

# Walnut Hills Newsletter

A Beautiful Community of Families, Friends and Neighbors for 55 years



## Easter Egg Hunt Julie Gamec - WHCA

The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 8th at 11:00 am at Walnut Hills Park (not the school). All of the goodies have been assembled, I think that we have a few fun new items for the kiddos to enjoy! After 5 years of organizing this event, I wanted to reach out to parents and children alike to submit ideas for prizes and crafts for the 2018 Hunt. I feel like I am in a bit of a rut!! I will have a suggestion box at the membership table, feel free to stop by and let me know what you think, what you would like to see, or new and exciting ideas! Another small change that a parent suggested last year is to recycle the plastic eggs. We will be accepting the plastic eggs for reuse if you are so inclined. I will have a box at the membership table that you can leave the plastic eggs in before heading home.

I am looking forward to another fun and (hopefully) sunny morning. A very special 'pre-thanks' to Therese Hutchenson, who has been a great help the last few years!! Bring the kids, the dogs, the grandparents, etc. and enjoy! Thank you to our due paying neighbors, without your support, this event would not be possible!! Dues can be paid by mail (cash or check) on PayPal, or you can drop them by the membership table the day of the event! Hope to see you all there!

## High School Graduates



Send in your Senior Pictures for the June Graduation Issue. We love to celebrate your special year as a community. Every graduate from all schools - send your digital photo to [walnut hillsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:walnut hillsnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Congratulations!**

## Walnut Hills Annual Meeting on March 9

Andrea Suhaka, Chair. WHCA. 303-770-0058, [standy@ecentral.com](mailto:standy@ecentral.com)

We had good attendance at our Annual Meeting in March. I think folks came out to get some information on Ting, the internet provider wanting to possibly rent some of the City's new installed fiber to provide internet to homes in the City. We had a brief presentation by City Council Members Ken Lucas and C.J. Whelan with time for Q. & A. Go to [www.ting.com/centennial](http://www.ting.com/centennial) to be part of the future, for a \$9 "vote" you get free installation to your home.

We started the meeting with a Flag Ceremony by Boy Scout Troop 257. Then Karen Padrevita, our representative from Metrum Community Credit Union, presented WHCA Board Member Brian Bern with a letter granting the Association \$500 towards further disc golf goals from the credit union. Very exciting for Walnut Hills.

Next, we held Board elections. Electing and re-electing board members: Neighborhood 1, Randy Lutton; Neighborhood 3, Apple Udell; Neighborhood 5, Donna Senn; Neighborhood 7, Phuong Banh; Neighborhood 8, Barb Brooks; Neighborhood 9, Carol Fischer; Neighborhood 11, Joe Compton; Neighborhood 13, Jeryl Tippetts; and Neighborhood 15, Tricia Strating. We once more have a complete 15 member board.



Arapahoe County Sheriff's Deputy Scott Sickafoose spoke with us about safety. And, lastly, CDOT contractor Gabi Johnson, who sends out the updates on the Arapahoe Rd./I-25 project, spoke with us about the project and our new sound wall.

All in all a very interesting meeting and we ended a bit early, too. All Walnut Hills residents are invited to attend our Board meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Metrum Community Credit Union. More information can be found on our website, [www.walnut hillscolorado.org](http://www.walnut hillscolorado.org)



## Dumpster Days 2017

Saturdays  
May 13th and 20th  
8AM to 11AM

This year's Dumpster Days is scheduled 8AM to 11AM on May 13th and 20th. No matter what the weather.

For your 25-dollar membership fee, not only do you have great events like Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth of July Parade / Ice Cream Social, National Night Out, and Movie Night; you have the Spring and Fall Dumpster Days. What a great deal!

This is "The Garbage Man" trucks and workers 6th year to show up and pull off your trash, so you don't have to touch it!

And as always Brookie "the metals man" with his son Dawd will claim our old treasures to be recycled. They have joined us for several years now and have supported Dumpster Days.

Please remember no cans of paint, no poisons, no batteries, no brick or concrete, no stumps, no electronics of any kind. But bring your mattress, sofa, lawn furniture, bicycles, tree branches, bushes, etc.

Have any questions, don't hesitate to call

Dumpster Days Chair

Donna Senn

303-741-2065

## Walnut Hills Civic Association 2017 Calendar of Events

Easter Egg Hunt April 8 at 11 am Walnut Hills Park (rain/snow date April 15)

Spring Dumpster Days May 13 & 20 8 - 11 am or full Walnut Hills School

Community Garage Sales June 2 & 3 (whole neighborhood)

Fourth of July Parade Stage at Dry Creek School 9:30 am - Step Off - 10 am

Ice Cream Social & Scholarship Awards July 4 - Walnut Hills Park 10:30 am

National Night Out August 1st 6pm, Walnut Hills School

Disc Golf Tournament September 9th Walnut Hills Park 8:30 am Registration 9 am - Noon Play

Fall Dumpster Day October 14, Walnut Hills School 8 - 11 am or full

Holiday Lighting Contest (cash prizes, 1st, 2nd, 3rd) Week of December 18

WHCA Family Movie Night January 27, 2018

The Walnut Hills Civic Association (WHCA) Board of Directors' regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of every month at Metrum Credit Union, 6980 S. Holly Circle, at 7 pm. Board meetings are open to all Walnut Hills residents. We have a paid member blast email list to keep members informed! We also collect donations to the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund.

## Meet the Advertiser

Bennett's Bar-B-Que has been serving Colorado with "Killer Q" for over 30 years. Dedicated to bringing you the best backyard smoker taste, Bennett's loads their smoker every day with the very best quality ribs, pork, chicken, turkey and beef. Carefully basting the meats with their special marinades and seasonings, Bennett's slowly smokes on site at low temperatures with real hickory logs for up to 16 hours. They follow old family recipes to give you homemade sides like Bar-B-Que beans, coleslaw, potato salad, mac & cheese, and chili verde.

Visit Bennett's at their Centennial or Arvada locations for some of Colorado's original barbeque. The family-friendly, casual atmosphere is served by the friendliest wait staff in town. Some members of the team have been with Bennett's since they opened in 1985! Or let Bennett's bring the barbeque to you with their catering and delivery services...great for graduations, family get togethers, corporate lunches, and weddings.



## Easter at Highline



Come join us as we celebrate  
the greatest event in human history  
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Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m. April 13  
Good Friday Service 7 p.m. April 14  
Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m. April 16



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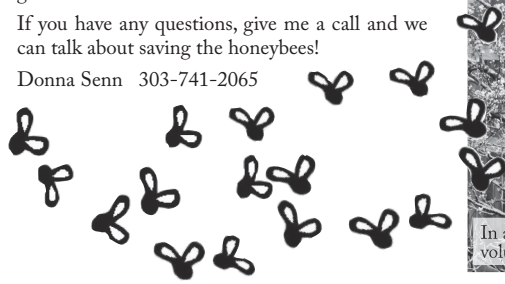


## Swarms of Bees Wanted

Walnut Hills is full of honeybees ready to swarm. If you see a swarm please call me and I will come get it.

If you have any questions, give me a call and we can talk about saving the honeybees!

Donna Senn 303-741-2065



Photography Jesse J Alcoria

In addition to being a long standing board member volunteer, Donna is also an experienced organic beekeeper.

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### Walnut Hills Home Sales

January 16th thru March 13th, 2017

8292 E Briarwood Blvd: SOLD \$410,000  
7167 S Ulster St : SOLD \$387,000  
7517 E Davies Pl: SOLD \$380,000

Based on information from REColorado®, Inc. for the period 01/16/17 through 03/13/17. Not all properties were listed and / or sold by Juhi Johnson. RE/max Professionals. This representation is based in whole or in part on content supplied by REColorado®, Inc. REColorado®, Inc. does not guarantee nor is it in any way responsible for its accuracy. Content maintained by REColorado®, Inc. may not reflect all real estate activity in the market.

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# Kyla Hammond



REALTOR®



Cherry Creek Properties

kylahammondrealty@gmail.com

720.431.1239

## WALNUT HILLS REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE

### HOMES FOR SALE

ADDRESS	BEDS	BATHS	Total Sq. Ft	Listing Office
8131 E Briarwood Blvd--\$424,900	4	2	2464	Madison and Company Properties
7079 S Uinta St--\$375,000	3	3	2469	Cherry Creek Properties LLC

### HOMES RECENTLY SOLD

ADDRESS	BEDS	BATHS	Total Sq. Ft	Listing Office
7032 S Tamarac St--\$455,000	5	3	2578	Tadla and Tadla Real Estate Group
8292 E Briarwood Blvd--\$410,000	5	3	2320	Madison and Company Properties
7167 S Ulster St--\$387,000	3	2	1463	Victory Estates
6971 S Quince St--\$384,500	4	3	2390	MB Champion Realty
7517 E Davies Pl--\$380,000	4	3	2700	RE/MAX Professionals
8386 E Costilla Pl--\$350,000	3	2	2340	Colorado Home Realty

\* Based on information from REcolorado, Inc. for the period 1/1/17- 3/14/17.

Not all properties were listed and or sold by Kyla Hammond at Cherry Creek Properties.

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## The Walnut Hills Civic Association Thanks Boy Scout Troop 257

Andrea Suhaka, 303-770-0058, [standy@ecentral.com](mailto:standy@ecentral.com)  
Walnut Hills Civic Association Chair

For the last few years, the WHCA has sponsored Boy Scout Troop 257 and they have put together and sent out our membership mailing for us. There are 1177 homes in Walnut Hills and we mail to every one of them. The young men fold, stuff, label, and seal all of the envelopes. This year one special Boy Scout dad had the return address printed on the large envelopes and on most of the return envelopes. Mitch Lazar thank you so much!

I know there were a few oopsies along the way, but they got all the mail out!

The Boy Scouts also performed the Flag Ceremony for the WHCA Annual Meeting on 9 March. If you know a young man in the troop, thank them for their service. We couldn't do it without them.



Teaching children to have a GROWTH MINDSET rather than a FIXED MINDSET is one way I believe helps them to navigate any challenge that comes their way. Dr. Carol Dweck is a leading researcher in the field of motivation. Her research found that "students' mindsets—how they perceive their abilities—played a key role in their motivation and achievement." She teaches that a fixed mindset is the idea that intelligence is static and a growth mindset is the idea that intelligence can be developed. One critical component to remember regarding growth mindset with children is it helps them "thrive on challenges and setbacks on their way to learning." Dweck suggests we talk to our children about not getting things perfect right away but rather help them recognize they are growing step by step in their learning. When things are hard it means their brains are growing. Improving learning will come from teaching our children to continue to persevere even when things get hard.

Our goal at Walnut Hills Elementary is to foster a growth mindset. To do this we have to embrace, teach and practice a growth mindset at school as well as at home. Cultivating perseverance, resilience, and grit for our children will provide them the ability to reach their potential in school and in life. As we shift from having a fixed mindset to a growth mindset, we create a reality where anything is possible with hard work and the ability to walk through all obstacles that come our way. I am confident that together we can raise children that will change our world and future.

Our mindset truly is our reality!

Warmly,


Teolyn Bourbonniac

## Dry Creek Elementary

Attention families newly registered to Dry Creek Elementary for the 2017-18 school year, please note the following calendar changes:

8/10/2017 Back to School Night 6-8 PM  
8/11/2017 Meet and Greet 11:30 – 1:30  
8/14/2017 First day of school grades 1-5  
8/16/2017 First day of school for kindergarten

Natalie Proctor  
Secretary/Registrar  
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## High School Senior Portraits

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Yearbook photo  
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Package #2 \$350  
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Package #3 \$450  
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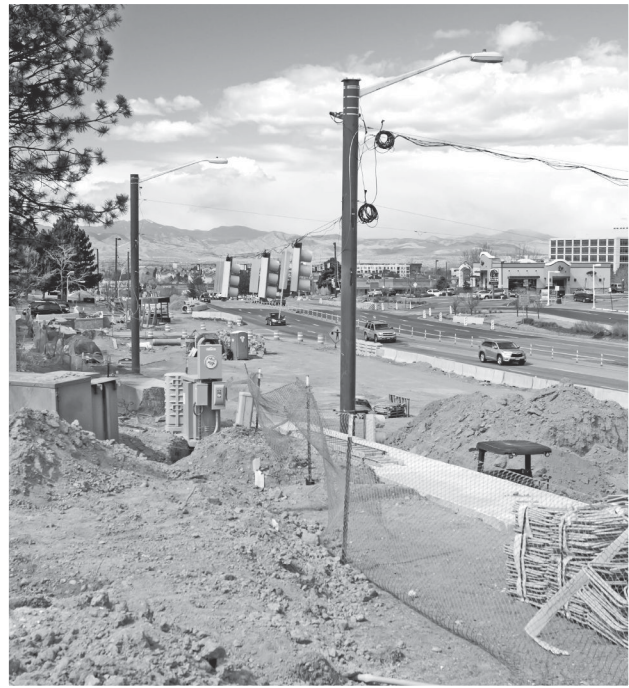
### Map of Centennial, CO

Where will network construction begin?

Pre-order and get it in Walnut Hills first.







## I-25 Update

In the upcoming months the following activities will be happening during the I-25 Arapahoe Interchange Reconstruction project:

- On I-25, crews will be finishing the third phase of the new I-25 bridge structure with final alignment on I-25 in place early-to mid-April.
- Noise wall construction along Arapahoe Road and Yosemite Street adjacent to Walnut Hills as well as retaining wall work on the south side of Arapahoe Road continues. Construction of the new eastbound lanes of Arapahoe Road will also begin.

Long-term full weekend closures begin in late March and continue through the end of May. These closures are required to shift eastbound Arapahoe Road traffic to the new alignment so work can proceed in the middle of Arapahoe Road.

To maintain public safety while expediting the schedule, long-term Yosemite Street closures are currently slated to begin in early May to allow for construction activities on the east side of Yosemite Street. This work will be done in phases to minimize impacts to the traveling public – the first phase will be Yosemite Street south of Arapahoe Road and the second phase will be Yosemite Street north of Arapahoe Road.

We encourage you to constantly check the project website and watch for weekly Traveler Alerts to help plan your route.





## Fake Rain

Bruce Ferguson

Around 4 am I hear the distant calling of coyotes or maybe it is foxes I am never sure. I turned the pump on in the wine barrel on the patio only to have the water refreeze about a week later. I am sure the ground never froze this winter. None of the areas of the yard that usually remain frozen in March are frozen now. My wife insisted that she saw puddles yesterday and that was proof it must have rained but I have my doubts. Regardless the winter has been so dry that the whole landscape looks parched. Even the snow shovel seems to be feeling neglected.

Ever hopeful I have begun cleaning up the dried vestiges of the remaining perennials from last summer though I am concerned a bit that piling them in such a dry state might lead to problems. Not much progress is made in the compost piles when there is little moisture to keep the process moving one must be careful of fire. I have at least begun to find some early flowering snow drops and daffodils. All the alliums are

making a comeback now and the tulips are beginning to insist that I pull out some hoses and help them along.

I meant to move some of the iris last fall but I never did and moving them now will most likely prevent them from flowering this year. Seems I always plant things too close together in the first place but when there is so little I just can't stand to leave all that space. Annuals are of course what I am supposed to use to fill these voids. You'd think I would learn. Even so we will have enough iris to make some show.

Grasses are perhaps my most bothersome weed. Every spring I struggle to remove them from in-between the perennials. This year I think I will bite the bullet and dig up the whole mess and replant it. One grass though is my favorite, the blue oak grass, *Helictotrichon sempervirens*. The plan is to dig it up this spring and divide the clump into at least four sections and replant them. Deciding where to put them will I am sure be the hardest part and in time I know I will regret having put them where ever I decide and some part of that is why I garden in the first place. Just now I heard the pecking of a flicker on the chimney flue so I know it must be spring!



Pasque Flowers - Photo Bruce Ferguson

## Spring Has Sprung!

Julie Gamec

The weather is beautiful and it looks as though it won't stop anytime soon, if at all! I know the temptation is to get out in the garden and to get going! Keep in mind, it is still early in the year, and typically our last frost lands somewhere around Mother's Day. Here are a few things that you can take care of now, and a few things that you should wait for.

### Do it now:

- Finish any remaining fall clean up - this includes raking up and disposing of leaves, cutting back perennials and removing and broken or dead limbs on trees and shrubs.
- Remove any spent annuals and turn the soil - you can even incorporate some new soil into those pots or areas for annual planting.
- Refresh mulch. Mulch should have a depth of 3"-4" and should not be placed right at the base of plants. Give those stalks and stems a little breathing room!
- Winter water - keep on that winter watering schedule for trees and shrubs. Increase frequency to 2 times per month, especially as the temperature approaches 80 degrees! While this may not seem like enough, the water encourages plants to grow, and bud, and bloom. Increasing the frequency will help them in the dry conditions without forcing them to get going too soon. If the weather continues on the same path, begin regular watering when you turn on your sprinklers.

### Wait for it (Typically mid April or so):

- Turning on sprinkler systems - while the grass looks terrible, spot watering with the hose is sufficient at this point - grass

is amazingly hardy - as soon as regular watering is given, the grass will green up. Sprinklers are very susceptible to freezing - that can cause a great deal of damage and be expensive to repair.

- Leaving the hose attached to the faucet over night: Faucets, like sprinklers, can freeze. The hose traps the water that freezes and breaks either the pipe around the faucet or the valve inside.
- Trimming shrubs for shape or size: for the most part, this can wait - trimming can occur after shrubs have budded out. I like to wait a bit so that I know if there were branches that didn't survive the winter are, then I can remove any newly discovered dead wood and trim for shape and size. Roses can be cut back to approx. 6" above ground. Be careful to trim early bloomers like lilacs, forsythia, flowering almonds, etc. as they set buds immediately following blooming. If they are cut back or trimmed now, you will lose the blooms for this year!
- Planting perennials - this is a risky move before Mother's Day - the soil temperature typically hasn't reached a warm enough temperature to allow the perennials to root.

### Portraits, Sports, Books and Documentation

Jesse J Alcorta 720-207-3757  
Photographer alcortje@pcsys.net

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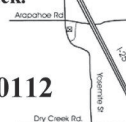
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## Walnut Hills Disc Golf Tournament

The smiling kids and families playing disc golf in Walnut Hills Park have been a real joy to watch. The sport is leisurely enough that three generations can play at the same time yet challenging enough that you can play over and over again and never seem to get that elusive ace. Saturday, September 8th will be your opportunity to bring out the whole family to take on the 9-hole Walnut Hills Disc Golf Course for the chance to win some fabulous ribbons. There will be divisions for kids 10 and under, kids 11 to 18, and adults. As seen in the recently mailed membership forms, the registration will begin at 8:30 am with the tournament starting at 9am.

There are currently only 3 disc golf baskets surrounding Walnut Hills Park; however, your Walnut Hills Civic Association is in the process of securing funding and approvals to install 6 more baskets! This second phase of the project is estimated to cost around \$2,500 and will include six additional disc golf baskets, number plates for each basket so that you can plan the course in order, a disc golf rules sign, and a mulch ring around each basket. As with Phase 1 of the project, the new baskets will be installed completely with volunteer labor.

During the Walnut Hills Civic Association Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 9th, Metrum Credit Union graciously awarded the neighborhood up to \$500 in matching funds for the project. This is in addition to the \$300 that Metrum Credit Union provided for Phase 1 of the project. Our Civic Association is truly blessed to have Metrum Credit Union as a partner with their support of both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Walnut Hills Disc Golf Course, their involvement in our neighborhood activities, and allowing the Walnut Hills Civic Association to hold our monthly meetings in their building.

We have also sent in an application to the South Suburban Park and Recreation District Matching Gifts Program. The projects to be funded by this program are tentatively scheduled to be announced at the Board of Directors meeting on April 12, 2017. We worked closely with South Suburban on Phase 1 of the project and they also kindly awarded Walnut Hills \$780 in matching funds in 2015 to help fund Phase 1 of the project.

For those not familiar with disc golf, please read on for a brief introduction into the sport. The sport as we know it today was invented by Ed Headrick in 1974 with the first course constructed in Oak Grove Park in Los Angeles County, California. In 1976, the first disc golf targets were introduced with chains to stop a disc. Disc golf has become a very popular sport and is one of the fastest growing sports in the country, with over 4,000 registered courses with the Professional Disc Golf Association. As DiscGolf.com puts it, "Disc golf is one of the best lifetime fitness sports. It is easy to learn, a healthy activity and accessible to people of all ages and fitness levels. If you can throw a Frisbee® and you like to have fun, you can play disc golf." It is basically like regular golf, but instead of hitting a ball to a hole, players throw a Frisbee® or "disc" towards a basket hanging from a metal pole. The object of the game is to complete each hole in the fewest number of throws. The player with the lowest total cumulative score wins.

More information will be provided in a future newsletter article as we finish securing funding and go into construction this summer. If you are interested in helping to install the baskets, please email me at BrianBern@gmail.com.

Brian Bern

Walnut Hills Civic Association - Neighborhood 12 Representative



Photos - Brian Bern



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## A Special Thank You to WHCA Board Members

Andrea Suhaka, 303-770-0058, standy@ecentral.com  
Walnut Hills Civic Association Chair

Julie Marsicek has been a WHCA Board Member for many years. Her insights and ideas helped feed the creativity of the Board. We've watched her wonderful daughter's grow up. Julie, you've been such a steadfast asset. We can't thank you enough for the time you spent with us.

Robert Ferrin created Movie Night for January. He ran two of them and then got the wanderlust and decided to move to a larger home. We will certainly miss you, Robert.

Norma Wagstaff didn't spend much time with us, but was a great lady to have in our midst. She was sharp and humorous. She and her husband decided traveling in their retirement would lead to valuable experiences.

Abbas Fazal was with us almost two years. He was a delight to have around and a ready volunteer and hard worker. He always added good comments to our discussions. We'll miss him as his job began requiring more and more of his time.

We've lost some super stars, but we still have a good supply and we're going to be preparing some more. These are some wonderful people! I want to thank all of them for working so hard for Walnut Hills.

## Yes, It's Walnut Hills Civic Association Membership Time Again!

Andrea Suhaka, 303-770-0058, standy@ecentral.com  
Walnut Hills Civic Association Chair

Every year we get almost 50% of the homes in Walnut Hills to join the Association. I don't understand why more of you don't pay your dues!

We offer a fun event or informational activity almost every single month of the year. We definitely offer something you'd enjoy if you would come out to see. Sometimes it's just fun to see the kids getting a kick out of searching for candy or toys at the Easter Egg Hunt (4/8). We do offer something of real use to our residents in Dumpster Days (5/13 & 20) and National Night Out (8/1) (Dinner & an Irish band!)

You can't beat getting 10 events for \$25! The WHCA Board is a dedicated group of individuals that loves this neighborhood and is working hard to make it the best place to live in Centennial!

Please, remember to complete the membership form! For you, it's one form; for me, it's over 100 blank forms I have to complete. You can certainly use an address label. You don't have to write out Walnut Hills Civic Association, WHCA is perfectly OK. But, please, return your forms with your \$25 dues, and to make it even simpler, you can go to [www.walnuthillscolorado.org](http://www.walnuthillscolorado.org) and pay by credit card. You don't have to be a member of PayPal to do that.

Join the fun, be a member of the Walnut Hills Civic Association!

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## Maggie Haskett Retires, Again!

Andrea Suhaka, 303-770-0058, standy@ecentral.com  
Walnut Hills Civic Association Chair

After being a mom and raising her children (with Frank) and having a regular 9-to-5 career, Maggie took on the job of Project Manager for the Walnut Hills General Improvement District (GID). Maggie is a Master Gardener and the reason our perimeter fence has been kept in good repair and the landscaping has been so nice. She planted and planted and planted! She hired our landscaping contractors, many people to fix the fence (Cars keep running into it!), paint the fence, pick up trash around the perimeter, take extra care of new plantings, pull weeds, and prune everywhere.

The WHCA Board hired Maggie in July of 2008. She has done a wonderful job of beautifying our neighborhood for all who drive by to see. The Board gratefully thanks her for her years of hard work and for the great perimeter we have, that advances the prices of homes sold in Walnut Hills.

Maggie, you have been extra special and have done a tremendous job for Walnut Hills!

Her replacement will be Julie Gamec, a landscape architect, resident of Walnut Hills, and a member of the WHCA Board. Maggie finished at the end of February and Julie started at the beginning of February. The two have worked together over the past year so, Julie is up and running.

Welcome, Julie, to the Walnut Hills GID Project Manager position.

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