

# "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:

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:

Sept 4. If raining/storming, will be held at St Philip

#### **SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS:**

Saturday, September 20: Columbine Center Community Fest 10-4 (parking lot, at Pierce and Ken Caryl by the DQ) Saturday, September 27: Fall Festival

Saturday, October 25: 5-6:30 Trunk or Treat (parking lot, Kendall and Elmhurst Ave.)

# Autumnal **Equinox**

The Autumnal Equinox in September ushers in a change of season. It is observed annually when the sun can be seen directly overhead along the equator.

The day marks the end of summer and beginning of fall in the Northern Hemisphere.

The autumn equinox is one of two days when all points on Earth except the polar regions see the sunrise and set at due east and due west. With few exceptions, all latitudes see almost precisely 12 hours of daylight and 12 of darkness.

September 2025

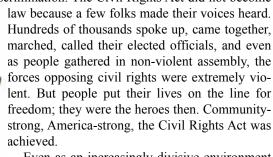
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## **Notes From The President**

I cannot express how proud and grateful I am for the extensive work this community performed in restoring a more secure environment to CHCA.

Last month, the CHCA community accomplished an extraordinary feat. By coming together as individuals, families, neighbors, and the CHCA board, we were able engage the services of several teams of law enforcement to rid this community of a nefarious individual and the lawbreakers this person brought to our neighborhood. I cannot speak about this process in much detail: I can say that none of this could have occurred without all of you who were a part of this effort. You were brave, selfless, and heroes to Columbine Hills. Our families (and our property) are safer because of you.

And does this not speak to the power of community? The Civil Rights Act, signed July 2, 1964, was a landmark legislation aimed to end discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex, and national origin. It prohibited unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools, public accommodations, and employment discrimination. The Civil Rights Act did not become



Even as an increasingly divisive environment threatens to create more animosity and more hatred, let us not forget the power of community. Do not let politics and the media rend us apart. We are one vast community of humans and all living things on this planet. Greet each one with kindness and a welcoming spirit (yes, even that bindweed as you wrench it from the ground!).

Remember that only 0.1% of genetic variation separates you from every other person on planet Earth; we are 99.99% alike. Be glad of the DNA we all share and celebrate the 0.1% that makes each of us unique.

This country is founded on everyday heroes; those who sought to put wrongs right by the simple acts of writing, sharing ideas, gathering, protesting. Do not let one individual, or individuals, prevent you from doing what is right. We all have a Paul Revere within; just ask the heroes of Columbine Hills!



- Galen Wiese, CHCA President

## See Elk In Rocky **Mountain National Park**

The elk rut is in full swing at Rocky Mountain National. In late August and into September, the mating season for the Colorado elk begins. The town of Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park are some of the best places in the state to witness this truly magnificent display of Mother Nature. The ritual begins with the male elk shedding their velvet to make their antlers nice and sharp to battle other male elk in the quest for a female companion.

The male elk can also be heard bugling for miles away as they make their call for a mate. Herds of elk can be seen in large grassy meadows within the park and even in downtown Estes Park. During "Elktober," it is almost impossible not to see an elk.

### 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.

() Route () Back-up

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?

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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## **Ouestions? Concerns? Ideas?**

Jefferson County Website: www.co.jefferson.co.us/

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**AUGUST 7TH, 2025, BEGAN AT 18:05** Officers: Galen, David, Jennifer, Steve, Kelsey Members at Large: Kelly, Angela, Janet Community Members: Gwen, Christine

**Treasurer's Report:** 4 new members. 205 current members.

**Approve:** Kelsey Second: Jennifer

**Board Minutes for July:** Approve: Jennifer Second: David

New Business: Kelsey & Angela are teaming up to create a teaser for the September newsletter for "Kids Corner." First order of business, hosting a coloring competition for a Halloween / Fall theme. Winner gets DQ gift card.

Xcel Outages: Community members at large have been reaching out to Galen regarding the frequent power outages. Galen attended a COHOPE meeting and spoke with Xcel workers. They informed us the new AI technology automatically shuts off the power when something touches the line. Xcel is working to narrow down their ability to know precisely where the line was impinged. By going to xcel's website, you can find all sorts of information about outages and wildfire mitigation and communication. (Note: as I was typing this on Aug 13, the power went out in CH for two hours. They had no answers about why Columbine Hills, specifically, appears to have very frequent outages.)

Community members have also wondered about the lines not being buried. We were informed that Xcel only has the budget to bury about 50 miles of line for the whole state of Colorado.

National Night Out: Well-attended; we were able to interact with various law officers and play with/learn about the drones they use. Gave away 27 hi-vis safety vests to children. Photos are coming from drone images.

9th Annual Columbine Center Community Fest: Sept. 20th, 10am-4pm. \$25 has been submitted for CHCA to participate. The focus is on inviting neighbors to volunteer for the Fall Festival (9/27), Trunk or Treat (10/25), & Evening with Santa (12/13). Raffle from CHCA for prize? Gwen, community member, to provide. Thanks, Gwen!

Next Upcoming Event: Fall Festival Sept. 27th. Face painter: Alpa G. is confirmed.

Tabling the entrance signs of Columbine on Pierce until January 2026. Create another fundraiser to build new entrance? Invite neighbors to submit ideas for wooden signs?

Newsletter bio: Gii featured in September. Janet featured in October.

**Meeting Notes:** Most of the meeting we discussed the drug problem going on in the neighborhood. Much was resolved later this evening.

What to do in the future: Jeffco County officers informed CHCA they only have eight Drug Task Force members to address drug problems in all of Jeffco County. Jeffco officers suggest that we call the Jeffco non-emergent line (303-277-0211) and not select options. Simply say into the phone "Call taker" which will direct us to dispatch. We then inform them in detail what is going on and they will send a police officer right away. If you witness a crime in action, the only way to stop it is to stop them during the act.

Meeting ended at 19:08.



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# Rooted in Generosity: Tree Fund Raises Over \$5,000!!!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who chipped in to grow our future—literally! Earlier this year, CHCA asked for donations to help plant new trees in the park at Kendall & Canyon, and thanks to your generosity, we've raised over an incredible \$5,000! That's a whole lot of leafy love heading our way.

We've teamed up with Foothills Parks & Rec to make this dream a reality. They're planning new irrigation for 2026, which means our tree-planting celebration is set for late April 2026. Expect a beautiful mix of native trees perfect for shade, birds, and boosting our neighborhood's natural charm. Want to get your hands dirty before then? Come join us in the Xeric Garden (also at Kendall & Canyon) for our next volunteer morning on September 20th at 8 AM. It's a great way to meet neighbors, learn about local plants, and see what thrives in Columbine Hills. Got questions or ideas? Reach out anytime to Angela at ColumbineHillsGarden@gmail.com. Let's keep growing together!



Exciting News for Our Youngest Neighbors!

Hey neighbors!

We've got something brand new and super fun starting this month... introducing our Kids Corner in the newsletter!

This special section is just for kids - a place to get creative, have fun, and maybe even win some cool prizes!

We're kicking things off with a Coloring Contest! Whether it's pumpkins, spooky ghosts, or a festive fall scene - we want to see your child's best fall harvest or Halloweeninspired artwork!

Winner gets a \$10 Dairy Queen gift card and will have their masterpiece featured in the October newsletter!

So grab those crayons, markers, or colored pencils - we can't wait to see what your little artist comes up with. Stay tuned... more awesome activities are on the way!

Happy coloring!

Your Neighborhood Newsletter Team

Submit artwork to: columbinehills80128@gmail.com Deadline: September 3rd, 2025



# Fall Into Success With Your Local Neighborhood Newsletter!

**Our October** deadline is September 15th.



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### Gii Grimes

Gii Grimes serves on the Columbine Hills Civic Association (CHCA) board and recently redesigned and updated the CHCA website. A retired American diplomat, Gii spent over 20 years posted at U.S. Embassies around the world. She and her family have lived in Maryland, New York City, Virginia, Thailand, Cambodia, Korea, Sri Lanka, and Japan—and traveled to more than 20 countries! Yet no matter where life took them, Colorado always called them home.

In 2019, Gii and her husband, Glenn, returned to Columbine Hills, moving into Glenn's childhood home on W. Canyon Ave. Since then, they've renovated the house and created vegetable and flower gardens. Their children, Ryan and Emily, both graduated from CU Denver and now work in Denver and Boulder. They also have two energetic Blue Heeler/Border Collie mixes—Pepper and Taz.

With nearly 25 years of yoga practice, Gii now teaches yoga and stretch classes at Serasana Littleton, Foothills Recreation Center, and from her home studio. Her classes focus on gentle movement, strength, flexibility, and mindful breathing—always for community connection and well-being.

Join Gii for Donation-Based Yoga in the Park! In September, Gii is offering a free weekly *Yoga in the Park* class—Wednesdays from 6:00–7:00 pm at Columbine Hills Park (North of the baseball fields, by the creek, under big trees). It's a wonderful way to meet your neighbors, enjoy a peaceful evening, and care for your body and mind. To learn more about Gii's classes and offerings, visit www. TravelingYoGii.com.





# Join Gii For Community Yoga in the Park!

In September, Gii is offering a weekly *Free Yoga in the Park* class—Wednesdays from 6:00–7:00 pm at **Columbine Hills Park** (North of the baseball fields, by the creek, under big trees). It's a wonderful way to meet your neighbors, enjoy a peaceful evening, and care for your body and mind. To learn more about Gii, visit www.TravelingYoGii.com.

# **Tips For Leaf Peeping:**

Peak fall colors typically occur in late September and early October, but can vary depending on elevation and weather.

- Check Conditions: Before heading out, check trail conditions, parking availability, and any potential closures.
- Consider Mid-Week Trips: Weekends can be very crowded, especially at popular locations like Kenosha Pass.
- Explore Beyond the Popular Spots: Many lesser-known trails and scenic drives offer equally stunning views.
- Be Prepared: Bring layers of clothing, as mountain weather can change quickly, according to Follow Tiff's Journey.

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# Going Veric

A poem by our long time Columbine Hills resident Janet Hopkins

How to cope with extended drought? When rain is sparce, gardens stress out.

Plant some natives for garden success, They will survive and cost you less.

Scented blooms afloat on the breeze, Attract pollinators with ease.

Mulch to help keep moisture in, Landscape beauty, yours for the win.





families who would like to bring their vehicle and host one of our Trunk spots for trick or treating! You can decorate your car trunk however you want, as long as it's family friendly, it is for the kids after all. If you want to volunteer to set up early or have a trunk, please email Angela at <a href="mailto:ColumbineHillsGarden@gmail.com">ColumbineHillsGarden@gmail.com</a>. Helpers, please arrive at 4:30pm.



## **Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story**

September 12, 2025 – October 19, 2025

Featuring the hits of Buddy Holly and The Crickets. With all other songs, arrangements, and incidental music by Paul Jury

Town Hall Arts Center kicks off our 43rd season with the true story of Buddy Holly and The Crickets! From his meteoric rise to fame to his legendary final performance, Buddy Holly is considered a rock and roll icon, and this high-octane, jukebox biomusical is a perfect celebration of his greatest hits. Dynamic performances of chart-toppers like Peggy Sue, That'll Be the Day, Oh Boy! and many more will allow audiences to experience the passion, determination, and unforgettable music of a man who left an indelible mark on rock history.

-https://townhallartscenter.org

### **Excess Harvest**

Excess harvest can be handled in several ways: freezing, canning, drying, donating to food banks or charities, sharing with neighbors, making jams or jellies, or composting any unusable portions.

- **Freezing:** Blanching and freezing vegetables like spinach, kale, and zucchini preserves their nutrients and texture for future use.
- Canning: This allows for long-term storage of items like tomatoes, pickles, and jams.
- **Drying:** Drying herbs, fruits, and some vegetables (like tomatoes) reduces their size and weight for easy storage.
- Pickling: Pickling vegetables in vinegar and spices creates a flavorful and long-lasting preservation method.
- **Fermenting:** Fermenting foods like sauerkraut and kimchi can be a great way to add probiotics to your diet.
- Donating: Food banks and charities are often grateful for fresh produce donations.
  - Sharing with neighbors: A simple act of sharing with those around you can build community and reduce waste.
  - **Selling:** If you have a surplus, consider selling at a farmers market or through a local co-op.
  - Composting: Composting is a great way to recycle any overripe, bruised, or unusable parts of the harvest back into the garden, creating nutrient-rich soil for next year.
  - Creating a "harvest restaurant": Host a dinner party featuring your excess produce.
  - Donating to local nursing homes: Some nursing homes appreciate fresh produce for their residents.

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## **Columbine Kiwanis**

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 Bood 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.

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, 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 PM. For more information email kensweet@gmail.com.

By all these lovely tokens, September days are here.

With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer.

—Helen Hunt Jackson

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### **Columbine Hills Statistics for August 2025**

#### Current Homes FOR SALE in Columbine Hills

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$589,900	\$960,000	2
2-story	\$700,000	\$700,000	1
Tri/Multi-level	\$625,000	\$894,900	4
Bi-level	\$585,000	\$620,000	2

#### Current Homes UNDER CONTRACT in Columbine Hills

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$615,000	\$615,000	1
2-story	None	None	0
Tri/Multi-level	\$755,000	\$755,000	1
Bi-level	None	None	0

#### Homes SOLD in Columbine Hills (March 1, 2025–Aug. 14, 2025)

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$509,390	\$865,000	10
2-story	\$680,000	\$680,000	1
Tri/Multi-level	\$600,000	\$750,000	8
Bi-level	\$560,000	\$685,000	6

The statistical information is based on MLS data August 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.