

'Search by Map' Makes Online Home Searching Easier

I recently added a new feature to my real estate website, which is at www.JimSmith.com. The new feature is called "Search by Map." When you click on this button on the left side of my home page it defaults to a map of Golden (see photo) on which small icons appear showing the location of every listed property

When you float your cursor over each icon, a picture of that listing is displayed with price and address (see inset). If you click on the icon, it gives you even more information — bedrooms, baths, square feet, lot size, and a link for "More Info." If you're not looking in Golden, you can use arrow commands in the top left area of the map to move it a mile at a time in any direction, or you can enter a specific address or city and it takes you there.

The provider of this new search-by-map service is RealBird.com, which also provides the satellite photos that I

include for each of my listings. It also includes a tab for Google Maps, so you can switch to an actual photo (with or without street names) if you wish. I chose to default to the street map because the icons are harder to spot on the aerial photo, but you can switch to the

satellite photo (and zoom in or out as you wish) when you want to see what the street and surrounding area looks like.

Other features, such as schools and museums, are displayed on the map.

The system is not without a built-in error factor, given that the proper mapping of each listing depends on the accurate entry of

street address by the listing agent and accurate longitude and latitude on file for that address by the government. For example, on the map of Golden shown here, the icon for the School of Mines is shown in the middle of U.S. highway 6.

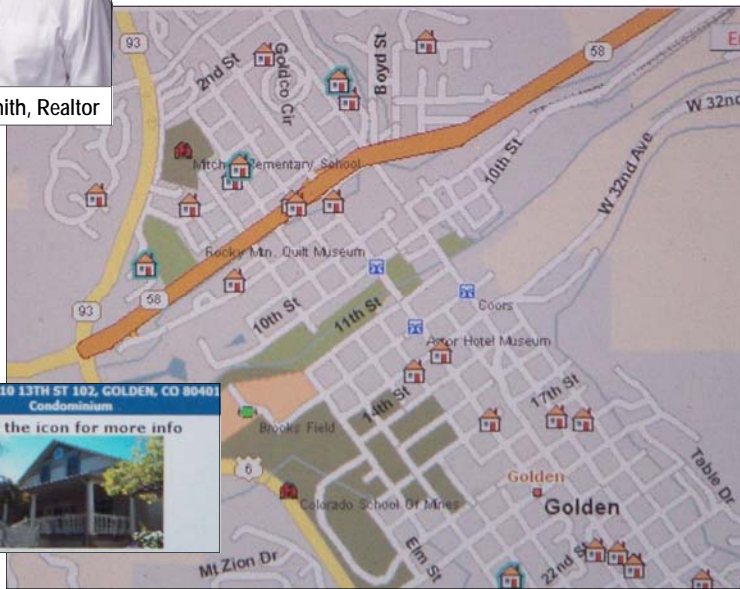
Nevertheless, this is a great fea-

ture because it allows you to see every listing in a given neighborhood regardless of price, size, or category (single-family, multi-family, condo, or raw land).

I encourage you to make use of this new online searching tool and to give me your feedback on it.



By Jim Smith, Realtor



New Listing: Great Mountain Ridge Home

This exceptional "Mountain View" model is on the corner of Canyon Point Circle and Quail Court in Golden's Village at Mountain Ridge. The hardwood floors and gorgeous front door were both refinished this week, the house was repainted just last year and it will be positively gleaming for its first open house this Saturday, 1-4 p.m. I'll be there myself and would love to show you this home — or just say hello. Upstairs it has 4 bedrooms and three baths, plus a loft. It faces south, too — great for melting snowpack! **\$600,000**



www.1510QuailCourt.com



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Note: Due to a production error, this column was omitted last week. Look for it every Thursday in this space.