# The Louisville Historian

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## *Looking Back, Facing the Future, or Just Standing Still: Absorbing the Marshall Fire Impacts*

### *by the Louisville Historical Museum Staff*

About 30,000 people evacuated on December 30, 2021 due to the Marshall Fire, which caused the destruction of over 1,000 homes and other structures in Louisville, Superior, and parts of unincorporated Boulder County as well as the death of one person and presumed death of another. Entire neighborhoods are gone. Over the past few weeks, the Louisville Historical Museum staff has wrestled with a question that no museum wants to ever consider: what is a museum's role when the community it serves experiences tragedy?

***Handmade banner along the Mining Trail south of houses on Owl Drive, photographed on 1/17/2022.***

On one hand, the Museum was lucky. The Museum's buildings are still standing, and its collection of artifacts and photographs wasn't harmed by smoke or soot. None of the Museum staff lost their homes. However, we all know people who did, including our friends, our colleagues within the City of Louisville staff, Museum volunteers and members, and current and former Louisville History Foundation directors and former Historical Commission members. Like so many others involved in the recovery, the Museum staff have been processing the trauma of the fire while also working to help others do the same. While the unevenness of the fire's impact might make its effects appear isolating, it is also true that the Marshall Fire affected each person who lives in or loves Louisville, Superior, or the affected areas of unincorporated Boulder County. The widespread effects of the fire have connected us all and brought to light the multitude of experiences and emotions that this community experienced during the evacuation, Marshall Fire, and now in the recovery.

And so, the Museum's answer to what our role is in the coming days is this: a history museum's job is to collect, preserve, and share the history of the community it exists to support. Although it might not seem so at first, this is a future-focused charge. The fact is, history museums are fundamentally about the future. We exist to ensure that the past and present residents of our area have their voices saved and shared so that our community today can make better informed decisions about who we want to be tomorrow. This is a core tenet of the Louisville Historical Museum. And it is more apparent than ever in the aftermath of the Marshall Fire. There are tens of thousands of stories about the evacuation and ongoing recovery, and we will all have even more stories in the coming weeks. We invite everyone to share their

story with the Museum and with future Louisville residents. It is our hope that the act of sharing your story, and the knowledge that your experience will be preserved, will help our community heal.

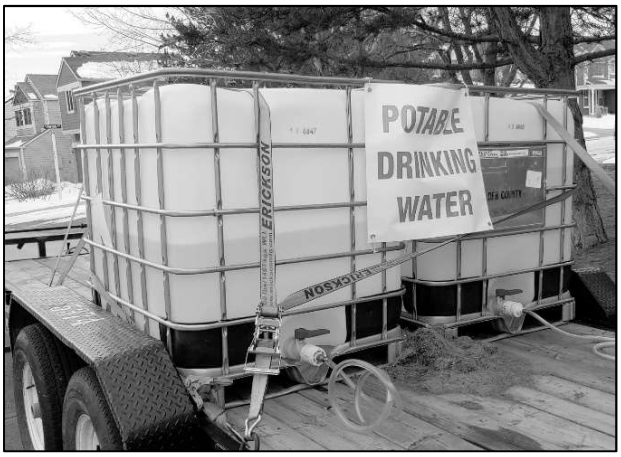
### *The Meaning of Heart*

In the aftermath of the Marshall Fire, the word "heart" holds special meaning for people in Louisville, Superior, and nearby affected areas. Our communities are heartbroken about the people, places, memories, pets, and belongings that have been lost. The buildings of historic Old Town Louisville, which is the heart of Louisville, appeared to be at high risk in the early hours of the fire, but were untouched. Tragically, the fire destroyed the Superior Historical Museum and much of historic Original Town Superior, which many view as being the heart of Superior.

***Note left in the lobby of the Louisville Library, photographed on 1/16/2022.***

***Toy drive organized by CU Science Discovery at the Louisville Public Library, photographed on 1/8/2022.***

The word "heart" also connects us to the heartfelt assistance that has been extended to our communities. Just as it has been difficult to grasp the scale of the losses, it is also hard to absorb the extent of all of the generous outpouring of individuals, organizations, businesses, and governmental entities. For example, many of us have seen police cars with the names of a dozen or more other jurisdictions on the streets of our town to provide assistance. People have expressed gratitude to first responders with handmade signs that they have placed in their front yards or on their fences. Following the turnoff of gas lines just before a temperature plunge, trucks and personnel from energy companies from states hundreds of miles away converged on our community to help personally turn the gas back on, address by address, in undamaged homes and businesses. (Many Louisville residents who had houses to return to even had the gas in their homes turned back on by personnel from Louisville, Kentucky, which seemed fitting; the truck in the accompanying photo photographed on 1/3/2021 is from KS Energy Services of Wisconsin.) The staff of the City of Louisville and Boulder County have, through their actions and long hours worked under pressure, shown immeasurable dedication to the wellbeing of the community. Saying "thank you" to all of these people, to FEMA, and to the other individuals and charitable organizations that have jumped into action to help others seems inadequate to express the depth of gratitude that we all feel.




***Potable water station on Owl Drive, photographed on 1/31/2022.***

When the fire happened, other museum professionals in the area as well as conservators and museum emergency management staff from other states, including the Smithsonian, were quick to provide assistance to the Louisville Historical

Museum. We are so grateful to them. They, and we, have been shaken by the loss of the Superior Historical Museum building and collection. Some museum professionals in the area are assisting the Superior Historical Museum, and some who are trained conservators will help with upcoming Museum workshops on how to best clean and stabilize fire-damaged items.

***Handmade sign on a fence at Pine Street & Via Appia, photographed on 1/12/22.***

Similarly, the Museum's members and donors who live outside of the area were quick to write and express their heartache about the news of the fire and specifically their worry about damage to the Museum and the historic structures of Old Town Louisville. Some took a moment to express their gratitude that the Louisville Historical Museum exists to collect, preserve, and share the history of Louisville. It has not been lost on the Museum staff that what the Museum has in its collections are the same kinds of things that many residents grabbed from homes during evacuation, or wish they had, except that what the Museum preserves represents the history of the entire community – things like historic photos, handwritten letters and journals, and other meaningful items that together all help to tell the story of who we are.

Our hearts are with everyone who has experienced losses due to the Marshall Fire.

## *Tragic Times Call for Urgent Collecting*

Since the Museum staff pay equal attention to the past, present, and the future, and knowing that current events will eventually be part of our historical record, we continually look to collect artifacts that represent our times and hold meaning for future generations.

Since the beginning of COVID and now in the aftermath of the Marshall Fire, the Louisville Historical Museum has been actively collecting first person accounts, photographs, documents, and artifacts that reflect the shared experience of our community in navigating these difficult times. This process of collecting in the moment as events unfold is called Rapid Response Collecting or Urgent Collecting.

***Handmade sign in front of a home on Mulberry St., photographed on 1/15/2022.***

The things that can tell us the most about a significant historical event are often the ephemeral items that serve an immediate purpose and are then discarded. Temporary signs, chalk art, slogans, and images such as "Louisville Strong" – all tell us about the emotional impact and reactions of people in the community. Documenting first person accounts captures the immediacy and significance of a situation, whether it is someone evacuating from their home, helping a neighbor, being a first responder, or assisting in recovery efforts. Personal stories are essential to capturing the full spectrum of experiences as well as contributing to community healing. These stories only become more meaningful over time for explaining and sharing our lived experience with future generations. Today, the Museum's rapid collecting also includes items that reflect the unique aspects of the times we live in – social media posts, GoFundMe campaigns, Nest thermostat images, drone footage. These are fleeting examples that can say so much about our society and how people communicated and connected with each other.

***Handmade signs on a fence at Pine Street & Via Appia, photographed on 1/12/2022.***

As we seek to understand and digest the full scope and impact of the Marshall Fire, we encourage

everyone to share their story. You can write about your experiences and share photos, feelings, and reactions on the Museum's Marshall Fire Story Project webpage.

If you salvaged a sentimental object from the ashes or reflected on what you did or didn't take with you during evacuation, please share the story of the significance of these objects to your life. In the upcoming months, the Museum will be hosting story collection events for people to record their stories, create art pieces, and care for fire-damaged items. See pages 7-8 and check the Museum website for program dates and times.

## *Share Your Story*

Please consider sharing your stories and photos by using the Marshall Fire Story Collection form. Our community has been through a lot. Whether you are grieving, looking for ways to understand, wanting to shed light on those who are helping, or simply needing to share, we invite you to add your story and/or photos to this collective of community stories from the Marshall Fire.

At the Louisville Historical Museum, our mission is to collect and preserve both the historical record and the stories and lives that make up the heart and character of Louisville. The stories you share from evacuation, during the fire, and after the fire will help future generations of Louisville and Colorado residents understand the gravity and emotional spectrum of this event. Please feel welcome to share in any format you want and feel free to share stories on behalf of others if you have their permission.

Here is a sampling of stories that the Museum has recently added to its collection of experiences from the fire and recovery. (The Museum is grateful to have received submissions from community members who lost their homes, and the staff decided against sharing them at this particular time.)

**On Loss and Community, January 25, 2022:** *Many people will be able to relate to the experiences that Pamela Olkowski of Superior, who previously lost her home to fire, described.*

"We have lived in the Rock Creek area of Superior since 1999. We love our close knit community. In 2010 our home and several nearby were destroyed in a fire that started in [a nearby] townhouse. It took over a year but we did rebuild. On December 30, 2021, we received a pre evacuation notice and decided we would take no chances and leave as soon as we could grab a few things. In 2010 we had no time to even get our pets who thankfully were found days later alive.

"We … packed up our 2 precious pets, our computers and a small safe and headed out of town around 2 pm. We were frightened to lose our home yet again, but extremely grateful the most important things, our family and pets, would be safe. While traffic to get out of town was terrible, everyone was kind and patient, all of us having the dazed look [indicating that] this may be the last time we see our homes intact. It took us well over an hour to go 3 blocks but we knew we were safe. . . . All Thursday night we stayed with a friend in Candelas in Arvada. We watched the news and could even see the flames from Arvada. For a brief time, Arvada was under pre evacuation and we had to muster the energy to move yet again. We knew at this point hundreds of homes were destroyed, so even if our house survived our beautiful neighborhood would never be the same.

"The next day we were able to find out our house, and the entire [townhouse] area, was not affected. The feeling of elation quickly faded when we saw the utter devastation all around. It was a sense of sadness that enveloped me as much as when we lost our home in 2010. The countless stories of missing or dead pets was a pain I still cannot shake. I love this community and how wonderful we have pulled together. I just hope we can be stronger than before."

***Handmade sign at Pine Street & Via Appia, photographed on 1/12/22.***

**On Gratitude to First Responders, January 14, 2022:** *Jack Bowes contributed his perspective as someone who is a descendant of early area residents. The historic Bowes farm (located near Monarch High School and Monarch K-8) holds*

*value for not only his own family, but also for the history of the entire Louisville-Superior area.*

"On the morning of December 30, 2021, I was called by my sister, Sue, telling me that there was a wildfire burning west of our family farm located between 96th and 88th streets on the south side of Dillon Road. Deciding to drive down from my home in Longmont, I discovered that Dillon Road was barricaded and the farm and the surrounding area to the West had been evacuated….

"Feeling helpless as I watched the billowing smoke to the north and west, I sat and reflected on the history of our family farm. My grandfather, Robert Bowes, having emigrated from England in 1880, homesteaded the farm in 1883, acquiring title in 1893. He and my grandmother spent the remainder of their lives on the farm. My father was born in 1901 and died in 1959 on the farm and his wife, my mother, lived there for over sixty years. I and my sister grew up on the farm and I lived there for thirty years. My sister continues to live on the farm part time and my son lived there for a period in 2009 (four generations)….

"The next morning … [I] drove to Paradise Lane, parked and walked through the field to our completely intact house and farm buildings. I walked around the property and observed tracks from a fire truck and where firefighters had halted the wildfire a mere seventy-five feet from the farm buildings.

***Handmade sign at Pine Street & Via Appia, photographed on 1/12/22.***

"I realize that the firefighters could not save every house and my sympathy goes out to all those that lost homes, property and memories. To the Louisville Fire Department and all the surrounding fire departments that provided mutual aid: Thank you so much for your courage and efforts in saving our farm and its history for our family and for generations to come. You have our everlasting gratitude and support."

**On the Power of Community, January 6, 2022:** *Travis Ramos and his family, of Louisville, found comfort in an occurrence that was more often experienced in the early months of the pandemic.*

"As we were putting our kids to bed this evening, we heard a strange sound carrying in the wind outside. My head perked up; I asked everyone to be quiet for a second. Sure enough, there it was again.

"An unexpected smile swept across my face. We ran downstairs, flung open the front door, and listened. There it was again, louder than before. A long howl, followed by lots of shorter howls.

"Our neighbors. Our friends. Our people, the people of Louisville, once again howling in togetherness into the dark night.

"Voices hoarse from Covid and sickness, emotionally ragged but thankful for what wasn't lost, and my son standing there in his bath towel, we joined in, sending our own howls far into the night.

"Both Laura and I walked inside with grateful tears in our eyes. We love our little town."

**On Letting Ourselves Grieve, December 31, 2021:** *Lena Wenzel of Louisville reflected on the spectrum of reactions that people are experiencing.*

"Shock and grief are funny complicated emotions. The outpouring of support and love coming from all directions is overwhelming. We are where we are, we process at different paces. The body has a way of protecting itself yet unraveling on its own. I give myself permission to collapse. A wonderful paradox: grief and gratitude, rather indescribable. To all those affected, I am with you."

**On the Meaning of Home, January 1, 2022:** *Emma Calabrese is one of many former residents who are shaken by what has happened.*

"The pandemic has meant fewer visits to Louisville these last two years, but my partner Yik and I

arrived in town on Dec. 27, just in time to take a few walks with my family on some of our favorite streets and paths before the fire came. I'm so relieved to have learned yesterday that our house is still standing, but my family is grieving with our community for this town that we love so much. Louisville is the starting point for virtually every voyage I've ever taken, it's the destination that always awaits me, it's the emotional center of my life.

"Having grown up in Louisville in the '90s, I know this town by the places that marked my childhood—learning to swim at the Rec Center and Memory Square, attending Fireside Elementary and then Monarch, playing soccer at Louisville Elementary, visiting restaurants downtown (even back when there were only a few to choose from!), spending time with friends at their homes, going for so many walks and runs (at Harper Lake, at Davidson Mesa, at Coal Creek Trail, on the bike path behind Heritage Park, everywhere), and growing up with my sister in a house full of love.

"When I was younger, I often took Louisville's beauty for granted. Now, when I return for visits, all of this open space with the mountains in the distance and the sky so brilliantly blue overhead is almost painfully beautiful—a reminder of my incredible good fortune to call this place home. I have lived far from here for more than ten years now, but Louisville has always been the one place in the world where I know I will always keep returning, no matter what. What a blessing to love a place so fiercely."

ONE Community
TOGETHER WE WILL RECOVER & REBUILD
Louisville • Superior
Boulder County

## *Honoring the Superior Historical Museum, Lost in the Marshall Fire*

As close communities that live and work together, Louisville and Superior share many things, including an interwoven regional history. The Marshall Fire has brought to light many of the ways in which our communities are connected and support each other.

The Louisville Historical Museum staff were deeply saddened to hear that the Superior Historical Museum building was lost in the Marshall Fire. The two museums regularly shared resources, worked together, and co-sponsored programs.

The building of the Superior Historical Museum was an original home from the Industrial Mine Camp in Superior that had been moved away after the Industrial Mine closed. The Town of Superior acquired it and moved it back for the specific purposes of interpreting it as an authentic mine camp house from Superior, making it the site of the Superior Museum, and having it house a collection of artifacts and photos relating to the history of Superior. Our hearts are with the Town of Superior and Superior Historical Museum volunteers who are feeling the loss of an irreplaceable collection of their town's historic artifacts and their historic building.

***A member of the Superior Historical Commission is seen giving a tour and telling about Superior history in this photo of the Superior Historical Museum. (Photo credit: Town of Superior)***

## *In Recovery: Upcoming Museum Projects and Programs*

### Preserving History: Cleaning & Conserving Fire-Damaged Keepsakes (Museum Workshops)

Residents who have recovered sentimental items from burn areas that are damaged from ash, soot, smoke, or water/snow are advised to hold onto these items and not attempt to clean them on their own. Soot and ash are toxic and abrasive. Please refer to FEMA guidelines for safe handling of fire-damaged items for your own personal safety and to avoid further damage to salvaged items.

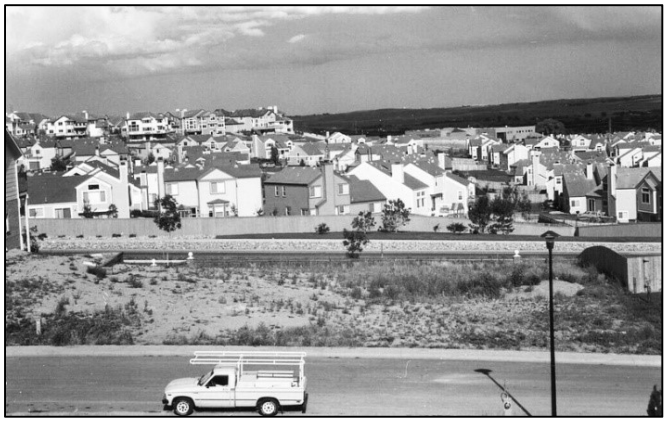
Louisville Historical Museum staff are planning a series of workshops with professional conservators who will help residents learn how to evaluate and care for items they have recovered from the Marshall Fire. These workshops will be free and open to the public. Please keep an eye on the Museum's website or the City calendar for the announcement about when and where these workshops will be held.

The workshops will have multiple stations to provide several services to the community at once. One station will be dedicated to caring for items recovered from Marshall Fire burn areas. Another station will give residents the opportunity to learn about scanning and preserving photos, important documents, and family recipes. The last station will give residents the space to share their stories about the Marshall Fire with the Museum as a way to document the many experiences of our community during this time.

### Replacing Photo Memories after the Marshall Fire (Crowdsourcing Photo Project)

Community help wanted! The Museum has teamed up with community members to try to replace some of the photographed memories that residents lost in the Marshall Fire. This includes photos of homes, neighborhoods, neighborhood activities, public groups, public performances, school activities, etc. that were taken before the fire.

If you have a photo that could bring comfort to someone who lost their photo memories in the Marshall Fire, please upload it to the Louisville Historical Museum's Flickr Group, "Replacing Photo Memories after the Marshall Fire." Please do not include the names of people in the photographs for privacy reasons. Street names, neighborhood names, and group names are welcome. Also, providing addresses of houses that are pictured is not necessary, but would be appreciated as an aid for people looking for photos of specific houses. You will need to create or log in to a Flickr account to upload photos. If you have questions or would prefer to email your photos, please reach out to the Louisville Historical Museum at museum@louisvilleco.gov. Your photos will be sorted into galleries by geographic region so that residents from different areas of Louisville, Superior, and unincorporated Boulder County can locate and download photos that relate to them and their neighborhood.



*Thank you to Marilyn Hunt for thinking of the idea of crowdsourcing photos for the purpose of helping to replace photos that were lost in the fire. Marilyn has added to the site many of her photos of the Enclave neighborhood, where her parents used to live. She contributed the one seen here that she took several years ago that shows a view looking east from the Enclave across McCaslin Blvd. to the neighborhoods south of Harper Lake.*

### Louisville Reflection Quilt & Exhibit

Open House March 12 | 10 AM - 12 PM | Library Meeting Room

We have reached the 2-year point since the COVID-19 Pandemic turned our lives upside down. Just when we thought we were heading towards normal, the Marshall Fire shook our community once again. The Louisville Historical Museum and Louisville Public Library are teaming up to help residents reflect on experiences, thoughts, and feelings during this time by creating a Reflection Quilt Exhibit. We are calling for entries from all ages and walks of

life. Interested in participating? Pick up your quilt tile at the Library or Museum starting March 1. Write, draw, paint, collage – whatever fits your personal reflections – and bring the tile back to be added to our exhibit. Each tile will be digitized and archived as a part of Louisville history. The Reflection Quilt tiles will be displayed at the Library and the Museum throughout April and May.

Feeling stumped? Join us on Saturday, March 12. We will have an open house at the Library for creators who need inspiration or just want to create with a group. Bring friends or your family to work on a group tile, or do one for yourself.

## Apply to Become a Louisville History Foundation Board Member

The Louisville History Foundation is currently accepting applications for its Board of Directors. The Foundation is a 501c3 organization that supports the City-owned and -operated Louisville Historical Museum, with the goal to preserve and promote local history through fundraising, advocacy, and education. The Board meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of the month, and the directors serve three year terms helping grow community support for local history.

What the Foundation is looking for: In the coming years, the Louisville History Foundation will be working with City staff to drive an outreach campaign around the Museum and a potential Museum expansion. Ideally, we're looking to add Board Members with experience in marketing and fundraising.

How to Apply: If this sounds like a cause you'd like to support, please email mailto:info@louisvillehistoryfoundation.org.

### LOUISVILLE HISTORY FOUNDATION

Jennifer Henderson
Loren Laureti
David Marks
Daniel Mellish
Jessica Spanarella
Joe Spanarella
Catherine Wessling

## Museum Outreach Updates

### By Kaylyn Mercuri, Museum Staff

As our community comes together to regroup and rebuild, the Museum hopes to help in any way possible. This includes keeping our commitments to local schools and continuing to offer educational opportunities and resources for the community.

Over the last year, the Museum expanded its educational outreach to schools and community groups. Museum staff also welcomed many requests for school and student-based tours and programs. Today, the Museum's educational programs and tours include preschool programs on "Helpers in History" and on Arapaho History, presentations to elementary school classes on civic heroes and on Indigenous History, and school tours of the Museum's historic buildings. Museum staff are grateful for the opportunities to share about local history and develop new programs for teachers and students. If you or someone you know is interested in school programming with the Museum, please visit the School and Teacher Resources page on the Museum's website.

***Museum staff and Louisville Elementary second graders demonstrated the large motor skills needed to be a coal miner outside the Museum during a school tour in November.***

Another resource the Museum created in the last few months is an interactive map of the coal mine locations in the Louisville area. The map was developed to go along with the Museum's recent video, "Trash Talk: Louisville's Journey Toward Sustainability." The map consists of two overlays on top of a modern digital map. This allows the Museum to show historic locations in reference to

modern-day road names and properties. One layer shows the locations of the local coal mines and the other shows locations of trash dump sites from historic Louisville that relate to the video mentioned above. Map users can toggle between the layers and zoom in and out. Want to check it out for yourself? Visit the "Local History Resources" page on the Museum's website.

## Upcoming Programs and Events

**Black History Month:** February is Black History Month, and this is a time to celebrate and highlight the achievements of the Black community throughout our nation's history. It is also a time to reflect on misconceptions and wrongdoings of the past, including the erasure of Black stories in American history. The Louisville Historical Museum views this as an opportunity to reinvigorate the research into Black experiences in Colorado history and continue sharing narratives that were traditionally left out of history.

The Museum staff have put together some recommendations to get the whole family started learning about the history and experiences of the Black community in Colorado. Find recommended documentaries, books for all ages, and online exhibits on the Museum News page on the Museum's website.

**Museum Take & Makes:** Look for a "Reflections" Take & Make that will be offered from the Museum and the Library in March. See above on pages 7-8 for more information about this project. Follow the Museum's Instagram, @louisvillemuseum, to stay up to date on the release date.

**"Lenses on Louisville," coming in May 2022:** Calling all citizen historians, photography enthusiasts, and architecture lovers for another Museum-sponsored outdoor photography event to celebrate Preservation Month in May. Join Museum staff and other community members on a date in May to photograph structures in a specified neighborhood. Then donate your images to the Museum and help document contemporary Louisville for future generations. More information coming!

## Dark Skies Exhibit in the Museum's Front Windows

### By Gigi Yang, Museum Staff

This winter, especially if you're out after dark, stop by the Museum to see the new front window exhibit on Dark Skies.

Illuminated nights are a relatively recent phenomena in comparison to the thousands of years that people have lived in this area without artificial lighting. Learn how people experienced the night sky, the early days of electricity in Louisville, and how to minimize light pollution. The City of Louisville is exploring dark skies ordinances that will help create healthier environments for both humans and animals and return our view of night skies. The Museum thanks the Planning Department for contributing information about Dark Skies and bird migrations for this exhibit.

## Thank You to Volunteers

### By Jason Hogstad, Museum Staff

As with others in Louisville, the Museum volunteers' experiences with the devastation caused by the Marshall Fire have been quite varied. Some of our volunteers have lost their homes, many were evacuated, and others living in the surrounding area watched as a place they loved experienced such tragedy. But no matter their individual experiences, our entire team is processing the trauma of the fire and its aftermath. And yet, even as the volunteers are working through their own responses, they are rallying in support of Louisville.

I have been blown away by the willingness of our team – many of whom have patiently waited as we have negotiated what volunteering looks like under shifting circumstances of a global pandemic – to dive in and help the Museum and our community. The volunteer team will be aiding the Museum in a variety of ways in the coming days: collecting

stories about the fire and its aftermath, scanning family photographs, and educating the public on safe ways to clean and stabilize fire-damaged objects. In many ways, the Museum's ability to help our community heal and recover will be because of its volunteers. Thank you.

## Memorial Donations

Thank you so much for these recent memorial donations.

***In Memory of Wendy Lee Leggett Kelly (1957-2022)***

Memory Delforge
Karen DiCarlo
Paula Elrod
Johnny Kranker

***In Memory of Patricia DiGiacomo Seader (1932-2021)***

Bridget Bacon
Elaine Biella
Virginia Caranci
Bob & Darlieen Del Pizzo
Memory Delforge
Karen DiCarlo
Adam & Donna Elnicki
Paula Elrod
Johnny Kranker
Diane Marino
Jo Louise Michaels
Jean Morgan
Charles Sisk & Terre Rushton
Robert & Laurel Tofte

***In Memory of Pasquale "Jack" Varra (1928-2021)***

Jean Morgan

***In Memory of Michael "Buddy" Ferrera (1945-2021)***

Karen DiCarlo
Paula Elrod
Diane Marino

***In Memory of Mary Elizabeth Colacci Guyer (1941-2021)***

Bridget Bacon
Memory Delforge
Ady Kupfner
Arlene Leggett & Family
Jo Louise Michaels

***In Memory of Betty Lackner Schmoll (1923-2021)***

Bridget Bacon

***In Memory of Mickey Domenico (1955-2021)***

Karen DiCarlo
Paula Elrod
Shirley Elrod
Diane Marino

***In Memory of Fred Tesone (1930-2021)***

George Brown
Jo Louise Michaels
Charles Sisk & Terre Rushton

***In Memory of Roger Delforge (1946-2021)***

George Brown
Adam & Donna Elnicki
Deandra Eberharter Rollings Family

***In Memory of George Lazuk, Jr. (1929-2021)***

George Brown
Jo Louise Michaels

***In Memory of Judy De Santis (1941-2016)***

Dino De Santis Family

***In Memory of David Tomeo (1943-2016)***

Betty Tomeo

***In Memory of Charles "Chuck" Thomas (1949-2019)***

Phyllis Thomas

## *The Museum Corner*
### *by Bridget Bacon, Museum Services Supervisor*

As the Museum staff were putting together this issue of the *Louisville Historian* and I was thinking of a title for the front page, I reflected on how we in the community are processing the recent tragedy in different ways and at different speeds, and I arrived at the title "Looking Back, Facing the Future, or Just Standing Still: Absorbing the Marshall Fire Impacts."

That a disaster on the scale of the Marshall Fire would cause people to think about both the past and the future may be somewhat obvious. Many of us are thinking about memories of the past while at the same time wondering what the future will hold for our community and for us as individuals. Some of are having to make decisions about the future at a time when important decision-making may not come easily.

But besides these obvious calls to the past and the future, a mental image that I will always remember from this time is that of people standing still – both literally and figuratively. My family and I have stood for long minutes in stunned silence as we looked upon the changed landscapes of Louisville and Superior that now look so wrong, and have watched other people doing the same. Others may also be able to relate to the feeling of mentally "standing still" as we try to process the unwanted changes that have been thrust upon Louisville and Superior. It is comforting to know that we will all support one another and that we will not forget the connections between us, which is what makes a community.

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As usual, we have many people to thank for their contributions to the Museum since the date of the last *Louisville Historian*.

In late October, the Museum hosted over 30 people in the Museum Courtyard for the Halloween-themed event "Stories in the Dark" (seen in the accompanying photo). All of the stories told were based on real events in Louisville history, including a murder mystery, a case of mistaken identity, and a bank robbery on Main Street. The Museum researched the true stories and the Boulder Valley Spellbinders turned them into engaging and suspenseful tales. Thank you so much to the Spellbinders, and specifically the storytellers: Dave Hooley, Paulette Foss, Diana King, Chris McCloskey, and Janet Ferris.

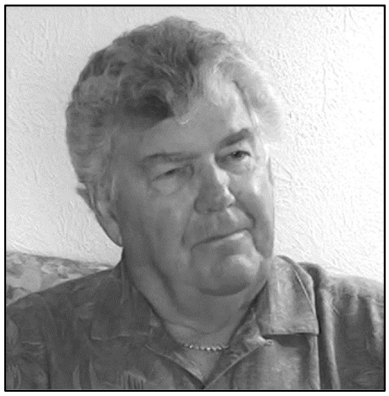
Thank you to Benjamin White-Patarino, Park Ranger Naturalist with the City of Louisville, for collaborating with the Museum's Jason Hogstad on two walking tours in November on the topic of "Louisville During the Great War." Participants learned about how the Great War of 1914-1918 affected Boulder County and the Louisville area.

Thank you so much to the Louisville History Foundation, Assorted Goods & Candy, and Memory Delforge for their generous financial support of the free Holiday Treat Bags that the Museum gave out before the Louisville Parade of Lights in early December, thereby continuing the Louisville holiday tradition of handing out sacks of treats to children. And many thanks also to Louisville resident Chris Clyncke, who came forward on the day of the Parade of Lights to donate candy that the Museum was able to give away after the Holiday Treat bags were all distributed.

We were very saddened to hear the news of the passing of Pat Seader, who had served on the Louisville Historical Commission for 27 years. We appreciate all of Pat's contributions to the preservation of Louisville history.

Welcome to new Historical Commission member Shelley Angell, former Executive Director of the Louisville Chamber of Commerce, and congratulations to Paula Elrod on her reappointment to the Commission. Also, thank you so much to departing member Leah Angstman.

## 2020 Pioneer Award Recipient: Keith Helart



The Louisville Historical Commission selected Keith Helart to receive the 2020 Pioneer Award. Due to the pandemic, he received the award in 2021.

The Louisville community is grateful to Keith for his tireless contributions to Louisville parks and its recreation program. The City's parks would not be what they are today if not for him.

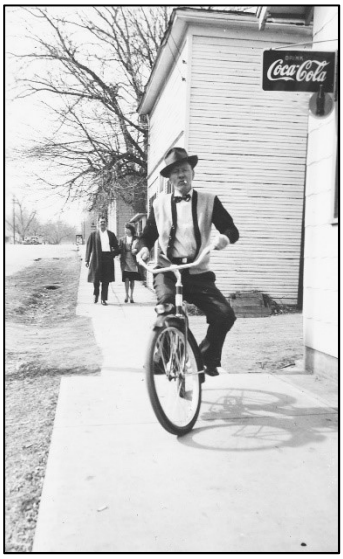
Keith is from Louisville, and he got involved in the Parks & Recreation Board starting when the City Council first created the Board in 1965. He served as Chair from 1971 until 1978, when Louisville was growing significantly. Keith was instrumental in the establishment of a number of parks (such as Cottonwood Park) as well as Memory Square Pool, which was the City's first pool and which opened in 1974. He also worked on the restoration of the Center for the Arts building and was involved with open space land acquisitions.

Keith made frequent appearances before City Council and made budget requests of the City. He enjoyed freedom as a volunteer, but also had a tremendous amount of responsibility. His vision was to work towards a system of trails and small parks in neighborhoods. He is credited with developing unique ways of raising funds for Louisville parks at a time when there was little funding otherwise available.

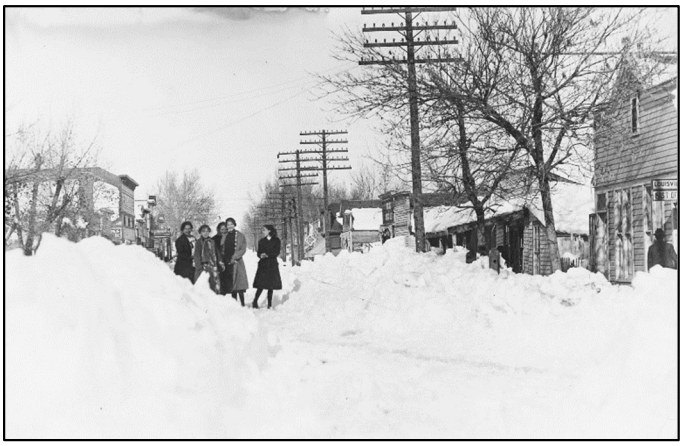
The City dissolved the Parks & Recreation Board in 1978, when it established a staffed Parks & Recreation Department.

Keith is one of a handful of people for whom Louisville has named a park. Keith Helart Park opened in 1982 in the Hillsborough North neighborhood and draws visitors daily.

## New Photos Added to the Louisville Historical Museum Collection




The Museum recently acquired these photos. Thank you to the donors! At left, we see Tom Beveridge in the 1940s in front of what was then the White Front Inn (now Henry's Bar & Grill at 935 Pine St). Below, girls and young women were photographed in the middle of the 700 block of Main Street in December 1913, soon after the Front Range Blizzard of 1913. At bottom, see the cooks in the kitchen of Colacci's Restaurant at 816 Main St. in the late 1950s. From left to right, they are Nellie Inama, Nora Raymond, and Adeline De Santis.



## *Thank You for Your Monetary Donations!*

Thank you to the following people and organizations for their recent generous monetary donations, other than memorial donations, to the Louisville History Foundation and Museum. Donations received after this issue goes to print will be shown in the next issue.

Anonymous Donation of $100
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And thank you for this donation in honor of an individual, Museum volunteer Memory Delforge!

***In Honor of Memory Delforge***

Jeff Bradley

## LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Shelley Angell
Andrew Berzanskis
Paula Elrod
Jonathan Ferris
John Honan
Scott McElroy
Joe Teasdale

## Donations to the Museum's Collection and Records

The Louisville Historical Museum recently accepted the following donations and sincerely appreciates them. Also, thank you so much to everyone who has been helping with the Museum's "urgent collecting" or "rapid response collecting" to identify and save items relating to the fire and recovery, such as items from other members of the City of Louisville staff and the stories and photos that members of the public have submitted.

**Beverly Clyncke** – historic photos and other items relating to Louisville and the O'Connor, Fischer, and Clyncke families.

**Ady Kupfner** – historic photos and other items relating to Louisville and her family.

**Laurel Tofte** – a spaghetti server from the "World's Best Spaghetti Sauce Contest" that took place annually in Louisville from about 1989 to 1991; aprons given to the pie judgers at the Louisville Fall Festival in the early 2000s.

**Tom Lamm** – photo that he took in about 1980 of a coal mine tipple standing in Marshall.

**Cynthia Del Pizzo Martin** – football programs from Louisville High School in 1971 and Centaurus High School in 1974.

**Jean Morgan** – Education collection items.

## Thanks to New and Renewing Members!

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## Regrets

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Museum lifetime members Patricia DiGiacomo Seader, Betty Lackner Schmoll, and Joan Stier Tuley, and regular member Mary Colacci Guyer.

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## Don't Miss an Issue of The Louisville Historian!

Membership in the Louisville History Foundation is a must for those interested in Louisville's unique history and cultural character! Membership is a joint program of the History Foundation and the Historical Museum. Members receive the quarterly *Louisville Historian* with substantive articles about Louisville history.

A yearly membership is $20 for an individual and $35 for a family. A yearly Business Sponsorship is $125. You may visit the Museum website to print out a form. Make checks payable to the Louisville History Foundation, Inc. You may also join and renew online.

Members, please email any address changes to museum@louisvilleco.gov or call 303-335-4850.

## *Historical Museum Staff*

Bridget Bacon, Museum Services Supervisor
Kaylyn Flowers, Museum Technician – Outreach Services
Jason Hogstad, Museum Technician – Volunteer Services
Gigi Yang, Museum Technician– Collections & Exhibits

## *Historical Museum Tours, Contact Information, and Services*

**Museum Hours:** The Museum is open for walk-in visitors! Groups and schools may request tours by appointment using the Museum's group tour form.

The Museum's regular hours are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesdays | 10-3 |
| Wednesdays | 1-6 |
| Thursdays | 10-3 |
| Fridays | 10-3 |
| Saturdays | 10-3 |

**Donations:** Do you have a donation to offer to the Louisville Historical Museum? If you would like to ask about an artifact donation or have a specific research inquiry about Louisville history, please contact the Museum at museum@louisvilleco.gov or 303-335-4850. The best days to bring in items for consideration are Wednesdays and the third Saturday of each month.

**About:** The City of Louisville owns the Louisville Historical Museum as part of the Department of Library & Museum Services, with Sharon Nemechek as Director of Library & Museum Services. The Museum is located at 1001 Main Street. Its mailing address is 749 Main Street, Louisville, CO 80027.

**Visit Website:** Keep up to date on information about the hours of operation and health & safety guidelines for your visit at the Museum website.

## *Thank you to our Business Sponsors!*

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*The Louisville Historian, Issue #133, Winter 2022*