



FROM TIME TO TIME

A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

OCT - DEC 2024

Volume 15, Issue 4

Honoring Our Past – Celebrating Our Future



We would like to wish all of our members a Happy New Year! We hope you have a great 2025!

2024 was a good year for the CCHS. We started out with the Legendary Locals reception in January. Throughout the year we continued to develop history displays and prepare the museum for our visitors. We continually welcome visitors and receive historic memorabilia from families in Commerce City. September was a wonderful celebration with Heritage families from Commerce City and the Rudy Grant band. In December we had a great Christmas Party with our members and it was a great time to have fellowship with each other.

Looking forward to 2025 we are looking forward to organizing and cataloging all of our items. We have so much history documented and we need to rotate displays now to accommodate the space in the museum. We are partnering with Shirley Wilcoxon for the Adams City Alumni website. We are working in the Dottie Bakke house for preservation efforts. We continue to recognize the good

things people do and the wonderful organizations that contribute in our community through the Legendary Locals program and we continue to welcome visitors to the museum.

GOLDEN RULES FOR LIFE.

- ✚ Never shake hands with anyone without standing up.
 - ✚ If they trust you a secret, keep it.
 - ✚ If they lend you a car, return it with a full tank.
 - ✚ Take advice if you want to grow old.
- ✚ When you text someone and you're angry: finish, read it, delete it, and rewrite the message.
 - ✚ At the table you don't talk about work, politics, or religion.
 - ✚ Write your goals, and work on them.
- ✚ Defend your point of view but be tolerant and respectful to others.
 - ✚ Call and visit your relatives.
 - ✚ Never regret anything, learn from everything
- ✚ Honor and loyalty must be present in your personality.
 - ✚ Tend your bed when you wake up in the mornings.
 - ✚ Sing in the shower.
 - ✚ Care for a plant or a garden.
 - ✚ Discover your skills and exploit them.
 - ✚ Love your job or leave it.
 - ✚ Ask for help when you need it.
 - ✚ Be kind to your neighbors.
- ✚ Make someone's day happier, it will make you happier too.
 - ✚ Treat yourself at least once a year
 - ✚ Take care of your health.
 - ✚ Always greet with a smile.
 - ✚ Think fast but speak slow.
 - ✚ Don't talk with a mouth full.
- ✚ Polish your shoes, cut your nails, and always keep a good look.
 - ✚ Never mistreat anyone.
 - ✚ Live your life as if it were the last day of it.
- ✚ Never miss a wonderful opportunity to remain quiet.
 - ✚ Recognize someone for their effort.
 - ✚ Never forget your roots.
 - ✚ Travel when you can.
 - ✚ Give up the step.
 - ✚ Dance in the rain.
 - ✚ Seek your success without giving up.
- ✚ Be fair, stand up for those who need you.
- ✚ Learn to enjoy moments of loneliness.



Commerce City Historical Society

LEGENDARY LOCALS

CEREMONY

Honoring 2024 Legendary Locals of Commerce City

18th JAN, 2025 • AT 1:00PM
\$10 per person at the door
refreshments - snacks

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
6770 Monaco St.
info contact Deb Bullock
303-288-2590



2024 LEGENDARY LOCALS 2024

OCT-DEC 2024

Chief Ken Koger
Abel Moreno
South Adams County Fire
Department
South Adams County Water
Sanitation District



&



July - September 2024



Rudy Grant, Shirley Wilcoxon, Antonio Valenzuela, Al Frei Family

April – June 2024



Iris Scadden

Tom Schrah

Dana Wood

Fish Food Bank

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

Jan - March 2024



Larry Lobato Sr., Jackie Reynolds, David Rolla, Victor Rolla

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



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

Gary Comstock

Kristi Douglas

Steve Douglas

Bob Hutchings

Dorothy Hutchings

Gene Leffel

David Lutter

Janet Union

Norm Union

June Younger

Troy Younger

History has no boundaries-Come celebrate yours!



MEMBER PROFILE – Meet Loretta Mae Domenico Petty

Loretta is a native of Colorado, born to Angelo and Amelia Domenico on September 10, 1930 in Denver - the 10th of 12 children and 1 of 2 remaining siblings. The family moved to a 28-acre truck farm on 100th and Riverdale Road when she was 3 years old. She went to Riverdale Elementary school from 1st grade to 8th, then to Union High which later became

Adams City High School.

As a freshman, she received a Certificate for Honor Student of the year. Loretta graduated in 1948. While in high school, she worked at the Cudahy butcher plant from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., packing hot dogs in boxes. She also worked on her father's truck farm, picking vegetables to sell at the Denargo Market for the family winter income. Loretta met her husband (Lee Petty), while in high school. He moved to Denver and she didn't see him again until 1949 when she and her mother were standing on the corner of Brighton Blvd. He was riding in a car and stuck his head out the window to say hello. He called her several days later.

They got married on February 4, 1950 and had 5 children. The oldest, was premature and died the day after birth. She has 4 living children, 10 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Her husband worked at the Continental Refinery and at a roofing company with his 2 brothers, later forming his own roofing company (S&L Roofing). Loretta did the books for the company. Lee got emphysema at the age of 62 and passed away in 2001. 3 years later, her friend, Judy Marie Loche, took her to the Sr. Center. At the Sr. Center, Loretta volunteered working in the kitchen, serving birthday lunches and doing dishes. She is also a founding member of the Commerce City Historical Society, where she helped clean the Conter Estate to help prepare the museum for the move-in. She received the Commerce City Sr. Center 2017 Volunteer Individual Triple Award at the annual recognition ceremony that year. For her

work as a Sunday School Teacher, she received a Teacher of the Month Certificate. She also helped in the church library, nursery and in the kitchen serving lunches and dinners on special occasions. Loretta is a member at Northside Baptist Church in Northglenn. Currently, Loretta passes her time by exercising every morning and evening. She reads her Bible, does crossword puzzles and enjoys playing Yahtzee and Uno. She enjoys going to the therapy pool and helping her children whenever needed.



Commerce City Historical Society

OUR VISION...

“To Preserve the Commerce City Area History”
Because History Matters!

OUR MISSION...

- To accurately collect, memorialize, preserve and maintain the rich physical history of the peoples and times of the Great City of Commerce City.
- We will encourage all generations of the area to discover and embrace their great history and roots.
- The Society will work to collect history for the past, present and future boundaries of the City of Commerce City.
- The Society will establish and illustrate the history of the area.
- The Society will preserve such materials and make them accessible to all who wish to examine or study them.
- Collaborate with officials and other organizations to insure the preservation and accessibility of the records and archives of the City of Commerce City.
- The Society will maintain a museum for the protection, preservation and exhibition of all such materials.
- The Society will encourage the preservation of historic buildings by marking those buildings, sites and trails.
- The Society will be involved in various fundraising activities through grant writing and special events.

COMMERCE CITY

SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS HISTORY

Starting in 1979 Commerce City always had a Christmas Celebration in the town center. At that Time the town center was Derby, and all residents gathered for a winter celebration known as the *Derby Winter Festival*. The *Commerce City Business and Professional Association* and later *Community Enterprise* would organize the Santa event in the Derby area. Currently, after the city of *Commerce City* hosts their annual Christmas Lights Festival to kick off the Christmas season at the city *Civic Center*, there are many Santa events held by many of the city organizations or businesses spread throughout the city. We have listed the Santa tradition from 1979 to 2021.



1979-2004-Derby

Mrs. Claus – Jean Klein

Santa – Joe Riley



Mrs. Claus – Jean Klein

Santa – Joe Riley

Helper – Reba Drotar



2004-2005 Derby – Catholic Church

Mrs. Claus - Joanne Martinez

Santa Claus - Greg Brodzik

2006-2009-Derby

Mrs. Claus – Lois Kimmes

Santa Claus – Jerry VonFeldt



2010-Derby

Mrs. Claus – Janet Union, Carol Wiltze Santa Claus – Jerry VonFeldt





2011-Derby

Mrs. Claus – Kathy McIntyre

Santa Claus – Kurt Riley

2012/2013-Derby Catholic Church

Mrs. Claus – Jennifer Glower

Santa Claus – Donny Myers

Grinch – Tom Schrah



2014-Derby-Ace Jewelry with Community Enterprise

Mrs. Claus – Janet Union

Santa Claus – Gary Reiber



2015-Derby-Yellow Rose



2016-2019-ACHS

Mrs. Claus – Dottie Johnson

Santa Claus – Tony Johnson

Santa Elf – Zoe Grace Schinagl



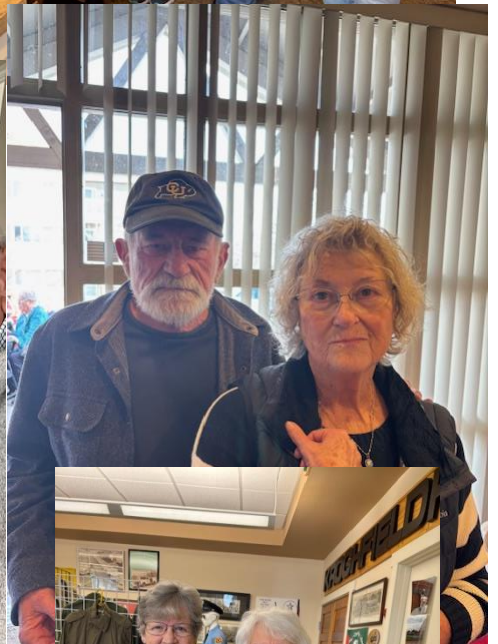


2020-No Event-COVID, 2021-No Event-COVID

HERITAGE DAY AT THE MUSEUM-SEPTEMBER



Christmas at the museum 2024





CCHS APPRECIATES OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS...

MAGNOLIA ENTERPRISE Harlow Leeper, Owner 7290 Magnolia Street	Commerce City Chamber of Commerce 
Hi-Lo Employees Corporation 	ATE FARM INSURANCE   Eddie Olivas
ADAMS 14 EDUCATION FOUNDATION  Adams 14 Education Foundation Lori Young	

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS:

See list on next page

NEW MEMBERS:

Antonio Valenzuela
Rich & Vi Vigil Family
Kris & Dena zerr

OCT – DEC 2024

Thelma Cole
Ruch Adams
Lynn Bradley
Margaret Hall
Bonnie Staack
Judy Tunis
Jose Guardiola Family
David & Sherrie Hage
Casey & Marianne Hayes
Max & Joyce Martinez

2024 REVIEW...

New Council sworn in January 2024

Greyhound Grounds Coffee Shop open Jan 25, 2024

South Platte Crossing apartments groundbreaking March 24, 2024

Groundbreaking (SACWSD) for the Water Enhancement Project April

First Home Resource Expo May 18,2024

Yard of the Month Program June 2024

I-270 meetings all year

The Woodspring Hotel opens August 8, 2024

New Active Adult Center at Bison Ridge opens September 4, 2024

Monaco Park Renovation Celebration Sept 10

Community Well Being Division developed

Pioneer Park Renovations started November 2024 (Splash pad, Paradise Island infrastructure, and scoreboard upgrade

Public Art installations (Monaco Park, Traffic Control cabinets wraps)

COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATIONS 2024

JANUARY \$250.00 \$20 FEBRUARY \$30.00 \$20 MARCH \$10.00 APRIL \$70.00 JUNE \$1,000.00 \$70.00 JULY \$60.00 \$5.00 AUGUST \$50.00 SEPTEMBER \$25.00 OCTOBER \$300.00 \$300.00 \$100.00 NOVEMBER \$40.00 DECEMBER \$10,000.00 \$500.00 \$100.00 \$100.00 \$1,000.00 \$5 MUSEUM DONATIONS \$190.00 TOTAL DONATIONS: \$14,245.00	The Board of Directors would like to thank all of our members who have made extra donations throughout the year. We have many revenue streams to include, membership dues, grants, Sales of gift shop items, museum donations, and more. However, our member donations are very generous and will keep the historical society moving forward to preserve the history of Commerce City in 2025. Our Museum collects and preserve our objects and materials of religious, cultural and historical value. We are preserving and promoting our cultural heritage. We are a storehouse of old artefacts, sculptures, objects, history etc. When you visit the museum you will have the ability to interpret the past and understand our place in its future. Museums can increase our sense of wellbeing, help us feel proud of where we have come from, can inspire, challenge and stimulate us, and make us feel healthier. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the museum we are inviting you to stop by. We are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am to 2pm.
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MEMBER & SPECIAL FRIENDS OBITUARIES...

Cordelia (Cordie) Martinez

July 08, 1965 ~ October 23, 2024

Cordelia Deborah Martinez, 59, of Commerce City, passed away on October 23, 2024, surrounded by family and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, November 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Tabor Funeral Home, 75 S 13th Ave, Brighton, CO 80601. A reception will follow at the South Adams County Fire Association Building/Station, 4711 East 69th Avenue.

Cordelia (Cordie) was born in Denver, Colorado, to Charlotte and Jose Martinez on July 08, 1965.

Cordie graduated from Adams City High School, and basketball was her true passion; she cherished memories on the court as a Lady Eagle. She loved moments spent playing billiard pool and being with her close friends, watching the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), and enjoying the time she had with her beloved nieces and nephews. Those precious moments brought her so much joy and warmth.

She is survived by her mother, Charlotte Martinez, sister Violet Martinez, brother Vince (Tressa) Martinez, and sisters Leslie Martinez and Maria (Jason) Carabajal. She also has several nieces and nephews: Veronica Maestas, Kathryn Martinez, Darren Maestas, Ruben Lujan, Andrew Lujan, Alex Martinez, Samantha Martinez, Desini Hernandez, Jaydon Carabajal, Jerod Martinez, Alison Martinez, and Jaxon Carabajal. Additionally, there are many great nieces and nephews. Cordelia is preceded in death by her father, Jose Martinez.



When we lose someone
we love, we must learn
not to live without them,
but to live with the love
they left behind.



InspirationCabin.com

WHY JOIN THE COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY...

- To learn and understand 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 in helping the historical society educate people about the history.
- Volunteer opportunities to help preserve your history.
- Gain appreciation for where you live.

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	\$20.00	_____ (per year)
Family	\$30.00	_____ (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 _____