



FROM TIME TO TIME

A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

JULY-SEPT 2023

Volume 14, Issue 3

Honoring Our Past – Celebrating Our Future

AUGUST 9, 2023 DOTTIE BAKKE HOUSE PRESERVATION FUNDRAISING EVENT

We gathered on August 9 to raise money for the Dottie Bakke House Preservation Project. Dafna Jenet Michaelson, Steve Odorisio, Debra Bullock and Teri McDonald spoke about the importance of having Historic Preservation and saving places projects in Commerce City.



SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

CCHS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Each year in September we have our annual museum celebration. Our members enjoy the day looking at our new displays and being able to visit with each other.



Rene' Bullock, Barb McMillan, Jim Kinghorn, Norm Union, and Jennifer Allen Thomas



Jim Deden, Larry Woog, Norm Union and Rene' Bullock

LEGENDARY LOCALS JULY-SEPTEMBER...



Lanny Cook, Dan Clark, Rudy Bustos
and Larry Lobato Jr.

Stop by the museum to read their
bios.

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



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT...

Tegan & Tevyn Bullock...

Tegan and Tevyn Bullock frequently volunteer at the museum cleaning and helping with displays.



UPCOMING EVENTS...

Saturday December 16, 2023

Christmas Membership Meeting at noon at the museum

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Phone: 303-288-2590 Website: www.cchistoric.com

Email: cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Address: 6505 East 60th Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022

FOR THE NEWSLETTER

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

SEND TO: cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com, or call 303-288-2590

BOARD MEMBERS

Debra Bullock Barb McMillan Sheila Harris Candy Machuga Michelle Claymore



MEET BOARD MEMBER MICHELLE CLAYMORE, CEcd

Michelle Claymore is a Certified Economic Development professional with nearly 30 years of experience. She worked for the City of Commerce City as Economic Development Director for nine years. Prior to working for the city, Ms. Claymore served as Vice President of the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation and worked for the Denver Chamber of Commerce. During her career, she worked on special projects that included the bid to bring the Colorado Rockies to town as an expansion team. She has also worked with many companies on business expansions and/or relocations.

Michelle is a past chair for the Economic Development Council of Colorado and founder and Course Director for the nationally accredited Colorado Basic Economic Development Course. She is a Colorado native and a graduate of Colorado State University.

WELCOME VISITORS

**We are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday
from 10 am – 2 pm
Tuesday and Thursday by appointment!**

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!



Help us save this house and move our museum in the future. Additional donations will help us with operational costs while we secure large funding opportunities to acquire the Dottie Bakke house. Our operating costs can include the following... paying internet, rent, utilities, storage costs for our memorabilia and funding for Collections management, providing new displays and cash match for grants. **GOAL 18,000.00 BY DECEMBER 2023!!!**

\$50.00_____

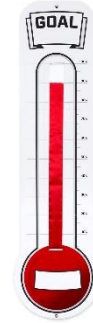
\$100.00_____

\$250.00_____

\$500.00_____

\$1000.00_____

Other_____



We have raised \$15,000 Jan-October, 2023

Please mail donation to: **Commerce City Historical Society**
6505 East 60th Avenue
Commerce City, CO 80022

MEMBER PROFILE – MEET 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.

OUT & ABOUT IN COMMERCE CITY...

Eason Garage Demolition-July 20, 2023

In July of 2023 the Eason garage (a long-time business in Commerce City) was sold and demolished. The property was purchased by Rocky Mountain Recycling. This building was located at 6425 Brighton Blvd.



Updated Mural at Hi-Lo Check Cashing-September 2023

The *Wall of Women* mural received a new paint touch up by artist Iris Scadden. The mural features prominent local women including Marge Christiansen, Lily Shin, Hattie Farris and Angela Ramirez. The city of Commerce City and Hi-Lo Check cashing financially made it possible for this mural to be updated.



National Night Out – August 1, 2023

The annual celebration brings neighborhoods together for block parties and organized activities with members of the Commerce City Police Department and other local first responders. The South Adams County Water & Sanitation District held a celebration.

CCHS Rummage Sale – August 11, 12, 2023



Empowerment Apartments Open House at Greyhound Park August 24, 2023

The empowerment apartments at the Greyhound Park will help individuals build healthier lives and empower participants to make a healthy and safe new start through responsive holistic public health services.



IGo Realty Groundbreaking new Office Building-August 24, 2023



Arlene Castro with local business women celebrate her groundbreaking for her new office building that will be located at Idalia & 104th Avenue. She has been in real estate since 1996 and moved to Commerce City in 2004.



Derby Sign Installed

In 2018 a group of residents selected signage for the Derby area. This is the first one to be installed at the corner of 72nd Avenue and Highway 2.



Carolyn Keith Retirement – August 31, 2023

On August 31, 2023 we said goodbye to Carolyn Keith as the Parks, Recreation and Golf Director. Carolyn served the city for over 20 years and is the longest standing director in this position.



Alan Trudell Retirement-September 2023



Public Works Construction Inspector Alan Trudell retired in September after 42 years of service with the city. The Commerce City native started in Parks and Recreation maintenance in 1981, transitioning to Public Works street maintenance in 1990 and then becoming a construction inspector in 2003. Alan was a reliable, friendly, and hard-working team member for everyone he interacted with, and we want to thank him for four decades of service and congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement!

SACFD Fire Department - Spaghetti Dinner – Sept 9, 2023

Rene' Bullock and Melissa Rossback selling spaghetti dinner tickets and directing the traffic on September 9, 2023 at fire station 3.



Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge Moonlight Gala September 23, 2023

Another successful Moonlight Gala fundraiser for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge Friends group.



CCHS APPRECIATES OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS...

MAGNOLIA ENTERPRISES

Harlow Leeper, Owner
7290 Magnolia Street

Commerce City Chamber of Commerce



Hi-Lo Employees Corporation



7887 East 60th Avenue
Commerce City, CO 80022
303-289-3761

Mail Xpress LLC



Phil & Wendy Wilson

STATE FARM INSURANCE



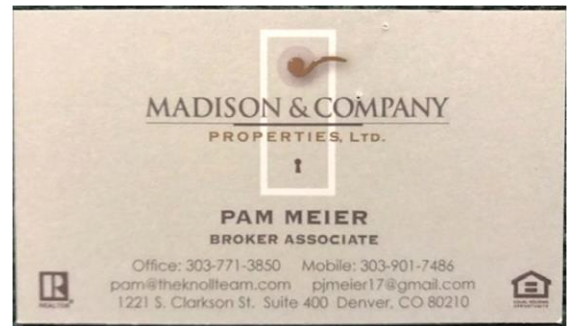
Eddie Olivas



ADAMS 14 EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Dale Mingilton



INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS:

Barbara McMillan
Roger Barnes
Rene' & Debra Bullock
David Busby
Eddie Olivas
Claudia Barnes
Ted Kimmis
Trudy Smith
Laura Wells
Lynn Bradley



THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023

Jim Deden
Ken Kenworthy
Carol Kenworthy
Donna Jamison
Lynn Bradley
Donna Bailey
Valerie Medina
Judy Tunis
Laura Wells
Ted Kimmes
Trudy Smith
Sean & Samantha Ford
Dave & Kris Chambers
Bonnie Campbell
Eddie Olivas
Cynthia Johnson
Ann Emerson
Roger & Charlotte Barnes
David & Charlene Busby

MEMBER & SPECIAL FRIENDS OBITUARIES...

Robert G. Hutchings

April 3, 1930 -August 8, 2023



Bob is survived by his daughter Barbara (Jack) Nylin; son Carl (Debbie) Hutchings; grandchildren David (Andrea) Hutchings; Laura Hutchings; Matthew (Carissa) Nylin; Joanna (Stephen) Lavallee; great-grandchildren Kavan, Keeley, and twins Kairi and Emiko Hutchings; Jack and Lily Nylin; Ella Leveille; Lila and Triton Lavallee.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Dorothy, and sister Gloria Huber. Bob was born on April 3, 1930, to parents Gordon and Arline Hutchings. Bob lived in the family home for 93 years with the exception of his years of service in the U.S. Air Force.

He met Dorothy in Estes Park in 1944, the summer before their freshman year of high school and enjoyed 69 years of marriage. Bob (and Dorothy) continued the family trout farm that his father started in 1929, until 1981. This work stocked many lakes around the Rocky Mountain region and provided trout for the Brown Palace Hotel.

Bob was very involved in the South Adams County Volunteer Fire Department. He served as a volunteer fireman from 1950-1984. During this time, he held various positions including Fire Chief. He was also elected to the South Adams Fire Protection District Board from 1966-1993. He served in the executive leadership of the Colorado State Fireman's Association beginning in 1970 and ending in 1976 as president. He was appointed by the Governor of Colorado to serve on the Fire and Police Pension Association Board from 1980 to 1986. He served in leadership of numerous other associations and boards, received many awards, and had a tremendous impact on the firefighting community. In his later years he served as the unofficial historian of the South Adams County Fire Department.

Bob was an avid sports fan all his life. He especially loved the Broncos and CU football and shared his love of those games with family and friends. In the 1980's Bob and Dorothy began traveling and found a passion for experiencing new places and they

visited all 50 states together. Bob made friends wherever he went. His friendly spirit led to many lifelong friends. He was making new friends even in his final days.

Bob came to faith in Jesus later in life (75). His faith in Jesus had a profound impact on him. He was very involved in the churches he attended. He grew in his personal relationship with Jesus and looked forward to this day, being face to face with his savior.

Press “Joe” Roybal

August 8, 1935-July 12, 2023

Whether you knew my Umpa by Joe, Press, Mr. Roybal or Prax, he was a great man. If you know him by Press, you are our family and from His Hometown of the San Luis Valley. If you knew him by Joe, you're our Barbershop family and Aunt Lucy called him Prax. My Umpa went to be with the Lord. On July 12th, 2023 with his family by his side. Press was born August 8th, 1935 to Lisiada and Cornelio Roybal in San Luis, Colorado. Preceded in death by his baby sister, Virginia and brother Ernie Roybal. With us here today is his brother Leroy Roybal, sister Genevieve Abeyta and brother Johnny and Karen Roybal.



Our Press was a devoted Christian He dedicated his life to the Lord Jesus Christ and his family. You could always catch Press with a Rosary in hand and if he said he would pray for you he did. Press enlisted, served, and is a Veteran of the United States Army. He was proud to serve his country. August 14th, 1960 he married Lilly Manzanares at 7 AM. What were they thinking!! It worked and they shared 62+ years together. My Grandma took her vows seriously when she said I do. She did in sickness and in health. They enjoyed life to the fullest. Our press enjoyed going to church, yard Work, playing cards, fishing and was an avid runner. Always enjoyed putting up Christmas lights and taking Lilly to the movies. He Barbered for 50 years in Commerce City. He so enjoyed his job. His daughter, Janette was blessed to have him for 59 years.

Mom, his love for you was unconditional. They traveled a lot to the Grand Canyon, Texas, Georgia, New Orleans, Washington DC, Hawaii, Vegas & Tennessee, but The Valley was the most memorable trips. We called it God's Country. Then on July 4th, 1994 baby Katie arrived. Press told my mom if you want me there you better have her on a Sunday or Monday. Because those are my days off so sure enough, Katie was

born on a Monday. She is his only grandchild. They say she changed his life and made him soft. My Umpa taught me many things. Most important Was how to Pray, Then to ride a bike and fish. He even had changed fishing in streams to fishing in lakes so it was safer for me now don't that sound like the best Grandpa ever?! He is my best friend I love you To The Moon & Back Umpa!!!! After his accident in 2012 life changed for us, but my Press made the most of it with God as his guide. By the grace of God He started to walk some here and there. He Prayed everyday, and God gave him strength. He rigged all his tools so he could use them from his power chair because there was still work to be done and he was back in business. Thank you, Jesus, for the time you lent Press to us!

We would like to thank everyone for all you have done for our family. To all my Aunt's & Uncle's, Linda and Shauna for everything you have done Words can't express, Alex Munoz and his family for all the food, and to this church community. Father Dan, for always being with us at the hospitals. Deacon Ruben for everything you did for my grandparents. Femia & Marla for the use of the Van that transported my Grandpa around. Debra Bullock for inviting him to his hall of fame, also known as the Historical Society in Commerce City. My Grandma's Prayer warriors Eva Maes, Bernadette and cousin Orlinda. Thank you Tina, for everything, for all the the food you took us to the house and to the hospital. Now look at all this extra weight You've put on me lol! To our poker family Adelmo, Josie, Victor, Frank Brown, Bella, Max and Leroy Solano Bless you for the therapy, Because at one point that was all my Grandpa could do for a while. Our Barbershop family! So many of you we love you all and thank you for everything! And last If you ever visited Press at the hospital, call him on the phone or even said a prayer for him! Thank you and God bless you from the bottom of out Hearts Love the Roybal's!

Jacobo M. Martinez Jr.

July 10, 1939-August 5, 2023

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Jacobo M. Martinez Jr. of Commerce City, Colorado, born in Trinidad, Colorado, who passed away on August 5, 2023, at the age of 84, leaving to mourn family and friends. Family and friends are welcome to leave their condolences on this memorial page and share them with the family.

He was predeceased by : his wife Joann Martinez; and his children, Lupe Banuelos and Jacobo Martinez III. He is survived by : his children, Eric Martinez and Stella Lucero; his

brother Edward Martinez; his children-in-law, Louis Lucero, Samuel Banuelos and Andrea Martinez; his grandchildren, Maria Barraza (Eddie), Angelo Martinez, Lillian Medina (Mario), Ernesto Martinez, Sonya Banuelos, Alyssa Banuelos, Eric Martinez, Randy Martinez, Alexis Martinez and Jacob Martinez IV; and his great grandchildren, Krystal, Mario, Emmy, Raymond, Manuel, Julian, Anastasia, Armani, Cassandra, Hannah and Kalani.

A memorial service was held on Friday, August 18th 2023 at 11:00 AM at the Tabor Funeral Service Chapel (75 S 13th Ave, Brighton, CO 80601).



Janet Louise Keesey

**October 28,
1940 – September 20,
2023**

Janet Louise Keesey, a cherished Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother, passed away peacefully on September 20, 2023, at the age of 82. She was a pillar of strength and love within her family, leaving behind a legacy of cherished memories. Her unwavering love, selflessness, and nurturing spirit were the foundation upon which her

family thrived.

Born October 28, 1940, in her hometown of Redfield Iowa, Janet was a woman of unwavering devotion and loyalty. She married her high school sweetheart Nile, and together they made Colorado home. Janets love knew no bounds and she tirelessly supported and guided her family through every joy and challenge.

Janets love extended to her three children, Daniel (Lori), Tracy (Michael), Thomas, her grandchildren, Melissa (Shane), Amber (Jacob, Courtney (Clint), Amanda (Doug), Sara (Jeremiah) and her ten great- grandchildren who were the light of her life and brought immense joy into her world.

Janet is preceded in death by her loving husband Nile, her sons Daniel and Thomas and her great grandson Tyrian. While their absence was deeply felt, their memories continued to live on in Janet's heart.

Janet leaves behind her daughter Tracy, her five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Her legacy lives on through the values she instilled and the love she shared. Although her physical presence will be greatly missed her spirit will continue to guide and inspire her family for generations to come.

Professionally, Janet devoted her time and energy to the Recreation Center in Commerce City, Colorado where she made a positive impact on the lives of many. Her dedication and caring nature shined through the work she did, leaving a lasting impact on all those she encountered.

Outside of her professional life, she had a passion for life's simple pleasures. She loved the excitement and energy of Las Vegas and found great enjoyment in watching NASCAR.

Janet will forever be remembered as the loving matriarch and the glue that held the family together. May her spirit shine brightly, and her legacy endure in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her. May she rest in eternal peace.

A funeral service to honor Janet's life was held at Olinger Cemetery on September 30, 2023, at 3:00PM

Vi Vigil

September 11, 2029-July 13, 2023

Viola C. Vigil was born in Denver, Colorado on September 11, 1929. She was the 4th child of Alfred & Jill Romero. Vi married Richard M Vigil Sr. on January 31, 1949. They moved to Derby, Colorado in 1957, after they completed building their home on 54th Place. Viola always had a vision of owning a restaurant and she was a fantastic cook. In 1976 they opened the Encanto Restaurant located at 7055 E. 54th Place from 1976-1986. She created the recipes for the restaurant and was known for her red chili enchiladas casserole and scrumptious refried beans. In 1986, The property was then sold and they moved to another location.



They had 4 children (Jill Vigil-Scheck, Richard Vigil Jr., Jackie Vigil-Wilfong, and Diane Vigil Musick, 6 grandchildren (Yvette, Angelo, Tina, Kris, Tiffany, Destiny), 17 great grandchildren (Victoria, Aaron, Adam, Rebekah, Alyssa, Angelo III, Brynly, Gabriel, Daniel, Noelani, Taryn, Cameron, Kayle, Valerie, Richard, Zayliana, Zorian, and 10

great great grandchildren (Christian, Leighton, Blakley, Miles, Jonah, Adlie, Tristan, Aleya, Aubree, Warren).

During Vi's working career she worked for Wright McGill making fish tackle, Orbetronics manufacturing electric tub systems, and Power Regulators manufacturing master computer boards. Vi was very skillful at soldering.

Vi was a tremendous inspiration to her husband and they worked very well together on so many projects for Commerce City. She had a vivacious personality and was loved by many different generations. She was extremely patriotic! She loved supporting local businesses in Commerce City. After the passing of her husband Richard, Vi was elected to the city council in 1999. She served on council and was the first Hispanic Mayor Pro Tem from 1999-2003.

She retired in 2003 and for the next 20 years she started spending time with her daughters and travelling to various locations with them.

Her famous saying was "Living Life to the Fullest", she always told her family four things.

1. You need an identity.
2. You need to have a purpose and enjoy your calling in life.
3. You need to realize your potential. She saw the gift in each person and she would encourage and promote their gifts. She was a people person.
4. Each of us has a Destiny and you need to fulfill your vision and have faith.

Vi passed away at her daughter's home (Jacki Vigil Wilfong) in Ellenwood, Kansas on July 13, 2023. She was 93 years old.

BACK IN TIME...

The Commerce City Veteran's Memorial History:

The Commerce City, city park was built in 1971, at 6015 Forest Drive, next to City Hall. The Commerce City Recreation Center was built in 1987 (now Eagle Pointe Recreation Center). Right on the heels of the new recreation center was the idea to build a Veteran's Memorial. The Chairman of this project was Joe Reilly, President of the Commerce City Business & Professional Association and other local residents from the VFW Post and the American Legion Post. Money was raised through donations and fundraisers. One of the largest fund raiser was a Rocky Mountain Oyster and Ham Dinner with a country-western band. It was held at Our Lady Mother of the Church on January 30, 1988.

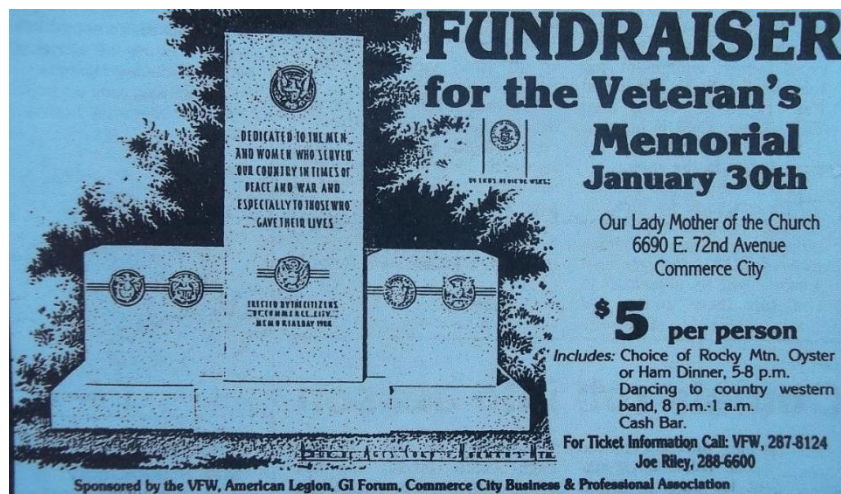
The monument is dedicated to the men and women who served in times of peace and war, and especially to those who gave their lives. The memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day 1988, following the annual Memorial Day Parade.





VETERAN'S MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

From left to right: Ray Lucero, G.I. Forum; Al Bronder, VFW Post 7386; Bob Van Meeter, VFW Post 7386; Frank Nakagawa, Americann Legion Post 151; Addie Viles, FW Post 7386 Auxiliary; Joe Reilly, Committee Chairman; Bobby Slocum, VFW Post 7386; Cyril Porvaznik, Committee Secretary; Buster Funk, FW Post 7386 Commander; John Yunko, Committee Treasurer; Time Medina an Ben Cordova not pictured.





In 2007 when the city hall moved to 7887 East 60th Avenue, city council members approved \$75,000 for the renovation of the deteriorating memorial. The design remained much the same, with a new feature honoring veterans with brick pavers that are put in the ramp walkway of the memorial. In 2010 the park was renamed Veteran's Memorial Park.



In August of 2020, city council celebrated the grand reopening of the newly renovated Veterans Memorial Park putting grass and walkways where 4 houses were located and purchased by the city. The 2.6-acre park site is home to the city's first all-inclusive playground. The site features a universally designed, sensory-rich environments for users of all ages and capabilities to enjoy. Amenities include:

- A nature play area and an all-inclusive playground
- ADA accessible features such as sidewalk ramps and picnic tables
- A labyrinth for reflection and meditation
- New picnic shelters and restroom

The \$3.2 million project was constructed by Designscapes Colorado, Inc. Designed by DHM Design, the new park features a bird theme inspired by the neighboring Eagle Pointe Recreation Center.



City Council-August 2020 reopening of Veterans' Memorial Park. Left to right; Oscar Madera, Mayor Ben Huseman, Nicole Frank, Jose Guardiola, Jennifer Allen Thomas, Susan Noble and City Manager Roger Tinklenberg in the back.


WHY JOIN THE COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY...

- To learn and understand about the history of the community in which you live.
- To help preserve the history in the community in which you live for future generations.
- Meet new people.
- Be involved with the community.
- Attend events sponsored by the historical society.
- Get involved helping the historical society educate people about the history.
- Volunteer opportunities to help preserve your history.
- Gain an appreciation for where you live.

Membership Application

Commerce City Historical Society

Application for Membership

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

***Please make checks payable to: Commerce City Historical Society,
 6505 E. 60th 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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Phone Calls _____
 Work at the Museum _____

Working at Events _____
 Moving Items _____