



FROM TIME TO TIME

A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

July-Sept 2021

Volume 12, Issue 3

CELEBRATING OUR MUSEUM

Every September we have our museum celebration and invite our members and the public to stop by and celebrate what we have done for the last year. We have new exhibits on display, we have food and drinks, and we get a chance to sit and visit with our community members.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT... Tom Schrah

Tom Schrah is a long-time Commerce City resident and a member of the Commerce City Historical Society. Tom moved to Commerce City 1991. He was born & raised in Denver. He currently works at Commerce City Collision after owning it for 35 years. He sold it to Robert Taylor in 2014 but he still works there. He and his wife Mary have 3 children, 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He is involved with the Rotary club of Commerce City. In his spare time, he loves to ride his motorcycle and restore old cars. Tom and Robert refurbished the dog track gates and we are grateful for this help to add another addition to our museum.



Tom and David



Tom Schrah and David Chambers



David Chambers, Tom Schrah and Ester Hall.

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

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Phone: 303-288-2590 **Website:** cchistoric.com **Email:** cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com
www.cchistoric.com

Submissions for Newsletter

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

cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com, 303-946-3426

FROM TIME-TO-TIME NEWSLETTER

A quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society, 6505 E. 60th 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

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

JoAnn Stevenson, Casey Hayes,

Reba Drotar, and Thelma Cole

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.

AROUND TOWN IN COMMERCE CITY!

July 15, Sneak preview for Alsup Elementary



Ramona Lewis,
Renee Lovato and
Maria Zubia,



Adams 14 School Board Members

The CCHS board attended the sneak preview of the new Alsup Elementary School. (Sheila Harris, Esther Hall and Debra Bullock.

July 19, Alsup Elementary Open House and Ribbon Cutting



David Rolla and the Alsup Principal (Dawn Menard) cut the ribbon for the new Alsup Elementary School.

August 21, Buffalo Run Golf Course 25th Anniversary



August 27, Rotary Golf Tournament



Lori Young, Janell Suelztz, KayLee Karey, Rene' Bullock, Heather LaCrue, and Dale Mingilton



Debra Bullock, Heather LaCrue and Maria Carabajal

Chamber members and Chamber board members attending the golf tournament.

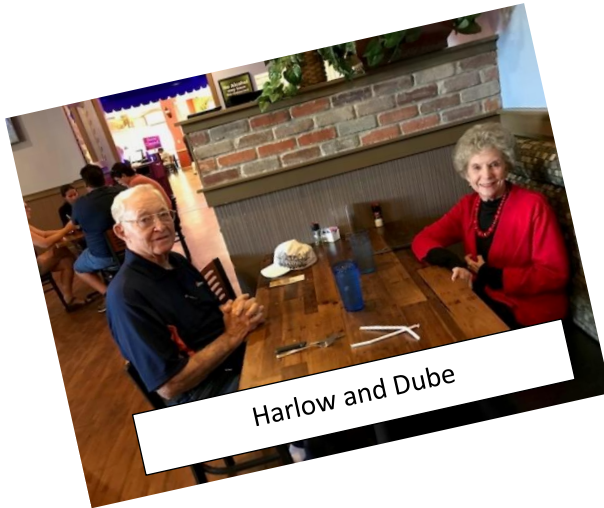
September 11, Fire Department Spaghetti Dinner



Patti Teter and Debra Bullock getting ready to serve for the spaghetti dinner.



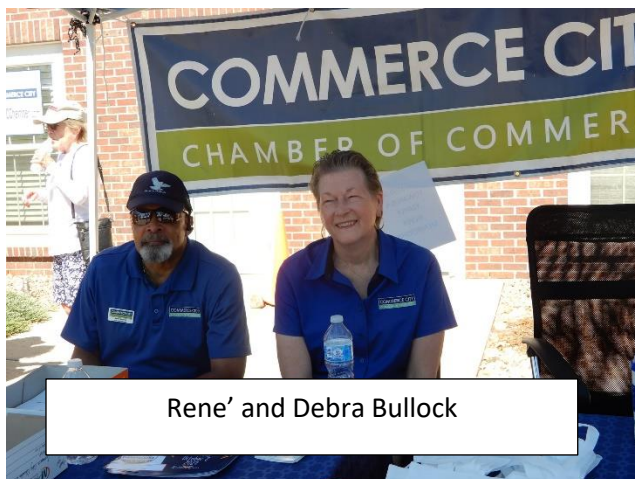
September 12, Central City



We had a great time going to the hills
On Sunday Sept 12, and we had some
Winners!



September 18, North Forest/Igo Realty Car Show



September 18, Refuge Moonlight Dinner



Sarah, Debra, Thelma, Rene' Esther and Sheila



Sean, Maria, Heather, Rene', Debra and Meghan

September 23, Chamber State of the City



Mayor Benjamin
Huseman



Rene' Bullock, Maria Gonzales, and Michelle
Claymore



Chief Bobby Noel, Fire Chief Kevin Vincel, Debra
Bullock, Maria Carabajal, Chief Ken Koger

October 1, STEAD School- L.C. Fulenwider Campus Open House

The STEAD school is opening its new campus in Commerce City. The high school focuses on agriculture and project-based learning.



It's a new school, with a new acronym.

STEAD stands for science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and systems design. The charter school in the Brighton 27-J school district is starting with just 9th graders but will eventually include all high school grades. Students will choose one of four pathways, but the agriculture piece will be a big focus.

Land: Cal Fulenwider, the owner of the land in and around what is now the Reunion community, knew the location for the STEAD school would be an ideal reflection and a testament of his grandfather's experience in farming and ranching and an important role in carrying forward the legacy of Colorado's agricultural heritage. For this reason, the Fulenwider family donated the 10-acre site in Reunion where the school will reside. Oakwood Homes are Co-Founders of the school.

Financing: With the school's initial financing in place, the STEAD Board will formally launch the "Stewardship Capital Campaign" in February 2021 with a goal of raising \$3.5 million over the next three to four years.

Architect: DLR Group

Construction: Saunders Construction, Denver-based



Debra and Rene'
Bullock

**THANK YOU RENEWING
MEMBERS**

JULY – SEPT 2021

Ramon Alvarado

David Baumgartner

Shelly Bonnell

Lynn Bradley

Bonnie Campbell

Ann Emerson

Margaret Hall

Julie Hohn

Jerry Johnson

Ted Kimmes

Wayne Maddox

Lynette Malloy

Janell Sultz

Laura Wells

Lela Winkler

Rick & Patti Teter

Mail Xpress

Cynthia Johnson

Casey & Marianne Hayes



Robyn Smith

Trudy Smith

Jose Guardiola Family

John Smith & Pamela Wyperd

Renee Lovato Family

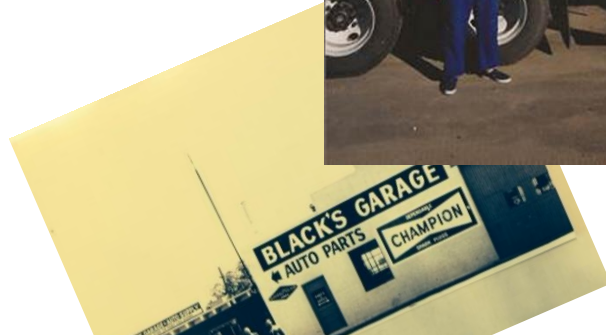
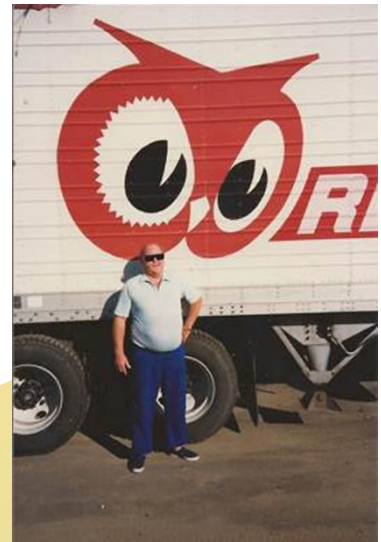
Commerce City Chamber



Cards for Sale \$10. Drop by the museum and get a deck of history cards. Great for presents and great for stocking stuffers during the Christmas season!

Do you Remember...

- ✓ The Safeway store on Highway 2?
- ✓ The Buddy & Lloyds Supermarket on 80th Avenue?
- ✓ King Sooper's on 64th Avenue?
- ✓ The Red Owl Grocery store before Hi-Lo?
- ✓ Hi-Lo Grocery Store?
- ✓ Metropolitan State Bank.
- ✓ Derby Lanes.
- ✓ Hast Lumber?
- ✓ The Skating Rink?
- ✓ Black's Garage?
- ✓ Heiny's Shoe Store
- ✓ Derby Fair



Donate a vehicle

Donating your car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or airplane has never been easier! Simply to donate to, give us a call, and our trained staff will guide you through the donation process.

And FREE up your space for other things.

The Commerce City Historical Society has entered into an agreement with Car Easy - they will pick up your unused vehicles free, repair, sell and return the profit (after costs) to CCHS.

CCHS can use the money for operating expenses or other purposes. You will receive a tax receipt and the CCHS will receive a check for your donation!

Give it a try!

Commerce City Historical Society

Call 303.288.2590 or
303.946.3426



Schedule the Vehicle Pick up

In some areas, we will have the ability to schedule the vehicle for pick up during your initial call. In all other cases CARS will contact you within 2-3 business days to set a convenient appointment time for pick up. 303.288.2590 / 303.946.3426.

Debra or Esther will answer questions and pass on their telephone number.

6505 East 60th Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022

WANTED – OLD LICENSE PLATES!!!
IF YOU WANT TO GET RID OF YOUR OLD LICENSE PLATES YOU CAN
DONATE THEM TO THE MUSEUM!



LEGENDARY LADIES

JOIN US AS WE GO BACK IN HISTORY
WITH THE LEGENDARY LADIES
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2021

1:00PM-3:00PM
AT THE
Eagle Pointe Recreation Center
6060 Parkway Drive
Commerce City, CO 80022

TICKETS \$15.00
Call 303-288-2590

CCHS APPRECIATES OUR FAMILY MEMBERS...

Family of Reed Morgenson Thompson Barber	Bill Barnard Family
Bob Black Family	David and Charlene Busby Family
Harry & Marjorie Bushman Family	Jason & Maria Carabajal Family
David Chambers/Kris Jimenez Family	William & Susan Frew Family
Marilyn & Jim Godfrey Family	Jose Guardiola Family
David & Sherrie Hage Family	Casey & Marianne Hayes Family
Brent & Theresa Jockers Family	Bob & Cindy Klein Family
Ken & Maria Koger Family	Renee Lovato Family
Max & Joyce Martinez Family	Dale & Teri Mingilton Family
Ruth Muhr Family	Steve & Robin O'dorisio Family
Michael Scanlon Family	William Shelby Family
Jessie Singh Family	John Smith & Pam Wyperd Family
Dennis & Bonnie Stack Family	Rick & Patti Teter Family
Dominic J. Teto Family	Beverly VanDeWeghe & Joe Stongle Family

UPCOMING CCHS EVENTS:

October 16, Commerce City Historical Society Blood Drive

November 6, Legendary Ladies

November 26, 27 – City Employees and City Council Reception at the
Museum

A TIME IN HISTORY....

The History of I-70 in Colorado

The Federal Highway Act of 1944 *initially* authorized Interstate 70 between Denver and the Kansas state line. As part of this act, there was no interstate mileage allotted west from Denver, but this omission would be dealt with under the 1956 Interstate Act.

Initially, Colorado would not be able to build I-70 west of Denver since the state of Utah was not interested in a connecting interstate route through eastern Utah since the route it would follow - U.S. 6 & 50 - had mountainous terrain, which would mean it would be very costly to build an interstate route. However, officials with the Colorado Department of Highways were determined to have I-70 continue west of Denver. After much negotiation with Utah officials, Utah approved such a route and Congress approved the additional mileage of I-70 from Denver west to U.S. 91 (to become I-15) in south-central Utah in October 1956.

Central 70 project started with a groundbreaking on August 3, 2018, and will take 4-5 years to complete, between I-25 and Chambers Road, is one of Colorado's economic backbones. It is home to 1,200 businesses, providing the regional connection to Denver International Airport and carrying upwards of 200,000 vehicles per day. It's time to bring this aging highway into the 21st century and rejoin communities along the way.

The Central 70 Project will reconstruct a 10-mile stretch of I-70 between Brighton Boulevard and Chambers Road, add one new Express Lane in each direction, remove the aging 57-year-old viaduct, lower the interstate between Brighton and Colorado boulevards, and place a 4-acre park over a portion of the lowered interstate.

CDOT has made a number of commitments to the local community as part of the Central 70 Project. These cover a range of issues, from mitigating the impacts of construction noise and dust to contributing funding to affordable housing and fresh food access. As of 2021 the project is 50% complete.



Project Facts

- **Cost:** \$1.2 billion
- **Funding Sources:**
 - Bridge Enterprise: \$850 million
 - DRCOG: \$50 million
 - SB 228: \$180 million
 - City of Denver: \$37 million
- **Contractor:** Kiewit Meridiam Partners
- **Timeline:** Traffic will be in final configuration by late 2022 with landscaping, installation of park elements



DID YOU KNOW?

Highway 85 is called the Centennial Highway

88th Avenue was called Irondale Road

72nd Avenue was called Chaucer Avenue

64th Avenue was called Derby Road

Highway 2 was called Derby Road East

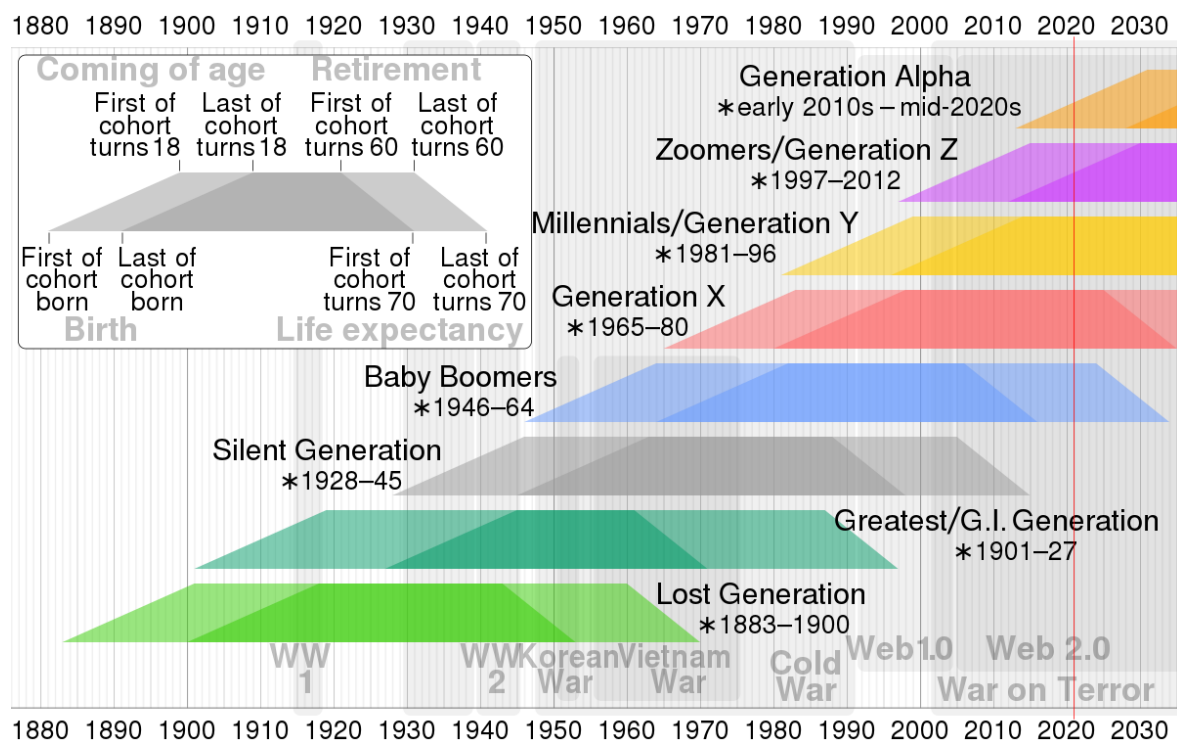
Olive Street was called Kemp Blvd

I-25 was called the Valley Highway

Highway 2 in Commerce City was named Sean Ford
Parkway in 2017



Before our current city monuments, this monument was located at Parkway Drive (2003) at the corner of Parkway Drive and Vasquez. It was demolished when Jack in the Box opened.



WHAT GENERATION DO YOU FIT IN?

Member & Special Friends Obituaries...

You can shed tears because they are gone, or you can smile because they lived. You can close your eyes and pray they will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all that they left for you. Your heart can be empty because you can't see them, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember only that they are gone, or you can cherish their memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind and feel empty, or you can do what they would want. Smile, Open your heart, Love... and go on.

—Elizabeth Ammons
lessonslearnedinlife.com



David H SZYMANSKI

SEPTEMBER 21, 1952 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2021



David Henry Szymanski known as Papa, Z-Man, 68, of Thornton, Colorado, passed away in the evening on September 1st., 2021 surrounded by his family.

David was born on September 21, 1952, raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and later moved to Colorado where he got married and raised his family.

David was a Volunteer Fire Fighter in Adams County and a Diesel Engine Technician for Cummins Rocky Mountain.

David loved riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, going to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, listening to Rock n' Roll, playing slot machines up in Blackhawk, watching the Steelers and spending time with his family.

He was very ornery, extremely funny and had the most infectious laugh. He was also the most selfless, giving person and loved his family more than anything, especially his grandkids. He was loved by all who had the honor of being around him.

David is survived by his wife, Sheri Kite, daughters, son-in-law and grandchildren. Laura and Jeremy McCarter and their daughter Elayna McCarter. Stephanie Szymanski and her children Kingston David and Justice Winter. Michelle Cawthra and her daughter Aria Rayne.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, September 19th at Carpenter Park in Thornton, CO beginning at 1:00 p.m. In honor of his request to celebrate his life and his legacy, guests are encouraged to wear Harley Davidson, Rock n' Roll or Steelers attire.

Flowers for the Celebration of Life and memorial donations may be sent to his daughter Laura McCarter, 11213 Albion St. Thornton, CO 80233.

John Wesley Cook

MAY 19, 1934 – JULY 3, 2021

John Wesley Cook 5/19/1934 - 7/3/2021

Born and raised in Chickasha Oklahoma. He joined the army and married Colletta in 1954 in Denver Colorado. John graduated from Colorado State College. He became a teacher of history, physical education, and a beloved coach of many sports. His teaching took him from Denver to Wiley Colorado. Then 30 years at School District 14 in Commerce City, Colorado. John was preceded in death by his wife Colletta of 64 years. He is survived by daughters Colletta Shin (Rick) and Jill Cook of Commerce City and son Jay Cook of Denver. Granddaughters Koriann Hall and Alicia Tuttle (Derek). Great grandchildren Drake Shelton, Chase Tuttle, Jade Hall, and Kyra Hall.



Evelyn Jean Barnard

JANUARY 24, 1934 – OCTOBER 16, 2021




Evelyn Jean Barnard, age 87, of Commerce City, Colorado passed away on Saturday, October 16, 2021. Evelyn was born January 24, 1934 in Ness City, Kansas.

Membership Application

Commerce City Historical Society

Application for Membership

	NAME: _____
	Address: _____ _____
	Phone Number: _____ home _____ cell _____
	E-Mail _____
	Business Name _____

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)
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 _____

The district is entering the third year under contract with the external company, MGT. The State Board's orders required the district to contract with an external manager for a period of four years. The local school board hired its own superintendent this summer for the first time since being managed by the company. After that, the relationship between the district and MGT quickly broke down. You can see the rest of this story on www.chalkbeatadams14.com.



We write as civic leaders who have been engaged in this community for years and care deeply about its children, its schools, and our community. We have perspective from being graduates of the school district and now being community leaders.

We have followed the ups and downs of the school district our entire lives. Far too often, we've seen a revolving door of administrators and a school system that is not meeting the needs of its students, families, and the community.

Regardless of what we thought about the state intervention, the arrival two years ago of MGT/Adams 14 Schools Succeed has brought improvement. As we could tell things were getting better and stable and the community was beginning to feel that some of the credibility of the district was coming back which has been missing for a long time. **The community is where the school is!** and our community has been divided and broken for a long time which ultimately lends to a broken, dysfunctional, and divided community. We would like to see this cycle stop and this was our hope with MGT/Adams 14 partnership.

We want to see the schools look good and be run effectively so the community is proud of the school district and to create a healthy community. We see this partnership with Adams 14 and MGT a great opportunity and we are concerned that if you quit midstream, it will also affect not only the students and families but the community. We encourage the superintendent and the Board of Education to make the next 2 years work and do what you have to do to regroup or renegotiate to continue this partnership with MGT to the end.

We hope the new superintendent, Dr. Loria, as well as the Adams 14 Board of Education and the Colorado State Board of Education will take our perspective under advisement as they consider next steps for the partnership between MGT and the school district.

Commerce City Historical Society

Board of Directors

Esther Hall, Pam Meier, Debra Bullock, Marilyn Godfrey, and Sheila Harris

September 24, 2021