



Village East Update

Winter/Spring 2015/16

published by the Village East Neighborhood Association for its residents and friends

2016: Wintery Spring

This turned out to be a great year to combine our Winter and Spring issues of the Village East Update: Villagers couldn't tell Spring from Winter based on the big snows! I even had to retrieve the snow blower from the shed in time for our last blast after having put it away for the season. I'm thinking that may have been a first. More pics on page 5...



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Look for our distinctive yellow signs around Village East informing you of activities. The announcement signs are posted about a week in advance.

Wednesday, June 1

Newsletter Articles Due

Thursday, April 21

Spring VENA Meeting

Fri-Sun, May 20-22

Village East Yard Sale

Saturday, June 4

Spring Clean-Up Day

Tuesday, October 18

VENA Annual Meeting and Elections

Year-round

Adopt-A-Street Cleanup

VENA Monthly Meetings are open to all residents the third Thursday in JAN, APR, JUL, and SEP, at 7 pm in the Village East Community Elementary School library, 1433 S. Oakland St. (east main entrance). Come by and check it out!

VE Yard Sale May 20-22
VE Garage Sale May 20-22

} See what I did there?

Yard Sale, Garage Sale, it means uncluttering your life for Spring Cleaning over the weekend of Friday May 20 to Sunday May 22. Outside, inside, display all the treasures you're parting with for the roving bands of bargain-hunters sure to be attracted by this village-wide activity. And once you sell your stuff, you'll have room and money for the stuff you'll buy at your neighbors' sales! ☘



Clean-up Roll-Ups on June 4th 8am-Noon

The Village East Neighborhood Association (VENA) is providing 2 (two) big roll-up containers at the Village East Community Elementary School parking lot for disposal of your junk (including items unsold at the May Yard Sales!?) on Sat. June 4, 8 am - noon. **Disposal is free for residents whose dues are paid up.** See President's Letter next page for details. ☘



President's Letter

Steve Huffman

VENA President

Howdy folks, it's time for us to start thinking about summer. It is early April as I write this letter. We had a snowy December and January, and February was warm and dry. Then March arrived and we had a fairly big snowstorm. I measured 18 inches in my yard. It melted pretty quickly. The March storms have also improved our winter snowpack. By the time this newsletter gets posted we'll probably have had snow and cold again.

Spring Yard/Garage Sale May 20-22

VENA will have several activities again this year. It will start with the Spring Yard Sale weekend. This will be the third year we have done it. We are hopeful that more people will schedule yard sales this year during the designated weekend for yard sales in Village East. The yard sale will be the third weekend in May 20 – 22nd. No sign-up is required; just plan your own sale for that weekend. Several weeks before the date, we will post signs around the neighborhood to remind one and all to start tagging their valuables for sale or to browse for bargains yourself. You can put up your own signs if you wish. Just remember we are not allowed to put any signs on public property such as stop signs, light poles, etc. (the Board has permission to use the light poles for the yellow meeting/announcement signs only). Remember the adage: "One person's junk is another person's treasure!" It's also an opportunity to reconnect with neighbors.

Spring Rollup Cleanup Saturday June 4th

The Spring Cleanup will be the weekend after Memorial Day (June 4th). Last year we applied for the Aurora Beautification Program and are doing so again this year. It also includes a cleanup of Florida and Jewell Streets. We need volunteers to help with the cleanup. Call Steve Huffman at 303-369-6863 or shuff110@comcast.net if you are able to help with our cleanup. We will have two roll-offs at Village East Elementary School for the cleanup. We had a great turnout last year and anticipate another successful cleanup. All Village East residents can use the dumpster without fees. You may bring your unwanted items to the parking lot at Village East Community Elementary School on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon or until the roll-off is full, **WHICH EVER COMES FIRST. Items that can NOT be accepted are:** liquid paint, solvents, motor oil, tires,

concrete, rocks, sod, computers, computer monitors, TVs and large tree branches and shrubs. Paint, in cans with lids removed, that is dry or has had kitty litter added to the liquid and has solidified is acceptable. **Branches and shrubs should be cut into 3 foot lengths. Prohibitive insurance rates mean no chipper this year.** We request your cooperation in not bringing unacceptable items. With a neighborhood of over 1,300 homes, we strive to maximize the disposal space in the roll-offs in order to accommodate as many dues paying members as possible. While we will have volunteers on site to organize the disposal efforts, you are responsible for placing your materials in the containers. We will also have a metal recycler on hand.

This Year, Adopt A Street, Won't You?

We are continuing our Adopt-A-Street again this year. Our goal is to have clean, trash free sidewalks and streets. As one means of promoting pride in the Village East Neighborhood, VENA actively participates in the city's sponsored Adopt-A-Street Program. Neighbors who are concerned with the general appearance of the neighborhood and willing to make a difference spend about a 30-45 minutes a month picking up trash, mostly litter, on lawns, sidewalks, near curbs and in vacant lots. We are fortunate to have a great crew of street monitors who put forth time and effort to keep them neat and tidy. If you live on such a street feel free to pick up any pieces of trash in front of your or your neighbor's house. The weather is getting warming, making it more conducive to keeping Village East looking attractive and clean. If you would like more information on the program or would like to join the cadre of concerned and involved neighbors who participate, please call our Adopt-A-Street chair, Steve Huffman at 303-369-6863 or shuff110@comcast.net.

This Year, Volunteer, Won't You?

We're are still in need of additional volunteers. None of our activities happen by themselves. The volunteers active in our organization are few and dwindling. We have three open director positions. We need your help to continue the programs and activities we conduct each year. Board meetings for the coming year are the third Thursday in January, April and July. The Annual meeting should be the second Tuesday in October. Please let Steve Huffman (303-369-6863 or shuff110@comcast.net) if you are interested in helping us out.

Thanks again for your support. ☼

Steve Huffman

Good Things Happen When Everyone Pays Their VENA Dues!



You Light Up Our Lives



The First Place Winning Home in VENA's 2015 Holiday Lighting Contest Is a Real Jewel (Place)

Our Holiday Lighting contest resulted a first place, second place, and honorable mention. Our **First Place winners** were the Shepards at 11733 E. Jewell Place. The Shepherds have been in Village East Since 1988 along with their four children. Both are retired. They like to do a really good job of decorating when their family comes to visit at Christmas. They received a First Place certificate and a \$25.00 gift card from Lowes.

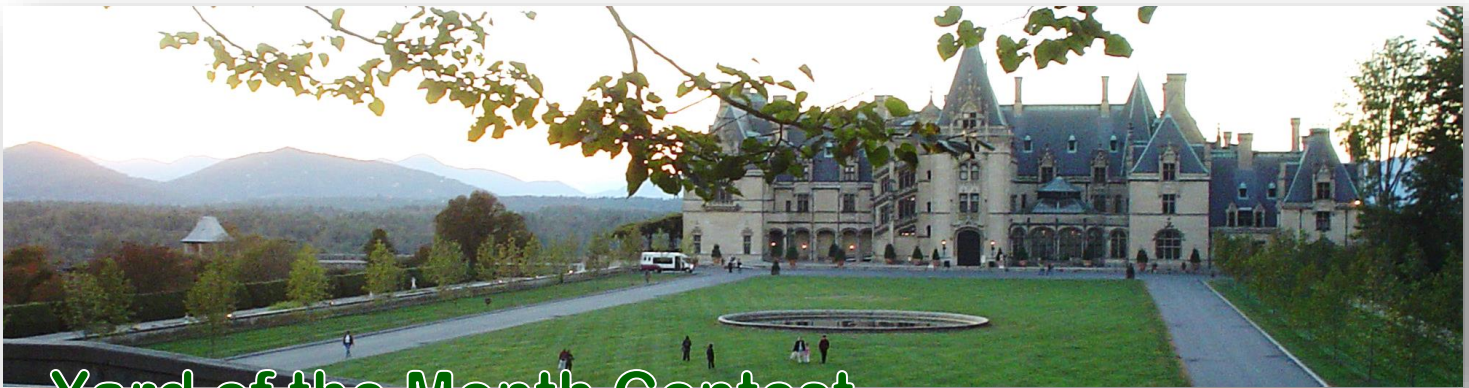


Second place went to the Carlsons at 11994 E. Arkansas Ave.



Honorable Mention went to the Brewers at 12069 E. Louisiana Ave. ☼

GROUNDS FOR RECOGNITION



Yard of the Month Contest

Our **Yard of the Month Contest** will start in June. It's great to see how much people care about their yards and we appreciate their efforts to keep Village East looking good. Anyone living in Village East may nominate a neighbor's or their own yard for judging by the Yard of the Month Committee. Our committee looks for displays showing pride of ownership through such attributes as xeriscaping, well-groomed landscapes that adhere to all watering restrictions, and blooming gardens that change color at different times of the year, as well as complimentary hardscaping and charming accents from trailing pathways to seasonal wreaths. You can recognize each month's winners by the VENA "Yard of the Month" sign in their front yard. Winners for June, July, August, and September, with accompanying photos, will be posted in the Fall VENA Update and on the VENA website. Each winner will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate. This is VENA's way of saying "thanks" to those who have done an extraordinary job improving their yards and homes. To serve on the 2016 Yard of the Month committee or to nominate a yard, please contact Steve Huffman at 303-369-6863 or shuff110@comcast.net. Thank you. ☼

Water You Waiting For? Get Into Xeriscaping!

Many Village East residents are using xeriscaping to reduce their water consumption. Now is the time to start thinking about xeriscaping if you are interested. You can create colorful xeriscape gardens where traditional gardens or lawn were previously. However, the conversion takes some thought and careful planning. Some good resources for planning a garden are:

- Colorado State University (<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/4DMG/Xeris/xeris1.htm>)
- Colorado Waterwise (<http://coloradowaterwise.org/XeriscapeColorado>)
- Denver Water (<http://www.denverwater.org/Conservation/Xeriscape/XeriscapeResources/>)
- The City of Aurora has a demonstration garden, classes and a rebate program (<https://www.auroragov.org/LivingHere/Education/WaterEducation/Classes/>)
- Classes are also offered by Tagawa Gardens. ☼

Code Corner

City Codes related to zoning and maintenance are a means of ensuring that the neighborhood's land uses are compatibly located and used for the health, safety and general welfare of the neighborhood. The City of Aurora has a commitment to provide safe and sanitary living conditions for all its residents. It takes a cooperative effort of investors, owners, tenants and the City to achieve a successful property maintenance program.

(Continued on page 6)



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2016: Wintery Spring cont'd from page 1



AURORA
COLORADO

your city, your community, your home



<https://www.auroragov.org>

 **Nextdoor**

The private social network
for your neighborhood.

[https://www.villageeastco
.nextdoor.com/news_feed/](https://www.villageeastco.nextdoor.com/news_feed/)

Code Corner (cont'd from page 4)

The Neighborhood Support Code Enforcement section is responsible for enforcing zoning and housing codes, as well as regulations for businesses, on a proactive, but mostly complaint basis. There are standards to maintain any residential property (privately owned or rental), which is to observe all city regulations. Specific ordinances that often are found to be in violation with residential properties are the following:

1. Exterior maintenance – properties must be maintained (painted where necessary, windows and roof in good shape, etc.)
2. Parking – all vehicles must be legally licensed, operable and parked on an approved surface (i.e., concrete, asphalt, or pavers)
3. Auto repair is prohibited unless in an in-closed garage;
4. Landscape – all landscape must be maintained in a healthy condition, which means there should be no weeds and the lawn and plant material are fertilized and watered as needed in accordance with any watering restrictions;
5. Occupancy – no more than 4 unrelated adults may live in a single family home. Single-family.

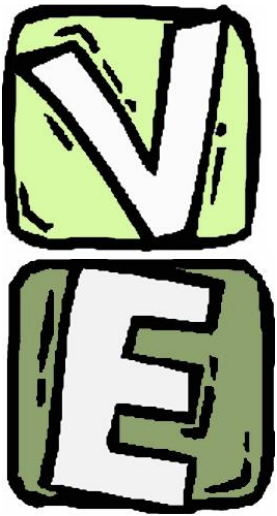
i.e., additions for the purpose of renting to others and/or renting out the basement are prohibited.

A complete list and details of the ordinances relating to Code Enforcement for residential properties may be found on the City's website, www.auroragov.org. Brochures are available from Aurora's Neighborhood Services Department or from a VENA board member. If you don't feel comfortable speaking to your neighbor about the appearance of their property or if they are unresponsive to your concerns, you may register an anonymous code enforcement complaint by calling Access Aurora at 303-750-8824. They will usually respond within a few days. Don't feel guilty doing this; you are simply protecting the largest investment of your life. ☹

Spring Cleanup Day Sat June 4th, VE Community Elementary School East Park Lot



2 large rollups will allow dues-paid VE residents to dispose of all dead limbs & junk.



Help Us Contact You...

It's easy for all VE residents (owners AND RENTERS) to stay informed. We just need your preferred:

- ☐ Mailing name _____
- ☐ Mailing address _____
- ☐ E-mail address _____
- ☐ A check for \$15 dues made out to "VENA" (sorry, no credit cards)

Please print out and CLEARLY complete this page, include check, and mail to:

VENA Membership
 1155 S. Havana St. #11-373
 Aurora, CO 80012

Newsletter e-mail reminders provided upon request. E-mail addresses NOT used for any other purpose. Contact the Treasurer (below) with any contact info updates. We're trying for 100% participation among neighbors. Please send in TODAY. Thanks for your support of Village East!

Bookmark Our Website: www.VillageEastAurora.org

Welcome

Village East Neighborhood

[Home](#) [Our Info](#) [Discussions](#) [Calendar](#)

If you saw the yellow newsletter signs, please e-mail



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To submit articles or purchase ads for the *Village East Update* newsletter, please contact Terry Snyder, Village East Update Newsletter Editor at terry.i.snyder@comcast.net 303-696-6003.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES ARE THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, and DECEMBER. The *Village East Update* is published four times a year by the Village East Neighborhood Association (VENA).