5 million in reserves. The decision has been made to put about \$200,000 into sidewalks, curbs and gutters. As of this writing I do not know which areas will be looked at.

It is a pleasure to serve you. Please let me know your thoughts. Thank you.

## ***The AVA: A Neighborhood Association for Homeowners • Chartered 1959***

Do you own and reside north of Colfax, east of Eldridge, South of 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> and West of Simms? As a homeowner, you are qualified to be a member. AVA is a voluntary association - not a mandatory HOA. Our mission is: Ensure the integrity of the neighborhood and participate in decisions to protect its unique character. We are always looking for volunteers to help with various projects. Each year, we elect members to fill about half of the board seats for two-year terms. This year we are searching for five (5) candidates who may be incumbents or new individuals. Our Board meetings are every other month on the third Wednesday. If we have projects to manage, the board members and committees will generally meet more frequently.

### ***AVA Board Members***

President	Marianne Ortiz
Vice-President	Tom Schoenborn
Vice-President	Ted Westervelt
Secretary	Barbara Barry
Treasurer	Shirley Schneider
Director	Bernie Hamill
Director	Judy Ross
Director	Lydia Creager
Director	Steve Ozawa