



# COLUMBINE HILLS NEWS

## "Neighbors Making A Difference"

www.ColumbineHillsHOA.com • Email: ColumbineHills80128@gmail.com

### 2025 CHCA Annual Events Calendar:

**BOARD MEETINGS:** *First Thursday of every month (excluding December/July), from 6pm-7pm*

**St Philip Lutheran Church:**

April 3, May 1, Oct 2, Nov 6. No meeting in December and January's meeting is for board members only as we plan for the new year.

**Pavilion, Kendall & Elmhurst Ave:**

June 5; July 10; Aug 7, Sept 4. If raining/storming, will be held at St Philip

**SUMMER EVENTS:**

**Tuesday, August 5:**

National Night Out, 5:30-7pm  
(park, Kendall and Canyon Blvd)

**Saturday, September 20:** Columbine Center Community Fest 10-4 (parking lot, at Pierce and Ken Caryl by the DQ)

**Saturday, September 27:** Fall Festival 12:30-4, (park, Kendall and Canyon)

### National Night Out!

This Tuesday, August 5, we celebrate our 3rd annual National Night Out! with everyone in the Columbine Hills neighborhood. This nationwide event, held the first Tuesday of August, is an opportunity for neighbors to gather, enjoy a hotdog and a beverage, and address issues of safety and resources within our community. We partner with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and South Metro Fire and Emergency services. Last year, kids (and adult kids too) were excited to watch the bomb- and drug-sniffing

*continued on page 3*

August 2025

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### Notes From The President



Neighbors, the potholes on the intersection of Depew and Platte Canyon took an inordinate amount of my time in July, and I still don't have a definitive answer as to who is responsible for that section of the street. CDOT assured me that it was not on Platte (a state highway), but rather on Depew (Jeffco); Jeffco assured me that it was either CDOT or Denver Water, and Denver Water sent me a detailed letter with photos and depictions (feeling like Arlo Guthrie now), insisting that in 1959, Columbine Hills, Inc., purchased that particular piece of roadway for the grand sum of \$1, to be maintained in perpetuity by all successors of same. Meanwhile, right before the Fourth,

CDOT came along and (sorta) filled up the holes. And here I was, pricing asphalt companies. At this point I can only be relieved that the holes are not the vast gaping abysses they once were, and hope that CDOT continues to monitor and repair them. CHCA would have to hold a mother of a bake sale to pay for paving!

We are really excited about CHCA's third annual National Night Out! coming up on Tues, Aug 5th. Come join us in the park on Kendall and Canyon from 5:30-7 to meet more neighbors, meet with community law and EMS partners, and enjoy hot dogs and snacks. Remember, we have 30 safety vests for the first 30 kids who come; add high-vis to your family's safety protocols. Consider making a phone/text tree with adjacent neighbors to promote rapid communication in case of emergencies; we will have forms there to help you get started.

And speaking of safety... too many folks have drowned this summer because they did not wear a life vest. Please, if you are *on* or *in* water deeper than you can walk, wear one. We lost one person on Chatfield in July when his paddleboard was blown over; thankfully the two children were rescued. The kids were wearing life jackets; their father was not.

In our July board meeting we decided to develop a Kid's Corner in the newsletter. In a few months we will have it up and running. If your child has a poem or drawing/painting that should be shared, hold on to it and submit it later. We will be looking for puzzles, word games, and other ways for kids to learn and have fun. Angela is taking the lead on this.

*continued on page 3*

## Concerts in Clement Park

Foothills Park & Recreation District is proud to offer Concerts in Clement Park free to the public and put on for the benefit of District residents and South Jefferson County residents. This outdoor series of concerts incorporates community collaborations and grant funded performances which are free, open to the public and family friendly. Performances are held at the Grant Family Amphitheater in Clement Park. All concerts start at 7 p.m.

- **August 7 – Austin Zimmerman:**  
folk, bluegrass, rock and roll
- **August 14 – Grunge Lite:**  
90s alternative rock and pop covers

## 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.



## Columbine Hills Civic Association:

### 2025 Suggested Annual Donation: \$25

Your 2025 donation will help support:

Neighborhood events and activities such as:

- Garage Sales
- Evening w/ Santa, & others
- Dumpster Day
- Xeric garden plantings and care
- National Night Out
- Beautification & improvement projects
- Fall Festival

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Can you add an additional donation for our **tree fund**? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total 2025 donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Are you interested in joining the Board?

( ) Can you volunteer for an event?

Which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Would you like to deliver newsletters, or serve as a back-up?

( ) Route ( ) Back-up

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



## Columbine Hills Civic Association Board of Directors

President:	Galen Wiese
Vice President:	Jenn Gerdes
Secretary:	Kelsey Scott
Co-Treasurers:	Steve DeMarco & David Wiese
Social Media/Website:	Jenn Gerdes, Gii Grimes, Kelsey Scott
Board Members-At-Large:	Michaelle Otto, Kelly Goodbar, Janet Hopkins, Angela Ireton
Cohope Reps:	Jenn Gerdes, David & Galen Wiese

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,  
P. O. Box 621452, Littleton, CO 80162-1452



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## Questions? Concerns? Ideas?

Jeffco County Commissioners . . . . . 303-271-8525

Jeffco Graffiti Hot Line . . . . . 303-271-8247

Jeffco Sheriff . . . . . 303-271-KOPP

Jeffco Sheriff  
(non-emergency / parking violations) . . . . 303-277-0211

Zoning Violations . . . . . 303-271-8725

Animal Control . . . . . 303-271-5070

Weed & Pest Management . . . . . 303-271-5989

Colorado State Website: [www.state.co.us/index.html](http://www.state.co.us/index.html)

Jefferson County Website: [www.co.jefferson.co.us/](http://www.co.jefferson.co.us/)



## From The President, *continued from front*

Please continue to reach out to CHCA for neighborhood issues. We may not be able to help but we will always try. We have a few yards with some real problems; if you feel that these properties are abandoned, let us know. Our realtor/Vice President Jenn Gerdes can find the owners and contact them. Same thing if the properties are rentals. Landlords have a responsibility to the community. And if you are comfortable in reaching out to a neighbor with a property issue, please do so.

See you at National Night Out!

— Galen Wiese, President, CHCA

## Help Us In The Xeric Garden!

The Columbine Hills xeric garden needs volunteers to help plant, weed, and prune the xeric garden at the corner of Canyon and Kendall. We meet the 3rd Saturday of each month in the warmer months for an hour to plant, weed, and prune the garden together. Many hands make light work, and we appreciate anyone who can come and help. No experience with gardening is required, however we do hope you will bring your own gardening gloves and tools if you have them. Experienced gardeners will be on hand to point out the friendly plants we love and the ones we want to weed before they spread.

The remaining dates for gardening are:

August 16th, 8am; September 20th, 8am; October 18th, 9am

If you have questions or want to let the organizers know you can make it, please email Angela at [ColumbineHillsGarden@gmail.com](mailto:ColumbineHillsGarden@gmail.com).

## National Night Out, *continued from front*

K-9 (and partner) find a hidden odor, enjoyed working with EMS to purview the tools and capabilities of a fire engine, and engaged with detectives about their role in policing. We brought whistles for the kids (in retrospect, perhaps not the best safety tool!) and had a group whistle-blast, enjoyed by some.

**This year, the first 30 children who come to National Night Out! will receive a safety vest.** Orange or yellow, these vests make your child highly visible while on the sidewalks and streets. It is one more safety element we hope to encourage for the CHCA youth. Folks in several neighborhoods and streets/cul-de-sacs exchanged contact information with each other and developed a phone tree in case of an event such as burglary, a motor vehicle accident, fire, etc. You may wish to consider that too; there will be templates there for you to use.

Join us from 5:30 to 7:00 at the park on the SW corner of Kendall and Canyon on the 5th of August. Help us to make CHCA an even safer community.

If you are a business owner in the CHCA community, we welcome you to bring a booth/table to NNO! and the Fall Festival (9/27; 1230-4) to share information about your service or product. Please come a little early to set up. Avoid setting up immediately adjacent to where the food will be served.

*August is the slow, gentle month that stretches out the longest across the span of a year.*

— Victoria Erickson



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## Great Plants For Pollinators

Here is a list of plants that benefit the native pollinator population and that don't require heavy watering. It is suggested that you still water them every few days, but they don't require daily, constant watering. All these plants except the Milkweed are grown in the Columbine Hills Xeric Garden at the corner of Canyon Ave and Kendall Blvd.

**Milkweed:** This plant features tall stalks with large, broad leaves and small, white or pink flowers. This plant is great to attract butterflies and bees. Milkweed is unique in that it provides food and a place for butterflies to lay their eggs. Milkweed ensures butterflies visit your yard every year!



**Echinacea (Coneflower):** This beautiful plant comes in many colors; vibrant pinks and purples, rich oranges, whites, and yellows. Depending on the variety, they can have a medium or a tall stem with a flower that has a large cone-shaped center that the petals surround at the base. A few of our neighbors have many Coneflower plants, which are quite striking during their bloom season. These can bloom from mid-summer into early fall.

**Yarrow:** Yarrow also comes in a few different colors, including the native white, yellow, and paprika (red) varieties. This plant can bush out with feathery-like leaves and stems. The flower heads are a cluster of small, tight flowers that fan out almost like an umbrella. Yarrow too blooms from mid-summer to fall.



**Penstemon:** There are many wonderful varieties of penstemon, from the tall-stemmed large blossomed Rocky Mountain variety, to the bushy, low to the ground, small coral blossomed Pine Leaf Penstemon, or the wonderful ground cover with blue flowers – Wagon Wheel Penstemon. These are favorites of bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Each variety blooms at a different time of year.

**Pasque Flower:** This is one of the earliest bloomers of the growing season (around the same time as crocus and daffodils), and it produces cute, medium-sized purple flower cups that, once they are done blooming, turn into fluffy Dr. Seuss-like seed heads. These don't need a lot of water; they do just fine being covered in snow all winter; in fact, they like being cold.



**Nepeta (Catmint):** This is a great plant that almost looks like lavender and can provide you with two flushes of purple or white flowers. It will first bloom in spring/ early summer, and then if you deadhead and cut back the plant once the flowers are spent you can get a second flush of flowers in the fall. These are bushy plants that can spread throughout your yard if you aren't careful, so only buy this plant if you are prepared to do some more yard maintenance. They also have a sweet, minty smell.

– Angela Ireton, CHCA board member

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## CHCA Board Meeting: July 10, 2025

**Start:** 1800

**Officers:** Galen, David, Gii, Jenn, Steve

**Members-at-large:** Michaelle, Janet, Angela

**Community Members:** Karen, Scott

**Treasurer's Report:** submitted by David. CD is earning us equiv of one membership/month. Ample funds in checking, savings, and tree fund for remainder of year.

**Paying members:** 207

**Expenditures:** Bargain Bins, gutter, \$25 to join Columbine Center Community Fest

**Approve:** Galen; **Second:** Jenn

**Review Board minutes:** One omission: Karen O was a community member present in June

**Approve:** (with amendment) Jenn; **Second:** David

**Old Business:** Dumpster Day: 8-11. Seven dumpsters; we will open at 8AM next year and every year). Potholes on Platte and Depew; Denver Water Board; see Notes

**New Business:**

Invited board members to send Galen pics and bios for submission in newsletter

Several concerns raised about safety issues and unkempt homes, including clusters of cars, trailers, etc. Community can call non-urgent Jeffco Sheriff's office at 303-277-0211

**Kelsey:** suggested that we address increasing neighborhood participation the in newsletter. We will begin with

1. Neighbors submitting articles about themselves or other neighbors, or a neighborhood activity
2. Developing a Kid Corner: a place in the newsletter for news about community events focusing on youth. Invite children, teens, to submit poetry, drawings

Acquire funding to move CHCA stone on Pierce to round-about and get a better stone for Pierce and Elmhurst Ave Tabled for now.

9th Annual Columbine Center Community Fest – Sept 20, 10-4. \$25 has been submitted for CHCA to participate. Will focus on inviting neighbors to volunteer for the Fall Festival (9/27), Trunk or Treat (10/25) and Evening with Santa (12/13). Raffle item from CHCA, individuals? Have a drawing at our table for a prize?

The wind ended the meeting prematurely!

**End:** 1904

## Kiwanis Club of Columbine

The Kiwanis Club of Columbine is a group of volunteers (69 members) dedicated to improving the lives of children and families in our community. We are serving our community with volunteer hours on some fifty active projects and making philanthropic gifts to over twenty different organizations throughout the year. All are welcome to help with any of our projects or attend any of our social events. You do not need to join the club to participate. We have fun, meet new people, and do a lot of good things for our community.

In July we worked with the Sheridan Blood Bank. Project Cure, Sweet Dreams in a Bag, Meals on Wheels, and many more. Here's what we have on the docket for August:

- **Sheridan Food Bank:** Every Thursday, volunteers work with the Sheridan Food Bank staff to distribute food to 100–150 recipients.
- **Project C.U.R.E.:** Once a month, volunteers help sort medical supplies.
- **Meals on Wheels:** Volunteers deliver meals to community members every weekday.
- **Texas Holdem Tournament:** A fun fundraising event on August 16.

Please consider joining us on a project or two; these offer great opportunities to meet like-minded people. To learn more, visit our website at [columbinekiwanis.org](http://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. We also have a bimonthly meeting at the Colorado Credit Union the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. For more information email [kensweet@gmail.com](mailto:kensweet@gmail.com).

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## Back-to-School Traditions

In anticipation of another school season, not to mention all the shopping that comes with it, these first-day-of-school traditions and ideas will help get kids in the headspace for a new year.

- **Have a show-and-tell dinner on the first night.** Family dinners are always important, but make it a back-to-school tradition to allow the kids to tell you everything about their first day, from the friends they haven't seen over the summer to the classroom layout or what they had for lunch.

- **A day-one surprise.** Celebrate the first day in style with a visit from the First Day of School Fairy. She can deliver a few back-to-school school supplies and an encouraging note for the new year.

- **Customize something.** You can order specialized pencils with their name or label their new water bottle, but allowing your kids to stake their claim on school gear can help them feel confident about heading back to school.

- **Make an awesome breakfast.** You'll be throwing cereal and milk at the kids soon enough, so why not whip up a fancy breakfast for their first day? It'll keep your kids full, and make them look forward to getting up early!

- **Read a special book the night before.** Whether it's *Oh, The Places You'll Go!* or *Miss Nelson Is Missing!*, find a classic picture book that'll get your kids ready to start the new year.

- **Make a sundae bar.** This sweet, simple back-to-school tradition will calm anyone's jitters about heading back to school. Put your favorite toppings in jars and make them meaningful with labels encouraging the qualities you'd like to see demonstrated throughout the new year. Have your little

scholar cover their ice cream in kindness, bravery, obedience, and happiness, then top it off with sprinkles of love.

- **Celebrate School Year's Eve.** You celebrate New Year's Eve, so why not do the same for School Year's Eve? Get poppers or noisemakers, provide treats, and throw a little dance party. It'll get your students excited for what's to come, and it's a great way to include other fun first-day-of-school ideas on this list.

- **Have a back-to-school dinner.** Making a favorite meal and celebrating the start of another school year with an awesome dinner in their honor will always make your kids feel special.

- **Have a special activity for the end of the first day of school.** Whether you take them to their favorite park to burn off that first-day anxiety, have a craft planned, or grab an ice cream and talk, it's easy to make the first after-school afternoon unique.

- **Write a sidewalk chalk message.** If there's a sweeter first day of school tradition than a chalk message outside the front door, we haven't found it. Go all out or keep it simple—either way, it's an extra boost to help ease those first-day jitters. If your first day is distance learning, surprise the kids with a message they can see from the window or on a quick preschool start walk.

- **Pack a super special lunch.** Packing their lunch in a special lunchbox or bento box with a treat or a lunchbox joke is a great first-day-of-school idea! Get your kids involved by asking them what they want, and have them help you get it ready.

– <https://tinybeans.com>

# The Nest Schools

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## Try Stand Up Paddleboarding

Cool off this summer with one of the most popular water sports in the state: stand-up paddleboarding (SUP). SUP involves standing on top of a large surf-like board while using a long hand-held paddle to navigate the waters. Gaining quite a bit of popularity over recent years, it's a fun alternative to boating or canoeing at Colorado's lakes and reservoirs. While there are plenty of spots to choose from such as Chatfield Reservoir, Cherry Creek State Park, Boulder Reservoir, and Horsetooth Reservoir, there are also several others throughout the state that make for a great day of SUPing. Here are a few notable ones:

- **Blue Mesa Reservoir** – A massive reservoir located near Durango that offers nearly 100 miles of shoreline and numerous scenic outlooks.
- **Grand Lake** – Colorado's largest and deepest natural lake near Grand Lake, CO.
- **Dillon Reservoir** – Surrounded by the towns of Frisco, Silverthorne, and Dillon, the Dillon Reservoir is a favorite summertime escape.
- **Lake Pueblo State Park** – The state park is home to a large reservoir with plenty of room for paddling. Plus, with its unique rocky shoreline, there's plenty to admire from your board.
- **Lake San Cristobal** – Located near Lake City, this pristine lake offers some of the calmest, bluest waters around.

**Remember to always wear a life jacket!**

*August is the month of the high-sailing hawks.*

*—John Burroughs*

## This Space Intentionally Left Blank for Teen Services



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## Columbine Hills Statistics for July 2025

### Current Homes FOR SALE in Columbine Hills

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$542,500	\$960,000	5
2-story	\$715,000	\$715,000	1
Tri/Multi-level	\$625,000	\$929,900	5
Bi-level	\$585,000	\$779,000	2

### Current Homes UNDER CONTRACT in Columbine Hills

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$659,000	\$800,000	3
2-story	None	None	0
Tri/Multi-level	\$600,000	\$600,000	1
Bi-level	None	None	0

### Homes SOLD in Columbine Hills (Jan. 1, 2025–July 14, 2025)

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$509,390	\$950,000	10
2-story	\$680,000	\$680,000	1
Tri/Multi-level	\$600,000	\$750,000	7
Bi-level	\$560,000	\$685,000	6

The statistical information is based on MLS data July 14, 2025. Not all of the properties were listed and/or sold by Duffy & Associates, LLC.



**Realtor with  
real estate law  
background**



## 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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