

# Cherry Knolls News

A Publication of the Cherry Knolls Improvement Association  
cherryknolls.org

“Striving for Excellence”

December 2021

## Bulletin Board

**December Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, December 14th, 7pm  
Join us in the Sandburg Music Room

**Winter Festival**  
Sunday, December 19th, 3-6pm  
Save the date! The Winter Festival is returning to Cherry Knolls.

Food Trucks, Music, Santa in a horse-drawn carriage! You don't want to miss this fun event!

**January Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 11th, 7pm  
Join us in the Sandburg Music Room

**Long Range Committee**  
**Nobles and Arapahoe**  
The City of Centennial is nearly done transferring ownership of the vacant land at this intersection to the neighborhood. The LRPC is actively soliciting and reviewing design concepts and associated bids for this parcel, and intends to make a presentation and recommendation to the board in the new year.



### Did you know?

If you stand outside at noon on the Winter Solstice, December 21st, and look at your shadow, it will be the longest shadow you cast the entire year!



CHERRY KNOLLS • 2021

# WINTERFEST



JOIN US

**Sunday, December 19**  
**3:00-6:00pm**

### Santa and his sleigh

The big guy will start his journey around the neighborhood from the Pool. See map below to follow him on his route.

### Hot cider

Mrs. Claus will be serving warm mulled cider to spice up the day.

### Music

The “Backyard AllStars” (a neighborhood favorite) will add holiday beat to the day.

### Food trucks

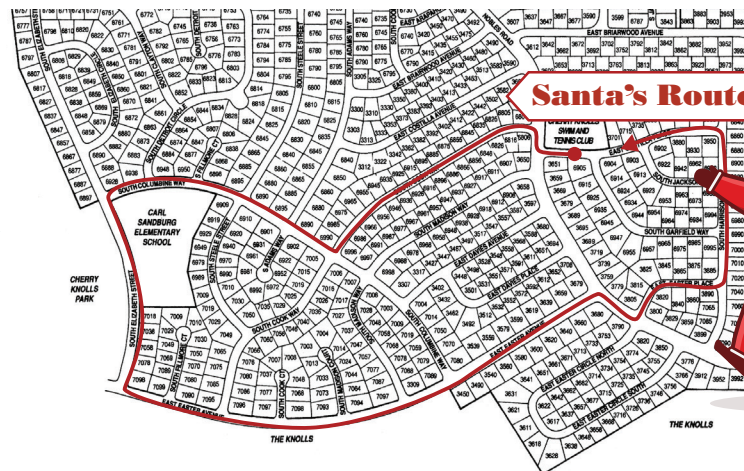
Fabulous food trucks Wafflerita and Just a Buck Truck will add to the fun.

### Luminaria contest

Santa's elves will be driving through Cherry Knolls to find the best and brightest from 5:30-7:30pm.

### Food drive: Share the holiday cheer

Food Bank of the Rockies will be providing our neighborhood with boxes to collect canned and non-perishable food items.



**Santa's Route**



# Snowplow Update

We are happy to say that we will be working with Kona Contractors again this year to provide snow plowing service to our neighborhood. We're really excited to continue this service after very supportive reviews in our surveys last winter. Generally speaking, plows will service when we have snow accumulation of roughly 3" or more to keep our streets safe throughout the winter. A friendly reminder to those who park vehicles on the street to consider parking them in their driveway the evening before the storm to ensure you don't get plowed in and allow more space to operate the plows.



# Nationals Bound

Congratulations to our own CK resident, Lauryn Long for her fantastic achievements this fall on Arapahoe High School's XC Team! Lauryn is a sophomore and has only been running for 2 seasons. She was one of 9 from the team who qualified and were able to attend the 5A State Championship. She finished 19th in regionals and is running on December 4th at nationals in Alabama.

Best wishes and good luck, Lauryn! We will all be cheering for you here in Cherry Knolls!

## Cherry Knolls Improvement Association (CKIA)

- President . . . . .Dusty Laird
- Vice President . . . . . TBD
- Architectural & Covenants . . . . . Lauren Thompson
- Treasurer . . . . . Ben Kennedy
- Secretary . . . . . Linda Martin
- Long Range Planning . . . . . Justin Dodson
- Perimeter . . . . . Dustin Szenderski
- Communications . . . . . Sarah Keene
- Community Events . . . . . Lindsey Blankenship
- New Resident Greeter . . . . . Sue Carlton-Smith
- Website . . . . . Steve Cahill
- Graphic Design . . . . . Aaron Hilst
- Database Manager . . . . . TBD
- Directory & Advertising . . . . . Sandy Wischmeyer
- Member at Large . . . . . Brendan Carroll

### Teen Services

To add your teen's name, please e-mail Sarah Keene at [skeene@dealerinspire.com](mailto:skeene@dealerinspire.com).

Categories: (B) Baby-sitting, (\*) Red Cross Certified for CPR, (L) Lawn Care, (R) Leaf Raking, (S) Snow Removal, (P) Pet & House sitting, (O) Odd jobs.

PARENT CONTACT:			
Eli A.	14	B/P	hollylgant@gmail.com
Ella C.	14	B*/P	floomiller@gmail.com
William C.	14	B*	cuthberts@ymail.com
Nora C.	12	B*	cuthberts@ymail.com
Talley D.	14	B*/R/S/P	susantalley@comcast.net
Kenzie D.	16	B*/P	dsdinkel@comcast.net
Rylan D.	13	L/ R/S/P/O	dsdinkel@comcast.net
Stella E.	16	B*/P	east.brett@me.com
Sawyer E.	12	B*, P	dborn@aol.com
Mia G.	13	B*/P	eric.goodmanglobal@gmail.com
Addison J.	16	B*/P	303-868-6682
Dean J.	14	L/R/S/P/O	303-868-6682
Sophia L.	12	B*/P	pjakates1@aol.com
Abbie L.	12	B	stacylister72@gmail.com
Jessica L.	15	B*/P	Larson.carrie@comcast.net
Emma L.	13	B*/P	Larson.carrie@comcast.net
Carson P.	14	L/R/S/P/O	karenbpeirce@gmail.com
Hannah S.	16	B*/P	caseylaurasmith@gmail.com
Keira S.	11	B*/P	caseylaurasmith@gmail.com
Conrad S.	14	B*/P/S/L/R/O	Jennifer@StellerRealEstate.com
Teagan S.	16	B*/P	Jennifer@StellerRealEstate.com
Anna W.	16	B*	troy.a.walker@gmail.com
Zoe Z.	13	B*	tarazucker@msn.com



**Parent Co-op** Cherry Knolls Parent Co-op is a great way to get to know other neighbors. If you would like to be a part of the co-op or have questions please contact Susan Pelikan at [smfouts@gmail.com](mailto:smfouts@gmail.com).

# President's Corner



## Happy Holidays from the Board!

Thank you to all who came to the annual General Membership Meeting in November. We voted in three new members to the Board: Lauren Thompson, Lindsay Blankenship and Steve Cahill. Brendan Carroll and I were re-elected, so you will have to deal with us for another 2 years!

The Board welcomes everyone, so please send me a message if you want to be involved in CKIA. We are seeking a Database Manager, Budget Auditor, and Advertising Manager. We are also seeking articles of interest concerning Cherry Knolls and the surrounding area. Please contact [dustylaird@gmail.com](mailto:dustylaird@gmail.com) for more information.

TownSq went live on 11/17! Thank you to everyone who has joined. If you haven't received an email from TownSq, please check your junk/spam email box. If you still haven't received an invite to join, please reach out to [dustylaird@gmail.com](mailto:dustylaird@gmail.com). Please send the Board feedback about your experience with TownSq in the coming months.

The Streets of Southglenn development variance passed unanimously November 10th. The Board sent a letter to the City of Centennial expressing our concerns about the variance. Concerns include the projected increase in traffic, and specifically that the variance should not be granted in light of the changes made to increase the buildings' height, and the increase in the number of units. There was a hearing in front of the City Council on December 6th. Public comment is vitally important! Please visit [centennialco.gov](http://centennialco.gov) for more information.

Finally, the Board will be discussing the action items for 2022. These action items will include finalizing the plan for the parcel of land at Nobles and Arapahoe. We will also be developing a plan to address the aging fence along the perimeter. Become a committee member and take part in developing the future of Cherry Knolls!

Thank you all for your support and Happy Holidays and here's to an exciting 2022! -Dusty Laird

# Luminaria Contest



## Sunday, December 19 from 5:30-7:30pm

A team of Santa's elves will be circling the neighborhood and choosing the brightest and most festive block as the winner. Elves decision will be based only on the brightness and most artistic display of luminaria. The more neighbors who participate the better chance to win!!

The best and brightest block will win Priority Snow Plowing and recognition in the newsletter!

### Buy your Luminaria kits:

- December 12th between 2pm-4pm at the pool.
- Pre paid orders can be delivered to your door
- Orders after December 12, contact Katie Hess: [katieregis@aol.com](mailto:katieregis@aol.com)

### Pricing:

20 bags - \$20  
40 bags - \$35  
60 bags - \$45  
80 bags - \$55  
(bags, votives, and sand included)

\*Cash, Check, and Venmo accepted at time of purchase

Order form can be found at  
[www.ckswimteam.swimtopia.com](http://www.ckswimteam.swimtopia.com)

Just fill out the form online and pre-pay with Venmo to @Janette-Hoskinson

Questions? Email: [cherryknollsswimteam@gmail.com](mailto:cherryknollsswimteam@gmail.com)

All proceeds benefit the Cherry Knolls Swim Team



# Gingerbread House Contest



### Categories

Youth 10 & Under

Youth 11-17

Family/Adults 18+

### How to Enter

Email entries to [cherryknollsgingerbreadcontest@gmail.com](mailto:cherryknollsgingerbreadcontest@gmail.com)

Please Include your name/s, age category, 3 up-close photos of your gingerbread house, 1 photo of the builder/s together with the gingerbread house

### Rules

All contestants must help build and decorate their gingerbread house.

You may use a kit or make your own.

Everything used to decorate the house and platter must be edible.

### Deadline

Entries must be submitted by December 21, 2021.

A panel of judges will choose the winner in each category.

The winning gingerbread houses will be featured in the first CK newsletter of 2022.



**Medicare Supplements Insurance Agency**  
Our Name Says It All

**ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR A MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT?**



Let your neighborhood agent help.

By Federal law, all Medicare Supplement Insurance plans are the same- the only difference is price. So, why pay more?

    
...and more.

For a free, no obligation quote, call your local independent agent

**Dara McCabe**

**303-847-4747**

[www.medicaresupplementsinsuranceagency.com](http://www.medicaresupplementsinsuranceagency.com)



### If you're leaving your employer, do you know your 401(k) options?

At Edward Jones, we can explain options for your 401(k), including leaving the money in your former employer's plan, moving it to your new employer's plan, rolling it over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or cashing out the account subject to tax consequences.

To learn more, call today.



**Vicky Washburn, CFP®**

Financial Advisor

8101 E Prentice Ave 575  
Greenwood Village, CO  
80111-2909  
720-769-7824

[edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)  
Member SIPC

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# Garage Sale Success

On August 27 & 28, nearly 150 homes participated in the Cherry Knolls, The Knolls, and Tiffany Joint Neighborhood Garage Sale. Enjoying its twelfth year, the event was sponsored by The Steller Group, composed of Realtors and Cherry Knolls neighbors Conrad and Jennifer Steller, Emily Lonborg, Bill Dehmlow, Seth Jones, and Beth Walden.

Sellers who took part in the event needed only to focus solely on setting up their merchandise and manning their sales; all the work of promoting the event was provided courtesy of The Steller Group. Buyers were brought right to sellers' driveways via newspaper advertising, online and social media postings, banners, directional signage, and printed maps designating which homes were hosting a sale. When surveyed, 75% of the sellers stated that the community garage sale was "much more successful" than what they could have done on their own.

Cherry Knolls resident Rolf Asphaug provided the following insights: "Having a neighborhood sale brought in a lot of potential buyers, and made the buyers happier as well because they had many sales to visit."

Garage pros continue to look forward to this annual event, as our community sale is one of the largest—if not the largest—sales of the season.

The Steller Group is evaluating whether the community garage sale should return to its original spring schedule or stay in summer. If you participated this year and have not yet responded with your opinion in the post-event survey, please submit your response to the link emailed to you or contact Jennifer@StellerRealEstate.com.



### Did you know?

Stonehenge's megalithic monument is aligned to the sunset on the Winter Solstice.

Residential Remodeling  
Landscaping  
Handyman Services



Serving the Denver Metro Area and the Front Range

**Zeke's Property Solutions LLC**

Dustin Szenderski | 720.515.8562  
Owner/Contractor | dustin@zekespropertysolutions.com

**Zeke's Property Solutions is your trade contractor pro for interior and exterior home improvement!**

Whether you're looking for help with DIY level projects, or need more of that professional touch, Zeke's Property Solutions can get the job done right! Call today for a free estimate!



**Pride in Perfection**

Dustin "Zeke" Szenderski has resided in the beautiful Cherry Knolls neighborhood since 2017 with his wife and 2 daughters.

Bring **Christmas** home this year!

*We have a huge selection of Santa suits, Mrs. Santas, elves, snowmen, and more!*




Available for rent or to purchase to use year after year, in all price ranges! We have all the accessories, too!



**ALL SEASONS RENT-ALL**  
Family owned and operated since 1979

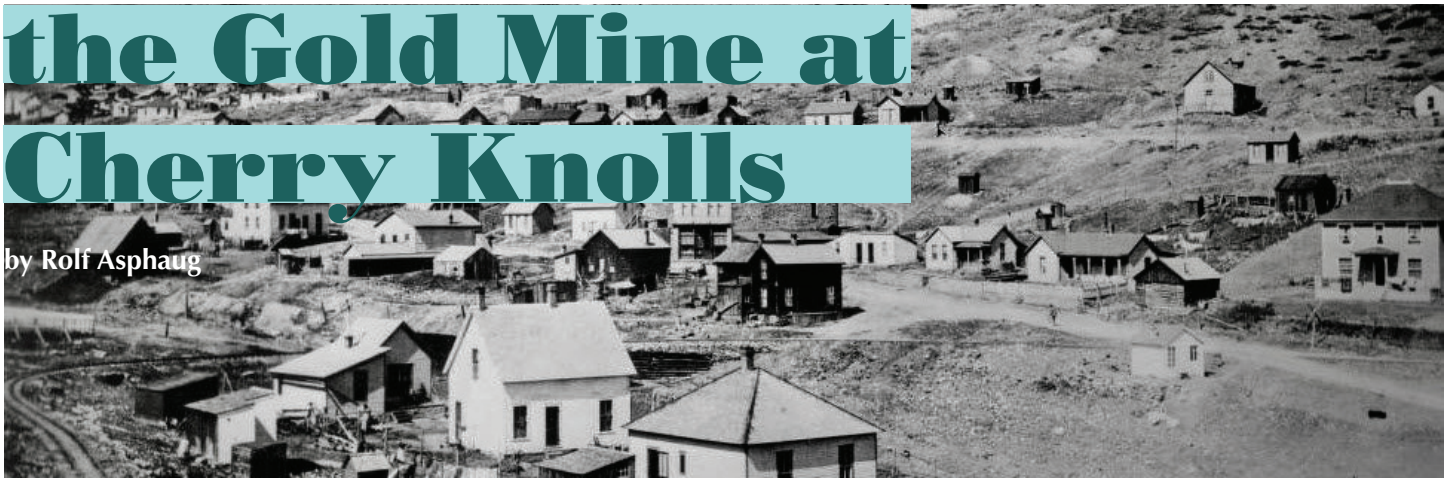
**www.asrentall.com**

6550 S Yosemite St, Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
303-770-2980



# the Gold Mine at Cherry Knolls

by Rolf Asphaug



*Russell Gulch in its heyday*

I was recently looking at an online topographical map of our neighborhood when I saw an interesting notation just south of Cherry Knolls, in the Knolls subdivision: “Big Dry Creek Placers.” (See picture.) The notation was just north of Big Dry Creek itself, which starts in Highlands Ranch, runs through the South Suburban Golf Course and Cherry Knolls Park, is intersected by the High Line Canal, and empties into the Platte River north of downtown Littleton.

None of the other maps I’d seen of our neighborhood contained this mysterious reference to “Big Dry Creek Placers.” I Googled the name and found out that our area was once home to one of Colorado’s original gold mines, pre-dating the “Pikes Peak or Bust” gold rush of 1859.

A placer mine is a surface mine where rivers and streams are sifted for gold deposits – by individual miners panning for gold, or with more extensive machinery such as sluice boxes and rockers all the way up to the huge barges that used to ply rivers near Breckenridge. The other type of mining – lode mining – involves tunneling into the earth to dig up deposits.

In 1848 a group of Cherokee Indians were taking horses on the Cherokee Trail from Oklahoma to California, but they were too late in the season to cross the Rockies. They wintered at the confluence of the Platte River and Cherry Creek – what is now in downtown Denver – and found a little gold there. When they returned to Oklahoma they told other tribe members what they’d found, but the information remained unused until nearly a decade later, when a Georgia gold miner named William Greenberry Russell – who



*William Greenberry  
“Green” Russel*

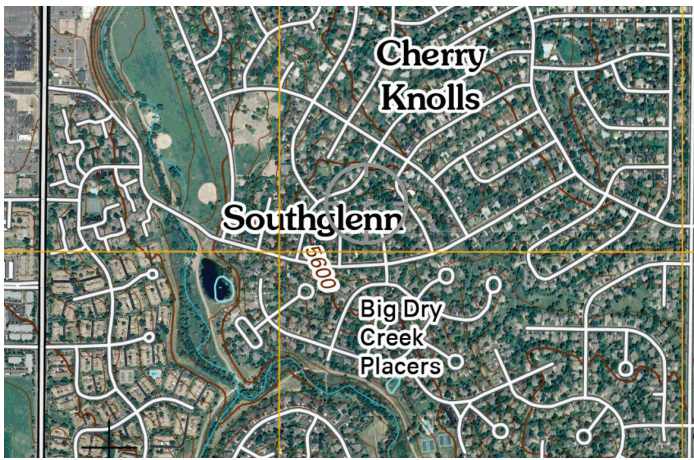
was married to a Cherokee woman – learned of the find and decided to organize a mining party.

In 1858 Russell, his two brothers, a fellow miner named Sam Bates and several dozen other white and Cherokee prospectors traveled from Oklahoma along the Santa Fe Trail to what is now Confluence Park in Denver. They began prospecting there, but with limited success most of the miners returned home. The Russell brothers, Bates, and nine other men stayed, and started to explore farther south into what’s now our neighborhood. In July 1858 they reported “good diggings” at the mouth of Big Dry Creek on the South Platte, and they continued to set up placer operations upstream along Big Dry Creek from there, including at what’s now Cherry Knolls and the Knolls. The “Big Dry Creek Placer Mine” in our neighborhood was actually owned by William Greenberry Russell and Sam Bates.

The Russell-Bates reports of gold caused a huge sensation back East: the Colorado Gold Rush of 1859, in which tens of thousands of miners and settlers pulled up roots and headed to Colorado. By 1860 the center of mining activity had shifted from placer mines on the Platte River and Big Dry Creek to lode mines in Idaho Springs and especially Central City: a remote outpost which suddenly exploded into a city of 60,000 inhabitants.

Not much is known of Sam Bates, but William Greenberry (a.k.a. Green) Russell (see picture) left a still-visible mark on Colorado. The town of Russell Gulch, near Central City, is now a ghost town but still has a few buildings standing.





However, the tenure of Russell and other Georgia miners in Colorado was short, because the Civil War caused these southerners to be ostracized, or worse. Russell was able to secure safe passage to Georgia by promising not to take up arms against the Union; he technically kept that promise, but he served in a non-combatant role with the Confederate Army.

Is it worth it to get a pan and try to find gold in Big Dry Creek today? Sadly, no: what little records exist indicate that the Big Dry Creek Placer Mine never yielded worthwhile quantities of the precious metal. But it's fascinating to think that our neighborhood was once at the very epicenter of the great Colorado Gold Rush of 1859, which for better and worse transformed our state, our nation, and our continent.



One of the few still-standing Russell Gulch buildings

## Join Our Community.

### JUICE CLEANSE JANUARY IS BACK!

Delivery Now Available through **GRUBHUB**

**COME VISIT US TODAY!**  
 Located in the Cherry Knolls Shopping Center  
 2514 E. Arapahoe Rd., Centennial  
 303-565-5767 • rorojuice.com

[f](#) [ig](#) [t](#)

**\$2 OFF**  
**Any smoothie or Açaí Bowl**

Good with CK coupon only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with other offers. Expires 1/31/2022.

303-565-5767

**BOGO**  
**Free kombucha, sparkling fruit water or Nitro Cold Brew coffee (mix and match)**

Good with CK coupon only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with other offers. Expires 1/31/2022.

303-565-5767

**THREE DAY JUICE CLEANSE PACKAGE \$165**  
(Reg. \$185)

Good with CK coupon only. Limit one per customer. Not valid with other offers. Expires 1/31/2022.

303-565-5767

Organic Cold Pressed Juices • Organic Juice Cleanse Packages  
 Smoothies • Micro Greens • Açaí Bowls • Raw Bowls • Salads  
 Paninis • Nitro Cold Brew Coffee & Kombucha on Tap

10% OFF

YOUR CABINET & COUNTERTOP PURCHASE

Bring this coupon to your FREE consultation and receive 10% off your entire cabinet and countertop purchase. Summer Promotion ends 8/31/21. Some exclusions may apply.

SCAN ME OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

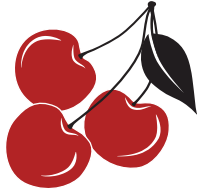
**GENESIS CABINET COMPANY**  
INFO@GENESISCABINET.COM | 303.322.6700 | 2420 E. ARAPAHOE ROAD CENTENNIAL, CO 80122

# Cherry Knolls Improvement Association

PO Box 2551

Centennial, CO 80161-2551

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LITTLETON, CO  
PERMIT NO. 61



# Holiday Food Drive



benefiting

**DENVER**  
**RESCUE**  
**MISSION**

The Steller Group is holding a **canned food drive** to benefit the Denver Rescue Mission.

Drop-off donations are welcome at our office until **Friday, Dec. 17**, located at **6658 S. Broadway** in Centennial.

  
The  
**Steller**  
GROUP