

Walnut Hills Newsletter

“A Beautiful Community of Families, Friends and Neighbors for 50 years.”

Irish Band to Perform at Walnut Hills Block Party

Walnut Hills residents attending this year’s neighborhood block party will be entertained by the lively sounds of the Irish pub band Juice O’The Barley. The band is managed by long-time WH resident Bill O’Donnell, who also plays bass and sings with the group. Bill and his wife Teresa are retired Cherry Creek School District math teachers and their children attended Cherry Creek schools.

O’Donnell and guitarist Michael Kent performed Irish music for years with Denver folk-singing legend Walt Conley. After Conley’s untimely death in 2003, O’Donnell and Kent decided to form a new Irish-themed band and name it after a defunct band Kent performed with in the 1980s.

After the audition of several fiddle players, Kelly O’Dea, whose father hails from County Clare, Ireland, joined the band. The band’s banjo player, Robert MacLean, joined the band in a most unusual fashion. Robert had just moved to Denver from Vermont when he saw the band’s ad for a banjo player on Craigslist. Having lived in Dublin, Ireland in his youth and being familiar with the music, Robert responded immediately. Because Robert did not yet have reliable transportation, O’Donnell auditioned him on the patio of a neighborhood bagel restaurant and hired him on the spot.

Whether they’re singing an old rebel song or performing a lively dance tune, Juice O’The Barley will energize and entertain people of all ages. Their music is in the tradition of great Irish groups of previous generations—The Clancy Brothers and The Dubliners—as well as being inspired by more contemporary groups such as The Pogues, The Young Dubliners and The Elders.

The band has two studio CDs, with the most recent—A Place To Sleep It Off—receiving a great review in Colorado’s Celtic Connection.

Over the years, Juice O’The Barley has established itself as one of the most sought after purveyors of Irish pub music in Denver and Colorado. They can be found playing at local pubs from Denver to Fort Collins and at major Irish and Celtic festivals throughout the state. Although drawing on traditional roots, The Juice is not your mother’s typical Irish folk group. They play their music in a style that can only be described as “Irish music with an attitude”—high octane, yet firmly entrenched in tradition.

Since February of this year, Juice O’The Barley has been performing on a monthly basis at Maggie Smith’s Irish Pub. This pub is located in Centennial on the NW corner of Arapahoe Road and Peoria Street. For a complete schedule of performances, follow the band at www.juiceofthebarley.com or join them on facebook.



From Left to Right: Bill O’Donnell, Kelly O’Dea, Michael Kent, Robert MacLean.



Walnut Hills Teen Honored

At a recent City Council meeting, the Centennial Youth Commission presented Angela Saiz, Walnut Hills resident, with a Youth Achievement Award which is intended to honor and recognize youth who have made a significant impact on Centennial’s community. Angela received a \$1,000 scholarship.

She is a recent graduate of Cherry Creek High School and plans to attend Colorado State University in the fall. Angela’s accomplishments include singing in Cherry Creek’s highest honored choir, playing softball, maintaining high grades and community service.

Angela’s contributions to the community include her church’s Souper Bowl of Caring project, which helps gather food and money for local soup kitchens and homeless shelters on Super Bowl Sunday.

Angela believes that through her service to the community she is able to reduce economic, racial, and social barriers that often divide a community.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people harmed by the shooting in Aurora. At a loss for words, but having so much to say, I have chosen this quote instead.

“I wanted to tell you why I grieve, but why I don’t despair. - One of my first memories is of Martin Luther King being shot. I was five. I was at a school in Trenton. They shut the lights off and we got to sit under our desks. And we thought that was really cool. And they gave us cottage cheese, which was a cold lunch, because there was rioting, but we did not know that. We just thought, “My God, we get to sit under our desks and eat cottage cheese.” And that is what I remember about it. - That was a tremendous test of this country’s fabric. This country has had many tests before that and after that. And the reason I don’t despair is because... This attack happened. It is not a dream. But the aftermath of it, the recovery, is a dream realized. And that is Martin Luther King’s Dream. Whatever barriers we’ve put up are gone, even if it is just momentary. We are judging people by, not the color of their skin, but the content of their character. - You know, all this talk about these guys are criminal masterminds, they’ve gotten together, and their extraordinary guile, and their wit, and their skill. - It’s a lie. Any fool can blow something up. Any fool can destroy. But to see these guys - these firefighters, these policemen, and people from all over the country - literally with buckets, rebuilding - that’s extraordinary. And that’s why we have already won. It’s light. It’s Democracy. We’ve already won. They can’t shut that down. They live in chaos, and chaos - it can’t sustain itself. It never could. It’s too easy and it’s too unsatisfying. - The view from my apartment was the World Trade Center and now it is gone. They attacked it. - This symbol of American ingenuity, and strength, and labor, and imagination, and commerce, and it is gone. But you know what the view is now? The Statue of Liberty. The view from the south of Manhattan is now the Statue of Liberty. - You can’t beat that.” Jon Stewart September 20, 2001



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Walnut Hills Community Elementary

Back to School PTCO Carnival

\$20 Wrist Bands

Includes unlimited games,
bounce house and 1 face painting

Food

\$5 Hay Rides

August 24th 5:30 - 8 p.m.

You do not need a wrist band
if you are not playing games

All food is cash only



40 years of Scholarship Winners

Washington, D.C. is a city of contrasts. It's a city of opportunity and challenge, of progress and tradition. It's a city where the past meets the future, and where the best of both worlds can be found. It's a city where the sun always shines, and where the rain always falls. It's a city where the sky is always blue, and where the water is always deep. It's a city where the land is always green, and where the air is always fresh. It's a city where the people are always happy, and where the life is always good. It's a city where the future is always bright, and where the past is always remembered. It's a city where the present is always perfect, and where the future is always promised. It's a city where the sun always shines, and where the rain always falls. It's a city where the sky is always blue, and where the water is always deep. It's a city where the land is always green, and where the air is always fresh. It's a city where the people are always happy, and where the life is always good. It's a city where the future is always bright, and where the past is always remembered. It's a city where the present is always perfect, and where the future is always promised.

Learn-Gang - VONCA Club

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Jason Stiller - South Carolina

When the 1990s began, the world of business was a very different place from the one it is today. The Internet was a novelty, and the global economy was still in its infancy. The world of business was a very different place from the one it is today. The Internet was a novelty, and the global economy was still in its infancy. The world of business was a very different place from the one it is today. The Internet was a novelty, and the global economy was still in its infancy.

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