

# Walnut Hills Newsletter

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## Reminder: Walnut Hill's Scholarship Information

High School Seniors are reminded that the deadline for applying for the Walnut Hill's Scholarship is March 4, 2015. However, over the years, we have found that those students that apply early are much more likely to be awarded a scholarship. This is because early applicants take more time to complete the application and get the needed recommendations. Last minute applications tend to look rushed and not near as complete; so apply early. Applications for Cherry Creek High School students are available in the Post Grad Center at CCHS. Walnut Hills high school seniors attending other high schools may pick up an application from John Fuller at 7219 S. Tamarac Ct. 303-771-2838.

Walnut Hills Residents are reminded that in the past several years, due to your support, we have been able to give out four \$2,500.00 scholarships totaling \$10,000.00 each year. Last year contributions slightly exceeded the \$10,000.00 so the Scholarship Board decided to award a fifth scholarship for \$2,500.00 if the contributions will cover it. If you have not contributed before, this is your chance to help a student make college more accessible. An increase of 10% in your contribution will easily make a scholarship available for a fifth student. You can contribute by adding your contribution onto your Walnut Hill's Civic Assn. yearly dues which comes out in March or you can send it directly to: Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund, 7219 S. Tamarac Ct., Centennial, CO 80112.

Thank you for supporting a worthwhile cause, Walnut Hills Scholarship Board

## Snow Heroes in Walnut Hills

Joe Compton, WHCA Board member, Neighborhood 14, Neighborhood14@walnuthillscolorado.org

December 2014 was a fairly snowy month with 12 total inches of snow falling in the Denver metro area. A lot of this snow inevitably ends up on our neighborhood sidewalks and can create dangerous conditions for pedestrians. Snow on sidewalks that is walked upon can create a "hard pack" or ice over time, if it isn't removed soon after the storms end. To help mitigate this problem the City of Centennial created the Snow Hero program ([www.centennialco.gov/snowhero](http://www.centennialco.gov/snowhero)). This initiative recommends that homeowners remove snow from sidewalks that line their property within 24 hours of a snow storm and rewards them if they do. This is a voluntary program, as Centennial does not have an ordinance that dictates the removal of snow on city sidewalks. If you shovel, please, go into the Snow Hero website (or call the City at 303-325-8000) and put yourself in for a pat on the back! If someone shovels for you, put that person in to be a Snow Hero. We'd love to see Snow Hero signs sprout all over our neighborhood!

The Walnut Hills Civic Association would like to invite all residents to become Snow Heroes and keep our neighborhood safe by shoveling or snow blowing the sidewalks along the front and sides of your property. This will help prevent slips and falls on snow covered sidewalks, especially for children who have to walk every day to school or the bus. Everyone is potentially unsteady trying to walk on ice. If any residents are physically unable to participate in the Snow Hero program, please, contact Walnut Hills Civic Association Board member Jeryl Tippets at 303-713-1822, [www.walnuthillscolorado.org/info.php#news3](http://www.walnuthillscolorado.org/info.php#news3). Jeryl heads up the community snow removal program for neighborhood residents who cannot physically clear the snow from their drives or sidewalks. Jeryl always needs more volunteers with snow removal skills to help out our Walnut Hills neighbors. Please call Jeryl if you are able to help in that capacity.

## Walnut Hills Civic Association General Meeting

To all residents, our WHCA General Meeting will be coming up on 12 March 2015. We don't have an agenda, yet, but want folks to put it on their calendars. (If you have one for 2015, yet!)

We will have elections for our odd numbered Neighborhoods and for any Board member who was appointed during the year. Terms are 2 years and if you have an interest in joining us and making Walnut Hills the best neighborhood there is, please, give me a call or email. If there is an item you want discussed or on which you want information, let me know.

I doubt there's an expensive homeowners association out there that has as many fun and useful activities for their residents.

As a heads up, we'll be having the electronic recycling again next Oct. The hazardous waste disposal wasn't quite as popular, but we're also going to give that one more chance. Hard to believe but, Dumpster Days have been happening since 1986!!

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

## Walnut Hills Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 28

The Walnut Hills Civic Assoc. is beginning to plan for this year's Easter Egg Hunt event that will take place on 28 March. We all love to see the children eagerly scurrying to find all the candy and prizes the committee set out for them, but... we need help! The Hunt starts at 11 am at Walnut Hills School Park and here is the help needed.

Sargeants-at-arms to help keep the children off of the Hunt area until time. If you'll be there with a child anyway, why not volunteer to help?

- Needed from approximately 10:30-11 am. Adults to help put out all the candy (\$350 worth!) in four separate areas.
- Needed from approximately 10-10:45 am. Adults to work with our craft table, to help children with what they need. All supplies are provided.
- Needed from 11:15 - noon. Adults to provide cookies or cupcakes for the Cakewalk (like musical chairs with prizes) or to help run the Cakewalk. To work the Cakewalk, you'd be needed to help draw the "stones" at approximately 10:30 am; to work the "booth" you'd be needed 11:15-Noon.

If you want to help with any of these activities, you are invited to share in the fun!

Julie Gamec - 303-263-6823

WHCA Board member Neighborhood 6

## Update on the East Davies Ave. Speed Bump Project

Frank Haskett

After months of calling I finally caught up with traffic engineer Renaldo Melgoza. Our chances of getting anything done are getting narrower. Here's why.

They get several requests like ours each year, and they rank them. The criteria is: Speed of vehicles, number of vehicles, is there a school, library, store, etc. nearby, do the homes face the street (density of the homes), accident history, and cut through traffic data, including average speed. It seems to me that the cut through traffic would be speeding, compared to normal neighborhood traffic to the school, and averaging the speeds for a whole day would reduce the final numbers.

They measure the cut through traffic by putting someone at each end of the street in question. In this case, it would be Yosemite and Davies, and Uinta and Davies. If a car (license plate recognition) comes in from Yosemite, but doesn't come out at Uinta, it's not a cut through vehicle. I suggested that they should see where the vehicle is registered to-what address. They actually don't (won't?) do this. This is all part of something called the NTMP or Neighborhood traffic management program.

Each year in March they look at what complaints they have received in the previous year. Last year it was 15. So far this year it's six new requests, plus four carryovers. Because of money constraints, they only pick a single complaint to deal with; the top one on the list.

If we happened to be number one, then they have a meeting of neighbors, called by his boss, Stephanie Privette. Then they explain possible solutions at the meeting (it will not include speed dips-they absolutely will not do them). Then they have another meeting of the neighbors to see if a consensus can be reached as to a

solution. Since the first meeting is usually not held until September, that means that the second meeting is in November. I suggested that they have the first meeting in April and the second in May. They are concerned about people being gone on vacation, so the schedule is firm-September and November. Next would be ballots going out to the neighbors in December and returned by January. Fifty percent of the ballots must be returned and 2/3rds of them must be in favor of the same thing. I asked who gets to decide which are the options. I was told that the city and the neighbors at the second meeting, but the city can modify the wording after the fact. I was also told that the city will decide what will be on the ballots.

After this phone talk, I left word to Mr. Melgoza. I pointed out that people cut through our area in three different ways. They enter on Easter Place in Hunters Hill, turn north at Willow, and west on Davies Ave. They cut through on Davies Ave. west and turn north on Xanthia, and west on Briarwood, and finally they come in on Briarwood west to Uinta and north from there. I didn't get into it, but they also turn off Briarwood north on Willow. My point was that his method of counting who comes through Walnut Hills is going to be inaccurate unless they count license plates on Easter Place, Briarwood, Uinta, and so on.

If all of this sound complicated... it is. But remember that people from Walnut Hills actually did get the city to stop cut through traffic before in Walnut Hills; on Quebec during the morning drive time. Those signs are still in place on Quebec. The collective neighborhood that cares and complains about the safety of its streets is the project at the top of the list. That's doable. Give Renaldo Melgoza at the City of Centennial a call #303-325-8000.

# No Closing Cost Mortgage Loan

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## Walnut Hills Holiday Lights Contest

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

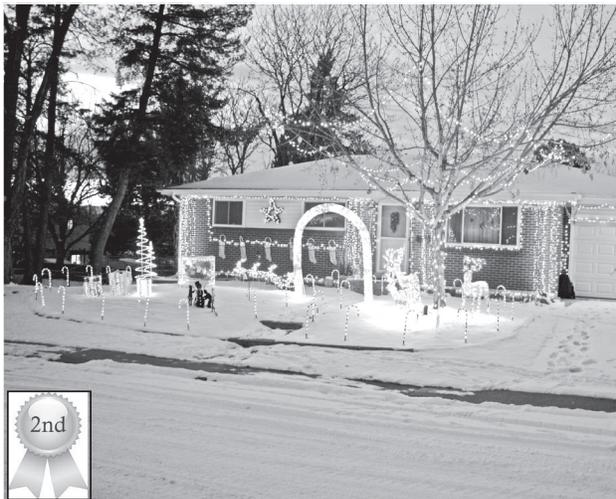
It's always exciting to range through the neighborhood in search of homes lit for the holidays. The judges headed out on 22 Dec. It was a cold, clear night, a good night for light spotting. Sadly, quite a few houses didn't have their lights turned on! We had a great time driving every street, avenue, lane, circle, court, and place. Some homes that were brightly lit in the past didn't have any lights, and, in general, Walnut Hills was quite a bit darker than it's been in years past. But, we did find eight homes that were really fun, bright and holiday-spirity. Of those, only five were paid members of the Civic Assoc. and eligible for prizes.

So, without further ado, here are our three top choices for the Holiday Lights contest for 2014. Drum roll, please.

1. Dave & Connie Laramie at 8343 E. Briarwood Pl. (\$100)
2. Dick & Mary Ann McNay at 6973 S. Ulster Cir. (\$75)
3. Greg & Cathy Engelken of 7763 E. Easter Ln. (\$50)

Prizes were awarded to the winners at our January WHCA Board meeting.

Thanks for keeping Walnut Hills a beautiful place during the holidays!



Photography by Jesse Alcorta

*What goes up, must come down!*

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## Looking for a Scoutmaster Role? Troop 574 is Recruiting



After 6 years of service Eric Vitcenda is stepping down from his role as Scoutmaster of Troop 574. Now that all three of his sons have aged out as Eagle Scouts, Eric is moving on to new adventures effective June 1.

So, are you looking for an opportunity to lead a small Troop located in Centennial...to have an immediate significant impact....to motivate and mold scouts into responsible young men...to have fun on camping trips throughout the year? If so, Troop 574 may be the home for you!

Troop 574 was formed in 1998 as an alternative to other older and larger local troops. Chartered by Dry Creek Elementary PTCO (which is also the chartering organization for the new Pack 674), it meets at Dry Creek Elementary (Dry Creek and Quebec in Centennial) on Tuesday evenings. Besides our adventurous monthly camping trips, we are most proud of our commitment to serve others, averaging at least 8 service projects per year.

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<http://centennial574.mytroop.us/>

Please contact either of the following for additional details:

**Donald Luther (Committee Chair): 303.332.5848 [donald.luther@gmail.com](mailto:donald.luther@gmail.com)**

**Eric Vitcenda (Scoutmaster): 303.884.1233 [scoutmaster@centennial574.mytroop.us](mailto:scoutmaster@centennial574.mytroop.us)**

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## Walnut Hills Home Sales

November 21st, 2014 thru January 21st, 2015

1. 8016 E Fremont Ave: SOLD \$367,500
2. 8251 E Briarwood Blvd: SOLD \$364,500
3. 7773 E Costilla Blvd: SOLD \$350,000
4. 7449 S Tamarac Ct: SOLD \$335,000
5. 7072 S Tamarac St: SOLD \$315,500

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# Scouts in Walnut Hills

## Troop 257

Troop 257 located in Walnut Hills meets every Thursday at Walnut Hills Elementary at 7:00pm. We are very active in the community and the scouting movement. A few weeks ago our troop had it semi-annual planning meeting. During these meetings we plan for the months ahead and schedule troop campouts and other activities. This February is our annual winter campout at Tahosa, a High Adventure scout camp located near Ward, CO. Every year we take a three day trip to this camp. We pitch our tents in the snow, cook unique foods, play on the frozen lake, and do other winter activities. We hope to have a great time and spend a nice weekend in the great outdoors.

We have two service projects planned, one of which will be helping veterans at the VA Hospital. We hope to make a difference for those who have served our country. At the Walnut Hills Dumpster Day Troop 257 sells First Aid Kits and refreshments. In order to promote safety and preparedness we sell these first aid kits so that the people who buy them are prepared for whatever happens.

The troop has an outdoor activity every other month. We currently have planned a hike and campout in which we plan to relax and enjoy the great outdoors. Another Troop 257 outing will be a summer canoe trip. This will be an exciting trip for everyone as we have not gone canoeing as a troop. We also have plans for a bike camping trip and a backpacking trip to Gem Lake.

Troop 257 has a lot planned for the next couple of months. If you are interested in joining Troop 257 or want to learn more about these trips come visit us at one of our meetings or email our Scoutmaster at [andrewberke@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewberke@earthlink.net).



## Troop 574 - Fun in the Not-So-Sun

Oliver M.

Troop 574 didn't let the boredom bug of school holiday breaks catch them and prevent them from their activities. We started the year with a bowling event, and then on January 4th, we conducted a Christmas tree recycling service project, going around to designated houses and picking up trees to take to South Suburban Parks and Recreation's Willow Spring Service Center. The troop teamed up with two trailers, hitting Walnut Hills, Hunters Hill, Willow Creek, Homestead and more – over 70 trees were collected! Very successful and very fun, but we hope next year to get more residents to sign up - watch for our announcement on your door or in the newsletter next December! We are always looking for new service opportunities, and we are definitely willing to offer them. Some more fun was had at the end of the month with a weekend outing to FE Warren AFB in Cheyenne.

New scout leadership elected in late November is offering opportunities for our current Senior Patrol Leader and the troop to learn and try new things. We're planning trips to Snow Mountain Ranch in February and Leadville/Ski Cooper in March - Wellington Lake, Muller State Park will be in the spring. On February 24th we will hold our Winter Court of Honor to recognize achievements since October – local Webelos are invited to attend any of these outings or events if interested. We strongly encourage Webelos to visit us, or any young men in 5th grade or above, as we are always looking for new members to join our "family". We are hopeful to have some local Webelos from Cub Scout Packs 257 and 268 cross over into Boy Scouts and our troop in March.

For more information on our troop or to contact us, please visit our website - [www.centennial574.mytroop.us](http://www.centennial574.mytroop.us). Weekly troop meetings are held at Dry Creek on Tuesday nights, and outings almost once a month. Troop 574 is also proud to have helped new Cub Scout Pack 674 become successful - it also meets at Dry Creek Elementary. If any young boy in 1st through 4th grade becomes interested in joining the Scouting trail, just reach out to Pack 257 at Walnut Hills Elementary, Pack 674 at Dry Creek Elementary, or 268 at Homestead. We'll be there at some point in the year helping!



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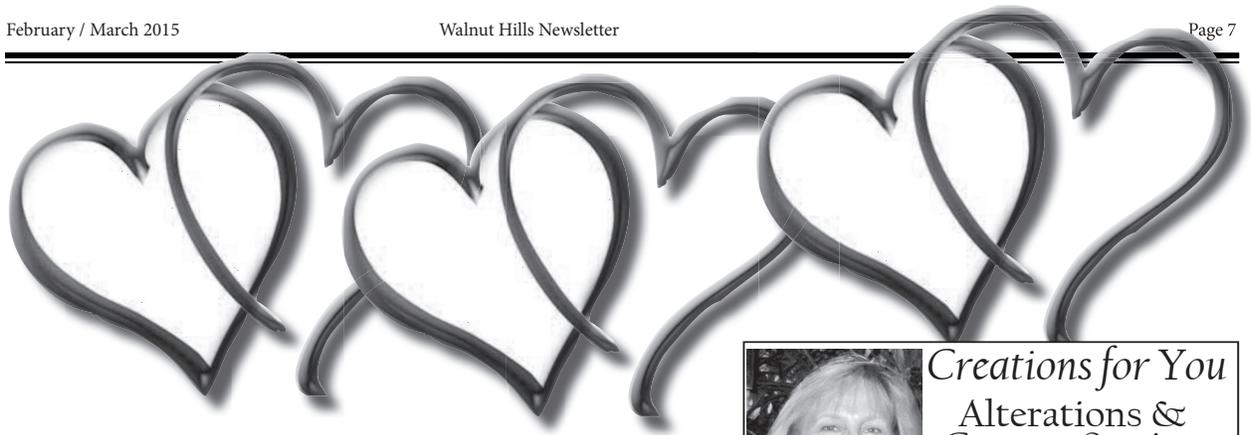
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### Cats

Bruce Ferguson

I always referred to this cat as VanGogh because he was missing a piece of his ear. Someone once told me that was because it was a sort of memo animal rescue facilities used to identify repeat offenders. Be that as it may, VanGogh was a regular visitor to our yard for most of the last decade. Years ago he used to come very regularly, but at times he would disappear for weeks and months on end. For a long period of time I suspected he just wasn't coming back and then one day he just showed up out of the blue.

He and our cat Milo became good friends. Almost from the beginning they seemed to develop a relationship. I never saw any conflict at all. Nor for that matter did I ever see them actually get very close together. They just seemed to be content keeping a small distance between themselves and being together in that way, often for instance if Milo was sleeping under the lilac bush VanGogh would come and lie just at the edge of the perennial border in the grass.

Milo got run over by a car when he was about nine months old so he wasn't allowed out of the yard after that. Any loud engine would send him running for the back door so it wasn't all that hard to train him to stay inside the fence. Even in the house garbage trucks would send him scurrying under the furniture or down to the basement. As he grew older he just like sleeping in the catnip or under the lilac bush were he could feel safe. If I did find him leaving the yard I would just collect him and bring him in the house.

One of his front paws was bent and twisted from the accident and so he always walked with a limp, though he would run on three legs without seeming awkward in the least. So it was not uncommon for me to see Milo limping across the yard when he spotted VanGogh coming to visit. He would sort of move in the direction of VanGogh and then lie down in the grass. Sometimes he would meow a bit sort of under his breath. He would do this same thing with birds in the yard and it was hard to understand why a cat would talk to birds but that is what he did. Eventually he would lie down just a few feet from VanGogh

and they would spend some time together just like that until usually VanGogh would just get up and wander off. Birds never seemed to stay long at all.

Milo lived about 15 years and had a stroke of some sort last summer. The day after Milo died I saw VanGogh looking in the back door. It was something that he rarely did and I went out on the patio and sat with him and told him what had happened. I hadn't seen him in months and I thought at the time it was odd that he would show up that day of all days. The next day I found him lying on the front stoop near the living room window where Milo used to sleep in the sun in the afternoon. I went outside and talked with VanGogh a while. He lay next to my feet and I petted him and he purred quietly. I haven't seen him since.



Cat with paws safe from the snow

photograph by Jesse Alcorta



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### Public invited to view art at the Centennial Civic Center

The City of Centennial is currently featuring artist **Linda Olmstead** in the Centennial Civic Center as part of the Picture Centennial program. This program highlights local artists who have created art in the City or about the City. Selected artists are featured in the Centennial Civic Center for three months. Anyone interested in viewing local art may visit the Civic Center Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Centennial Civic Center is located at 13133 E. Arapahoe Road.

Having created art for most of her life, Linda Olmstead has recently become intrigued by how much intuition helps her to convey meaning in her paintings. Real meaning for many people is provided by outer appearance, whether it is a landscape, cityscape, flower, or a figure, but for Linda real meaning is an intuitive interpretation of that subject's outer appearance or simply an abstract expression using paint and a substrate.

Linda believes that the color is most important aspect in her pieces, providing an emotional impact, while the composition can give an impression of agitation, calm serenity or something in between. Different types of contrast are often part of her work, showcasing shapes, texture, dominance, balance and unity. She recognizes that what viewers often see may not be what she expressed, but is happy that each viewer's experience is original, hopefully causing them think and feel, which is what is truly important for her.

If you are an artist living in Centennial, working in Centennial or creating work about Centennial, you are eligible to be one of our upcoming featured artists. To enter a submission, a complete the online Picture Centennial form.

For more information on this program please contact Jonah Schneider at 303-754-3358.

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## Cats and Dogs

Lorraine May, M.A. - Head Trainer  
Misha May Foundation Dog Training and Rescue

Can cats and dogs get along? Yes, they can, but not always. Some housemates will become like family or best friends. But many cohabiters may simply tolerate each other. These relationships depend, for the most part, on the personalities of the individual animals. It can be as simple as they do, or they do not, like each other. Their

tendency to like or dislike other animals is similar to our experiences with other humans.

However, we can help set them up for success by giving them reasons to like each other rather than to be fearful or suspicious. Rather than just allowing them to come together to 'see what happens', we can orchestrate an optimum environment as well as calm encounters.

### For the Feline:

\*Easily accessible tall shelves, towers and perches from which to observe the dog, as well as to escape from the dog's world.

\*Frequent observation of the dog obeying the owner, relaxing on his bed and ignoring the cat.

\*The reinforcement of treats, play or attention for sitting still instead of running, which can trigger a dog's prey drive.

\*A safe place to eat, to eliminate, to sleep and to pass the time.

\*Freedom of movement to advance and retreat according to his comfort level.

### For the Canine:

\*Reinforcement for calm behaviors like sitting and lying down in the cat's presence.

\*Education about how to act, rather than punishment for acting like a dog, which can create a negative association or dislike for the cat.

\*Management with a leash, gate or crate to prevent chasing the cat, which may scare the cat and reinforce an undesirable behavior.

\*Reliable responses to cues like 'leave it', 'come' and 'watch me'.

### For Both Animals:

\*Place four drops of Bach's Flower Essence Combination Rescue Remedy in the water bowls each time you change the water.

\*When they are in the same room, praise them with a relaxed happy voice indicating you aren't concerned (even if you are) as they will take their cues from you.

\*Feed them at the same time on either side of a closed door.

\*Let them each have a piece of each other's possessions that have their odor, like a towel or toy.

For a dog that is extremely excited and seems threatening and/or a cat that seems too scared, purchase the cat toy which moves and vocalizes like a cat. Ask your dog to be polite and reward his restraint. Begin with his simply smelling this toy and proceed slowly with adding movement or vocalization as your dog can tolerate. The dog is rewarded for appropriate behavior toward the lifelike cat toy, while keeping the living cat safe.

The process of introducing and acclimating a dog and a cat can take up to six months or even longer. By going slowly we minimize the risks to each animal and to their relationship. We help them stay calm and appreciate the positive, rather than allowing random chaos which often results in fear and negativity. It is always easier to start fresh than to try and repair any damage.

Here are several Misha May classes that would be helpful. You can register and find the details, as well as other class information, at [www.mishamayfoundation.org](http://www.mishamayfoundation.org).

- 1) Feb 3: I Can't Control Myself - Denver
- 2) Feb 11: Training Tips & Basic Nutrition - Aurora
- 3) Feb 16: Essential Oils for Animal Health & Behavior - Lakewood
- 4) Feb 17: Understanding Dogs - Denver
- 5) Feb 23: Canine Body Language - Lakewood
- 6) Mar 7: Basic Obedience & Good Manners - Denver
- 7) Mar 9: Cats - Understanding these Mysterious Creatures - Lakewood
- 8) Mar 11: Canine Calming Signals & Body Language - Aurora
- 9) Mar 23: Flower Essences for Emotional and Behavioral Changes - Lakewood

Registration required at [mishamayfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:mishamayfoundation@gmail.com). Reserve your spot by paying the fee using PayPal or credit card with the donation button at [www.mishamayfoundation.org](http://www.mishamayfoundation.org) or mail a check to Misha May, PO Box 151166, Lakewood, CO 80215-1166.



Teddy, adopted through Misha May, accepted Boogie Cat into his home when he realized BC wasn't a threat and that things got better with the kitty around!

Lorraine May, M.A., is the Founder, Executive Director and Head Trainer of the Misha May Foundation, 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](mailto:mishamayfoundation@gmail.com) 303-239-0382

## Nicole Savoie

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# Prom Dress Exchange

**Fifth Annual Prom Dress Exchange Provides Gorgeous Prom Dresses To Teen Girls For Just A \$10 Donation & Student ID**

*No teen turned away for lack of donation in advance of their big day*

The social event of the high school calendar – Prom Night – is just around the corner. Is your teen ready for the big dance? In an April 21, 2011, US News & World Report Article, Allie Bidwell wrote, “the average household will spend \$978 in 2014 to dance the night away. That’s a 14% decrease from 2013, but still 21% higher than in 2011.”

The 2015 Prom Dress Exchange is here to help provide a spectacular, one-of-a-kind outfit for just \$10. Hosted this year by Noah’s of Westminster, metro teens can shop for the dress of their dreams from thousands of gently-used and brand new designer items.

Entrance to the event is free; however, a valid student ID and a \$10 donation is requested if the student finds a dress. Seamstresses are available onsite to do limited repairs. Those unable to donate won’t be turned away – the goal of the event is to ensure every teen can attend their big night in style.

“Prom can be an expensive proposition in today’s economy but that doesn’t mean you have to forgo style,” said Laura Bauer, president of The Prom Dress Exchange Corp. “The event helps defray the cost in a small way and really make a teen’s day. Since starting the exchange, we’ve helped hundreds of teens find the perfect outfit.”

**What: Fifth Annual Prom Dress Exchange**

**When: Saturday, March 7, 2015**

**8 A.M. – 3 P.M.**

**Where: Noah’s Of Westminster  
11885 N. Bradburn Blvd.  
Westminster, CO 80031**

The exchange wouldn’t be possible without the help of sponsors such as Noah’s of Westminster, LUPEC Denver, Ocean Cleaners of Commerce City and Hollywood Cowgirl Bling Boutique of Denver

For more information, visit [www.promdressexchange.org](http://www.promdressexchange.org) or follow us at facebook.com/PromDressExchange. The non-profit is always looking for donations. Contact Bauer at [promdressexchange@gmail.com](mailto:promdressexchange@gmail.com) or 303-875-4783 to assist.



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