

Liberty Hill News

December 2011



VOICE From the Neighborhood

Cameron McDonnell, LHHA President

Happy December to everyone!

The HOA would like to extend our warmest wishes to you during the holiday season. May you have a safe holiday season and enjoy the season with family and friends.

This month's HOA event is our annual Holiday Light Decorating Contest. Last year, many residents signed up to be a part of this contest. In order to sign up this year, please go online to our website at www.Libertyhillhoa.org and follow the directions on the home page. It was great to see all of the lights last year, and we were very impressed with how many homes decorated for the holidays. As a reminder, please take down your decorations by the end of January, as we had a few complaints of people leaving them up until March!

The prize for this contest will be a \$50 gift card, as well as a photo of the winning home in the January edition of our newsletter. We can't wait to see what everyone comes up with this year. As usual, the LHHA Board members are exempt from the contests, since we will be the ones judging the contest. We will be doing the judging for the contest the week of December 19th. We have already noticed a ton of lights that are up in the neighborhood, and it is looking great!

We have been hearing quite a few complaints about excessive cars parked on the streets. Please keep your cars in your driveways at all times, if possible. Not only does this make it easier to get around the neighborhood, but it is less of a safety hazard. When cars are parked on the streets, it is hard to see when a child may run out in the street, and we don't want to hear about any accidents. Also, with the snow, sometimes it is hard to brake or maneuver through the narrow streets. Most of the complaints relate to the congestion on Costilla. If you could please cooperate and move your vehicles, it would be greatly appreciated!

If you ever have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us on our website at www.Libertyhillhoa.org. ★



Court Notification Calling Program

Arapahoe County

Arapahoe County's Volunteer Connections Program is seeking volunteers for its Court Notification Calling Program, which involves making courtesy telephone calls to remind citizens of an upcoming date in court. Volunteers over age 18 are needed to commit to three to five hours per week, weekdays between 8 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. at Arapahoe County Altura Plaza, 15400 E. 14th Place, Aurora.

The Court Notification Calling Program has proven to be an innovative solution to conserve court, law enforcement, and jail resources. By reminding citizens of an upcoming court date, volunteers help to reduce the number of arrest warrants issued for "failure-to-appear." In turn, County law enforcement personnel may focus on other public safety issues. As a result of this program, the County detention center has seen a significant decrease in jail bed days, which typically cost \$68 per day, translating into hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars saved.

Last year, the Court Notification Calling Program won the award for "Most Innovative Volunteer Program" from the National Association

Continued on Page 2

Court Notification Calling Program (cont.)

of Volunteer Programs in Local Government.

Court notification volunteers must commit to at least three months of volunteering. Longer commitments are preferred. Training and a background check are required for each position.

To apply or to learn about other volunteer opportunities with the County, please call 303-738-7922 or visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us and click on "Services" and then "Volunteer Opportunities." ★

Upcoming LHHA Events

Mark your calendars for the upcoming LHHA events:

- December HOA Meeting—Wednesday, 12/21
- January 2012 HOA Meeting—Wednesday, 1/18
- February HOA Meeting—Wednesday, 2/15

Get involved in your neighborhood with these informative events. HOA meetings are held at South Holly Baptist Church at 6:30 P.M. and last about 30 minutes, with discussion of affairs and issues that affect homeowners. All LHHA residents are welcome! ★

Vacancies on Centennial Budget Committee

The City of Centennial is currently accepting applications to fill openings on the Budget Committee, which is a committee required by the Centennial Home Rule Charter. The purpose of this Committee is to promote citizen involvement in the budgeting decisions of the City. The Committee reviews all phases of the budget and makes recommendations and provides reports to City Council.

Terms are for a period of three years. Meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis and take place at the Centennial Civic Center, located at 13133 E. Arapahoe Road, Centennial.

The application deadline is **Thursday, January 5, 2012**, at 5:00 P.M.

Further details and application forms may be obtained on the City website, www.centennialcolorado.com, or from the City Clerk at 303-754-3302. ★

LHHA Board

LHHA Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. at the South Holly Baptist Church.
Everyone is welcome!

Cameron McDonnell, President	303-917-0758
Bonnie Banks, Vice President	303-908-9793
Kenton Guilbert, Treasurer	720-482-1915
Judy Hadfield, Secretary	303-770-4324
Scott Sarra	303-434-4866

Website: www.libertyhillhoa.org
Email: LibertyHillHOA@comcast.net

Other LHHA Representatives:

<u>Newsletter Distribution</u>	
Danielle Greenleaf	303-284-3669
<u>Newsletter Editor/Ad Sales</u>	
Joel & Launa George	720-962-4855

Liberty Hill Metropolitan District (Perimeter Maintenance)

David Lee, Chairman	303-779-5135
Sandra Zarlengo, Secretary	720-373-8563
Randy Berens, Treasurer	303-694-0453
Joel George, Asst. Treasurer	720-962-4855
Betty Thomsen	303-773-6259

LHMD meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the South Holly Baptist Church.

Website: LibertyHillMetroDistrict.org
Email: LHMetroDistrict@gmail.com

The *Liberty Hill News* is published monthly to inform residents of news concerning homeownership in the Liberty Hill Area and to provide a forum for opinions and ideas.

Deadline for submission of articles, letters, and advertisements is the 20th of the month.

Please direct all correspondence to:

Liberty Hill Homeowners Association
8174 S. Holly Street #232
Centennial, CO 80122-4004

For ad sales, contact
news@libertyhillhoa.org

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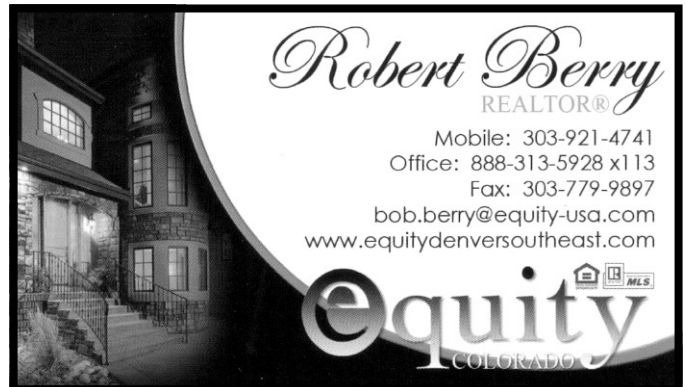
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Liberty Hill Metro District News

By Joel George, LHMD Board Member

This summer, the Liberty Hill Metropolitan District sent a short survey to all Liberty Hill homeowners. The survey was intended to educate LHHA residents about the Metro District and to solicit feedback and input on the District's activities, specifically the Perimeter Update Plan. The LHMD Board was very pleased that of the 397 surveys sent, 162 responses were received, a very respectable 41% response rate that provided valuable data and insights from the residents we serve.

The raw data from the responses has been tabulated into an Excel spreadsheet and posted on the LHMD website (www.libertyhillmetrodistrict.org). It reveals varying levels of understanding about the Metro District and widely divergent opinions regarding the maintenance of the perimeter and what is important to LHHA residents. All names and contact information have been removed from the survey data.

Having the data in a spreadsheet allows quick analysis from a variety of angles. For example, the Board is interested in knowing how the opinions of long-time residents are the same or divergent from those who are newer to Liberty Hill. Similarly, those who live on the perimeter have a unique perspective that may or may not be shared by the rest of the neighborhood. The chart on the next page shows responses to selected survey questions from a variety of perspectives: overall survey results, those who have lived in LHHA 10 years or less, those who have lived here 25 years or more, and those whose homes adjoin the perimeter. It is interesting to see how responses from these groups are similar and different.

Analysis of the responses reveals that 77% of respondents were aware of the purpose of the LHMD and 59% knew that a portion of their yearly property taxes go to fund the maintenance of the Liberty Hill perimeter. While 96% were aware that each *Liberty Hill News* contains LHMD contact information on page 2 of and 90% knew that the Board meets the third Wednesday of every month, only 24% had visited the Metro District's website within the past 6 months. (We hope more will do so to download the results of the survey!)

In response to the question of how pleased they were with the appearance and maintenance of the perimeter around Liberty Hill, 62% of respondents were "very" or "somewhat" pleased, 25% had "average" satisfaction, and only 13% were "not very" or "not at all" pleased. In contrast, the satisfaction level of those who live on the perimeter was significantly lower: only 43% were "very" or "somewhat" pleased, and 32% were "not very" or "not at all" pleased.

The survey showed that by far, the most important aspects of the perimeter to LHHA residents are a well-maintained perimeter, the impact of the perimeter on the resale values of homes, and a secure, durable fence. The least important aspect is having holiday decorations at the entrance signs.

The financial side of the Perimeter Update Plan is important to everyone, and strong feelings were expressed regarding how the Board should fund the updates. Most respondents (59%) urged the Board to make progress in stages, as funds are available, followed by 26% who would like to save as much as possible to fund a significant portion of the project. Only 4% were open to an increase in property taxes, and several suggested that we solicit donations from willing residents. The Board has been diligently saving annual revenues for the last number of years—sometimes at the expense of needed short-term maintenance—in order to pay for the important update project. We will consider the input of LHHA residents very seriously when finalizing the Perimeter Update Plan.

The local neighborhood was admired most by respondents was the Homestead neighborhood (located immediately south of Liberty Hill), followed by Heritage Greens. The aspects of neighborhoods that respondents found

most attractive were brickwork as part of the fence, well-maintained perimeters, attractive landscaping, and inviting entryways.

There has been very little visible progress on the Perimeter Update Plan in 2011, and this is mainly because the LHMD Board has felt that input from LHHA residents has been insufficient to make such important and impactful decisions. We feel the survey has helped to educate residents of the existence of the Plan, and we urge all residents to download the Plan for themselves from our website (www.libertyhillmetrodistrict.org).

A number of respondents indicated that they would like to be more involved as the Perimeter Update Plan continues to mature. The LHMD will be in contact with you to get your help in moving ahead. For the present, we invite all LHHA residents to our next meeting, which will be December 21, at 7:00 P.M., at the South Holly Baptist Church.

In addition, several LHMD Board positions will be up for election in 2012. This is a pivotal time to get involved in the Metro District, as the decisions made by the next Board will further the start that has been made on the Perimeter Update Plan and will impact the Liberty Hill neighborhood for years to come. We invite all LHHA residents to become involved in the activities of the Metro District! ★

Survey question	All Responses	10 Years or Less	25 Years or More	Perimeter Residents
# of Responses (% of total)	162 (100%)	53 (33%)	42 (26%)	27 (17%)
Average length of time in LHHA	16.4 years	4.6 years	31.0 years	15.5 years
1. I am aware that the purpose of the LHMD is to maintain the perimeter around the LH neighborhood.	Y = 77% N = 23%	Y = 70% N = 30%	Y = 88% N = 12%	Y = 74% N = 26%
3. I am aware that a portion of my annual property tax bill funds the LHMD's activities.	Y = 59% N = 41%	Y = 42% N = 58%	Y = 86% N = 14%	Y = 67% N = 33%
5. I have visited the LHMD website within the last 6 months for information about the Metro District.	Y = 24% N = 76%	Y = 32% N = 68%	Y = 19% N = 81%	Y = 30% N = 70%
6. My property is adjacent to a portion of Liberty Hill's perimeter.	Y = 17% N = 83%	Y = 17% N = 83%	Y = 17% N = 83%	Y = 100% N = 0%
7. How pleased are you with the overall appearance and maintenance of the perimeter around LH? - Very - Somewhat - Average - Not Very - Not at all	24% 38% 24% 8% 6%	22% 39% 21% 10% 8%	33% 41% 24% 2% 0%	21% 22% 25% 14% 18%
8. I am aware that the LHMD has initiated a comprehensive plan to update the neighborhood perimeter.	Y = 56% N = 44%	Y = 58% N = 42%	Y = 67% N = 33%	Y = 56% N = 44%
9. To me, the most important aspects of the perimeter around Liberty Hill are: - Well-maintained perimeter - Impact on resale values - Secure, durable fence - Attractive landscape materials - Seasonal flowers at raised planters - Neighborhood identity - Holiday decorations @ entry signs - Other	86% 62% 54% 51% 24% 22% 5% 3%	87% 72% 51% 57% 13% 21% 6% 0%	93% 55% 50% 50% 29% 26% 5% 2%	82% 62% 67% 59% 19% 30% 4% 0%
11. To fund the kind of perimeter that I want for LH, I suggest that the LHMD Board: - Make progress in stages - Save as much as possible - Issue a bond - Increase property taxes	59% 26% 11% 4%	54% 24% 16% 6%	53% 33% 9% 5%	61% 30% 6% 3%

Centennial City Council News

By Keith Gardener, District 2 Councilman



November and December are generally slow months for the City Council, but there are a couple of changes I wanted to make everyone aware of.

The City of Centennial is current in a transaction period for our Code Enforcement service provider. In mid-November, the City awarded a new contract to CH2mHill, who also is the City’s Public Works provider, and they will begin as our new Code Enforcement service provider starting in January. In an effort to better evaluate the City’s Code Enforcement service, the City is conducting an online survey through the month of December, to gain feedback on how we’re doing and how we can better serve our community. The survey will take about a minute or so to complete. It can be found at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BPEU9MXSJ>.

The City has recently launched a redesigned website that is easier to use, In the coming months, the website will incorporate social media, to help inform our community of events and other happenings. Please take a look at the new site at www.centennialcolorado.com and let me know what you think.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season, and I look forward to providing some year-end summary information on the budget, city services, and an update on the City Manager search in January’s newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns about our City, please feel free to contact me at (303) 754-3359 or by email at kgardner@centennialcolorado.com. ★

What is a Credit Union?

A cooperative financial institution that is owned and controlled by its members

Full Service

Checking, Auto Loans, Mortgage Loans, Credit Cards, Savings, CD’s, IRA’s
-We’ve got it all

Convenient

Over 4,430 shared branches & 28,000 Surcharge-Free ATM’s
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WEATHER STRIPPING



With the weather getting colder and colder outside, you may have noticed that you are having more drafts in your home. Unfortunately, weather stripping tends to dry out after a while, and this may be where your leaks are coming from. Fortunately, it is very easy to replace or add weather stripping. Almost all replacement weather stripping can be bought at your local home improvement store for very little cost. If you are having leaks around your doors and windows, you can buy foam tape that has adhesive on one side. All you have to do is peel the back off and stick it to a clean surface between where the two parts will touch, creating a tight seal. Also, there are versions of weather stripping for your doors, where you screw in a small metal track to the door frame. These work really well.

I have found that in most cases, you can recondition the stripping and bring it back to life without having to replace it. In order to do this, take a very small bowl of water (1/4 cup) and add baking soda to it until it is the consistency of thin toothpaste. Dip a paper towel in the solution and rub it all over the stripping. You will notice a lot of dirt and gunk coming off of the stripping. Continue to do this until your rag is not taking any more grime off, then wipe the surface clean. I have found it helpful to do this every six months. You can also recondition the seals on your refrigerator and car doors, as well as the rubber on your windshield wipers.

If you have any topics or questions you would like to discuss or have shown here, please feel free to contact President@libertyhillhoa.org. We get emails and calls every month about products and contractors, so please don't hesitate to ask! ★



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This offer is available to Liberty Hill Homeowners and may not be combined with any other offer.
Expires 3/31/12

Liberty Hill Real Estate Report December 2011

ACTIVE						
Address	Style	Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Sq Ft	Asking Price	
5550 E. BRIARWOOD C	2 Story	4	4	2,236	338,000	
4782 E. COSTILLA AVE	Tri-Level	4	3	2,007	270,000	
7012 S EUDORA St	Tri-Level	5	3	2,007	258,500	
UNDER CONTRACT						
Address	Style	Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Sq Ft	Asking Price	
6904 S DAHLIA St	Tri-Level	4	3	2,007	205,000	
7085 S. ELM CT	2 Story	4	3	2,236	210,000	
6960 S. EUDORA ST	2 Story	4	3	2,236	229,900	
7064 S. GRAPE WAY	2 Story	4	3	2,236	259,000	
SOLD						
Address	Style	Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Sq Ft	Sold Price	Sold Date
5185 E. DAVIES DR	2 Story	4	3	1,942	297,000	11/16/2011
4884 E. COSTILLA AVE	2 Story	4	3	2,236	320,000	11/10/2011
7052 S. GLENCOE CT	Tri-Level	4	3	2,007	307,500	10/1/2011
7045 S. DAHLIA	2 Story	4	3	2,236	310,000	8/24/2011

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Gordon Properties, Inc.
Ph: 720-933-7078
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Based on information from Denver Metrolist, Inc. as of 11/29/2011. Note: This representation is based in whole or part on data supplied by Metrolist. Metrolist does not guarantee nor is it in any way responsible for its accuracy. Data maintained by Metrolist may not reflect all Real Estate activity in the market. Katrina Nail and Gordon Properties, Inc. do not claim to have participated in all of these transactions.