

# Cherry Knolls News

A Publication of the Cherry Knolls Improvement Association

“Striving for Excellence”

February 2022

## Bulletin Board

### March Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 8th, 7pm

Join us in the Sandburg Music Room

### May Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 10th, 7pm

Join us in the Sandburg Music Room

## Update from our Centennial City Council Representative



Happy New Year!!! I've been asked to provide a few updates on what your City Council has been working on.

In December, the City Council passed the Master Development Plan (MDP) changes for the Streets at Southglenn. This will allow more residential units where the Sears building is located and the current Macy's building. Thanks to many neighbors that participated in the process this project is much better than initially proposed and will include a park area along Easter and a large set back.

I ultimately was the only no vote on this proposal based on the testimony both written and provided during the hearing and my concerns regarding the traffic at University and Easter.

The Arapahoe Bridge project is under way after a delay due to the Cherry Knolls shopping center changing ownership. An RFP was sent out and the bid was awarded to the same contractor that did the recent median improvements on Arapahoe Rd closer to University. This is an 18-month project and while lanes will be open in both directions, they are working on minimizing the traffic impact as much as possible. Unfortunately, for safety reasons the walking path under the bridge will be closed off during the entire time of the project and a detour will be posted.

In 2022, we will again offer our \$500 small community grant program. This is a great way to bring your neighbors together for a block party, neighborhood clean-up, movie night, holiday party, the possibilities are endless. The application for a grant request should be operational April 1st at the City of Centennial web site [www.centennialco.gov](http://www.centennialco.gov)

Councilmember Maurer and myself will be hosting a virtual District 2 chat on February, 15, 2022 beginning at 7 pm for 1 hour. These are casual opportunities to hear what is happening in the city and ask questions. I hope to “see” many of you there. We are looking at holding an in-person meeting in April but are still working out the details.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at [csweetland@centennialco.gov](mailto:csweetland@centennialco.gov) or 720-788-0253.

Have an amazing 2022!!!

*Christine Sweetland*  
Your neighbor and City Council Representative

## February is Black History Month

In this month's issue we'll be featuring Black Coloradans of note. All info and images via History Colorado and the Denver Library.



### Dr. Justina Ford

*Dr. Ford overcame prejudice and discrimination to become the first licensed African American female doctor in Denver and practiced gynecology, obstetrics, and pediatrics from her home.*

# Meet your Cherry Knolls Board Members

## Ali Macheaca

*Parent Coop and Liaison and  
Community Events*

Ali has lived in Colorado for 24 years and Cherry Knolls for 16 years. She is from Indiana. She and her husband Chris have two children one in middle school and one in elementary. A past teacher, she has also served on the Swim Team board. This her second year on the CKIA board and she has organized the 4th of July events and Gingerbread contest as well as helping to keep up Cherry Knolls spirits. She's our cheerleader!

## Ben Kennedy

*Treasurer*

Ben and his wife Jacqueline have 4 year old twins and have lived in Cherry Knolls for 3 years. Ben moved to Colorado from Minnesota in 2000. He works as an attorney for a Denver law firm. He loves skiing and golf and of course all Minnesota sports teams. This is his first year on the CKIA board.

## Brendan Carroll

*Member at Large*

Brendan is originally from Bellingham, WA. He and his wife Kate and their 3 children have lived in Cherry Knolls for 3 years and in Colorado since 2009. He has worked as a Civil Engineer for 14 years. This is Brendan's first time on the CKIA board.

## Dustin Szenderski

*Perimeter*

Dustin and his wife Kristen have lived in Cherry Knolls for 3 years. They have two daughters and are expecting a baby brother in June. He is originally from Toledo, Ohio and moved to Colorado in 2012. Dustin trained as Physical Therapist and worked in that field for 8 years. Recently he has changed course and started his own landscaping and remodeling business with a little physical therapy on the side.

Like so many other of us in Colorado Dustin loves all our mountain sports and of course home remodeling projects. This is Dustin's first year on the board.

## Dusty Laird

*President*

Dusty is a Colorado native who grew up in Arapahoe Highlands and attended Arapahoe High School. He and his wife Carrie (who grew up in Cherry Knolls) have two young children. Dusty is a video editor at CineMedia a Cinema Advertising company. He is a man of many talents from graphic design to kitchen remodeling. Dusty wears many hats on the CKIA board and wears them well! Dusty is a great asset to Cherry Knolls!

## Justin Dodson

*Long Range Planning*

Justin grew up in Littleton. He and his wife Amy have lived in Cherry Knolls for a year and a half. They have three daughters. Justin is a Customer Service rep of a Bone and Tissue facility. He works with hospitals and surgery centers to provide medical tissue for surgical procedures all over the world. His passions are Astrophotography and Scuba Diving. He is a certified scuba instructor and has dived all over the world including Fiji, Dominica and Honduras. This is Justin's first year on the board

## Lauren Thompson

*Covenants & Architectural Control*

Lauren Thompson has lived in Cherry Knolls for four and a half years. She will be representing our board for Covenants and Arch Control. Originally from New York City, and moved to Colorado in 2006. She is married and has two children. Lauren has been an attorney for 12 years and this is her first time serving on the board.

## Linda Martin

*Secretary*

Linda is originally from Wichita, Kansas but her husband Tim is a Colorado native and actually lived on E. Easter Circle in the 60's when those houses were being built. He even went to Sandburg for 2 years. Linda and Tim have lived in Cherry Knolls for a total of 15 years (2 houses) and they have 6 children! Linda works as a psychotherapist and Tim is a judge for the State of Colorado. Linda loves everything outdoors and especially appreciates having the Goodson Rec center as part of the community. This is Linda's first time on the board.

## Lindsey Blankenship

*Events and Community Chair*

Lindsey Blankenship has lived in Cherry Knolls for four and a half years. This is her first time serving on the board as the Events and Community Chair. She has two sons who attend Sandburg Elementary. She is from Greenwood Village. Lindsey is heavily involved in The Foundation Fighting Blindness and is starting her own nonprofit organization.

## Steve Linger

*Vice President and Covenants and  
Architectural Control*

Steve is life long Coloradoan. He grew up in Englewood and has lived in Cherry Knolls for 45 years. He and his wife Nancy have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Steve is a car guy and works for car dealer in Longmont. He has served on the CKIA board as the Covenants and Architectural Control chairman for the last 6 years. Not an easy job. He does it well.

## Rod Macdonald

*Member at Large*

Rod and his wife Nancy have lived in Cherry Knolls for 12 years. He has served on the Cherry Knolls Board twice (cont'd.)

before as Newsletter Chairman and chief of Dumpster Day. Originally from Paraguay Rod moved to Colorado in 1993. Along with his business as a Physical Therapist he loves bridge, guitar and the Nuggets.

**Sarah Keene**

*Communications*

Sarah is another Colorado native. She lived in Arizona for a time and moved to Cherry Knolls 3 years ago. She and her husband Brian have two young daughters. She worked for a time at 9 News and currently works as a Website and Digital Advertising Performance Manager. Her passions are anything outdoors from paddle boarding to hiking and home remodeling projects. This is Sarah's first year on the board.

# Luminaria Winners!

Well, it was a very close call between South Cook Way and Jackson Court! Both blocks had amazing participation and abundant creativity.

Alas, South Cook Way prevailed. Congratulations to South Cook Way, our 2021 winners.

The judges also loved East Costilla Place, Elizabeth Circle, Garfield, East Easter Circle, and Adams.



## Cherry Knolls Improvement Association (CKIA)

- President ..... Dusty Laird
- Vice President & Covenants ..... Steve Linger
- Treasurer ..... Ben Kennedy
- Secretary ..... Linda Martin
- Long Range Planning ..... Justin Dodson
- Perimeter ..... Dustin Szenderski
- Communications ..... Sarah Keene
- Community Events ..... Ali Macheca
- New Resident Greeter ..... Sue Carlton-Smith
- Website ..... Bryan Wainscott
- Graphic Design ..... Aaron Hilst
- Database Manager ..... Susan Desparrois
- Directory & Advertising ..... Sandy Wischmeyer
- Member at Large ..... Rod Macdonald
- Member at Large ..... Brendan Carroll



**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).

### 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:
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# President's Corner



I grew up in the neighborhood west of Arapahoe High School called Arapahoe Highlands. When I was 8 years old, we had a record setting snowfall in January. My

dad and brothers worked together to shovel our giant circle driveway and a 6 foot section of street just beyond the driveway.

As we finished we saw a city plow come roaring up the street, tossing snow onto our driveway and street that we had just cleared! My dad, who was a certified hothead, ran out to the middle of the street screaming obscenities, jumping up and down, and waving his arms at the passing snowplow. My father, an intimidating man with his beard and stocky build, was approached by the young plow driver who could not have been much more than twenty four years old.

The driver politely apologized to my dad, explaining he meant no harm. He was just trying to make his rounds and earn an honest living. I felt bad for this young man - he did not deserve to be treated this way. My dad continued to aggressively confront him. Then, looking back at his sons, he saw that the driver wasn't much older than my brother Andy. I don't know what my dad realized at that moment but after that glance, he turned to the driver and apologized. That event has stuck with me to this day.

The reason I'm sharing this story is that it has been reported that the snowplows did not finish plowing our streets on January 1st due to harassment by people in our neighborhood. It was reported that neighbors were aggressively confronting, yelling at the drivers and spitting on trucks.

80% of the Cherry Knolls residents want our streets to be plowed and the CKIA Board hired Kona to clear our streets. We pay for snow plow service when the snow is above 3 inches. In 2021 we only spent \$2500 of our allocated \$5000 approved by the Board. This summer we will renegotiate our contract and likely pay for an earlier more complete service that benefits everyone. The Contract with Kona is considered a non-priority contract. Please voice your comments, concerns or frustrations to CKIA Board and not Kona. Message us on TownSq or send an email to [contactCKIA@gmail.com](mailto:contactCKIA@gmail.com).

We want to get this right for everyone!

Many thanks,

*Dusty Laird* | CKIA President

# Community Grants

To improve community engagement and neighborhood identity, the City of Centennial has developed two community grant programs intended to enhance and foster neighborhood collaboration.

The City is working hard getting ready for the 2022 Neighborhood Services programs. They will be hosting a "Large Community Improvement Grant Proposal Training" on February 15th and 17th at 6:00pm. The link for the meeting will be up on the City's website very soon. They will begin accepting Large Grant applications in March and the deadline for submittals will be 4/17.

The Small Community Grant Program is set to happen again in 2022, and residents will be allowed to begin applying for the grants funds on 4/1.

Learn more at:

<https://www.centennialco.gov/Government/City-Projects-and-Initiatives/Community-Grant-Program>

Or email:

[grants@centennialco.gov](mailto:grants@centennialco.gov)



## "Aunt" Clara Brown

*Brown was born into slavery in Virginia, but made her way to Colorado when she was freed at the age of 56, in search of her daughter. In Denver she became a community leader, philanthropist and aided settlement of former slaves during the time of Colorado's Gold Rush. She was known as the "Angel of the Rockies" and made her mark as Colorado's first black settler and a prosperous entrepreneur with investments in mining.*



# Leukemia & Lymphoma Fundraiser



Hello! For those who don't know me, my name is Tatum O'Shea and I am a senior at Arapahoe High School. I have lived in CK for 6 years, and lifeguarded at Cherry Knolls pool for three summers. I am honored to announce that I am running as a co-candidate, alongside my good friend Kiera Johnson, for the 2022 Students of the Year Campaign with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). On January 13th, we began our 7-week campaign which will end on March 5. Our team is competing against other student teams across Colorado in an effort to raise as much money as possible to help fight blood cancer. We have just seven short weeks to achieve our team goal of \$75,000!

The work of LLS is so important as it supports research for cures for blood cancers like Leukemia, Lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease and Myeloma. Blood cancer research leads to treatment advances for other cancers and serious diseases. It also supports cancer patients with financial assistance through medication, hospitalizations, and patient and family psychosocial support.

Please join me in the fight to defeat blood cancer! Every dollar we raise will go toward the mission of LLS and change the future for millions of people diagnosed with blood and other cancers!

Email me at [tatomoshea@gmail.com](mailto:tatomoshea@gmail.com) or visit my website through the below QR code for any questions. Thank you in advance for your support!



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**Dustin "Zeke" Szenderski resides at the corner of Easter and Cook Way. Cherry Knolls Resident since 2017**

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By Rolf Asphaug

Our family has lived in Cherry Knolls for nearly a quarter century, and during all that time the entrances to Cherry Knolls have always looked pretty much the same as they are now. (Grateful kudos to Justin Dodson for working so hard to repair the cracking stucco entrance signs, by the way.) The Elizabeth Street entrance has always had beautiful flower beds and other plantings maintained by the Cherry Knolls Garden Club.

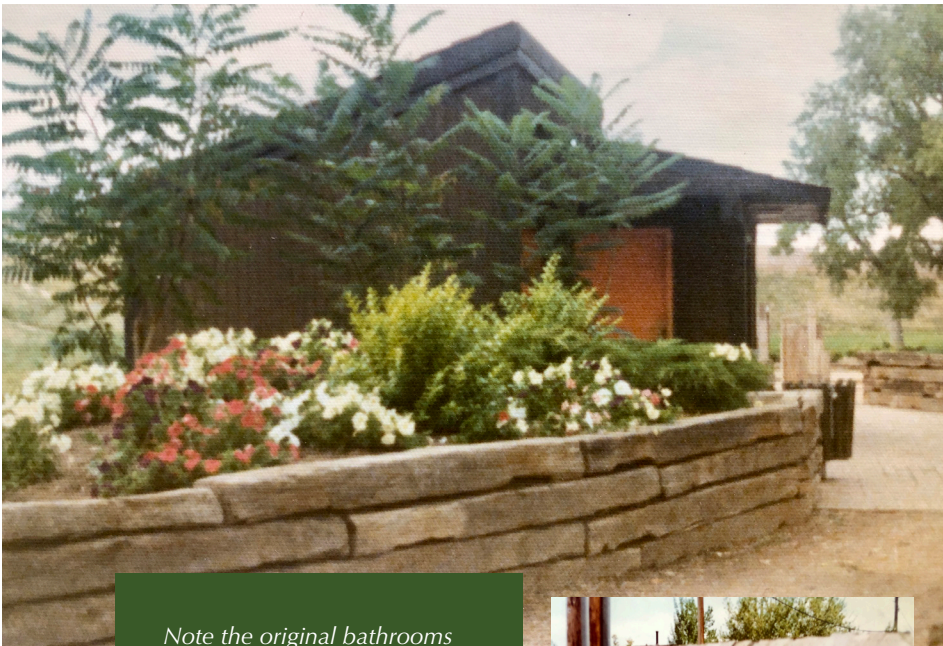
However, the entrances and Cherry Knolls Park didn't always look as they do now. This article features are historical photos from nearly 50 years ago – taken in 1973 and 1976 and shared by original Cherry Knolls resident Millie Fitzpatrick – of the Cherry Knolls entrances and Cherry Knolls Park, including projects by the Garden Club.

*According to notes accompanying the photos, "The Club was responsible for the original planting" at the entrances. They were primarily cactus, yucca, and other desert plants, as "the lack of water was a consideration in what was planted."*

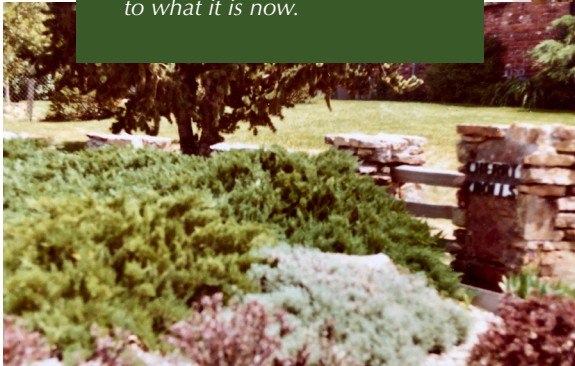


*Can anyone identify the four women in a June 1973 picture who are planting a tree at Cherry Knolls Park?*





Note the original bathrooms and retaining walls at Cherry Knolls Park, and how sparse the vegetation was compared to what it is now.



The Cherry Knolls Garden Club continues to be active, doing entrance weeding, watering, trimming and spring and fall clean-up. The Club notes on its web page: "We also enjoy outings to garden related events, classes, notable garden tours, as well as visiting each other's gardens for new and fun ideas in landscaping."

The Garden Club has many opportunities for volunteers: "There are one-time opportunities such as spring or fall clean-up, or partnering with another member to tidy up the garden. You might also consider being a Garden Club rep at the CKIA meetings or writing a gardening related article for the CKIA Newsletter.

The west side of the entrance is watered by hand, so partnering with a member to help water would be great. There are many one-time or short-term opportunities!"

Knowledge of gardening is not a prerequisite to join the Garden Club. "We're all on a learning curve with gardening in Colorado. Join us for the garden tours or a class and put what you've learned into action in your own garden and at the Elizabeth entrance. The Team members are always looking for CK residents to partner with them in keeping the garden beautiful." Contact Deb at ckgardenteam@gmail.com to volunteer or for more information.

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**Jerome Biffle**  
Biffle won the gold medal in the 1952 Olympic Games at Helsinki, Finland in the long jump competition. He was the first track star to be inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.

# Cherry Knolls Improvement Association

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## Cherry Knolls 2021 YEAR-END STATS

Avg. Price: Ranch  
+13% YOY

**\$642k**

Avg. Price: Two-Story  
+28.5% YOY

**\$762k**

Avg. Price: Tri-Level  
+9.5% YOY

**\$656k**



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