

Walnut Hills Newsletter



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

Congratulations Walnut Hills Alumni!



Sonya Maria Johnson was “hooded” (the official title of the PhD graduation ceremony) at Michigan State University on May 4th, 2012, in Socio-Cultural Anthropology and in African American & African studies! Sonya completed a dual PhD in Socio-Cultural Anthropology and African American & African studies at Michigan State University. Sonya’s dissertation is entitled “Bones Cry Out: Palo Mayombe in Santiago de Cuba,” which reports on the religious tradition of Palo Mayombe among African descendants in eastern Cuba and how they create family genealogies that include spirits. Sonya has been active in various MSU learning communities such as: The Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) and serves as Lead Graduate Assistant for the African Atlantic Research Team (AART). Sonya graduated summa cum laude from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is a graduate of Cherry Creek High School and also attended Walnut Hills Elementary School. She is the daughter of Harold and Brenda Johnson, Walnut Hills residents for 38 years.



If you don’t get the newsletter delivered to your house anymore, let us know
walnuthillsnewsletter@gmail.com

2012 Walnut Hills Scholarships Winners

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we announce the three winners of the 2012 Walnut Hills’ Scholarships. A very active and accomplished group of students, it certainly speaks well for the Walnut Hills’ community and those who live in it. With the continued support of the residents of Walnut Hills, the Walnut Hills Civic Association, the Walnut Hills Newsletter and private donations, the Scholarship Committee decided last fall to offer three \$3,000 scholarships. The \$3,000 scholarship continues to be the largest scholarship amount ever offered. The winners of the 2012 Walnut Hills’ Scholarships, in alphabetical order, are:

Mikayla M. Caldwell, daughter of Michelle and Dale Caldwell of Walnut Hills. Music and Academics are the two areas that best describe Mikayla’s top interests and talents. In music, she received a Cherry Creek School District Honor Band Award for her ability and leadership as a Mellophone Section Leader in the Cherry Creek High School Marching Band. Over her four years in marching band, she developed a talent for playing and marching at the same time. Academically, she graduated in the top 10% of her class with a 4.352 weighted GPA while taking eight honors and six Advanced Placement courses. Due to her outstanding A.P. Scores she was named an “A.P. Scholar with Distinction.” Her college admission test scores were also outstanding - again placing her in the top 10% of the nation. She has held part time jobs while in high school, and plans to work part time as a college student. Mikayla plans to attend Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, and major in Pre-Medical Studies, with a goal of attending Medical School and becoming a Physician.



Alison J. Lammers, daughter of Sheila and Don Lammers of Walnut Hills. Alison is an excellent example of diversity. She has lettered in three sports, basketball, volleyball and soccer, where she also served as captain. She is an accomplished musician, playing the guitar, flute, piano and playing in the symphonic



band. Academically, she has taken an a very strong college prep curriculum with a 4.06 GPA at Denver Christian High School. In addition to her outstanding high school involvement, she dedicates considerable effort and time to her church and religious activities. She has served as Chapel and youth group worship leader for several years. A mission trip to Nicaragua, where her youth group helped complete a small elementary school and held a vacation Bible school for the children, made a great impression on her. Because of her interest and ability in Spanish, she was able to use it with the many students she worked with. Her counselor comments that, “Alison lives out her faith every day being reliable and accountable with high moral character and integrity.” Alison plans to attend Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa and major in Nursing.

Austin T. Smith, son of Kelly and Kirk Smith of Walnut Hills. Austin’s strength basically lies in two areas, Athletics and Academics. His two major sports are Lacrosse and Basketball. He has played both for all four years of his high school career and in his Junior and Senior years received



considerable recognition. Due to his fine academic record, he was honored as First Team Academic All State in Lacrosse. Due to his leadership and motivation, he was also chosen as the Captain of the State Championship Lacrosse team at Cherry Creek High School. He was also a valuable starter on a State Qualifying Basketball Team. Academically, Austin excelled in a challenging college prep curriculum with many honors courses and several Advanced Placement courses earning a 4.05 Grade Point Average. During the summer, Austin has worked as a house painter earning money for college. His teachers comment that, “Austin has achieved academic and athletic success through consistent display of talent, work-ethic and character.” Austin plans to attend The University of Colorado at Boulder and major in Business.

One can hardly read about the involvement and dedication of these fine students without taking great pride in them and their accomplishments. The other applicants, while not selected, were outstanding candidates. The scholarship committee is proud of the manner in which these students represent their families, our community, and their schools.

Congratulations!

Submitted by the Walnut Hills
Scholarship Committee



Community Garage Sale June 8 & 9

Now that you have finished your spring cleaning during Dumpster Days, why not sell your reusable treasures at the annual Walnut Hills Community Garage sale Friday and Saturday June 8 & 9

WHCA will place ads in the Denver Post and The Villager to make sure that all of our sales are successful

Landscaping Contest

Week of June 25

The annual summer Lawn/Landscaping contest is about to begin. If you or a neighbor has worked hard on your lawn and landscaping, please e-mail Lonnie Gregg - Chair, Walnut Hills Civic Association whcachair@walnuthillscolorado.org to nominate an address. You might see cameras clicking away at houses up and down your block to let you know that the Landscape Committee (Herb Engler and Donna Senn) has started the contest.

Good Luck!

From the Board

The Walnut Hills Civic Association would like to congratulate all of the graduates of 2012 on their accomplishments. There are three openings on the Board and I invite the new graduates, as well as other residents of Walnut Hills, to join us and give back to the community.

The new board: Lonnie Gregg, Myra Garcia, Herb Engler, Andrea Suhaka, Randy Lutton, Debra Gania, Jeryl Tippets, Brian Bern, Ronda Caillouet, Donna Senn, Paul Flannery.

The Walnut Hills Civic Association is looking at building a community garden. There will be a map, and please submit ideas during the July 4th Parade and Ice Cream Social.

We continue to track and participate in discussions

related to the I-25 and Arapahoe interchange project. I would like to thank all the neighbors that have participated in the Environmental Assessment meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for August 2012.

We are looking for volunteers for all of the events that are sponsored by the Civic Association. If you have a business or organization within the neighborhood and want to have a table at any of the events, please let us know. We are a community of 50 years and want to continue to support local businesses and organizations.

We appreciate the neighbors who have paid dues and participated in events. We look forward to seeing you at the events this summer. Feel free to email me anytime.

Lonnie Gregg - WHCA Chair
whcachair@walnuthillscolorado.org

Got Trees?

Walnut Hills is full of beautiful 50 year old shade trees. Now you don't have to choose between trees and tomatoes. The Walnut Hills Community Garden will let you have the best of both worlds. Come see the map at the Ice Cream Social on July 4th and sign up to volunteer to build the garden or get on the list for a garden plot.

Walnut Hills Community Block Party

AUGUST 7, 2012, 7-9 PM

In conjunction with



Let's get together as Walnut Hills friends, family and neighbors for a memorable night out. Come sit in the Walnut Hills Amphitheater and enjoy music and the talents of your neighbors while you snack on refreshments and enjoy a summer night out. Come ready to play games, meet new friends, and find out unique facts about our wonderful neighborhood.

National Night Out is America's night out against crime. It is an annual event held throughout the United States to promote cooperation between the police and the community. The Walnut Hills Civic Association is inviting the Walnut Hills Community to meet behind the Walnut Hills Elementary School from 7-9 PM. The event is for the whole family and is being sponsored by the Walnut Hills Civic Association with support from our local Target Store.

Special Walnut Hills Neighborhood Activities Include:

- Representatives and information from Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department
- A visit from our own local fire station and firefighters
- Games, prizes and treats for all ages sponsored by our local Target store
- Representatives from South Suburban Parks and Recreation to teach us about our neighborhood trail system and local wildlife
- Several other supporting agencies, schools, community organizations, and local businesses will also be in attendance
- A neighborhood marketplace with a chance to get to know business people who live in our neighborhood

If you, your family or friends have a talent you would like to share, we are looking for some acts to perform in the amphitheater. If you are a resident of Walnut Hills and have a business you would like to let the neighbor's know about, come set up a table in our neighborhood marketplace. To become involved, share ideas, or volunteer for this event, please contact Debra Gania at 303-617-1687 or e-mail mommanator@q.com.

The Commedia, Puss in Boots

Presented by South Suburban Youth Actors

Friday June 22, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Walnut Hills Amphitheater

*Bring your blankets and lawn chairs
and enjoy free, live theater*



Good old-fashioned 4th of July

The Walnut Hills Civic Association is sponsoring the annual Fourth of July Parade and Ice Cream Social in Walnut Hills Park. The Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund Committee will distribute scholarships to the 2012 winners about 11 am.

Wednesday, 4 July, The Parade, 10 am (staging at 9:30 am):

Staging will take place at Dry Creek School starting at 9:30 am. We will also have our annual Fourth of July costume contest. You do not have to be in costume to walk in the parade! Prizes will be awarded to the (1) most patriotic costume, (2) most patriotic group costume, (3) most patriotic bike or trike, (4) most patriotic wagon and (5) and favorite old/classic car. We will have a table set up in the Dry Creek School parking lot to sign in those who want to be in the contests. You don't need a contest number to just march along with us! We're also in search of a boom box for patriotic music during the parade. Drop me an e-mail or call if you can help with that.

We will step off from the school at 10 am and end at Walnut Hills Park for the Ice Cream Social by 10:30 am. (Route: west on Hinsdale at Dry Creek School to north on Quince to east on Fremont to east on Tamarac Ct. to north on Uinta to the park entrance on Uinta.) We need folks along the parade route to judge the costume contest. Write the number of your favorite entry on a judging form and turn in at the shelter in the park immediately after the parade. (We need judges! Call me!) Winners will receive small monetary prizes announced after the Scholarship awards

Wednesday, 4 July, Ice Cream Social, 10:30 am: Walnut Hills Civic Association Board members will begin serving ice cream as soon as the parade gets to the park. We will have the contest announcements and the awarding of the Walnut Hills Scholarships by 11 am. Andrea Suhaka, 303-770-0058, standy@ecentral.com Parade Coordinator



Original Owners

Ray Chambers

By Frank Haskett

Ray Chambers and his wife Serena probably bought the first home in Walnut Hills, having ordered it in late 1961 or early 1962. But let me go back in time a bit first...

Ray was born and raised in Denver, living on S. Josephine St and then S. York St, on either side of Denver University. He smiles when he recalls that the first house was on the edge of the city and had an "outhouse." While a student at South High School, he was in ROTC. After graduation, it was off to basic training in June of 1942 as an enlisted man in the Army Air Corps. He wanted to be a pilot, but 20-30 eyesight prevented that. So he went to glider school and finished in March of 1943.

His first chance to actually pilot a glider in combat was on June 7, 1944, the day after "D" Day, which was the Normandy invasion in France. After almost crashing when he landed (the glider in front of him was shot up, lost a wing and crashed into a hedgerow), he learned that one landing gear had been



sheared off. Once on the ground, he ended up in a fire fight with German forces. Though he lost most of the sight of one eye (later recovered), he helped keep them at bay until he and others could get away. For his action that day he received a Purple Heart. Later that year, he took part in Operation "Market Garden" which was a British led attempt to invade Holland. Somewhere along in there he was certified to fly a C-47, which he did while dropping paratroops into Holland. He also was promoted to 2nd Lt. The day after the German's surrendered, he was on his way to England and a troop ship home.

Ray met his late wife-to-be in 1946 when he went for a physical to be certified as a commercial pilot by the Civil Aeronautical Administration. His



doctor's office was in the Republic Building -- not the new one, the one before it! His nurse was Serena, the last of 16 children from a family in Minnesota. Ray had to go back twice and finally asked her out. They were married in 1950.

Serena had been in the women's branch of the Coast Guard during the war (they were known as "Spars" Semper Paratus - Always Ready) where she trained in the medical department. When she got out, she was considered something of a lay expert in the area of blood work (hematology) and this led to her employment with the

doctor where she met Ray. She later worked at Fitzsimons Army Hospital and, with the help of the commanding general, she went to CU to learn even more about her field. She was a medical technician and an administrator in charge of a laboratory unit for 23 years.

Meanwhile, Ray started his freshman year at CU that would later lead to a degree in mechanical engineering. After a year he dropped out to run a flying school for Clinton Aviation. When the flight school folded after 2-3 years, he went to work as a dispatcher for the Colorado State Patrol (he had his radio license from his time as a pilot). When the Korean War broke out in 1950, he rejoined the Army as a sergeant, quickly rose to First Sergeant, and got his Lieutenant's bars back. Ray resigned in late 1952 and went back to CU to complete his engineering degree, graduating in 1956, then took a job with Quick Way Truck Shovel. It soon went out of business and he moved on to the Ken White Company which designed cement plants for companies like Ideal Basic Cement. They also went out of business and his next job would prove to be the longest in his career. The Martin Company (now Lockheed Martin) was his employer from 1959-74. The work then, as now, was in aerospace.

In 1974, he started his own company, Arapahoe Alarm Lock and Key; that led to a civil service job maintaining the locks and safes at Fitzsimons Army Hospital. In 1981, he went back to Martin for two years, then called it a career in 1983.

After their marriage in 1950, they lived in various apartments until buying a home on S. St. Paul just north of Arapahoe Rd. in 1959. It was built by the same developers (Dream House Acres) that later built Walnut Hills. The same developers also later built Acres Green which was named for one of the company's owners. The Chambers sold that house and a few years later wanted their own place again. They moved in on Sept. 28, 1962.

Ray lives alone now, Serena passed away in 2002, and his house is as neat and well ordered as one might expect from an engineer; so is the landscaping. Though his life had some difficult times, he kept right on going, not unlike the flight officer/corporal who got out of a tough spot during the Normandy invasion. He learned valuable lessons which helped guide him through challenging times in the life that followed.

Thanks, Ray, for your service, which helped continue our freedom.



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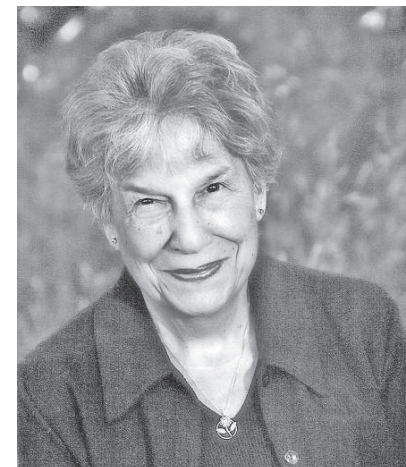
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Josie Snowden

Written by Jeff Snowden

This will be the first time in 43 years that I will celebrate Mother's Day without my mother, Josephine (Josie) Snowden. My mom passed away on September 23, 2011.

On a winter day on March 6, 1930 in Creighton, Pennsylvania, Josephine Elaine Martino was brought into this world. She was the third daughter born into the beginning of a somewhat large Sicilian family. She was followed by two additional sisters and two brothers. The Martino children grew up in a small European ethnic town surrounding Pittsburgh, PA.

Her father passed away when she was only 14. Shortly after that her mother suffered a nervous breakdown from the death of her husband and was admitted to a state hospital. Mom's oldest sister was married at that time and they took it upon themselves to raise all of her younger siblings. Mom went to East Deer High School in Creighton and while she was there her friends encouraged her to participate in the marching band. They either thought she had a strong musical ability, or a very strong back because they taught her to play the sousaphone!

After high school, Josie worked for G.C. Murphy, a 5 and dime store that had a food division. She obviously had a niche with food because she managed the restaurant portion of the store.

Josie met and married Walter Paneiko and they had 4 children: Debbie, Joe, Dave and Jeff. Throughout her life, she always loved food, either cooking or serving it to others. After leaving G.C. Murphy's, she worked at other Italian restaurants in the area she lived in. My dad passed away when we were young.

After the death of my father, she decided to move the entire family to Colorado to start a new life because her two brothers were living here at that time. She took a job at Dependable Dry Cleaners on Broadway which was close to where we lived, since she didn't have a car and walked to work every day. She eventually bought an old Studebaker Lark. Even at that point in her life, Josie never gave up cooking or baking.

In May of 1974, mom married Louis Snowden, and they became active members of Cameron Methodist Church. The church, on numerous occasions, would have dinners for fundraising events, etc., where mom made her own spaghetti noodles, which led to spaghetti dinners at the church. People were always complementing her on how good they were. We all thought maybe it was because of her Italian heritage, or maybe because she loved to do those things just to make people happy. We can't stop there, because every year during the holidays she would get into the baking mode. She would bake nut rolls, cream puffs and everyone's favorite, Italian Pizzells. Oh, and it would not be complete if we did not mention her famous perogies, a semicircular dumpling filled with potatoes and cheese, that is often sautéed after being boiled. Preparing food was always an important part of her life.

After my dad, Louis, passed away, she moved in with us. My family and I moved into the Walnut Hills neighborhood in May 2001. She loved volunteering at Walnut Hills Elementary school. Being part of the grandparent program at the school was the highlight of her life. The kids and staff loved her, as we all did. After my kids left the elementary school, she stopped volunteering and she began to travel more often to see her other children and grandchildren. Mom was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008. She elected to have surgery and to everyone's amazement, recovered quickly and was proud to be a breast cancer survivor!

Mom, we know that you are in a better place now, watching and listening. From all of your children, their wives, grandchildren, and great grandchildren we want to wish you a Happy Mother's Day and from the bottom our hearts tell you how much you are missed and loved.

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Co-op Recipe Swap

No-Bake Granola Bars

Yield: 10 bars

I have two daughters with nut allergies. It was impossible to find granola bars that were made in a “nut free” facility so I searched out a recipe to make my own. This is the basic recipe but it can be altered so many ways! We’ve made them with white chocolate and dried cranberries. Get creative with spices and add ins! (Dried fruits, nuts, maple syrup, butterscotch chips, cinnamon, coconut...)

Ingredients:
1/4 cup butter
1/4 cup honey
1/3 cup packed brown sugar
2 cups quick cooking oats (not rolled oats!)
1 cup crispy rice cereal
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
2 tablespoons mini chocolate chips (or whatever add-ins you prefer!)

Directions:
In a large bowl, stir oats and rice cereal together. Set aside. In a small pot, melt butter, honey and brown sugar together over medium high heat until it comes to a bubble. Reduce the heat and cook 2 minutes. Pour in vanilla and stir. Pour over dry ingredients and mix well to moisten all ingredients. Pour into lightly greased small jelly roll pan (about 12x8x1) and press out to be about 3/4 inch in thickness. Press firmly to really compress the ingredients - I use a sheet of wax paper keep my hands from sticking! Sprinkle with mini chocolate chips and press down lightly. Cool on a counter top to room temperature for two hours or until the chocolate chips are set before cutting into bars. Wrap in plastic wrap and store at room temperature.

Recipe Notes: If your granola bars don’t seem to be staying together when you cut them, you may have made them too thin or you didn’t pack them in tight enough. Stick them in the fridge for 20 minutes and that should help keep them together. The next time you make them, try reducing the butter to 3 tablespoons and really packing them down.
If you’re adding dried fruits or nuts you can mix them in with the dry ingredients but chocolate chips are best on top!



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



Self-Reliance Corner

By: Jo Haugland

This spring and summer, let’s break our addictions to technology and make ourselves happier, healthier, and maybe even smarter! I know this will be crazy - let’s turn off all “equipment” and go ... OUTSIDE!

Want to lose weight this spring and summer and reap other benefits as well? Get yourself and your kids off the computer, off the couch, off your various rears, and out into the fresh air and sunshine.

Yep, that’s what we were told in the spring and summer months. Turn off the TV and go outside. Not only did that give the grown-ups a break but once we were out, there wasn’t one kid that wasn’t having fun. Riding bikes, going to the store, swimming, walking, playing ball, spending time with pets, gardening, or even washing the car – it was great!

Now there are all kinds of inside distractions keeping us seated and in unnatural positions for LONG periods of time. Computers, Ipads, smart phones, texting, TV, video and computer games, Facebook, Twitter, MP3s, Ipods, and more.

It’s no wonder we’re overweight, stiff and sluggish from sitting around all day. We lose touch with nature, plants, animals, and actually other humans. When you text, e-mail, shop, game, and listen to music, all day, online, you never have to interact with a human being again, ever! This is probably not good. This spring and summer might just be the time to break the addiction to technology and find out what you’d do if the power grid went down.

Help each other get outside and do things this year. Go camping. Take a free nature class at one of the local nurseries or parks. Work in your garden, learn about plants. When they’re small, plants that you’ve planted and other plants (some call them weeds), may all look the same to you. Wouldn’t it be great if you could tell the difference? Or at least identify weeds that you can eat!

Have kids plant their own vegetable or “fairy” gardens. Once as a child, a friend of my planted carrots in the shape of a heart in a small plot under her window. I thought the lacy green carrot tops forming the outline of a heart was the most enchanting thing I’d ever seen. You could then of course, add little fairies, woodland creatures, etc. Hours of outside healthful activity.

No room for a garden at your house?? Teens not into Fairy Gardens? Why not volunteer for a community garden? You can learn tons from other gardeners. What makes good compost? What plants grow well together? (Remember “Roses love Garlic”?) What plants can be pickled, canned, roasted, made into breads? What could a child, teen, or adult learn from planting, nurturing, and harvesting and consuming foods from their own plot? What benefit is sunshine, activity, exercise, camaraderie, and sharing of knowledge, and human contact? Probably something good would come from not having something plugged in somewhere.

Maybe this is your year for a couple baby chicks (on sale and very cute). Maybe this is your year for bees or gardens, volunteering, urban hikes, or wading pools and running through the sprinkler. Maybe this is the year to have your skin stop casting a green computer glow.

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Congratulations Graduates!

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



Warmest congratulations to the 2012 Walnut Hills Scholarship winners, and to all the graduates from Walnut Hills! So many parents choose to live in Centennial because our community values education and opportunities for youth. Your success reminds us of why we



choose to invest in our schools and in our community. You are our bright shining future, and we are so proud of you!

Your Dist. 3 Councilman Ken Lucas and his wife Reiko have raised their sons and seen them become successful. Ken Lucas serves on the Centennial Budget Committee and is the City’s liaison to South Suburban Parks and Recreation board of directors. As proud parents, we always reminded our sons that school came first and everything else was secondary. We tried to instill in them that hard work was better than being lucky and that being focused on what you want to do with your life starts early; you need a plan; you may change your mind several times as you move through the education process, but reaching one goal will always lead to your next. Be flexible and opportunistic at the same time; opportunities sometimes come only once in a lifetime. See you all this summer at our new Center Park.

In addition to serving on Colorado Municipal League’s Legislative Policy Committee, your Dist. 3 Councilwoman Rebecca McClellan serves as liaison to the Cherry Creek School District and the Centennial Youth Commission. Recently, Rebecca had the pleasure of serving as a “Senator” at Campus Middle School’s Mock Senate Hearings. There was some terrific “Senate testimony” from students from Walnut Hills! As parents of a 4th grader and an 8th grader, Jim and I know your studies are demanding. That’s why it’s important to have fun, too. We hope to see your whole family at the Centennial Youth Commission and Youth Corps annual Battle of the Bands on June 16th.

Centennial Youth Commission and Youth Corps provide a venue for youth perspectives and leadership in city government. We invite middle school and high school students to visit www.CentennialColorado.com to learn about opportunities to participate.

We can’t wait to see where you go and what you achieve in the years to come. Congratulations and best wishes from your District 3 Centennial City Council Members!

Rebecca McClellan
Councilwoman, Dist. 3
RMcClellan@CentennialColorado.com
(303) 956-2845

Ken Lucas
Councilman, Dist. 3
KLucas@CentennialColorado.com
(303) 895-6664

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Tristan Ashworth’s Eagle Scout Project

Thank You!


Recently, the Walnut Hills neighborhood was requested to support Tristan Ashworth’s Eagle Scout project “Supplies for Mara” by donating cleaning supplies for Brent’s Place near Children’s Hospital. Brent’s Place is a community of hope and healing... One day at a time. It is a place where kids being treated for life-threatening cancer can still be kids. Brent’s Place is the only hospital approved “Safe-Clean” housing facility for immune compromised patients and their families, providing a living environment that is essential to healing and recovery. Mara is one of the young girls living at Brent’s Place while she receives treatment from Children’s Hospital.



Our very own Walnut Hills neighborhood has helped support these kids by providing the largest single donation of cleaning supplies ever, valued by Brent’s Place at over \$14,000 in cleaning supplies. Hundreds of homes in Walnut Hills filled bags with cleaning supplies and left them for pickup. Then dozens of helpers, including scouts, siblings, friends, and family members of local Boy Scout troop 560 collected the supplies. After organizing the cleaning supplies, they were delivered to Brent’s Place which filled their shelves and overflowed their storage capacity!




Tristan Ashworth’s Eagle Project “Supplies for Mara” helped Mara and the other kids at Brent’s Place feel love and support from our entire community. This community compassion simply wasn’t possible without everyone’s help, support, and commitment. Thank you for your donation and the spirit of community created through your contribution.



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My Walnut Hills Community Elementary School Experience

Reflections of Graduating 5th Graders

by Gianna M

My name is Gianna and I am eleven years old. I am a fifth grader and this is my first year at Walnut Hills Community Elementary School. I was born in Denver, then I moved to Montana where I lived for five years. After that, I moved to Oregon and then I moved back to Denver. In that time, I have gone to four other schools, but none of them have been as good as Walnut Hills.

At first, when I came here, I was nervous because I was new. I didn't know if the classes would be too hard or if I would make any friends. The first week went really well though. The classes were challenging, but not too difficult, and I made many new friends who were helpful, funny, and welcoming. All the teachers I have met are very helpful and kind too.

Here at Walnut Hills, my teacher Mrs. Lucas has always helped me when I needed help. She would re-read my work and give me suggestions to make it better. She always knows how to teach the class a lesson. Mrs. Lucas is generous, kind, and supportive. She also knows how to make you laugh.

The kids here are warm and friendly too. At the beginning of the year, they welcomed me and made me happy. Even on the first week of school, some kids asked me to play with them at recess and sit with them at lunch. Now, I have made a lot of friends who have helped me through the year.

Walnut Hills has been a great school for me because I have learned and grown so much. I have learned how to play violin and I have become a better reader. I have grown in confidence. At the beginning of the year, I was very shy and quiet, but now I have made a lot of friends and I am more outgoing.

My experience at Walnut Hills has been great. I have learned and accomplished more than I ever thought I could in one year. My teachers have prepared me for middle school and I feel like I am ready. I hope everyone has as wonderful an experience as I have, and *I recommend Walnut Hills to anyone who is looking for a terrific school.*

by Teah S

There are many words to describe our beloved school, but if I had to choose one, I would describe Walnut Hills as comforting. From the teachers and staff that welcome us every day, to the support from the students we share our classroom with, fun.

Ever since my first day of Kindergarten, I have always felt comforted. I was so scared and worried about what would happen to me that I couldn't even build up the courage to walk up to the door of my new classroom. I was so shaky I could barely stand, and I ended up tripping over my own feet. Tears filled my eyes when suddenly I felt a hand on my shoulder. I looked up to see a warm smile, not knowing that eventually we would grow to become great friends. "Hi, I'm Megan, are you ok?" She grabbed my hand and helped me to my feet, and I finally realized, hey, maybe I'll be ok after all.

Next was first grade. That year had two main events that really stood out. Writing books about penguins with my friend Rae and learning fractions. On to second grade, one of my favorite years. I had a beautiful, wonderful teacher named Mrs. Colussy, who had a sweet, gentle voice. No matter how bad a day I was having, she would turn it around and make it into one of the best days I've ever had. I also met one of the coolest and most fun teachers, Mrs. Davies, the advanced reading teacher.

Now comes third grade. Where do I begin? I had another beautiful, amazing teacher with one of the most charming laughs you have ever heard, Mrs. Lienemann. That year I also started CSAP and learned about marsupials and soon enough I was beginning my first day in the sweet, brilliant, funny class of Mrs. Lovely.

Finally, the main event, fifth grade. I ended up in Mr. Phelps' class. Yes, the goofy teacher who drinks Cherry Coke in the morning in a coffee cup. I have made so many friends that I know I can count on, and I have met so many amazing teachers, like Mrs. Woodhouse, Mr. A, Mr. Norris and one of the craziest, kindest and caring teachers that I joke with almost every single day, Mrs. Assaad, who I have learned a lot from, like how to type crazy fast, how to use a camera, how to turn on a TV and best of all, how to dance. I have learned innumerable things at Walnut Hills, and I will miss all of the Sock Hops, Field Days, and eating pie in math class to celebrate pi day. Ok, it won't be easy to say goodbye to not only my school, but *my family.*

by Chandler N

I have been a student at Walnut Hills since kindergarten. Over the years, I have had amazing teachers that have helped me learn and grow so much. Six years ago, my family made a big commitment to drive me 20 miles round trip to school each day. I don't remember my first day that much, but I do remember seeing Mrs. Poole and all of the other students. The drive has not always been easy, but it has been worth the sacrifice.

One of my favorite memories was going to the Argo Gold Mine in 4th grade. It was very interesting and fun. We got to explore a historic gold mine and mill where they crushed gold ore. We even got to pan for gold!

Walnut Hills is an amazing place with a welcoming atmosphere with caring teachers and staff. Mrs. Denise at the front always has a smile on her face and is very helpful to all that come through the door. The specials teachers constantly have something fun and exciting for us to learn and participate in. I am always looking forward to seeing what is next for our specials.

It is hard to believe I have only 20 days left of elementary school. Six terrific years that have helped me learn to read, write and challenge me to always do better and compete in the classroom. I have been fortunate to have had the community of great teachers and staff at Walnut Hills. I want them to know that they are appreciated and have made a difference in my life and many others as well.

Next August, I will be entering 6th grade at Campus Middle School and I know that I will be prepared for junior high school, *because of the amazing support and education that the teachers at Walnut Hills have given to me.*

by Meghan G

Okay, I'm curious to know how many parents send their kids to a school that's not their assigned school. Well, my mom does, I'm glad she does too. We did not know what kind of school Walnut Hills would be like, but we knew someone that worked there, so we did know it would offer some really great things. I am very glad we did too. Since I've been going to school at Walnut Hills (K-5), I have had some pretty life changing experiences. Like in kindergarten, I learned about butterflies, we actually grew some! HOW COOL! That's all a kindergartner needed to make their

day, well that is except for me. In kindergarten I learned my worst fear, BUTTERFLIES! Yes, I know what you're thinking, crazy, but you're going to learn by reading this that crazy for me is average.

So kindergarten wasn't my favorite grade, except for the part about the little water table with animals in it, and the plays we put on, OH, and the time we learned to write our names...Okay, so kindergarten was a good grade, but 1st was better. In 1st grade (drum roll please)...I met a lifelong friend. We did practically everything together, the highlight of my year, even though we had our share of disagreements, doesn't everyone? Yes, definitely, 1st grade was better.

Now on to 2nd and 3rd grade. In both those grades I learned of... wait for it...math, lots and lots of it. From multiplication, to division, to decimals, to fractions, to the metric system! So much math! It seemed that math was a never ending supply of challenging concepts that would never ever run out. My theory was later verified in 5th grade. Of course, you eventually figure it out. Moving on...

Now its 5th grade. The one I still haven't figured out, that is full of surprises, that still brings me to my knees with homework...5th grade! So far, as a 5th grader, I have learned why we have freedom as a nation and learned that everyone in the world was and is created equally. I have ventured out into the world to see an outstanding orchestra concert with music showcasing different religions, which proves we have freedom of religion, and that 5th grade is the best of all elementary school grades. With all my experiences at Walnut Hills, the ones that will be carried with me are the *laughs I shared with friends and the hand aches I shared with homework.*



Presenting The Class of 2012



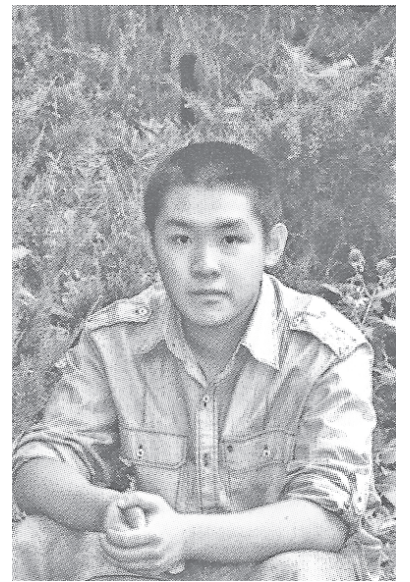
Mikayla Caldwell - CCHS
Colorado State University
Biomedical Science, Pre-med



Clint Cavey - CCHS
Arizona State University



Jaclyn Grillo - CCHS



Qui Duan - CCHS
University of Colorado
Boulder



Zach Guss - CCHS
University of Northern
Colorado



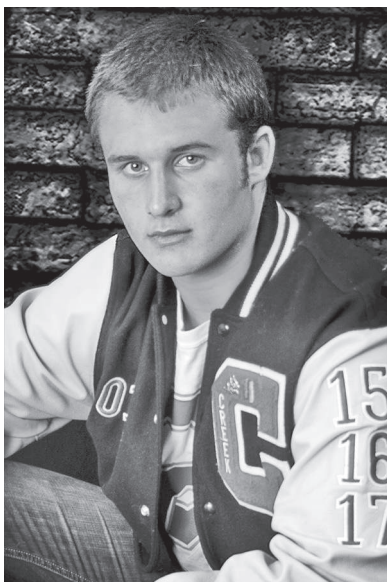
Nathan Johnson - RSHS
ACC - Belmont College
Nashville, Music



Alison Lammers - DCHS
Dordt College - Iowa,
Nursing



Tera Osborne - CCHS



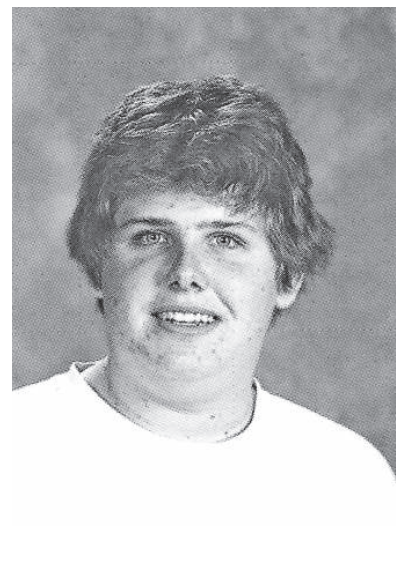
Evan Quant - CCHS
Wyoming National Guard
and University of Wyoming



Angela Saiz - CCHS
Colorado State University
Pre-med, Psychiatry



Meghan Sable - CCHS



Travis Rasmussen - CCHS

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Graduation:

- the award or acceptance of an academic degree or diploma
- a mark on an instrument or vessel indicating degrees or quantity

As a society, we are all familiar with the first definition of graduation. However, it is the second that causes me to want to address our youth and the adults that will or will not influence them over their early lives in the public area.

I ask both to look closely at the sidewalks they walk on, the roads they drive their cars on, the buildings they are educated in, the facilities that all of their government meets and works in, the military that offer their lives, the traffic markers, the aids to navigation on the high seas, and endless other components that make up civilization as we know it.

Consider that our graduates are vessels that we all have an opportunity to fill. The importance of community participation is vital. If we provide them with constant and quality participation, we will get from our youth what we deserve, “caring and informed citizens.”

I often think of what chaos there would be if we woke up one morning and found that all of the traffic lights were gone. How would we manage? It would affect all of us -- mom and dad going to work, trucks delivering everything we need and use, pedestrians trying to cross the street, and on the list goes.

Politics:

- the art or science concerned with guiding or influencing governmental policy
- the total complex of relations between men and society

It is the latter definition that, to me, calls all of us, from our Civic Associations and HOAs, to our cities and towns, to our state and our country.

Everyone needs to be involved. Those of us who are currently involved need to be certain that this spring’s graduates are the leaders of the future. If we envision the type of concerned and quality leaders we want them to be, we need to reach out and involve them now.

Invite them to join you in your political activities and include political conversation at the dinner table. The rewards for the world are immeasurable.

Gerry McNally
Centennial Neighborhood Association



Elizabeth Settambrino -
CCHS
Northern Arizona
University, Education



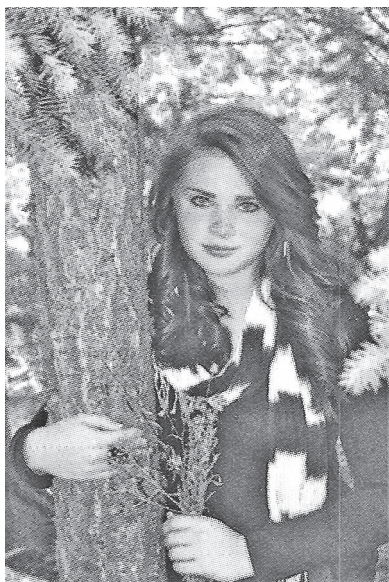
Daniel Siqueros - CCHS



Austin Smith - CCHS
University of Colorado
Boulder, Business



Maxwell Totten - CCHS



Kali Weyer - CCHS



Christopher Boudeau -
VCHS - Grace College
Winona Lake, Indiana
Business.



Spring Dumpster Days

Wow, what a great turnout for Dumpster Days! The weather was cold and wet, but spirits were high. Members were lined up before 7:30 am and as soon as the “The Garbage Man” trash trucks showed up, we starting dumping. We met 18 new members in line with the 60 families waiting their turn. Boy Scouts sold Red Cross First Aid Kits to raise money for a camping trip they are looking forward to this summer. It is always a pleasure to see Brookie “the metals man” with his son Dawd claiming our old treasures to be recycled. They have supported our Dumpster Days for several years, no matter what the weather With your \$20 membership fee, not only do you



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have great events like the Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth of July Parade/Ice Cream Social, and National Night Out; you have the Spring and Fall Dumpster Days. What a great deal! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped coordinate and participate in this event, you are the best.

Donna Senn

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The First Law – Your Final Science Lesson

What did Newton say about bodies? Something about resting (that sounds good!) and something about moving in a straight line (that sounds like I'm in trouble!).

A body at rest will stay at rest and a body in motion will stay in motion.

Okay, that's not exactly what he said,

but the idea of inertia – Newton's 1st Law – can be interpreted this way.

You have a choice this summer. Actually, it extends to the rest of your life. You can sit down and rest after your momentous achievement of graduation. You can sit on the couch and watch TV. You can even sit in your car and drive to a park and sit in the sun. You can sit at a restaurant and hang out with your friends. Sit. Sit. Sit. Inertia begins to take over and it gets harder and harder to get up. You become one with your chair and extra weight starts piling up around your belly and your rear end. Not attractive and certainly not healthy. And each day makes you older than your biological years.

Or you can choose to move. And keep moving. You can go running, play tennis, play golf, go swimming, go hiking, play basketball with your friends – whatever. As you move, it gets easier to keep moving. Your cells stay healthy, young and vibrant. And when you come back for your Class of 2012 reunion in 5 years, 10 years and even 20 years, you will look younger, stronger, and hotter than all your classmates.

The laws of science really can't be violated. So, choose to move. And keep it going the rest of your life.

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Dry Creek Elementary School Sends One Destination Imagination Team to the Global Final Competition in Knoxville, TN.

Destination Imagination Colorado is the largest competition-based creative problem solving organization in Colorado. It provides students the opportunity to unleash their innovative talents to solve open-ended challenges that show their creativity in technical, scientific, fine arts, improvisational, structural, and service learning fields. There were 180 teams that competed in Cherry Creek's Regional Tournament. 50 of those teams were Rising Stars which were not eligible to compete after Regionals. Cherry Creek sent 46 teams to state for Cherry Creek, and of those, 9 are going to Global Final Competition. Overall, the state had 932 teams compete in regional tournaments, with 291 teams competing at the state tournament. Colorado is sending 60 teams to Globals this year. Nine teams from the Cherry Creek School District will take their talent and ingenuity to the Destination ImagiNation (DI) Global Finals, which will be held May 23-26 in Knoxville, TN.

The DIA's are a team of two fourth graders and three fifth graders from Dry Creek Elementary School that achieved high honors in qualifying for Destination Imagination Global Finals, the largest creative thinking and problem solving competition in the world. The team members include Madelyn Sailers, Sophie Martin, Tara Rondinelli, Andie McCall, and Annalie Day. They will compete with more than 1,000 other teams from the United States and 15 other countries May 23-26 in Knoxville, Tenn., in one of seven difficult, open-ended challenges. In doing so, they will need to apply science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), improvisation, theater arts, writing, project management, communication, innovation, teamwork and community service problem solving and leadership skills.

The DIA's competed at the DI Colorado State Finals on April 14 and placed third in their category of News to Me (an Improv challenge) and earned them the spot to compete at the Global Finals

When asked what she has enjoyed most about DI this year, Madelyn Sailers replied, "I have had a lot of fun this year. I became friends with my team and learned how to work together as a team. Going to Global Finals is a dream come true for me."

Sophie Martin added, "It has been so much fun building friendships and watching

our hard work lead to us heading to Globals. I kept telling our managers we were going to Knoxville and now we are! This has been the best year."

"As a parent volunteer," Katrina Sailers said, "it has been an honor and a privilege to work with this team and watch them grow. They began the season not knowing one another and grew as a team who are all now friends. They worked hard implementing the education they have received from Dry Creek to problem solve their challenge and to earn this opportunity. We are very excited to be able to move on to the Global competition and represent our school and our school district."

We would like to thank all the local businesses, families, and friends who supported our team with their financial contributions. We could not have funded this trip without each of you.



Africa

Jill Poole, kindergarten teacher at Walnut Hills Community Elementary and Kathi Jensen, retired teacher from Walnut Hills will be going to the African country of Uganda this summer to present a workshop for preschool and kindergarten teachers from an

orphanage in Kampala. Mrs. Poole's daughter-in-law, Saranga Jain, spent two years in the Peace Corp in Uganda. While there she worked with Conche McGar, who heads the orphanage. Saranga introduced

Mrs. Poole to Conche, who requested this workshop. Jill and Kathi are busy planning lessons and gathering materials. They are donating their time and their travel expenses. The website for the African school is <http://babiugandaorphans.org/>

Walnut Hills Elementary parents and students have supported this endeavor by raising and donating funds for educational materials and transporting these materials. The Walnut Hills PTCO donated money to help with expenses. Jana Lucas fifth grade class spearheaded a "Coins for Africa" campaign that raised close to \$400.00. Besides presenting a teacher workshop, Jill and Kathi will bring soft dolls made by Walnut Hills parents and community members, so that every child in the orphanage has something to love. Diana Varela, Walnut Hills parent, has helped organize the volunteers who are assembling these dolls. Matchbox cars and new soccer balls (not inflated) are also needed for the children.

If you are interested in helping sew the dolls (our goal is 90 dolls), donating money, matchbox cars or soccer balls, please contact Jill at jgarramonepoole@cherrycreekschools.org (303-358-5019) or Kathi atknaffah@aol.com (303-902-4014).



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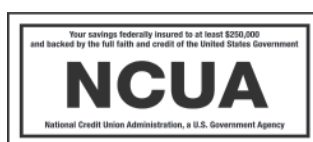
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2012 Walnut Hills Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday March 31, 2012, the Easter Bunny made a special trip to the Walnut Hills School Park. The event, sponsored by the Walnut Hills Civic Association, was well attended. The weather was spectacular and more than a few of us left with sunburns. There was kite making, a cupcake walk and at a few minutes after 11 am, a mad dash for candy and other prizes. The Walnut Hills Civic Association wants to thank everyone for their support of this annual event which is funded by member's annual dues. A special thanks to volunteers Lonnie Gregg, Paula Hillman, Jim Benton and Easter Bunny Karen Pellegrin. Thanks also to the Walnut Hills Co-op for providing wipes for sticky fingers and faces. To support and be involved in this fun annual event, become a member of the Walnut Hills Civic Association or contact Debra Gania 303-617-1687.

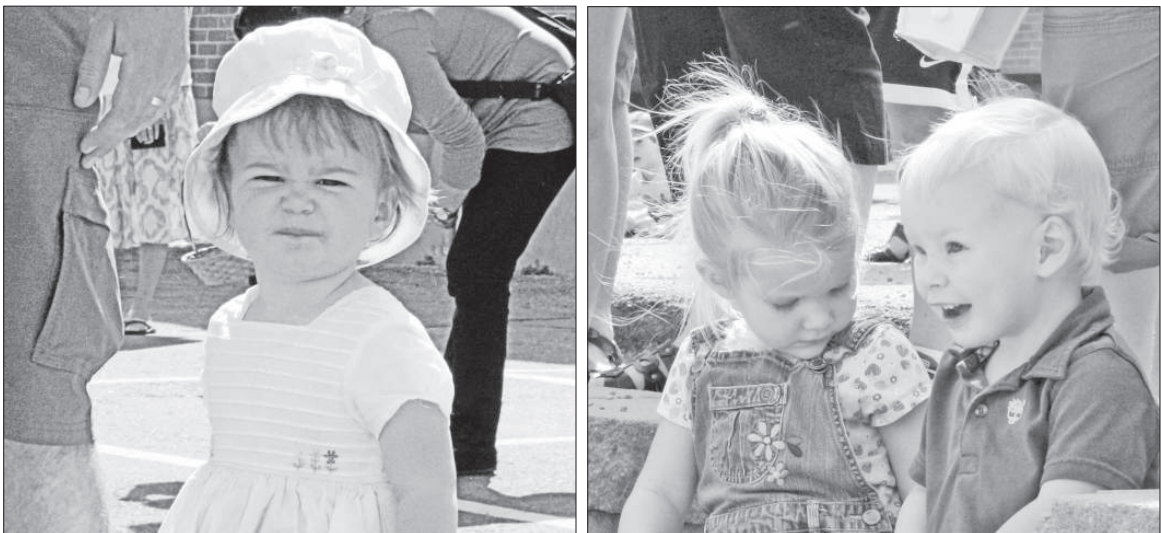


Cub Scout Pack 257 – Scouting Through the Summer

Scouting doesn't stop when school ends! Pack 257 has summer plans! Join us for a Flag Day Celebration at Walnut Hills Elementary Park (at the amphitheater behind the school), and look for us in the 4th of July Parade! You'll also find us hiking, camping at Magness Adventure Camp, splashing around at our pool party and watching a movie under the stars.

Cub Scout Pack 257 has been based in Walnut Hills for over 30 years. Scouts and their families have a great time with their Scouting activities, including the Pinewood Derby, camping and awesome den activities that include trips to nearby fire stations, radio stations, and historical centers.

Our Scouts help out in the Walnut Hills community, as well as in the greater Metro Denver area. Look for our Scouts in Veteran's Day celebrations at local elementary schools, raking leaves in the fall for the elderly citizens of Walnut Hills and collecting for the Denver Rescue Mission during the holiday season. Fall kicks off our popcorn sale! Your popcorn purchase supports Scouting and helps keep our Scouts active and involved, both in Scouting and the community.



Scouting is great for boys! Through Scouting, boys gain confidence, learn good citizenship and respect for others, grow spiritually, and learn the importance of being fit and healthy. Boys work individually, together in groups and with their families to accomplish goals, and are recognized for their hard work.

Scouting provides positive reinforcement when boys reach out, take a chance and have fun.

Cub Scouts is open to boys in 1st – 5th grades. If you're interested in joining Pack 257, or finding out more about Scouting, please contact Jennifer Loehr at jennifer@loehrs.com or 303.359.6452. You can also visit the Denver Area Council website at www.denverboyscouts.org, or the national website, at www.scouting.org. – Photo: Thanks to TCBY for their generous donation to our Ice Cream Social

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Letter to Neighbors

I am writing to kindly request that you trim back your trees, bushes, and/or gardens that currently overhang the sidewalk. The sidewalk is where our kids ride their bikes and walk to school, our parents walk their strollers, our neighbors go for walks, and our less fortunate neighbors have to navigate their wheelchairs. Centennial City Council passed Ordinance No. 2011-O-30 in 2011 requiring all Centennial residents to keep the sidewalk adjacent to their property clear of obstructions including plants, cars, trash cans, etc. Additionally, all plants should be trimmed back to at least the edge of sidewalk and should provide at least 8' of vertical clearance above the sidewalk. There is a fine associated with this ordinance not to exceed \$1,000. I would rather refrain from involving the City and simply ask that you think of your neighbors and keep your sidewalks clear. Thank you!



Wine
Beer
and
Spirits

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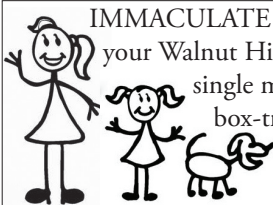
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Walnut Hills Civic Association P.O. Box 3438 Englewood, CO 80155-3436

www.WalnutHillsColorado.org
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* I want to help:

_____ Easter Egg Hunt (New Chair Needed)

_____ Walnut Hills Block Party (August)

_____ Snow Shoveling Volunteers

_____ Joining the Board

_____ Community Garden Project

* I need some help shoveling snow: _____:

Thank you for joining!

Dear Walnut Hills Community,

Hi, I'm Monty Christo III. I am a fifth grader at Dry Creek Elementary and I live in Walnut Hills. I recently crossed from Cub Scouts into Boy Scouts and am excited to have the opportunity to attend the National Boy Scout Jamboree next summer in Mount Hope, West Virginia. It is two weeks of high adventure camping. As you might imagine, this trip is expensive. In order to help fund my trip,



I am collecting aluminum cans. If you are willing to save your cans to help me go to camp, send me an email at Monty.Christo.III@gmail.com with your address and I will pick them up from you on Saturdays. If you have any questions, you can email me at the same address.


Thank You, Monty Christo III



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