

Walnut Hills Newsletter

A Beautiful Community of Families, Friends and Neighbors for over 50 years

Active, Talented, Dedicated Best Describe the 2016 Walnut Hills Scholarship Winners

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we announce the five winners of the 2016 Walnut Hills Scholarships. They are a very accomplished and dedicated group of students. The recipients of this year's scholarships are recognized as some of the top students at Cherry Creek High School.

Thanks to increased support from Walnut Hills residents, the Walnut Hills Civic Association, the Walnut Hills Newsletter, and some donations and due also to the high quality of this year's applicants -- the Scholarship Board decided to offer five \$2,500 scholarships. The \$12,500 total again equals the largest amount ever offered, and five scholarships also match the most ever offered in one year.

The winners of the 2016 Walnut Hills Scholarships, in alphabetical order, are:

Cailey Bosman is the daughter of Djimmer Bosman and Karin Zimmermann of Walnut Hills, Centennial. Cailey successfully completed eight honors classes and three AP classes. She scored in the top 4% in the nation and the top 3% in the state on the ACT. In addition to an impressive academic record, Cailey has demonstrated many leadership qualities. She and her two partners finished first place at the National DECA Conference in Orlando in April 2015 and were awarded the national champion trophy on stage in front of 15,000 DECA students from around the country. Cailey's teacher noted that she "sacrificed many hours outside of school to put together one of the best 30-page projects for which I was an advisor." This year, Cailey is at it again. She and her group finished first at the Colorado State DECA Conference in 2016, and they finished in the top 10 in the nation at the National DECA Conference in Nashville. Cailey is captain of the girls swim team at Cherry Creek High School, and she also volunteers for Big Sisters, where she demonstrates great attributes to the younger girls. According to one of her teachers, "Cailey's passion and tenacity are two of her finest traits." Cailey has worked as a lifeguard throughout high school at a neighborhood swim and racquet club. Cailey plans to attend Auburn University in Alabama, majoring in the animal sciences pre-veterinary program.

Lacey Gottschall, daughter of Walnut Hills residents Melissa and Christopher Gottschall, is what her counselor calls "a Renaissance girl," with extraordinarily wide-ranging interests and accomplishments. But her greatest passion is for the life sciences. A junior-year anatomy class at Cherry Creek High School sparked her fascination for the "strange and wonderful beauty of biology," as she movingly describes it, and it became her dream to pursue a career in the field, perhaps as a doctor. Also inspired by her mother's career as a veterinarian, Lacey has volunteered at an animal clinic and the Dumb Friends League -- again reflecting her enthusiasm for the life and "the earth around us," as she explains it. Lacey has a strongly literary side too, as evidenced by her outstanding ACT scores in English and reading, her years as a library volunteer, and her service as editor-in-chief of CCHS's student literary magazine, *Fine Print*. She also excels in German, performing so well on the international German exam that she would qualify for free junior college in Germany if she chose. Still other interests include drawing, fencing, skiing, hiking, and ballet. Lacey will graduate from CCHS with a gold cord for highest honors, and fall will see her attending Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA, where she is excited to major in biology or biochemistry, but also to tackle a broader liberal-arts curriculum and study abroad.

Paige Koenig is the daughter of David and Lynda Koenig. She is a lifelong resident of Walnut Hills, Centennial and attends Cherry Creek High School. Paige's qualities are very evident in all areas of life including academics, athletics, music, and her relationships, but her character as a whole truly sets her apart. One of Paige's teachers states that her "kindness is infectious" while another says that she "is



Cailey Bosman



Lacey Gottschall



Paige Koenig



Dakota Wolner



Chereen A. Zahner

an incredibly enthusiastic and kind young woman". Further, her high school counselor says that she "has found a way to give to the world; Paige's kindness is her contribution." Paige's GPA speaks for itself at 4.024, all while completing more than a dozen AP and/or Honors courses. She also stands out athletically, where she is a four year varsity lacrosse player and earned both Academic All State First Team and an Academic All American nomination. As if that isn't enough, Paige was actively involved in her high school band, and as a senior, she was selected to serve as a Peer Ambassador to help create "a place where all students belong." Through all this she has also worked in her church's nursery, as a tutor, and as a lacrosse referee with South Suburban Parks and Recreation. Paige plans to attend the University of Redlands in Redlands, CA, where she intends to pursue a degree in psychology while continuing to play the sport she loves.

Dakota Wolner, daughter of Kathy Schultz of Centennial. Creative, curious, compassionate, mature, motivated, determined, dependable: these qualities help to demonstrate the uniqueness of Dakota. She attained her 4.5 GPA by challenging herself with a rigorous academic regimen. Besides 18 Honors and Advanced Placement classes, she was well balanced in the liberal arts, taking three years of French and four years of art classes. Five of her AP classes were taken in her junior year, earning her the AP Scholar with Distinction title. Her ACT scores rank her in the top 1% in the nation. Art is her life, her passion. "I want to be able to impact someone's life through my work, inspiring them to follow their dreams" says Dakota. Sports also have been an integral part of her life at Cherry Creek High School. She participated in softball as well as track and field, earning awards in both. She was also awarded Academic All State First Team for both softball and track. Her counselor states, "Not only is she among the best and brightest in her class but she is wise beyond her years." She "takes her responsibilities as a student, daughter, sister, friend and citizen seriously, willingly giving her time and energy to cultivating relationships and contributing in her community. Dakota plans to attend Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles, CA, with a major in animation in the film industry.

Chereen A. Zahner, daughter of Matthew and Carol Zahner of Walnut Hills, Centennial. Chereen is an outstanding example of an exceptional student who has been able to create an impressive balance between her extracurricular activities, volunteer activities, employment, and academic success. Her extracurricular activities included a senior Honors Science Research Project, which received awards from state and national organizations such as the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation Society, the American Meteorological Society, and the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. Athletically she participated in track, cross country, tennis, yoga, varsity climbing team, and earned a 1st Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. Chereen did not leave out music; she is an advanced piano player. Her volunteer activities included volunteering at numerous medical clinics and offices, Castlewood Library, and South Suburban Parks and Recreation, where her coordinator says, "She is a great role model". Chereen was later employed by SSPR as the head Youth Cross Country-Track Coach and Tennis Instructor. She was also a group leader at her church. Along with her extracurricular activities, volunteer activities and employment, she has maintained an outstanding academic record at Cherry Creek High School, including ten Honors and Advanced Placement courses, many in the math and science areas, with a 3.978 GPA. Chereen plans to attend Colorado State University in Ft. Collins and major in engineering and pre-medicine.

One can hardly read about the involvement and dedication of these fine students without taking great pride in them and their accomplishments. The Scholarship Board is proud of the manner in which these students represent their families, our community, and their school.

Congratulations! Submitted by the Board of the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund



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Meet the Advertiser

My name is Juhi Johnson and I LOVE MY JOB! I am a full time Realtor with RE/MAX Professionals and I have lived in this area for over 24 years with my husband and two kids (who are 24 and 20, so I guess not really kids anymore...). Over the years, I have seen this area develop from tall grasses and cattails into Park Meadows Mall, Centennial Promenade, and every other store or restaurant you can think of! Our community is thriving now more than ever, continuing to establish itself as one of the most desirable places to live in Colorado. My goal as a Realtor is to provide my clients with the best real-estate experience they will ever have. I work tirelessly with all my clients to help them identify and achieve their goals, acting as a guide through the exciting, but sometimes daunting, world of real estate. As someone who knows this area like the back of my hand, whether you are thinking of buying or selling (or both!), I am proud to utilize my client-based service practices and local expertise to make your real estate transaction a stress-free and enjoyable experience

Coming from a small business background, I understand that focused attention, professionalism, and accessibility to all of my clients is paramount. As a professional Realtor, it is my job to deliver you market expertise combined with an honest commitment to your transaction, no matter how big or small! I pride myself on my accessibility and strongly believe in communicating and connecting with my clients on a regular basis. As any of my clients can attest, I truly care for each of my clients and understand the importance of their individual transaction.

When I am not busy with real estate, I am enjoying my wonderful community, traveling with my family, cooking different cuisines, watching basketball and hiking!

In all, I feel beyond fortunate to have become a part of this community over the last 24 years. Every day, I look forward to the opportunity to share both my personal and professional expertise with my clients. I enjoy getting to know everyone I work with and I will always take the time to recognize and address your individual needs. Whether you are a seller, buyer, first-timer, senior, or investor, if you call me I promise I will help you 'rightsize' into your next home! Thank you for trusting me with one of the most important transactions of your life. I appreciate your support and I look forward to working with you soon!



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Juhi Johnson
Realtor®
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I work hard to help you achieve your real estate goals and make your transaction go smoothly! I have lived here for over 24+ years and have seen this area change, develop and our property values increase.

I know how important it is for you to make the right move!

Walnut Hills Home Sales
March 17th thru May 17th 2016

7369 S Tamarac Ct: SOLD \$427,750	7084 S. Uinta St: SOLD \$391,000
6814 S. Willow St.: SOLD \$415,000	7382 S. Quince St: SOLD \$382,000
7349 E. Easter Ave: SOLD \$415,000	8342 E. Briarwood Blvd: SOLD \$354,500
7962 E. Briarwood Blvd: SOLD \$405,000	8026 E. Fremont Ave: SOLD \$332,000

Based on information from REcolorado®, Inc. for the period 1/12/2016-3/16/2016. 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.

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Walnut Hills Neighborhood Yard Sale

It's that time of year again, time to finish up the spring cleaning and participate in the Walnut Hills Neighborhood Sale. Please join your neighbors on Friday June 3rd and Saturday June 4th from 8am-4pm, whether you plan to sell items or shop, it will surely be a great time. We have 60-70 homes participating; hope to see you all this weekend!

Iris and Day Lilies Available

Due to the construction along Arapahoe Road, Walnut Hills will be losing a majority of our planting area along Arapahoe Road between Unita and Yosemite. As such, Maggie Haskett, our wonderful GID Project Manager, has dug out some of the Iris and Day Lilies that were planted along that stretch. If you are interested in White blooming Iris or Orange Old Fashioned Day Lilies, please contact Maggie at: haskettmaggie@gmail.com or 303-770-2541

Lawn/Landscape Contest

As a gardener, there are times when dealing with the elements, mowing the lawn every few days, fighting with the weeds, trying a favorite plant in ten different locations because no matter what you do it shrivels and dies is just more than you can take! Wouldn't it be nice if somewhere along the line your successes in gardening and the time you put into mowing the lawn, were recognized? Well fellow gardeners/lawn mowers, here is your chance! The WHCA annual Lawn and Landscape Contest is upon us! Every summer three WHCA board members drive every street, drive and court in the neighborhood to recognize the folks who day after day, week after week, find time to care for their yards! There are no rules for what qualifies - the board members just decide on three yards (areas visible from the street) that make them smile. Each awarded property comes with a cash prize - \$100 for 1st Place, \$75 for 2nd Place and \$50 for 3rd Place. Please note, the selected yards must be paid members of the Civic Association and that we try to spread out the winners because there are always a handful of yards that are beautiful year after year. This year, landscapes will be reviewed the week of June 19th. Get out there and pull, trim, mow, plant, mulch, and do what you do to keep our neighborhood looking great! Winners will be awarded at the July Walnut Hills Civic Association Meeting.

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Letter to the Editor

Why I'm Remembering the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund in my Will

I have enjoyed living in Walnut Hills for almost 30 years. Most of all, I am proud of the opportunity to support the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund. Every penny donated is paid out to deserving high school graduates to help pay for college.

We have no fancy clubhouse or swimming pool in our neighborhood to support with mandatory HOA fees, but we do have a voluntary membership in the Walnut Hills Civic Association, supporting many worthwhile events as well as the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund.

Throughout the years, I have watched home values more than triple and crime remain almost non-existent in our neighborhood.

When I ponder what causes I would like to support, I can think of no better legacy than to help the next generation pursue an education.

Unlike most other causes, where up to 40% of your donation goes toward overhead, the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund is run entirely by residents who volunteer their time, and, therefore, pay out every cent each year to the award recipients.

When I recently updated my will, I simply added instructions that, upon the sale of my house, a certain amount be donated to the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund. I feel this is one small way I can pay back this lovely neighborhood for the years of kindness and safety I have been fortunate enough to enjoy.

The Cost of College and why the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund makes a Difference

Julie Gamec

Every year there are news stories everywhere about the rising costs of college tuition, rising rate of crushing student loan debt and underemployment for new grads. Here are a few interesting facts to put it all in perspective:

The following is the cost per year for undergraduate studies with in state tuition, room and board, books and other expenses at some of the bigger schools in the state of Colorado:

University of Colorado Boulder - \$28,379

Colorado State University - \$24,526

Colorado School of Mines - \$31,726

University of Denver - \$62,345

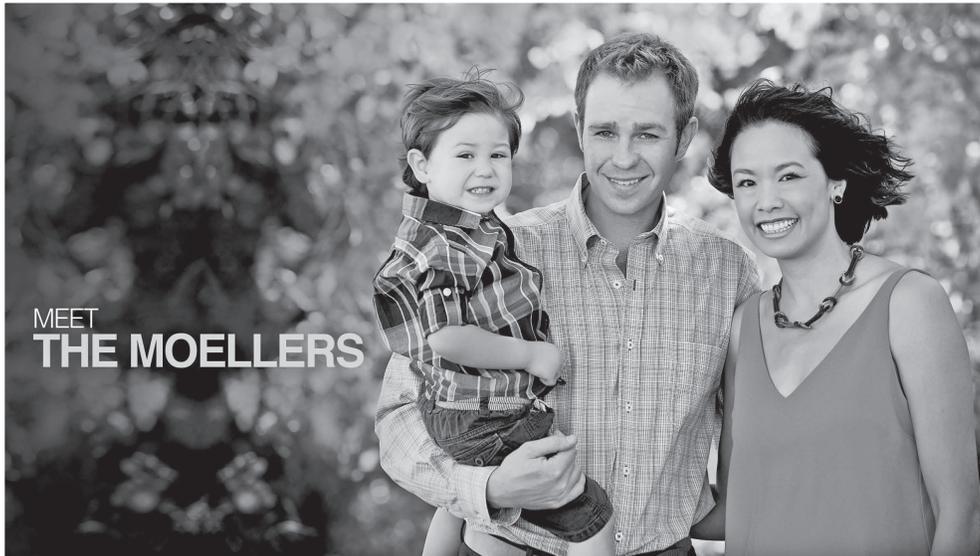
Metropolitan State University, Denver - \$7,620 (tuition and books only)

(*source: www.collegedata.com, University of Denver website)

Now here is another interesting fact: Over a lifetime, college degree earners will earn approximately \$1,000,000 more than a peer with a high school diploma. I was lucky - when I attended CU Boulder I was given the opportunity to earn my degree without the financial weight some students are facing today. For me, that makes contributing to the scholarship fund all the more important.

Why does this information matter and what does it have to do with the scholarship fund? Just this: a scholarship recipient will receive approximately 10% of the annual cost of one year at a public, in-state school. For students trying to navigate loans, and parents trying to find the money in tight budgets, that is huge. These kids, who you see, who you know, who may watch your kids or pets, or attend some of the same functions, or mow your lawn are applying for the Walnut Hills Scholarship fund because they know, despite the financial burden that a four-year school may be, that a college education is still worth while.

Donate to the Scholarship Fund. That \$5 bill in the cookie jar, or extra \$20 saved from cooking instead of eating out will always be a good investment in the future of our neighborhood, community and these kids. Donations can be made via the Walnut Hills Civic Association website, or by contacting John Fuller at 303-771-2838 or email jfuller@du.edu.



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- Adam Moeller, president of AJM Financial, was nominated as one of the Top 10 Advisors in Colorado, so you don't have to go far to get the best advice.

- Learn how to maximize your Social Security benefits and avoid the top 7 mistakes that retirees make that could put your retirement income and well-being in jeopardy.

- Learn how the new Department of Labor law that was just passed will affect your financial decisions in retirement. Don't hesitate, with so many new laws and regulations being fully implemented in 2017, there has never been a better time than now to take action.

- Don't be like most people and spend more time planning your vacation then you do on a worry-free and confident retirement. Learn how to get a 10% return on your future retirement income--guaranteed!!

- Jennifer Moeller, who leads the Moeller Law firm, will help you avoid probate as well as avoiding court management of your assets. Select who will receive an inheritance from you - don't let the government choose for you.

- Jennifer specializes in estate planning, domestic relations and civil litigation. She has extensive experience in the courtroom if her litigation skills are needed.

- Jennifer will draft estate plans that minimize the risk of protracted (and expensive) litigation over your estate.

- Choose an estate plan that is right for your family. Don't delay, learn from celebrities like Prince who didn't plan ahead and didn't have a will.

Moeller law does not provide legal advice regarding financial investments.

Celebrate the 4th of July with the WHCA Parade, Ice Cream Social and Scholarship Award Ceremony

Another festive summer season is approaching, full of summer vacation, BBQs, pool time, and suntans! Come and celebrate our Independence Day with a neighborhood parade - Grab your red, white and blue, your stars and stripes and decorate your bike, trike, wagon, dog, etc. and meet at Dry Creek Elementary School at 9:30am on July 4th. We are always glad for classic cars to join in the parade (the classic cars is the high point for one of our board members) and in years past we have been accompanied by South Suburban Fire Department. From the school, the parade marches through the neighborhood to the finish line at Walnut Hills Park where ice cold ice cream/gelato will be served (approximate time 10:30 am). This is also the event where our Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund awards the Scholarship winners - I hear from John Fuller that the applicants this year are stellar!

This event is open to the entire neighborhood. Please remember that this, like all of our events, is funded by your membership dues. Just \$25 per year makes all of these events possible! Membership for the 2016 fiscal year were sent out in March, feel free to pay via mail or PayPal on the Walnut Hills Civic Association Website. This is also a great time to contribute to the Scholarship fund - every dollar contributed to goes to the applicants - help our Walnut Hills students pay for college!

Walnut Hills Block Party National Night Out

Andrea Suhaka, Chair, WHCA, 303-770-0058, standy@ecentral.com.

National Night Out is a nationally recognized event for neighborhoods to get together and neighbor to meet neighbor. Learn who belongs in your neighborhood, so you'll know who doesn't belong.

Walnut Hills Civic Assoc. and Metrum Community Credit Union sponsor this huge block party with booths from our special districts, e.g., Arapahoe County Sheriff, Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, South Metro Fire, Arapahoe Library, South Suburban Parks & Rec., and more for fun and information. We'll have a BBQ supper and great family friendly tunes from Juice o' the Barley. (Bring chairs & blankets to listen comfortably.) We might even convince one of our Board members to exhibit pickle ball and disc golf.

All this will be taking place at Walnut Hills School and in the amphitheater on August 2nd from 6-8pm.

If you have a home business and are a paid member of the Civic Association, you may also exhibit at the event. Give me a call.

Adventure ON THE HIGH LINE CANAL

Charting our Course for the Next Century



CHAPTER ONE: our journey begins

Come and share your input about the Canal's future!

Join us at one of the following open houses for an interactive introduction to the High Line Canal and the Vision Plan process. We'll take a journey together along all 71 miles of the Canal, from the foothills to the plains, and you'll be able to share your ideas and feedback every step of the way. Invite your friends and neighbors, and shape the Canal's future with us!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8
NORTHERN AREA OPEN HOUSE
4-8 pm, Aurora Central Library
14949 E. Alameda Pkwy, Aurora, CO 80012

THURSDAY, JUNE 9
CENTRAL OPEN HOUSE
11 am-1:30 pm, Lowry Town Center
Fountain area along 2nd Ave, Denver, CO 80230

THURSDAY, JUNE 9
SOUTHERN AREA OPEN HOUSE
4-8 pm, Goodson Recreation Center
6315 S. University Blvd, Centennial, CO 80121

ALL THREE SESSIONS WILL BE IDENTICAL. YOU CAN CHOOSE WHICHEVER EVENT IS MOST CONVENIENT!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FUTURE EVENTS.

HELP US WRITE THE STORY FOR THE CANAL'S NEXT CENTURY.

CHAPTER TWO:
A FORK IN THE ROAD
Wed. July 20 - 11am-1:30pm, Expo Rec. Center
Wed. July 20 - 4-8pm, Eloise May Library
Thurs. July 21 - 4-8pm, Eisenhower Rec. Center

CHAPTER THREE:
OUR STORY
September 7 and 8
More details coming soon!

CHAPTER FOUR:
LOOKING AHEAD
October 19 and 20
More details coming soon!



HIGH LINE CANAL CONSERVANCY

Presented by the High Line Canal Conservancy. Find out more at highlinecanal.org/community

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3 years - rising 5th graders
June 27-July 1 (9AM - Noon)
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Register Today at:

Groupvbspro.com/vbs/cc/highline

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Finished K - finished 6th graders
July 5-8 (9AM - 4PM)
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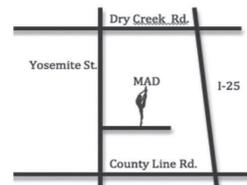
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Easter Egg Hunt

Well, the weather was our biggest obstacle this year with the Easter Egg Hunt! After two cancellations due to inches (and inches) of snow on the ground, the Easter Egg Hunt was held April 23rd. We experimented with a new location at the Walnut Hills Park (not the school) and found the park to be a great local! Our kiddos were thrilled! Even though the Easter Bunny was on vacation that day, we had treats and prizes all around - even the parents got to hunt for a treat or two! Many thanks to Terese Hutchenson and friend Angela who helped out at the craft tables, Celia Dickinson who ran the cake walk and helped set up and all the WHCA board members who attended and helped out at the event. Also many thanks to all the adults who kept excited kiddos off the field prior to the buzzer and all members of the Walnut Hills Civic Association!

This, like all of our annual events, is funded by your voluntary WHCA dues. If you have had an opportunity to attend any of our great events, you know that the \$25 a year goes a long way! The WHCA is now accepting paypal payments through the WHCA website.



Photography Jesse J Alcorta



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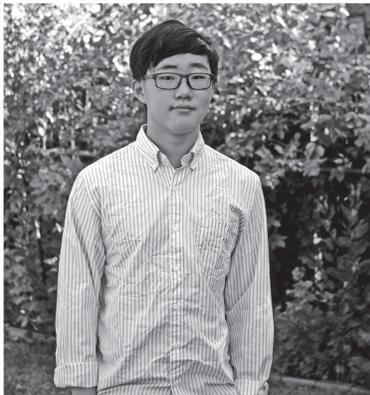
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Braeden J Hudiburgh



Holly Stokes



Clayton Gill



Samantha Ragnow



Isayah Wheeler



Justin Avis



Kaelin Gray-White



Mackenzie Reyes

Walnut Hills Celebrates 2016 Graduates

Walnut Hills Trail & Sidewalk Construction

For those neighbors that walk, jog and bike the trail along Little Dry Creek, you have undoubtedly noticed the construction near the Walnut Hills Park and may have had to find a new route due to the Xanthia Street closure. The good news is that the drainage improvements are almost done. The great news is that the Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) project will also include leveling out the trail where it gets stubbornly steep approaching Xanthia Street AND they will be extending the trail all the way to Yosemite Street.

When SEMSWA finishes their project, the City of Centennial will be repaving Xanthia Street, which is also the only street in Walnut Hills that currently does not have a sidewalk. Through some negotiations with the City of Centennial, a lot of due diligence, and with agreement from the adjacent homeowners, the Walnut Hills Civic Association is excited to announce that the City of Centennial will be installing a 5-foot sidewalk on the west side of Xanthia Street. The sidewalk will be constructed with financial assistance from the Walnut Hills General Improvement District and will connect the sidewalks on Briarwood Boulevard and Davies Street to the Little Dry Creek Trail.

After all of this work is complete, South Suburban Park and Recreation District (SSPRD) will be coming through with their Little Dry Creek Trail reconstruction project. SSPRD is planning on replacing the cracked and uneven asphalt trail between Spruce Street and Xanthia Street with an 8-foot concrete trail. They will also be replacing the gravel trail between Quebec Street and Spruce Street with an 8-foot concrete trail. For any parent that has had a scare or two with little kids riding their bikes on the trail near Uinta Street or Spruce Street, we have also requested that SSPRD install some split rail fencing along the trail where the side slope is very steep. At this time it is unknown whether this additional

scope has been added to the project, but we will continue to pursue. See you on the trails! Brian Bern - Walnut Hills Civic Association Neighborhood 12 Representative



Brian Bern - Photography

Development in and Around Walnut Hills

Denver real estate and development is starting to roll again and Walnut Hills has not escaped. A few notable things going on in and around the neighborhood:

1. I-25 / Arapahoe Road Interchange Improvements: The project consists of design and replacement of the existing I-25 bridge over Arapahoe Road and other improvements to the interchange complex to reduce congestion and improve operations and safety. Please adhere to the reduced speed limits of 55 mph on I-25 and 40 mph on Arapahoe Road in the work zones. Please avoid distractions and watch for signage to guide you through the construction area. You can visit the project website at: <https://www.codot.gov/projects/I25-Arapahoe>.

With this project please be aware that traffic through the neighborhood may increase. Residents and the WHCA have made our concerns over this additional traffic clear to CDOT, the project design team and the contractor. While the project cannot close local streets, we have been told that clear detour signage around the neighborhood will be placed and every reasonable effort will be made to try and mitigate the additional traffic.

2. Site Plan Application for 8489 E. Briarwood Ave: The current owner of the commercial property of 8586 E. Arapahoe Road is currently working with the City of Centennial to develop a Site Plan submittal to demolish the residential home at 8489 E. Briarwood Ave. to expand the existing parking lot. If the site plan is approved, the site would be constructed to include a new sound wall separating the retail building and parking lot from the neighborhood to the south and west. The WHCA is posting all received information on Next Door, the WHCA website, and in the e-mail blast. Site Plans for this development will go through a public process. For additional information on the project or questions, please contact or questions about the meeting or the proposed application, please contact Michael Gradis, Planner II, at (303)-754-3356 or at mgradis@centennialco.gov

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Twigs, Twiggalls and Trees

Bruce Ferguson

The last wet spring snows broke branches and flattened hedges. Not a lot of damage really but enough water to keep the lawns green and the forbs happy. It's a good time of year to check your local Wal-Mart to find plants that are 50% off because of damage. I've been planting seeds in the vegetable garden pushing my luck a bit but it seems to be working out. I've got an early crop of leeks and onions from the plants I just left in the ground last fall. We've already been enjoying the green garlic. This whole family of plants, the alliums, is so easy to grow, perhaps too easy I suppose. I give masses of chives away every year. Garlic chives which flower late in the season are perhaps a bit too easy to grow from seed. The decorative types with their round globes of flowers are one of the highlights of an early season perennial border. And really there is nothing quite as sweet as an onion pulled fresh from the garden and roasted on the grill.

The early mornings now are filled with bird song. One I had to search out is the spotted towhee. It's a ground bird that some people refer to as a large sparrow. It took me a few tries to find it but I finally spotted it in the neighbors undercover. I also spied a wren the other day stocking the bird house with twigs but haven't seen much of it since. I do hear them though in the mornings. The other day on our walk on the path through Foxridge we watched a crow chase a hawk from tree to tree. Then a pair of blue jays joined in the squawking. It's some type of neighborhood watch thing I suppose. If you happen to want to find a bird song the Cornell site allaboutbirds.org is a great place to search.

20 years ago we had five aspen in the corner of the yard. All of them infested with twiggalls and such eventually succumbed to time and disease. Even so we still have one fairly tall one that suckered from the roots of the old trees. Last summer I let a few more grow and now we have four of them again. It seems like such a bazaar thing that the roots can find the will to live all this time but the trees themselves never really do all that well here. When I first moved here many things were involved in that decision but one of the important things for me was the trees. Over time I have watched as many of them have been bent and broken by the weather and disease. Colorado is not a kind environment for trees. More than anything else it is the mature trees that give this neighborhood its character. So do the future a favor and plant a tree!



Photography Jesse J Alcorta



April Showers Bring...Broken Branches?

The spring weather was at it again this April, sending inches and inches and inches of snow! In the two major storms I measured 15 and 18 inches respectively on my driveway. While I tried to remind myself that this snow was a good thing - a few more weeks before turning on the sprinklers - a good soaking for my flowers - All I could think about was shaking snow off of tree branches and covering my blooming tulips. I know from driving around that I wasn't the only one with these thoughts. I also know that compared to many, I was lucky to not lose any large tree limbs. Many folks in the neighborhood lost large branches, the Crabapple trees seemed to be especially hard hit with this damage! Thank you to everyone for getting the branches cut down, cleaned up and hauled off! I know that several people took advantage of Dumpster Days to make this task a little easier.

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Spring Dumpster Days

What can I say about the weather?
 Even though the "weatherman" predicted a semi warm day it was a cool, sometimes cold event
 But that did not keep the Walnut Hills residents from coming out to "dump" their items
 Mostly old wood and branches, but to no one surprise we saw mattresses, lawn mowers, old swing sets, and area rugs
 Watching "The Garbage Man" workers use the rug in front of their trash truck saved clean up time and looked, a little, elegant
 There was 62 cars in line on May 14th with generosity by a few to the Walnut Hills Scholarship program
 Julie Gamec and I expected just as many, if not more, for Saturday, May 21st, with a prediction of sunny skies and 70 degrees, we will see.
 Thanks again to Brookie and Dawd for their recycling and metals collection. Both their trucks were full.
 Thanks to "The Garbage Man" workers for pulling our trash from our trucks and cars.
 To Julie for joining me this year and Miss Maggie for dropping off the donuts
 And, of course, our friends and neighbors for using "Dumpster Days" keeping our neighborhood clean and tidy

Donna Senn
 Neighborhood 5
 Dumpster Days Coordinator



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Photography Jesse J Alcorta

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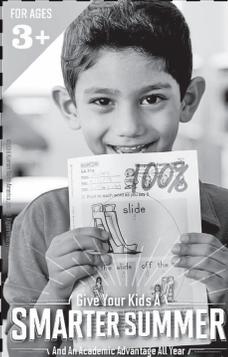
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