

# 17 MILE HOUSE FARM PARK VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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## January 2017

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### **Calendar**

Please see the 2017 calendar on page four. Three month updates will be included in future newsletters.

### **School/Group Visits**

The Ghost Town Club of Colorado will visit 17 Mile House on Saturday, March 11th during the Open House 9am-12n. This group donated preservation money (\$750) to the volunteers in 2016 to help purchase light-blocking shades for all the house windows to prevent sun damage to the collections. The Ghost Town Club is looking forward to visiting this historic farm and learning how their donation helped our preservation efforts. We plan to open all the buildings, bring out the truck, take a guided walk to the creek, and provide refreshments. The Ghost Town Club will have several speakers whom you are welcome to listen to including Garry O'Hara, Lee Whiteley, Bill Bauer, Casey Davenhill, and possibly Ruth Dolan and Jack Race. We invite all volunteers to join us and share your talents including room historians, spinning, butter churning, and "guess the object". Wearing your period costume is welcomed for this event. Please respond to Karen Sear if you plan to volunteer on March 11th so we know what activities to plan for.

Looking ahead to the summer, we have two school groups confirmed. American Academy Parker will visit on Friday, May 5th, 9am-2pm, with 80 second graders, and American Academy Castle Rock will visit on Friday, May 12th, 9am-2pm, also with 80 second graders. Since the two groups are one week apart, we appreciate all volunteers joining us those days to share the 17 Mile House history. We have many projects you can help with and appreciate even one hour of your time!



## Open House

The Open House schedule for 2017 on page five. The next open house will be on Saturday, January 14th and we will be putting away the holiday decorations and re-setting the displays. On March 11th during the open house, we will be joined by the Ghost Town Club of Colorado. More information is included in the Group Visits section.

## 2016 Fred A. Rosenstock Award

Congratulations! The 17 Mile House Volunteers have received the 2016 Fred A. Rosenstock Award for Outstanding Contributions to Colorado History. This annual award was presented by the prestigious Denver Posse of Westerners at their banquet and meeting on December 21st, 2016. Karen Sear received the award plaque on behalf of all the 17 Mile House Volunteers, and was joined by Garry O'Hara, Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society President, and Bill Bauer and Derwin Milton with the Arapahoe County Open Spaces. A monetary award of \$1,000 was also given to the 17 Mile House Volunteers for their accomplishments. We thank CCVHS member Carl Sandberg (2016 Sheriff of the Denver Posse of Westerners) for suggesting our group apply, and we are most grateful to Garry O'Hara, (CCVHS President and 17 Mile House Volunteer) for writing the application and nominating our group for this great honor. Our sincere thanks to the Denver Posse of Westerners and their Rosenstock Committee for selecting and honoring us. Congratulations, volunteers, for all your time, talents, and passion for 17 Mile House and its history! We appreciate Arapahoe County Open Spaces inviting us to help them share the Farm's history with the community. Look for the award plaque which will be hung soon in the house!



## Collections

Much work needs to be done to assess the collections in the house and tag all items and complete the inventory. Volunteers will receive notice when dates are finalized for this project. We now have a "Wish List" for specific items we are looking for. Please keep these items in mind and let us know if you come across them. We appreciate donations but do have limited funds to use for this purpose. Items we are looking for include a hanging iron triangle with ringer or large bell for use with school groups, and butter making tools to add to churning display. Please contact Karen Sear if you can help.

## Open Spaces News

We will share information with you about other Arapahoe County Open Spaces properties and projects. One of their big projects in 2016 was completing an application for a Colorado State Historical Fund Grant for preservation of the 17 Mile House barn. Being volunteers at 17 Mile House, you know how desperately this renovation is needed. The County staff spent many months of research and time to prepare the grant application and will receive word in February if they were chosen for this preservation project with the State Historical Fund. Thank you, Bill Bauer and Glen Poole (and all the Open Spaces staff), for all your time and dedication to this project!

## Volunteer Highlights

Please keep us informed of what you are doing! Our volunteers enjoy learning what their 17 Mile House friends are up to. Karen and Kevin Sear enjoyed the holidays by attending the Great Dickens Fair ([www.dickensfair.com](http://www.dickensfair.com)) in San Francisco in December. Paige and Emily Kastens and their father, Charles, will be attending the Civil War Ball ([www.civilwarball.org](http://www.civilwarball.org)) in Castle Rock later this month and we look forward to seeing photos of them in their period gowns.

### **Volunteer Connection News**

All 17 Mile House Volunteers should be receiving the Arapahoe County Volunteer Connections monthly newsletter and update. If not, please let Karen Sear know. Nira Duvan coordinates the volunteer efforts for the entire County and is a great supporter of our efforts at 17 Mile House. Also, since we are beginning a new year, the County needs a new volunteer application completed for all volunteers. Volunteers who have completed the “long form” previously do not need apply again. Please complete this process by either completing the paper application the next time you are at 17 Mile House or doing this online at:

<https://www.arapahoegov.com/FormCenter/Community-Resources-7/Volunteer-Application-54>

This form needs to be completed once each year (there are separate forms for volunteering at the County Fair or the Fall Festival). Thanks!



### **Historic Locations/Book Reviews**

If you have visited an interesting historic place and want to share it with the other volunteers, please let us know! We would like to highlight places to go as well as interesting historical books you have read. Please share your passion of history with our volunteers.

### **Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners**

#### ***Hawk Walk in Cherry Creek State Park***

A special program sponsored by the Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners. Saturday, January 28th at 9:00 am. Meet at the Cherry Creek High School Parking Lot (Cherry Creek High School is located at 9300 E Union Ave, Greenwood Village, CO 80111) and carpool to the Cottonwood Creek Trailhead for a unique perspective on the Cottonwood Creek Pollutant Reduction Facility. Cottonwood Creek is a tributary to Cherry Creek Reservoir and is the site of an innovative restoration project designed to stabilize the channel and recreate a natural, well-vegetated, functional prairie stream system. Enjoy this guided exploration with knowledgeable naturalists.

The Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners organize volunteer opportunities specifically to assist with the Cottonwood Creek Restoration. Volunteers help to assess the overall health and function of the stream and wetland complex. We are scheduling field trips for interested groups and individuals to help us collect census information on Colorado wildlife and native plants. If you would like to become a part of this effort, please join us on January 28th from 9:00 am until noon as we look for prairie dogs, rabbits and the raptors who love them. There is no charge for the trip. For more information and to R.S.V.P. contact Casey Davenport at [casey@cherry-creek.org](mailto:casey@cherry-creek.org) or call (303) 345-1675.

### **Thank You!**

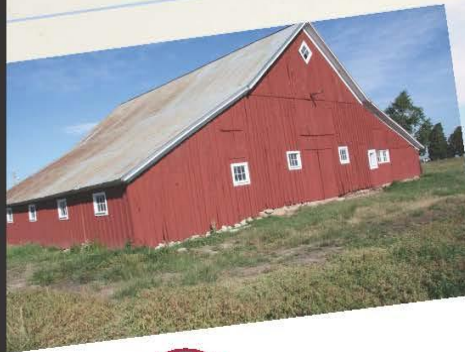
We are all in this endeavor at 17 Mile House Farm Park together. Everyone’s thoughts and suggestions are valued and appreciated. Please stay in touch even if you volunteer only a few hours a year. Give us your ideas about the property, projects or activities, the volunteer group, or the newsletter. You can contact Karen Sear at [seark@msn.com](mailto:seark@msn.com) or 303-514-2094 or Bill Bauer at [bbauer@arapahoegov.com](mailto:bbauer@arapahoegov.com) or 720-874-6555.

## 2017 17 Mile House Activity Calendar

<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
<p><b>14</b> – Open House, 9am-12n, take down Christmas decorations, renew applications</p> <p><b>28</b> – Hawk Walk in Cherry Creek State Park, 9am</p>	<p><b>11</b> – Open House, 9am-12n</p>
<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
<p><b>11</b> -- Open House, 9am-12n</p> <p><b>11</b> -- Group Tour, Ghost Town Club of Colorado, 9am-12n: all buildings open, truck on display, spinning and butter churning demonstrations</p> <p><b>TBD</b> – Stewardship Partners, Equinox Walk</p>	<p><b>8</b> – Open House, 9am-12n</p> <p><b>26</b> – Volunteer Connections reception</p>
<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
<p><b>5</b> – American Academy Parker, 80 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, 9am-2pm</p> <p><b>6</b> – Open House, 9am-12n</p> <p><b>12</b> – American Academy Castle Rock, 80 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, 9am-2pm</p>	<p><b>10</b> -- Open House, 9am-12n</p> <p><b>TBD</b> – Volunteer Appreciation Picnic</p> <p><b>TBD</b> – Stewardship Partners, Unique to the Creek</p>
<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
<p><b>8</b> – Open House, 9am-12n</p> <p><b>TBD</b> -- County Fair, Heritage Group (depends on volunteer response)</p>	<p><b>12</b> -- Open House, 9am-12n</p>
<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
<p><b>9</b> -- Open House, 9am-12n</p>	<p><b>14</b> – Open House, 9am-12n (<u>Fall Festival is tentative, 10am-4pm</u>)</p>
<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
<p><b>11</b> – Open House, 9am-12n, holiday party and house decorating</p>	<p><b>2</b> -- Open House, 9am-12n, holiday party</p>

# OPEN HOUSE 2017 SCHEDULE

at 17 Mile House Farm Park



ARAPAHOE COUNTY  
COLORADO'S FIRST

## Step Back in Time Tour the Historic House and Barn

### 2017 TOUR DATES

Saturdays  
9 a.m. - Noon  
January 14  
February 11  
March 11  
April 8  
May 6  
June 10  
July 8  
August 12  
September 9  
October 14  
November 11  
December 2

*Otherwise, the house and barn  
are open by appointment only.*

Guests can step back in time during a visit to 17 Mile House Farm Park, a 155-year old property which served as an important resting stop for pioneers traveling on the Cherokee/Smoky Hill wagon trails in the 1860s.

You can learn all about the history of the property and its significance to the Old West during a complimentary tour, guided by the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society.

This Arapahoe County heritage area includes an historic house, red barn, silo and milk shed – restored to their known condition in the early 1900s. Other features include replica windmills, 30 acres of open space, a trailhead to the Cherry Creek Regional Trail, picnic tables, parking and restrooms.

The 17 Mile House Farm and Park is located at **8181 S Parker Rd., Centennial, CO 80116.**

**Questions?** Contact Bill Bauer, Arapahoe County Open Spaces at [bbauer@arapahoegov.com](mailto:bbauer@arapahoegov.com) or call 720-874-6540.

### Additional Sponsors:



Karen Sear  
Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society  
[cchvsco@gmail.com](mailto:cchvsco@gmail.com) | 303-514-2094



Casey Davenhill  
Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners  
[casey@cherry-creek.org](mailto:casey@cherry-creek.org)  
303-345-1675 | [www.cherry-creek.org](http://www.cherry-creek.org)

[www.arapahoegov.com/openspaces](http://www.arapahoegov.com/openspaces)



*Address correction requested*

Arapahoe County Open Spaces  
6934 S. Lima St., Suite A  
Centennial, CO 80112  
Attn: Bill Bauer

## **Arapahoe County Open Spaces**

The Open Spaces Department works to preserve natural and heritage areas, enhance neighborhood and regional parks and build and maintain trails. Since 2003, Arapahoe County's Open Space program has conserved more than 31,000 acres of open space, built more than 51 miles of new trails and created and enhanced 157 neighborhood and regional parks. Much of this work is done in partnership with local communities in Arapahoe County.

Residents can step back in time during a visit to 17 Mile House, a 155-year old farm located at 8181 South Parker Road which served as an important resting stop for pioneers traveling on the Cherokee/Smoky Hill wagon trails in the 1860's.

This County-designated heritage area includes a historic house, red barn, silo and milk shed, which were restored to their known condition in the early 1900's, as well as two replica windmills and 30 acres of open space. The Farm Park also features a trail head to connect to the Cherry Creek Regional Trail, picnic tables, a parking lot and restroom.

The property is situated between the 75-acre Norton Farm Open Space owned by the Town of Parker and the 107-acre Parker Jordan/Centennial Open Space.