

THE TWO CREEKS CURRENT



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Two Creeks Neighborhood Organization strives to keep the Molholm Area (Wadsworth to Sheridan, 6th Avenue to Colfax) one which represents a positive, community oriented atmosphere based upon building and maintaining a healthy image. Two Creeks Neighborhood Organization encourages a sense of community pride, provides a positive influence for citizens, protects the neighborhood environment from negative impacts, and maintains public open space.



2022 Holiday Lighting Contest

This past December marked our 27th year of hosting our Annual Holiday Lighting Contest.

We enjoyed several great entries, making it difficult to assign the winners of the categories consisting of Townhomes, Simple, Complex and Extreme. We also again gave a prize for Councilors' Choice, judged by our Ward 2 City Councilors, Sharon Vincent and Sophia Guerrero.

We hope all of our participants had as much fun as we did and that you will enter again next year! We also want to invite anyone who missed out on the fun this year to take a chance and enter next year. It's a fun way to make the Holidays a little brighter for your family and all your Two Creeks neighbors, too!

Congratulations To These Two Creeks Neighbors!

Townhomes

1056 Eaton Street

1077 Eaton Street

5558 W. 11th Place

Simple

975 Reed Street

801 Reed Street

Complex

7106 W. 13th Avenue

800 Crescent Lane

Extreme

815 Crescent Lane

5776 W. 8th Avenue

1055 Kendall Street

Councilor's Choice

620 Kendall Way

Honorable Mention

925 Depew

6091 W. 10th Avenue

6215 W. 8th Avenue

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Happenings in Two Creeks

Changes continue to be made in the Two Creeks Neighborhood in 2023. Here are a few updates on what you can expect to see.

Although not everyone may agree with it, the baseball stands at Mountair Park have been removed. No games have been played there since the Lakewood teams were dissolved. Based on feedback from the neighborhood and support from the neighborhood organization the decision was made to remove the stands. There will be meetings to solicit feedback on what the neighborhood would like to see in their place.

Molholm Elementary School will see the end of its final school year this May. It has not yet been determined what will happen with the building. Neighborhood meetings will take place after the school year ends. There are multiple options and no specific information has been published to date.

Although it is early, there are representatives on City Council who are term limited which means there is an opportunity to get involved with elections for Council and Mayor. Ward 2 historically has the lowest voter turnout in Lakewood. However, because Ward 2 has the most diverse area, as published in the current census information, it is important for all voices to be represented, making it necessary for all Ward 2 residents to become involved. Therefore, your City Councilors are asking for your involvement.

Whether signing up for a board or commission, participating in the neighborhood organization or simply voting, these are opportunities to improve your input into the City.



**Restaurants
IN & AROUND
Two Creeks**

By Chris Boyd

YABBY HUT

There's a new, exciting restaurant in the neighborhood! Located in the Lamar Station Plaza (formerly JCRS shopping center) next to Westfax Brewery and Casa Bonita, Yabby Hut is the second restaurant of proprietors, Hung Le and Linh Tran, who spent time in a Vietnamese refugee camp in the Philippines before coming to Colorado. While there, they felt the old traditions of home calling to them in the way of the ocean and great seafood. When they moved to Colorado, they realized the shortage of really fresh, quality, seafood in a landlocked area, and wanted to change that. They opened their first Yabby Hut at 3355 S. Yarrow Street in Lakewood in 2010 and the

Calendar of Events

Date/Time	Event	Place
Saturday March 18th	Two Creeks Board Meeting	Via Zoom and at Mountair Christian Church Call your section leader to receive a link
Saturday April 15th	Two Creeks Board Meeting	Via Zoom and at Mountair Christian Church 1390 Benton Street
Saturday May 20th	Two Creeks Board Meeting	Via Zoom and at Mountair Christian Church 1390 Benton Street
Saturday June 17th	Two Creeks Board Meeting	Via Zoom and at Mountair Christian Church 1390 Benton Street
<i>Please contact your officers or Section leader if you would like to attend a TCNO Board meeting or have a specific item of concern. Phone numbers are listed on the last page.</i>		

FAREWELL

JOHN R. GARDNER, II - 1925 to 2023

John Gardner was a long time board member of the Two Creeks Neighborhood Organization. He represented the Lakewood Country Club. He passed away recently at the age of 98. He not only represented the Club but he was a long term resident in the Two Creeks area. He will be greatly missed as he was an important person in our group.

Vandalism Mitigation at Surfside Spray Park

On December 1, 2022, Surfside Spray Park was broken into and significantly vandalized including sawed through doors, damaged electrical panels and irrigation system controls, and the theft of copper wire and other materials. On January 5, 2023, a second breach occurred before new security measures were complete. Additional attempts to vandalize and steal materials happened the following week but were unsuccessful. Lakewood Police are currently investigating.

The Lakewood Community Resources team took swift action to re-secure the doors and gate. Temporary power to the site has been enabled which has allowed for the integration of an alarm system that is currently live. Scheduled concrete replacement is also in progress. Assessment of the extensive damage and repairs required are underway with the ultimate goal to have Surfside open to the public for residents to enjoy at some point this summer. Visit Lakewood.org/Surfside for updates.

one in Lamar Station Plaza in August of 2020. They have a great selection of very fresh, Cajun-Asian style seafood in generous portions that range in price from around \$10 to \$70 depending on what you're craving. And the atmosphere definitely has the sea vibes you want, nice but unpretentious as they encourage people to add to the graffiti that decorates their wooden walls, as long as it's family friendly.

We tried the shrimp basket which came with mouth-watering, fresh fried shrimp and Cajun seasoned fries, and the seafood eggrolls, which were uniquely delicious!

There are even some options for people who aren't really fond of fish, such as soups, salad, chicken sandwich and wings. Kids can even get good ole peanut butter and jelly sandwich if they prefer.

So bring your pen, bring your creativity, but definitely bring your appetites, and enjoy this delicious addition to Northeast Lakewood.

Hours of Operation:
Mon - Fri 3pm - 10pm
Saturday 12pm - 10pm
Sunday 12pm - 9pm

For a full menu and more information, check out their website:
<https://www.yabbyhut.com/>

40 West Arts UPDATE

40 West Arts has been busy providing fun and creative events in the district so far in 2023. Here are some things coming up that you will want to add to your calendar:

COLFAX ART CRAWL: MARDI GRAS

Date/Time: First Friday March 3, 2023 from 6-9pm
Location: 40 West District (this is a district-wide event)

Summary: Get ready to have some fun! Join us for a Colfax-style Mardi Gras celebration, filled with lively music from the marching brass band, dazzling beads galore and exciting exhibitions. Plus food trucks will be onsite offering delicious eats - it's all free and kid-friendly too! Come experience this one of a kind street party where you can explore art galleries at your own leisurely pace.

Website: www.facebook.com/events/899711247851198

40 WEST SUMMIT AND FREE ADMISSION TO SELFIE PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

Date/Time: Tuesday March 7, 2023 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Location: Mint & Serif Coffeehouse, 7310 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood, CO

Summary: Join 40 West Arts District for our annual 40 West Summit. This casual, come and go event combines opportunities for feedback to the district, with networking, drinks (both alcoholic and non), information about volunteering, and more.

Also ... and this is HUGE. Mint & Serif Coffeehouse and Black & White Insurance have a new immersive selfie photography studio with vignettes and back-grounds perfect for fun, funky, artistic pictures. Your attendance at our 40 West Summit gets you into the selfie experience free of charge!

Sponsored by: Mint & Serif Coffeehouse, All It's Own, Black & White Insurance and the new Mint & Selfie Photography Studio

Website: www.facebook.com/events/1576344822834216

OPEN STUDIOS TOUR: LAKEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Date/Time: Sunday April 16th, 2023 from 12pm-2pm
Location: Lakewood United Methodist Church, 1390 Brentwood St., Lakewood, CO

Summary: Did you know that Lakewood United Methodist Church (LUMC) is home to over 15 individual artists, groups, and collectives? This incredible partnership has allowed the church to offer low-cost space to creatives, and activate unused areas of their building for community use. Come and tour these incredible artist studios, meet the creatives working there, buy local artwork, and enjoy a low-key Sunday afternoon with art.

Website: www.facebook.com/events/1031417278247646

Jefferson County School Board Update

by Susan Miller, Jeffco Board of Education, District 4

I want to thank the Two Creeks Community for inviting me to attend their January meeting at Mountair Church. It was great to have the opportunity to speak with you about Jeffco Public Schools, and some recent decisions made by the Board of Education that impact the Two Creeks Community.

For more than a decade, Jefferson County Schools (the “District”) has experienced a decline in student enrollment. As a Board of Education (the “Board”), we realized that we were spending money on empty seats rather than on students and teachers. Therefore, the Board directed the Superintendent, Tracy Dorland, to have her staff come up with a plan that would consolidate schools in order to provide a thriving educational experience for all students and teachers. The Board voted on November 10, 2022 to “shutter” 14 elementary schools, including Molholm Elementary School which serves the Two Creeks community. The District expects it will take at least 6-12 months from June 2023 to empty the newly closed schools of all of their contents. In some cases, the buildings may not be empty until 2024.

The District has embarked on an on-going process to identify the schools that will be retained for internal purposes and which buildings are no longer needed for District use. This will happen over time and buildings will be recommended as “surplus” as they are no longer needed by the District.

On January 30, 2023, the District published a [property disposition process](#) that includes:

- **Assembling a Property Disposition advisory Committee** to assist in this decision-making process and *add ad hoc advisory members to the committee for each geography-specific region where disposition is being considered. (I’m hopeful members of the Two Creeks Community will engage in this process if Molholm is identified as surplus property).*
- **Execute a step-by-step process for properties deemed “surplus” by the Board of Education** – consistent with District policy DN – including: value assessment, engagement with local municipalities and special districts, an “intent to propose” process, legal review, and community engagement, all in an effort to make the best determination possible as to the future of the property.
- **A contracting process** will follow the work of the advisory committee. It may take several months to complete and will involve a vote of the Board of Education

The first properties will be studied by the Board for surplus at it’s March 1st study session and considered for vote on March 9th. The second round will be brought to the Board in August of 2023, and a third round is scheduled for January, 2024.

We all recognize the importance these schools are to

the fabric of our community and we hope that the Two Creeks Community will stay engaged and members raise their hands to be a part of the process, to work with the District and the Board to find a solution that meets the needs of the community and the District.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions: susan.miller@jeffco.k12.co.us

West Colfax Safety Project

The West Colfax Safety Project is a significant transportation investment for the city because it provides an opportunity to create a safer and more comfortable experience for pedestrians, transit users and motorists. The project covers 1.5 miles of West Colfax Avenue between Sheridan and Teller Street, just east of Wadsworth boulevards. The Colfax Safety Project is funded by a grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and City of Lakewood funding . This project will create consistent sidewalks through repurposing the outside lanes of traffic; add designated pedestrian crossings in specific locations; establish pullouts for buses and provide bus stop amenities; improve streetlighting for safety; and enhance driver safety by increasing sight-distances, reducing conflicts with turning vehicles, updating intersection traffic signals and lengthening turn lanes – all of which will improve safety for everyone while reducing driving stress.

Reviewing the safety data demonstrates why addressing safety in this segment is so important: This segment of West Colfax has the highest concentration of traffic injuries and deaths in Lakewood. Lakewood Transportation Engineering identified 820 total crashes in this 1.5 mile segment from January 2015 to December 2019. These crashes have caused 283 serious injuries and six fatalities. This far outpaces crashes on segments of West Colfax west of the project area.

Ninety-eight of the crashes involved a pedestrian or cyclist. Of the 98 crashes, 74 resulted in serious injuries and five resulted in death. Statistics reveal that a crash occurred every other day in this area during the five-year period. Lakewood Police Department has identified West Colfax as a high priority area for addressing pedestrian safety.

Development of this project has been a collaboration of multiple City departments, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation District, Lakewood-West Colfax Business Improvement District, and 40 West Art District. The grant application was also supported by the West Colfax Commu-

nity Association, Two Creeks Neighborhood Organization, the ArtLine project team, West Corridor Transportation Management Association, Metro West Housing Solutions, FirstBank, Broad Street, and Denver Streets Partnership.

This project will create consistent sidewalks through repurposing the outside lanes of traffic; add designated pedestrian crossings across West Colfax Avenue in specific locations using traffic control measures (i.e., pedestrian hybrid beacon crossings); establish pullouts for buses, provide bus stop amenities and relocate bus stops, as necessary; provide for water quality improvements through the use of green infrastructure, improve street lighting for vehicular and pedestrian safety; and enhance driver safety by eliminating line of sight obstructions, reducing conflicts with turning vehicles through access management, providing a new traffic signal at Depew Street and providing adequate left turn lanes – all of which will improve safety for everyone while reducing driving stress. Additionally, the project will coordinate with ongoing projects in the corridor including the North Dry Gulch and Colfax Waterline projects.

Public involvement has and will occur throughout the duration of the project. LakewoodTogether.org/West Colfax is the project’s website that allows community members to learn in detail about the project, ask questions, participate in a survey, subscribe to receive updates, and review other items as the project progresses. This website serves as a one-stop online hub for the public’s engagement with the project. Public engagement has included and continues to include text message campaigns, postcards to business and property owners. City staff and Lakewood-West Colfax Business Improvement District representatives regularly attend community and association meetings to provide information about the project. Flyers, (in English and Spanish) banners, yard signs and chalk stencils have and will be used to inform businesses, apartment residents, neighborhood organizations, visitors, and others about the project, directing them to visit the project’s website. The city’s newsletters, social media and other communication channels will continue to be used to inform and update the public about the project and opportunities to participate. In 2023 project design development will continue to be 100 percent design. Since Colfax is a State Highway and the project is grant-funded by CDOT, numerous State approval will occur in the upcoming year. Project permits will be issued, and the project will be put out to bid. Construction is expected to begin late 2023/ early 2024. Project status updates continue at West Colfax Community Association (WCCA) meetings, 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Solid Ground

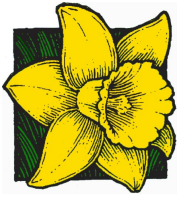
Basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing are things most of us take for granted, yet for someone struggling with homelessness, they are constantly in question. Everyday life becomes a challenge, and for someone with a mental illness or addiction, life can become increasingly more difficult. While there are many causes, people with mental health or substance use disorders are more susceptible to factors that lead to homelessness. They are also more likely to experience homelessness for longer periods of time or more than once. And homelessness, in turn, can amplify mental health disorders. In fact, research shows that 71% of people experiencing homelessness have a mental illness or post-traumatic stress, and 59% are struggling with long-term substance use disorders. In order to help people out of this vicious cycle, removing barriers to access mental health and substance use support through community-based care needs to be a priority.

Supportive housing, a highly effective strategy that combines affordable housing with intensive coordinated services, can provide that needed assistance. Through this Housing First approach, people who are most in need will be able to access housing without high barriers placed on them. Once stabilized, they can begin to address issues like mental health, substance abuse, job training, and more.

National studies show that supportive housing not only resolves homelessness and increases housing stability, but also improves health and lowers public costs by reducing the use of publicly funded crisis services, including shelters, hospitals, psychiatric centers, jails, and prisons.

The Jefferson Center for Mental Health was selected to receive federal tax credits that will support a 40-unit, permanent supportive housing property to be built in Jefferson County. This proposed new development will be called Solid Ground Apartments and will create much-needed affordable housing for vulnerable individuals throughout the county, specifically those experiencing homelessness.

Work has begun on the foundation for Solid Ground and the team aims for completion in Spring of 2024. TCNO will keep you updated as the project progresses.



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The Two Creeks Current was produced by The Two Creeks Neighborhood Organization

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL ENCLOSED