



The Louisville Historian

A Publication of the Louisville Historical Museum,

Issue #112

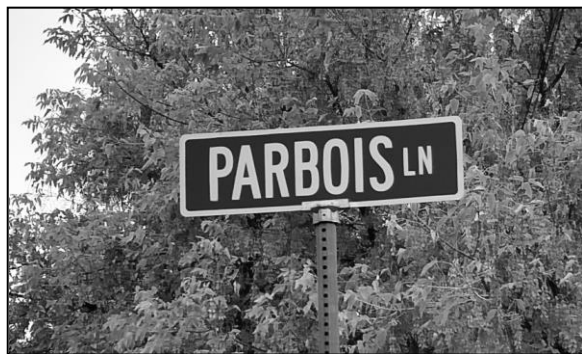
Louisville History Foundation, and Louisville Historical Commission

Fall 2016

Discovering the Parbois Family in Louisville

By Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

Remnants of our community's history, many of them long-forgotten, are all around us. One such indication of a person from the past is the Louisville street sign for Parbois Lane. The sign marks a lane going south from Elm Street between Main and Front, just south of Sweet Cow Ice Cream and Lucky Pie Pizza at 637 Front Street. Where does the name Parbois come from, and is it connected to Louisville's French community? And what is the relevance of the Parbois name to that particular location?



Desire Parbois was one of Louisville's very first French-born residents, coming to Louisville by 1893. He had been born in 1861 in Henin-Lietard, Pas de Calais, France. This was in a coal mining area of northern France where most of the members of Louisville's French community originated. In about 1884, he married Josephine Duval and they immigrated to the United States together in about 1888 with their young son, Maurice. Once here, they had four daughters: Millie, Jennie, Elsie, and Vivienne.

Desire Parbois not only worked as a coal miner and farmer, but he also bought and sold property, engaging in a numerous property transactions in the Louisville area. In particular, he purchased land that was established as the Parbois Tract and he sold off residential lots to local French and Italian families in the early 1900s.

Until recently, little else was known about the Parbois family. Thanks to the generosity of Desire and Josephine Parbois's great-granddaughter, Dolores Barzler, the Louisville Historical Museum now has not only photos of members of the Parbois family but also information about their lives. The photos accompanying this article are from her and her family. She remembers how the family members spoke French with one another. Desire Parbois's name was pronounced "Dezery Par-boys," and he was called "Grandpa Par-boys" even by members of his family. It has also been said by others that some people in Louisville pronounced the name "Par-boy." (While we may today consider the French pronunciation to be more appealing, it may have been from a desire to sound and be American that the name was pronounced as it was.)



Desire and Josephine Parbois are shown with their children Maurice (back) and Millie (front) in this photo from circa 1892.

When Desire Parbois died in 1933, his five children inherited the Parbois Tract of property. His daughter, Millie Parbois Jenkins, and her husband, Williams Jenkins, lived at 553 County Rd. that was a part of the Parbois property. (Their son, Bill Jenkins Jr., is remembered for having been one of the only two survivors of the 1936 Monarch Mine explosion that killed eight men.) The house was located across from the Louisville Grain Elevator. As a girl, Dolores visited them, her grandparents, during the summers. She

remembers that although she wasn't supposed to cross any streets by herself, she was allowed to explore the Parbois property close to her grandparents' home.



<Maurice Parbois, son of Desire and Josephine.



Millie Parbois, daughter of Desire and Josephine.

>

Today, the properties in downtown Louisville that are believed to be within the Parbois Tract include 529 Main, 537 Main, 541 Main, 545 Main, and 555 Main on the west side of Main, and 524 Main, 536 Main, 544 Main, 552 Main, and 556 Main on the east side of Main. Parbois Place, the plat of which was recorded with the County in 2009, also contains properties that were once part of the larger Parbois parcel. Parbois Lane was established as part of the development of Parbois Place.

The name of Desire Parbois lives on in downtown Louisville!



This undated photo of Main Street looking north from the top of the Acme Mine dump shows houses in the Parbois Tract in the foreground, up to the first cross street of Elm.



553 County Rd., shown in a 1948 County Assessor photo, was the home of Millie Parbois Jenkins and William Jenkins and was part of the Parbois property.

Join us for an upcoming "Brown Bag" program, "Discover Louisville's Historic Subdivisions and Neighborhoods," at which we'll further explore the Parbois area and other neighborhoods. This program will take place on December 1, 2016. Also, a program exploring the French heritage of Louisville will take place on November 16, 2016. More details are available under "Upcoming Programs" in this issue.

Cleaning of the Rex Theatre Curtain Complete!

Thank you to Lisa Capano for the curatorial cleaning of the Rex Theatre movie curtain, and thank you to the City of Louisville for its funding of this project! We're also extremely grateful to Ted and Carolyn Manzanaras for donating the curtain to the Historical Museum so that it (and its painted advertisements for Louisville businesses) can be enjoyed by visitors. The curtain was made in the 1920s and was a fixture at the Rex Theatre for decades. It was then displayed at Senor T's Restaurant when it opened in the same building at 817 Main St. in the 1970s.

Lisa, who can be seen working on the curtain in the accompanying photo, began her conservation treatment of the curtain by removing the dirt and grime that had accumulated on the surface of the canvas over its lifetime. She used water-based solvents for the cleaning, along with reversible art restoration paint for some inpainting of areas that had experienced the most paint loss and abrasions. The final step involved giving it a light coat of protective varnish so that it will be

preserved for a long time. Visitors to the Museum can now view the cleaner curtain!



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! Members receive the quarterly *Louisville Historian* with substantive articles about Louisville history.

A yearly membership is \$15.00 for an individual and \$25.00 for a family. A yearly Business Sponsorship is \$100.00.

You may pick up a membership form at the Historical Museum, visit the Museum website at www.louisville-library.org to print out a membership form, or call the Museum at 303-335-4850 for assistance. Please make checks payable to the Louisville History Foundation, Inc. You may also join and renew online at www.louisvillehistoryfoundation.org.

LOUISVILLE HISTORY FOUNDATION

- Missy Diehl
- Paula Elrod
- Marilyn Hunt
- Tammy Lastoka
- David Marks
- Daniel Mellish
- Catherine Wessling
- Bridget Bacon (ex officio)
- Beth Barrett (ex officio)

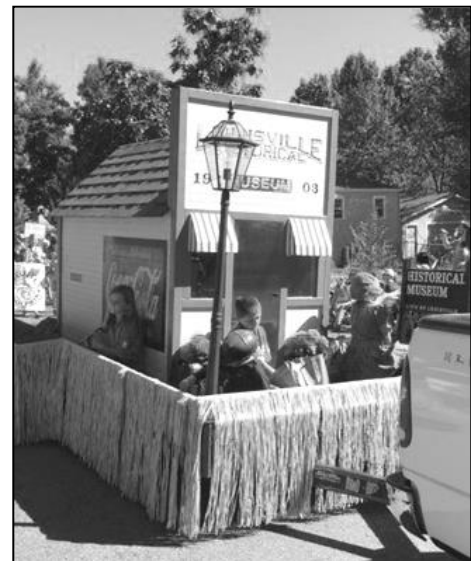
Honoring Our Heritage By Marilyn Hunt, Louisville History Foundation Director

The Louisville Historical Commission, Louisville History Foundation, Museum volunteers, community members, and private donors teamed up this year in making our best ever Labor Day Parade float! Judges thought it was great too and awarded the float pictured here First Place for both Non-Commercial Float and Best Expression of Parade Theme, which was *Honoring Our Heritage*. It was a most fitting way to observe the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Museum.

The exceptionally realistic and creative model of the Jacoe Store at the Louisville Historical Museum was created by Robbie Ferguson and Commission member Betty Scarpella (pictured with the trophies). We give a huge thank you to both of them and to Tom Bennett for donating his flatbed to use for the float. T-shirts, candy,



and Louisville History Foundation flags were happily provided by the Louisville History Foundation. A good time was had by all!!



Historical Museum Contact Information and Hours

The Louisville Historical Museum is open during these times:

Tuesdays	10:00-3:00
Wednesdays	10:00-3:00
Fridays	10:00-3:00
Saturdays	10:00-3:00

The Museum is also open from 6 PM to 8 PM during the First Friday Art Walks! See the programming information in this issue to see what we have planned for the Art Walks.

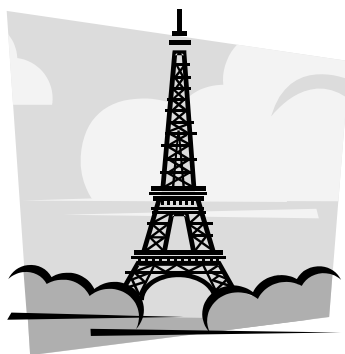
The Museum will be closed on Friday, Nov. 11, Friday, Nov. 25, and Saturday, Dec. 24, which are all City holidays.

An appointment is necessary if you are seeking specific research assistance. The Museum Coordinator may also schedule appointments and tours outside of the normal open hours. The Museum Coordinator can be reached at museum@louisvilleco.gov or 303-335-4850.

The Louisville Historical Museum is owned and operated by the City of Louisville as part of the Department of Library & Museum Services. It is located at 1001 Main Street. Its mailing address is 749 Main Street, Louisville, CO 80027.

LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Paula Elrod
Jonathan Ferris
Gordon Madonna
Daniel Mellish
Betty Scarpella
Julie VanLaanen



Upcoming Programs

The public is invited to join us for our upcoming programs! For more information, please visit www.louisville-library.org; email museum@louisvilleco.gov; or call the Museum at 303-335-4850.

“Remembering the French of Louisville,” Wednesday, November 16, 7 PM

As part of the One Action Boulder County 2016: Arts + Immigration Project, we’re excited to tap into a lesser-known aspect of Louisville’s immigrant history by sharing the stories and information that we’ve learned through the year about Louisville’s French population and the neighborhood of Frenchtown.

Location: Louisville Arts Center, 801 Grant Ave.

“Discover Louisville’s Historic Subdivisions and Neighborhoods,” Brown Bag Presentation, Thursday, December 1, Noon to 1 PM

About a dozen subdivisions were added to Louisville’s original downtown by 1912. Though Louisville was a small town, it also had distinct neighborhoods, some of which were based on where people had come from, such as the neighborhoods of Little Italy, Frenchtown, and the English neighborhood of Kimbertown. Museum Coordinator Bridget Bacon will give a presentation on these subdivisions and neighborhoods that still define Old Town, including a closer look at the Parbois Tract highlighted in the lead article of this issue.

Participants are welcome to bring their lunches.

Location: first floor meeting room of the Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street.

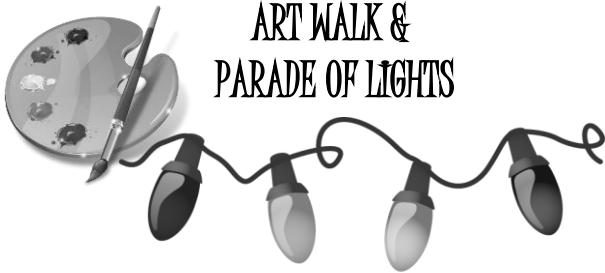
First Friday Art Walk at the Museum and Parade of Lights Open House, Friday, December 2

The December 2, 2016 First Friday Art Walk will have a slightly different schedule, as it will start earlier than usual, at 4 PM, and it will go on right up to the start of the Louisville Parade of Lights! The Museum will be open for both the Art Walk and the Parade of Lights and we’ll be talking with visitors about “Louisville’s Christmas Traditions of the Past.”

The Museum also plans to bring back the Louisville tradition of handing out sacks of simple treats to children. For decades, from the 1920s to the 1980s, Louisville community organizations paid for and put together these sacks typically containing an orange or apple, nuts in the shell, and pieces of ribbon candy. For

many Louisville children, receiving these treat sacks was a large part of their holiday experience. During the Depression, the sacks were even the main gifts for children in some families. This year, we thank the Louisville History Foundation for sponsoring the Christmas treat bags.

Be sure to stop by the Museum during the Art Walk or Parade of Lights on Friday, December 2!



ART WALK & PARADE OF LIGHTS

Continued First Friday Art Walk Success *By Megan Huelman, Museum Technician*

Summer has come to an end and fall weather is upon us, but First Friday fun isn't over yet! We will be continuing our food theme this fall with programs during the First Friday Art Walks. The Louisville Arts District does not normally hold a First Friday Art Walk in the month of January, but when the Art Walks return in February 2017, the Museum will have new topics relating to Louisville to talk about with visitors!

We've had such fun collaborating with so many local businesses and residents this summer and would like to thank them for their contributions to such successful evenings.

- A big thanks to Andy Clark of Moxie Bread Co. for talking about bread baking and for bringing delicious samples in August. We had bread baking artifacts on exhibit, such as the peel used with the bread oven on the DiGiacomo farm and the bread oven ash scraper from the Romano family's bread oven at 536 Main.
- In September we were honored by the involvement of William Fulenwider of 7th Generation Farm, Becky Harney, and Jim Lastoka, Tammy Lastoka, and Jayden Lastoka. They talked to visitors about the old Harney farm, the Harney Lastoka Open Space, and the land's current use as a working farm producing wonderful meat, eggs, honey and pumpkins.



Pictured at the September Art Walk at the Museum are (L to R): Tammy Lastoka, Jim Lastoka, William Fulenwider, and Becky Harney, with Jayden Lastoka in the front.

- Wine-making traditions of local Italian families were discussed in October with our engaging guests, Dan DiSalle and Gordon Madonna. We appreciate them spending the evening with us!



Gordon Madonna and Dan DiSalle are pictured at the October Art Walk next to some of the Museum's wine-making artifacts from Louisville families.

- And of course a big thanks to the wonderful volunteers who help us manage such large crowds: Becky Harney, Carol Williams, Karen Ddrops and Mary Ann Colacci.



The Museum Corner ***Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator***

The Singing Cook at 728 Main St. is now selling mugs showing a beautiful design of the Louisville Historical Museum, created by Evan Siegel! Thank you so much to Jenni Hlawatsch and the Singing Cook for donating 15% from the sales of these Museum mugs to the Louisville History

Foundation.

Another new mug now available shows the Louisville Arts Center at Memory Square. Be sure to check out the new mugs!

The Museum hosted a museum training meeting of the Association of Northern Front Range Museums (ANFRM) on Sept. 19th. With about 30



people in attendance, Megan Huelman and I both gave presentations on how to build and maintain museum membership programs. The meeting took place at the Library and we offered tours of the Methodist Church and the Museum afterwards. We had the help of a number of Museum volunteers for the meeting, lunch, and tours, and we wouldn't have been able to do it all without them. Thank you also to Bittersweet Café!

Thank you so much to Museum volunteers Mona Lee Doersam (for donating her talents and time to do the layout of every issue of *The Louisville Historian*), Deborah Fahey, Kate Gerard, Rebecca Harney, Carolyn Conarroe, Karen Dropps, Christine Gray, Mary Ann Colacci, Memory Delforge, Carol Williams, Dave Hooley, Samantha Mat, Keith Keller, Jessica Spanarella, Mary Kay Knorr, Patricia Murphy, and Ardeshir Sabeti. Also, thank you so much to Anne Robinson and Diane Marino for giving their popular walking tours of Louisville this summer, and thank you to Lynn Koglin for his service on the Historical Commission. (The volunteers for the Oral History Program are thanked elsewhere in this issue.)

Thank you to those who have contributed information about Louisville history. In the past few months, these people have included Dolores Barzler, who is the great-granddaughter of Desire and Josephine Parbois and who

provided the photos and information for the lead article of this issue, and Bob Piccone, who kindly put me in touch with Dolores; members of the DiDonato family who visited the Museum and shared information about John DiDonato, who came from Taranta Peligna in Italy and lived in Louisville; Jessica Fasick, who donated information about Henry and Flora Chaussard; and Sam Lombardi, who sent the digital image of the birth record of Grace DiGiacomo Rossi that contained not only Grace's parents' names, but also the address of their family home in Castiglione di Carovilli, Italy. (Grace Rossi lived with her children in the Tomeo House, now part of the Louisville Historical Museum, from the 1920s to the 1940s.) Thank you to Jim DeFrancia and Marycate Lumpkin Brickey for all of their helpful information about the DeFrancia/Di Francia family of Louisville.

The Museum contributed information and photos for a Heritage Festival program in Galveston, Texas. Steven Hooper gave a program about Thomas and Frances Haszier, who came from Slovakia to Louisville. They entered the United States through Galveston in 1900 and immediately got married upon their arrival. It was reported in a Galveston newspaper at the time that a customs officer arranged for them and another couple to be married. Thank you to Steven Hooper of Galveston for giving information about the article to the Museum!

Thank you to siblings Roy Elliott, Ruth Elliott Kelly, and Frank Elliott as well as their families for all of the information that they gave the Museum during their recent visit. They graduated from Louisville High School in the classes of 1949, 1942, and 1952, respectively, and the accompanying photo shows them while they were at the Museum.



Thank you to Jenna Wheaton and Laura Vernon for their presentation on the "Archaeological Investigation at the Industrial Mine in Superior, Colorado." It was great to see so many people from Superior in the audience. Many

shared their families' stories about the Industrial Mine Camp.

Thanks to Julie Schumaker, we have beautiful new exhibit panels up that feature Louisville's mining history. Thank you so much to Julie for creating and designing the panels!

The Historic Preservation Commission has approved of funding from the Louisville Historic Preservation Fund so that Historic Structure Assessments can be completed on the Jacoe Store, Tomeo House, and Jordinelli House at the Museum. We greatly appreciate having this opportunity for an architect to closely examine these historic structures so that the City can plan for their future care. Thank you also to the City for funding a survey of the Museum campus.

The Fall 2016 issue of Boulder Magazine includes an article by Lisa Truesdale about Louisville's Ed Helmstead. Ed is the sign painter who was the subject of a Museum program on September 21st. He has designed or made many downtown signs for Louisville businesses and the City of Louisville. Congratulations to Ed on the magazine feature about him, and special thanks to him for participating in our program in September!

Last, thank you to Tony Draper for his generous donation to the Louisville History Foundation!

History Book Club – Upcoming Topics By Anne Robinson

The History Book Club meets once a month from September to May in the second floor Board Room of the Louisville Public Library. The November 2016 meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 9th, then the meeting time will change to the first Thursday of the month. Unlike most book clubs in which members all read the same book, in this book club we select a topic and everyone reads what they wish on the topic. Participants read books or articles and we discuss what we learned with the group. Members of the public are welcome to join us, and newcomers should feel free to come and observe.

November Topic: History of Water in Colorado & the American West
Wednesday, November 9, 2016

December Topic: Reader's Choice on an Ethnic Group in Colorado
Thursday, December 1, 2016

January Topic: Willa Cather
Thursday, January 5, 2017

February Topic: The Homestead Act
Thursday, February 2, 2017

Oral History Program Update

Thank you so much to the following people for allowing the Museum to interview them about their memories of Louisville! (As a token of our appreciation, a complimentary annual membership is given to each participant who is not already a lifetime member.)

Dick DelPizzo
Jim Lastoka
Jim & Judy Garcia

Thank you to Boulder County and to William Fulenwider for their assistance with coordinating Jim Lastoka's interview, which took place on the Harney Lastoka Open Space. Thank you so much to the team of volunteers who have been working on the Museum's Oral History Program: Barbara Gigone, Jean Morgan, Noelle Gatto, Dustin Sagrillo, Betty Solek, Ady Kupfner, Barbara Hesson, Corrine Stewart, and Valerie Jones.

If you'd like to help with this fun program, we have a need for more volunteer interviewers and camera operators as well as volunteers to transcribe the interviews. Training will be provided. Please contact the Historical Museum.

Memorial Donations

Thank you so much for these recent memorial donations. Donations received after this issue goes to print will be shown in the next issue.

In Memory of William Buffo (1931-2011)

Roy Elliott

In Memory of Dolores Brown Steinbaugh (1935-2016)

James Steinbaugh

In Memory of Rosemarie Dionigi Steinbaugh (1929-2016)

Becky & Paul Harney
Ron & Arlene Leggett
Paula Elrod

In Memory of Mildred Caranci (1926-2016)

Eugene & Virginia Caranci
Gloria Greene
Bob & Darleen Del Pizzo



Donations to the Museum's Collection and Records

The Louisville Historical Museum accepted the following donations during the months of August through October. The City sincerely appreciates these recent donations!

Gordon Madonna – items relating to Anthony “Joe” Madonna, including photos showing the opening of the McCaslin Interchange in 1962, street paving and water studies, and blueprints for the Colacci’s building at 816 Main, Boulder County plat book, plus additional items, including two menus from Colacci’s.

Robert Junior – first communion photo taken at St. Louis Church in the 1940s. It is believed to show Marion Dionigi Junior among the children.

Barbara Hesson – items including documents relating to the service of the donor’s husband, William Hesson, as City Treasurer from 1969 to 2004.

Leo Deborski – mine safety first aid kit and documents and pay statements from the Pitchford family.

Roy Elliott – documents relating to Louisville, including photos and Louisville High School programs, certificates, and school newspaper. The donor graduated from Louisville High School in 1949.

David W. Ferguson – items relating to Louisville including promotional brochure & map from 1959-60 and school items of the donor and his wife, Dorothy Ferguson, including handwritten schoolwork.

Anonymous – property documents relating to the house that stood at 720 La Farge Ave. Some of the previous owners were Harold & Julia Machin and Jack & Lucy Allen.

Evelyn Santilli – for the Reference Collection, two binders of family history information relating to the

DiGiacomo/James family and the Domenico/DiDomenico family.

Janice Brimble Mudrock – for the Museum’s files, information and scans of family history documents relating to the Green family.

Curtains Without Borders, Inc. – for the Museum’s files, booklet entitled “Behind the Scenes: The Legacy of Colorado’s Historic Stage Curtains.” The Historical Museum’s Rex Theatre curtain is among the stage curtains featured in the booklet.

Museum Wish List

The Louisville Historical Museum would like to add to its collection the items described below. If you would be willing to donate any of the described items, please email museum@louisvilleco.gov or call 303-335-4850. If you would prefer not to part with an original photo or document, please contact us about how it can be scanned on our photo scanner. Donations to the Museum are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

- Centaurus High School Yearbooks: 1974, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1989, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999

- Composite photographs of Louisville High School’s graduating classes:

- All classes before 1936 except for 1909, 1915, 1921, 1923, and 1925
- The classes of 1954, 1955, 1958, 1960, 1967, 1968, 1970, and 1971

- Coal mine photos and ledgers, and journals, letters, receipts, and other handwritten documents that relate to the Louisville area.

- Historical photos of homes and businesses in the old town part of Louisville (with or without people in the photos). Specific buildings need not be identified.

- Photos of the interior or exterior of Red Men’s Hall; scenes showing Louisville’s Main Street, Little Italy, and Frenchtown; and interiors and exteriors of Louisville’s saloons and pool halls.

- Old home movies and negatives of photos relating to the Louisville area.

- Photos from any era showing areas of current Louisville that were outside of the town's historic boundaries, such as South Boulder Rd., McCaslin Blvd., Dillon Rd., Cherry St., and Hwy 42.

- Issues of *The Louisville Times*, or pages of it, from 1913 to 1942 and photos and information relating to Louisville's newspapers and publishers.

- Items relating to Louisville businesses, including menus, matchbooks, and ashtrays from Louisville restaurants.

- Items relating to the history of law enforcement in Louisville, including photos, records, and artifacts relating to town marshals, police chiefs, and the Police Department in general.

- Photographs, programs, *The Lookout* school newspaper, and written memories relating to Louisville schools, particularly items from the Louisville Junior High & High School when it was located at Garfield & Walnut from 1920 to 1939.

- 1930s-era bed cover or quilt for the Tomeo House bedroom.

New Business Sponsor
FirstBank

Thank you to all of our Business Sponsors!

- Alfalfa's
- Atomic Forge & Welding, Inc.
- Balfour Senior Living
- BK Media Group, Inc.
- The Blue Parrot
- Boulder Valley CPAs PC
- Kyle Callahan & Associates, Architects
- Coal Creek Collision Center
- Creative Framing & Art Gallery
- FirstBank
- Great Western Bank
- The Gstalter Louisville Law Group, PC
- Haddock Insurance Agency
- Russell Hanson, DDS
- Koglin Group LLC Construction & Real Estate
- Liberty Home Loans
- Louisville Arts District
- Louisville Cyclery
- Louisville Realty Associates, LLC
- Louisville Tire and Auto Care
- Robert P. Muckle, MD, PC
- Old Friends
- Oliver Photography
- Pine Street Plaza
- Seward Mechanical Systems
- Stewart Architecture
- Martin Ters, DDS
- Via Toscana
- Zaremba Graphic + Web Solutions

Thanks to New and Renewing Members!

New Members

Sara Aglietti	Ruth A. Kelly
Chris Barreca Family	Evelyn Pellillo Krohn
Dolores Barzler	Geir Kvaran
Millie Benshoof	Darla Lamper Family
Kathleen Calcagno	Lenihan Family
Debbie Davies & Jeff Davies	Kristen Lewis
Gloria Escandon Family	Pat & Sharon McMonagle
Roy Elliott	Mark & Barbara Newland
Barbara Engers	Ann P. Wagner
Chris & Kate Hill	

Renewing Members

Jean DeLille	Scott Leggett
Tony Draper	Anthony Romano
Shirley Fox	William Schoeberlein
Marilyn Hunt	James Steinbaugh
Margaret & Virginia Janda	William J. Stengel
Lindsey & Andrew LeCuyer	Carl & Cathy Summerville



*Louisville Historical Museum
749 Main Street
Louisville, CO 80027*

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