



Village East Update

Summer 2017

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

Season of Change

It's Up to Village East Residents to Determine

Our **VENA Annual Meeting** will be on **Tuesday October 10th 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. Attendees are encouraged to comment on topics of interest, subject to reasonable time constraints. **Refreshments to be served.**

All A Board!

The entire VENA Board is up for reelection-or election, in the case of the President and VE Update Editor who are both stepping down from their positions. Please come to the Annual meeting to show your support for the VE community and take your turn leading or participating in the Board. We are in need of new people to carry on our work. This will be the last meeting conducted by our President, Steve Huffman, so come to the meeting and thank him for his years of service. Please help the VENA Board to continue serving the community by your service on the board association.

Look to page 5 of this issue for VENA Board Position Duties and the Board Vacancy Election Process. Take a look and see where your skills can be best utilized. *

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 10

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!





President's Letter

Steve Huffman

VENA President

Hello Village East,

Presidential Farewell; Call for Fresh Service

Greetings everyone. This is my 9th year as president and I am stepping down at our annual meeting in October and let someone else lead VENA. Most of our directors have also been on the board for many years. Several are also thinking of stepping down including our newsletter editor. It is time to get some new blood on the board. Please consider joining the board to continue our presence in the neighborhood. Otherwise it may be time to disband.

It has been my honor to serve as VENA President. Hopefully I've set a positive standard for leading this 100% volunteer group of fellow neighbors who are no less busy than any fellow neighbors, but feel strongly that the need is there. They do their share, or more, to help keep Village East a community to be proud of, full of properties of high market value to protect and grow their real estate investments. I also feel strongly that I, and indeed many of the current Board, have done more than our share and recognize that homeowners' boards are at their best when fresh ideas and enthusiasm are applied to such endeavors. **See page 5 for more info.**

Condition of Our Condition

The condition of the neighborhood in general is pretty good. We have a few vacant homes or under foreclosure. House sales continue to be strong this year. Many homes could still use improvement. 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. 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. If you live near a neglected home please call code enforcement (Access Aurora – 303-739-7000) and report the situation or maybe be a good neighbor and help yourself out. Thanks to all of you that take care of your homes.

Hear Ye Hear Ye

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). 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.

This Summer is a Season of Change

It's hard to believe Summer is over. It has been a normal year with some hot days, but not like past years when we have had many 100 degree days. The first two weeks of August were actually a little cooler than usual. The yards have been pretty with all the happy flowers and it was 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 have enjoyed the cooler weather and my garden did well. But the days are growing shorter and soon the leaves will be on the ground.

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 again this year.

Help Make Sure Crime Doesn't Pay

Vandalism and theft are a small problem in Village East. 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 Comms Center at 303-627-3100 or dial 911 if an emergency. Crime reports are available at 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. If you have any questions or would like to become an active member in the area Neighborhood Watch program please contact Officer Eugene Colwell (our new PAR officer) at EColwell@auroragov.org or 303-379-1831.

Yours for a responsive neighborhood association,



Yards of the Month for Year 2017

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 September. It is always fun to see all the homes with pretty lawns and nice landscaping. 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.



June

Our "Yard of the Month" for June was 1572 S. Jamaica Street belonging to Jeanne and Mike McGinnis. Jeanne is a retired Service Supervisor from Burlington Northern Railroad. Mike worked for DHL for 20 years and was in Operations Management. Jeanne has lived in Village East for 35 years. She and her first husband (deceased and worked for city of Aurora) raised 2 children that attended Village East, Prairie, and Overland Schools. Jeanne does most of the yard work and Mike mows the lawn. They have eight grandchildren.



July

The July winners were Dean and Kathy Heerd at 1473 S. Kenton Street. They have lived in Village East for 20 years. Kathy has worked at Village East for 16 years as a Special Ed. Para-educator. Dean has driven the last 5 years with RTD and work with drywall previously. They have three children, Amy, Erin and Jacob, that attended Village East, Prairie, and Overland Schools. Kathy's parents, Bill and Marlene, have lived with them for 3 years. They also have 2 terriers named Jack and Jill. Dean has redone and designed all the landscaping. Bill mows the lawn. Dean adds something new to the yard every year.

August

The August winners were Jules and Evangeline Lee at 12018 E. Oregon Circle. They have lived in Village East for 13 years. Jules is retired from the VA where he worked for 37 years. Evangeline has worked for the IRS for 16 years. They raised 2 boys and 1 girl. No pets, but Jules loves fish, they are like family. He has an Oscar and a Jack Dempsey. Jules does all the yard work and goes fishing a lot. He is an Associate Minister at the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church. Jules is also the master cook.



September

The September winners were Michael and Carole Weichel at 11932 E. Louisiana Ave. They have lived in Village East for 22 years. Michael is retired and framed houses for Lennar, Richmond and other home builders for 25 years. He grew up farming in Hudson. Carole has worked for 30 years as a Patient Liaison for South Denver Cardiology. She was born and raised in Brighton. Both work in the yard. Michael mows and waters everything. Carole has planned and planted the landscape. The back yard is as nice as the front yard. They have many flowing plants that add a lot of fall color. *



Editor's Corner *by Terry Snyder, VE Update Editor*

I'm confident I speak for the entire VENA Board when I express great appreciation for Steve Huffman's nine-year tenure as President. The length of service alone demonstrates the confidence the residents of Village East have had in his steady leadership. As a member of the Board with the opportunity to observe his efforts "behind the scene", I can personally attest to all the time Steve has sacrificed for this volunteer position. Where some leaders might be satisfied to merely run meetings and effectively delegate all the work necessary to make VENA events happen, instead residents could readily find Steve working hard right alongside the volunteers at nearly every event. I'm confident Steve can look forward to being sincerely and often thanked for his service by many folks in the VE neighborhood he helped make so much better. *

 @WagnerforCouncil2017



ENDORSED BY:

Ward V Council Member **Bob Roth**

The Aurora Police Association

These are the four areas of focus I believe are essential to Aurora's success:

Public
Safety

Economic
Development

Community
& Quality
of Life

Responsible
Vision



VOTE FOR RUSS WAGNER BY NOV. 7TH

- ✓ Proud **third-generation** Aurora resident
- ✓ Navy Veteran with **three Achievement Medals**
- ✓ Focused on **solutions for Aurora**

(303) 524-4888 | WagnerforCouncil2017@yahoo.com | www.WagnerForCouncil.com

VENA Board Position Duties

PRESIDENT:

1. Schedule and plan meeting dates
2. Prepare meeting agendas and conduct meetings
3. Invite speakers to meetings
4. Reserves roll offs for Spring Clean Up
5. Arranges insurance for Spring Cleanup
6. Renews registration of the association with City of Aurora
7. Renews registration of Adopt-A-Street with City of Aurora
8. Oversees "Yard of the Month" and "Holiday Lighting" contests
9. Interviews winners of contests for newsletter

VICE PRESIDENT:

1. Stands in for President if President is absent from activities
2. Completes duties as assigned by President

TREASURER:

1. Maintains association's checking account and reports to association board
2. Make deposits and writes checks
3. Collects and records payment of yearly membership dues
4. Checks mail box for renewals and communications received in mail
5. Maintains association roster

SECRETARY:

1. Takes notes at meetings
2. Prepares meeting minutes *

Board Vacancy Election Process

Most Village East Neighborhood Association (VENA) Board members are up for re-election at the October Annual Meeting.

The VENA neighborhood needs to take the following steps to replace the President, VE Editor, and any late-announced vacancies.

1. Call the outgoing President to nominate yourself or someone who has agreed to serve.
2. The President will introduce the candidates at the Annual Meeting, and invite each candidate to describe reasons for running
3. The Meeting attendees will vote, the Secretary will tally, and the President will announce the successful candidates *

Do You Have the “Write Stuff” to Be VE Update Editor?

To continue publishing the newsletter in its current style, realistically the Editor should be comfortable using Microsoft Word and writing in a newsy manner. Experience with taking and editing digital photographs is necessary as well. Additionally, a good eye for layout and design certainly is indeed appreciated by the readers.

Most residents have responded via past polls they like being kept informed by a local newsletter. Out of a neighborhood of this size, there should be someone who can carry on.

The retiring Editor is willing to help the new Editor by either using previous issues as templates, or publishing using an app familiar to the new Editor. *

Cuts to R-Line Service Already?

After just less than 6 months of operation, the RTD Board of Directors is considering reducing service on the recently opened R Line that runs exclusively through Aurora. Despite the short time the line has been operational, the up to 2,500 new residential units planned and under construction next to the light rail line, and a connection to the Anschutz Medical Campus where 25,000 work and 1.7 M people are treated each year; RTD thinks the ridership isn't up to par and wants to cut the frequency and add unnecessary transfers to the routes. If you'd like your voice heard:

Email Meg Allen at mkallen@aurora.gov.org and ask her to forward you her email about the Proposed RTD Reduction of R Line Service. It includes a list of Board members to contact, and a sample letter of concern. *

MUST-RECYCLE INFO

Beyond volunteer recycling, the following three categories MUST be recycled due to unacceptable levels of toxicity in a landfill. Here then are suggested sites for identifying firms able to recycle these items. Note there may be a cost for such proper recycling.

1. **Paint:** <https://www.yellowpages.com/aurora-co/paint-disposal-and-recycling>
2. **Electronics:** <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/ewaste>
3. **Pharmaceuticals:** <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/medicalwaste> *



A Vast Village

In this panorama taken from the old Wells Fargo office building on the corner of South Havana St. and East Florida Ave., our leafy neighborhood of Village East spreads out looking East.

A reminder: grab a plastic bag and a glove to collect any trash whenever you're out for a walk.

It Shouldn't Be A Jungle Out There

One of the most useful benefits of neighborhood walks, besides the healthy exercise, is checking to see if any of your landscaping is encroaching into the public space. In other words, if you find yourself dodging overgrown shrubbery and ducking tree branches as you walk your area, your neighbors would very much appreciate it if you could hack away at the urban jungle to clear the walkways. *



VENA Board of Directors

Steve Huffman, President, 303-369-6863
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 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).

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!