

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



*Mayor Doug Tisdale*

### “WE’RE ENGAGED!”

Cherry Hills Village is a very special place of restful tranquility, natural beauty and broad, expansive vistas of the magnificent Rocky Mountains. An island of splendor situated in the very heart of one of the most dynamic, vibrant metropolitan regions in the United States and populated by the most philanthropically minded citizens in the country. It is secluded but not isolated, exclusive but not exclusory, insulated but not insular. We may be viewed as out of reach, but we certainly are not out of touch.

We’re engaged!

Cherry Hills is an involved, sharing participant in the Denver Region. When your Mayor tells people (repeatedly) that we are the #1 Best Suburb of America to Live In, he often adds that we are #1 not only because of what Cherry Hills brings to the table, but also because of what we are privileged to enjoy at that table: a great metropolitan area that services all of the needs that Cherry Hills cannot provide for itself. There has to be a great “urb” of which we are “sub-” in order to be the #1 Best Suburb.

We’re engaged.

And our neighbors understand this. When we ask Arapahoe County to make grants to us for the acquisition and preservation of open space in the Village, they willingly do so, knowing that we Villagers are the responsible stewards of one of the most precious assets in the Region: the magnificent land contained within our borders. When we ask our neighboring communities to support our efforts, they understand that Cherry Hills is uniquely situated to accord this protection, this stewardship. As a result, they support us! Our inclusive and welcoming attitude toward our neighbors validates their support.

Recently the Mayor and two members of Council met with our Congressional representative. The very first thing the Mayor requested was that our elected representative in Washington, D.C. join with us in securing additional funds for open space acquisition and preservation. We asked for a commitment to partner with the Village in continuing its great efforts in this regard. And, despite the harsh realities of fiscal constraint, our representative understood this very important mission of Cherry Hills and pledged to work with us in the future.

Open space is not the only issue for Cherry Hills. Dramatically increased development of large properties near us poses a tangible threat to our way of life by burdening our aging infrastructure of roads and highways with congestion, wear-and-tear and increased pollution. Only by having a seat at the table can the Village realistically have a transformative influence on this development.

And Cherry Hills *does* have a seat at the table. We’re involved. Whether it is at the National League of Cities, the Colorado Municipal League, the Metro Mayors Caucus, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Arapahoe County Commissioners / Mayors / Managers Conference, the Belleview Avenue Interchange System Executive Committee or elsewhere, “The Voice of Cherry Hills” is heard – and heeded. Because we are collaborative, cooperative and constructive.

About six months ago I reminded you that no man is an island. We are not entire unto ourselves. We are a part – a very special and unique part – of the whole. Virtually every Villager knows, understands and appreciates this notion. So why remind you of that again in the early months of 2014? Because I’m asking each of you for a favor; which is to be even more engaged!

I'm asking every single Villager to invite one nonVillager to take some time in the coming months to enjoy and appreciate Cherry Hills. Invite them to take a walk on the High Line Canal Trail, spend some time at the Alan Hutto Memorial Commons, play in John Meade Park, savor the serenity of Three Pond Park, go riding in Woodie Hollow Park, meander through Margaux's Meadow, walk your dogs through Blackmer Commons, enjoy the views of the Front Range from the walking trail on Quincy Avenue or explore Little Dry Creek.

While you're sharing our naturally occurring advantages, let them know that Cherry Hills Village is concerned about the Region that surrounds us, because we know that it supports us in the Village. And we know that the Village nourishes that Region in a way that is unique from every other community.

Who knows, your visitor may decide to become your neighbor, or may even make an attractive offer on your house. No matter what the result, you will have shared valuable time with a friend and helped spread this Message from the Mayor: "We're engaged!" (And, it matters.)