

Metro Denver Green Homes Tour Is This Saturday, Both In-Person and Virtual

It is my honor to be part of the team which creates a new tour of solar and sustainable homes on the first Saturday of October year after year. This is our 26th year!

Last year, the tour was entirely on video, featuring the "Best of the Past 25 Years." You can still view last year's videos at the URL www.2020GreenHomesTour.info. Register for this year's tour, which is both virtual and in-person, at www.NewEnergyColorado.com.

Regular readers of this column are probably aware of Golden Real Estate's commitment to sustainability. Our Net Zero Energy office, in fact, was one of the "homes" on last year's virtual tour, as was my personal home.

Originally called the Golden Solar Tour, we decided several years ago that being solar wasn't enough. To be included in the tour, homes had to be "green" in many other ways, and the technology we have put on display in recent years has been impressive. I myself learn something new every year, and creating the video tour of each home on the tour has been a great privilege and learning experience!

Used Toy and Game Giveaway at Golden Real Estate

One of our clients has retired from his career as a child psychologist and is giving away 30 boxes filled with a wide variety of toys and games, including board games. Shown here is the contents of just two of those 30 boxes. We hope to give away most or all of these games this Saturday during the EV Roundup and the SuperCruise event that will be filling South Golden Road all afternoon. Bring your kids and help yourself. The toys and games will be laid out on our patio. If you know of a charity that could use the leftover games and toys, please let me know!



REAL ESTATE TODAY



By JIM SMITH, Realtor®

One of the homes this year is a 1979 two-story home owned by Martin & Bettina Voelker. This year they got rid of their gas forced air furnace and installed a geothermal system to heat and cool their home. This involved drilling three 300-foot deep wells in their backyard to take advantage of the constant 55-degree earth temperature. A heat pump raises the fluid circulated through those deep pipes to heat the home in the winter. This is more efficient than raising sub-zero outdoor temperatures with the more common air-source heat pumps like we have at Golden Real Estate's office. In the summer, it cools the 55-degree fluid further to cool the home.

Ron Suliteanu's home in Golden Gate Canyon also has a ground-source heat pump which provides heat through both a radiant floor system and three wall-mounted units which resemble mini-splits but

which provide their heat through fluid heated by the ground-source heat pump, something I didn't know existed.

Passive solar design is also growing in popularity, and several homes on this year's tour incorporate passive solar design in their sustainability mix. The tour includes 4 new construction homes, two of which are Passive House *certified* (top-of-the-line building code) and two of which are *near* Passive House standards.

Laurent Meillon's home in Lakewood taught me a lot about solar thermal systems, which Laurent sells and installs. If you're not familiar with solar thermal, it involves circulating water (or glycol) through black panels which are roughly the same size as solar photovoltaic panels. The sun heats the liquid in the panels which is circulated through a 1,000-gallon tank inside the house. That fluid gets as hot as 150 degrees. Coils within that tank circulate water for domestic hot water use (showering and cooking, etc.) and for circulation during colder months through the baseboard hot water heating system. Solar thermal panels were popularized during the Carter administration, well before solar photovoltaic systems became popular for generating electricity. Many homes still have those Carter-era solar thermal



systems, but many of them are out of service for one reason or another. Laurent's company can inspect the solar thermal systems in those houses and get them working again — and explain them to the home owners, who may have inherited the system from a previous home owner but have no idea how they work.

One home on the tour was chosen for its urban farming aspects, including composting, a greenhouse and a chicken coop. The owner thanked me with a dozen eggs, which were delicious!

From 3 to 5 pm (same as for our EV Roundup below), you can visit a nearby "growing dome" at **509 9th Street**, a short walk from the **American Mountaineering Center at 710 10th Street**, where you sign in for the in-person tour and return at 5-7 p.m. for a green expo and reception.

Come to an Electric Vehicle Roundup Saturday, 3-5

As I write, 40 people have registered at www.DriveElectricWeek.info to attend this annual event, and 19 of them are bringing their EVs. This "EV Roundup" takes place in the Golden Real Estate parking lot at **17695 S. Golden Road**. You'll find every model of Tesla, plus EVs from Nissan, Chevrolet, BMW, Mini, Kia and Hyundai. We're still looking for people to bring their VW ID.4, Mustang Mach-E, Jaguar I-Pace, Volvo XC40 Recharge, Porsche Taycan, Polestar 2 and a Rivian pickup or SUV. We'd also love to see electric motorcycles from Zero and Harley-Davidson. If someone you know has one of those exciting new EVs, please ask him/her to register at the website above. We have lots of swag to give away — water bottles, face masks, sanitizer, t-shirts, and back packs — on the registration table. We have 5 handouts that you can view at www.EV-Handouts.info.

There are EV events this Saturday in Denver and this Sunday in Longmont if you can't make it to ours. Details at www.DriveElectricWeek.org.

Just Listed: Home on Denver's E. 6th Ave. Parkway



You'll like this brick ranch with its Spanish tile roof as is and also as it could be with some updating and grounds clearing. It has beautifully maintained hardwood floors and an updated kitchen. The driveway is on Leyden Street, away from the traffic of 6th Avenue Parkway. Find lots of interior and exterior photos plus a narrated video tour at www.DenverHome.info, then call your agent or listing agent **Chuck Brown** at **303-885-7855** to set a showing. **Open this Saturday, October 2nd, 11am to 2pm.**

Denver has only a few iconic "parkways" — divided streets with wide, tree-lined medians used by joggers and dog walkers. The homes along these parkways, including this one at **6235 E. Sixth Avenue Parkway**, enjoy large, grassy lots and unique architecture of high quality.



Every element of this ad is also posted at GoldenREblog.com

Jim Smith

Broker/Owner, 303-525-1851
Jim@GoldenRealEstate.com
17695 S. Golden Rd., Golden 80401

Broker Associates:

JIM SWANSON, 303-929-2727
CHUCK BROWN, 303-885-7855
DAVID DLUGASCH, 303-908-4835
TY SCRABLE, 720-281-6783

