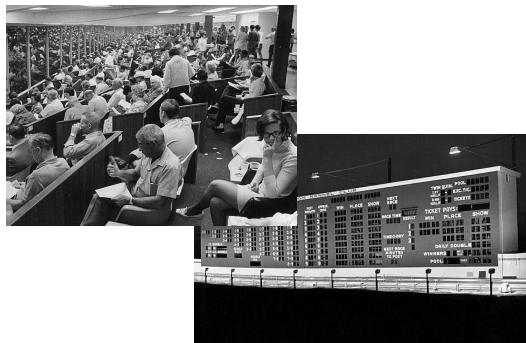


A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society



MILE HIGH KENNEL CLUB HISTORY...

For more than 60 years, the former Mile High Greyhound Park was a vibrant entertainment destination, drawing thousands of people from across Colorado. An economic engine for the city, the park employed hundreds of residents and sales tax revenues were reinvested in community projects.

The former Mile High Greyhound Park site will be redeveloped into a vibrant, mixed-use area in the coming years. With land devoted to residential, retail/commercial, open space and educational uses, the property is poised to help revitalize the area and regain its place as an important community hub in the historic part of Commerce City. The vision for the 65-acre site was developed after thoughtful consideration of resident feedback throughout the process.

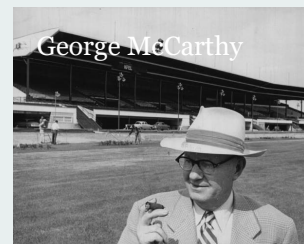
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NEW WEBSITE COMING FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Check out our new website (cchistoric.com) . We are excited to bring a new look to our website. We will have virtual displays that you will be able to enjoy, as well as a historic picture gallery.

SHOP WHERE I LIVE.

We have participated in an E-commerce site to provide items for sale that you can purchase. (commercecity.shopwhereilive.com). Check this out to get your books and cards!



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COLORADO DOG TRACKS

- Pueblo Greyhound Park, Pueblo (1949-1999)
- Rocky Mountain Greyhound Park, Colorado Springs (1948-2005)
- Clover Leaf, Loveland (1955-2006)
- Interstate, Byers (1971-2006)
- Mile High Kennel Club, Commerce City (1949-2008)



MILE HIGH KENNEL CLUB

1948

Statewide voter approval of Amendment 2 legalized pari-mutuel wagering on horses and greyhounds. A public stock offering raised the \$750,000.00 needed to build Mile High Greyhound Park. Through the longtime dream George McCarthy finally got his dog track.

1949

On July 27th Mile High Greyhound Park opens for its inaugural night.

1954

he Mile High Greyhound Park was the second largest race track in the nation.

1965

The Mile High Greyhound park was purchased by Joe Linsey.

1970's

The 70's welcomed the introduction of matinee racing and a steady increase in the number of performances. Alfred Ross, Linsey's nephew (Mile High Greyhound Park owner) served as President through 1990.

1981 - Legislation paved the way for the future of racing by allowing the in-state simulcasting of Mile High Greyhound Park's races

1983

The **Colorado Lottery** began on January 24, 1983, initially selling only **scratch tickets**. Its first drawing took place on April 23, 1983. **Colorado Lottery** games include Cash 5 (with a 5-of-32 matrix), Pick 3, **Colorado Lotto+**, **Mega Millions**, Lucky for Life, and **Powerball**; it also sells **scratch tickets**.

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**MUSEUM HOURS MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
10:00 am—2:00 pm**

BOARD MEETINGS 2021—6PM

January 11, 2021

February 8, 2021

March 8, 2021

April 12, 2021

May 10, 2021

June 14, 2021

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2021

JANUARY 16, 2021—NOON

MARCH 20, 2021—NOON

MAY 21, 2021—6 PM



2021 CCHS SCHEDULE

Volunteer/Membership Reception – JANUARY 23, 2021

“From Time to Time” Awards Reception

Sunday JUNE 6, 2021

**Central City Fundraiser - Sunday MAY 2, 2021 and
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021**

CCHS Museum Anniversary - Saturday

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

HISTORY LECTURES (as scheduled)

MUSEUM GROUP TOURS (as requested)

HISTORY COLORING BOOK DISTRIBUTION (Saturday, April 17)

READING BOOK DISTRIBUTION (Saturday, April 17)

ANFRM MEETING AT THE ROSEHILL GRANGE (As scheduled)

ARSENAL REPOSITORY TOUR (Friday June 4)

COMMERCE CITY HISTORY PROGRAM (June, July, August)

JANET UNION MEMORIAL TEA (Saturday, August 7)

LEGENDARY LADIES (Saturday, November 13)

Dates may be changed due to COVID!



Mile High Kennel Club

MILE HIGH KENNEL CLUB CONT.

1990

In November 1990 voters approved gaming, with the idea that revenue would be used to preserve the three mining towns. The first wager was placed on Oct. 1, 1991.

1990 - United Track Racing, Inc., now Mile High Racing and Entertainment, purchased the Mile High Greyhound Park property. During this decade, Mile High Racing and Entertainment ownership yields numerous upgrades and improvements to the facility. The property moves towards becoming a multi-purpose arena by adding a professional soccer field and facilities to the complex.

1991

Longtime employee Bill Lee was named General Manager. Former Racing Director Steve Rose is Mile High Greyhound Park's General Manager. Senate Bill 99 is signed into law which brings horse and greyhound showing of simulcast authorized for all tracks in Colorado to that state on the condition of one live race day for every three simulcast days. Under Senate Bill 99, Pueblo Greyhound Park began its new racing schedule in the Southern circuit - October to March. Racing Associates of Colorado leases Arapahoe Park for three years and begins renovation of the facility and track.

1999—Wembley of England owns the dog track.

2007 - Cloverleaf Dog Racing track closed in Loveland.

2008 - Last race ran at Mile High kennel Club.

2011

In August 2011 the CCURA (Commerce City Urban Renewal Authority) purchased the dog track property investing over 6 million dollars including the abatement and demolition of 157,947 square feet of structures.

2012—The beginning of the dog track demolition for future development and finished in 2013.

2015—The boys and girls club was built. Commerce City donated 2.5 acres and Suncor donated over a million dollars to make this possible.

2017—Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning unique to the Mile High Greyhound Park site was approved in January 2017 to guide development on the site. The proposed zoning plan was presented to residents at a public meeting in September 2016 at Central Elementary.

2018—Urban Renewal Plan

The Mile High Greyhound Park Urban Renewal Plan is designed to help provide important services, attract private investment, utilize underdeveloped land and leverage public investment and funding options to provide necessary public infrastructure. As required by law, the plan includes agreements with other agencies who collect taxes from the property (Adams 14 School District, Adams County and the South Adams County Fire District) in order to allow the use of TIF to fund infrastructure construction on the site. The plan was approved by the CCURA board in the city council in June 2018.

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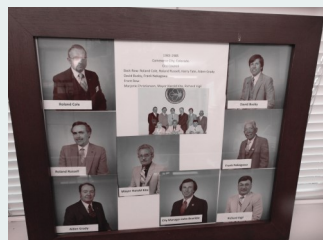
CHARTER MEMBERS

Joy bishop
Hester Bonnell
Debra Bullock
Rene' Bullock
Thelma Cole
Cindy Comstock
Gary Comstock
Kristi Douglas
Steve Douglas
Gary Drotar
Reba Drotar
Samantha Ford
Sean Ford
Esther Hall
Bob Hutchings
Dorothy Hutchings
Gene Leffel
David Lutter
Dustin McIntyre
Loretta Petty
Don Sater
JoAnn Stevenson
Dick Stevenson
Janet Union
Norm Union
June Younger
Troy Younger

NEW MUSEUM DISPLAYS

During the COVID-19 Pandemic we had to close for a few months and we have had less visitors in the museum during 2020. We decided that it was a good time to clean, re-organize and make new displays. Our newest displays are;

- DIA 25 year history
- City Council and the Charter
- We finished the water department display
- We are currently working on the Dog Track history and display
- We are also currently working on Adams 14 timeline
- Derby the first 100 years reorganized.
- Rocky Mountain Arsenal



Above is the new outside display cabinet that will have the Dog Track Timeline and pictures!

MIRIAM ELAINE HAST

Miriam Elaine Hast September 17—December 15, 2020

Miriam Hast was born to Herbert & Mitilda (Wagner) Hast in Brighton, Colorado. She died December 15, 2020 at Villas at Sunny Acres, Denver, Colorado. Miriam was a long-time resident of Commerce City, Colorado. She is preceded in death by her parents, step mother Bertha (Wagner) and brother Herb Hast Jr. Miriam is survived by her sister-in-law Gail (Herb) Hast, nieces, Stephanie (Bruce) Clow and Renee (Salvador) Stabila, grandnieces Katherine Clow, Megan Clow, grandnephew James Seelbach and Great Grandniece Cadence. She is also survived by numerous cousins and friends that will miss her, her courage, humor and faith.

Miriam was born with the help of her grandmother Ida Hast and the family was told she wouldn't survive, born small and with Cerebral Palsy. She spent her life proving the doctor wrong. She also proved that disabled didn't mean that she wasn't able. Her parents sent her to school so that she could learn to live independently and that's exactly how she lived. She worked at Hast Lumber Company, in Accounts Payable, paying the bills. She enjoyed travel. She liked to go shopping, going to church, lunch or dinner with friends and family. Above all, she loved her family and her friends.

Hast reunions were highlights of the even years and Wagner reunions in the odd years. There were few Lutheran congregations in Denver that didn't know Miriam. She went to a lot of them. She was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church in Brighton, Colorado. Miriam also did volunteer work at TRIAD on their steering committee for years. Miriam was a force and inspiration to those that loved and knew her. She was also a member of the Commerce City Historical Society and she will be missed!



COLORING BOOKS AND READING BOOKS!

Saturday April 17, 2021!

10am—12 pm

We are excited to announce that we will have a drive through reading book for grade 3 and coloring book for grade 2 give away for kids from Adams 14 school district. Bring your child and just drive through our parking lot and they will get their books. We hope to see you there!



MILE HIGH KENNEL CLUB

2019—Master Developer Agreement

An updated Master Developer Agreement (MDA) was approved by city council and the CCURA in August 2020, replacing previous iterations of the MDA. The MDA had previously been updated in 2019 to make Delwest the master developer for the site. Highlights of the amended MDA and other associated agreements include:

- \$9.5 million Purchase & Sale Agreement for Delwest to buy all residential land on the property (approximately 40 of the 65 acres) by Spring 2020—extended due to COVID-19.
- Deadline for infrastructure construction to break ground by Summer 2020—extended due to COVID-19.
- A 5-year period for Delwest to exclusively market commercial areas of the site and receive half the proceeds from all commercial land sales.
- CCURA commitment to start construction on \$2.5 million expansion of the regional drainage pond within 18 months of the sale of the residential land..
- CCURA to keep all tax revenues obtained over the 25-year TIF period to repay the city's investment in the project. Delwest closed on the property September 2020.
- A groundbreaking ceremony on October 6, 2020 officially celebrated the highly anticipated start of the construction on the project.

HALBERT LEONARD SWANSON

Halbert Leonard Swanson September 12, 1937 - December 11, 2020

Halbert Swanson of Denver Colorado and a member of the CCHS, passed away December 11, 2020. His wife was Patricia Jane Swanson (Gardner). She preceded him in death March 22, 2007. He was born and raised in Commerce City Colorado to Howard and Madelene Swanson. His siblings have all preceded him in death: Gloria Swanson (Gish), Herman Swanson, Hubert Swanson and Harley "Damon" Swanson. He leaves behind three sons, Dwayne, Hal, and Greg, three grandchildren, Jessica, Ryan and Adam and two great grandchildren. He was dearly loved by his family and friends. He was a graduate of Denver University and was a teacher at Adams City High School where he taught Photography and History and coached Cross Country and Baseball. His students loved him for his humor and patience. He was a great mentor. Halbert was also a professional photographer and shot "thousands" of weddings, senior pictures and portraits. He was very proud of his Model A Ford roadster and Tudor and he and Pat were members of the Model A Ford Club and Trailblazers.



"Halbert was one of our members in the CCHS and we will miss him."

CCHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2020

JANUARY—Newsletter

FEBRUARY—Fire Department Resource Fair

MARCH – Central City /Joined CARS/
COVID-19 started

APRIL—Newsletter

JUNE/JULY—Cleaning and reorganizing

AUGUST –Newsletter

SEPTMEBER—New displays—DIA, City Council and more

DECEMBER—Sponsored Adams County Sheriff's Department Christmas for Kids



U.S. Luggage debuted its

Wheeled suitcase in 1970



BOARD MEMBERS:

ESTHER HALL,
PRESIDENT

PAM MEIER,
VICE-PRESIDENT

DEBRA BULLOCK,
SECRETARY/TREASURER

SHEILA HARRIS,
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

WE HAVE ONE BOARD
SEAT OPEN. IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN BEING A
BOARD MEMBER PLEASE
CALL ESTHER HALL

303-249-1930

GOING TO THE HILLS ON MAY 2, 2021!

We are planning our first Central City Trip in May, pending COVID-19 restrictions. We will keep you informed!



MUSEUM VISITORS IN 2020-295

GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2020—\$14,480.00

Commerce City Historical Society

6505 East 60th Avenue
Commerce City, CO 80022

cchistoricalociety@yahoo.com

echistoric.com

303-288-2590



THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS:

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

HESTER BONNELL, RENE' & DEBRA BULLOCK, STEVE & KRISTI DOUGLAS, HARLEY & ESTHER HALL, BOB & DOROTHY HUTCHINGS, LINDA ADOLSEK, MARTHA APPLGARTH, DOTTIE BAKKE, SHEILA HARRIS, DARREL E. HORAN, SALLY MCINTOSH, DARLENE MUNIZ, TERESA MUNIZ, TOM SCHRAH, RUTH SHULL-MILLER, KAREN DALRYMPLE-STROMER, JUDY TUNIS, SHIRLEY VALENTINE, FAMILY OF REEDA MORGENSEN-THOMPSON BARBER, BILL AND EVELYN BARNARD, FAMILY OF DAVID AND CHARLENE BUSBY, FAMILY OF KEN AND MARIA KOGER, FAMILY OF DALE AND TERI MINGILTON, FAMILY OF ABE AND ANGELA RAMIREZ, FAMILY OF MICHAEL SCANLON, FAMILY OF JESSIE SINGH, FAMILY OF DENNIS AND BONNIE STACK, FAMILY OF RICK AND PATTI TETER, PAM MEIER-MADISON & COMPANY,

NEW MEMBERS:

FAMILY OF RENEE LOVATO