

# Walnut Hills Newsletter

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



The neighborhood of Walnut Hills was established in 1961. Over the years, so many families were attracted to this area that the neighborhood expanded to 414 acres and 1,178 homes. This home at 8489 E. Briarwood Ave. and 18 other homes in Walnut Hills adjacent to Arapahoe and Yosemite (many of which are now investment properties) were the only properties cited in a report hired by CDOT in May 2015 and submitted by historical researcher Dianna Litvak - Dill Historians, LLC. The report submitted to CDOT concluded that the neighborhood of Walnut Hills is historically insignificant, thus apparently clearing the way for rezoning.

## Proposal to Demolish Home on Briarwood Ave. for Parking Lot

Please be advised that a community meeting will be held prior to the formal submittal for a rezoning application for properties located as listed below.

1. 8489 E. Briarwood Ave, Centennial, 80112 (Residence to be torn down)
2. 8586 E. Arapahoe Rd, Centennial, 80112 (Business parking lot to be expanded)

The Applicant, ArapYos, LLC, proposes a rezoning of two properties to accommodate a future parking expansion for the building at 8586 E. Arapahoe Rd. The parking expansion, if approved, would be constructed to include a previously scheduled sound wall separating the retail building and parking lot from the residential neighborhood to the south and west. The sound wall is already proposed as part of the reconfiguration of the Arapahoe / 1-25 interchange by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

Community meetings are required by the City's Land Development Code (LDC) prior to submittal of certain development applications. The purpose of the community meeting is to inform the affected property owners and neighborhoods about the proposed development application and seek comments about its potential impacts on the area which could reasonably be mitigated. These meetings are intended to be forums in which the applicant and property owners work together in good faith. However, they are not required to generate complete consensus on all aspects of the applications, nor to supplant or add to the standards of the LDC.

Notice of the meeting was sent to all adjacent property owners, and to all HOA's and Civic Associations registered with the City that are located within 1/2 mile of the proposed development.

**Location:** 8545 E. Dry Creek Rd, Centennial, 80112 (Good Shepherd Episcopal Church)

**Date:** Tuesday, December 1, 2015

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.

The Applicant and City staff will be available to answer questions and provide more information from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For questions about the meeting or any questions regarding the proposed application, please contact

**Derek Holcomb, Principal Planner, City of Centennial (303) 754-3315.**

## Scholarship Board Approves \$10,000 for 2016 Walnut Hills Graduates

At a recent meeting of the Walnut Hills Scholarship Board it was decided that four \$2,500.00 College Scholarships would again be awarded for 2016. All high school seniors who live in the Walnut Hills neighborhood, who are planning to graduate in 2016 and enter college in the fall of 2016 may apply. These scholarships are good at any accredited college in the United States.

The board also decided that an additional, fifth scholarship, may be offered if the current level of financial support and the number and quality of applicants continue to increase as it has in the past several years.

Applications for the scholarship will be available starting January 1, 2016, in the Post Grad Center at Cherry Creek High School, or may be picked up from John Fuller 7219 S. Tamarac Ct. 303-771-2838, e-mail <jfuller@du.edu> after January 1, 2016.

The deadline for submitting your application is Wednesday, March 9, 2016

It is thanks to the efforts and contributions of Walnut Hills residents, WHCA and WH Newsletter that these scholarships are available. Last year (2015) residents contributed over \$8,593.00 and the Walnut Hills Civic Association and the Walnut Hills Newsletter contributed an additional \$4,000. This exceeded the \$10,000.00 awarded in 2014, which enabled us to award an additional \$2,500.00 scholarship in 2015. Contributions can be made with the Walnut Hills Civic Assn. dues in March or can be made directly to: The W. H. Scholarship Fund at 7219 S. Tamarac Ct. Centennial, CO. 80112.

The Walnut Hills Scholarship Committee welcomes any comments or suggestions. They can be directed to the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund at 7219 S. Tamarac Ct. Centennial 80112, e-mail <jfuller@du.edu>, or to any of the members of the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund Board: Scott Bess, John Fuller, Diane Graham, Laura Klee, Bill Philpott

## Walnut Hills Civic Association Needs One More Board Member

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

Our last request, netted us two new Board members. We welcome Monica Danfelter and Traci Pole to our numbers, and hope to welcome John Schilling in January, but we're still one member short. We would love to find someone from the south side of Walnut Hills in the Dry Creek enrollment area.

We have two main tasks.

(1) We oversee the Walnut Hills General Improvement District (an entity on your property taxes), formed to build and maintain the perimeter fence and landscaping. Maggie Haskett is the Project Manager.

(2) We plan and carry out fun and useful events and activities for the neighborhood. Through member dues, we have (Jan.) Movie Night; (March) Annual Meeting; (March/April) Easter Egg Hunt; (May) Dumpster Days (2); (June) Lawn and Landscaping Contest; (July) Fourth of July Parade and Ice Cream Social; (August) National Night Out/Walnut Hills Block Party; (October) Dumpster Day & Electronic Recycling and Hazardous Waste Pick-up; (December) Holiday Lighting Contest. (Your \$25 membership dues are put to wonderful use!) For the love of Walnut Hills, come and join us.

Our Board meetings are always open to all residents. (2nd Thursdays - Metrum Credit Union 7-9 pm)

Please see [www.walnuthillscolorado.org](http://www.walnuthillscolorado.org) for more information or call me.

## Walnut Hills Snow Shoveling

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

A team of wonderful, dedicated Walnut Hills individuals have volunteered to shovel snow for those in the neighborhood who are not able to shovel: frail seniors and disabled. Jeryl Tippitt has put this volunteer corps together for about the last 4 years; in fact, it was his idea to start with. If you need this service, please, call Jeryl at (303) 946-7648 (outside of working hours) to request.

If you're willing to shovel someone else's snow, please, let Jeryl know. He only pairs one shoveler with one in need.

For those of you who have a volunteer shoveler, don't forget to say thank you! Warm fuzzies are always in order.

## Holiday Lighting Contest, Cash Prizes

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

If all goes as planned, the judges will survey the neighborhood on 22 Dec. to pick our Holiday Lighting winners. Please, have your outside holiday decorations lit that evening, starting at 6pm. Prizes are: 1st place = \$100, 2nd place = \$75, and 3rd place = \$50. You must be a member of the Walnut Hills Civic Assoc. to win a cash

prize. We always survey the neighborhood and pick at least ten excellent houses and then find that only three or four of them are WHCA members. Join the WHCA for a chance to win your membership back and then some. To pay your dues, please, go to [www.walnuthillscolorado.org](http://www.walnuthillscolorado.org) and click on Dues/Scholarship. From there you can pay by credit card on PayPal or print out a membership to mail in with your check. We are 17 members shy of reaching 50% of the neighborhood! Dues paid after 1 January count toward the 2016-17 membership year.

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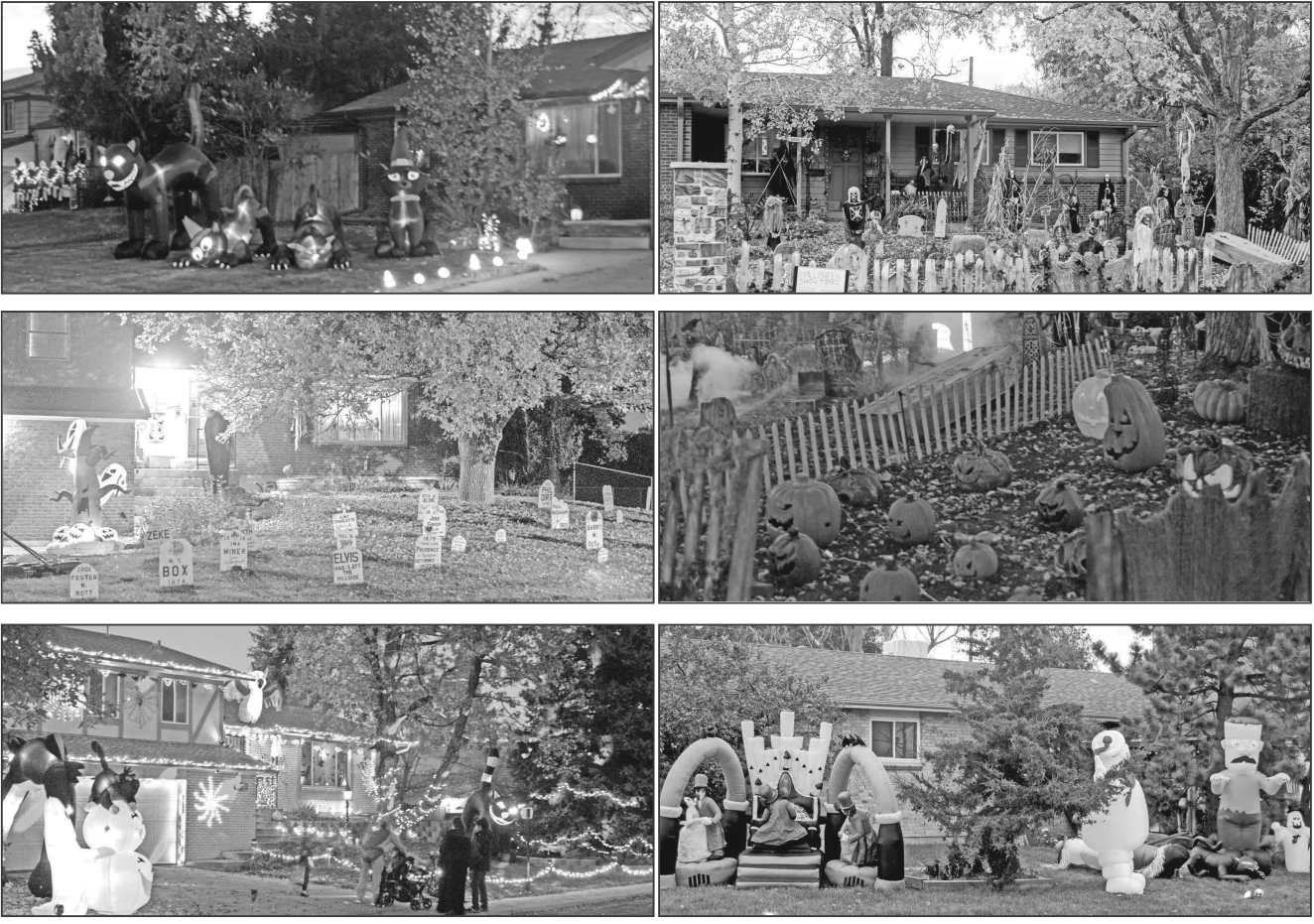
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## What a Treat!

Halloween is an especially interesting time to take pictures but it is also a difficult time as well. Many people put a lot of effort into decorating for Christmas and the decorations stay up for several weeks. However, Halloween decorations are up for a much shorter period of time and the effort people make is especially worth the time to walk around the neighborhood. I truly enjoyed getting out and getting pictures of these homes as did the crowds I saw. Jesse J Alcorta



## Meet the Advertiser

### EnviroShield Exclusively From Maid Right

Your neighbor, Maid Right of Highlands Ranch, is located at 7790 E Arapahoe Rd on the southwest corner of Arapahoe Rd and Spruce Street. Besides offering home cleaning services, Maid Right exclusively offers a unique disinfecting process called EnviroShield.

Clean And Disinfect Every Surface With Complete Safety. EnviroShield is a unique home disinfecting service from Maid Right with some equally unique advantages. Unlike regular disinfectant sprays, the EnviroShield disinfectant sprayer unit passes disinfectant through an electrostatic nozzle that negatively charges the mist as it is sprayed. The disinfecting mist clings to and wraps around every surface it touches, killing harmful bacteria and viruses such as MRSA, E.Coli and H1N1 in places like toy boxes, bathrooms and kitchen prep areas that regular cleaning cannot normally reach. EnviroShield goes way beyond surface contact to provide total disinfecting contact, leaving your home a cleaner and healthier place to be.

EnviroShield Puts Safety First. We know you'll want to be reassured that the EnviroShield system is completely safe for use in your home. The EnviroShield disinfectant spray liquid is rated by the EPA as a category IV disinfectant, making it completely safe for use in all areas and on all surfaces in your home. It is equally safe environmentally for the whole family. In addition the EnviroShield system has been extensively tested and is used regularly by our sister company

JAN-Pro in commercial cleaning setting such as office building, health clubs and day care centers. EnviroShield is safe for every member of your family and even family pets.

Our Cleaning Commitment Runs Just As Deep. The EnviroShield system is just one of the ways Maid Right delivers superior home cleaning service. An application of EnviroShield can be the final step in having your house professionally cleaned!

Give your neighbor, Maid Right of Highlands Ranch a call at 720-897-6243 (MAID) for a free in-home estimate of their cleaning services.

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## South Suburban

### NEW Outdoor Pickleball Courts Open at Cornerstone Park!

Newly opened, Year round, Cornerstone Park, 5150 Windermere Street, (corner of Windermere & Bellevue)

The nation's fastest growing sport is now available at Cornerstone Park! Six brand new outdoor Pickleball courts were recently constructed and are now open to the public. The courts have a temporary surface for winter play. The permanent surface will be applied this spring. No reservations necessary. Bring your own equipment.

### Happy Hour Fitness Challenge

Through Dec 30, Monday – Friday, all classes after 4 pm; All day Saturday and Sunday

Buck Recreation Center, 2004 W. Powers Ave, Littleton

Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 S University Blvd., Centennial  
Lone Tree Recreation Center, 10249 Ridgeway Circle, Lone Tree

Attend 5 drop-in fitness classes and enter your name to win great prizes. Pick up your Happy Hour Fitness Tracker from recreation center front desk staff. Every 5 classes you attend are good for one entry into the drawing. For more information, contact Kelsey Whisler at KelseyW@sspr.org.

### FREE! December Equipment Orientations at 3 recreation centers

Wednesday, Dec 2, 11:30 am – 12:45 pm, Lone Tree Recreation Center

Tuesday, Dec 8, 9 – 10:15 am, Buck Recreation Center

Friday, Dec 11, 9 – 10:15 am, Goodson Recreation Center

Saturday, Dec 12, 11:30 am – 12:45 pm, Lone Tree Recreation Center

Thursday, Dec 17, 6:30 – 7:45 pm, Buck Recreation Center

Ages 10 and up are invited to attend a general orientation session with a personal trainer in a group setting to learn safe and proper use of a variety of cardiovascular and weight machines. Ages 10-13 must be accompanied by a registered adult. Register online. Arrive on time, or your place may be given to another participant. For any questions, please contact fitness@sspr.org

### Holiday Pass Sales,

Through – Sunday, Jan 3, 2016

10% off all Pass Sales, 10% off personal training, Pilates reformer, massage and facial packages.

Let the Holiday gift savings begin. For more information, call 303.347.5999.

### Pottery Guild Sales

Monday-Wednesday, 8 am – 8 pm

Nov 30-Dec 2, Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 S University Blvd., Centennial

Dec 7-9 Buck Recreation Center, 2004 W. Powers Ave, Littleton,

Purchase beautiful pieces of hand crafted pottery by members of South Suburban's Pottery Guild. For more information, contact Darcie LaScala at DarcieL@sspr.org.

### Annual Golf Holiday/Customer Appreciation Sale

Thursday, Dec. 3, 4 – 8 pm, Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel, 9808

Sunningdale Blvd., Lone Tree.

This is your opportunity to receive great prices on all your golfing needs and apparel. There will be specials on food and drinks in the grill. For more information, please call 303-790-0202.

### Fri Nite Extreme

Friday, Dec 4, 6:30-10:00 pm, Family Sports Center, 6901 S. Peoria, Centennial.

Activities will include Holiday themes for ages 6-13: Ice skating, laser tag, eXerGame Zone, climbing wall, bumper cars, inflatable obstacle course, and more! Concessions and arcade games extra. Register online (ssprd.org) or at the door. This is a supervised program. Parents and adult chaperones must sign their children in and out of the program. Contact Christina Ibarra at 303.754.0552 or christinaI@sspr.org for more information.

### Free Admission - 29th Annual Arts & Craft Fair

Saturday, Dec 5, 9:30 am – 3 pm, Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 S University Blvd., Centennial.

Hand-made crafts, pottery, jewelry, clothing, quilts, paintings, photography, floral arrangements, wood-work, holiday items, specialty foods and much more from 75 Colorado artisans. For more information, contact Darcie La Scala at DarcieL@sspr.org

### Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec 5, seating either 8:30 – 9:00 am or 9:30 – 10:30 am, Buck Recreation Center,

Santa will be here to give out goodies and spread Holiday cheer. Bring the whole family to this event sponsored by the Littleton Rotary. Includes pancake breakfast, photos with Santa. Seating is limited. Registration required. Fee: 10-Senior Resident \$4; 10-Senior Nonresident \$5; All children under 10 \$2

### FREE Holiday Ice Shows at 2 locations

Friday, Dec 11, 6 pm, Saturday, Dec. 12, 3:15 pm; South Suburban Ice Arena, 6580 S Vine St., Centennial.

Sunday, Dec 13, 3:15 pm. Family Sports Center Ice Arena, 6901 S Peoria St., Centennial

Families come enjoy an ice show like none other. Your only fee is a non-perishable food items for our annual food drive benefiting Food Bank of the Rockies. For more information, contact Gerry Lane at GerryL@ssprd.org.

### Skate with Santa

Friday, Dec 11, 7-7:45 pm, Saturday, Dec 12, 2:15 – 3:00 pm, South Suburban Ice Arena

Saturday, Dec 12, 1:00-1:45 pm, Sunday, Dec 13, 2:15 – 3:00 pm, Family Sports Center Ice Arena,

Skate with Santa at public skating sessions after or before the Ice Shows. For more information, contact Gerry Lane at GerryL@sspr.org.

### FREE! Cooley Lake Nature Walks

Saturday, Dec 12, 9:30-11 am, South Platte Park, 3000 W Carson Drive, Littleton.

Explore Cooley Lake wildlife area during a naturalist-guided walk. This area has limited public access to protect our wildlife. These hikes fill up fast, so register soon. All ages welcomed and

children under 16 years old must be accompanied by a registered adult. For more information, please contact Victoria Sutton at victorias@sspr.org

### Family Fun Night

Friday, Dec 18, 6-7:30 pm, South Suburban Ice Arena, 6580 S Vine St., Centennial.

Ugly Christmas Sweater Night. Wear and vote for the ugliest sweater of the evening! Win prizes. Fees: \$5.75 Resident (with a current South Suburban ID card); \$7.75 Non-Resident. For more information, contact Jeff Schneider at JeffS@ssprd.org or call 303.798.7881.

### Parents Night Out, Gymnastics

Friday, Dec 18, 7:30-9:30 pm, Goodson Recreation Center

Ages 5-12 boys and girls-gymnasts and non-gymnasts, gymnastics club coaches and gymnastics instructors. Enjoy a night out while your kids are safe and entertained in our state-of-the-art gymnastics facility. Activities will vary but may include obstacle course, tumble trampoline, parachute games, flying belt and more.

No food or beverages supplied during the program or allowed in the gymnastics facility. Fee: \$15 Resident, \$20 Nonresident; Day of event: \$18 Resident, \$23 Nonresident. Contact Ashleigh Klausner at AshleighK@sspr.org

### Friday Night Films at the Nature Center

Friday, Dec 18, 7-8:30 pm, South Platte Park, 3000 W Carson Drive, Littleton.

Skip the theater and enjoy fireside in the nature center classroom the nature film Touching the Wild (Deer).

In this powerful and emotional film, a naturalist joins a herd of mule deer and lives with them through their journeys. Due to very strong content, not recommended for children under 15. Fee: \$5.

### Free! Christmas Tree Recycling.

Saturday, Dec 26, 2015 – Jan 11, 2016, sunrise to sunset, Cornerstone Park, 5150 S. Windermere Littleton and Willow Spring Service Center, 7100 S. Holly, Centennial.

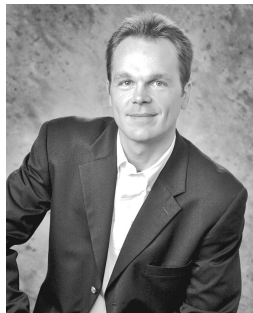
Residents can drop off their live Christmas trees for recycling 7

days a week. Remember to remove plastic bags, ornaments, lights, tinsel and stands. Yard refuse and flocked or artificial trees will not be accepted. Free mulch will then be available beginning Wednesday, Dec 30 weekdays, 7:30 am – 3 pm at Willow Spring Service Center. South Suburban is happy to offer this free service to our residents-Happy Holidays! For more information, call 303.721.8478.

### New Year's Eve Party... Ring In The 70's

Thursday, Dec 31, 2015 8:00 pm – Friday, Jan 1, 2016 12:30 am, Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel, 9808 Sunningdale Blvd., Lone Tree.

We're ringing in the 70's with disco lights, an hor d'oeuvres buffet and midnight Champagne and dessert. Dance the night away to the music of Donna Summer and Saturday Night Fever. Fee of \$70.00 per person, plus tax and service, includes two drink tickets per person, and a cash bar. So brush up on The Hustle and join the Disco Inferno. Just call 303.790-0202 for reservations or information



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### Walnut Hills Home Sales

September 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 thru November 12<sup>th</sup> 2015

7483 E Costilla Pl: SOLD \$395,000  
7353 S Tamarac St: SOLD \$375,000  
6829 S Roslyn Cir: SOLD \$348,000

6922 S Ulster Cir: SOLD \$340,000  
8547 E Costilla Ave: SOLD \$337,800  
7100 S Uinta St: SOLD \$325,000

Based on information from REColorado®, Inc. for the period 9/19/2015 thru 11/12/2015. 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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## Castlewood Library

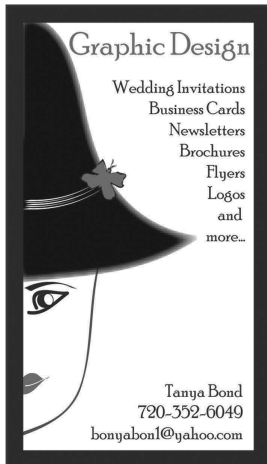
12/5/2015 Saturday  
1:30 to 3:30 pm

All Welcome! Join us for Castlewood's annual Holiday Open House, featuring holiday harp guitar music performed by Brad Hoyt. There will also be refreshments and children's crafts. Be sure to stop by our MakerSpace to see all the exciting technology available. Registration not required.

## Twas the Night Before Christmas Story and Crafts

12/22/2015 Tuesday  
4:00 - 5:00 pm

You've heard the story since you were a kid. Now make some new memories. Make some tiny holiday mice, a special key to allow Santa in when the chimney isn't an option and some special food to draw reindeer to your house. Maybe even taste one of those sugarplums that dance in your head. Register online!



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## Lone Tree Symphony Orchestra

Friday, December 11, 2015, at 7:30pm  
Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 2:00pm

### Happy Holly Days!

The Lone Tree Symphony rings in the Sounds of the Season with a delightful collection of popular and classical holiday favorites guaranteed to put listeners in the spirit of Christmas, featuring:

*Canzon septimi toni no. 2 – Giovanni Gabrieli*

*Christmas Festival – Leroy Anderson*

*Sospiri – Adagio for Strings and Harp – Edward Elgar*

*Twas the Night Before Christmas – arr. Bill Holcombe*

*Christmas at the Movies – Arr. Bob Krogstad*

*Polonaise from Christmas Eve Suite – Rimsky-Korsakov*

*In the Bleak Midwinter – Gustav Holst / arr. Smith & McCashin*

*A Christmas Portrait – arr. Mark Hayes*

*Three Dances from the Fantastic Toyshop – O. Respighi / e. Stroud*

*Jingle Bells Forever – Robert W. Smith / arr. McCashin*

Adding to the fun will be Old Saint Nicholas himself!

Holiday Events at Lone Tree Arts Center  
10075 Commons Street, Lone Tree CO. 80124  
720.509.1000

[lonetreeartscenter.org](http://lonetreeartscenter.org)

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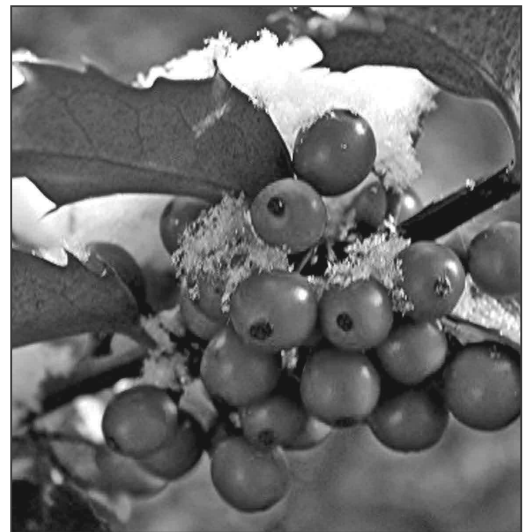
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If you're a paid member of the Civic Assoc., please, send your email address to Andrea Suhaka, [standy@ecentral.com](mailto:standy@ecentral.com), to keep updated on WHCA events and activities.

## "100 Cars at Dumpster Day!"

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

On 10 October, the Walnut Hills Civic Assoc. sponsored its third and final Dumpster Day of the year, including electronic recycling. Many thanks go to Donna Senn, representing Neighborhood 5, for putting the event together for the WHCA members. Donna has been the lead for this event for at least five years! We had an astonishing, record-breaking 100 vehicles come through on that day, and 14 new members for the WHCA. Some just had recycling, some just had dumpster fodder, but some had both. It seemed to run very smoothly. The WHCA paid \$3,224 for electronic recycling and \$1,000 for the garbage trucks. This is not an inexpensive event for the WHCA but, the Board feels it's a worthwhile service for our member. We have found, after doing this for almost 30 years, that we will need to charge extra for oversize vehicles or trailers. We do not have the parameters for that, yet.

Sadly, the Hazardous Waste Collection day on 14 October did not fare even as well as last year. We only had 7 pick-ups in the neighborhood. We had 30 last year. Please, let me know if you'd like the WHCA to continue sponsoring this event. Thirty slots were held for us, meaning people in other neighborhoods could not use the service. Should we do this again next year?

Photography by Jesse J Alcorta



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## Greetings from Boy Scout Troop 574!

Our fall has been a productive one, starting with our annual Palisade peach fundraiser. We sold over 3500 pounds of peaches this year and already can't wait for the delicious peaches of next summer. If you'd like to be notified when they go on sale, please email [michelle@chaffin.net](mailto:michelle@chaffin.net) to be put on our peach email list.

Our boys have been working hard at their rank advancement, and we currently have four young men working on their Eagle Scout rank. The boys have camped twice this fall. At the district Camporee, held at Peaceful Valley down in Elbert County they were able to participate in a variety of outdoor challenges, such as repelling and an orienteering course. Last month at Rocky Mountain National Park, the guys got to see elk bugling during sunrise, after eating Dutch oven cinnamon rolls, of course.

We collected over 275 pounds of food for the 9Cares food drive this month and are looking forward to more service projects in the upcoming months. In December, we'll be volunteering at the Santa Claus Shop in Denver, and January is our annual tree pickup and recycling. We hosted our annual Punkin' Chunkin' at Hunters Hill park on November 1st; never has a food fight been so well engineered, or so much fun!

## Pickleball

Frank Haskett

When I saw the volleyball standards disappear and the disc golf baskets go up, I knew that things were changing in Walnut Hills. Along with these I noticed a new game being played on the tennis courts.

At first blush it looks like a cross between tennis and ping pong. Large paddles are used and a "whiffle" ball. The net is lower than a tennis net. Only half of the tennis court is used. It's called "pickle ball" and it's said to be the fastest new sport in the U.S. Two or four can play. The first to reach eleven wins the game. The people at our courts are a loose knit group of friends, but south Suburban Parks and Recreation can put you in touch with a chance to play pickleball.

Aaron Mittelstadet at 303-483-7029 told me that they have "boot camp clinics" which can be accessed on line at [ssprd.org/pickleball/search](http://ssprd.org/pickleball/search). They play outdoors weather permitting, and indoors year round. Indoors courts are at places like Goodson Recreation Center (next to Dekovend park) and there is also one in Lone Tree, plus various other gyms. They have no leagues, but instead there are drop in or pickup games available. Have fun.



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## Walnut Hills Civic Association Sponsors a Family-friendly Movie Night

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

Come one, come all! We'll show Minions on Saturday, 30 January 2016, at 3pm in the Walnut Hills School gym. It's free(!) and all children must be accompanied by a parent. We'll have popcorn and a beverage. You must be a resident of Walnut Hills to attend this program. We'll check addresses at the door. You don't need to be a member of the WHCA (but that would be nice).

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## Monarchs and Cosmos

Bruce Ferguson

Apparently, nobody knows where the term indian summer actually came from. It's the only term I have ever known to define the type of fall we had. It was a bit dry, but you really can't complain about the warm days; about August though, you can complain. My lawn is greener now and growing better than it did in either July or August. I am beginning to realize I don't really like the summer anymore. It is just too hot. Either it needs to be cooler, or it needs to rain a bit more. I looked briefly at the new Water Initiative the Governor proposed for Colorado this fall and I didn't see a single reference to increasing the amount of rain fall in July and August. Why is it government officials never seem to want to fix the real problems?

We went to a wedding on the east coast just for a long weekend and when we got back the rabbits in the back yard were gone. They just seemed to vanish. I am not complaining about this, but I am curious about the cause. My theory is that some one of my neighbors must have gotten a new dog. Part of the reason I like that theory is that it doesn't involve me owning a dog. It's like I get all the benefits without all the responsibility. The only other theories I have are far more nefarious and I prefer not to entertain those. So I am going with the dog in part

at least because the two cats I see regularly are both far too thin to be eating so well.

Around the beginning of October, when the Cosmos were all in bloom, I notice a few Monarch Butterflies in the yard. I haven't seen nary a one of these insects for a couple of years now and I know people far and wide are worried about their populations. So it was a pleasant surprise to see them. Cosmos are pretty easy to grow. I see them all over the neighborhood in the late summer. So I would like to encourage people to buy a pack of seeds and toss them on the ground. That is about all it takes. The alternative of course is to grow the milkweed (Asclepias) which these flutterbys use to spawn on, but quite honestly I have failed to grow this plant for the last few years. Perhaps you could have more luck. Personally, I blame the governor for the lack of rain in July and August.

The other flower I would like to nominate for flower of the year is coreopsis. This is one of those plants that just flowers month after month, looks great and is easy to care for. I saw it everywhere this summer and I began to wonder why it is I don't grow it? It is something I am planning on changing come the spring.



## Smashing School Events

{school is now exciting}

by Amy Tesa and Bri Weesner

When you think of school, you might think only of homework and learning, but teachers found a way, a new way, to make it fun. This means that throughout the school year the teachers and staff plan many exciting school activities and now you can look back at school and think it is fun!

### CAMP CHELEY!

Calling all 5th graders! The Camp Cheley big event is coming up! Pack up your sleeping bags and pillows, because the bus is leaving on May 18th. Camp Cheley is an amazing experience and a great way for fifth graders to make the most of their last year in Elementary School. This is also a way for students to learn fun and exciting things like fishing, hiking and so many other outdoor activities. Teachers, students, and even parents who are invited to this exciting event will get a an amazing experience. Camp Cheley is an all around educational experience and I hope you can go.

### TURKEY TROT!

Thanksgiving is here and that means the Turkey Trot is too! The Turkey Trot is an annual event at Walnut Hills Elementary, where a staff member dresses up as a turkey, and all the students try to guess who is under the mask. Also, all the students race around a track and try to beat the mystery turkey. When the race is over, everyone gathers in the auditorium for a celebration. The name of every student is put into a hat, and if your name is drawn, you win a pie or turkey dinner to take home! This is a very fun chance for students to get active and maybe even win some prizes while they are at it. This is yet another walnut hills event and it is sure a fun one. I hope you can come!

### FIELD DAY!

Field Day! Just the thought makes you want to run and play, well now it's coming your way.

A few weeks in advance, students can order a t-shirt to match fellow students. On the day of the event, stations are set up around the school, with fun activities, such as water balloon toss, obstacle courses, and tug of war. This event is fun, and an inclusive way for all the grades to come together and have a blast!

### VETERAN'S DAY

Here at Walnut Hills, we have an annual assembly to celebrate those who have served and put themselves on the line for us. This is a very needed assembly and Walnut Hills can proudly say that we celebrate this special day every year. Walnut Hills really makes sure that we thank those who serve. First we gather all family members who have served and sing to them to show how much we care. Then we play a video of all veterans, even those who could not make it to the Veteran's Day celebration. This veterans celebration is just an all around amazing event.

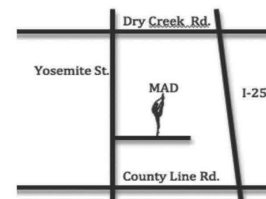
Walnut hills is a wonderful school with so many amazing events for all grades, parents, and staff. This school is proud to say that the person who made this all happen is Cyndi Burdick, the principal of Walnut Hills. We are proud to have her as our leader. This awesome school she has shaped for us is a perfect environment for us kids. This is an astonishing school with amazing events and we are very proud to call this our second home.



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## Bye Bye Buddy

By Lorraine May, M.A.

Misha May Foundation Dog Training and Rescue

Buddy is gone. There is a huge empty space where he used to be for the humans and the dogs who knew and loved him. It was sudden and unexpected. Because of Misha May Foundation Dog Training and Rescue's Canine CPR class taught by Eric Roth, I knew immediately that Buddy had the beginning symptoms of bloat. I rushed

him to the emergency veterinarian where his prognosis was positive. Unfortunately, when they opened him up, they saw multiple cancerous tumors which were bleeding. The vet recommended euthanasia merciful, yet heart wrenching and we agreed.

### Saying Good-Bye

For me, the grief process began immediately. I had been with Buddy and had made the best possible decisions. I had taken the opportunity to say good-bye and express my love. But what were his canine friends experiencing in regard to his absence? We had fled the house abruptly, with Buddy groaning in obvious pain and distress. I wanted to help the other dogs cope with and understand their loss. Friends helped me transport Buddy's body home and place him on the floor in the middle of the living room. Later we would return him for cremation. Each canine friend was allowed as much time as they needed with Buddy. Most smelled him, seeming to absorb the new information, and feeling satisfied, walked away. The process felt necessary, respectful and reverent.

Though his two closest friends were clearly distraught, they would be able to accept his death more readily because of the certainty of the "funeral." Brinx avoided looking at the body so intently that you knew it was all he could see. He wildly sought comfort from the humans present before calming down. He still seems a bit lost and directionless, following me around from room to room, his sorrowful eyes seeking mine, as he gratefully accepts my pats and caresses. Buddy had guided Brinx to become more confident and mature. I anticipate his behavior may continue to change as time passes without his big brother to support him.

Sam's reaction was dramatic. Crying and running around in circles, he remained agitated and forlorn. When it was time to have a bathroom break, Sam simply stood on the back steps and waited. He was too anxious to venture into the yard without his big brother Buddy's steadfast presence. Brinx and Sam will require patience and understanding over the coming weeks as they come to terms with this huge loss.

### Remembrance

Buddy touched the lives of innumerable people and dogs with his relaxed smile and gentle gaze. He tenderly raised every Misha May rescue puppy, though he resembled an elephant dancing away from mice during his first litter encounter. When the puppies needed a potty break during the night, Buddy placed himself between them and the outer fence, instinctively assuming his role as protector. He was our go-to guy in desensitization training exercises with dogs afraid of other dogs. When Kabul arrived with separation anxiety and PTSD from Afghanistan, they became fast friends. Buddy was able to assure Kabul that he, too, could recover and savor his life in the U.S.

Buddy was a master at adjusting his play to accommodate smaller, more timid or older dogs. Sometimes, as in the case of Heidi, a nervous little shepherd, he was the only dog she tolerated in close proximity. He was also a loving, but firm uncle teaching boundaries and polite behavior. When Duke arrived as a self-important four-month-old pup, who tried to mount and hump Buddy, and Buddy gave him "his look" and a low growl. I will always remember how Duke awoke the next morning as a sweet deferential puppy. Buddy was a teacher and a friend.



This is a photo of Buddy. He was a kind soul whose presence made the world a better place. He will be missed by many and remembered often with much love. May he rest in peace.

Each dog has a relational role to the other dogs he or she lives and plays with. They bond deeply to their people; their companion animals, and their homes, and they grieve when faced with death, loss and separation.

### Grief in the Shelter

When dogs are abandoned at shelters they begin grieving once they are no longer in denial and realize it isn't a boarding kennel and that no one is coming back for them. It can become even more intense if they are given up with a lifelong pal and then separated, as one is adopted and the other is left behind.

Many don't get the chance to complete their grieving process if they are in a shelter which euthanizes. Once they become angry, they are labeled as aggressive and unadoptable, but in shelters which give more time or don't euthanize at all, dogs can move through their anger, often without ever acting it out with a bite. Just as we humans begin to face our post-grief lives with renewed energy and optimism, so can bereaved dogs.

My dog Bella was in deep depression when I adopted her. She was 35 pounds overweight and turned away from me at her kennel door. When I met with her in the visitor's room, she went under a chair and ignored me. Her eyes were vacant and hopeless. I never regretted adopting her though, because she eventually revealed her true self, an enjoyably quirky individual.

### Lone Survivor Justice

The only dog who didn't get a chance to say good-bye to Buddy was Justice, a one-year-old Border collie mix rescued from a horrendous situation. His mom and five siblings had tragically died from abuse, leaving him alone to fend for himself in a world of humans abusing him and dogs attacking him. He was deeply immersed in his own grief and hadn't met Buddy.

Justice's grief is so great that he has not yet re-entered the world. His safe and secure environment includes the bottom of a small crate inside a very large crate. Venturing outside of the crate happens only when he is alone and treats have been left to lure him to expand his world.

He is very alone because he fears and mistrusts both humans and canines. He doesn't trust touch or enjoy anyone in close proximity. His individual grief process is unfolding slowly as he also recovers from traumatic physical and emotional wounds. As a foster with Misha May Foundation Dog Training and Rescue, he will be supported in his grieving process to reveal who he truly is.

Lorraine May founded the Misha May Foundation Dog Training and Rescue in 2001 in memory of her dog Misha who had passed away from cancer. She has extensive experience in dealing with extreme separation anxiety and other behavioral issues in dogs. The Misha May Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dog rescue which offers a wide variety of educational classes to the community. The Misha May Foundation was voted #1 Best Dog Training on Denver's A\*List 3 years in a row! The 6 week Understanding Dogs Behavior class has a unique individualized approach. The Dog Trainer Apprentice Program is designed for the working person and teaches our effective reward-based, anxiety-reducing techniques. [www.mishamayfoundation.org](http://www.mishamayfoundation.org) mishamayfoundation@gmail.com 303-239-0382

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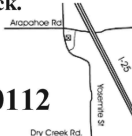
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## Walnut Hills Civic Association Annual Meeting

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

Put this date on your calendar: March 10, 2016. The Civic Association will have its annual meeting on that date, 7pm at Metrum Community Credit Union at 6980 S. Holly Circle.

We don't have our agenda, yet, but we usually have our Centennial Councilmen and the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office. You'll hear about our budget for the year and upcoming plans for the Arapahoe and Yosemite noise walls. There plenty of information to pass along so we hope you'll be there.

We also have an election of Board members, those that have been appointed during the year, one vacant seat, and members in even-numbered Neighborhoods.

More information will be sent in email to those paid members who have given me their email addresses. If you'd like to receive emails from the WHCA, please, send your e-address to me at the email address above.

## The Hudson Gardens & Event Center invites you to a Hudson Christmas



5-8:30 p.m., select evenings November 27, 2015 – January 2, 2016  
 Tickets are \$8 for children and \$11 for adults at AltitudeTickets.com.

Littleton's favorite holiday event, A Hudson Christmas, returns to The Hudson Gardens & Event Center on Friday, November 27. A Hudson Christmas' combination of the natural beauty of The Gardens and fanciful, unique Christmas displays makes this an enjoyable event for the entire family. Guests will enjoy a festive holiday light display, free wagon rides, free visits with Santa Claus (through December 23) and more! The outdoor walking path winds through Hudson Gardens, featuring over 250,000 twinkling lights and is wheelchair and stroller accessible. Depending on pace (and photo opportunities!) it will take guests visiting A Hudson Christmas anywhere from 45 to 90 minutes to enjoy the display. Additionally, Nixon's Coffee House will be open and selling a variety of hot beverages and snacks to enjoy.

The magic begins on Friday, November 27 and continues from 5-8:30 p.m. nightly through Sunday, November 29, from Thursday, December 3 through Sunday, December 6, from Thursday, December 10 through Wednesday, December 23, and Saturday, December 26 through Saturday, January 2.

Tickets are \$8 for children ages 4-12, \$9 for Hudson Gardens' members and active/retired military veterans and \$11 for adults. Children ages 3 and under are free. Visitors on Mondays can purchase the Family Fun Deal, which provides entrance for two adults and up to four children for just \$30. Tickets will be available beginning November 23 at www.altitudetickets.com, in person from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. daily at The Hudson Gardens' Welcome Center, or at the door on event nights. Group discounts are available for parties of 15 or more.

The Hudson Gardens & Event Center is located at 6115 S. Santa Fe Drive in Littleton, just minutes from historic downtown Littleton and adjacent to Arapahoe Community College. Parking is ample and always free. More information at www.hudsongardens.org.

## Letter to the Editor:

### Walnut Hills Scholarships Exceed \$176,500.

Since the inception of the Walnut Hills Scholarship Program, over \$176,500 has been awarded to 130 students living in Walnut Hills.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our genuine thanks to three major supporters of the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund. Walnut Hills residents are every year, without question, the primary source of money for the scholarship program. The Walnut Hills Civic Association (WHCA) serves as a critical supporter, not just the substantial money they donate from membership dues, but the logistics that they provide as a vehicle for residents to contribute with their WHCA membership dues. The Walnut Hills Newsletter provides financial support from advertising profits, but also from the use of the Newsletter as a means of much appreciated communication is vital. Without a doubt, the scholarship program would suffer without the support of these three community groups.

We assure you that every effort is made to make the scholarship selection process fair and impartial and that every penny donated goes directly to students.

There are few communities that have such a program, and it could not be done without the support of residents and organizations such as ours.

The scholarship program is proud to announce the membership of three outstanding new Board members: Scott Bess, Laura Klee and Bill Philpott. They replace Joan Rowe who served so well on the Board for several years and Eric Schultz who moved out of Walnut Hills.

The Scholarship Board is interested in hearing from any WH resident who might be interested in serving on the WH Scholarship Board or the Scholarship Selection Committee. Information about either of these opportunities can be obtained from John Fuller at 303-771-2838, jfuller@du.edu., or WH Scholarship Fund, 7219 S. Tamarac Ct, Centennial, CO 80112.

Thanks again for your support of our outstanding students, Walnut Hills Scholarship Board. Scott Bess, John Fuller, Diane Graham, Laura Klee, Bill Philpott

Walnut Hills Parents! Would you like to connect with the other parents in the neighborhood? Join us on Facebook!

The group name is "Walnut Hills Parents" and is currently a public group while everyone finds it and joins. See you there!

Any questions or comments please email Brianna: BriannaFriend@gmail.com

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