



# FROM TIME TO TIME

*A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society*  
*Honoring our past – Celebrating our future*

April-June  
Volume 13, Issue 2

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## COMMERCE CITY LEGENDARY LOCALS

### PROGRAM

Do you know of a Commerce City Legendary Local? We want to know who they are!



A Commerce City Legendary Local may be identified by the following...

Remarkable  
Extra Ordinary  
Well-Known

Distinctive accomplishments for  
Leaves an unforgettable impression  
Has done things to make Commerce City a better place  
Made contributions of time and talent to the City  
Has profoundly and positively affected the history for Commerce City  
Touched lives in Commerce City  
Finding your role or calling and following it

**Nominate your Legendary Local by visiting the museum!**

### **April-June Legendary Locals**

**(Dominick Moreno, Ben Martinez Sr., Sean Ford, Rene' Bullock)**

### **July-September Legendary Locals**

**(Maria Zubia, Curt Holland, Jim Deden, Esther Hall)**

# COMMERCE CITY MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



The annual Commerce City Memorial Day Parade returned from a two-year pandemic hiatus on **Monday, May 30 at 9:30 a.m.** This parade started in 1966. Councilman Frank Nakagawa was instrumental in getting this parade started, which has grown into Colorado's largest Memorial Day Parade bringing thousands of people to the heart of the city each year to gather along the 1.5-mile route.

## Meet the 2022 parade Grand Marshals

**Barry Reece, U.S. Army  
1966-1972**

Barry Reece was born in Denver in 1946 and has lived his entire life here in the metro area, outside of the time he spent away with the U.S. Army. He graduated from East High School and was a student at Metro State when American involvement in Vietnam started ramping up. He chose to enlist in the Army and left for boot camp at Fort Bliss, Texas in November 1966.

Reece was transferred to Fort Eustis, Va. on a Transportation MOS (Military Occupational Specialty), where he learned to drive a forklift and semi-truck in convoys, inspect loads for safety, and identify signs of tampering prior to loading and unloading. He was then stationed in Germany until 1968, when his 506th Transportation Division shipped out for Vietnam.

From 1968 to '69, Barry's unit was stationed at Phu Cat Air Base near the South Vietnamese city of Qui Nhon. Throughout his 18-month combat tour, the 506th was attached to a unit of Korean infantry soldiers known as the Republic of Korea 5th Tiger Division. Despite the terrible situations he witnessed, he maintains that he was proud to serve there and the work he and his fellow soldiers did to help the local Vietnamese population.

Reece came home in November 1969 and was honorably discharged from the Army in 1972. He moved to Commerce City upon his return from Vietnam and has lived here and attended the Memorial Day Parade every year since. He spent 27 years as a driver for Montgomery Elevator Company before spending his last three working years as a custodian in the Adams 14 School District.



In his military service, Barry was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Service Medal among other commendations. In 2010, he was awarded a Military Appreciation Certificate from Lowry Air Force Base for participating in a reading of the names of POW/MIA service members from current and past wars at Lowry Air Force Base.

**Shawn Moss, U.S. Navy and U.S. Army  
1994-2014**

Shawn Moss spent 18 years in two different branches of the Armed Forces, serving in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of the U.S. Army. However Moss originally spent four years in the U.S. Navy, enlisting in 1994 after graduating high school in Limon. He served as a Damage Control Petty Officer Third Class on the USS Duluth (LPD-6), an amphibious assault ship.

After exiting the Navy in 1998, Shawn met Tiffany, a lifelong Commerce City resident who would become his wife. The couple started their family in Commerce City, but the events of September 11, 2001 led Shawn to resume his military service. He joined the Colorado Army National Guard and soon after requested a transfer to active duty.

Moss became a 42A Human Resources Specialist with the rank of Sergeant in the Army at Fort Bliss, Texas. He then deployed to Mosul, Iraq for a 15-month combat tour in 2006 with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant during the tour and was later injured in vehicle born IED incident that left him with a traumatic brain injury (which was not discovered until much later).

Following his combat tour, Shawn became a drill sergeant at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and then achieved the rank of E7 Sergeant First Class back at Fort Bliss in 2012. He was medically retired in 2014 due to the effects of various physical injuries and PTSD over 18 years of serving his country. Since coming home to Commerce City to resume life with Tiffany and his six children, Moss has served the community as the construction trades teacher at Adams City High School for the past six years.

Shawn's commendations include two National Defense Service Medals, Combat Action Badge, Meritorious Service Medal, and multiple Army Commendation and Achievement Medals.

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

*CCHS History Class at Holly Park Friday August 19, 2022*

*CCHS Membership Meeting Saturday September 10 at noon*

*Central City Fundraiser Sunday September 11, 2022*

*CCHS Museum Anniversary Reception Saturday September 17, 2022*

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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT...

## Julie Hohn



I am Julie (Emerson) Hohn and a proud member of the Commerce City Historical Society. My Mom and I joined many years ago and are grateful for the opportunity to preserve some of our family's Johnson and Lindvall history from the Commerce City area since our ancestors were some of the earliest settlers in this area. My great grandmother immigrated from Sweden to this area and purchased land on 56th Avenue in 1899. Several of her siblings also immigrated to this area and were within walking distance of each other's homes located not far from the current day Walmart. She later married, and they operated a dairy farm. My grandparents also operated a dairy farm in Commerce City for many years and my uncle operated an alignment shop. We are fortunate that my grandmother and the Lindvall family saved a lot of old pictures and memorabilia that we have been able to display in the CCHS Museum. We also have a strong connection with the schools in this area. My grandmother attended high school at Union High School in Commerce City until she had to quit to help out with the family farm. In those days, she would often ride her horse to school. Her brother graduated in the class of 1924. The school was later renamed Adams City High School where my dad ('52), my mom ('50) and my mom's two brothers graduated from Adams City High School ('43 and '56). My husband and I both graduated in the class of 1976, and my sisters were in the class of 1979 and 1982. We are proud of our early roots in this area

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## MUSEUM INFORMATION

**Phone:** 303-288-2590 **Website:** [cchistoric.com](http://cchistoric.com) **Email:** [cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)  
[www.cchistoric.com](http://www.cchistoric.com)



## **Submissions for Newsletter**

All submissions are welcome, including obituaries. Send submissions to Debra Bullock (photos or stories).

[cchistoricalsciety@yahoo.com](mailto:cchistoricalsciety@yahoo.com), 303-946-3426

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### **FROM TIME-TO-TIME NEWSLETTER-OUR HISTORY HAS NO BOUNDARIES**

A quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society, 6505 E. 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Esther Hall, President, 303-249-1930

Pam Meier, Vice President, 303-901-7486

Debra Bullock, Secretary/Treasurer, 303-946-3426

Sheila Harris, Membership, 720-939-0582

Marilyn Godfrey, 719-651-5110

## **WELCOME VISITORS**

**We are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday  
from 10 am – 2 pm**

Thank you for coming, however, please be mindful of the spreading of COVID-19. Please exercise social distancing among others when entering the facility.

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CCHS Board welcomes the Chamber partnership. The Chamber will share office space with the historical society on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10-2pm.



# Did you know...

Did you know...Commerce city is 70 years old!



COMMERCE CITY

ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

SATURDAY SEPT 10

2PM-6PM

PIONEER PARK

5950 HOLLY ST.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

FOOD TRUCKS

LIVE MUSIC

HISTORY BOOTHS

Check out our website for our new updates...

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

# Amy Castillo and Family Celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Amy (Ambrosia) Suazo was born to Daniel and Santos Suazo on June 5, 1922 in Rociado, New Mexico. She grew up in New Mexico and Arizona and moved to Longmont, Colorado in 1951. In 1956 they bought a home and moved to Commerce City, Colorado. She still lives in the home with one of her daughters. Amy and Felipe had 6 children, 8 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

Amy enjoyed working as a dietitian at Mercy Hospital and Central Elementary School and enjoyed cooking. She loves visiting with family, music – especially Mariachi music and movie musicals. Amy is delighted and astounded to have reached her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

**Happy Birthday Amy from the Commerce City Historical Society!!!!**







# CCHS Charter Members...

Joy Bishop	Gary Drotar	Dustin McIntyre
Hester Bonnell	Reba Drotar	Loretta Petty
Debra Bullock	Samantha Ford	Don Sater
Rene' Bullock	Sean Ford	JoAnn Stevenson
Thelma Cole	Esther Hall	Dick Stevenson
Cindy Comstock	Bob Hutchings	Janet Union
Gary Comstock	Dorothy Hutchings	Norm Union
Kristi Douglas	Gene Leffel	June Younger
Steve Douglas	David Lutter	Troy Younger

**History has no boundaries-Come celebrate yours!**

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## **The Commerce City Historical Society is cleaning out files and memorabilia**



Susan Carabajal - member of the CCHS helps in the museum office to go through all of the historical files. We will be selling items that we have accumulated that we no longer have room for or items that do not represent the Commerce City history timeline and this way history buffs can enjoy some old memorabilia from us too!

Watch for our sale items. We will be having sales and selling items on social media throughout the summer.

## **COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY REMOTE DISPLAYS AROUND TOWN...**

**Wells Fargo Bank – 6025 Parkway  
Key Bank – 6565 E. 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue**

**Hi-Lo Check Cashing – 7280 Monaco Street  
South Adams County Fire Department Headquarters –  
6050 Syracuse Street**

**Bison Ridge Recreation Center – 13905 East 112<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue**

**Eagle Pointe Recreation  
Center – 6060 Parkway  
Drive**

**Commerce City Civic  
Center – 7887 East 60<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue**



**Fire Department Headquarters Display**



# CCHS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

History is filled with a wide range of voices and lived experiences. We promise to openly address historic disparities, encourage healthy debate, and to include voices not previously acknowledged or known.

The CCHS recognizes that the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion are integral to our mission and to ensuring the well-being of our membership and the community we serve. We therefore embrace these values in the work we do on a daily basis to collect and communicate materials and resources that foster historical knowledge.

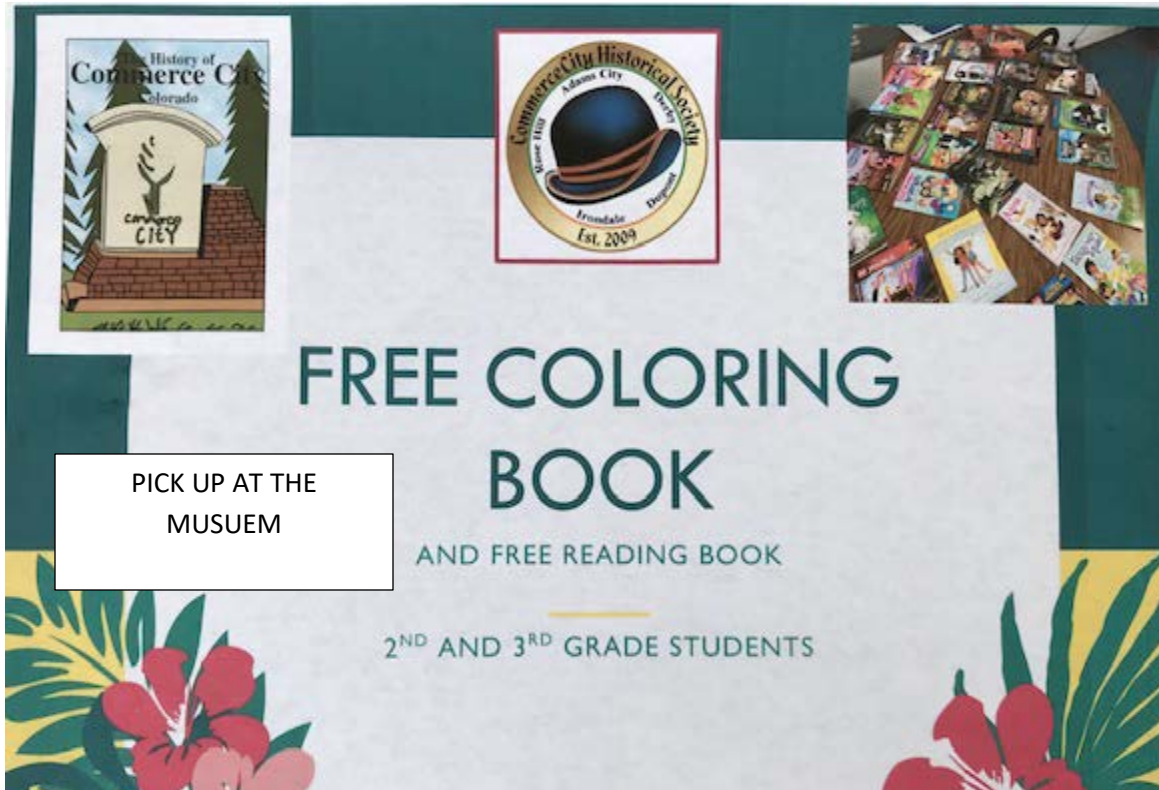
We are committed to the preservation of a collective history of the people of Commerce City. We are guided by the belief that an inclusive interpretation of the past must uphold historical truths, must encompass a wide range of voices and lived experiences, and must not suppress information that may make some uncomfortable.

Diversity, inclusion, and equal access are fundamental principles of the CCHS. Therefore, our current collections are freely available to all and we encourage everyone to share their observations, interpretations, and ideas among many audiences.

Because of our commitment to a full presentation of the historical record, we aim to be inclusive, open, and fair in all that we do. Toward these ends, we practice and encourage transparent communication in all interactions. We continue to seek, engage, and involve people of all backgrounds as we foster a culture of respect, openness, learning, integrity, and honesty.

*As the CCHS endeavors to make the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion a cornerstone of our daily activities and long-term vision, and we acknowledge that this is an ongoing process.*

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees on July 12, 2022.*



## OUT AND ABOUT

### New salon in Commerce City

Rosa Guzman and Dominique Gonzales have opened a new nail/hair salon in Commerce City located at East 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue next to El Jardin.

### Water Dept board election May 3, 2022

William Frew

Rebecca Toczylowski

Rene' Bullock





## Fire Dept board election May 3, 2022

Ernie Anderson

Debra Bullock

Sam Gillan



## COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

Saturday June 4, 2022, at the museum...



The 3 Divas DeeJay Johnson, Marla Downer, and Karen Osburn



Bob Briggs



Leo Everett



Debra Bullock and DeeJay Johnson

## CCHS APPRECIATES OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS...

### MAGNOLIA ENTERPRISES

Harlow Leeper, Owner  
7290 Magnolia Street

### Commerce City Chamber of Commerce



### Hi-Lo Employees Corporation



7887 East 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Commerce City, CO 80022  
303-289-3761

### Mail Xpress LLC



Phil & Wendy Wilson

### STATE FARM INSURANCE



Eddie Olivas



# ADAMS 14 EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Dale Mingilton



Vern Trujillo  
Mary Ann Vielma  
Gloria Santistevan  
Victoria Medina  
Xavier McDonald  
Allen & Thomas Family



## THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

APRIL-JUNE 2022

Loretta Petty

Norm Union

Donna Bailey

Dami Bullock

Jim Deden

Robert Gehler

Dolores Harr

Ken & Carol Kenworthy

Hi-Lo Employees Corp

State Farm Insurance

Terry Coon

Genise Landers

# Member & Special Friends Obituaries...

## RUDY WILLIS

**February 24, 1954-June 7, 2022**

Rudolph “Rudy” Willis passed away peacefully after a long illness in the early morning of June 7, 2022 at the age of 68. Rudy is predeceased by his father, Rollo Willis and Mother, Irene Willis. Rudy is survived by his wife and love of his life for 50 years, Gwen Willis of Firestone, CO. They were married May 2, 1977. Rudy is lovingly remembered by his three sons and daughter-in-laws; Adam and Stephanie Willis, Justin and Lindsay Willis, and Corey and Page Willis. His sweet grandbabies, Mason Willis, Ethan Austin, Violet Willis, Ava Willis, Rollo Willis, and Chance Willis will forever hold their “pops” in their hearts. He is also survived by brothers and sister-in-laws; Gary and Susan Willis and Barry and Vicki Willis.



Rudy spent the majority of his childhood in Commerce City and had special memories at his parent’s farm in Anton, Colorado. It was in Commerce City, at the age of 16 that he met his sweetheart, Gwen.

Rudy is a 1972 graduate of Adams City High School where he was an accomplished athlete lettering in three varsity sports including basketball, baseball, and tennis. His passion for the game of baseball and fastpitch softball in particular, is where his positive attitude, inspirational advice, and encouraging words influenced so many.

After High School Rudy joined the Asbestos Workers Local 28 Apprenticeship and continued in this trade for approximately 10 years. Following his work with Local 28, Rudy found a passion for sales in the screen printing and apparel industry. This passion eventually led to him opening Branded Image Apparel with his family which is operated to this day by his sons, Adam and Corey and daughter-in-law, Stephanie.

For those that knew Rudy, knew of his infectious smile and zest for life. When he wasn’t loving on his family, whom he cherished so much, Rudy could be found jamming out to some good music, or laying some beats down on his drum set.

There was a Celebration of Life for Rudy with family and close friends by invitation only.





## SCOTT JAQUITH

**March 28, 1956-April 24, 2022**

Scott Alan Jaquith passed away on Sunday, April 24, 2022, in Denver Colorado at the age of 66, a life-long resident of Commerce City, Colorado.

Scott was born the second child of Philip and Doyne Jaquith on March 28, 1956 at St. Joseph's hospital in Denver, Colorado. During his high school years Scott trained with his father in construction. After graduating from Adams City High School in 1974, Scott entered the Navy. After the Navy, Scott lived in Copague, New York working in a family pizza business of one of his Navy buddies. Scott returned to Commerce City in the early 1980's and resumed working with his father in the construction trade. He

became a master craftsman in linoleum, tile and Formica work. In 2000, Scott was elected as a Councilman to the Commerce City Council and served for eight years. He loved the deep connections that he found in Commerce City, and he was committed to community in everything that he did. In 2004 he joined the Deck Super Store, designing decks and selling composite decking materials where he worked through the end of his life. Scott is survived by his sister, Sandra Jaquith of Lafayette, Colorado; his brother Steven Jaquith and sister-in-law, Barbara Jaquith of Aurora, Colorado; and two nieces and a nephew.

Services were held for Scott on Saturday May 21, 2022, at the Goode Centennial United Methodist Church.

# FRANCINE NATION

## September 1, 1931-April 13, 2022

Francine Teresa Menard was born on September 1st, 1931 in Jefferson South Dakota to Armand & Gertrude Lamoreaux/Menard.

She was the third born and eldest daughter of 10 siblings in which 4 brothers have preceded her in death.

Armand Menard-Iowa, Wayne Menard-California (Deceased), Melvin Menard-Colorado, Sally Menard/Thompson-California, Francis Menard-California (Deceased), Twins, Helene Menard/Jones-California & Duane Menard-California (Deceased), Carol Menard/Stepps-California, and Andy Paul Menard-California (Deceased).



Francine and her siblings all attended Catholic School and grew up in the Catholic faith and Francine remained a devout Catholic throughout her life.

She met Alfred Nation in Sioux City Iowa and they married on August 11th, 1951. They chose just a few years later to move and raise their family in Commerce City, Colorado where she resided with her husband Alfred until his passing, which was not too long after their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Francine remained in her home in Commerce City until her passing.

Francine and Alfred had 8 Children, 24 Grandchildren, 31 Great Grandchildren and 15 Great, Great, Grandchildren.

Francine worked throughout her life and her last place of employment was El Jardin Mexican Restaurant in Commerce City where she worked as a waitress from 1982 until 2002 when she retired at age 70.

She was preceded in death by her Husband, Alfred Allen Nation, and two children David Russell Nation and Sally Ann Morgan/Nation.

She is also survived by children, Wayne Nation & Wife Darlene, Donna Nation/Reidenbach & Husband Chuck, Alfred (Budgie) Nation & Wife Liz, Connie Nation/Robb & Husband Scott, Laura (Lori) Nation/Martinez & Husband Ben, Francis (Sass) Nation & Wife Jennifer, James Morgan Husband of Sally Nation/Morgan.

Francine lived her life to the very fullest up to her passing. She will be remembered always as the young-looking lady full of energy and the life of the party, who left you with a smile and

laughter with her quick wit, humor, action, and words.

She was a true family leader to us all and welcomed all into her home with open arms. She represented a true light of life with her honesty, kindness, integrity, forgiveness, patience, strength, and most of all her ability to show and teach us to always be Family Strong.

The final service for Francine, which was held on Friday April 29th, 2022 at St. Augustine Church 178 South 6th Ave. Brighton CO 80601.



## MARY SPECHT

**August 20, 1926-June 22, 2022**

Mary was born in Winter Park Colorado on August 20, 1926. She was raised in Frazer Colorado. She met Ed on the steps of the little church there. They were married on September 7, 1943, and were married for almost 55 years.

Mary is preceded in death by her husband Ed, Her son Pat, and her son in law Rich. She is survived by her son Mike, daughter Nancy, daughter Cathy (Bob). Six grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Her family meant everything to her. She loved family gatherings just being with her kids and grandchildren. She was a caring and loving Wife, Mom, Grandmother and Aunt.


Her second family was her church, and she spent many years dedicating her time in numerous activities at the church. She had many great friends in the church. Mary was one of the most caring, loving ladies there was. She never hesitated to help anyone out that needed it. She will be truly missed. Mary Louise Specht, age 95, of Commerce City, Colorado passed away on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. Mary was born August 20, 1926.

A memorial service for Mary was held Saturday, July 16, 2022, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 6770 Monaco Street, Commerce City, CO 80022.

# Membership Application

## Commerce City Historical Society

### Application for Membership

	<p><b>NAME:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Address:</b> _____          _____</p> <p><b>Phone Number:</b> _____ <b>home</b> _____ <b>cell</b> _____</p> <p><b>E-Mail</b> _____</p> <p><b>Business Name</b> _____</p>
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### Annual Dues

***Please make checks payable to: Commerce City Historical Society,  
 6505 E. 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado 80022***

Individual	\$10.00	_____ (per year)
Family	\$25.00	_____ (per year)
Memorial	\$50.00	_____ (per year)
Business/Corporation	\$100.00	_____ (per year)
Life Membership	\$500.00	_____ (one time)
Senior Lifetime Membership (Age 65 Plus)	\$250.00	_____ (one time)

Are you a Veteran? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ What Branch? \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PAID \_\_\_\_\_

*How would you like to be notified of meetings and the Newsletter?*

*Email      Phone      Mail*

For questions, please call the museum office 303-288-2590

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Phone Calls \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work at the Museum \_\_\_\_\_

Working at Events \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moving Items \_\_\_\_\_