

WALNUT HILLS NEWSLETTER

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

Announcing the 2022 Walnut Hills Scholarship Competition Students Heading to College or Vocational School Next Year

The Walnut Hills Scholarship Board is delighted to announce our annual scholarship competition for 2022! All Walnut Hills high school seniors who plan to attend college or vocational school next year are eligible to apply.

For this year's competition, we will award up to three \$2,500 scholarships to help with the expense of higher education. And for the second year in a row, we are also offering a \$1000 "Innovation Scholarship," reserved especially for a person planning to attend a two-year college or vocational school.

All of these scholarships are funded by the generous donations of Walnut Hills residents—some of whom have been faithfully supporting the scholarship program for decades—and the added generosity of the Walnut Hills Newsletter, another longtime friend. We are also grateful to the Walnut Hills Civic Association for their help.

If you are a high school senior living in Walnut Hills, and you plan to begin your higher education in the 2022-23 academic year, we encourage you to apply for a scholarship! Walnut Hills residents who took a gap year or other time away from school following their high school graduation, but who are now planning to return to school, are invited to apply too.

Applications for the scholarships will be available beginning January 10, 2022. For a copy of the application form, please email either Bill Philpott at wphilpo@gmail.com or Scott Bess at scott.w.bess@gmail.com. You may also pick up an application form at the Post Grad Center at Cherry Creek High School (though you don't have to be a CCHS student or alum to be eligible). The application requirements include a short essay and letters of recommendation.

The application deadline for this year's scholarships will be Friday, March 4, 2022.

All of us on the Scholarship Board are honored to continue the scholarship program, a true Walnut Hills tradition since 1972. Times change, but

due to our neighbors' generosity and the strong foundation built by previous leaders of the board, the scholarship program has endured. That said, we are always looking for ways to expand it. We would love to be able to offer more scholarships each year, and most especially, to be able to afford larger awards, especially as the costs of higher and vocational education continue to balloon.

For that reason, we are deeply grateful for any contributions you might be able to make to the scholarship fund. If you'd like to donate, you may do so through PayPal or Zelle, using our email address of walnuthillsscholarship@gmail.com. Or if you prefer to donate by mail, you may send a check directly to the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund, c/o Scott Bess, 7158 S. Quince St., Centennial, CO 80112. The WHSF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so all contributions are tax-deductible. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Scott or Bill at our addresses listed above, or Jan Ragnow at jragnow@comcast.net.

We would also appreciate your help in other ways! Please contact us if you:

- Would like to serve as a reader, evaluating the students' applications in March. Our board does not select the scholarship recipients; we rely on a panel of outside readers to do so. If this work sounds interesting to you, please contact us!

- Would like to serve on the board of the scholarship fund. We welcome new members and the new ideas you might bring.

- Have any questions, comments, or suggestions about the scholarship program. We would appreciate hearing from you!

All of us currently on the board—Scott Bess, Peggy Castle, Laura Klee, Bill Philpott, and Jan Ragnow—sincerely appreciate your involvement and your support. And we wish the best to all our terrific Walnut Hills graduating seniors!

Holiday Lighting Contest Week Of December 20th

There are only two good things about daylight savings time and the days getting shorter this time of year - the first is not driving to work in the dark, the second is the twinkle lights! WHCA is excited to have a holiday lighting contest once again! No need to enter. Several of our board members will drive every street, drive, and circle in the neighborhood looking at the festive holiday displays. Three winners will be chosen and issued prizes (1st place = \$100, 2nd place = \$50 and 3rd place = \$25). We are so appreciative of the time and effort (and cost) of the beautiful and festive holiday lights in the neighborhood. Thank you to all the neighbors who make the evenings a little brighter.

Beer Night Back To February

In 2021, WHCA tried something new and held the beer night in September. The day was a bit cool; the kids were back to school and the beer was flowing. We had many wonderful neighbors attend, but we felt as though the attendance was well below what it had been in the past and thought that maybe the draw on a cold, dark night was ultimately better than trying to compete with long fall evenings and sports schedules. So, in 2022, please mark your calendars for the Walnut Hills Beer Night sometime the week of February 21st. We hope to be able to hold the event at Resolute Brewing again as they have been wonderful partners for several years now. Please stay tuned for details on the WHCA website and in the next issue of the newsletter.

Snow Will Be Here Soon!

As I am writing this article mid-November without a sign of one flake of snow, I want to thank in advance all of our wonderful neighbors who shovel and snow blow for others around them. I have been in the neighborhood going on 15 years and I have been so fortunate to have a neighbor who, without fail, is out with his snowblower when things get coated helping me and the neighbors on our street clear sidewalks and driveways. His efforts are always so appreciated. I also know for some of the older folks in the neighborhood that snow removal can be a daunting task and can reduce their mobility. If you are able and willing, please think about your neighbors when the snow flies and be someone's "snow angel" this year!

Contact Us - We Love To Hear From You!

The WHCA is always looking for input, ideas and honestly, new board members! We are here to support the Walnut Hills through community-building activities and want to know that what we are doing is supporting you. If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or are interested in joining the board, please don't hesitate to contact us! <https://www.walnuthillscolorado.org/contact-us/>

Dumpster Days

October 9th was a beautiful day to dump your trash, recycle metals, and finally get rid of your e-waste you didn't know what to do with. It was a successful event with "Thanks" to the Garbage Man, Brookie II, and Blue Star Recycle. Always fun with the WHCA Board Volunteers and this year the generosity of Metrum Credit Union with the baggies of stuff and help with the Blue Star bill. Please join us next year for the Spring Dumpster days events on Saturdays May 7th and May 14th. See you then! Donna Senn - Chair of Dumpster Days



Photo - Jesse Alcorta

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Because You Asked...

Hunter's Hill now has speed bumps on E. Easter Place. How? Especially when several streets within Walnut Hills have been asking for speed bumps or traffic control for a while! The neighbors applied for the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) through the City of Centennial. The website with all the project information can be found here:

CentennialCO.gov/residents/Have-Your-Say-Centennial/NTMP-Easter

Each street that requests the NTMP has to pass a series of criteria and then have neighbor approval. The E. Easter Place project had the following stats:

- 85th percentile speed is 32 mph with posted speed of 25
- 650 vehicles per day
- 81% of affected neighbors voted yes

Over the years, many neighbors in Walnut Hills and the WHCA have attempted to get traffic control on many of the streets including Davies, Briarwood Blvd., Costilla Blvd and Unita. In 2020, Walnut Hills did qualify for the improvements along Costilla, but not enough ballots were returned to the City to continue the project. The NTMP program can be requested by any Centennial resident. If you feel speeding is a problem on your street, reach out to the Centennial Help Desk at 303-325-800 and they will provide you with an application and all the needed information.

December Civic Association Meeting Canceled

The December WHCA has been canceled so that our board members can spend time with family and friends this holiday season. We will begin our regular meetings again on January 13, 2022 (the second Thursday of the month) at 7 pm. We are meeting in person and via zoom to accommodate all who are interested. In-person meetings are held at:

Metrum Credit Union
6980 S Holly Cir, Centennial, CO 80112.
Zoom information is:

<https://zoom.us/j/94750712218?pwd=anZtTVEIM0tteGtzZ2MvQnlwNjVVFUT09>

Meeting ID: 947 5071 2218

Passcode: 426427



LYNNE MCKINLEY
Broker Associate

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Centennial's Holiday Artisan Market

Enjoy holiday treats, local artisans and holiday songs performed by local schools on Saturday, December 4, at Centennial Center Park, 13050 E. Peakview Ave. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., this family-friendly event will feature a variety of artisans selling holiday crafts, kids activities, including an opportunity to write letters to Santa, along with food trucks and local vendors. Bring your friends and family and enjoy free cookies, cocoa, holiday merriment and loads of fun!

Saturday, December 4 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Centennial Center Park Amphitheater (north end of park) 13050 E. Peakview Avenue

Tri-County Health Issues Public Health Order Mandating Masks In Public Indoor Spaces

On Monday, Nov. 22, citing a risk of dwindling hospital capacity and the possibility of having to ration hospital care, the Board of Health of the Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) approved a public health order requiring masking in all public indoor spaces in Adams and Arapahoe counties. The order will be in effect from Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021, through Jan. 2, 2022, and thereafter until more than 10% of staffed ICU beds are available in the North Central Region that covers Adams and Arapahoe counties. The current availability of these beds is 5.8 percent.

This order follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation that all persons 2 years of age and older, including fully vaccinated individuals, should wear face coverings indoors in public in areas with high rates of community transmission, which currently includes Adams and Arapahoe counties. As of Monday Nov. 22 in Arapahoe County, the COVID case rate is 303/100,000, with 202 hospitalizations and 24 deaths thus far in November. Hospital capacity remains extremely tight, with ICU bed utilization at 93% in Adams County and 100% in Arapahoe County.

"While getting vaccinated is still the best way to prevent transmission of COVID-19, we could still breach hospital capacity if we do not take additional prevention measures," said John Douglas, MD, executive director of Tri-County Health. "Masking indoors provides us another tool to keep ICU beds available for people coming in for a range of conditions such as heart attacks and auto accidents that need those beds."

Exemptions from the public health order include individuals under age 2, those individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face mask, and businesses and facilities that implement a voluntary vaccine verification program using a policy that assures full vaccination of all employees, staff, guests, and customers.

The Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners issued the following statement about the public health order:

The Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners recognizes the statutory authority of the Tri-County Health Department to issue and enforce public health orders. We are aware that this newest order is generating controversy. However, given our strained hospital capacities as we enter the winter season, in the absence of statewide action, Tri-County has decided that to avoid rationing hospital care, this is the best of our limited options. To further control the spread of COVID we encourage everyone to supplement mask wearing with other responsible preventive practices such as frequent hand washing, social distancing and getting vaccinated.

There are more than 1,500 individuals currently hospitalized with COVID-19 in Colorado, and hospitals statewide are at about 95% capacity, including non-COVID-19 patients. Of the COVID-19 hospitalizations, 82% of these individuals are unvaccinated, according to CDPHE data.


TCHD's order was developed in collaboration with other health departments in the metro region and comes after the Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH), sent a letter to Governor Polis on Nov. 12, urging him to issue a statewide mask mandate. The governor has declined to take such an action, deferring instead to local officials. MDPH is comprised of Boulder County Public Health, Broomfield Department of Public Health and Environment, the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment, Jefferson County Public Health, the Tri-County Health Department, and the Public Health Institute at Denver Health.

For more information, visit www.tchd.org/coronavirus

Walnut Hills Entrances And Fence Getting A Facelift

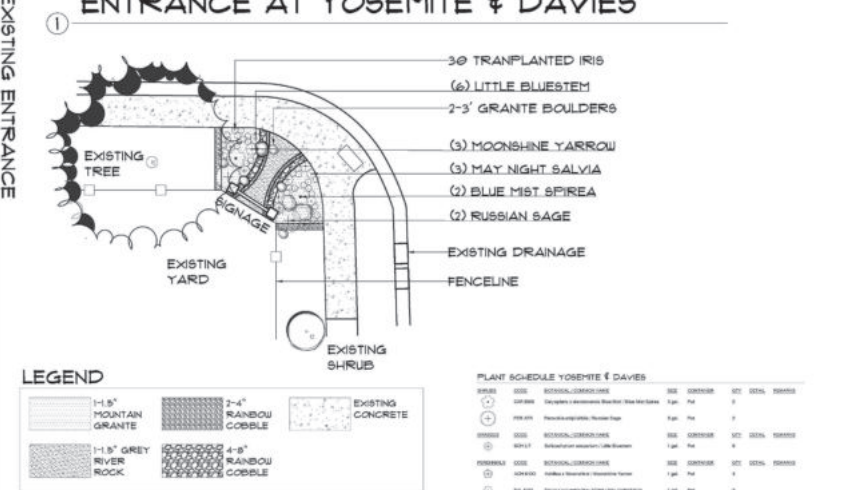
2021 seems to have been the year that everyone had the time to take a step back and evaluate what needed a little maintenance. The GID did the same and is pleased to announce that we are under contract with Consolidated Divisions Inc. (CDI) to update our entry monuments! This project will include Dry Creek/Quebec, Quebec/Costilla, Yosemite/Davies and some modifications to the landscape at Unita. The monument at Dry Creek/Spruce will not be addressed at this time. The improvements include several different types of rock much for color and texture and boulders. Additionally, some native plant materials will be added in the spring when it is safe to plant to add some life! Construction on the monuments should begin in early December.

Another area of the neighborhood that is in need of some attention is the perimeter fence. The GID has worked to maintain the fence and has been painting sections for the last few years, but the time has come for a larger project. We are working to make needed repairs and then have a professional painting company to paint the entire perimeter in the next few months. This will include the exterior (street side) of all of the fence and the interior (neighbor side) only of the low portions of the fence at the entrances.



EXISTING ENTRANCE

ENTRANCE AT YOSEMITE & DAVIES




LEGEND

1-1/2" MOUNTAIN GRANTE	2-4" RAINBOW COBBLE	EXISTING CONCRETE
1-1/2" GREY RIVER ROCK	4-8" RAINBOW COBBLE	

PLANT SCHEDULE YOSEMITE & DAVIES

PLANT	QTY	SIZE	REMARKS	DATE	BY
30	1	30"	TRANSPLANTED IRIS	12/21	CDI
6	1	6"	LITTLE BLUESTEM	12/21	CDI
2-3'	1		GRANTE BOULDERS	12/21	CDI
3	1		MOONSHINE YARROW	12/21	CDI
3	1		MAY NIGHT SALVIA	12/21	CDI
2	1		BLUE MIST SPIREA	12/21	CDI
2	1		RUSSIAN SAGE	12/21	CDI



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Fax (303) 470-3197
www.cdi-services.com

Client:
WALNUT HILLS
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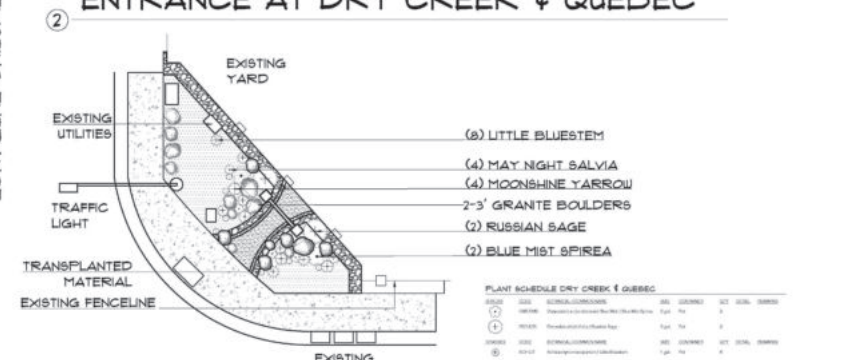
ENTRANCE LAYOUTS

Design: CONNOR BURKOWSKI
Date: 09.09.2021
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



EXISTING ENTRANCE

ENTRANCE AT DRY CREEK & QUEBEC




LEGEND

1-1/2" MOUNTAIN GRANTE	2-4" RAINBOW COBBLE	EXISTING CONCRETE
1-1/2" GREY RIVER ROCK	4-8" RAINBOW COBBLE	

PLANT SCHEDULE DRY CREEK & QUEBEC

PLANT	QTY	SIZE	REMARKS	DATE	BY
6	1	6"	LITTLE BLUESTEM	12/21	CDI
4	1		MAY NIGHT SALVIA	12/21	CDI
4	1		MOONSHINE YARROW	12/21	CDI
2-3'	1		GRANTE BOULDERS	12/21	CDI
2	1		RUSSIAN SAGE	12/21	CDI
2	1		BLUE MIST SPIREA	12/21	CDI



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ENTRANCE LAYOUTS

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Hello Walnut Hills Families,

Veterans Day provides an opportunity for our students to take an active role in honoring those who have served in the military in the past as well as the present. Our students and staff honored friends, family members, and neighbors that have served in the United States Armed Forces during our annual celebration on Veterans Day. Our veterans and their families enjoyed a fellowship breakfast, followed by a slideshow video tribute, and finally a patriotic parade around the school led by Pack

257. As a first-year principal, it was exciting to lead the celebration and to hear our veterans' stories about their experiences, duty stations, and the variety of ways that they served in the different branches of service. Thank you again for your service veterans!

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents." -Jane D. Hull

Studies indicate that the most accurate predictor of a student's academic achievement is the extent to which parents and teachers work together to facilitate a child's education. At Walnut Hills, we offer a variety of opportunities for parents, guardians, and families to engage in their children's learning by volunteering and/or sharing their voice in school advocacy and decision making.

Volunteer Opportunities:

School Library Volunteer

Walnut Hills Elementary is looking for volunteers to help in the school library for a few hours a day between the hours of 8a-3p Monday through Friday. Our library volunteers are responsible for checking books in and out of our system, returning books to the shelves, and keeping the shelves neat and tidy. If you are interested, please contact our office manager, Erin Bassett, at (720) 554-3801.

Advocacy & Decision-Making Opportunities:

PTCO

The Walnut Hills Parent Teacher Community Organization (PTCO) is a non-profit organization that raises funds to assist in attaining the highest level of education and welfare for all the students of Walnut Hills. This year, PTCO meetings alternate between in-person and virtual (via Teams) to meet the scheduling needs of our families. For more information, please contact our PTCO president, Jennah Ross, at whptco.president@gmail.com.

Accountability Committee

The Walnut Hills Accountability Committee is a group that works in collaboration with the principal in the areas of school achievement, unified improvement planning, school policies, budget decisions and staffing considerations with the focus on school improvement. The committee welcomes participation from all families of the Walnut Hills Elementary School community. For more information, please contact our Office Manager, Erin Bassett, at (720) 554-3801.

P.A.S.S

Partnerships for Academically Successful Students (P.A.S.S) is a committee of school and family leaders that supports the district's goal of Inclusive Excellence. P.A.S.S provides a place to share resources and ideas while fostering the intentional building of relationships between the school and parent communities to create an inclusive learning environment for ALL students. Walnut Hills Elementary families are always invited to attend our monthly meetings. If you have been a part of our P.A.S.S team in previous years we would love for you to rejoin the team again this year. We are excited to begin planning the launch for Multicultural Night and we need your voice. Please join us on the last Tuesday of every month.

We look forward to hearing your voice in our P.A.S.S, Accountability, and PTCO meetings and/or having you volunteer in a capacity that fits your schedule and skill set. Thank you for your continued support!

Kali Williams

Proud Principal of Walnut Hills Elementary

Arapahoe Libraries

Castlewood Library Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 12, 12-2 pm

Join us to celebrate the season at Castlewood Library (6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial). We'll have library tours, crafts for kids and Makerspace demos for adults. Enjoy a live performance of holiday music by a violin/cello duet. For all ages.

Poetic Kwanzaa

Wednesday, December 15, 4:30-5:30 pm

This virtual production highlights the rhythm and rhyme of African American heritage packaged to share with audiences of all ages and cultures. Featuring master storyteller Oba William King, a Poetic Kwanzaa celebrates the principles of Kwanzaa, while teaching history, sharing stories, and encouraging an understanding of African American heritage. Free online event presented through Zoom. To register, visit arapahoelibraries.org.

Virtual Santa Visits

Friday, December 17, 1-3 pm

Friday, December 17, 5-7 pm

Saturday, December 18, 9 am-12 pm

Visit with Santa from your living room! You can still talk with Santa this year, although the hugs will have to wait. For children and their families. Free online event presented through Zoom. To register, visit arapahoelibraries.org.

Happy Noon Year

Friday, December 31, 11 am-12:30 pm

Ring in 2022 early with an outdoor dance party and countdown at noon! For families. Free event at Koebel Library (5955 S. Holly St., Centennial). To register, visit arapahoelibraries.org.

Traveling Exhibit Asks: ¿Cómo Te Llamas? What Is Your Name?

The community is invited to experience a traveling exhibit from Museo de las Americas that will be featured now through the end of the year at Southglenn Library (6872 S. Vine St., Centennial).

Museo Sin Fronteras presents the exhibit entitled: ¿Cómo te llamas? What is your name? The exhibit – which is geared toward children, but all are welcome – features fine art, folk art, pottery, and textiles celebrating the special bond between llamas and the people living high in the Andes Mountains.

Museo Sin Fronteras presenta: ¿Cómo te llamas? What is your name? La exhibición utiliza las artes plásticas, artesanías, cerámica y textiles para celebrar el vínculo especial entre las llamas y las personas que viven en lo alto de las Montañas de los Andes.

For more information, visit arapahoelibraries.org or call 303-LIBRARY (303-542-7279).

Lone Tree Arts Center

Home for the Holidays

Thursday, December 16 - Thursday, December 23, 2021

Holidays are about traditions, so restart yours with this hometown favorite! What better way is there to celebrate the holidays together again with LTAC family favorite Home for the Holidays. There's something for everyone in this beloved holiday spectacular: dancers, singers, holiday songs, and, of course, celebrity appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus. With an updated storyline for 2021 and a few spectacular surprises, Home for the Holidays is sure to delight and put you in the holiday spirit.

The Doo Wop Project Christmas

Tuesday, December 28, 2021, At 7:30 Pm

Back by popular demand after 2018 and 2019 sold-out holiday performances! Three parts Jersey Boys, two parts Motown: The Musical and "not your grandma's doo wop," these five charismatic, handsome, triple threat Broadway stars—with their hot five-piece band—tear it up with musicality, dancing, and showmanship not found with any other group in the world! They "re-doo" classic Doo Wop songs from the '50s and '60s and make them sound fresh and new. They "doo" doo wop versions of contemporary pop hits by stars like Jason Mraz, Amy Winehouse, Adele, and Maroon 5, and in between they sprinkle in some "doo-wopified" Christmas classics. A perfect way to keep the spirit of the holidays going!

<https://www.lonetreeartscenter.org/shows>



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Halloween Party

Saturday afternoon, October 30, the spooky spirits gathered at our beautiful neighborhood Walnut Hills Park to celebrate Halloween. It was wonderful to see a good turnout. It was clear that attendees were enjoying being able to gather together again outdoors. The event sadly had to be canceled last year due to Covid restrictions. The weather was perfect. The costumes were very creative, ranging from colorful friendly unicorns to scary werewolves. It was fun to see whole families joining in. There were clever group themed costumes like the Addams family. Several family pets also participated wearing costumes, although some more reluctantly than others. There was no shortage of photo ops on this glorious Colorado fall weather day.

There was a little something for everyone at the event. Artsy Face provided a face painter and balloon twister. Sarah and Bethany from Artsy face worked for a solid

2 hours demonstrating their talents with a constant line of children (or their parent stand-ins) patiently awaiting their turn.

A craft center was set up under the Halloween themed shelter where anyone so inclined could decorate a trick-or-treat bag. Participants were provided with lots of decorating materials to encourage their creativity. There were only a couple of big wind gusts that challenged keeping the materials on the tables.

The monster cake walk was a big hit with all ages and will return again next year (with more cakes). The monster freeze, licorice slurp race and witch's hat ring toss were primarily targeted for children, but some adults were seen sampling the licorice. We are planning to include some different events next year.

Attendees were also invited to guess the number of candies in a jar. One person impressively actually guessed the exact number of candies! The winner was announced during the drawing at the end of the event and got to take home the jar of candy.



Drawing tickets were given to everyone that came in costume. Prizes were awarded to 5 lucky participants via the random drawing. The top prize was a Monster Mini Golf package for 4.

At the end of the event, the kids were 'let loose' to trick-or-treat at 5 goodie stations. The monster fingers seemed to be the most popular non-candy item handed out, with kids seen sporting multiple monster fingers on each hand. There was lots of candy to be enjoyed as well.

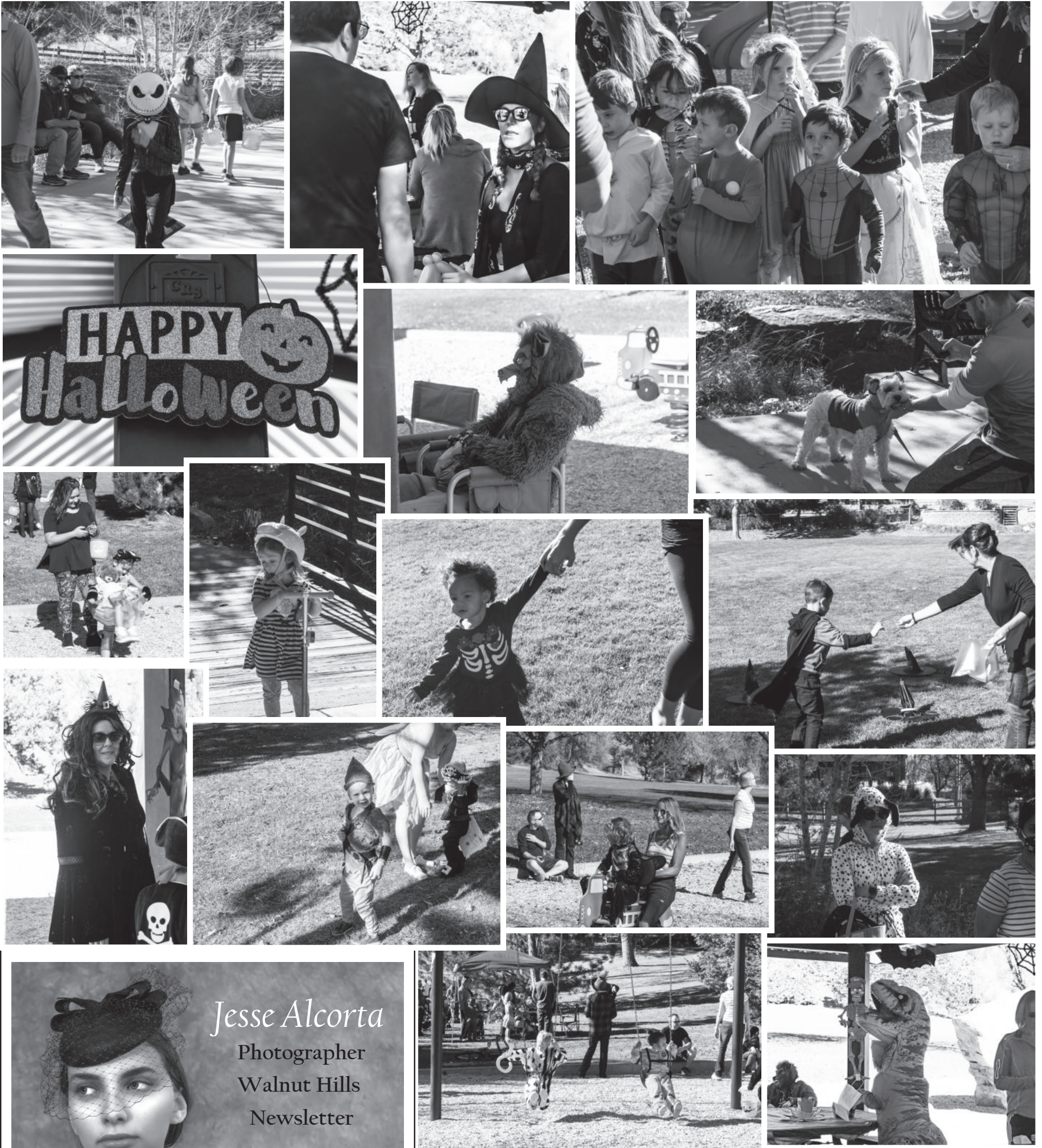
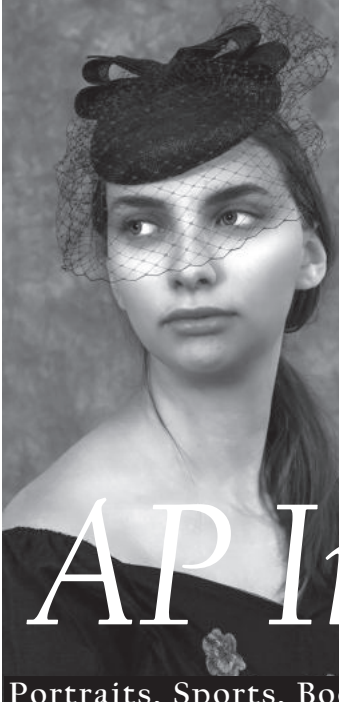
The Walnut Hills Civic Association board members and their families and friends provided the volunteers for this event. The work of each volunteer was very much appreciated and helped to make the event successful. Your WHCA dues of a mere \$30 a year, provided the funding for the party. Thank you to everyone that attended the Halloween party. Each of you made it worth the many hours of preparation that

went into the event.

If you have suggestions for improvements to the event for next year, such as suggestions for new games, your input is always appreciated. Please provide your comments via the Contact Us link on the www.walnuthillscolorado.org website. Also, go to this website for information on becoming a board member, future events calendar, paying your annual membership or volunteering to help with future events. There is a wealth of information about Walnut Hills on this newly renovated website.

The next WHCA sponsored event will be the holiday lighting contest. Judging will happen the week of December 20, so make sure to have all your decorations up by then. Hoping to see the spirit of the December holidays shine as brightly as it did for Halloween this year.

Photography Jesse Alcorta

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The Spirit of Volunteerism

Myra Garcia

I remember back in the day growing up how my mom kept telling us that its important in life to volunteer and help those less fortunate. This helps you grow your life with the satisfaction that you did something good.

These days I don't see as many people volunteering their time and energy and it saddens me. Many people have too many "things" to do or spend too much time in front of their phones, computers, tv's, and games. I notice that the younger generation doesn't have much interest in volunteering and many organizations are struggling to get the help they need.

I'm a volunteer with the Walnut Hills Civic Association. We don't have enough people on the board to help with all of the activities we put on throughout the year for the neighborhood. At one of our events recently I didn't have enough volunteers to help so I put out a plea on Nextdoor looking for adults or teens that needed service hours to help. I did not receive one call or text.

What does it mean to be a volunteer? This means you are giving your time, energy, and talent to an organization with no expectation of to be paid. You are doing it because of the goodness of your heart, satisfaction of a job well done, and to maybe see how it impacts someone else. You never know what people are going through and your presence there might bring a smile to them. Volunteering teaches life lessons. It helps you grow as a person and can bring many amazing people into your life as a result.

In my own life I volunteer with many different organizations, and it brings me joy to help out. For example - I work at the Ronald McDonald House as one of my weekly volunteer things. This is a home away from home for families of children that are sick and need to be in the Denver area. Sometimes just talking with the families you realize that they don't have anyone else to talk to. They are going through hard times and just a shoulder to cry on is sometimes needed. Sometimes I'm cleaning kitchens, washing floors, or taking phone calls. Anything helps. Another volunteer thing I do is Public Speaking for groups that are looking for Living Donors. I was a kidney donor for my mom about 19 years ago and I speak to people that are contemplating being a donor. I can talk to them about my experience. Sometimes people are scared, so if they hear from someone what really goes on behind the scenes it put them at ease.

I realize that most people say volunteering is for when you retire. That can be true, but anyone younger and still working can still volunteer now and then. You make time for the things that are important to you. It could be something as simple as raking leaves for an elderly neighbor, making food for a meal train for someone undergoing cancer treatments, or fostering a dog/cat for a holiday weekend for an animal rescue or shelter. One of the big things in volunteering is that you might have a talent that someone else can use.

For example - say you are good with cutting videos or taking photos. An animal rescue might be able to use your volunteer hours to get photos/videos of adoptable animals on social media so that they can be adopted. Another example is maybe you are a knitter and have a lot of free time. You can donate all of the hats and blankets you knit to organizations that need them - nursing homes, hospitals, Denver Rescue Mission, animal rescues, etc.

There are many organizations out there looking for volunteers. You can choose something that you are passionate about and give them a call. You can volunteer as much or little as you are able to.

Here's just a few ideas on places looking for volunteers:

- Meals on Wheels
- Red Cross
- Tons of Animal rescues throughout the metro area
- Food Bank of the Rockies
- Volunteers of America
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- 4-H Club
- Feeding Colorado
- Metro Caring
- Denver Rescue Mission
- Outdoors Colorado

The Walnut Hills Civic Association is also looking to fill a few open spots. We meet once a month. Let me know if want to join us.

In closing - being a volunteer brings satisfaction to yourself, helps an organization be able to concentrate on other things if they have a volunteer to help, can reduce costs within an organization, and a seeing a smile on someone's face if you made a difference. Let's start volunteering.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give" - Winston Churchill

Centennial is Collecting Socks

Join the City of Centennial in providing socks to those experiencing homelessness this winter. Through December 17, the City is accepting new socks of all sizes to benefit the Sock It To 'Em Campaign, a Denver nonprofit serving local homeless shelters. Socks are the #1 clothing need of those experiencing homelessness. Having clean dry socks to wear on a regular basis is the #1 way to avoid the emergency room with a foot ailment. Since 2012 the Sock It To 'Em Sock Campaign has given away over 800,000 pair of socks in 41 states. Collection boxes are available at various locations throughout the City.

This year's primary collection boxes are available at the locations outlined below.

Centennial Civic Center: 13133 E Arapahoe Rd, Centennial, CO 80112 - Collection Hours: 8 a.m.— 5 p.m., Monday – Friday

Centennial Public Works facility: 7272 S Eagle St, Centennial, CO 80112 - Collection Hours: 8 a.m.— 5 p.m., Monday – Friday

Cakeheads Bakery: 7530 S University Blvd #150, Centennial, CO 80122 - Collection Hours: 10 a.m.— 6 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Metrum Community Credit Union: 6980 S Holly Cir, Centennial, CO 80112 - Collection Hours: 9 a.m.— 5 p.m., Monday – Friday; Saturday (9 a.m.—Noon)

The Village Workspace: 7173 S Havana St #600, Centennial, CO 80112 - Collection Hours: 8 a.m.— 5 p.m., Monday – Friday

Centennial Hospital: 14200 E Arapahoe Rd, Centennial, CO 80112 - Collection Hours: 24 hours

For more information visit: sockittoemsockcampaign.org



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Christmas Toy Drive To Collect Toys For Needy Children

Will you join us in making the holiday extra special for these kids in need? We're collecting new, unwrapped toys and gift cards from November 22 through December 18. Citizens can drop items in the collection box in our lobby. Our deputies will personally hand out the gifts to kids on December 18 at our headquarters. The kids have been personally invited by the Sheriff's Office and the Salvation Army based on their family's needs. The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Headquarters is located at 13101 E. Broncos Parkway in Centennial. Our lobby hours are 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

Food Trucks Wrap up

Myra Garcia

We had another great summer with Food Trucks in the neighborhood. We had quite an assortment of food from around the world represented. And lots of great desserts.

Many people in the neighborhood made an evening of it. They brought out their chairs, blankets, and sometimes adult beverages and sat around with friends or meeting new people. The kids had a great time playing in the playground while waiting for their orders. My granddaughter was always so excited for Food Truck Wednesdays.

Our fellow Walnut Hills artists also participated all summer selling their wares. They all enjoyed sharing their crafts with you.

We will continue this next summer. If anyone wants to join the artists next summer, make sure to keep an eye out on Nextdoor when we post notices.



South Suburban Holiday Events

Celebrate the holiday season with a variety of family-friendly South Suburban events at locations across the District. Warm wishes for the most wonderful time of the year!

Holiday Nature Walks

Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

Experience the joy of nature this holiday season! South Platte Park naturalists will lead 90-minute small group hikes for those ages 6+ on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. A great way to start a new tradition, learn something new and explore our beautiful environment. Registration required

South Suburban Pottery Guild Holiday Sale

Dec. 6 - 8 (Mon. and Tues from 8 am - 8 pm, Wed. from 8 am - 7 pm) at Buck Recreation Center

Shop for unique, handcrafted pottery made by South Suburban Pottery Guild members. Fifteen percent of overall sales are donated back to the Goodson Pottery Studio.

Cocoa and Doughnuts with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 4 from 8:30 - 9:30 am and 9:30 - 10:30 am

Buck Recreation Center

Santa is visiting Buck Recreation Center to share goodies and holiday cheer! This event is sponsored by the Littleton Rotary, and includes cookies, cocoa and photos with Santa - Registration required

34th Annual Arts and Craft Fair

Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9:30 a.m. - 3 pm

Goodson Recreation Center

Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts and browse work from local artists at South Suburban's 34th Annual Arts and Craft Fair! A variety of handmade items will be featured, including pottery, jewelry, sewing crafts, paintings, photography, holiday items and more from Colorado artisans. Admission and parking are free.

Polar Party

Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9 am - 12 pm

Lone Tree Recreation Center

Enjoy a family-friendly holiday outing with crafts and an opportunity have your picture taken with Santa. Beverages and snacks will be available with plenty of holiday cheer - Registration required

Skate with Santa

Friday, Dec. 10, Saturday, Dec. 11 & Sunday, Dec. 12

Sports Complex & Family Sports Center

Santa is taking a break from busy holiday preparations to practice his moves on the ice! Join the fun at the Sports Complex on Dec. 10 from 7 - 8 pm and Dec. 11 from 2:15 - 3 pm, or at the Family Sports Center on Dec. 12 from 2:15 - 3 pm.

Free Holiday Ice Shows

Friday, Dec. 10, Saturday, Dec. 11 & Sunday, Dec. 12

Sports Complex & Family Sports Center

Enjoy a free holiday figure skating performance! Experience the magic at the Sports Complex on Dec. 10 from 6 - 7 pm and Dec. 11 from 3:15 - 4:15 pm, or at the Family Sports Center on Dec. 12 from 3:15 - 4:15 pm.



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SSPRD Active Adult Drop-In Activities and Games

Weekly South Suburban Parks & Rec. District offers several drop-in activities and games that do not require advance registration and require minimal or no costs (e.g., drop-in fees of \$1.25 for SSPRD residents and \$1.50 for non-residents, supplies, etc.). The following gatherings are held at Douglas H. Buck Recreation Center, located at 2004 W. Powers Ave. in Littleton

Pinochle - 12:30-3pm on Mondays

Poker - 12:30-3pm on Fridays

Mah Jongg - 1-3pm on Wednesdays

Happy Hooks and Needles - (crochet/knit circle) 10am on Tuesdays-- many items are donated to nonprofits and people in need; some supplies are provided -



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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

2021 Activities	Date/Time	Location
Holiday Lighting Contest	Week of Dec. 20	
WHCA Board of Directors Meeting, Annual Meeting	Monthly - every 2 nd Thursday at 7 pm, March 10, 2022	Metrum Credit Union Open to all residents

Sex Offender Information

For up to date information on sex offenders in the area see the Sheriff's Office Sex Offender website and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's Sex Offender Websites:
<https://www.sotar.us/sotar-public/initPublicIndexRedirect.do>
<https://apps.colorado.gov/apps/dps/sor/>

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!

Recorded Traffic Complaint Line 720-874-3825



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

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.

Items of Interest
They walk among us!

Tool
 My sister has a lifesaving tool in her car which is designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped. She keeps it in the car trunk.

Baggage Claim
 I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area and went to the lost luggage office and reported the loss. The woman there smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and said I was in good hands. 'Now,' she asked me, 'Has your plane arrived yet?'

Pizza
 While working at a pizza parlor, I observed a man ordering a small pizza to go. He appeared to be alone and the cook asked him if he would like it cut into 4 pieces or 6. He thought about it for some time, then said, "Just cut it into 4 pieces; I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat 6 pieces."

Test
 A noted psychiatrist was a guest speaker at an academic function where a prominent politician happened to appear. He took the opportunity to schmooze the good doctor a bit and asked him a question with which he was most at ease.

'Would you mind telling me, Doctor,' he asked, 'how you detect a mental deficiency in somebody who appears completely normal?'

'Nothing is easier,' he replied. 'You ask a simple question which anyone should answer with no trouble. If the person hesitates, that puts you on the track.'

'What sort of question?' he asked.

Well, you might ask, 'Captain Cook made three trips around the world and died during one of them. Which one?'

He thought a moment, and then said with a nervous laugh, 'You wouldn't happen to have another example would you? I must confess I don't know much about history.'

Deer
 I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road. The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

Lettuce
 My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.

Baggage
 I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge? To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?' He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

Goodbye
 At a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear co-worker (she was leaving the company due to 'downsizing'), our manager commented cheerfully, 'This is fun. We should do this more often.'

Power Strip
 I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the sake of her life, couldn't understand why her system would not turn on.

Locked Car
 When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'it's open!' His reply, 'I know. I already got that side.'

Free Lunch
 I walked in with a buy-one-get-one-free coupon for a sandwich. I handed it to the girl and she looked over at a little chalkboard that said "buy one-get one free." "They're already buy-one-get-one-free", she said, "so I guess they're both free" She handed me my free sandwiches and I walked out the door.

Christmas Tree Trivia

Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850.

In 1979, the National Christmas Tree was not lighted except for the top ornament. This was done in honor of the American hostages in Iran.

Between 1887-1933 a fishing schooner called the Christmas Ship would tie up at the Clark Street bridge and sell spruce trees from Michigan to Chicagoans.

The tallest living Christmas tree is believed to be the 122-foot, 91-year-old Douglas fir in the town of Woodinville, Washington.

The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree tradition began in 1933. Franklin Pierce, the 14th president, brought the Christmas tree tradition to the White House.

In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony now held every year on the White House lawn.

Since 1966, the National Christmas Tree Association has given a Christmas tree to the President and first family.

Most Christmas trees are cut weeks before they get to a retail outlet.

In 1912, the first community Christmas tree in the United States was erected in New York City.

Christmas trees generally take six to eight years to mature.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska. Ninety-eight percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms.

More than 1,000,000 acres of land have been planted with Christmas trees.

On average, over 2,000 Christmas trees are planted per acre.

You should never burn your Christmas tree in the fireplace. It can contribute to creosote buildup.

Other types of trees such as cherry and hawthorns were used as Christmas trees in the past.

Thomas Edison's assistants came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees.

In 1963, the National Christmas Tree was not lit until December 22nd because of a national 30-day period of mourning following the assassination of President Kennedy.

Teddy Roosevelt banned the Christmas tree from the White House for environmental reasons.

In the first week, a tree in your home will consume as much as a quart of water per day.

Tinsel was once banned by the government. Tinsel contained lead at one time. Now it's made of plastic.

The best-selling trees are Scotch Pine, Douglas Fir, Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir and White Pine.

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