

# Walnut Hills Newsletter

*A Beautiful Community of Families, Friends and Neighbors for 57 years*

## High School Graduates



Send in your Senior Pictures for the June Graduation Issue. Now, more than ever, we want to celebrate your special year as a community. Every graduate from all schools - send your digital photo to [walnut hillsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:walnut hillsnewsletter@gmail.com)

**We Are Proud Of You!**

## Costilla NTMP Continues

There was a great turn out for the 1st Public Meeting for the Costilla NTMP. This meeting was for informational purposes and explained the process, some of the tools that can be used for traffic calming and the next steps. The presentation shown at the meeting as well as background information on the NTMP application can be found at [www.walnut hillsco.org](http://www.walnut hillsco.org). A second public meeting will be scheduled in late spring/early summer to discuss recommended traffic calming devices. When additional information is available it will be distributed.

## Help Wanted

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I have been the Advertising Manager of the Walnut Hills Newsletter for several years now.

With sadness and excitement for my future, I am retiring from my position with the paper.

I am reaching out to you, looking for someone to take my duties.

It's a fun job talking to advertisers, so if you are interested in this position please call or write me to discuss the full description of this important aspect of our beautiful community.

Donna Senn 303-522-8384

[senn.family@comcast.net](mailto:senn.family@comcast.net)



## Easter Egg Hunt Cancelled

In light of the ever-changing health concerns around the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) the WHCA decided to CANCEL the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 4th (rain date April 11) This event will NOT be rescheduled, but we look forward to once again hosting in 2021. Enjoy your backyard Easter Egg Hunts instead and we wish everyone a blessed and Happy Easter.

## Dumpster Days 2020

May 9th and 16th

8AM to 11AM

This year's Dumpster Days is scheduled 8AM to 11AM on May 9th and 16th no matter what the weather.

For your 30 dollar membership fee not only do you have great events like Beer Night, Fourth of July Parade/ Ice Cream Social, Yoga Sundays, and National Night Out; you have the Spring and Fall Dumpster Days. What a great deal! "The Garbage Man" trucks and workers will show up and pull off your trash, so you don't have to touch it again!

And as always Brookie "the metals man" with his son Dawd will claim our old treasures to be recycled. They have joined us for several years now and have supported our Dumpster Days.

Please remember no cans of paint, no poisons, no batteries, no brick or concrete, no tree stumps, but bring your mattress, sofa, lawn furniture, bicycles, tree branches, bushes, etc.

Any Questions? Don't hesitate to call Donna

Dumpster Days Chair

Donna Senn - 303-741-2065

## Cash Relief Activated For Arapahoe County Families In Need

Arapahoe County families experiencing economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic may qualify for short-term, state-sponsored financial assistance to help them through the crisis. Beginning immediately, families may apply for the Colorado Works County Emergency Disaster Program through Colorado PEAK, an online service that allows qualified Coloradans to screen and apply for medical, food, cash and early childhood assistance.

### Eligibility

Family's annual gross income must be below \$75,000 combined

The household must contain at least one child age 18 or younger

Family must present a significant need for services directly related to the COVID-19 emergency

Family must be legally present in the U.S.

Assistance may include, but is not limited to, the following types:

Purchase or lease of shelter

Transportation (including car repairs and purchase)

Non-covered medical expenses

Work-related supplies that were lost or damaged

Counseling services

Non-medical mental health services

Eligible families may receive funds the same day they apply. Benefits are issued directly to an EBT card or to a bank account.

### How To Apply

Visit Colorado PEAK, [www.Colorado.gov/PEAK](http://www.Colorado.gov/PEAK), and click on "apply for benefits" to access the online portal. Follow the prompts to create an account using a valid email, or apply as a guest if email isn't available.

Once an account is created, Colorado PEAK will ask which benefit programs you are applying to; based on the information provided, families may qualify for additional public assistance.

Arapahoe County residents may email [ColoradoWorksDisasterProgram@arapahoegov.com](mailto:ColoradoWorksDisasterProgram@arapahoegov.com) for additional inquiries during this time as the County continues to provide support while County facilities closed to the public.

### About The Program

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Security, has deployed the Colorado Works County Emergency Disaster Program in response to state and local declaration of emergency.

Colorado's 64 counties administer the Colorado Works Program locally within their departments of human or social services. The program serves approximately 15,300 households statewide each month.

### Additional Resources

Almost all the correspondence you have with Arapahoe County Human Services—including questions, updates on cases, delivery of documents and general information—can be addressed by accessing the Colorado Program Eligibility and Application Kit (PEAK) at [www.Colorado.gov/PEAK](http://www.Colorado.gov/PEAK). Learn about the public assistance program, complete an application and manage benefits that impact your family including:

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program

Financial (CASH) assistance

Food assistance

Heat and energy assistance

Medical assistance

Colorado PEAK is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, on your smartphone, tablet or computer. The state portal is safe and secure, which means your personal information is protected.







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### Dear Walnut Hills Community,

One of the many things I love about Walnut Hills Elementary School is our community. Not only do we have dedicated family volunteers, but we also have a special group of volunteers. This special group of people is our senior citizen volunteers. For 25 years, senior citizens throughout our community volunteer in our classrooms. Mrs. Elaine Leikam, a former parent at Walnut Hills and current community member, began the program 25 years ago. And she still runs the program here at school today. Elaine is extremely dedicated to our students and staff. She wanted to give the students and seniors an opportunity to connect and build relationships. At Walnut Hills we have over 20 volunteers that come every week to support the academic achievement of all our students. The volunteers help in the library, the art room, and in the classrooms. Many of our volunteers read with students which ignites a love for reading. Walnut Hills has the largest senior volunteer program in the Cherry Creek School District!

Most recently, Mrs. Vonnie Engler was nominated as the Walnut Hill's Volunteer of the Year. Vonnie has been volunteering at Walnut Hills for 18 years. She loves our school and adores our children. Vonnie received special recognition by the school board and the superintendent at the CCSD Volunteer of the Year reception. The evening was magical! We were honored to have Vonnie as our recipient.

I believe the greatest impact on a child's life is the relationships they have with trusted adults. I was fortunate to grow up with my grandparents. The life lessons they taught me and the joy I experienced with each of them will live on in me forever. I truly am grateful for the relationships our senior volunteers have with our students. They make a difference and bring such love to each child.

Thank you, Elaine Leikam, Vonnie Engler, and all our magnificent senior volunteers! We LOVE you!

Warmly,

Teolyn Bourbonnie - Principal



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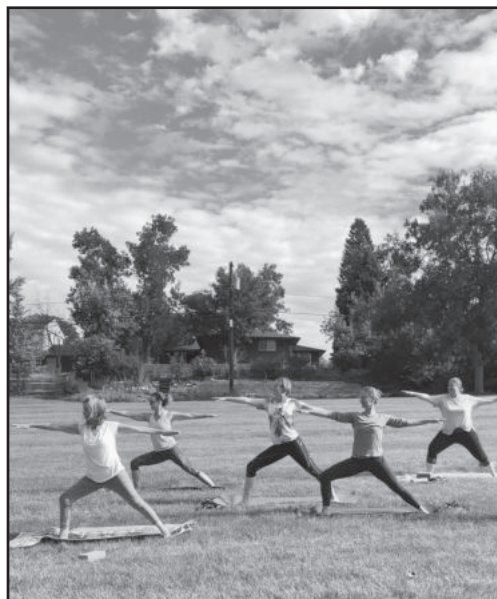
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### Yoga In The Park Offered This Summer!

WHCA is pleased to offer 6 sessions of yoga in the park this summer! We will be meeting at 9 am in the playground area of Walnut Hills Park on Sundays June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26 and August 9 and 23. We are also lucky to have the same yoga instructor, Anar, as last summer! Anar is a certified Iyengar Yoga teacher at Iyengar Yoga Center of Denver, Dairy Block LoDo and Park Hill Yoga Studio. She also offers private yoga sessions. All levels and abilities are welcome, including first-timers and kids! Invite your friends and family to join us! Sunscreen, water bottle and yoga mat (or towel) are recommended. This is a totally free event. If you are so inclined, tips are welcome. In case of inclement (or iffy) weather, please check our website at [www.walnuthillscolorado.org](http://www.walnuthillscolorado.org) for information.

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# Perspectives On



Remember You Can Always Do Yard Work

## Graduating Class of 2020

For twelve years, I have woken up every day and gone to school. It became a part of my routine, getting up, getting dressed and making my way to school for seven long hours of work. Along with all this work there were things I looked forward to, rewards for all my effort and stressful days. As a high schooler, those things became more meaningful. Whether it was homecoming or a football game, it was a chance to relax and not have to worry about school for a few hours. As a senior it was time for the big things, not only were these the events we used to relax, but our last ones. In a year full of lasts, this pandemic has hit harder than it would have if we were freshman, sophomores, or even juniors. With school being out for what appears to be the rest of the year I am missing more than just a dance or my spring tennis season. I am missing what I have worked so hard for. I spent hours and hours on homework counting down the days until I get to go out with my friends and celebrate our last prom. I spent hours prepping for this year's tennis season, with hopes that we would go to states and have that one last amazing memory with my team. With the Coronavirus running rampant, I no longer have all those lasts. Tennis season has been cancelled, prom is hanging on by a thread, and graduation may not even be a possibility. Many say we don't understand the purpose of social distancing, and that we don't take into consideration the safety of others. The class of 2020 understands what this means, but we have waited twelve years to walk across that stage, with all our families cheering for us, celebrating the journey we have taken and all of our accomplishments. Our sadness about closing schools is not just about not being able to see our friends. It is the fact that this rite of passage may not even be a possibility for us. It's about missing these monumental memories that everyone older than us and younger than us will be able to experience, but for now, the class of 2020, lives with a surreal uncertainty of what the rest of our senior year will be like as we navigate a worldwide pandemic.

## From Assisted Living

"I am very content where I am." I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. III John 1:4



## Not Alone

A picture of an elaborately dressed snowperson I found at Hunters Hill Park. We're putting lights in our front window as a message of solidarity during these unprecedented times. Our neighbors are all decorating with lights in their windows. Helps us feel like we're all in this together and no one needs to feel alone



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# A P a n d e m i c

## Reflections On A Pandemic

Ricki Feist- Walnut Hills resident since 1983

20/20 – until recently we associated it with perfect vision. From now on, it will be remembered as the year of a global pandemic and, in all likelihood, a global recession or depression. It has changed life as we know it, and it will have lasting impact on our children and grandchildren.

My parents lived through the Great Depression and World War II, and the shortages they experienced found them hoarding what I thought were strange things as I was growing up. My mother washed out bread bags to re-use for storing food and packing lunches and she washed and re-used aluminum foil. I don't think she ever purchased storage containers for leftovers. Cottage cheese cartons, plastic ice cream containers and empty jars were cleaned and re-purposed. My husband's family turned bottles cap-size down, to glean the last few drops, going as far as balancing the nearly-empty bottle precariously atop the new one. Will this "Year of the Pandemic" find our kids and grandkids picking up similar, odd habits? Will they hang onto a ready supply of toilet paper, facial tissue and gloves? Will they always keep alcohol-based hand sanitizers and disinfecting cleaners on hand, "just in case?"

I am in the group of people classified as "elderly". In my early 70's, I don't see myself as such, but, based on disease risk and other factors, it's where I find myself. My mother, still alive at the age of 97, resides in a small assisted living facility. I have not been able to visit her in person since March 11th. I call her and chat by phone, but I can tell she is bored and lonely. She interacts with other residents for meals and has been spending more time in the common living spaces, joining in bingo games and watching television in her fellow residents' company. Periodically, her caregivers send me videos of her. It is heartbreaking to think that she is living out her remaining days without benefit of close family by her side. I hope this disease will offer some warm-weather respite so I can see her face-to-face again.

We are also looking forward to the birth of twin grandchildren in early May. These babies, a boy and a girl, will number grandkids 5 and 6 for us, and will be the last. Thankfully, they are nearby, we will be able to see and hold them once they arrive home but will likely not be able to visit them in the hospital. Neither will their older brothers. The baby shower for our son and daughter-in-law was held on March 21st. Complicated by social distancing, the 25 guests, some local and some out-of-state, joined via Zoom to watch gifts being opened. It's good to have an expectant dad who is a Gen-Xer, well-versed in technology. As the twins grow up, I'm sure they will hear stories of their virtual baby shower and being born during a pandemic that kept people confined to their homes for an extended period. I harbor concerns for their mother, a team-leader in the food industry, who has been on the front lines of exposure to COVID19 through customer contact. Her physician has now written accommodation orders for her to work the first 4 hours of her shift before the store opens and having the ability to complete administrative tasks that distance her from the public for the remaining 4 hours. It's a small comfort in a disturbing scenario. Our son is able to work remotely.

Shopping for groceries and other necessities, while inconvenient, is manageable through the generosity of our son, neighbors and perfect strangers who are stepping up to take care of those errands for those of us who, due to age and, in my case, asthma, are urged to remain at home. More than anything, COVID19 has reinforced that tomorrow is never promised, but there are good people around us who are ready and willing to assist in any way they can.

## Dear Valued Garbage Man Customer,

In an effort to protect our staff and the neighborhoods we work in The Garbage Man is placing the following emergency protocols into place.

- ALL trash MUST be bagged.
- ALL bags MUST be tied COMPLETELY shut in a knot (grocery bags, drawstring bags, any kind of bags).
- ALL bags MUST be in a trash can.

This is to reduce the spread of possible contaminants in neighborhoods. Recycling will continue as scheduled for now. However, if it is deemed a risk in the future, we may have to temporarily suspend recycling services until the crisis has passed.

Thank you for helping us keep our communities as safe and healthy as possible.

Sincerely, Robert Rhodes - The Garbage Man


## The Vulnerable

First and foremost, I'd like to preface this by saying there are people around the world whose lives have been impacted by this virus in horrifically devastating ways. I'm by no means discounting the gravity of the worldwide situation. This is just a glimpse into what I consider a cruelty that people might not be aware of. Whether you agree with mandatory restrictions or not, if you have cancer and are on chemotherapy, you might just be turned away. I work at a Cancer Center that has set up a barricade in front of our office. Patients are asked a series of questions, including "Have you been in contact with anyone who has a cough or a fever or shortness of breath?" The most frequent response is, "Well, so-and-so does have a cough." (It's allergy season here, but regardless, that answer is a FAILED screening.) Instead of giving our chemotherapy patients a mask, gloves and even shoe covers and a disposable gown, they are turned away and rescheduled for 2 weeks out. This rescheduling will continue as long as they fail the screening. There has never been a circumstance where the oncologist has told me, "No rush, let's just put treatment off for 2 weeks."

My job is getting our chemotherapy patients' large copay balances paid for by charitable foundations or the drug manufacturers. I was asked to complete a report showing how much money the company has lost due to rescheduling. Of course, it was quite a large sum. The next day, I was "furloughed." I asked, "Who is going to help our patients get co-pay assistance?" My boss shrugged and said, "Look, you saw how much money we've lost. You being sent home without pay is the company's way of not laying you off. You can apply for unemployment and come back when all this is over." I asked, "But who will let these patients know they're going to get a \$6,000 bill after one dose of chemo?" She shrugged again and said, "In times like these, it's only the doctors and nurses that are needed."

I might be in denial about my financial situation, because I'm more upset for our patients. I'm not sure what upsets me the most though. Patients are not getting chemotherapy at all, or patients are getting chemotherapy without an advocate letting them know financial help is available.

If you know of someone who needs help, go to [cancercare.org](http://cancercare.org) for more information about assistance and support.



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## 2nd Annual Beer Night A Success!

WHCA held its second annual Beer Night at our local brewery Resolute. Many thanks to TING for sponsoring the event and to Resolute for being such great hosts! We had about 32 households attend and met some new faces. We are so glad to be able to offer these events where neighbors can meet neighbors. The personal connection is what makes Walnut Hills a great place to live. Thank you to everyone who came out and spent the evening with us in spite of the very cold temperatures and icy conditions!

Photography

Jesse Alcorta





## Walnut Hills Civic Association Annual Meeting

March 3, 2020, 7:00 PM, Metrum Community Credit Union  
Minutes

1. Call to order: Chair Julie Gamec called the meeting to order at 7pm.
2. Attendance (15 members constitute a quorum.) 18 residents were present.

Lutton, Randy (1)	Suhaka, Andrea (13)
Danfeler, Monica (2)	Garcia, Myra (4)
Gamec, Julie (6/GID)	Vacant (9)
(Excused) Sanchez, Julio (7)	Vacant (14)
(Excused) Hauschild (11)	Senn, Donna (5)
Fischer, Carol (12)	Vacant (10)
Katich, Mike (3)	Vacant (15)
Brooks, Barb (8)	

Guests: Jesse Alcorta, Dick & Peggy Castle, Jan & John Fuller, Paula Hillman, Laura Klee, Rick Marsicek, Diana Miller, Steven Ricci, Cindy Stark, Duane Thompson, Boy Scout Troop 257


- A. Flag Ceremony, Performed by Boy Scout Troop 257
- B. Metrum Credit Union, Karen Padrevita
  - Padrevita welcomed everyone to the meeting.
  - She told us that the credit union was now offering 2.5% mortgages.
- C. Brief Board business:
  - Gamec: Metrum has given the WHCA a grant for shade structures along Little Dry Creek Trail, by the school, in Walnut Hills.
  - A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting. (Katich/Garcia)
  - Board elections:
  - Nominations: board members in the even numbered neighborhoods are up for elections. All current board members are running for re-election: Monica Danfeler (2), Myra Garcia (4), Julie Gamec (6), Barb Brooks (8), Carol Fischer (12). Tyler Draheim volunteered for the Board and was approved for Neighborhood 9.
  - A motion was made to elect all, seconded, and passed unanimously. (Gamec/Katich)
  - The Board still has 3 vacancies.
  - GID information:
  - Gamec gave a brief description of what the General Improvement District is.
  - Gamec is the GID Project Manager and Andrea Suhaka is the GID Representative to the City.
  - Gamec asked those present not to hesitate to give her their ideas.
  - Projects we've completed in the past are the disk golf course and the widening of the Uinta sidewalk.
  - Gamec will doing some improvements at Dry Creek & Quebec so the mulch stays on the dirt.
  - Senn added that if anyone sees anything that needs fixing, call your neighborhood representative. Gamec said you can always contact us through our website: [www.walnuthillscolorado.org](http://www.walnuthillscolorado.org).
  - Due to the COVID-19, we'll be cancelling the Easter Egg Hunt. We're not planning for a make-up event.
  - We also need to consider where/how our Board meetings will be held in the near future.
  - Gamec described the Walnut Hills Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Plan happening in Walnut Hills. This is a way the City helps with traffic problems in neighborhoods. We're hoping to do some traffic calming on Costilla Blvd. by the school. There will be a 2nd public meeting in the spring.
  - Dumpster Days will happen as usual in May, the 9th and the 16th, at Walnut Hills School.
  - Gamec also indicated that she still had a few "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" signs left.
- D. Boy Scout Troop 257
  - Drew Berke, Scout Leader of the Troop: This is a Walnut Hills troop, very local.
  - Gamec pointed out that this troop processed our membership mailing for us.
- E. Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund
  - Scott Bess told us that contributions are down but level. There was an anonymous donation at end of 2018 allowed them to cover one of the scholarships. They then received a donation from an IRA



- distribution at end of 2019. They are a 501(c)(3). They need to attract more donors. They've put a notice on the Walnut Hills School electronic message board and on NextDoor. They've only had 5 applicants for the scholarships this year.
- There was a brief discussion on where high school kids get info about the scholarships.
  - Bess continued to invite anyone to review their books.
  - Senn asked what their scholarship goal? Bess answered that they wanted to continue with 4 scholarships.
  - Klee asked how many people have contributed? Bess answered that 150 people contributed. It's still too early this year to know what the funds will be for this year.
  - Fuller asked about broadening the scholarship range as they've done in the past, maybe grants that might be scholarship quality. What about needs based? Bess commented that, we'll need to look at those; who may not be going to a 4-year degree.
  - Lutton indicated that the WHCA could create a scholarship page on our website.
  - F. Walnut Hills PTCO
    - Jocelyn Rubinetti spoke for the PTCO.
    - Walnut Hills is the smallest school in the Cherry Creek School District but, the school enrollment is growing.
    - 1/2 of the PCTO budget goes to paying for classroom assistants, \$22,000 this year. They also give teacher grants.
  - G. Jay Buerger was not present for the neighborhood real estate report. Tyler Draheim gave it.
    - There's been a strong market. In the last 2½ months, 20 homes have sold.
    - The Board suggested that Realtors in the neighborhood could push the existence of our scholarships. Senn suggested that Realtors hand buyers a newsletter
  - H. AUC-4 (City of Centennial consultant for the Arapahoe/Yosemite corner) was not present. [www.centennialco.gov/arapahoeyosemite](http://www.centennialco.gov/arapahoeyosemite)
  - I. Cherry Creek School District was not present but was covered by Rubinetti.
    - School bond issue this year, please, vote for it
    - All CCSD schools have a maker space
    - Innovation Campus serves lunch there on Tues. & Wed. (kids learning restaurant jobs)
  - J. Arapahoe County Sheriff did not attend, either.
  - K. Upcoming Events
    - Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 4 has been cancelled due to COVID-19
- Final Note: We'll try to reschedule the AUC4, Cherry Creek School District, and the Sheriff's Office presentations.
- L. Adjourn: Gamec adjourned the meeting at 8pm.

Minutes presented respectfully submitted by Andrea Suhaka, Secretary.

AP Images



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# Hiking For Walnut Hills

Jesse Alcorta

While people are isolating themselves from TEOTWAWKI, they could be planning their next adventure once the crisis has passed. I offer these two possible places to hike; Mt. Falcon in Jefferson County and Mount Spalding in the shadow of Mount Evans. Both offer something for everyone at all levels of fitness and some spectacular scenery.

Mt. Falcon has two destination spots; the John B. Walker "Dream Castle" ruins and the fabled Summer Whitehouse. The castle ruins and the cornerstone of the abandon Whitehouse project are written about in many internet articles. You can search for those. Instead I'll provide some hiking tips.

Mt. Falcon can be hiked from either the east or the west trailhead and no climbing experience is required. The east parking lot is located approximately halfway between Morrison and The Fort Restaurant. The west trailhead can be accessed by entering Indian Hills turn off along US HWY 285. Both parking areas have picnic areas for you to sit and eat. The hike you chose depends on your level of fitness.

The east trailhead requires a moderate level of fitness since it is ALL uphill. I hiked the east side last May. Other than bugs, I saw a few Abert's squirrels and almost no birds or other wildlife. However, you will be rewarded with a fantastic view of the hogbacks separating you, C-470, and the metro area. More of which you get to see as you hike the trail. You also get a stunning view of Red Rocks to the north which stands out against the greenery surrounding it.

The west trailhead starts out quite high, at almost 7800 feet and gifts you with a incredible view of the Rocky Mountains to the west as you sit in the picnic area. The hike is much gentler as it slopes downhill. You will need to hike up hill on the return leg so keep that in mind as you proceed along the trail. I hiked the west trailhead this past late January. There was little snow and a bit of mud. I saw mule deer, Abert's squirrels, and plenty of birds on this day.

Either trip requires water or an electrolyte drink, take at least two quarts per person and snacks. The terrain for the castle hike can be walked easily. The turn off for the Summer Whitehouse is a bit rougher. I recommend sturdy shoes although I did see people in crocs and sandals.

If you want to plan your breakout challenge then Mount Spalding is your challenge. Consider it a warm-up to some 14ers later this summer. You need to be in good physical shape and prepared to scramble a little bit of rock. The trailhead begins at Summit Lake just below Mount Evans. Walk to the end of the path north of the lake and follow the trail, and likely the people, heading west off the main trail.

Allow yourself time. It may take as little as 60 minutes to two hours, one way, dependent on your fitness. Mt. Spalding sits at over 13,800 feet and the trailhead is approximately 12,000 feet. Sturdy shoes, clothing, and a pack are recommended. Technical climbing skills and ropes are not required for this hike. I do recommend a pair of leather gloves such as surplus military leather shells. I went from cool temps and sunshine to cold, windy, and snowing during my late September hike. Clothing choices are important. A change of clothes in your pack and in your car will prevent you from getting hypothermia if you get sweat soaked. Take a camera but leave behind binoculars. A small ham radio if you are licensed is nice to monitor weather or a NOAA Weather radio if you have one. Snacks and electrolyte drinks will serve better than water. I tend to cramp up on hikes and electrolyte type drinks help me along.

Bonus Hike - Mt. Evans Mt Spaulding is part of the shorter Mt. Evans loop. There are two routes, one from Echo Lake (long) and one from Summit Lake (short). There is a decent visible trail from Mt. Spaulding circling around to the top of Mt Evans. The hike is approximately 5.5 miles round trip. It is considered a Class II hike, whereas Grays and Torreys are considered a Class I hike (the easiest). But it is doable if you are fit and game for getting out of the house. Check with 14ers.com for more information on the Mt. Spaulding/Mt. Evans hike if you need more information.

# More Time To Love

Debra Gania



So many of us are spending time at home now. It is a wonderful time to consider fostering or adopting a new furry friend!

In 2015 I lost one of my family pets and could not imagine adopting another. I decided to try fostering with a local rescue temporarily, and here I am four years later still going strong. In that time, I have fostered close to 220 dogs and puppies. There is something so wonderful, words can't describe when you get a dog straight from the shelter and watch them transfer from a shy or fearful animal into a confident, loving pet. I really believe rescue dogs have a sense they were in peril and were saved. They seem to be grateful every day for everything they have. Some are definitely easier than others, and I am always surprised that even the dogs I worry won't find their forever home, do find it. There are so many amazing people out there willing to take in a dog or puppy that might need a little work. You would not believe the transformation most dogs can make in two weeks with consistency and love.

Yes, it hurts a little when they go.... sometimes it hurts a whole lot, and tears are shed. But then I see the pictures of the dogs and puppies waiting to be rescued and I know if I let this one go, I save the next one, and the next one.



Right now, I'm spending my time home fostering a cute litter of pups. Momma Maggy is 20 lbs and thought to be a terrier/heeler mix. The dad...who knows, but the pups seem to have some lab attributes. They will likely be 30-40 lbs. full grown. They, with their mom, will ready for adoption the second week of April. There are a lot of local shelters and rescues looking for fosters and adopters right now. While most shelters are closed to the public right now, dogs and puppies keep streaming in. Smaller shelters will not be able to handle the influx, and many dogs and puppies will be euthanized for space. It's a great time to add fur friends to your home if you are spending a lot of time there. Please considering adopting or fostering! I work with [www.sloppykisses.org](http://www.sloppykisses.org), but there are many local shelters and rescues that need help right now!



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Check out the latest Walnut Hills Civic Association happenings and **pay the \$30 dues online via PayPal.**  
 Visit: [www.WalnutHillsColorado.org](http://www.WalnutHillsColorado.org)

2020 Activities	Date/Time	Location
Spring Dumpster Days	Sat. May 9 and 16 8 – 11 am or full	Walnut Hills School Parking Lot
Community Garage Sale	Fri. and Sat. June 5 and 6	Your homes
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Ice Cream Social	Sat. July 4 10 am – noon	9:30 am Stage at Dry Creek School; 10:30 am Ice Cream at Walnut Hills Park
Walnut Hills Night Out	Tues. August 4 6 – 8 pm	Walnut Hills School – includes free supper!
Yoga in the Park	Sun. June 14 and 28 Sun. July 12 and 26 Sun. Aug. 9 and 23	9 am Walnut Hills Park Bring a mat / towel
Fall Dumpster Day	Sat. October 10 8 – 11 am or full	Walnut Hills School Parking Lot
Halloween Party	Sat. October 24, 2 – 4 pm	Walnut Hills Park
Beer Night	Tues. February 23, 2021	Brewery TBD
WHCA Board of Directors Meeting	Monthly - every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7 pm	Metrum Credit Union Open to all residents

**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)

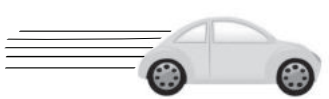
**Annual Meeting Speakers To Be Rescheduled**

In light of the policy changes and health concerns due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), several of our speakers including Cherry Creek School District, City of Centennial and Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department were not able to attend our meeting this year. Each organization expressed their apologies and desire to talk with the community. The WHCA hopes to reschedule a community update with each organization when it is again safe to do so. These organizations are a vital part of our community and we look forward to meeting with them soon! Please watch the WHCA website for notification on rescheduling dates.

**Stop the Speeding in Walnut Hills**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## 2020 – Current Market Conditions As Of March 20, 2020 In Walnut Hills

There are no “ACTIVE LISTINGS” available.

There are 5 “UNDER CONTRACT” listings. The lowest priced listing that is currently U/C is \$495,000.00, the highest priced listing is \$529,000.00. The average list price of an U/C home is \$512,760.00. This means buyers are willing to pay \$202.00 per square foot of living space for a Walnut Hills home.

Only 6 homes have “SOLD” in Walnut Hills this year. The lowest priced “SOLD” home was listed for \$434,500.00 and closed at a price of \$403,000.00 (93% of List Price). The home was on the market for 20 days before the sellers accepted a purchase contract from a buyer.

The highest priced home that has “SOLD” this year was listed for \$525,000.00 and sold for \$565,000.00 (108% of List Price) in 1 day. The average days on the market (DOM) is 12. The average price per square foot of living space for a Walnut Hills home is \$198.00.

2019 – Recap of the market. 57 homes “SOLD”. The average sold price was \$463,610.00. Average days on the market was 21. The lowest sold price of a home was \$308,000.00, the highest price was \$580,000.00.

TOP 5 “Inspection Items” that are noted as “Inspection Objections” in a residential buy/sell contract are: Roofing material condition, Minor electrical considerations such as a lack of GFCI’s (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters) in kitchens and bathrooms, and in the Hallcraft built section of Walnut Hills (463 homes in the south west section of the neighborhood) the aluminum

wiring is of concern to some. Next on the typical list comes the back fill soil or negative drainage around the perimeter of the foundation and possible concrete flat work sloping into the foundation areas, then sewer line conditions and last but not least the heating plant, the furnace, hot water tank and the HVAC duct work. A residential real estate transaction should never fall apart over surprise “Inspection Items”.

Predictions for 2020 – Even with the global/national and local coronavirus disease (covid-19) affecting each one of us in our day to day lives the real estate market in Walnut Hills and in the Denver Metro area will continue to be a brisk “Sellers’ Market”. In many hyper local markets such as Walnut Hills, the market will continue to be quite competitive for prospective home buyers with just a handful of listings available at any one time. The prices of homes will continue to rise at a rate of 3%-6%. What will continue to drive this appreciation, very low interest rates (3.125 - 3.75% 30-year fixed rate money) and low housing inventory. However, buying opportunities for home buyers will be favorable compared to 2019. Why? There are a few more homes on the market this year and home loan interest rates in the last few weeks have been the lowest that they have been in about 3 years. Qualifying ratios and low-down payments (3.00% down or CHFA money) have made the home buying experience much easier than in years past, especially since the housing crunch of 2008-2010. Many renters will become 1st time home buyers and their dreams will become a reality in 2020.

Jay A. Buerger GRI CRS CRB - REALTOR® Emeritus

### Stay At Home Order

Colorado governor Jared Polis (D-CO) issued a stay-at-home order in response to the coronavirus pandemic, while also keeping open essential services and businesses.

The stay-at-home orders go into effect at 6 a.m. Thursday, March 26, and will continue through at least Saturday, April 11 unless the order is rescinded or modified before that date.

An alert to send to cellphones across the state incorrectly said the order goes into effect at 8 a.m. on Thursday. Both the Colorado Office of Emergency Management and Polis’ spokesperson confirmed that 6 a.m. is actually when the order will go into effect. Under the order, residents of Colorado are required to

stay at home except for certain essential activities and to go to work only in critical businesses and services. People at high-risk or people who are sick are urged to stay home at all times except to seek medical care. All businesses except those defined as critical will temporarily close their facilities. The minimum basic operations to protect assets and maintain personnel functions are allowed. Employees can continue to work from home.

Businesses that are deemed critical, like grocery stores, may remain open but must comply with social distancing requirements.

**All public and private gatherings are prohibited.**

**All travel is prohibited except for those listed below:**

- Activities or tasks essential to one’s health and

safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members.

- Obtaining necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others.
- Going outside for walking, hiking, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, biking or running.
- Performing work providing essential products and services for a critical business.
- Caring for a family member, a vulnerable person, or pet in another household, or to care for livestock kept at a location other than an individual’s home.
- Going to or from educational facilities to support distance learning or to get meals or related services.
- Non-residents returning home
- Travel required by law enforcement or court order.

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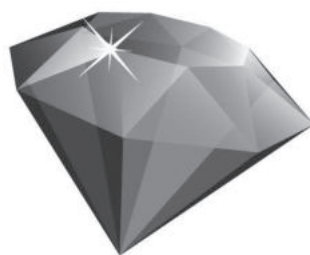


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