



# Village East Update

Summer 2016

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

## NEIGHBORLY NEWS

Keep Track of Light Rail and VE, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7 pm

### 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.

**Tuesday, October 11**

**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!

Our VENA Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Village East Community Elementary School, 1433 S. Oakland St. (east main entrance) in the gym. All Village East residents are encouraged to attend for VENA President Steve Huffman's "State of the Village" overview. ***A representative from the Light Rail project will be attending to tell us about their progress, expected completion time and be available for questions.*** Attendees are also encouraged to comment on topics of interest, subject to reasonable time constraints.

The entire VENA Board is up for re-election. Please attend to show your support for them or other candidates who step up to volunteer for the positions listed in the block on the lower half of the last page of this newsletter.

VENA chose not to host a candidate's forum. We are suggesting instead that you attend the forum sponsored by Bob Roth on October 18 at Heather Gardens Clubhouse, 2888 Heather Gardens Way at 6:00 pm. Candidates expected are Morgan Carrol and Mike Coffman for US Representative to Congress. Darryl Glenn and Michael Bennet for US Senator to Congress. Candidates for State Offices and local offices will also be present. Ballot initiatives will also be discussed. \*





## President's Letter

Steve Huffman

VENA President

Hello Village East,

### The Printed Word

Howdy folks. Several years ago we chose to stop printing and mailing out our newsletters because they became too costly. Instead, they are published electronically and posted on our website ([VillageEastAurora.org](http://VillageEastAurora.org)). Last year we decided to print and mail out the newsletter before our annual meeting. It was a success and resulted in encouraging many to pay their voluntary dues. You are receiving a printed newsletter again this year for the same reasons. ***The full-color version is on line as usual.*** Your paid dues are donations to our community organization and help keep VENA going. The yearly dues are \$15.00. Many of our neighbors have signed up for email reminders about the posting of new editions of the newsletter. If you are interested in a reminder you may email your request to [vena.newsletter@comcast.net](mailto:vena.newsletter@comcast.net).

### Help Wanted

We continue to need your help. VENA board members along with a group of about 5 volunteers are responsible for making things happen in Village East. If you are interested in becoming part of the team, contact Steve Huffman at [shuff110@comcast.net](mailto:shuff110@comcast.net) or come to our meetings.

### Sweet Summer

I like summer. It has been a normal year with some hot days, but not like past years when we have had 100 degree days. But, we could use a little more rain. The yards are pretty with all the happy flowers and it is great having evenings with a lot of light. I like fall even more than summer, but that means winter is right around the corner. I enjoy the cooler weather and my abundance of tomatoes, raspberries and chili peppers. But the days are growing shorter and soon the leaves will be on the ground.

### Splendor of the Grass (Lawn) and Properties

I had the opportunity to drive past every house in Village East several weeks ago as we were choosing a Yard of the Month for July. It is always fun to see all the homes with pretty lawns and nice landscaping. The condition of the neighborhood is pretty good. Most of the homes are being taken care of. However, it can always be better.

Some do look neglected. Every home a visitor in our neighborhood notices, forms an impression of our community. Collectively, we would like to show visitors how nice our neighborhood really is. It takes everyone's cooperation to project this image. No one chooses to move into our neighborhood because they wanted to trash it. Encourage your neighbors to clean up around their homes, or help them if you are able. Many may be owned by the elderly and they aren't able to do it themselves. You can call code enforcement (Access Aurora – 303-739-7000) and report the situation if the owners have no interest in keeping their home up.

A few of our residents step up and work together to help keep our neighborhood in good shape. These are the residents who help with the Adopt-A-Street program. It is made up of about 20 people that each pick up trash lying in and along several streets close to their homes. They generally pick up their area once or twice a month as they are walking around the neighborhood. Many of you are just silent partners and take care of business around your own home and we appreciate that. I know that everyone is busy with their jobs, homes, schools, churches and families. Your first duty as a member of our community is to keep your own home in good shape and show that you have pride in what you own. Your second duty is to be a good neighbor to those who live close to you. Offer to help your neighbors with whatever projects they have going on. Then they will be more likely to help you if you ask them for help. Your third duty is to help our neighborhood association in whatever ways you are able. Become an active part of our community. We can always use your help. Come learn about who we are and what we do and finally ask how you can help us keep our neighborhood as a great place to live.

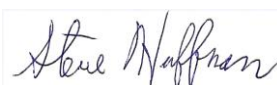
### Spring Cleaned Up Again

The Spring Clean-up continues to be successful. We filled two roll-offs. It was free to all Village East Residents. Many made donations to VENA and paid their dues. Paid dues and donations along with a grant from the City of Aurora made our cleanup a success this year.

### Light Rail On Track

The light rail is making good progress along I225. Most of the bridges are finished and most of the track is laid. Visit the City of Aurora website to stay up to date on the light rails progress at: [http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/i225\\_1](http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/i225_1)

Yours for a responsive neighborhood association,



# Yards of the Month 2016 Efforts Recognized

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, are posted in the VENA Update and on the VENA website. Each winner also received a \$25.00 gift certificate from Lowes. This is VENA's way of saying "thanks" to those who have done an extraordinary job improving their yards and homes. To nominate a yard, please contact Steve Huffman at 303-369-6863 or [shuff110@comcast.net](mailto:shuff110@comcast.net).

VENA's tradition of recognizing exemplary yard works carries on strong as ever. Prepare to be impressed by this year's winners.



## June

Our Yard of the Month for June was 11058 E. Mexico Ave belonging to Michael, Ristana and Nancy Hada. The Hadas have been residents of Village East since 1986. Ristana and Michael do most of the work in the yard. Nancy is retired from Lowry Air Force Base with the Department of Defense. Michael is a Denver Sheriff Deputy. Ristana is a supervisor at the Boulder Juvenile Detention Center. They have two wonderful children and a big dog named Wilson.



## July

The July winner was Lynn Matson at 1814 S. Oakland Street. Lynn and her dog, Riley do all the all the work in the yard. She and he husband Bob moved to Village East in 1990. Bob passed away several years ago. Their son, Brian Plummer lives in New York and is an actor. Brian attended Village East, Prairie and Overland schools. Lynn worked for United Airlines for 35 years before retiring. Bob worked with Guest Services at the Convention Center. \*

## August

The August winners were David and Stephanie Thompson at 1376 S. Oakland Street. They have lived in Village East since 2002. Their children, Gabrielle and Aaliyah have attended Village East, Prairie and Overland schools. David does all the yard work. It's his "Baby". Stephanie has been an accountant with the University of Colorado for 28 years. David works for United Airlines as part of the ground crew. He worked for Bonfils Blood Center before United.



## September

Our September Yard of the Month Winner is Bob and Lynda Clancy at 1487 S. Macon Street. They have been residents of Village East for 30 years. Their children, Sean and Meghan attended Village East, Prairie and Overland schools. Bob is a sales vice-president for American International Group Insurance and Lynda is retired from Cherry Creek School District and also from real-estate. They have a yellow lab named Cutter who greets everyone with a smile. Lynda does most of the work in the yard. This year she redid her landscaping bricks in the front yard. The back yard is also very nice. Bob says he just picks up the leaves. \*

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## Vandalism

Vandalism and theft are a small problem in Village East. However, they do occur. Please be smart. Keep your garage doors closed when not in the front yard. Keep your doors locked and watch out for suspicious activity in the neighborhood. Report anything suspicious to the Aurora Police Communications Center at 303-627-3100 or dial 911 if an emergency. Crime reports are available at [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com). Crimes can be reported online with the Aurora Police Department. We also have a Neighborhood Watch Program. Email notifications and Neighborhood Watch flyers are sent out prior to the meetings. The next meeting is TBA. If you have any questions or would like to become an active member in the area Neighborhood Watch program, please contact Officer Jenkins (our PAR officer) at [jjjenkin@auroragov.org](mailto:jjjenkin@auroragov.org) or 303-379-6954. \*

# TRAFFIC CALMING

Many of you residing in Village East have probably noticed signs on Florida, that say "Please Slow Down, Neighborhood Slow Zone." These signs are provided by the City of Aurora in an effort to help encourage slower speeds and bring safety awareness to the attention of the neighborhood. With over 1300 homes in Village East and an average of two cars per household (which is probably low) that equates to over 2600 cars traveling through our neighborhood just with residents. The speed throughout our neighborhood streets is **25 miles per hour**. Additionally, there are several safety zones designated throughout our neighborhood due to the proximity of the schools. Our Par Officer, Jeremy Jenkins, has conducted several studies on Florida and it has been communicated that 80% of the offenders are residents of the neighborhood. That equates to 2,080 of us living here are speeding. On-going efforts with the City will continue to improve the safety of our neighborhood, coupled with patrols by the Aurora Police Department and there will be continued involvement in the traffic campaign on Florida. It's important to get involved in this traffic calming campaign and putting up signs on your street, whether it's Moline, Mexico, Lansing, or Oakland. For more information on this campaign, to keep our children safe, pedestrians, other vehicles and to stabilize our property values, please contact the City of Aurora at 303-739-7280. Additionally, you may contact Jane Montgomery, [jrm726@comcast.net](mailto:jrm726@comcast.net). It truly takes a Village. \*

*Tis' the season...to give thanks for what we have, and help those in need.*

Village East



*Replace your  
canned food  
pantry items with  
one of these!*

## FOOD DRIVE

To help families in need this holiday season. We will be collecting canned food items at Ponderosa Elementary. Please consider bringing 3-4 or more canned food items and you will be eligible for 1 of 5 gift card drawings. If you cannot make the food drive, please email me: [kwalker@kmwhomes.com](mailto:kwalker@kmwhomes.com) and I will personally pick them up on your doorstep. Thank you for your consideration.

October 8, 2016

11am-2pm



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

KMWHOMES

6501 E. Belleview Ave.,

Ste.500

(303)8198910 | [kwalker@kmwhomes.com](mailto:kwalker@kmwhomes.com)

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

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

What Does It Mean When the

## YELLOW ALERT Signs

Show Up? *The Latest Newsletter is On Line!*

## VillageEastAurora.org



## VENA Board of Directors

Steve Huffman, President, 303-369-6863  
[shuff110@comcast.net](mailto:shuff110@comcast.net)

Greg Toler, Vice President, 303-755-4256

Ann Dougherty, Secretary, 303-743-8411

Linda Metsger, Treasurer, 303-696-6839

Terry Snyder, VE Update Editor  
303-696-6003

Robin Bruce 303-751-3033  
Jack Dougherty 303-743-8411  
Barbara Goree 303-750-5063  
Dora Hamilton 303-369-9005  
Cort Weaver 303-745-4794  
Mike Wolford 303-632-6403

Arnie Schultz, City Referrals 303-750-8824

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](mailto:terry.i.snyder@comcast.net) 303-  
696-6003.

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

Village East Neighborhood  
Association (VENA)  
1155 S. Havana St. #11-373  
Aurora, CO 80012



## 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 (above) with any contact info updates. We're trying for 100% participation among  
neighbors. Please send in TODAY. Thanks for your support of Village East!