



Columbine Hills News

A Covenant Protected Community
"Neighbors Making A Difference"

www.ColumbineHillsHOA.com • e-mail: ColumbineHills80128@gmail.com

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CHCA Events Calendar: Spring 2024

Thursday, April 25: Board meeting
6 p.m. - 7 p.m. at St Philip's LC

Saturday, May 11: Trash pick-up
9:30-12 at Pavilion;
(lunch provided by Robert's Deli; limit 30)

Thursday, May 30: Board meeting
6 p.m. - 7 p.m. at St Philip's LC

Saturday, June 1: Dumpster Day, 8 - 1130 a.m.
at Columbine Elementary parking lot

Fri/Sat, June 7 & 8 or 14 & 15:
Community Garage Sale



Siblings Day

National Siblings Day (also referred to as Sibling Day) on April 10th each year honors our brothers and sisters. Siblings. They are our best friends or our worst enemies. At times, siblings will provide us with our biggest competition, strongest encouragement and remind us of our most embarrassing moments.

Next Board Meeting

Please join us! We want your input.
St Philip Lutheran Church

Thur., April 25th: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Notes From The President

Well, it seems that I need to declutter. Everybody tells me so. From daily Facebook and Pinterest posts to Amazon's latest books (Decluttering for Dummies, Compassionate Decluttering, etc...) and even articles from the newspaper (Fifteen things NOT to do when you are decluttering), I am being bombarded with ways to get rid of my messes and my excess. That's it. It is time to declutter.

So where to start? There is an age-old tradition of spring cleaning – blast open the windows, shake the rugs, wipe down surfaces and ledges, wash the windowpanes, launder the curtains, bring out the summer clothes and store the winter garb. And once I can get myself motivated to begin, I really do enjoy a fresh house without clutter. Typically, I pick a day when it starts out spring-like, only to have the temperature drop into the teens by afternoon

continued on page 2

Columbine Hills Civic Association: 2024 Suggested Annual Donation: \$25

Your 2024 donation will help support:

- Neighborhood events and activities such as:
 - Garage Sales
 - Dumpster Day
 - Fall Festival
 - Evening with Santa, and others
- Xeric garden plantings and care
- Beautification & improvement projects



Please return this form with your donation to
CHCA, P.O. Box 621452, Littleton, CO 80162-1452.

Or use the QR code in this newsletter to pay.

Names and phone numbers in our database are held in the strictest confidence and are never sold or given out.

Names: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

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- Donation for improvement projects
- Are you interested in joining the Board?
- Can you volunteer for an event?
- Would you like to deliver newsletters, or serve as a back-up?

**Thank you for supporting Columbine Hills Civic Association
and the effort to keep Columbine Hills a great place to live!**

From The President, *continued from front*

when every window and door is open and I am frozen to the bone. Try tucking away your winter clothes *that* day. And then there is the seasonal (and ongoing) challenge of getting rid of what does not bring me joy. Apparently that's the assignment, neighbors: I am supposed to look at every single possession and grok whether my spirit is moved In wonderful ways. And if not: get rid of it!

I will tell you something: I have many possessions that do not bring me joy. The briefs I am wearing right now are a perfect example. They are cotton, seem to fit okay, won't get any more stretched out in the wash than they already are, and are bright pink which I do not like but they came in a five-pack. (Whenever you get a bundle of underwear, socks, or tees, invariably you are stuck with at least one item that is a terrible color. But hey! Buy four, get one free; my kind of shopping.) So, does my pedestrian underwear bring me joy? No, of course not. But if I got rid of it, would I experience more happiness knowing I now have to spend money to replace it? And will new underwear make me happy, anyway?

The way I see it, some things in our house can just stay because they fit the bill. When I read articles about decorating, decluttering, and getting rid of 'dated' décor, I must take a stand. Do I have too many plants? Define too many. Are ten tee shirts more than I need? What about the clunky particle board bookcase in the office? Joy? Absolutely not. But it houses a lot of books. Many of our belongings are plain; other than a mild obsession with peacocks and candles, our furniture and décor is fairly utilitarian. Are you comfortable? You can stay. Are you pretty, and uncomfortable? You may leave.

And so it is, dear neighbors. One of these breezy spring days you will see us shaking our rugs out in the yard and sorting a few piles of clothing and tchotchkes for a charitable donation. And maybe we will invite you in (if we can clear the clutter off the chairs!).

— Galen, President CHCA

Columbine Hills Civic Association Board of Directors

- President: Galen Wiese
- Vice President: Jenn Gerdes
- Secretary: Jodi P.
- Co-Treasurers: Steve DeMarco and David Wiese
- Social Media/Website: Jenn Gerdes, Jodi P
- Board Members At Large: Michaelle Otto, Kelly Goodbar, Janet Hopkins
- COHOPE Rep: Galen Wiese and Jenn Gerdes

The *Columbine Hills News* is published monthly by the Columbine Hills Civic Association, a non-profit homeowners association. The newsletter is delivered by volunteers to all the residents of Columbine Hills. *Association members' names and phone numbers are held in strictest confidence and are never sold or given out.*

News Articles

Letters to the Editor are welcomed. The deadline for news articles is the 13th of the month before the next month's issue, except for the Jan. issue which is Dec. 6th. Please email news articles to the editor at **columbinehills80128@gmail.com**. All articles must be approved by the editor for publication, or as space permits. All letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number in case the editor needs to clarify information. When the letter is printed, names will be withheld upon request. Thank you. No endorsement of any product or service is implied or stated by its inclusion in the newsletter.

Correspondence to be sent to:

Columbine Hills Civic Association,
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Advertise in this Newsletter!

The deadline for advertisements is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue, except for the Jan. issue which is Dec. 6th.

**Newsletter Connections: 303-979-7499 or
info@newsletterconnections.com**

To find ad rates and discounts, go to **NewsletterConnections.com** or scan QR code.



Questions? Concerns? Ideas?

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- Colorado State Website: **www.state.co.us/index.html**
- Jefferson County Website: **www.co.jefferson.co.us/**

Dumpster Day

Columbine Hills will hold their annual **Dumpster Day** on Saturday, June 1, from 8:30 to 11:00 or until all five bins are filled.

Some reminders: If you have paid at least \$25 annual dues before Wednesday, May 29, you can bring one free load. A load is defined as a car- or truckload. If you have a truck and trailer, you will be charged an additional \$20. The board has the discretion to charge more if your trailer is longer than 10' or is packed really high.

If you have not paid your annual dues, your first load will be \$35 with an additional trailer costing \$30. You must come with a DL that shows you live in Columbine Hills.

We need several volunteers to help us load the bins. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided to all volunteers. Please respond to columbinehills80128@gmail.com to volunteer for this or any other project.

Kiwanis Club of Columbine

The Kiwanis Club of Columbine is a group of volunteers dedicated to improving the lives of children and families in our community. All are welcome to help on any of our projects or attend any of our social events anytime.

To learn more, visit our website at columbinekiwanis.org, or join us for a free breakfast at our weekly meeting any Wednesday at 7 a.m. at 4Gs restaurant, 5950 S Platte Canyon Rd, Littleton. You do not need to join our club to participate. We have a lot of fun, meet new people, and do a lot of good things for our community. For details about a project or social event email kensweet@gmail.com.

Trash Pick-up Day on May 11

Please join us as we partner with Foothills Parks and Recreation, Robert's Deli, and Dairy Queen to pick up trash from Depew and Elmhurst Ave, through both ball fields and creeks, all the way along the trail to Pierce Street. If we have enough volunteers we may also pick up along Platte Canyon Road from Marshall Street to Depew. We are asking for no more than 30 volunteers (13 and older) to meet at the Pavilion on Elmhurst Ave east of Kendall Ave, at 9:30 a.m. on Sat, May 11. Please wear close-toed shoes. We will have grabbers and buckets provided by Foothills, and we will sort recyclables as we go. There will be safety vests for all to wear.

After finishing at noon, Robert's Deli will have lunches on hand for all volunteers and we will have DQ ice cream vouchers for everyone 18 and under.

You MUST sign up by May 7. We need to have the numbers determined so that Bob can get the sandwiches planned.

E-mail us at Columbinehills80128@gmail.com to sign up. See you there!

Join The Gardeners In CHCA's Xeric Garden: Kendall Blvd and Canyon Ave

Please join us once a month to help weed, feed, and plant new plants at the Xeric Garden on Kendall and Canyon. We meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The dates this summer are May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, and October 29.

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Board Meeting Minutes February 29, 2024

Start 6:05 p.m.. **Officers:** Dave, Galen, Steve, Jenn (on speaker), Jodi, Michelle, Janet. **Other:** Nick. **Community Members:** Lia, Tina, Gabby, Lauren (is on the Columbine Hills Elementary PTA)

Treasurer's Report (January and February combined):

- Thus far 58 paying members (45 checks, 13 on Paypal)
- Historically Jan/Feb are not as strong in terms of memberships
- Normally we are at 130 by the end of spring
- Expenditures: Chili Cookoff supplies, Dumpster Day, COHOPE dues, insurance will be due, PO Box

New Community Participants: Welcome Gabby, Lauren, and Tina

NEW BUSINESS:

- State amendments are coming for increased taxes on short-term rentals (AirBnB and VRBO)
- There will be a new Jeffco library but not at the sledding hill

Chili-Cookoff: At the park pavilion Sat, March 9

- Jenn and Kelly continue to distribute Q1 2024 Welcome Bags
- **Facebook and Website:** Jenn reached out to community member Gabby to help with WIX

Trash Pickup: May 11th

- Robert (from Robert's Deli) is providing lunch for trash pickup
- Foothills will give CHCA trash cans and grabbers to collect trash (confirmed with Sarah McAfee, Foothills P&R)
- David and Galen have the orange vests (20-25)
- Tasked Tina, Gabby and Lauren to make a template to put in the school
- Jenn to talk to Dairy Queen if she can get ice cream vouchers for the kiddos who volunteer
- Will commence trash pick-up at Depew (or Platte Canyon by the creek) and move through the parks/ballfields, along the creek, to Pierce.

Fall Festival: Two new community volunteers

Newsletter walkers:

Two potential volunteers to serve as back-ups

Dumpster Day:

After discussion at meeting, confirmed five 20-yard units with Bargain Bins; will arrive May 31st in Col. Hills Elementary School parking lot. David at BB will remove them (on June 1) as we fill them

Briget Butterfield at Platte Canyon Water District has offered to offer a presentation and answer questions. Will reach out to neighbors in the newsletter to assess interest

Xeric Garden:

- Janet wanted to thank the board for the support of the garden
- Janet would like to have a small article in the newsletters from May to October
- Send pictures of blooms to Galen or Jenn to post on Facebook / Instagram
- Michaelle is working on a new sign for Ralph and Pat
- The new UPS store owners are getting a printer to make the sandwich board signs locally and for less cost

End: 6:59 p.m.

Want To Grow Your Business This Spring?
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NEWSLETTER CONNECTIONS

Our May deadline is April 15th.

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Chili Cookoff Success

We had a great time at the Chili Cookoff on Sunday, March 11. This year we only had five offerings of chili (where was yours?) but all five were delicious and devoured. What a gorgeous day at the pavilion; we shared the park with players and parents from several ball clubs. We had two winners who received \$20 gift cards for King Soopers. Another opportunity to meet our wonderful neighbors.



Teach The Children To Save Day

Each year on the fourth Thursday in April, National Teach Children to Save Day encourages children to develop good saving habits. Bankers across the country volunteer every year to teach children to save. Developing these habits at a young age creates a foundation for a lifetime of saving. Involving our children with a savings plan, and money management skills prepare them for a solid future. Parents should teach children about financial matters so that when they head out into the world they avoid pitfalls that can be financially devastating. With an early start on saving and an understanding of budgeting their money, children will have solid habits as they head into adulthood.

Watch the Rockies at Coors Field

Nothing says warm weather like baseball on a sunny day. What better place to watch a game than Coors Field in downtown Denver with a grand view of the mountains in the distance? The Rockies season runs from early April through early October, and maybe longer, pending a playoff run.

Opening day for the Colorado Rockies will be held on Friday, April 5th, 2024 as they take on the Tampa Bay Rays. There are plenty of festivities to celebrate the return of baseball. Coors Light will be set up in McGregor Square with activities for the whole family, the Broncos quarterback will throw a ceremonial first pitch, and there will be a flyover by the Air National Guard. Don't miss this exciting day!

—<https://www.uncovercolorado.com>

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Collective Nouns For Animals

Collective Terms

- A kaleidoscope of butterflies
- A loveliness of ladybugs
- A murder of crows
- A flock of birds
- A flight of birds
- A gaggle of geese
- A murder of crows
- A parliament of owls
- A skein of geese
- A brood of hens
- A clowder of cats (wild cats)
- A murder of magpies
- A charm of finches
- A company of parrots
- A host of sparrows
- A siege of herons
- A scold of jays
- A pitying of turtledoves
- A descent of woodpeckers
- A bouquet of pheasants

Collective Nouns for Mammals

- A herd of cows
- A pack of wolves
- A pride of lions
- A troop of monkeys
- A colony of bats
- A pod of whales
- A drove of pigs
- A mob of kangaroos
- A sounder of wild boars
- A sleuth of bears
- A pack of dogs
- A trip of goats
- A tower of giraffes
- A kindle of kittens
- A clowder of cats
- A muster of peafowl
- A leap of leopards
- A skulk of foxes
- A crash of rhinoceroses

Collective Nouns for Insects

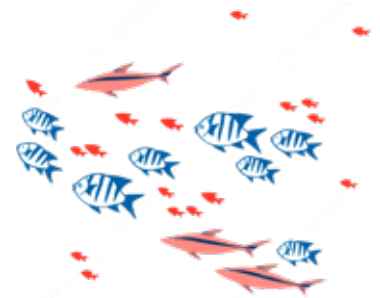
- A swarm of bees
- A colony of ants
- A army of caterpillars
- A cloud of grasshoppers
- A horde of gnats
- A rabble of butterflies
- A scourge of mosquitoes
- A mischief of mice
- A plague of locusts
- A cete of badgers

Collective Nouns for Reptiles

- A bask of crocodiles
- A nest of snakes
- A bed of snakes
- A pit of snakes
- A knot of snakes
- A lounge of lizards
- A dole of turtles
- A float of crocodiles
- An unkindness of ravens
- Parcel of penguins

Collective Nouns for Fish

- A school of fish
- A shoal of fish
- A run of salmon
- A congregation of alligators
- A float of crocodiles
- A pod of dolphins
- A swarm of eels
- A grind of whales
- A catch of fish
- A draught of fish
- A nest of trout
- A battery of barracudas
- A knot of toads



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Top Decluttering Tips

One of the most essential facets of spring cleaning is decluttering. Over the winter, most families neglect decluttering because it's cold, wet, or otherwise unpleasant outside. For many, however, clutter is as bad, or worse, than an unclean home. Below are some excellent tips to declutter and keep your home clutter-free.

- Start small. Choose a single bedroom or other room in the house rather than trying to declutter your entire home all at once.
- Sort things into 3 piles; "Keep", "Donate", and "Throw Away". Then, use those piles accordingly.
- Use a timer. That way, you don't waste a day trying to declutter a single area.
- Use the "one in, one out" rule. For each new item you bring into your home, eliminate an old one.
- Digitize your essential files, documents, and paperwork. Use a scanner to store them digitally on a device you keep in a safe place. (It takes up much less space than tons of paper.)

Remember that decluttering is about getting rid of things and keeping your home as organized and clutter-free as possible.

—<https://www.istorage.com/blog/ultimate-spring-cleaning-guide/>

*If April showers should come your way,
they bring the flowers that bloom in May.*

—Buddy de Sylva

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Columbine Hills Statistics for March 2024

Current Homes FOR SALE in Columbine Hills

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	None	None	0
2-story	None	None	0
Tri/Multi-level	None	None	0
Bi-level	None	None	0

Current Homes UNDER CONTRACT in Columbine Hills

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$690,000	\$690,000	1
2-story	None	None	0
Tri/Multi-level	\$600,000	\$775,000	6
Bi-level	None	None	0

Homes SOLD in Columbine Hills (June 1, 2023–Mar. 15, 2024)

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$530,000	\$770,000	11
2-story	\$725,000	\$1,100,000	3
Tri/Multi-level	\$595,000	\$725,000	7
Bi-level	\$625,000	\$781,000	5

The statistical information is based on MLS data Mar. 15, 2024. Not all of the properties were listed and/or sold by Duffy & Associates, LLC.

What Clients are Saying About Duane...

The experience of working with Duane was phenomenal! He will tell you the truth, not just what you want to hear. He is methodical and calming—excellent personality traits that carry you through a trying time. The fact that Duane is an expert in the Columbine area is an added bonus. I would wholeheartedly recommend Duane to sell your home. Don't hesitate—he will take excellent care of you! J. S.

We would not hire any realtor, other than Duane, to find us the right home and to sell our existing property. During the process Duane became our lifelong realtor and, even more importantly, a true friend. C. & M. E.

Duane was the perfect realtor to sell the home our parents owned. He has extensive real estate knowledge and knows the neighborhood very well. Duane was attentive and his guidance was invaluable. He is easy and pleasant to work with and we are grateful for his guidance, friendship, and very hard work on our behalf. We recommend him highly to anyone seeking the finest real estate agent. K. & R. C.



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