

# Walnut Hills Newsletter

*A Beautiful Community of Families, Friends and Neighbors for 59 years*

## Walnut Hills Scholarship Winners Look to Bright Future

This year's high-school seniors will always remember the many ways COVID disrupted and distorted their senior year. But this year's Walnut Hills Scholarship winners remind us how hard our young people have worked to persist, adjust, and excel through it all. Want further inspiration? Two of this year's winners are poised to become leaders in the field of health care, tackling the medical challenges of the future. The third is on the front lines of the fine arts, finding ways to engage and entertain even in a year without in-person audiences.

To honor their accomplishments—and in excited anticipation of what they'll accomplish in the future—the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund is delighted to present all three with \$2,500 college scholarships, funded by the generosity of Walnut Hills residents. And as we reestablish the rituals we missed in the past year, we look forward to presenting the scholarships publicly, at the Walnut Hills Civic Association's annual Fourth of July event in Walnut Hills Park.

The Scholarship Board is thrilled to announce this year's scholarship recipients, profiled here in alphabetical order:

**PATRICK KRUSE**, son of Walnut Hills residents Nancy and Bradford Kruse, and a graduating senior at Cherry Creek High School, describes himself rather modestly as one who has learned to not expect instant success, but instead to “pace out achievements.” He is, as one teacher puts it, “driven and willing to put in the work necessary to pursue and achieve his goals.” But what especially stands out is the clear direction those goals are taking him. Early in high school, well before the COVID pandemic, Patrick became fixed on a career in the health sciences. Under difficult circumstances—spending time at the Mayo Clinic with his grandmother—he was moved by the care the nurses gave her and determined to pursue nursing as a career. He got accepted into the Health and Wellness track at the new Cherry Creek Innovation Campus, where “his maturity,” in the words of his counselor, “helped him thrive in the program and further his ambitions of working in the health field.”

When he's not training as a pharmacy technician or certified nurse aide at CCIC, or pursuing his more traditional curriculum (especially heavy in science and math) at Creek, Patrick has found time for extracurricular pursuits. He has participated in Boy Scouts for twelve years, serving as patrol leader and receiving the Scouts' National Youth Leadership Training, developing skills to lead his home troop and to take on leadership roles in other fields. This spring he also achieved the highest rank of Eagle Scout. Another extracurricular highlight has been his three-year participation on Creek's climbing team. It was here, he writes, that he gained skills at goal-setting, competing with himself to gradually work his way toward higher and higher achievements. It paid off when he made varsity his junior year and competed at state, realizing another long-held ambition.

Patrick will take his next step toward his greater life goal when he enrolls at Creighton University in Omaha in the fall, pursuing his degree in nursing.

**THEO LOEHR**, son of Walnut Hill residents Jennifer and Michael Loehr, identified his passion for art and music at a young age. He began drum lessons at age eight and later learned guitar and piano through YouTube videos. Then, in middle school, he discovered a love of acting. He took this new passion into high school, majoring in Theatre at the Denver School of the Arts and participating in the school's Thespian troupe. At DSA he has acted in what his counselor calls “a number of challenging roles” and also worked as a production assistant and assistant director. He's also pursued a rigorous curriculum, including not just theatre but also six AP courses and many additional honors courses.

Outside of school, Theo remains highly active in music circles. He's drummer for a local indie rock band, Noble

5th and the Confidence, that has played at school functions and competed successfully at local music festivals, and he's worked as a session and live drummer for local recording artists. He also performs as singer-songwriter for a second band. The COVID crisis has, of course, thrown the arts into turmoil, but as his theater teacher notes, Theo's “ability to pivot in remote has been wonderful,” as he has explored the new medium of video and begun offering online guitar lessons to kids. “This year has highlighted that the future belongs to creative thinkers,” he writes, “who can find new ways to make the arts accessible.”

Theo will take his talents next to Elon University in North Carolina, where he's excited to major in Performing Arts Management, learning the business side of the arts while continuing to act and perform. He hopes to get involved, as well, in arts outreach for under-served and at-risk children. Whatever means or medium he can use to share the freedom and self-expression of the arts, he says, “I'll find it, just like art found me.”

**ANNA STRATING**, daughter of Walnut Hills residents Tricia and Larry Strating, has a passion for helping others, but she has also found the confidence to face her fears—even when it means snorkeling with sharks!

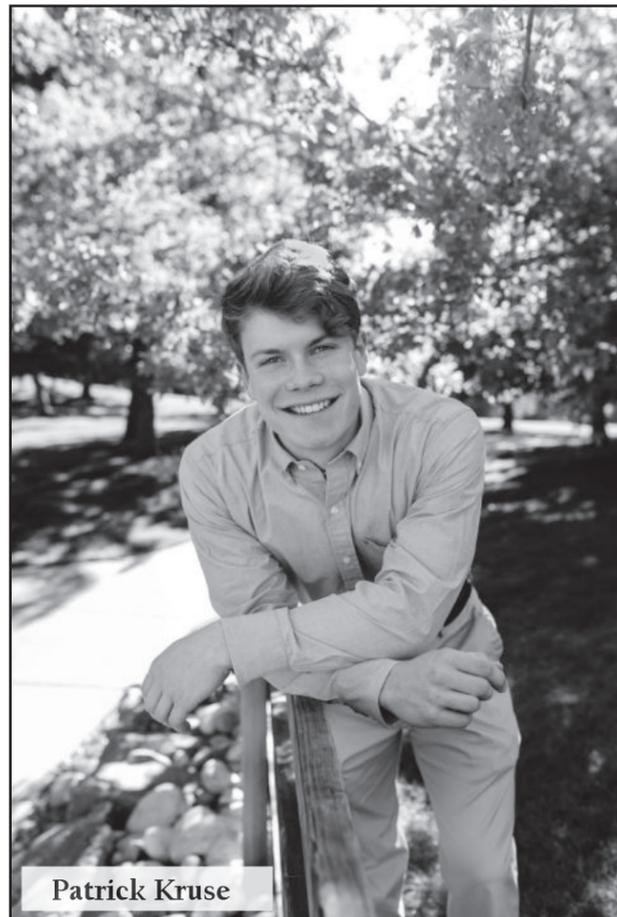
Anna pursued what her counselor calls “a challenging college prep curriculum” at Cherry Creek High School, landing on the honor roll her first two years and the high honor roll these last two. She played on Creek's soccer team and climbed with the Creek Outdoor Leadership Training club. But she has focused above all on service, whether it's volunteering summers at Castlewood Library, helping to hook younger kids on reading, participating in Creek's Interact Club, which engages in community service work like Newborns in Need and Project C.U.R.E.; or helping freshmen find their way around Creek's sprawling campus as a member of the Link Crew. She is “always ready to help out the younger kids at school,” writes a neighbor. Or as one teacher puts it, she simply has a “commitment to others.”

But what Anna calls “the most meaningful experience I've ever had” is her participation in scouting. She started with Scouts BSA (formerly Boy Scouts of America) in 2019, when the organization first allowed girls to join. Elected Senior Patrol Leader of the girls' troop, Anna discovered a strength for leadership, planning, organizing, and directing troop activities. In 2020 she spent a week at Sea Base, the Scouts' high adventure camp in the Florida Keys, camping on an uninhabited island, deep-ocean swimming, and snorkeling the Florida Reef with its denizen sharks. Scouting, she writes, helped her overcome fears and made her “mentally prepared for whatever the future has in store.”

This fall will find Anna at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, where she plans to major in nursing. It's a career path wholly in keeping with her service ethic—and, after a year like 2020, one that takes every bit as much courage and determination as swimming with sharks.

The Scholarship Board is honored to publicly recognize Anna, Theo, and Patrick — three graduating seniors who make Walnut Hills proud! And we congratulate the entire class of 2021, and all the students in our neighborhood, for sticking to their goals and inspiring us all with their energy through a most challenging year.

Finally, we'd like to thank the Walnut Hills Newsletter and the Civic Association for their friendship and help, and all our neighbors and anonymous donors whose generous contributions make the scholarship program possible—and have since 1972. Please join us on July 4th to celebrate our 2021 recipients!



Patrick Kruse



Theo Loehr



Anna Strating



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# Walnut Hills May Dumpster Days

Well, we had one stupendous day and one a little less than average. On May 8, we had the most dumps ever! It was amazing, we had 79 dumps and picked up 34 Walnut Hills Civic Assoc. (WHCA) member payments. The day was perfect, and everybody seemed pretty happy, even those who had to wait over an hour to get to the garbage trucks. The Garbage Man provides our trucks for Dumpster Days and we do appreciate that. Those gentlemen worked really hard with that many cars.

Brooké, the “metals guy”, died last Christmas and his son Daoud, who’s been helping him for a number of years, picked up the job for his dad. We’re thankful we still have the metals guys (Daoud and his friend Cooper) doing some of the “recycling”, keeping metal out of the trash.

On May 15, we had our second May Dumpster Day with not as large a turnout but still pretty good. We had 51 dumps and picked up 6 paid memberships. The 15th was also a great day. How we managed to find two beautiful Saturday mornings in the middle of all the rainy weekend weather we had through May was quite a good deal for us.

Many thanks to Donna Senn and Andrea Suhaka who manned both days. They really do enjoy the events.

One further note, the WHCA will have another Dumpster Day on Oct. 9 and that one will include electronic recycling. There may be a charge but, that hasn’t been figured out, yet. Remember, if it ran on batteries or plugged in, it’s illegal to throw it out in the trash. It must be recycled.

Andrea Suhaka

Photos Jesse Alcorta



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# The Walking Taco Truck Was Fabulous For Cinco De Mayo!



Diane Riechert, who specializes in a textured painting of aspen trees

I was looking forward to seeing which food truck was parked at the Walnut Hills tennis courts.

Walking from the house got me out knowing that dinner was ready for me.

Not only the Walking Taco food truck (1 carnitas and 1 barbacoa, please) but the local artists and their wares

Waiting for my order to be assembled I cruised the tables and bought a coffee mug and a photo taken in Belize.

I can't wait to walk down to the food trucks every other Wednesday to see who's cooking my dinner and making great art right here in Walnut Hills!

Photos Donna Senn



Michelle Koster with mixed media and photography. [www.michellekosterphotography.com](http://www.michellekosterphotography.com)



Marianne Molberg, with pottery, and her father Ron Dreher with landscape and southwestern prints. [rondreher.com](http://rondreher.com)

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Dear Walnut Hills Community,

The end of the 2020-2021 school year has come upon us. As I reflect on the past year, I have many thoughts and emotions. I know we all have faced much adversity, strife, and perhaps some pain and sadness. And for whatever you have endured through the last year, please know it weighs on my heart and mind. I hope all things will end for the good. One thing I can say for certain that when I look back over the last year is our students has thrived despite the challenges. They have been resilient, persevered, and shown such grit. Our students have entered the doors all year with joy, excitement, and a readiness to learn. Our children exude light, energy, and positivity which has kept our staff, teachers, and community committed to doing whatever it takes to help them succeed. I am truly proud of each child at Walnut Hills. Thank

you, my strong and amazing students, for being such role models for us all!

I also want to thank my staff and teachers at Walnut Hills. They too have shown such grit and perseverance. Whether they were dropping off supplies and computers to students' homes or meeting virtually with students and families, they made sure to strive for excellence for every child. Our staff has an unwavering commitment to all children learning. And this year has shown their commitment tenfold. Thank you, my wonderful staff and teachers, for always saying yes for the betterment of all children.

Lastly, thank you to our families and community. It does take a village. Our families worked hard every day to get their children to school or online to learn. They extended us grace and love every time we had to quarantine children, change the rules and protocols, meet virtually, or make adjustments to everyday routines. Thank you, families, for your commitment to your children and their learning. We are grateful to you!

It has been a wonderful month of May! We have had so many fun and happy celebrations. We celebrated staff and teacher appreciation during the week of May 3rd. We had lots of yummy treats and played human scrabble. We also had our Virtual LAUNCH Day where children shared their last STEAM projects. Our kids truly have become scientists, technologists, engineers, artists, and mathematicians. The kids participated in the beloved Field Day and even had a visit from the local ice cream truck. We ended the month our Virtual RISE assembly to celebrate positive behaviors shown by children grade kindergarten through fifth. We work to celebrate all children at these assemblies. The kids participated in a virtual talent show. They are all so talented! And we ended the year with fifth grade continuation on the front lawn. Our fifth grade students shined and we know they will be fantastic in middle school.

We are saying goodbye to two of our dear staff members; Jan Ragnow and Jill Laschober-Reed. Both Jill and Jan have dedicated themselves to children for over 30 years. Their time at Walnut Hills has been incredible. We are grateful to them both. We wish them a relaxing and well-deserved retirement. Hannah Loucks will be joining our kindergarten team, Ashlyn Hugill will be joining our first grade team, and Drew Solowy will be joining our fifth grade team. Also, Jenni Nystrom, our school office manager, will be leaving Walnut Hills and joining me at School #45 in August.

I want to welcome the new principal of Walnut Hills, Kali Williams. Kali has a vast background in education and is most recently the assistant principal at Liberty Middle School in CCSD. We are excited to have Kali join the Walnut Hills team and community! Please take time to stop by and introduce yourselves next school year.

It has been my complete honor and privilege to be part of the Walnut Hills community over the past five years. You have all been nothing but kind, gracious, and supportive of me. I know in my heart Walnut Hills will continue to thrive and grow. Thank you for being the BEST community ever!

Much love and gratitude,  
Teolyn Bourbonnie

## 4th of July Parade and Ice Cream Social

Come one, come all! The WHCA and the Walnut Hills Elementary PTCO are pleased to announce that we WILL be having the 4th of July Parade and Ice Cream Social this year! The parade will organize at Dry Creek Elementary School parking lot starting at 9:30 am. The parade will start its route promptly at 10 am led by a South Metro Fire truck! Ice cream will be available at the Walnut Hills Park (not the school) starting at about 10:30. This year we will be serving individually packaged servings. Decorate your bike, trike, mom, grandpa in the stars and stripes, and bring them down for some community time and sweet treats!!

## Yoga in the Park

After a second successful summer, WHCA is pleased to announce we will once again be having yoga in the park - held every other Sunday, June - August and starting at 9 am, our wonderful instructor Anar will be joining us - Check the WHCA calendar provided in the annual mailer or on our website. No experience needed, the class is open to all ages and skill levels. Bring a mat or towel. Yoga is weather dependent. In the case of inclement weather, a cancellation will be posted on the WHCA website.

## National Night Out

After a socially distanced 2020, the WHCA is looking forward to hosting the 2021 National Night Out!! This will be on Tuesday, August 3rd from 6-8 pm. We welcome the community to join us for food and fun in the Walnut Hills School Park (assuming ballfield construction is completed) and get to know your neighbors again!! Dinner will be served on a first-come-first-served basis. We are working on the details of the entertainment, but we hope to have a band and potentially some demonstrations. Our local community first responders and service providers will also be invited to join us. Details will be posted on the WHCA website as they become available. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

## Neighborhood Garage Sale

Walnut Hills Neighborhood Garage sale will be held Friday, June 4th, and Saturday, June 5th. Garage sales will be held at your home (no central location). No need to sign up! WHCA will place banners at neighborhood entrances to help advertise!

## Walnut Hills Elementary School Park Ballfield Improvement Project

Project Description: The Walnut Hills Elementary School Project will entail relocating the ballfield northwest of its current location (outside of an existing drainage path). An ADA compliant concrete trail will be created for access to the new ballfield, along with a retaining wall and cedar rail fence. A new 12' height backstop and players/coaches benches will be installed. Additionally, ADA accessibility to the existing tennis courts and pavilion will be improved. This project is jointly funded by South Suburban and the City of Centennial.

Anticipated Construction Dates: June 2021 - August 2021

Project Contact: Patrick O'Keeffe, Park Planner II, POkeeffe@ssprd.org, 303.483.7026



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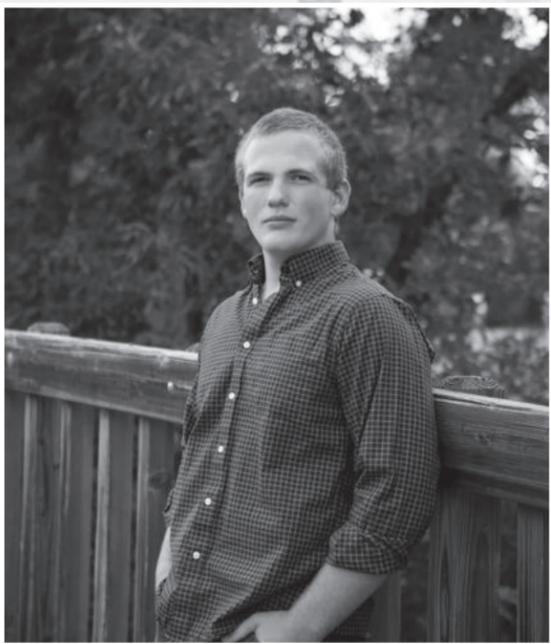
Alexia Alvarez  
Cherry Creek High School



Anna Strating  
Cherry Creek High School



Elijah Matteson  
Cherry Creek High School



Hunter Gray-White  
Cherry Creek High School  
Wrestling 4 years  
Joining Marine Corp



Lauren Wiest  
Cherry Creek High School



Maya Hunter  
Cherry Creek High School  
Awarded Boettcher Scholarship  
8-year medical degree program University of Colorado at Denver/Colorado School of Medicine



Peyton Evans  
Legend High School  
Honor student and has accepted a scholarship to play soccer at Valpariso University next year.



Rachel Penzenstadler  
Cherry Creek High School



Reagan Postregna  
Cherry Creek High School

# Walnut Hills Celebrates The Class Of 2021



Emily Gustin  
Cherry Creek High School  
Eagle Scout  
Attending California University of Pennsylvania



Gabe Harding  
Cherry Creek High School



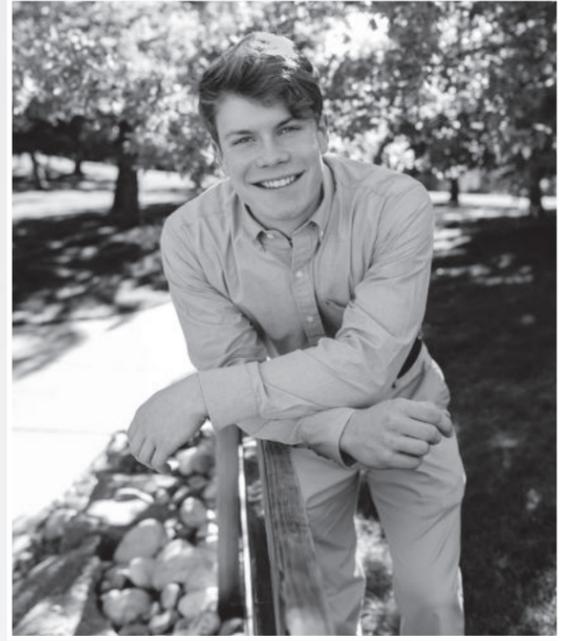
Hayden Swyers  
Cherry Creek High School



Micheal Titera Jr.  
Cherry Creek High School



Nicola Kristina Cox - Cherry Creek High School  
Grandparents - Darrell and Renate Olson  
Parents - Simone and Larry Robinson



Patrick Kruse  
Cherry Creek High School



Theo Loehr  
Denver School of the Arts - Theater  
Attending Elon University in Elon, NC -  
Double-major in Arts Administration and  
Music Production & Recording Arts



Ty Brown  
Cherry Creek High School  
Studying Spanish in Puebla, Mexico in the Fall

# Walnut Hills Celebrates The Class Of 2021

### Easter Egg Hunt

The year 2020 brought COVID, masks, social distancing, and cancelled many social events. Easter 2020 was cancelled for Walnut Hills, but 2021 brought reduced infection rates, vaccinations, and a new freedom. This year's Easter Egg Hunt was held at Walnut Hills Park. Most people wore masks, but you could still see the enthusiasm in their faces. The weather was great and the event was well attended. Blue skies, green grass, and the only thing infectious was the attitude of everyone getting out and coming together to celebrate their new found freedom. Jesse Alcorta



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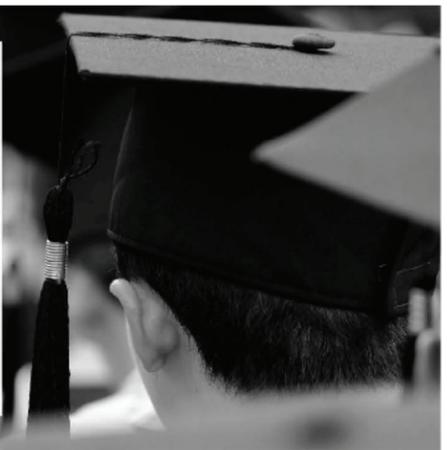
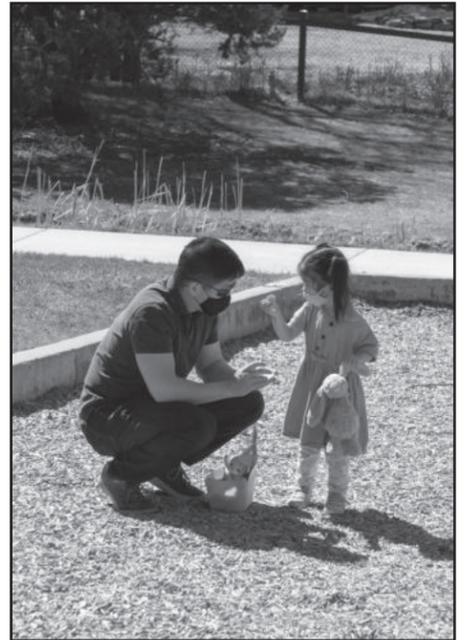
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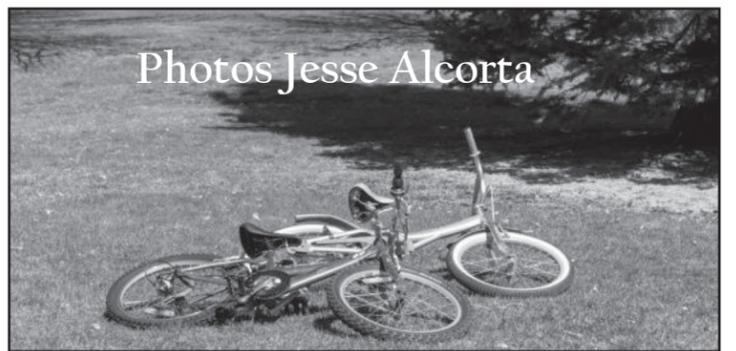
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Photos Jesse Alcorta



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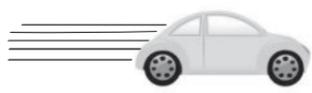
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Check out the latest Walnut Hills Civic Association happenings and **pay the \$30 dues online via PayPal.**  
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2021 Activities	Date/Time	Location
Community Garage Sale	Fri. and Sat. June 4 and 5	Your homes
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Ice Cream Social	Sun. July 4 10 am – noon	9:30 am at Dry Creek School; 10:30 am Ice Cream at Walnut Hills Park
Walnut Hills Night Out	Tues. August 3 6 – 8 pm	Walnut Hills School – includes free supper!
Yoga in the Park	Sun. June 13 and 27 Sun. July 11 and 25 Sun. Aug. 8 and 22	9 am Walnut Hills Park Bring a mat / towel
Beer Night	Tue. Sept. 28 6 pm – 8 pm	Resolute Brewing Company
Fall Dumpster Day and E-Recycle	Sat. October 9 8 – 11 am or full	Walnut Hills School Parking Lot
Halloween Party	Sat. October 30, 2 – 4 pm	Walnut Hills Park
Holiday Lighting Contest	Week of Dec. 20	
WHCA Board of Directors Meeting, Annual Meeting	Monthly - every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7 pm, March 10, 2022	Metrum Credit Union Open to all residents

**Stop the Speeding in Walnut Hills**  
 Help bring needed attention to dangerous driving in the neighborhood. Consistent reporting by everyone who sees dangerous driving and speeding is the only way to get the help we need. Report every incident! Thank You!  
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## Items of Interest

**WIFE: “There is a problem with the tractor. It has water in the carburetor.”**  
**HUSBAND: “Water in the carburetor? That’s ridiculous”**  
**WIFE: “I’m telling you the tractor has water in the carburetor”**  
**HUSBAND: “You don’t even know where the carburetor is. Where’s the tractor?”**  
**WIFE: “In the pool”**

**Check it out!**  
**Walnut Hills Civic Association Has A New Website!**

The WHCA is pleased to announce that we have a new and improved website up and running! This will continue to be expanded, but we are so excited to have a more user friendly, updated website! Please visit us at [www.walnuthillscolorado.org](http://www.walnuthillscolorado.org)

**Walnut Hills Civic Association Membership**

If you are a resident of Walnut Hills, whether you’re a home owner or rent a house, you’re a member of the Walnut Hills Civic Association. When you pay your \$30 annual dues to support the WHCA, you become an active member. Our active members’ support, together with the time and efforts of so many neighbors who have volunteered over the years to advocate for improvements to our neighborhood and bring our community together with fun family events, is a big part of what makes Walnut Hills such a special place. If you haven’t already done so, please consider becoming an active member today. It’s easy to pay your annual dues and become an active member. You can pay online at [walnuthillscolorado.org/dues](http://walnuthillscolorado.org/dues), or clip the form below to send a check by mail.

If you are already an active member, THANK YOU! We couldn’t do this without you.

Walnut Hills Civic Association  
 PO Box 3436  
 Englewood CO 80155-3436  
 WHCA Membership runs from April 1 through March 31. Dues \$30

Member name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_



# Walnut Hills Is Hosting Food Trucks Throughout The Summer

These will be on Wednesdays every other week through October. Most days there will be both a Savory truck and a Dessert Truck. Something new this year, on some of the dates a Food truck dedicated to Dogs will be in attendance.



The trucks will be set up ready to go at 4:30 pm and they will stay there until 8:00 pm. Trucks are set up near the Walnut Hills Tennis Courts. Suggestions for the food trucks: - Everyone must wear a face mask - Please remember to social distance around the trucks - best option is to pay with card - Bring your lawn chairs to enjoy in the grass areas.

Here's the schedule for the summer and the Food Trucks that will be in attendance. Trucks are subject to change.

Date	Savory Truck	Dessert Truck	Pet Food Truck
June 2	Darleenz Dillaz	The Snowy Churro	Bone Apetreat
June 16	Capital City Wings		
June 30	Original by Greeks	The Snowy Churro	
July 14	Colorado Pig Rig	Lucky Marys	
July 28	Bamboo Skewer	The Snowy Churro	Bone Apetreat
August 11	Coast2Coast	HipPoPs	
August 25	StreetSideEats	The Snowy Churro	
Sept. 8	Cig	Lucky Marys	
Sept 22	Radical Sasquatch	The Snowy Churro	Bone Apetreat
Oct 6	Darleenz Dillaz	Lucky Marys	
Oct 20	Bamboo Skewer	The Snowy Churro	

In addition to the Food Trucks - on the first Wednesday of each Food Truck some local Walnut Hills Artists will be in attendance.

Please check Nextdoor and the Events page on Nextdoor for each Food Truck Wednesday to see information and possible menus for each truck.

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