



# The Leawood Reporter

Published by the Leawood Civic Association

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December 2025

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## Dates To Remember:

### Upcoming Events:

#### Leawood Civic Association

Wed., December 10th, 2025, 6:00-7:30pm:

Santa Clause at Leawood Elementary

Tues., January 13, 2026, 6:30pm:

Leawood Civic Association meeting

### Upcoming Events:

#### Rec & Park District

Thursday, December 11, 2025,

6:00 p.m., Leawood Elementary

*Snow falling in the middle of a December night will always fill my heart with sweet clarity.*

—Novala Takemoto

## Halloween Contest Winners

1st: 6096 S Lamar

2nd: 6341 S Kendall

3rd: 5958 W Fair

## Santa Will Be Coming Early To Leawood Elementary: December 10th, 6:00-7:30pm



## Spread Some Holiday Cheer! Join Our Neighborhood Decorating Contest!

The holiday season is upon us, and it's time to make our neighborhood sparkle with lights, laughter, and a touch of friendly competition! This year, we're inviting everyone to show off their festive spirit by joining our Holiday Decorating Contest. Whether you're all about classic charm, quirky themes, or going full Griswold with lights, we want to see it all! Lighting contest runs from 12/12- 12/19.

### Here's what you could win:

- **1st Place:** \$ gift card to kickstart your holiday shopping!
- **2nd Place:** \$ gift card + a 1-year membership!
- **3rd Place:** 1-year membership!

All you need to do is decorate your home, go big or small – it's all about the holiday spirit and spreading joy!

### How to participate:

1. **Deck the Halls:** Get your decorations up and ready for viewing by December 18th.
2. **Get Noticed:** Our judges will make the rounds and pick the top three festive homes!
3. **Celebrate Together:** Winners will be announced in the next issue of The Reporter and awarded their prizes!



Don't miss this chance to light up the neighborhood, lift our spirits, and have some holiday fun! Let's make our streets merry and bright together. Happy decorating!

## Sweater Fest: A Holiday Market & Party at Aspen Grove

December 5 (3pm-9pm) & December 6 (10am-5pm)

Feel the joy a one-of-a-kind vintage treasure can bring this season! We're getting warm and cozy indoors at Aspen Grove for Sweater Fest, a two-day holiday market and party celebrating all things local, festive, and fabulously knit. 40+ amazing local businesses offering the finest:

- Vintage and modern clothing
- Records & music finds
- Jewelry and accessories
- Home goods & décor
- Handmade gifts and more



It's the perfect way to shop small, support local, and find gifts as unique as the people you love (including you). And yes, we highly encourage your best (or worst) holiday sweater.

## LCA Minutes November 4th, 2005

**Attending:** Nancy Bock, Rhonda Eveleth, Chip Langowski, Paul O'Connor, Jesse Opgenorth, Camille Sanky, Dave Sarno, Laurie Sarno.

**Treasurer's Report:** No treasurer's report was given, as Paul Klingers wife was in the hospital having a baby.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Santa Party:** Neither the Sarno's or Rhonda Eveleth will be able to attend the Santa party. Rhonda is arranging for help so the event will run smoothly.

**Halloween Holiday Lighting Contest:** Winners of the Halloween lighting contest were awarded either a gift card or membership to the LCA. Laurie mentioned that she currently does not have posting rights on the Leawood Neighbors platform. In response, Chip will add Laurie to the list of board members authorized to post, allowing her to share the holiday lighting contest winners in a timely manner.

Laurie suggested several ways the board could raise additional funds to add to the LCA treasury. In response, Jesse asked about the purpose of raising these funds and the intended uses. One proposal was to increase the number of scholarships awarded to high school students. Another idea was to use the funds to purchase new signs for advertising LCA events.

There will be no LCA meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for the second Tuesday in January, which falls on January 13th.

Meeting ended at 7:25pm.

## Holiday Decorations And Pets

Christmas trees and holiday greens: Make sure your dogs or cats do not chew on limbs or droppings from the tree. Ingested pine needles could get lodged in the intestinal tract, puncturing the lining or bunching together and causing an intestinal obstruction.

- **Water base:** The water base of a Christmas tree may contain dangerous chemicals that could harm your pet.
- **Christmas lights and tinsel:** Position your tree's lights and tinsel away from the bottom of the tree where pets can reach them. Some pets climb up or into trees and can even knock them over. If swallowed, tinsel can be very dangerous to cats.
- **Candles:** Don't leave candles unattended. Pets may accidentally knock them over and spill wax or start a fire.
- **Firestarter logs:** Dogs that enjoy chewing should steer clear; these logs contain sawdust and paraffin which can cause an irritated stomach or even intestinal blockage when ingested.
- **Plants:** A number of seasonal plants are poisonous to pets if nibbled or eaten, including ivy, holly, mistletoe and poinsettias.

—<https://www.humanesociety.org>

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### Leawood Civic Association Board Members

P.O. Box 620397, Littleton, CO 80162

<b>President:</b>	Laurie Sarno	720-244-4921
<b>Vice President:</b>	Paul O'Connor	303-507-8767
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Paul Klinger	303-960-7871
<b>Secretary:</b>	Nancy Bock	303-794-5454
<b>Editor:</b>	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER Open Position</b>	
<b>Membership:</b>	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER Open Position</b>	
	Jesse Opgenorth	
	Chip Langowski	
	Rhonda Eveleth	303-898-5418
	Dave Sarno	720-244-4921
	Camille Sankey	303-884-2773



Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month 6:30-7:30 p.m. (or unless otherwise noted) at Leawood Elementary during the school year and at Leawood Park in June, July & August. (no meetings December) Location information is always specified on the first page of the Reporter every month. Visitors are encouraged to attend LCA meetings. We welcome all comments, ideas or suggestions.

The *Leawood Reporter* is published monthly by the Leawood Civic Association, a non-profit homeowners association. The newsletter is delivered by direct mail to all residents of Leawood.

### News Articles:

The deadline for news articles is the 10th of the month before the next month's issue. Please email your ideas and articles to [feedback@leawoodneighbors.com](mailto:feedback@leawoodneighbors.com) or call 720.295.5221. All articles must be approved by the editor for publication, and are included as space permits.

## 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](mailto:info@newsletterconnections.com)**



To find ad rates and discounts, go to [NewsletterConnections.com](http://NewsletterConnections.com) or scan QR code.

## Leawood Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board Members

P. O. Box 620802, Littleton, CO 80162-0802 • 303-281-8766

President/Treasurer:	<b>Carole Gottlieb</b>
Secretary:	<b>Margaret Turaga</b>
Board Member:	<b>Jesse Opgenorth</b>
Parks Manager:	<b>Ken Leaf</b>

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 6:00p.m. in the Leawood Elementary School (during school year), Leawood Park Pavilion (during Summer). Visitors are always welcome!

**Questions for the Park Board?** Questions, concerns, or comments for the Park Board? Contact any of the Park Board members listed above.

# Looking To Get Involved And Make An Impact This Holiday?

Volunteering can be a fun and deeply rewarding experience where you can meet like-minded people, help improve lives and build a stronger community.

Here are some upcoming opportunities to engage in our community. We hope to see you this Holiday season!

**1. Run a toy drive.** Mile High United Way collects toys each year for our Children’s Holiday Party. This annual event, which is filled with face painting, cookie decorating, and photos with Santa, brings the spirit of the Holidays to hundreds of families in our community. Run a toy drive for the event and help bring joy to children this Christmas.

**2. Support our community resource center.** Our 2-1-1 Help Center serves as a critical resource and safety net for Colorado residents, particularly during the winter months. Our Resource Navigators work every day to help vulnerable people in our community gain access to basic needs like food and shelter.

**3. Help children develop a love of reading.** You can help a child build confidence, improve their literacy skills, and develop a love of reading. Volunteer to build literacy kits for young students or become a reading partner through our weekly Read With Me program.

**4. Support people experiencing homelessness.** Volunteer to put together hygiene kits for at risk individuals and families in our community. The kits, which contain a wide range of important self-care items, are distributed to people across Metro Denver who are currently experiencing homelessness. Contact us to see when you can join in on the next kit build.

**5. Join a donor group.** We believe the most fulfilling way to get involved is to do it together. Join a network and meet other socially minded individuals who are dedicated to creating a lasting impact. During the Holidays, our donor groups engage in a range of activities, such as creating Thanksgiving gift baskets for families in need.

**6. Help a small business owner in Denver.** Are you a small business expert? Volunteer your time and expertise to help small, local businesses in Metro Denver reach their growth potential through our United Business Advisory program.

**7. Become an advocate.** Mile High United Way works every day to remove barriers and create pathways to success for all people in our community through our policy initiatives. Become an advocate and help us change the odds and move families out of poverty.

**8. Become a corporate partner.** Get the whole team involved and become a Mile High United Way Corporate Partner. We’re proud to partner with hundreds of local companies to execute strong, effective CSR programs that positively impact the community while improving employee engagement and business returns.

Mile High United Way believes every person that calls Colorado home deserves the opportunity to thrive. With your support, we can continue to meet the short and long-term needs of residents in our community.

–<https://unitedwaydenver.org>

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# Minutes For Leawood Metropolitan Recreation and Park District

Thursday, November 13, 2025, Leawood Elementary School, 6:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** Marci Turaga (secretary), Judy Anderson (volunteer), Ken Leaf (park manager), Tom Bryant (volunteer), Vicki Graves (resident), Zach Sack (board member) Carole Gottlieb (President/Treasurer)

Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by President, Carole Gottlieb

### Administrative Items

- Vicki Graves was approved to join the board by a unanimous vote.
- Vote was held for Zach Sack to take on role of president effective 11/14/25. Vote was unanimously in favor. Special thanks to Carole Gottlieb for assuming the role of president AND treasurer for many months as board stabilized after transition of new board members.

**HOTWORX**  
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### Treasurer's Report

- Transition to SinglePoint, ACH and banking appropriate for small government entities is almost complete with U.S. Bank.
- Note decrease in revenue, including from lottery, due to challenging economic times. Not considered unexpected or alarming.
- Budget for 2026 expected to be completed and presented soon.

### Public Comments

- Resident from Vintage Reserve submitted concerns regarding standing water in the area near T-Trac and Sheridan. Water seems to have subsided once irrigation system was shut down for season. Resident performed a chlorine test, with results being negative, suggesting ground water.
- Board committed to work with resident and new contractor/irrigation company in the spring to investigate water once systems are reactivated.
- Resident also requested tree plantings for improved privacy along property line. Willing to cover expense of trees/shrubs.

### PARK MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

#### Park Manager Report

- In Weaver, treehouse removal completed, Box culverts painted to cover graffiti, electrical work completed at the pavilion, new tennis court signage installed. Inquired about orange paint markings on trees - not done by park or recent contractors.

*continued on page 5*

**Ready to Travel?**

I've got 3 amazing group trips planned for 2026 and 2027!

If any of these adventures spark your interest, don't hesitate to reach out - I'd love to share more details with you.

**Aug. 2026:** Scotland Experience featuring the Military Tattoo

**Feb. 2027:** Egypt with Collette

**Aug. 2027:** Victory Cruise on the Great Lakes

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Barbara Rudolf, Affiliate Travel Advisor  
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**303.358.3410**  
I also specialize in individual travel adventures.



**COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL**

**SHOWCASE**

**DECEMBER 2nd**  
6:30 - 8:00 PM

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📅 December 2nd, 2025

🕒 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

📍 6201 S. Pierce Street Littleton, CO 80123

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## LMPRD Minutes, *continued from page 4*

- In Leawood, repaired Little Tykes spring loader at Leawood Park. Advised significant trash accumulation, likely from high schoolers.
- In Raccoon, fall clearing and cleaning.

### Maintenance Firm Replacement

- Firms interviewed: Sundown by Design, Lawncare Solutions, and Powell Restorations.
- Sundown by Design submitted the most cost-effective proposal and demonstrated superior communication and understanding of District needs.
- Board preference is for a single firm handling maintenance, tree work (removal and trimming), and irrigation.
- Motion: Approve Sundown by Design as the District's new maintenance firm. Passed with unanimous approval.

### CAPITAL PROJECTS AND LONG-TERM PLANNING

#### Trees, Dams, and Stream Management

- Board reviewed management options for beaver activity. Options include full removal and extermination, partial removal, protective tree wiring and damage prevention.
- Board will investigate re-homing options for the beavers.
- Park Manager instructed to wrap trees near the beaver dam for protection.
- Loss of Ash trees noted as a cost to the District.

#### Beds and Signs

- Will from Creekside Gardens scheduled for a design consultation on Weaver beds. He is donating his time and will work in conjunction with Judy.
- Reviewed bid from Royal Signs, used previously, for 12 metal park signs. Approx. \$20k package approved.

- Judy will continue coordinating mock-ups and mapping sign placements.

### Concrete And Wood Bridge

- Approximately \$36,000 spent on concrete repairs this year, with contractors under the direction of Tom Bryant, volunteer.
- Proposed crack sealing and grinding in Leawood; bids forthcoming.
- Repair needed at Jay Way and Arbor (estimated \$1,200, scheduled for next year with Castanon).
- Park Manager will add dirt and clear debris where Honey Bucket replaced concrete.
- Tom Bryant advised Board that Contractor replaced two 12-foot timbers.
- A bid has been requested for sealing the new timbers next year.

### Insurance and Claim

- Insurance renewal requires a finalized budget for next year.
- Carole has begun submitting paperwork for next year's coverage.
- Carole continues work to submit an insurance claim to help cover cost of significant tree repair in parks.

### Board Planning & Administrative Process

- Zach requested a monthly priority checklist from Ken. Board and Park Manager agreed that a shared Google Sheet will be created for project tracking and prioritizing.
- Items will be finalized at the December meeting.

— Minutes submitted by: Marci Turaga, Secretary

**NEW DATE:**  
TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 9, 2025  
5:30-7:00 PM Open House  
6:00 PM GT Panel

*Calling All Future Spartans!*

# SPARTAN INTEREST NIGHT

Ken Caryl Middle School

- Tour Ken Caryl with Student Leaders
- Meet Ken Caryl Staff
- Learn about our Gifted and Talented Program
- Get to know our SPED Team
- Speak with the Mental Health Team
- Check out our Electives and Exploratories
- Learn more about Extracurricular Activities: Sports, Band and more!

6509 West Ken Caryl Avenue  
Littleton Co 80128  
Contact Us : 303-982-4710

## Park View Pediatrics

6179 South Balsam Way  
Suite 205  
Littleton, CO 80123  
(303) 972-2000

We are accepting new patients and take most commercial insurance and Medicaid plans

# Fun Around Town

## HUDSON HOLIDAYS

Nov. 28, 2025–Jan. 4, 2026,

Hudson Gardens & Events Center

You'll be enchanted by towering trees draped in thousands of colorful lights. A grove of dancing Christmas trees, a multi-colored forest inhabited by giant snowmen, the holiday light tunnel and glowing reindeer will light up Hudson Gardens into an extravaganza of holiday cheer. Purchase a delicious cup of hot cocoa or adult beverage before stopping by for a perfect free family photo opportunity with Santa.

## MILE HIGH DRONE SHOWS

Nov. 21–Dec. 31, 2025, Downtown

For 41 magical nights, 600 drones will soar into the sky, creating breathtaking holiday-themed animations. See these dazzling displays from across the city every night at 7 p.m. for free. From Santa and his reindeer to iconic Denver landmarks like the Mile High Tree Presented by Xcel Energy & Xfinity and Denver Union Station, each night will bring a new visual experience to life.

## THE MILE HIGH TREE

Nov. 21–Dec. 31, 2025, Tivoli Quad on Auraria Campus

Join in the free festivities at the Mile High Tree Presented by Xcel Energy & Xfinity. It's a brilliantly lit, 110-foot-tall immersive art installation that provides a dazzling lights-and-music show. You can experience two of Denver's most popular holiday attractions in one place: America's tallest digital tree and the Denver Christkindlmarket, the city's only authentic German holiday market.

## CHRISTMAS IN COLOR

Nov. 13–Dec. 30, 2025, Red Rocks Park & Amphitheater, Water World, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds

At three locations, drive through millions of lights perfectly synchronized to holiday music that you'll hear right through your radio. You'll see giant candy canes, snowmen, arched pathways and more.

## TRAIL OF LIGHTS

Nov. 21, 2025–Jan. 11, 2026,

Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms

Trail of Lights at Chatfield Farms takes you along a winding path glistening with lights that illuminate the Colorado countryside. Tucked into the foothills under the dark sky, the glow of lights can be seen for miles. Just under a mile of walking trail, the illumination of cottonwoods, box elders and pine trees line the pathway through the Green Farm, Crossroads, Deer Creek Discovery Children's Play Area and 1880s Hildebrand Ranch homestead. There is also the option of a shorter path for those who want to take a shorter stroll. In line with the core value of sustainability, all lights used in the event are LED.

## BLOSSOMS OF LIGHT

Nov. 21, 2025–Jan. 11, 2026, Denver Botanic Gardens

Consistently lauded as one of the top holiday light shows in the nation, Blossoms of Light is a spectacular celebration that illuminates Denver Botanic Gardens' York Street location. Wander a mile-long path through immersive, luminous displays that accentuate and highlight our plant collections.

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**Gutter Installation - Melendrez Gutters.** 40 yrs exp. Free estimates. 303-763-9290.

**Aminals Petsitting Service.** Bonded & ins. Current clients only. Call Nancy 303-335-6237.

**Lisa's Music Studio.** Piano, Guitar, Banjo, Ukulele, Viola, Violin, Cello, & Drums. 303-883-1157.

Classified ads are \$4.00/line (about 40 characters/line). Contact Newsletter Connections at 303-979-7499 or info@newsletterconnections.com to place an ad. To view our display ad prices, visit our website at NewsletterConnections.com. The deadline for placing a classified or display ad is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue (i.e., 15th of Sept. for Oct. issue), except the January issue, which has a deadline of December 6th. Residents placing ads to sell household items are not charged a fee.

**Kiwanis Club of Columbine**

We've had a busy and rewarding month! Our members handed out Halloween candy at school and community events and enjoyed presentations from our Key Clubs at local schools. Meeting these dynamic students reminds us that our future is in good hands—thank you, teachers and principals, for all you do.

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing starts December 14.** We'll fill about 100 two-hour shifts at two King Soopers stores and welcome help from Kiwanians, friends, and community members. Kids and musical instruments add extra cheer! Last year

we raised \$18,000 for the Salvation Army, and we hope to do even better this year.

We'll also host our Quarterly Blood Drive on December 8.

If you're looking for hands-on service opportunities or want to meet active community members, join us! Details on upcoming projects and events are shared in our weekly newsletter—email info@columbinekiwanis.org to subscribe. Visit columbinekiwanis.org or come for a free breakfast at our weekly meeting every Wednesday at 7 am at 4Gs Restaurant, 5950 S Platte Canyon Rd, Littleton.

**This Space  
Intentionally Left Blank  
for Teen Services**

<b>LCA Balance Sheet Oct. 2025</b>	
CHECKING .....	DEBIT .....CREDIT
10/1 Beginning Balance.....	\$8,254.25
10/6 Ionos: Email Hosting .....	4.00
10/17 Reporter Postage.....	273.00
10/20 Check: Halloween Light GCs.....	65.00
10/20 Check: Platinum Member Dinner..	376.03
10/21 Check: Xcel Energy .....	14.40
TOTALS.....	732.43
<b>Ending Balance .....</b>	<b>\$7,521.82</b>
<b>SAVINGS</b>	
10/1 Beginning Balance.....	\$1,026.93
Interest.....	\$0.04
10/31 Ending Balance .....	\$1,026.97
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$8,548.79</b>

**Duane sells more homes in the Columbine area than any other broker!**

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## LeaWood Statistics for November 2025

### Current Homes FOR SALE in LeaWood

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$975,000	\$975,000	1
2-story	None	None	0
Tri/Multi-level	\$750,000	\$775,000	2
Bi-level	None	None	0

### Current Homes UNDER CONTRACT in LeaWood

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$700,000	\$700,000	1
2-story	None	None	0
Tri/Multi-level	\$580,000	\$580,000	1
Bi-level	\$815,000	\$815,000	1

### Homes SOLD in LeaWood (April 1, 2025–Nov. 14, 2025)

	Lowest	Highest	How Many?
Ranch Style	\$570,000	\$700,000	2
2-story	\$645,000	\$725,000	4
Tri/Multi-level	\$520,000	\$900,000	10
Bi-level	None	None	0

The statistical information is based on MLS data Nov. 14, 2025. 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.*



**Realtor with  
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 background**



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