

Come to Buffalo Bill Days & You'll Want to Move Here. (We Can Help!)

We love Golden. With a population of just 17,000, it is a small town on the periphery of a big city. This weekend, one of Golden's signature annual events, **Buffalo Bill Days**, will draw tens of thousands of visitors to enjoy small town life without leaving the metropolis.

I named my real estate company **Golden Real Estate** because Golden is the heart and soul of our marketing area, Jefferson County. Golden is Jeffco's county seat. Back before state-

hood, it was the territorial capital, housed in the building at 12th Street and Washington Avenue which now houses the **Old Capitol Grille**, a great local restaurant.

One of my favorite Goldenites is **Rick Gardner**, a young man who is Golden's de facto historian. I'm on the email list for Rick's occasional historical narratives reminding us of Golden's and Jeffco's rich

past. Rick is president of the **Golden Landmarks Association**. I like small town living, and we get it here in all its glory. When I go to an event or even walk down the street, I always run into people I know. When I walk in this Saturday's "Best of the West" parade with Flower, my parrot, on my hand or shoulder, I know that children will cry out, "Hi, Flower!" and will come to our booth in **Parfet Park** after the

parade to hold and pet her and have yet another picture taken with her on their own shoulder or hand. Golden is almost crime-free, compared to other cities. **Glenn Moore**, a Golden police officer I know well, is fond of describing his job as being akin to Andy Griffith's role in **Mayberry**. When I moved to Golden 13 years ago, I made a point to get

civically involved, visiting all four services organizations — **Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis and Optimists** — and taking the free **Leadership Golden** course which is designed to orient prospective volunteers for a life of civic involvement. The **Leadership Golden Alumni Association** is a Who's Who of the people who have gone on from that experience to serve and nurture Golden as it continues to grow and evolve, while honoring its heritage.

I have lived in many places in my life: rural Maine, Boston, New York, Brooklyn, Washington, D.C., Laramie, Maui, Denver — and finally Golden. I'm done moving — this place is a keeper.

People want to move here, and I enjoy not just finding them a good home, but also being a guide and ambassador. Come to Golden this weekend for **Buffalo Bill Days**. Come by our **booth in Parfet Park** and enter the drawing for a gift certificate to the **Old Capitol Grille!**

REAL ESTATE TODAY



By **JIM SMITH, Realtor®**

This Week's Featured New Listing:

Large Home on Large Lot Backs to Open Space Park

This fine home just east of Indiana Street on 56th Drive will take your breath away, as it did mine. Its nearly half-acre backyard has some of the best landscaping I've seen anywhere. It has a great patio and two water features of its own, plus it backs to a small stream, across which is the **Van Bibber Open Space Park**. You can literally walk out your backyard onto the trail which meanders eastward through the park toward **Ward Road** and beyond. Inside are five bedrooms (including a main-floor master suite) and 4½ bathrooms, a superb home theater, and a gourmet kitchen measuring 21'x 27'. There is lots of hardwood and ceramic tile, plus a ton of stone tile imported from Italy for the finished basement. Visit the website, then come to an **open house this Saturday, 1-4.**



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