

ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

Monthly Newsletter of Aberdeen Village



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Upcoming 2023 Meetings & Events Calendar

- **Annual Holiday Party:** December 2, 6-9pm, home of the Bergeron's, 6079 S Elati St.
- **Ladies' Get-Together:** January 18, 5:30-8 pm, home of Carol McKinley, 6077 S Lakeview St.
- **Annual Toy Drive:** December 2
- **Annual Lighting Contest:** December 9
- **Board Meeting:** December 14

We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corn, and syrup. – Buddy, Elf

An Extravaganza of Lights at Hudson Gardens

Now–Dec. 31, 2023 Walk through a winter wonderland of thousands of outdoor lights in Littleton. Explore the trails, where bursts of light and color wrap around trees and shimmer on bodies of water.



Aberdeen Village will continue the tradition of the Holiday Lighting Contest. Judging will take place Saturday, December 9 after sundown. Prizes will be awarded. Winners will also receive a lawn sign to display until January.

Board Member Letter

Seasons greeting, Aberdonians! As you walk through the neighborhood, you see the leaves have all fallen, wisps of smoke are curling from many chimneys, and the days have gotten shorter.

For many of us, it is that time of the year, some might say the most wonderful time of the year, when we begin decorating our homes to show our holiday spirit – and maybe try to win first prize in the Aberdeen Village Holiday Lighting Contest. This tradition started in 2021; however, Christmas lights have been around for much longer than that.

The first Christmas light display was the bright idea of Thomas Edison, who used electricity to illuminate lights outside his lab in 1880, to the thrill of passengers of a nearby railway station. His protégé, Edward Johnson, soon after created the first string of Christmas lights made out of 80 small glass light bulbs. Ten years later, the string of lights became mass produced, enabling department stores and government buildings to put up light displays of their own. In 1895, the average cost of lights for a Christmas

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Update on Ketring Lake

Ketring Lake, a crown jewel of the Aberdeen Village neighborhood, will most likely have to shrink in size. The 11-acre lake was sourced with water that Denver Water Department diverted from the South Platte River into the Highline Canal and then allowed to flow down the Arbor Ditch into the lake. Denver Water has stopped diverting water from the South Platte, and state law prevents the diversion of stormwater runoff into any pond that will not ultimately return the water to the South Platte River within 72 hours.

During 2017, the City of Littleton's Public Works Department drilled an 832' deep well next to the lake at a cost of \$700,000. The well initially flowed at a rate of approximately 40 gallons per minute. Twenty years ago, the city installed a plastic liner on the bottom of the lake to prevent seepage into the underlying soils. This combination was sufficient to maintain the current lake level.

By October of last year, the water well's production had fallen to 11 gallons per minute, and the liner has begun to leak. During July of this year, the pump stopped working altogether. The pump has been replaced and the well cleaned

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Board Member Letter,

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season was \$300, which today is the equivalent of over \$7,000. Fortunately, as other manufacturers began producing strings of lights, the cost to decorate a home for Christmas became more affordable, and today the average American spends around \$600 per year.

Not only have Christmas lights become less expensive, but they have also become more innovative. When they were first introduced, the lights were wired in series, so if the filament burned out in one, they all went out. When a bulb goes dark today, it is likely due to being on a timer, it is meant to twinkle, or it is synchronized to Christmas carols. Also, a string of lights is only one of many ways to display lights which now come in tubes, nets, icicles, and inside larger decorations. LED (light emitting diode) Christmas lights were developed in the 1970s using the same technology that helped NASA get to the moon, which must contribute to LEDs creating out-of-this-world Christmas light displays that are also more energy efficient.

For many years, adding outdoor Christmas lights to your home has been a great way to express your creativity while adding warmth and light to your street. Yes, in December the sun does go down earlier than every other month, but that just means extra time each day to spread holiday cheer. So, whether you flip the switch, set the timer, or schlep outside each night to the electric box to plug in an extension cord, know that your efforts (while they may not win a prize every year) are appreciated every night.

— Maggie Watt, Aberdeen Village Resident

Aberdeen Village Association Officers and Directors

*If you have questions regarding a neighborhood issue,
please feel free to reach out to a member of the
Aberdeen Village Improvement Association.*

President	Unfilled	
Vice-President	Jessica Barrett	913-244-9603
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	Paul Boykin	720-878-5194
	Sara Corbitt	720-253-5100
Newsletter Editor	Deana Moore	
Editorial Assistant	Jane Hooper	

*Email comments, questions or concerns to:
avneighbor1955@gmail.com*

News Articles

The deadline for news articles is the 5th of the month before the next month's issue, except for the January issue which is December 1. Please email news articles to the editor at avneighbor1955@gmail.com. Note your name and include a daytime phone number (we won't publish it) in case there are any questions. Letters to the editor may be printed without the author's name if requested.

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Ketring Lake, *continued from front page*

out, but the well is still producing far less than the 40 gallons per minute needed to maintain current lake levels. Actual flow volumes are being measured to confirm this lower rate.

At the City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 21, the Department of Public Works will have recommended: (a) replacing the lake liner at a cost of \$2.1 million and (b) shrinking the lake's area to 7 acres, with an emphasis being placed on preserving the existing eastern shoreline of the lake. The department will not have recommended the drilling of a second well at a cost of approximately \$1 million, as allowing the lake to shrink is a far less expensive alternative. Nor will potable water be purchased from Denver Water, as this would be very expensive, and Denver Water believes this scarce resource should be conserved for other uses.

— Steve Natali, Secretary

Holiday Cocktail Recipes

Gingerbread Martini: Stir together a ½ cup ginger liqueur, ½ cup vanilla liqueur, ½ cup coffee rum, ½ cup heavy cream and a ¼ cup honey. Shake well and pour over ice into individual martini glasses. Garnish each with a sprinkle of cinnamon. Makes 4-6 servings.

Holiday Cosmo: Pour ¾ cup vodka, 3 tablespoons Triple Sec, 3 tablespoons cranberry reduction (cranberry juice, canned jellied cranberry sauce, sugar, bitters - boiled and thickened) and 2 tablespoons lemon juice into a drink mixer. Cover, shake, strain and pour into chilled martini glasses. Makes 4 servings.

Peppermint Pattie: Combine 1 cup of vodka, ½ cup peppermint schnapps and 2 ounces white crème de cacao and shake well. Serve in a chilled cocktail glass and garnish each with a small candy cane. Makes 4-6 servings.

— <https://tastycatering.com/top-18-holiday-drink-recipes/>

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Littleton Life Center’s Annual “Let’s Do Christmas” Party

Littleton Life Center’s Annual “Let’s Do Christmas” Party takes place on Saturday December 9th from 9 am to 8 pm. Any Aberdeen Village resident who feels inclined to buy a child’s unwrapped gift or two for these kids, please drop the present off at either Maggie Watt or Carol McKinley’s house by December 4. They will deliver the gifts to the Life Center. There are other ways to be involved, if you are unable to shop for gifts. You can also donate financially to provide toys and supplies for a holiday meal by texting Toy to 80875. You could sign up to serve as an elf shopper, gift wrapper or general help at the event at the Life Center on Saturday, December 9, by going to <https://www.lifecenterlittleton.org/event/lets-do-christmas/> and signing up for a shift.



WHERE to drop off gifts between 10:00 am on December 1 and 4:00 pm on December 4:

- Maggie - 659 W Aberdeen Ave
- Carol - 6077 S Lakeview St

— Maggie Watt and Carol McKinley,
Aberdeen Village Residents

City of Littleton *Project Downtown*

The City of Littleton is developing a downtown mobility and streetscape improvements plan called “*Project Downtown*” to guide the City’s investment decisions to improve multimodal connectivity, parking, pedestrian safety, wayfinding, green infrastructure, and streetscape enhancements (*i.e., lighting, trees and wider sidewalks*) in Downtown Littleton. Project Downtown builds upon the City’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan, 2018-2019 Transportation Master Plan and *City Council Goals and Work Plan*. Through those planning processes, the community identified mobility and streetscape improvements as top priorities that would help maintain Littleton’s authentic small-town charm and provide different options for people to move around town. Project Downtown will include a robust community engagement process connecting with many stakeholders including residents, business owners, and other interested parties throughout the project. The recently adopted Littleton Downtown Development Authority (LDDA), the Littleton Business Chamber and Historic Downtown Littleton Merchants (HDLM) will be included in the project’s outreach efforts to create a single vision of a thriving downtown core. An interactive map and additional information about the project can be found using the link: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/8eed16a0f1bd428a9aefb02b9b9e2d7a> and FAQs can be found at: <https://www.littletonco.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Engineering/Public-Works-Projects/Project-Downtown/Project-Downtown-FAQs>. You can also contact Adrienne Burton, Senior Project Manager at 303-795-3863.

— Littletonco.gov

Monthly Home Maintenance Checklist

- Clean the furnace filter to remove dust build-ups, make it easier to regulate your home’s temperature, and ultimately decrease energy bills.
- Check the water softener and replenish salt if necessary.
- Inspect tub and sink drains for debris; unclog if necessary.
- Test smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and all ground-fault circuit interrupters. Check the gauge and expiration date on fire extinguishers.
- Inspect electrical cords for wear.
- Vacuum heat registers and heat vents.
- Check that indoor and outdoor air vents are not blocked.
- Flush out hot water from the water heater to remove accumulated sediment.
- Clean the garbage disposal by grinding ice cubes, then flushing with hot water and baking soda.



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