

Walnut Hills Newsletter

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

The Story of Centennial

by Andrea Suhaka

I was recently asked how Centennial came to be. It's quite a long story about some pretty vicious differences of opinion. I'll try to take the short cut.

In the spring of 1998, Greenwood Village began actively annexing all the commercial properties it could. It was planning to head down University Blvd. to Southglenn, down Holly to the King Soopers shopping area, down Quebec to the Safeway center at Arapahoe, even down Yosemite to, possibly, as far as Park Meadows Mall. Some folks in unincorporated Arapahoe County began to get very upset. As Greenwood Village ate the valuable tax-rate properties, it would be harder and harder for Arapahoe County to take care of its citizens. If something didn't happen "immediately," there would never be another chance. With no commercial tax base, no city could ever form. At the beginning of that push, Greenwood Village annexed the southeast corner of Orchard and Holly and, also, the south side of Orchard and University. In the meantime, Aurora was doing the same thing on the east end of our area.

So, in July 1998, Randy Pye, Chair of the Arapahoe County Council for Organized, Responsible Development (ACCORD); Pete Ross, past Chair and Chair of the Walnut Hills Civic Association; John Brackney, Arapahoe County Commissioner; Ed Bosier, Arapahoe County Assessor; and Brian Vogt, President of the South Metro Chamber of Commerce had breakfast together to discuss the situation and decide if there was something that could be done. The only answer they could see was for the area to incorporate and use our sales tax monies to take care of our people. Obviously, Greenwood Village had no intent to take care of anyone else's roads, bridges, policing, etc.

The South Metro Chamber of Commerce came up with the numbers that seemed to support the fact that a city of a given area could support itself with a minimum sales and use tax and off we went.

Originally, Centennial stopped at Parker Rd., until the folks on the east side cried out to be taken in to save them from Aurora's annexation policies. Two wonderful landowners along the west side of Parker Rd. allowed the city to use their properties to connect to the other side of Parker Rd. and the Founding Fathers drew a new incorporation map.

The first two, I believe, incorporation maps had errors, but the judges that viewed them gave the Fathers the hints they needed to correct the mistakes and try again. Finally, a good map was drawn and delivered to the State. Then began the very long, rancorous two year fight against Greenwood Village who maintained that their annexations should come before our incorporation attempt.

The Founding Fathers found friends in the State Legislature who sponsored a bill making an incorporation of over 75,000 people a priority over an annexation. Many people spoke at the legislature in favor of this bill and, of course, Greenwood Village worked against it. I think the legislation ended up passing unanimously in one of the Houses and close to that in the other.

Then Greenwood Village started the fight to have the legislation declared invalid, unconstitutional. After \$3 million, that fight got to the State Supreme Court. Because of timeliness, the Court heard it on a short schedule that had been unheard of and ruled that the legislation was constitutional and the incorporation could go forward. We called that our fight for self-determination.

Then began the long, difficult campaign to let the people, in what was to become Centennial, know that an election was about to take place on the issue. The date set for the election was September 12, 2000. The incorporation passed by a vote of 72% of the people. Another election for a City Council and a basic sales tax rate had to take place within 6 months and that was held on February 6, 2001. The new Council was seated on February 7th and the rest, they say, is history.



Concern for Walnut Hills Residents

Mrs. Everett Jones - Original Owner

When Walnut Hills was first built, everyone planted trees, and when squirrels first arrived in Walnut Hills, we were happy to see them. Now it seems that Xcel is having to do a lot repairs recently in our neighborhood because the squirrels are eating through the insulation on the power lines. No one likes to be without power, especially in the winter. Maybe it is time for us to stop feeding the squirrels.

- The abundance of squirrels is directly related to how much food is available. Gray squirrels have also been known to strip the bark from the upper branches of trees. This behavior typically occurs in early spring and early fall in response to their increased need for sodium. Sap, flowing up from the roots into the branches of trees in the spring and energy rich sap being produced in the fall, contain higher concentrations of sodium. Squirrels will peel back the thinner, more pliable bark, on the younger tree branches to get at the sodium-rich sap. Certain glues used in making plywood, as well as chemicals found in electric wire insulation, may also contain sodium and lead to squirrels chewing on these objects. Since the damage is directly related to squirrels needing more sodium (salt), the problem can often be mitigated by making alternative sources of salt more readily available. If you still want to feed the squirrels, small mineral/salt blocks or rings can be purchased from local pet supply stores and placed at the base of the trees and wires being damaged or in the crooks of easily-accessible branches, or soak wooden stakes in salt water for 24 hours and then either place the stakes in the ground around the affected trees or wire them to the tree trunks. (IN.gov.com)

Holiday Lighting Contest Week of December 10th

(Must be a member of the Civic Association to win.)

The Walnut Hills Civic Association regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Thurs. of each month at Metrum Community Credit Union, 6980 S. Holly Cir. at 7 pm. Board meetings are open to all Walnut Hills residents.

www.walnuthillscolorado.org

\$11,000 in Scholarships Available for Walnut Hills Students in 2013

Due to the increase in size of the class of 2013 living in Walnut Hills, the Scholarship Committee recently decided to increase the number of W.H. Scholarships to four scholarships with a value of \$2,500 each, along with one Career Grant of \$1,000 this year. In addition, adults living in Walnut Hills may also apply for the Career Grant.

The scholarships will be awarded to high school graduates who live in Walnut Hills, graduate in 2013 and plan to attend college in 2013. The

Graham Career Grant is available to those who will graduate in 2013 or have graduated or received a GED since 2009, or adults that live in Walnut Hills and plan to attend a local community college in 2013.

Applications for the Walnut Hills Scholarship or the Graham Career Grant for high school students, or recent graduates will be available in the Post Grad Center at Cherry Creek H.S. or from John Fuller at 7219 S. Tamarac Ct. 303-771-2838 after January 1, 2013. Adults planning to apply for the Graham Career Grant may pick up applications from John Fuller at the above address after January 1, 2013.

It is through the efforts and contributions of Walnut Hills residents that these scholarships and the grant are available. Last year residents contributed \$5,636.83 and the Newsletter and Civic Association added another \$2,500. To meet this year's goal of \$11,000, we ask that all residents consider contributing a little extra with their WHCA Dues.

Since the founding of the W.H. Scholarship program by Diane Graham in 1972, over \$142,000 has been awarded to 119 Walnut Hills students in scholarships. **The deadline for all applications is Wednesday, March 20, 2013.**

If anyone would like to make additional contributions, has any comments or suggestions, they can be directed to the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund at 7219 S. Tamarac Ct. Centennial 80112 or to any of the members of the scholarship committee: John Fuller, Diane Graham, Joan Rowe and Eric Schultz.



Metrum Community Credit Union will host a free event on Saturday, December 8th at 6980 S. Holly Circle in Centennial from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., raising money for The Children's Hospital through an annual staff bake sale, providing parents with personal safety kits for their children and a special visit with Santa Claus.



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Original Owners

By Frank Haskett

Like a lot of people I have interviewed, Rich and Charlene Davies paths crossed after World War II. Rich was born in Casper, Wyoming. His parents were from pioneer families in the Durango and Silverton Colorado area. They moved back to Colorado with the new baby, but soon health problems ensued and he ended up living with a very nice "guardian" family. He graduated from South High School in January 1943, right in the middle of the war. Charlene was born and raised in Denver, in a bungalow just west of Washington Park. She also graduated from South High in 1945, but they would not meet until a few years later.



After graduation Rich wanted to serve in the war effort. That was the goal of most young men during the war years. The US Maritime Service was trying to enlist volunteers to fill the shortage of crewmen on merchant ships. He signed up and was on his way in a few days. He had never even seen the ocean!

He trained at Santa Catalina, off the coast of southern California, Long Island, NY, and Gallups Island, in Boston Harbor. Merchant ships delivered troops and supplies (food, medicine, ammunition, etc.), risking enemy submarines, and air attacks by kamikaze pilots. Every ship had a radio officer, which was Rich's job. He was assigned to his first ship in San Francisco. The launch that delivered him to the ship had a rough job finding it in heavy fog. He boarded it by climbing the rope ladder hanging over the side. The engines started at once and they were off on the first of two South Pacific voyages that he made during the war (a total of about two years at sea). He arrived in New York City in August 1945, just in time to celebrate the Japanese surrender.

Charlene entered Denver University that fall and majored in English while working toward an education degree. DU was also known as "Tramway Tech" because most of the student body was from Denver. CU cost less, but if you went to DU you could live at home and take the streetcar to school. She graduated in 1949 and taught at Palmer and Ebert schools. She left teaching after five years to raise a family.

Rich and Charlene met on a blind date in 1952 (sometimes they work out!) and married two years later. They bought her mother's home and lived there for seven years until it became too small for a family that now included three sons. Rich worked briefly for Continental Airlines, but moved to Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph, where he worked for the rest of his career. When he retired he was a service foreman with a crew of telephone technicians.

In early 1952, they were just driving around when they saw an "open house" sign by Witkin Homes. It was at the entrance to a new sub-development known as Walnut Hills. They liked it right away, even though it was way out in the country. They looked at show homes on Costilla Ave., just north of where their own house would sit, and quickly decided on the "Sun Valley" model if Witkin would put in a basement. They would, but it cost them extra. The finished home cost \$20,500.00 and they moved in August 1962. You could easily see the mountains from their home.

The home came with a two car garage, garbage disposal, fireplace, incinerator, three bedrooms, two baths, family room, wall oven and counter top oven. The hookups for the washer and dryer were in the kitchen, but there was no 220 volt service. They had to install it, and moved it all to the basement.

There was limited phone service, but none to their location. Rich's boss took

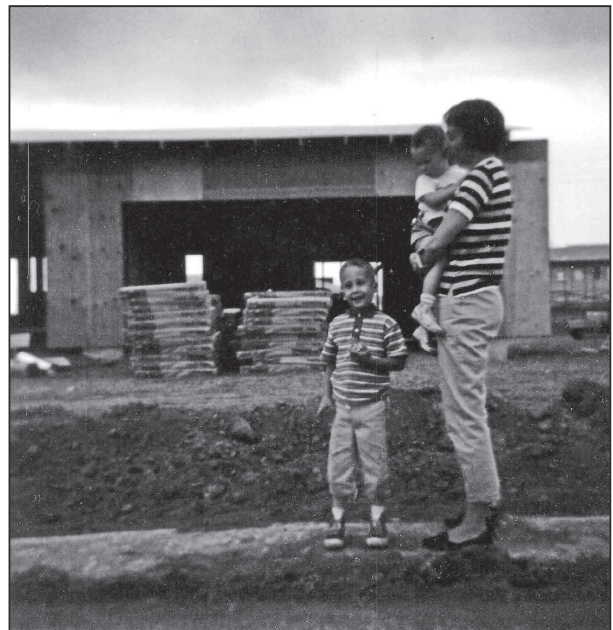
care of that. Most residents had a "party line," but theirs was a private line, in case the boss needed to reach him because of service problems after hours. Television reception was marginal, even with a roof top antenna. When cable came along, that solved the problem.

They were living on the prairie with no lawn until they put one in, and had only a lonely maple tree given to them by Witkin. To give the youngest boy somewhere to play outside (besides in the dirt), Rich bought an 8' by 8' patch of sod and put up a small fence around it. One day the west wind was so strong that it gathered tumbleweeds up against the side of the house clear up to the roof. They took the kids outside and let them take one weed at a time and release them in front of the house. Away they went towards Kansas! Problem solved. Another time it snowed so much that no one could get out. Rich had chains on his 1947 Plymouth coupe, so he made it. There were no county/city plows back then.

The kids went to Greenwood Elementary school at Holly and Berry Ave. on the school bus, but the mothers had to take kids to kindergarten, so they worked out a car pool. There were no churches, no gas stations, no restaurants or grocery stores. Charlene recalls shopping at a Safeway at Happy Canyon and Hampden. There was no library either, but the Arapahoe County Bookmobile came by, mostly for kids books.

They liked to camp, hike, and fish as a family. They did a lot of it at Granby or Grand Lake, where you could rent a cabin. They also went to Glenwood Springs, staying at the Hot Springs Lodge or a nearby motel. It took an hour longer, as there was no I-70 or tunnel. Rich remembers working on the long distance telephone line over Loveland Pass. The road was a two lane gravel affair. They would later hike from Denver to Creed on the Colorado Trail.

If you went to a movie you went downtown to the Paramount, Denham or Denver and you took the Valley Highway (I-25). With kids, they more likely went to the drive-in over on Belleview, west of Broadway. They rarely ate out, what with three kids and a big house payment, but two restaurants of note were the Sky Chef at Stapleton Field and Mrs. Gabriel's on south Broadway. Also there was the Denver Drumstick on south Colorado Blvd. It had model trains on tracks around the rooms on the walls and the kids loved that. They went to Elitch Gardens on west 38th, to dance at the Trocadero Ballroom, or see a play at the Elitch theatre. They saw plays and the symphony at the auditorium theater (now the Buell at Denver Center of Performing Arts). They didn't need a baby sitter. Charlene's mom took care of that.



Charlene joined the Walnut Hills Women's Club which formed in 1963. She dropped out a year or so later; and it morphed into this newsletter and the club drifted apart. The neighbors were all fairly young, and most had children. The Davies didn't socialize as much as some others since they both had relatives and friends in Denver.

Unlike some developments east of them which had wells, they had Denver water. Wildlife was abundant. The children were allowed to play outside on their own, as it was very safe. One young boy rode his bike clear out to Arapahoe County Airport (now Centennial Airport) and back, this was also a gravel road. Arapahoe County provided law enforcement, but they were seldom seen since there was little crime. There was a county dump west of Quebec on the north side of Arapahoe. The areas around them were mostly pasture, before the earth movers changed things, but there was an abandoned orchard on the north side of Arapahoe, west of Yosemite.

The Davies are still here because they like Walnut Hills and the people. The house was paid for years ago and they now enjoy traveling quite a lot. There is room for the boys and their families when they come to visit. Returning home to Walnut Hills has always been a pleasure.

Now that our 50th Anniversary year has come to an end, I would like to personally acknowledge the hard work and creative contributions of Frank Haskett and sincerely thank him for providing great articles and pictures for our 50th Anniversary tribute.

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Walnut Hills Resident Honored

Warren D. Braucher, Walnut Hills resident since 1972, was honored by the Colorado Bar Association on October 24, 2012, for his 50 years of outstanding service to the legal community. Mr. Braucher received his Juris Doctor (JD) from Northwestern School of Law, Portland, Oregon and was

admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1962. During his career he was Commerce Counsel in the law department of the Denver and Rio Grande Western

Railroad. He was Assistant Attorney General for Colorado and Counsel to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

In private law practice, he specialized in transportation law and representing carrier and shipper interests before State and Federal agencies and Federal Court. He was appointed

by the United States Bankruptcy Court to the position of Trustee in the liquidation of a major Denver based motor carrier before retiring in 2000.



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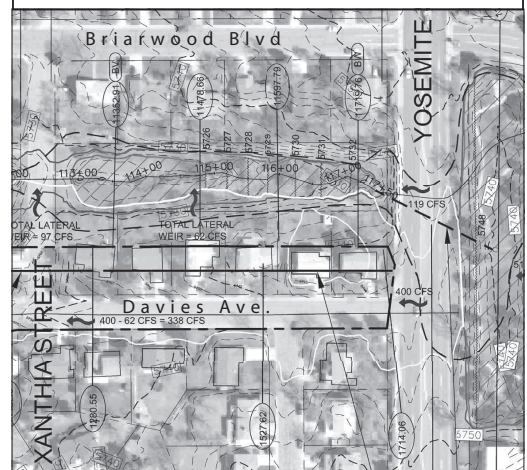
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Little Dry Creek Flooding

This FEMA map was updated because of the completion of the new culvert for Little Dry Creek under Arapahoe Road in 2009. During review of the first updated floodplain map submitted to FEMA, FEMA requested that SEMSWA continue the new mapping information to the area above (east) of S. Yosemite St. By extending the analysis, the small detention pond east of Yosemite St. was shown to spill during the 100-year event, overtop Yosemite St. and flow down E. Davies Ave. before finally making its way back to Little Dry Creek. Apparently, the pond was intended to function this way because there is a low area on the pond bank reinforced with riprap that directs the overtopping flow from the pond down E. Davies Ave. SEMSWA understands that indeed the pond has spilled in the past, flooding some of the properties along E. Davies Ave.

The FEMA map reviewer notes that this area should qualify as a shallow flooding area and would therefore be mapped with a shallow flow designation. A shallow flow designation does not trigger the automatic flood insurance requirement for new or refinanced federally backed mortgages for structures within this zone, however, flood insurance is recommended. The good news is that because of this updated floodplain analysis, SEMSWA has moved the project identified to eliminate the spill from the detention pond east of Yosemite, to next year. This is the solution that was identified in the new Outfall Systems Plan completed by UDFCD, SEMSWA and others in 2010. Upon completion of that project, the FEMA floodplain map will be revised again to show that there is no longer a spill from the pond down E. Davies Ave during the 100-year flood event.

Monica Bortolini, PE, CFM
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A Fabulous Fall with Cub Scout Pack 257

The Scouts of Pack 257 are having an amazing year! We kicked our Scouting year off with a space-themed assembly to welcome our new Scouts and welcome back our returning Scouts. We also handed out tons of award and goodies that the boys earned over the summer

out on a rainy and snowy Saturday morning to rake leaves for some of our elderly and disabled neighbors, many of whom are Veterans or married to Veterans. The Scouts stuck it out until the snow really started to fall. A big kudos to those kids, and a round of applause in



at Magness Adventure Camp and other summer activities.

In October, we held our first Raingutter Regatta—something we haven't done for several years. Not much water was spilled, many boats were raced, and everyone had a great time.

November is our time to honor our Veterans. Our Scouts led the flag ceremonies at the Veteran's Day Celebrations at both Heritage and Walnut Hills Elementaries. We're so proud of our Scouts for honoring our Veterans. Scouts at Walnut Hills had the privilege of meeting the Veterans after the celebration. It was very impressive and moving. We also got

gratitude to our Veterans!

A huge and hearty Thank You! to all the residents in Walnut Hills and Hunters Hill who purchased popcorn from our Cub Scouts. We are so appreciative of your generosity and kind words for our boys.

Scouting is a great opportunity for boys to learn new skills, gain confidence, and be recognized when they try their hardest and do their best. It's a great way to spend constructive time with friends, and meet new people. The leaders in Pack 257 focus on positive encouragement, and leading by example for those around them. If you're interested in Cub

Scouts for your child, please come visit one of our meetings! Cub Scouts is open to boys 1st through 5th grade. For more information, please contact Jennifer Loehr, 303.359.6452 jennifer@loehrs.com.



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Should the Electoral College be Eliminated?

By Maya H. - 4th Grade



We should not keep the Electoral College because it will mean that a person could win, and not really deserve to win. There could be a state that has a lot of electoral votes and if one candidate loses by just one vote, they lose all of the votes, and if that happens a lot in one election, that could set off the number of votes each candidate had. People who want to keep the Electoral College could argue that a long time ago people did not know much about each candidate, but today we have TVs and radios. Also, is it long, hard and tiring to count each and every vote? No. Today, we have the technology and machines that will count all of the votes accurately in a short amount of time. It will be more precise, less of an estimate, and therefore better if we change the way we resolve who will win the job of President of the United States of America.

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Co-Op Recipe Swap

Holiday Coffees



The Watch & Play Co-op would like to remind moms (and dads) to take a little time to relax and enjoy the holiday season.

Gingerbread Latte

First prepare the Gingerbread Syrup
2 cups water
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
2 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
Combine all ingredients into a medium saucepan. Bring mixture to a boil and then reduce heat and allow for syrup to simmer. Leave uncovered for 15 minutes and then remove from fire.
1/2 cup fresh espresso
8 ounces milk, steamed
Prepare a double shot of espresso and steam 8 ounces of milk. Pour 1/2 cup of espresso into mug, add 1/4 cup of gingerbread syrup followed by the milk. Stir and serve hot.

Caramel Brul e Latte

2 oz. espresso or strong coffee
8 oz. steamed milk
1 oz. vanilla bean syrup
2 tbsp. caramel ice cream topping
Brew coffee or espresso. Line mug with caramel topping, add syrup and then espresso. Steam milk and pour into cup.

Pumpkin Spice Latte

2 cups milk
2 tablespoons
2 tablespoons canned pumpkin
2 tablespoons sugar or sugar substitute
2 tablespoons vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
1-2 shots espresso (about

1/4 cup of espresso or 1/2 cup of strong brewed coffee)
Combine milk, pumpkin and sugar in a saucepan and stir over medium heat until steamed. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla and pumpkin spice. Transfer the mixture into a blender and process for 10 seconds or until foamy. Or you can simply whisk the mixture until foam appears. Pour into mug, add espresso and enjoy.

Peppermint Mocha

1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup water
1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract
3 tablespoons powdered cocoa
3 tablespoons warm water
1/2 cup hot espresso
1 1/2 cups hot milk
Stir the water and sugar in a saucepan until sugar dissolves and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a low simmer and add peppermint extract. Allow mixture to simmer for 20 minutes.
Mix cocoa and water in a mug until paste forms. Add espresso and 1 1/2 teaspoon of the peppermint syrup. Finally, add the milk and serve hot.

Eggnog Latte

1/2 cup eggnog
1/4 cup whole milk
1-2 shots espresso
Sprinkle of nutmeg for garnish
Combine cold eggnog with cold milk and steam. Add espresso shots to steamed eggnog mixture and sprinkle with nutmeg.

Chai Tea Latte

3 cups water
3 cups milk
6-8 black tea bags
1/2 cup honey
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp ground cardamom
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
1/2 tsp ground cloves
1/2 tsp ground ginger
Bring water and milk to a boil. Add remaining ingredients, return to boil. Remove from heat and let steep for 3-5 minutes. Remove tea bags then filter. Serve hot or iced

The Watch & Play Co-Op is a great way for families with young children to meet their neighbors for play groups and childcare exchange. Please contact us at WHChildcareCo-op@hotmail.com or check out our biggest site at <http://www.bigtent.com/groups/>



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Pound the Pavement for Plus Time



Pound the Pavement for Plus Time capped off its third year at Walnut Hills Elementary. Over 100 Walnut Hills students, family members and neighbors joined in this fabulous 5k and 1 mile fun run. Congratulations to all who participated on a race well run (and/or walked)!

Strong schools mean a strong neighborhood, and we could not have had such a fantastic fundraising event without help from our community. We are so thankful to those who volunteered, and the businesses that donated and helped make this event a success!

- Jennifer Loehr

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Walnut Hills Neighbors

by Frank Haskett

Norm Lende, born and raised near the small northern Minnesota town of Fosston in 1959, is the farm boy who went to college. He lived on a 500 acre farm with his six siblings. The family had milk cows, so milking was a twice-a-day chore. Baling hay in the summer was another. There were sheep, chickens and hogs. 20 below in winter was not unusual, and the coldest he remembered was 40 below zero.

After high school, Norm went off to Bemidji State on scholarship and worked as a dormitory resident assistant for room and board. He earned a BS in engineering,

specifically industrial technology, minored in economics and data processing. He was briefly in the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, but had to drop out because of an old but recurring back injury.

Norm had visited Colorado and liked the climate--and skiing. It was cold and snowing enough to ski in the mountains, but 70 degrees in Denver in the middle of winter (not unusual as long time residents will attest). So being single



and a recent college graduate, he drove to Denver and looked for work. He slept in the camper in the back of his pickup until he found a job. It turned out to be in the area of medical products, and that started a career in various aspects of the medical equipment field, always from an engineering standpoint. He started at the bottom, but quickly rose up to management. As the company's fortunes waxed and waned, he changed several times--Marquest, Foothills Medical, Lifecare Equipment, Conmed and Allosource. He was involved in quality control, R & D, customer service and repair, assembly line development, etc. Nine years ago he joined Bonfils Blood Center, where he still works today.

In about 1985, he met Shar Henry at a party. That developed into a lifetime relationship. They were living in a house in Aurora when they bought their first dog, a registered golden retriever. Both worked out south so they bought their home in Walnut Hills in 1988. The attraction to the house in Walnut Hills was the large yard, 1/3rd of an acre--perfect for a dog!

While attending a dog obedience class, they discovered dog agility training. They were hooked! Dog agility involves training the animal to do various maneuvers--climb a teeter totter, go thru a tunnel, jump over an obstacle, and weave thru 12 poles (think a tiny slalom ski course without snow). Points are given for speed and lack of mistakes. Oddly enough, appearance is not one of the criteria for points. Dogs start competing in agility at about 18-24 months. Over the years they have had good luck with them. One of their dogs was 3rd in the US in award points. They have won many awards, initiating a traveling trophy and then winning it many times with their dog Meg'n. Another win was by FI'n who won a competition put on by Purina in St. Louis that will be televised on Jan. 12, 2013. FI'n was a "rescued" dog that no one wanted. FI'n took 7th place out of 250 dogs in a world championship and won a steeplechase event in Dallas in May of 2012. All of the animals are registered with the American Kennel Club. They currently have 4 dogs that compete--three golden retrievers and a border collie--and one that is retired (age 14). They travel around the country (Florida, California, Ohio, etc.) in their motor home. Three of their dogs have attained agility championship status and two are ranked in the top five in the US.

This is not a money making endeavor, but rather a hobby that both Shar and Norm share. Shar has now retired and does agility training part time. You could think that part of the dog's reward is food. Not so. In a competition environment they must be focused on the obstacles, not the trainers hand. The dogs are rewarded by attention, being on a leash, and rough housing.

Both Norm and Shar are members of the Walnut Hills Civic Association and Shar is a former board member.



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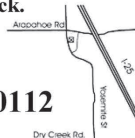
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Walnut Hills Elementary School Kindergarten

As part of their science unit about wood, the kindergartners from Walnut Hills Community Elementary went on a field trip to the local Lowe's to tour the lumber yard.



At the end of the great field trip, where the children looked for particle board, plywood, pine, sawdust and tools, the manager at Lowe's donated a Build and Grow wood kit to each kindergartner.



Back at school, the children painted the pieces of their projects. Then we invited any dads or grandpas who could come, to bring a hammer to school the next Friday and help the children build their projects. The



Science room was filled with the sound of hammering, laughter and some great conversations. It was great to see the relationships built between dads, grandpas and children. We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the dads and grandpas who participated, as well as Lowe's. We hope to make this a yearly event!

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Self-Reliance Corner

by Jo Haugland

It seems just a couple months ago I was writing about "less being more" for the holidays. I can't believe we're in another holiday season. Every year the holidays start earlier and earlier. Retailers start hammering us to spend right after Halloween. How can we resist the pressure?

For me it's the same old tune. I still think we should give more of ourselves to our friends and loved ones instead of spending and spending. We spend too much money. We give people things they really don't want or need.

This year I suggest we give each other the gift of preparedness. With the crazy weather, man-made and natural catastrophes, who wouldn't want to have some emergency supplies available? We saw the aftermath of Katrina and Sandy. We saw the fires in southern Colorado. What would those victims have given for extra food, water, warmth, and medical supplies?

I say build some emergency kits for your loved ones. Get some sturdy Rubbermaid tubs and fill them with on-sale Christmas deals. Blankets, mittens, flashlights, tins of granola, first aid kits, hot cocoa mix, hard candies, and playing cards. When the lights go out in the next big snow storm at least the recipients will have a flashlight, some extra clothes, something to eat, and a game to play.

Just a few things from the Dollar Store could make the difference between staying warm and being cold. Buy matches, candles, a plastic poncho, dollar gloves, hat and scarf. Your family and friends will know you're really thinking

about their welfare.

While you're at it, fill up some empty, clean, gallon milk jugs with water and identify at least one alternate heating and cooking source for yourself. In an emergency, a camping stove, barbeque grill, or Sterno stove can be other ways to cook. Use common sense and keep the barbeque grill and camp stove outside while cooking. A fireplace, wood stove, or propane heater can be equipment to keep warm inside.

Pay a visit to the Army Surplus store. Beside reasonable prices, they have tons of camping and emergency gear. Waterproof matches, solar blankets, plastic pocket tents, thick woolen socks, rain gear, freeze dried foods, water purification kits, and more.

Sporting goods stores are additional resources for emergency equipment. If you have a relative that is a consummate hiker or outdoors person, a purifying water straw or filter is a great gift. There are also magnesium fire starters, whistles, mirrors, compasses, and dehydrated food packs. All of which can be used for camping and hiking adventures as well as emergencies. That's what I call a multi-purpose gift!

Thrift and consignment stores are the places to pick up spare coats, warm flannel shirts, car blankets, hats, scarves, ski suits, and sweats.

For very little money, you can give a gift that could save a life. Warmth, light, and clean water in an emergency can mean everything. Think it over. I'm sure you can come up with an inexpensive but very necessary gift of preparedness for someone you love.



From your District 3 City Council Members Rebecca McClellan & Ken Lucas



Friends and Constituents,

We hope you can join us for our next District 3 Meeting on Tuesday, January 8th, from 6:30 – 8 PM, at the Club House near the school in Willow Creek, at 7700 S. Willow Way.

An important priority for both of your District 3 Council Members is the protection and enhancement of quality of life, safety, and property values. There is a Centennial planning project underway for the I-25 Corridor. While City Council will vote on any zoning changes, there is a group of "stakeholders" involved, which includes developers and land owners. We'd like to hear what you think about the process. Some citizen participants have been concerned that they felt too managed, and that there was pressure to allow even more high density housing on top of recently constructed units and those units that are approved and will soon be built. Many homeowners have shared concern about the glut of new high density housing (HDH) units in our area, both in the City and in unincorporated Arapahoe County.

One of Centennial's greatest financial challenges has always been our lack of adequate sales tax and other revenues, in relation to the population for which we fund services. The City funds services for each citizen, including law enforcement, road maintenance, animal control, and other services. In cities with more citizens to serve than sales and business tax revenues to pay for those services, like Cherry Hills Village, we sometimes see higher property taxes to fund city services.

Many have expressed that increasing our property or other taxes to fund services for new housing units on parcels that hadn't previously been zoned for HDH, is not their preference. Newly added housing units – and their associated cost of services – are a concern. Some have expressed that these zoning changes tie up parcels that then can never be used for retail or for businesses that produce high wage jobs like those at United Launch Alliance or the Innovation Pavilion – a "double loss" of added expense to all of us together with a lost opportunity for revenue and jobs.

In the last decade, City Council Members have been told repeatedly that if they will approve changes to allow HDH, that only then will

they build retail, arguing that, "...retail follows rooftops." But residents have been frustrated as past Councils have allowed additional housing units to be approved even after builders have reneged on promises of retail. While Centennial has had a deficit of retail and other revenue producing businesses from the start, unrealized promises of retail in exchange for rezoning to allow new HDH have permanently increased the number of residents to be served on the balance sheet (with more to come), with no retail at all at a number of these developments.

High Density Housing may have a negative impact on our schools and our property values. Some developers might see this planning process as an opportunity for them to profit by placing more HDH in our area, without necessarily being concerned about how we will pay for the expensive services required for these new residents. For many, our home is our most important investment. But higher density, lower price point housing can have a negative impact on our investment, particularly given the large amount of recently added HDH, some of which has yet to be built. In a recent presentation, we learned that while some low density areas such as Cherry Hills Village have recently enjoyed about a 5% increase in residential property values, Centennial homes have suffered a modest loss.

We are interested in your thoughts. Would you like to see zoning changes to allow even more HDH? If so, how would you like to see the City pay for services to the additional residents? How should we make up the revenue and jobs that other uses would produce? Would you prefer to have property taxes raised, or a combination of property tax adjustments and higher sales taxes? Or, now that we have so much new HDH, would you prefer to see zoning focused on uses that produce revenue and promote job growth in our area? Your Council Members would be grateful for your input.

With Thanks,

Councilwoman Rebecca McClellan

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Holidays are the Olympics of Dog Training

by Lorraine May, M.A.



Our dogs get excited about the holidays, too. They smell the tantalizing odors, notice the deviation from our routine, and even mistakenly construe all of the decorations and gifts that are on the floor (dog country) as their new toys.

Planning (training) with your family (team) before the holidays (Olympics) begin can help you avoid mishaps of a comical, frustrating or even dangerous variety. Here are a few areas where forethought can reduce the drama.

Good Manners

Any time is a good time to reinforce basic cues like sit and down. Right before the holidays is critical though, because after the cheerful chaos begins it may be too late. During the holidays, introduce a scrumptious treat for stronger motivation.

Greeting Company (or not)

If Spot tends to rush the door, to jump on people or to try to escape, then rehearsing the behaviors you desire can replace those you don't. Try having Spot on a leash to allow him to learn that sitting and staying calm earn him treats and attention. It is also perfectly acceptable to have Spot in a different room or behind a gate until he calms down. Be certain he is wearing his collar and ID at all times.

I Smell It, Therefore It's Mine

Just as I would assume that holiday candy was intended for me as your guest, dogs assume that the tasty food is for them. It is our task to keep everything out of reach, especially trash cans with bones and foil, for their safety and our sanity.

Quiet Time

Affording your dog a quiet area where he can't be disturbed will contribute greatly to the merriment. Take him there from time to time, saying softly 'quiet time' accompanied by a terrific treat or toy. His stressors probably include unfamiliar people in his territory, untrained children in his space – especially his face (www.doggonesafe.com), and preoccupied owners. He may need a break from holiday stress more than we do.



Not Ready for College?

Maybe you're a student who just graduated? A student who is attempting the GED path? A student who could use an alternative route right now? A student who is ready for employment and skills? A student who could use a bit more community, outdoors and hands-on engagement before entering the classroom? You might benefit from becoming a part of Mile High Youth Corps!

To be eligible, applicants must be between 18-24 years of age and must have a G.E.D. or high school Diploma.

Mile High Youth Corps improves communities and the lives of youth by putting young people to work in neighborhoods, public parks and open spaces throughout Metro Denver and the Southern Front Range. Check us out!

<http://www.milehighyouthcorps.org>

UGANDA DOLL PROJECT

Calling all Walnut Hills community members who are interested in helping with a new round of making dolls to be sent to Uganda, Africa! Jill Poole, kindergarten teacher at Walnut Hills Elementary and Kathi Jensen, retired teacher, are again recruiting people to help make dolls throughout the school year. We need people willing to cut out doll pieces, or sew pieces, or stuff pieces, or maybe all three phases.

We are holding two meetings in January to get started. On January 22nd, we will hold a planning meeting at 3:45 p.m. in the Walnut Hills Elementary School media center. Then, on January 29th at 3:45 p.m. in the media center, we will hand out materials. Please come, if you can, to one of these meetings. If you would like to help, but cannot make one of the meetings, please email Jill at jgarramonepoole@cherrycreekschools.org. The children in Uganda loved the dolls we took last summer! We are excited to send more!



Apple/Fruit Project

This was another good year for fruit in Walnut Hills. We even got some from Heritage and Hunters Hill. As usual, the biggest haul was apples-87 boxes. That was followed by 9 boxes of grapes, 8 of peaches and 12 of pears for a total of 116 boxes of fruit. We also had 16 zucchini squash. They were delivered to eleven area shelters, food banks and soup kitchens. Thanks to Heritage Liquors for boxes and the boy scouts for help in picking (they picked 37 boxes between two troops). Thanks also to the homeowners who picked fruit for me, and helpers Mike Minisini and Jim Benton.

- Frank Haskett



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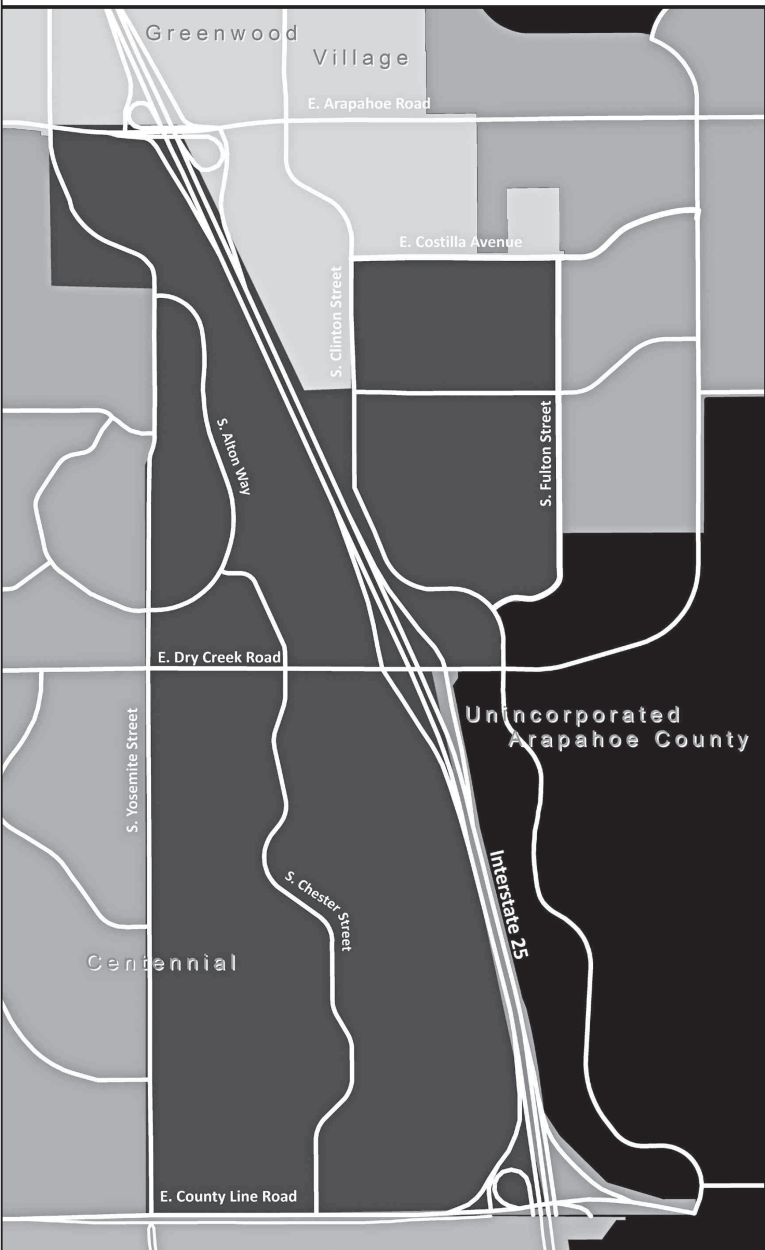
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I-25 Corridor Plan Update

The I-25 Corridor Plan is the City of Centennial's latest sub-area plan to help guide future growth and development for one of the City's most economically important areas. The study area is a 580 acre portion of the City bisected by Interstate 25 bounded by Arapahoe Road to the north, Yosemite Street to the west, County Line Road to the South, and Fulton Street to the east. The goals of this study are to develop a set of land use policies to help guide future growth and development, identify and solve connectivity issues within the study area and improve access to the Dry Creek light rail station. The I-25 Corridor Plan is not a rezoning proposal, or is it a particular development. This Plan will provide the basis for future City Council decisions on any rezoning requests.

To date, the City has completed a market assessment of what types of development the City may experience throughout the next 25 years based upon regional growth expectations. The remainder of this assessment is currently being finalized and will specify parcels within the study area that are most likely to develop within 10 years and redevelop in the long term (10+ years). The final assessment will identify opportunities and constraints for development based upon market conditions specific to Centennial. The market analysis provides the City with factual information to base any land use decisions.

The Plan is being developed with the guidance of a Citizen and Business Advisory Committee, the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. Several public meetings have occurred to receive input from the community. The next public meeting is scheduled for February 20th at 7:00PM at the Centennial Civic Center, 13133 E. Arapahoe Road. Further information about the project can be found at www.PlanCentennial.com.



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Founded in 1979, the South Suburban Park Foundation was created to enrich open spaces and to improve park and recreational amenities for residents of the south suburban communities of the metropolitan Denver area. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization run by volunteers that is committed to leaving a legacy of greenways, trails and open space through successful partnerships with community members, government agencies, corporations and philanthropic institutions. Some of the most recent successes of the Foundation include:

- The 2.5 mile Big Dry Creek Trail from the South Platte River to the Highline Canal
- The 1.4 mile Centennial Regional Trail Link that connects DeKoevend Park/Goodson Rec Center to the Little Dry Creek Trail
- Tree planting along the South Platte River Corridor
- Complimentary trail maps via their website www.sspf.org.

The next big project is to improve the Little Dry Creek Trail from the Highline Canal to Holly Park. This 1.3 mile trail segment is close to Walnut Hills and will be great for family walks and bike rides.

The reason for this article is to ask my neighbors and fellow trail users interested in supporting this great cause, to think of the South Suburban Park Foundation as we approach the end of the year. Donations are tax deductible and if you give on or before Colorado Gives Day (December 4th), your donation will be matched by 1st Bank! Simply go to their website at www.sspf.org and click on "Donate Now".

Brian Bern - Walnut Hills Resident



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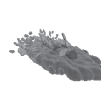
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