

# Walnut Hills Newsletter

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



A car parked behind the business park on Yosemite chose the wrong gear when pulling out of this parking space in mid September, causing substantial damage to the fence, yard and wall of this house on Willow Street. A sign on the front door left by the City of Centennial described the back room of the house as unsafe to enter because of the damage to the wall.



## Is It Really TOD? (Tumlin and Millard-Ball 2003; Inam 2011)

What's the difference between a true transit-oriented development, which will deliver promised social and economic benefits, and a transit-adjacent development? A true TOD will include most of the following:

- The transit-oriented development lies within a five-minute walk of the transit stop, or about a quarter-mile from stop to edge. For major stations offering access to frequent high-speed service this catchment area may be extended to the measure of a 10-minute walk.
- A balanced mix of uses generates 24-hour ridership. There are places to work, to live, to learn, to relax and to shop for daily needs.
- A place-based zoning code generates buildings that shape and define memorable streets, squares, and plazas, while allowing uses to change easily over time.
- The average block perimeter is limited to no more than 1,350 feet. This generates a fine-grained network of streets, dispersing traffic and allowing for the creation of quiet and intimate thoroughfares.
- Minimum parking requirements are abolished.
- Maximum parking requirements are instituted: For every 1,000 workers, no more than 500 spaces and as few as 10 spaces are provided.
- Parking costs are "unbundled," and full market rates are charged for all parking spaces. The exception may be validated parking for shoppers.
- Major stops provide Bike Stations, offering free attended bicycle parking, repairs, and rentals. At minor stops, secure and fully enclosed bicycle parking is provided.
- Transit service is fast, frequent, reliable, and comfortable, with a headway of 15 minutes or less.
- Roadway space is allocated and traffic signals timed primarily for the convenience of walkers and cyclists.
- Automobile level-of-service standards are met through congestion pricing measures, or disregarded entirely.
- Traffic is calmed, with roads designed to limit speed to 30 mph on major streets and 20 mph on lesser streets.

Pedestrian and Transit-Friendly Design - [http://www.epa.gov/dced/pdf/ptfd\\_primer.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/dced/pdf/ptfd_primer.pdf)

## Walnut Hills Civic Association 2012 Calendar of Events

Fall Dumpster Days - October 13th 8 am to 11 am  
Walnut Hills Elementary  
Holiday Lighting Contest - Week of December 10th

The Walnut Hills Civic Association regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Thurs. of each month at Metrum Community Credit Union, 6980 S. Holly Cir. at 7 pm. Board meetings are open to all Walnut Hills residents.

## Walls... and what?

There are three different projects currently affecting the perimeter of Walnut Hills. Not top secret projects to be sure, but notification has only been given to the residents within one-half mile of the projects. Walnut Hills has nearly 1,200 homes (4 times more than Hunters Hill), most of which are on the interior of our neighborhood, but since we all get in our cars and leave Walnut Hills eventually, these three projects most certainly affect us all.

The first project is the widening of Yosemite at Arapahoe Road to create a double left turn lane going west. That project has been fully funded by Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) in the 2013-2014 budget. As a result, Walnut Hills will get a 500 foot wall on Yosemite and Arapahoe, losing some land from the sidewalk, as the road is widened. This project is not having meetings for input.

The second project is the I-25/Arapahoe Interchange. Although the design phase of the project has been fully funded, the construction phase has not. In addition, there is no current intergovernmental agreement (IGA), with an approved budget, to fully fund the construction phase of the project. A coalition, including Mayor Cathy Noon and Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Sharpe, will go to Washington to meet with Victor Mendez, Administrator of the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) on October 5th to lobby for government funding of the project.

The environmental assessment is now in the FONSI stage and must prove Findings of No Significant Impact to the environment, including humans, from the improvements to the I-25 interchange before the project can move forward. At the final meeting in September, a design recommendation was set forth to put up a wall along Walnut Hills from Uinta to Yosemite to mitigate the noise level from widening Arapahoe Road two additional lanes, one going east and one west. The design of the wall has not been finalized and will be solely for the purpose of reducing noise levels by 6 decibels. Noise mitigation as part of the project is not guaranteed until the FONSI is completed.

The land and sidewalk from Uinta to Arapahoe Road is owned by Greenwood Village, including the land that the Walnut Hills General Improvement District (GID) landscapes and irrigates. Walnut Hills is not allowed to remove snow from that sidewalk, and has been ticketed in the past by Greenwood Village Police during attempts to do so. Although the project is recommending a wall, it has also identified that a wall would increase the amount of shade on the north facing sidewalk, which would be an issue in the winter. This project is still accepting input until October 5, 2012. Contact Leah Langerman, Community Outreach Coordinator 720-946-0969 [llangerman@deainc.com](mailto:llangerman@deainc.com)

The last project is the I-25 Corridor Plan. This is a plan by the city to rezone 580 acres of the city bisected by I-25 between Arapahoe Road and County Line Road. The City of Centennial wants consistent zoning throughout the area to guide future redevelopment. A mixed use zoning, to include high density housing, business, and retail, from an economic and future market demand perspective, is being evaluated. One idea put forth by the City of Centennial has been to redevelop the area using architecture that transitions building heights in tiers from along I-25 - up to 12 stories, - to help buffer noise, down to 2 stories along Yosemite. One issue to redeveloping the area is the top and narrowest part of the sewer system ends west of I-25 and is currently too small to support the amount of taps required by high density housing. This project is still accepting input for the next 12 months.

Jeff Brasel, Principal Planner 303-754-3356  
[www.PlanCentennial.com](http://www.PlanCentennial.com)

50 years ago, the first Walnut Hills land developers did not stick us out in the middle of nowhere. They saw the high value of being next to I-25 and Arapahoe Road, not to mention the beautiful views of the mountains! In hindsight, these land developers were clearly ahead of their time. Now that living next to Light Rail is popular, this land is once again highly valued. As we come to the end of the 50th anniversary of our subdivision and move forward, it is important to see ourselves as others see us. We may not be able to see the prairie anymore, but the land developers are not done with us yet.

Please give your input to these projects.



# Do you owe \$100,000 or less on your mortgage?

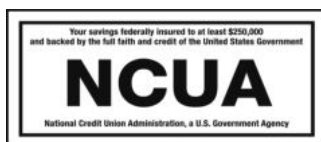
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# Original Owners

By Frank Haskett

**M**argaret Triosi, like many of us, moved here from somewhere else--or rather her parents did. Born in Pittsburg, Kansas, she moved to Walsenburg in 1949. After graduation from high school in 1951, she attended Colorado State College of Education in Greeley, graduated in 1955 with a major in elementary education and a minor in science. Margaret's first job was in Limestone, Maine, but after a year she moved back to Colorado and taught in Pueblo. She completed a masters degree in elementary education in 1961.

After a short stint in Pueblo, Margaret taught at Cherry Creek Elementary (on the campus of Cherry Creek High School), and finished her 55 year career at Heritage Place Elementary. She also taught home economics. She married Sal and they bought their first, and so far, only house. It was also built by Dream House Builders; already completed when they bought it. It cost \$19,995.00. They bought it with the help of a GI bill loan. It had a dishwasher, fireplace, one car garage (they had only one car--not unusual for the time), hardwood floors in the living room and tile in the kitchen. The basement was unfinished. Margaret had a washer, but the clothes were dried on a clothesline in the back yard. Like most of the other first residents, they put in the yard (seeded), shrubs, trees, sprinkling system and fencing. It came with the incinerator for trash in the back yard. Margaret and Sal planted a walnut tree of their own, and it still stands in their back yard, but it didn't come with the house and she doesn't remember ever hearing about a 'free walnut tree with purchase' of a home.

The Triosi family grew to include four children; all went to Greenwood Elementary at the corner of Holly and Belleview. The kids played in the gully behind her house (Little Dry Creek and bike path now) with the one tree existing on the prairie. It died. They bought a home in Walnut Hills because it was less expensive, and Walnut Hills was mainly young couples with children in 1962. Arapahoe road was two lanes and ended at a fence at Holly. There was a small gas station on it, but it closed down shortly after they moved in. The "Valley Highway" (I-25) was how you got to and from Denver, but there was little traffic on any of the streets or highways, so traffic noise was minimal.

Sal and Margaret seldom went out to eat, as both were school teachers and money was tight. But they and the neighbors were all young, so there were lots of house parties. They didn't have them down by the creek or where the park now is located (the house is only a half block or so from today's park)--the park wasn't a park back then! For groceries Margaret recalled going to the GEM store (think COSTCO) on Broadway just south of Belleview, or University Hills Shopping Center at Yale and Colorado Blvd. In order to get to Broadway, you had to go north to Belleview. She also went to church over in the area of Logan and Belleview.

Margaret joined the Walnut Hills Women's Club, but only recalls the newsletter and planting flowers around the entrance at Willow and Arapahoe. The house next door was not yet occupied and the yard was full of sunflowers. There were no homes yet to the south.

Having retired a few years ago, Margaret now does volunteer work at area elementary schools.

**R**ose Marie (Kaizer) Olmsted was born in DuBois, Pa. She met and married her husband David on Sept. 1, 1950, while they were students at Penn State. She dropped out and went to work to put him through school. David was in ROTC, became a Second Lt. upon graduation, and served during the Korean War. He had spent some summers in Colorado Springs, so the couple moved west after David got out of the service--without jobs. After a short stint in Idaho, they moved to Denver since jobs were scarce in Colorado Springs. After renting a house in south Denver, they bought a new house in Englewood. Meanwhile, David became a sales rep for a pharmaceutical company. Though they liked their new house in Englewood, the grass must have looked greener out in the country southeast of Denver. David spotted a construction trailer and checked out the new sub-division of Walnut Hills being built by "Witkin Brothers". There were no show homes, so they went to Bear Valley where Witkin had completed homes just like the

ones to be built in Walnut Hills. They picked one out in July and took occupancy in October of 1962. They could see the mountains from their 2nd new home at 8311 E. Briarwood Blvd.-- until more homes went up to the west. Part of the advertising was for "every house with a view", there would be no homes on the south side of Briarwood, and the "gully" would become a park with a swimming pool. The homes on the south side were built (by DreamHouse) and the park/swimming pool was never to be. The "gully" was just a round sort of "half pipe" affair with no stream as we know it today--mostly just a marshy area. It was later dredged to accommodate the stream. The flood of 1965 caused the gully to fill almost to overflowing. That same flood took out several bridges along the South Platte River in Denver.

There were lots of rattlesnakes about and they had to remove them from their foundation before continuing to build up; ditto with a skunk. Horses ran loose to the west since there was nothing that direction except the foothills. After planting grass, they awoke one day to find the horses in the yard, munching away! Antelope and coyotes abounded as did ground squirrels, doves and pheasants. One of her sons was bitten by a baby rattler. They had to take him to Swedish Hospital, (originally built as a TB sanatorium in the 19th century). There were so many cacti around that Rose Marie had a cactus garden. While digging on the east side of her yard, they came upon an old farm dump--bottles, tractor

gears, and lots of barbed wire. She still has some of the bottles. Elsewhere in Walnut Hills, the mummified body of a Native American was found and given to the Littleton Museum.

Extras for the home were a two car garage, special wiring, four levels, louvered doors and a tree. They had to pay for these extras, except for the tree. Their house came with wood flooring, dishwasher, counter top stove and wall oven--and no air-conditioning. The cost of the house was \$21,500.00, and property taxes were \$17.00 that first year. Telephone service was on a ten party line, but water was from Denver (as it still is). Mail had to be picked up in Littleton, so the neighbors took turns picking up everyone's

mail! The phone and mail got straightened out in a few weeks, but they had to put a mailbox out by the curb. The name assigned to the area for the post office was Littleton, then Englewood and today it's the city of Centennial. They only had one car at first, but when a child got a paper route they bought another to help out during inclement weather. The son delivered the Rocky Mountain News in the morning and pulled a wagon with the papers in it. The Post was an evening paper then.

Any policing was done by Arapahoe County Sheriff Deputies in Jeeps, but they didn't patrol Walnut Hills. There was a curfew for kids, and they liked to hang out at the 7-11 or Phillips 66 that were built a bit later on Arapahoe east of Yosemite. The deputies would pick the kids up and bring them home if they were out past the curfew. No arrests, no court times, etc, they just brought them home. Some of the deputies were volunteers, including a few residents of Walnut Hills. Castlewood fire district was the local fire dept. as it is now.

**Weather:** There was no snow plowing by any governmental entity. You had chains or a 4 by 4 vehicle or you stayed home until the snow melted. Neighbors did help each other out, such as taking someone to church. They had a fence in the back yard, but were at the bottom of a hill. To avoid creating a dam, they put a small door in the fence and opened it when they had torrential rains. In spite of this, the yard was washed out numerous times.

Like most of their new neighbors, there was little surplus money--but lots of house parties, progressive dinners and the like. They had a 4th of July parade and went caroling at Christmas. Rose Marie was a den mother for the boys and a Girl Scout leader. She explained why there was no lunch room when Walnut Hills Elementary School was built: a committee was formed (at the request of Cherry Creeks Schools) to decide on either a gym or a lunchroom, but not both. Since most kids walked home for lunch, they voted for the gym. The lunchroom was subsequently added.

Rose Marie Olmsted stayed home to raise her four children, but when they were all in school, she went to work. She was hired by a veterinarian clinic and worked there 24 years. After that, she taught at Walnut Hills Elementary and later at Heritage Elementary, and then a substitute teacher for awhile. She finally retired at age 74. It's been a few years since she retired, and she's had some health problems, but she will tell you she's as healthy as she's ever been; and busy too. I believe it.



Standing: Rich and Charline Davies, Kathleen and Carmen Grillo  
Seated: Jean Carmichael, Rose Marie Olmsted and Margaret Troisi

On a 100 degree day in June the originals ventured down to the Walnut Hills park for this group photo. When they moved in there was no park (it wasn't built until about 1971 or 1972). They called the area to the south of their homes "the gully." The bike path and walkway west of the park would also come later.



# In Loving Memory

## Elaine Evelyn Pond

September 12, 1928 - June 23, 2012




Our mother, grandmother, and best friend, has gone to Heaven to be with our father/grandfather. God has received another angel to watch over us and comfort us during this cycle of life. She will always be remembered for her kindness, grace and ability to help others when they needed it. God bless mom and dad for they are

together again, which brings happiness to our hearts.

Elaine Evelyn Pond passed away on June 23, 2012. She is survived by her children: Barbara Lee (Frank) Miller, Robert Wayne Pond, Becky Sue Dickmeyer; grandchildren: Amy, Jennifer, Emily, Alanna; and great grandchildren: Chelsey, J.R., Makenna, Jett, Preston and Maci. She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Roberts.

Elaine moved to Walnut Hills in 1975 on So Tamarac Ct. and moved to E. Davies Ave. in 1994. Her husband Bob preceded her in death in 2006.



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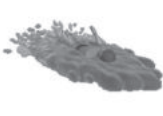
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# Co-Op Recipe Swap

## Ripe Banana Recipes

(Instead of Banana Bread!)

### Banana Oatmeal Cookies

- 1 cup Mashed Bananas
- 3/4 cup Shortening
- 1/2 cup Brown Sugar
- 1/2 cup White Sugar
- 1 cup Flour
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 1 tsp Ground Cloves
- 3 cups Oatmeal

Beat together bananas, shortening and sugars.

Add flour, salt, baking soda, cinnamon and cloves and mix together.

Stir in Oatmeal.

Optional add ins: 1 cup: raisins, coconut, or chocolate chips

Spoon onto cookie sheet.

Bake at 350 F. for 12 minutes. Do not over bake.

### Flourless Banana Pancakes (Gluten free!)

- 1 ripe banana
- 2 eggs
- vanilla and cinnamon to taste

Cook on medium heat until slightly brown.

Top with butter, syrup, fresh berries, or sprinkle of powdered sugar, roll it up and freeze for later.

\*If bananas cannot be used in time, they can be sliced and frozen for smoothies. Just add the liquids first and slowly add the frozen bananas slices one at a time to blend them (and not damage your blender).

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



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1st Place - 6959 S. Valentia St.

## Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 Landscape contest!

This year was tough on everyone's lawn. There was hardly any spring, then right into hail storms that devastated our newly planted gardens and the fruit on our trees.

The landscape committee had pushed back the original date in June to a date in July, hoping the landscape and vegetation would heal.

What we forgot was that July is HOT, but we did see some beautiful lawns, showing that it is possible to recover from such damage.

We did see a lot of new landscaping that by next year should be real winners. Thanks to all neighbors for caring for their lawns, thus caring for the community

Donna Senn



2nd Place - 7495 E. Fremont Dr.



3rd Place - 8862 Briarwood Blvd.

# Little Dry Creek

Little Dry Creek is a short tributary of the South Platte River, approximately 10 miles. Little Dry Creek begins at the edge of the parking lot of Webster University, just on the east side of I-25. Identified only by a patch of cattails and a small pool of water, this living stream weaves its way through the north perimeter of Walnut Hills from east to west, under Arapahoe Road and through Holly Park, where it merges with Willow Creek, eventually intersecting with the Highline Canal in Cherry Hills Village.

The Creek is used to drain storm water in the suburban areas surrounding it. It has also historically been used for irrigation and feeds an aqueduct that runs parallel to it. The former mouth of the creek (the place where the creek emptied into the Platte) was located just northwest of the junction of US 85 and US 285, across from the former site of the Cinderella City Mall. The creek no longer reaches the South Platte above ground.

The mouth of Little Dry Creek is noted as the location of the first significant gold discovery in present-day Colorado. In the first week of July 1858, Green Russell and his brothers discovered a gold pocket, about 20 troy ounces (622 grams) of gold, the first significant gold discovery in the Rocky Mountain region. The discovery set off the Colorado Gold Rush in the following year.

Our creek, greenbelt and trail are some of the best things about living in Walnut Hills. A living stream that never goes dry is a rare treasure in Colorado. It supports enormous Willows and Cottonwood trees along the trail that would never grow to that size otherwise, as well as an abundance of wildlife.

Whether you sit by the creek to relax and read, hunt for crawdads, run with your dog, bike, or even cross country ski and sled in the winter, Little Dry Creek trail is a refuge for people and wildlife from the city that surrounds us.



A beautiful amenity in Walnut Hills, entrance to Little Dry Creek Trail on Davies Ave.



Muskats call Little Dry Creek Home

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## Walnut Hills Block Party

On Tuesday August 7th Walnut Hills was alive with the sound of music. The lively music of the local band Juice 'O the Barley, led by neighbor Bill O'Donnell, filled the air as neighbors met together for the third annual Walnut Hills block party, in conjunction with National Night Out against crime. For the first time in three years the weather cooperated and the night was warm and comfortable. Neighbors filled the amphitheater or sat on blankets in the park, eating over 200 hot dogs, provided by the Walnut Hills Civic Association. It was a night of fun, music and entertainment for the whole family. Neighbors were joined by Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon and City Council members Rebecca McClellan and Ken Lucas, whose support of our neighborhood is noteworthy.



Bill Coleman, a local businessman (Crystal Window and Blind Cleaning) brought dozens of stilts and kids, both young and old, tried their hand at walking on stilts. He also brought the Bubble Tower and the warm night air was filled with bubbles that the younger kids..and a few grandparents had fun catching and chasing. We offer a special thanks to Bill for donating his time and equipment for this event.

Our local Target store on Clinton Ave. was also a sponsor of our event. Target supplied some much needed plates and napkins for the food and brought lots of merchandise that was given away. Mesha Reynolds, Assets Protection Leader from Target was a great support in setting up the event and brought so much energy to the "Target" table.

Metrum Credit Union was also a sponsor of our event. Metrum volunteers showed up to help neighbors put child ID kits together. Not only did they measure and weigh our children, but they provided fingerprinting and swabbed cheeks for DNA samples that we could keep in our home for emergencies.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's department was on hand instructing neighbors on safety and how to help prevent crime in the neighborhood. I learned that most of the local house crimes start with leaving the garage door open...something I need to work on. Local Fire Station #33 was there as well giving tours of their fire truck and ambulance. Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority taught us about where all the local drain water goes, and what we can do to help our local creek system. They demonstrated their sewer robot and brought their powerful sewer vacuum trucks for us to see. Sr. Park Ranger Dan Scheurman of South Suburban Parks taught us about the wildlife along our trail systems and what to do in the unlikely event we run into a Coyote.

Our neighbors at the Southside Bible Church organized a cookie table for the event. Cookies were homemade, delicious and plentiful. Pastor Brian Rutland also had volunteers on hand to help with set up and clean up.

We want to thank all of you neighbors who attended and hope to see more of you next year. Walnut Hills is a special place to live and full of amazing people. We also thank the neighbors who participated in our local neighborhood market place, telling us about their businesses. We thank Walnut Hills Elementary School and Principal Cyndi Burdick for supporting our event and letting us spill over onto their property.

This fun annual event was organized by the Walnut Hills Civic Association. We are excited to start planning for our next neighborhood block party which will be Tuesday, August 6th, 2013. If you have any ideas for our next event, or you want to help plan or participate in the event, please contact Debra Gania at 303-617-1687 or e-mail [mommanator@q.com](mailto:mommanator@q.com).

## Water, Weeds, and Walkers

Let's talk about WATER on the perimeter, aka the GID (General Improvement District). Unfortunately, only Arapahoe Road has water available for our plantings. That section of the perimeter has a sprinkler (actually, a drip) system that allows planting of trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses. That section has had several replantings in the past few years—plants of all kind grow old and decline. Luckily, most have been shrubs and ground covers. We added 3 flowering trees near Uinta, and a fanatic 'Hot Wings' maple near Yosemite. Also several flowering shrubs, transplanted numerous lilies and iris, and some annuals every spring, trying to bring some more color into the landscape. Since there is water available, our choices are almost unlimited. If we had more sun....

Would we like water everywhere else? Yes. Would we like watering at least a few other places. YOU BET. The new board will be working on that, but past efforts have not panned out. (Simply put, it's the money! But you probably knew that.) Water taps are very expensive, even for an irrigation tap. Planting anything—even zeric—means watering some way for at least a year but more probably two. We have a few plantings that have made it, but it isn't easy. (We bring water from home, 2 or 3 times a week during the summer, maybe weekly during the rest of the year unless covered by snow. Pray for more snow!!!)

What about all those WEEDS? What is the definition of a weed? It's any plant you don't want! This was the year of the weed—and not just for the GID. We had a new fence installed last year, which meant a huge disturbance of the soil around the fence. Disturbed soil attracts weeds of all varieties, as most of us know. Add really hot, dry weather—it's a weedfest! We pulled weeks, we sprayed and pulled weeds, and we're pulling more weeds again. Things should be better (fewer) next year...

Walkers and cyclists—please let anyone working on the perimeter know you're there. While we're working on whatever, we usually can't see or hear you approach. I almost knocked a lady off her bike when I stood up, not aware she was behind me. A simple 'hello' or 'good morning' would make things much safer for all of us.

If you have questions or concerns about the GID, please call Maggie @ 303-770-2541.



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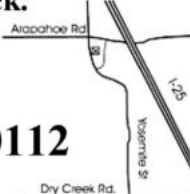
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# Walnut Hills

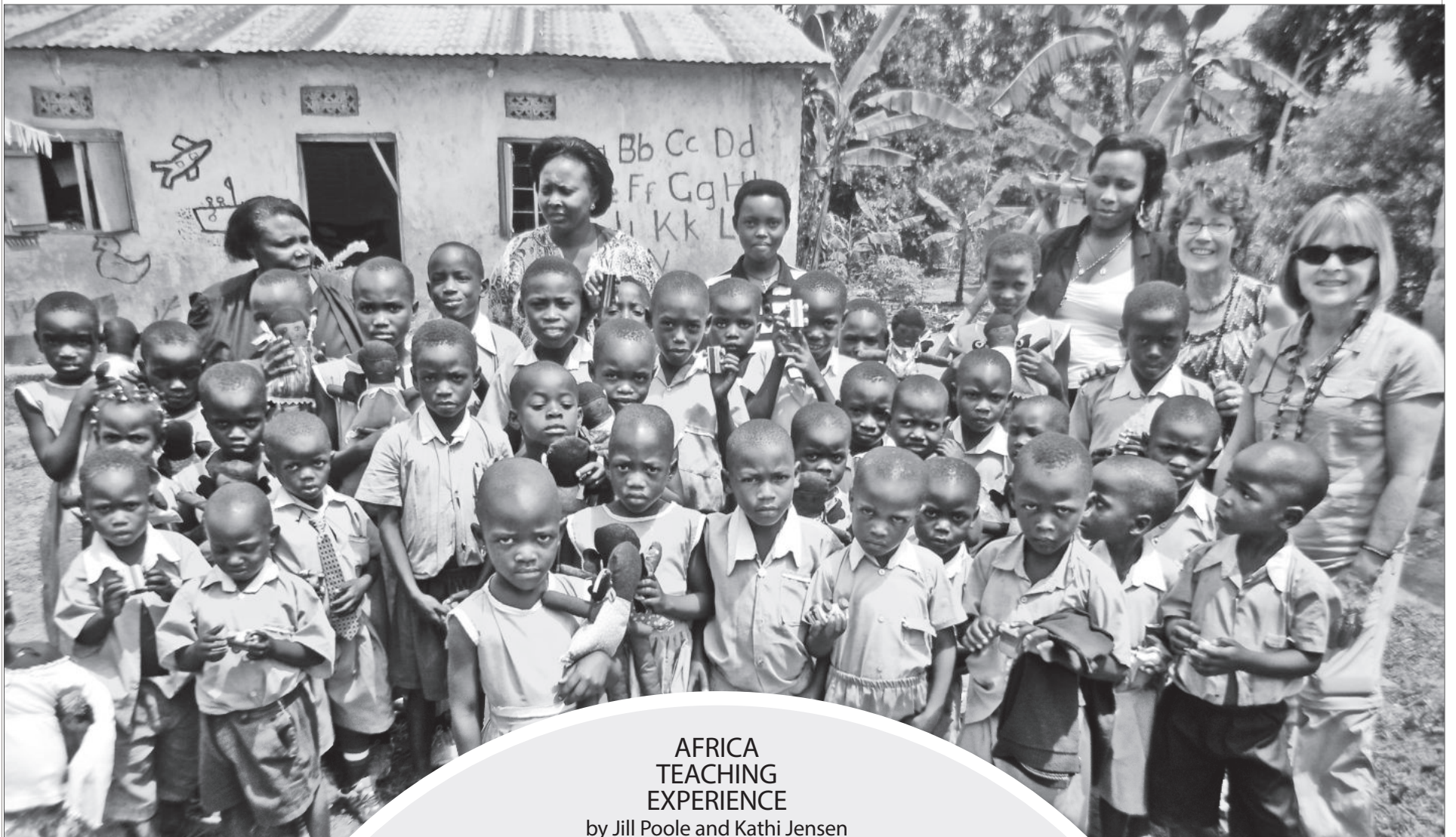




# Block Party







### AFRICA TEACHING EXPERIENCE

by Jill Poole and Kathi Jensen

We just returned from a two-week journey to Uganda, Africa where we conducted two teacher-training workshops for primary teachers. These workshops were sponsored by a small, multifaceted non-profit group, Bambi Uganda Orphans, [www.bambiugandaorphans.org](http://www.bambiugandaorphans.org). Jill's daughter-in-law, Saranga Blaser, is on the Board of Directors for this organization and helped set up this workshop. We fell in love with all the two to six year old students in the classrooms of the Jengo school where we held our first workshop. Each class welcomed us with songs, introductions and sharing. We were able to give each class homemade dolls, matchbox cars, wooden cars and soccer balls. Then, after the three months of preparation, the six days of workshops began. We worked with approximately 35 teachers per day from 30 different schools. Each teacher came to three full workshop days, so 35 came to the first three days and 35 different teachers came to the second three days. We were able to give each teacher a picture book, markers, crayons, a deck of playing cards, a couple of dice, curriculum books, a music CD and a bag to carry these items. We were able to purchase these supplies using money raised and donated by the children, parents and others in the Walnut Hills community. We were able to print the three curriculum books for each school. The non-profit organization that invited us to Uganda is indeed multifaceted. Besides the education component, there is an organic, self-sustaining farm where people learn better ways to use agriculture. They also support orphans, girls'/women's legal rights and encourage ways for Ugandans to generate income. A big area of need and interest is clean water. This organization helps the community by supporting three types of water projects: water tanks, protected springs and bore holes. Please see their website for more information and ways to donate. Many thanks to the Walnut Hills community for all of their support and interest. We learned so much and are so grateful for this amazing opportunity to connect with the beautiful teachers and children in this part of the Kampala community of Uganda. Please stop by the school to see the beautiful batik from the "village" in Uganda.





## Boy Scout Troop 574

Boy Scout Troop 574 had a busy past few months, starting with a successful week at summer camp at the end of July at Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch. Fourteen Scouts enjoyed a great week of camping and taking various merit badge classes, including Environmental Science, Nuclear Science, Woodcarving, Shotgun, Archery, Horseback Riding, as well as some water-related merit badges - Swimming, Lifesaving and Small Boat Sailing. These specific merit badges and skills learned will be very useful for ten of our Scouts and Venturing Crew members that will be traveling to the Bahamas next summer for a week of learning to sail a boat throughout the Bahamas as part of BSA's SeaBase program. They also helped keep the Scouts a bit cooler throughout the week of high temperatures! In addition, we had 11 Scouts successfully earn the Polar Penguin award by waking up early four mornings to jump in the cold lake water. Finally, we congratulate Douglas O., Justin S., Austin B., Aaron P. and Scoutmaster Eric V. for completing the mile swim award, and for Douglas, Justin, Aaron and their Scoutmaster for also earning the Ironman Award, consisting of a 5K run, mile swim, and 10K off-road bike ride during the week.

We kicked off the new school year, which is also the new Scouting year, with a pool party and BBQ at Hunters Hill pool, and provided parents the 12 month calendar of events, as well as handed out awards and showed a slideshow from summer camp. On September 15th, we helped Dry Creek Elementary celebrate their 40th anniversary with a special flag ceremony that afternoon, including retiring their old flag and presenting a new flag that was flown over a U.S. Navy hospital in Japan and given to the school as a gift. We brought down their tattered flag, and then presented them with a new flag and certificate from the Naval Base in Yokosuka (Japan) - my sister is a Commander there. She and I attended Dry Creek (I started third grade the year it was opened). We then burned the old flag with a special ceremony, and many people commented on how special it was and how they had never witnessed that before.

On the 30th, we will help in a 5K run at Walnut Hills Elementary, including manning the water stations. Between the two service projects we attended the Denver Area Council Camporee at Peaceful Valley along with about 5,000 other participants to celebrate our council's 100th anniversary.

Ethan V. will be managing his Eagle Scout project on October 20th, working with Troop members, family, friends and Walnut Hills residents alongside South Suburban employees to cut down about 50 Russian Olive trees along Little Dry Creek between S. Uinta and Spruce streets across from Walnut Hills Elementary, and then planting native and drought-resistant plants and bushes to beautify the open space and provide future shelter and food sources for the wildlife. He is hoping to get some support from the Walnut Hills Civic Association and residents.

Unfortunately, we learned from Dry Creek Elementary's pre/after school program that the garden we helped build and get started last April not only has suffered from the lack of water this summer, but was also vandalized. We hope that this will not continue in the future as we continue to sponsor this very important initiative for the school.

If you know of a young man between 11 and 18 years old and at least 6th grade that may be interested in Scouting, please contact Eric Vitcenda at 720.379.5600.

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### Self-Reliance Corner by Jo Houghland

Water, in semi-arid Colorado, is a precious commodity. We have hot, dry summers and many people face large water bills just to keep their lawns alive. Some folks have gone native, planting natural grasses, drought tolerant plants, and installing drip irrigations systems to save water and money. There are many water saving measures: low water flushing toilets, high efficiency washing machines, and water saving shower heads.

When I think of serious water problems, I think of NO WATER AT ALL! What would you do if suddenly your water was cut off or you have to shut off your own water for repairs or emergency? What would you and your family do if a disaster the magnitude of "Katrina" happened? What would you do for water? Then there are acts of war, terrorism, tornadoes, flooding, and earthquakes. I know, I know, "Chicken Little" announcing the sky is falling. But, as a general rule, a person needs to have one gallon of water per person per day. This is a minimum amount for one person for drinking, sanitary purposes, and dishes/clothing. Try bathing in less than a gallon of water to get a picture of emergency daily use. Remember, drinking water is included in that daily gallon.

Some individuals make it their lifestyle to plan and prepare for disasters. These people have interesting ideas to consider in a case of emergency. Store water. Keep several sanitary containers with fresh water ready for use in a disaster. Review in-house sources that might provide water in a desperate situation; the back of the toilet tank, the hot water heater, drained pipes, and rain water.

If a water outage is eminent, but water is available for a short period, fill the bath tub, sinks, water bed, and hot tub with clean water. Fill any and all containers, pitchers, pans, and buckets.

In a survival situation, consider all unknown water sources as contaminated. Most rivers and streams contain Giardia and Cryptosporidium. These organisms can make you sick and when you're trying to survive, the last thing you need is dysentery and dehydration. .02 micron water filters will filter out microscopic critters and quality filter straws, pumps, and containers are available in most camping supply stores.

Prior to any water disaster, survival experts recommend you identify 3 or more water sources that can be accessed and purified. Where is the closest river, stream, pond, or reservoir? How would water be transported and in what? How would the water be purified? Water filter, iodine, chlorine, water purification tablets, boiling? What are the appropriate amounts of chemicals to use to make water safe?

Could you dig a well? Could you make a solar still? Could you collect water from plants via transpiration? The answers to these questions and others can be found in first aid and emergency survival manuals. It takes longer explanation and even diagrams to understand some water collection techniques. If you are serious about learning valuable self-sufficiency lessons in collecting, purifying, and storing water, a little time should be taken to read what experts have written.

Some of the books I like on the topic include: Just in Case by Kathy Harrison, Emergency Preparedness and Survival Guide, A Backwoods Home Magazine Anthology, The United States Marine - Battle Skills Training/Essential Subjects Handbook, P1500.44B, and How to Survive Anywhere by Christopher Nyerges.



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



Friends and Constituents,

With a focus on water and water issues, this is a good time to remember that we are well served by Southgate Water and Sanitation District, which brings us water through an agreement with Denver Water. I hope you'll join me in congratulating Centennial's own Mitch Chambers and Paul Wiethorn on their recent election to the board. Their service is appreciated.

Parcels in the I-25 Corridor planning area are also served by Southgate. If you have input about the I-25 Corridor planning effort, please don't hesitate to let us know. Although a study has been done to gauge market conditions, your council is here to serve you, not a study. Public outreach on this planning effort will be ongoing, so please check in at our city web site for more opportunities to participate, and you can also share your thoughts with us directly.

Thank you to the volunteers at Centennial Neighbors for your engagement on the I-25 & Arapahoe Road project. You have made a positive difference. To view the final Environmental Assessment, visit the project web site at [www.I25ArapahoeRoadEA.com](http://www.I25ArapahoeRoadEA.com)

You may have heard that the City has purchased a parcel of land along Potomac, near Arapahoe Road. The Centennial Potomac Park parcel was acquired by the City from the United States Postal Service in early 2011. Approximately 39 acres were acquired with Open Space share back funds and the balance of the site, approximately 4.5 acres, was acquired with General Fund dollars. Do you have an idea about what you'd like to see for this space? Because some of the funds used to purchase this parcel were open space funds, there are limitations on what it can be used for. Recreational or ecological uses are included in the allowable uses. Many have mentioned the loss of sports fields, like the Banbury soccer fields, leaving a need for children's sports leagues. What are your thoughts?

Your City Council is looking forward to having a staff presentation and recommendations about what oil and gas ordinances are needed to protect our citizen's interests. If you'd like to attend this presentation, please visit [CentennialColorado.com](http://CentennialColorado.com) for upcoming meeting agendas. You can also sign up to receive e-mail blast messages from your Council Members. Just send an e-mail request to Ken at [KLucas@CentennialColorado.com](mailto:KLucas@CentennialColorado.com), and to Rebecca at [RMcClellan@CentennialColorado.com](mailto:RMcClellan@CentennialColorado.com).

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# Dogs: Water Wags or Water Worries?



by Lorraine May, M.A.

This morning has brought us a strong autumn downpour, and some of the dogs aren't happy about that. Dogs and water seem like they would be natural fun-loving partners, but that is not always the case.

Take Tara, for example, a black Lab who is afraid of thunder and won't go outside if there is even the hint of a sprinkle. Fortunately when she wears her Thundershirt, she is transformed into Tara the brave, prancing around the

yard. On the other hand, another black Lab, Lola, is oblivious to the rain. Or, is she one with the rain? She is typically soaked by the time she stops playing.

We often readily, but erroneously, assume that all dogs love the water. To understand why they may not, we can consider what water might mean to them based on past experiences. Were they perhaps left outside in a storm, lost their footing in a bathtub, or discovered a river was too deep or the current too rough?

I was so surprised when my Golden Retriever, Zeb, refused to go into the river. I realized it must have been unfamiliar and intimidating, so I went in first. That was a very fun solution for both of us.

If a dog resists a bath, a slip resistant mat and delicious treats may be helpful. During a storm, remain calm and matter-of-fact, letting your dog know he is safe. Keep your dog on leash until the depth and swiftness of a body of water are determined.

When a dog is fearful or hesitant, I endeavor to see the world through his eyes and to change his perception with pleasant options such as my support, treats or a totally different activity.

Lorraine May, M.A., is the Founder, Executive Director and Head Trainer of the Misha May Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dog rescue which offers a wide variety of educational classes to the community. The Misha May Foundation was voted #1 Best Dog Training on Denver's A\*List for 2012! The 6 week Understanding Dogs Behavior class has a unique individualized approach. The Dog Trainer Apprentice Program is designed for the working person and teaches our effective reward-based, anxiety-reducing techniques.

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## Greetings Fellow Walnut Hills Residents,



My name is Monty Christo III, I live here in the neighborhood and attend Campus Middle School. As you may remember, I am a Boy Scout in Troop 457 and having been collecting aluminum cans to raise money to help fund my trip to the National Boy Scout Jamboree in WV next summer. I am writing this letter to thank all of the many wonderful families in the neighborhood who supported my aluminum can collection effort over the summer. With all of your help, I was able to raise over \$100 towards the trip. For those of you who were wondering, I will continue to collect cans through next June to continue to help pay my way. If you are willing to donate your cans to help me, please call or e-mail me with your address.

Again, thank you to the many families who helped me over the summer! Sincerely, Monty 303-770-6099 [monty.christo.iii@gmail.com](mailto:monty.christo.iii@gmail.com)

# Drought affecting the High Line Canal this year

Denver Water - This year's severe drought is preventing Denver Water from running water in the High Line Canal.

Depending on the drought's duration, water may not be available at all this summer for the canal. We recognize what a treasured amenity the High Line is to our community, and we're working hard to balance the needs of all the customers, recreationists and trees that depend on its water.

The Northern Colorado Irrigation Company built the High Line Canal in the late 1880s to supply South Platte River water to farmers. Its original intent was to entice settlers headed west to stop, grow crops and create communities on the high plains at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The irrigation company failed because the canal has a relatively junior water right, which is out of priority during periods of drought.

Denver Water now owns and operates the High Line Canal. (Seven recreation districts maintain the adjacent trail.) When the High Line water right is in priority, we manage the canal to meet the needs of customers and support the canal's tree canopy. Now that Colorado is in a drought, the High Line water right is not in priority, and we may not be able to run water through the canal this year.

The canal is inefficient in transporting water, losing 70 - 80 percent to seepage. Still, we care about the trees that have grown to depend on the High Line for water. Because of the drought and the lack of water for the canal, we have contracted with a Colorado State University scientist to monitor the condition of the trees along the canal.

Update — September 2012: Our latest data shows that the trees along the High Line are showing signs of drought stress, as are most trees in the metro area. Heavy rain in mid-September has improved the situation.

Drought stress is to be expected during a summer like this, and should not result in higher mortality rates for the cottonwood trees. The trees may drop their leaves a little earlier than usual as they begin to go dormant for the winter. We will continue to monitor the health of the cottonwoods along the High Line and are hoping for good winter precipitation to help replenish moisture levels for trees throughout the metro area.



\*From the Highline Working Group Presentation - The 66 miles of the Highline Canal Trail is a popular recreation area. Nearly 308,000 people live within a mile of it, including 55 percent of the population of Centennial west of I-25. Residents use the canal trails for running, walking, horseback riding, biking and more.

The trail had been left to grow wild for 100 years. Over half of the trees along the canal are Cottonwoods, some as old as 150 years old, with sections of thick canopies. The service road was opened up for recreation in the 1970s and has been designated as a National Landmark Trail. It is estimated that there are 1,600 people on the trail at any given time during the day, enjoying this exceptionally beautiful and special recreational space.

The Highline Working Group is currently trying to find funding to preserve the beauty of the Highline Canal by planting drought resistant trees to replace dying Cottonwoods. They did not receive a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Trust Fund Colorado Lottery grant for this year, but will continue to try.

"The issue with the canal is that the status quo is not an option. If we continue what we've been doing, the trees are going to die," Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman said in a presentation September 12th.

"Let's preserve this resource and let's make sure the canopy is protected."

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\_\_\_\_\_ Community Garden Project

\* I need some help shoveling snow: \_\_\_\_\_:

*Thank you for joining!*

## Letters to the Editor

One day on a recent walk through Walnut Hills I realized yet again how blessed I am to live in this lovely area. There are all too many neighborhoods where poverty and neglect make the headlines -- but there's no urban blight HERE! In contrast to those news stories, my Walnut Hills' neighbors are second to none in creating and maintaining a very attractive environment, making our community one of the most desirable places to live in Denver.

If you walk or drive through Walnut Hills on all sides you see well-kept homes and landscaping. Houses are in good repair and are attractively painted. There is an absence of clutter; and lawns, bushes and trees are cut and trimmed. This situation does not happen by accident but by design. Our homeowners take pride in their homes and it is in this way that property values are maintained. Our hard-working Board of Directors is dedicated to the preservation of the standards we all agreed to live by, and this ensures that the wheels keep running smoothly.

The absence of noise pollution is tremendously important for a stress-free environment, and something I am grateful for and do not take for granted. While no neighborhood is silent, Walnut Hills residents for the most part are considerate of their neighbors; we have a minimum of blaring radios, TV's, boom boxes, vehicles with faulty mufflers, dogs barking incessantly especially at bedtime, etc. Some friction is inevitable; but in several instances that I know of, people have defused the situation through friendly conversation. Most people want to get along, don't you think?

Finally, the friendliness of the Walnut Hills residents and their willingness to pitch in to help -- that is a priceless gift. That is the frosting on the cake! I can't think of a more satisfying neighborhood anywhere, and it is a tribute to the fine people living here who make it work.

Once again one of our Centennial homes along Yosemite has been hit by an automobile that destroyed the wooded fence, crossed 50' of lawn and, with full force, hit the house. There was no loss of life.

The effort to modify the intersection by SPIMED, Arapahoe County Commissioner, CDOT, Greenwood Village and Centennial is for the purpose of increasing the safety of the traveling public (i.e. individuals inside a moving metal box that has been designed for crash safety, that has atmospheric control, communications and entertainment) but nothing for home and pedestrian safety.

When will the Safety Walls for our citizens living next to these avenues of destruction become part of this type of project ?



Walnut Hills Newsletter

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The Pumpkin Festival is now Friday through Sunday!

This three-day festival is a great tradition for the entire family! Various fall-themed activities will be available, such as arts and crafts, various pumpkin-themed activities and monster hand building. Kids can also enjoy free amusement rides, explore the pumpkin patch and get their faces painted!

Don't forget to bring your wagon to our 10-acre pumpkin patch. Pumpkin prices vary by size - the average price is \$8. Free Pumpkin Daycare is available, so you can enjoy the rest of the festival! While visiting Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield, make it a full day of family fun and stop by the spectacular Corn Maze right next door. Watch the delight as younger children find their way through a special McDonald's Mini-Maze designed just for them.

Friday, Oct. 12, 2012

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 13 & 14, 2012

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield

8500 W Deer Creek Canyon Road

Littleton, CO 80128



## New this year!

On Friday and Saturday nights in October, from dark until 11 p.m. you'll be able to venture through our 2-acre haunted maze at Chatfield. This heart-pounding trek will feature terrifying live actors, amazing special effects and incredible monsters--an experience sure to send chills down your spine! This attraction is for teenagers and adults only. There will be no costumes allowed in the Haunted Maze.

Dates and Hours:

Friday and Saturday nights in October

From dark until 11 p.m. Admission: \$15 - Teenagers and adults only

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<p><small>*First time clients only* Limit 1 coupon &amp; not valid with other offers.</small></p>	<p><small>*Firemen/Firewomen and Military /Veterans always receive a discounted price* (Valid ID required).</small></p>	<p><small>Our salon has been nationally published in the Inspire Hair Fashion Book.</small></p> <p><small>*Voted Top Stylist*</small></p>

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