



Vol. 2, No. 4, Oct. – Dec. 2022
Quarterly Publication of the Friends of Broomfield History

The Broomcorn *Express*



Upcoming Events

- *Looking Back for a Vision Forward*, “Public Health” Oct. 6, 2022, 6:30-8 p.m., hybrid session (Depot Museum and Zoom)
- *Broomfield Historic Sites Tour*, Oct. 8, 2022 (see description on page 2)

A Conversation with the Friends of
Broomfield History—

LOOKING BACK FOR A VISION FORWARD: PUBLIC HEALTH

REGISTER HERE



What is public health and how does it matter to Broomfield's past, present and future? How can our city support public health, and how do you fit into the picture? Join this free event and add your voice to the conversation on October 6, 6:30 p.m. at the Broomfield Depot Museum or on Zoom.

FriendsofBroomfieldHistory.org

Join us for a tour of historic Broomfield!

What: Tour historic sites and learn about the early days of Broomfield history during the period of the 1880s to the 1940s. Hear stories about the homesteaders, farmers, entrepreneurs, railroads, types of entertainment and events in early Broomfield. This is a self-directed tour that you can take at your own pace. Parking is available at each site. Docents at each location will share history and stories from the past.

Where: Visit the Brunner Farmhouse and Kozisek farm site, the Lakeview Cemetery where early settlers were laid to rest, the historic Broomfield Train Depot, the restored Honey House, the Community Ditch (so important to early farming), the Broomfield Crescent Grange, the Broomfield State Bank (robbed twice!) and the fascinating Metzger farm.

When: Saturday, October 8, 2022, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

How: Purchase tickets on our website: <https://friendsofbroomfieldhistory.org>. Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the event at the Brunner Farmhouse from 10 a.m. to noon. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 5 free). Begin at the Brunner Farmhouse where you will pick up a map (this will be your ticket to the other sites) and then proceed in any order that you wish. Please note that the Brunner Farmhouse will only be open until 1 p.m.



Historic Sites Tour

**Saturday, Oct. 8
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Purchase tickets at
friendsofbroomfieldhistory.org



Oh Wow!

A letter from the President, Annie Lessem

OH WOW, this is the last president's letter I'll be writing for our Broomcorn Express. At our November Annual Meeting the reins of the presidency will be passed along to someone new.

The slate of officers that the Friends of Broomfield History Board of Directors will be recommending will be as follows: president, Andrea Margheim-Minnich; vice president, Bria Frame; secretary, Sallie Diamond; treasurer, Roberta Depp. The board will also recommend that Colleen Sawyer and Sam Taylor become official alternate board members with the option to transfer to regular board members whenever they so choose, as long as the board has not surpassed the maximum number indicated in the bylaws.

I've served on the board for a long time and I've been president of the board for several years. When I was first asked to join the board my goals were to ensure that 1) the history of Broomfield was inclusive and that it acknowledged and celebrated our diversity; 2) our history included history related to those who had occupied the land that is now Broomfield prior to European settlement; and 3) our diverse and inclusive history was relevant to thinking about the future. And here we are now, with the Friends of Broomfield History, the City and County of Broomfield, and several other people and organizations working with the Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes who once were the stew-

ards of our land, reaching out to those individuals of Native American heritage that currently live in Broomfield; providing programs under the heading of "Looking Back for a Vision Forward"; and gearing up to do oral histories that will include previously unheard and underheard voices of Broomfield residents. It definitely wasn't just because of me that these things occurred. The time was right, the people were right, and the support was right. And I am extremely grateful that I just happened to be president at exactly that right time.

Because I'm leaving office I get to have some last remarks, so here they are. As a tribute to our diversity and inclusiveness, I want to wish everyone *l'shana tova* (to a good new year*) as we enter into the year 5783 (and soon will enter western culture year 2023), and I also want to leave you with two pieces of wisdom from my grandfather and my heritage. The first is, "question everything," which is pretty self-explanatory. I love this phrase because it is the essence of pushing the bounds of inclusiveness, diversity, and equity. It requires that we don't take things for granted, that we don't allow ourselves to be trapped by existing norms, and that we must expect and accept uncertainty even if it makes us uncomfortable. The second is to never forget the concept of *Tzedek*, which is kind of hard to translate, but my family interpreted it as a type of social justice that went beyond kindness, beyond charity, and even beyond the golden rule. It not only raised the questions, Why is our society like this? and What can be done to make our society more equitable? but it also insisted that it was, and is, everyone's responsibility to help make that equity happen.

The lessons of those two concepts are the backbone of what makes history important and relevant for me. They help me to seek out and better understand the “why” and the “how” rather than just the “what” of history. In addition, they help me to remember that the “who” of historic events were not only multiple and diverse, but that each “who” could have a different story to tell depending on how they gained and/or what they lost. Those concepts also remind me that I am (and you are) a player in the history of tomorrow. And, at the same time, they provide a very special kind of kaleidoscope in which multiple futures can appear depending on what we do, how we do it, who has power, and who is included in decision making. So all I can say is, “Thank you, Grandpa, for being who you were and for passing along your guiding philosophy of our main purpose in life.”

But now back to the present and the practical. Even though I am leaving the presidency, I am not yet leaving the board and I’m really looking forward to seeing what great things the new leadership will accomplish. Andrea is a ball of energy and creative ideas, and she has a great knack for making things fun even if they might not seem like fun at first glance. Bria knows how to organize people and to get things done, and regularly goes beyond what was expected of her. She also bakes great cookies. Sallie and Roberta are bastions of organization and administration. They keep things in order and make sure

that important rules are followed, bills are paid, documents are submitted on time, and details are taken care of appropriately. I can’t imagine Friends of Broomfield History having a better team to lead the organization. As just a regular board member I’ll get to sit back and watch and/or push some boundaries (of course), and maybe write an article for the newsletter every once in a while. I can hardly wait. So please join us on November 19, from 10:00–11:30 at the Depot Museum for the Annual Meeting, which will include voting in the new officers, approving our 2023 budget, and getting a preview of new projects and programs. Hope to see you there and thank you for allowing me to serve.



***An Explanatory Note:**

As you read my “President’s Letter,” you might have wondered about the terminology *L’shana Tova* and my reference to the year 5783. I suspect that several of you realized that those words are specifically used as a greeting right before, and shortly after, the Jewish new year, Rosh Hashana, and, that on the Jewish calendar it is now the year 5783. This year in the United States Rosh Hashana was on September 25–27. The multiple days are due to two things:

1) the United States is in a different time zone than Jerusalem so the new year isn’t on the same day here as it is there; therefore, two days are celebrated here, but only one day is celebrated there; and

2) Jewish days start and end at sundown, not at midnight. So sundown on the 25th was the start of Rosh Hashana (day 1) until sundown on Sept 26, and then it continued from sundown on Sept 26 (day 2) through sundown on September 27.

It might also seem odd to you that the Jewish new year is in the fall, rather than in the winter months or early spring. In our Western culture we are used to thinking of the new year as a time of awakening from the bleakness of winter and focusing on the new growth of spring—and new beginnings for ourselves. It’s how we have learned to think about the cycle of life.

Having New Year in the fall is about a different way to conceptualize this cycle. The Jewish new year is not immediately about new beginnings. It is first about taking stock of the past year, including the things we are grateful for and the things we regret. It’s similar to what we think of as debriefing. The formal period of reflection lasts for ten days and ends with Yom Kippur. This is the day of atonement for the things we regret. At the end of Yom Kippur those things are lifted and set free, almost literally. Originally Yom Kippur was the day these regrets (and/or “sins”) were figuratively placed on the back of a goat and the goat was let loose to carry them away (and so came the birth of the concept of a scapegoat). After Yom Kippur there is a celebration of the bounty of the past year and how that bounty will carry through until the seeds of the next year begin to grow.

If you are curious, I do not formally celebrate Rosh Hashana nor Yom Kippur, but I greatly appreciate the lesson they taught me about reflecting back before moving forward. And, for me, that is what history and the stories of the people who made up that history is all about—learning from an inclusive and diverse past to help us move more wisely into the future.

Annie

A Very 1990s Story: Broomfield Enters the Biosphere

—David Allison, History Coordinator,
Broomfield Depot Museum

I have a strange association quiz for you—what do NASA, Broomfield, and Steve Bannon have in common? If your first thought was “Biosphere 2,” the controversial scientific endeavor built in Arizona in the early 1990s, then you are a truly inspiring and incredible person. Check that. You are an inspiring and in-

credible person because you are reading this newsletter, so I suppose that if you answered the Biosphere 2 association quiz correctly, I’ll add that you have incomparable intelligence!

Enough compliments for now. Biosphere 2 was intended to show how humans could



The Biosphere 2. DrStarbuck at Flickr, CC BY 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

survive in a “closed ecosystem.” Conceived by billionaire Ed Bass in 1984, the Biosphere had an eye toward future space colonization as well as the possibility of creating earth-bound “apocalypse-proof” shelters. Researchers conducting the experiments at Biosphere not only sought to understand more about closed systems and biological processes, but also hoped to gain insight into the effects that extended isolation would have over a period of two years on a small crew.

On Sept. 26, 1991, eight individuals entered the Biosphere and began working and living in the simulacrum of Earth. Just a few months after the mission began, a group of 50 Broomfield High School science students spoke with Linda Leigh, the Biosphere’s botanist via a “video messaging system.” The November 28, 1991 issue of *The Broomfield Enterprise* noted that Broomfield High School science teacher Elisa Passareili knew someone who worked at the Jane Goodall Institute who had a connection with Linda Leigh—the botanist “Biospherian”—and was able to arrange the video messaging connection. In a bit of a precursor to our current GoogleMeet and Zoom video conferencing culture, the Broomfield High students were able to interact with Leigh in real time. As part of their conversation with Leigh, the students watched her cook in the kitchen, explore the rainforest biome, and then they saw a newborn goat take its first steps in the Biosphere.

While Biosphere 2 may not have had the impact its creators envisioned (the project was plagued with internal power struggles and technical difficulties), the hopeful goal of inspiring future generations of scientists and astronauts may have been met.

Postscript: So—how does Steve Bannon fit into all of this? Bannon (as the head of a California-based investment banking firm at the time) was put in charge of the second Biosphere mission in 1994 after an internal dispute between Ed Bass and the Arizona-based managers.

Sources:

Dedrick, Jay. “Broomfield Students First ‘Inside’ Biosphere.” *The Broomfield Enterprise*, Volume 46, Number 32, November 28, 1991.

Mosher, Dave. “8 Men and Women Once Sealed Themselves inside This Enormous Fake Mars Colony for 2 Years. Here’s What It’s like Today.” *Business Insider*, 7 May 2020, <https://www.businessinsider.com/biosphere-two-pictures-tour-2018-4>.



The Loft: When Broomfield Sought to Combat Teen Drug Use Through Youth-Run Fun

—Elizabeth Beaudoin, Curator, Broomfield Depot Museum

Against the 1980s cultural backdrop regarding concerns about teenage drug and alcohol use, the City of Broomfield responded by creating a teen program called “The Loft” in 1989.

The mission statement for the program stated, “The Loft strives to assure that it provides Broomfield-area youth with constructive and healthy options in recreational and personal growth activities which are provided in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.”

The Loft enforced a strict no drugs, no alcohol, no tobacco policy, also banning abusive language and gestures. Furthermore, the program relieved worries that there “was nothing for kids to do” in Broomfield, a situation that could push teens into unhealthy behavior out of boredom. Still a sleepy suburb of 24,000 in 1989, Broomfield had few public recreational options. As Kathy Brown, then co-chair for the Teen Task Force explained it in a March 1989 news article, “There’s no mall, no movie theater, no skating rink or miniature golf.”



In order to gain teen buy-in, the program would be more than a set of activities planned by adult staff. Instead, The Loft was to be a “youth-run program” that involved teens “in every facet of planning, implementation, and evaluation” and give them “the chance to put their skills learned in school to the test in the community.”

Adult volunteers were recruited to help facilitate and act as mentors. “The intent

is to have adults creating the feeling of community and responsibility, two areas we feel youth are missing out on in the 90's."

A Teen Task Force surveyed 1,815 students from 6th to 12th grade, asking them what kind of activities they currently participated in and what kinds of activities they'd like to see. The responses paint a picture of teenage life in 1980s, listing current activities as school, sports, private parties and "hanging out," and referencing the things they like to do or see, including movies, swimming/jacuzzi, music, miniature golf, arcade, group outings, volleyball, basketball, big screen tv, pool tables, a soda fountain, and pizza.

When asked how they get to activities, a full 32% said they biked, while 54% said they were "at the mercy of their parents to

get them to and from activities." But to the credit of those 1980's parents, 73% percent of those students said getting rides from their parents would not be a problem.

On March 6, 1989 the Broomfield City Council agreed to allocate \$38,925 toward renovating the mezzanine area (inspiring the name "The Loft") at the Community Center to include a music system, video games, pool table, foosball, and a lounge area, and funding the salary for a part-time teen program leader. This was at the former Community Center, which was replaced with the current facility in 2020.

In the subsequent year, a reported 70 teens were "volunteering" with The Loft. Special activities included a Battle of the Bands, a Fashion Show, overnight

"Lock-ins," Bronco parties, movie nights, Basketball Tournaments, a winter survival course, a "Major Rajer" dance, and interestingly, 2-hour discussions with titles like "Drugs in our schools—is it a problem in Broomfield?" and "Visit a Hospital Eating Disorders Unit."

The program's first director, Melanie Mein, kept a scrapbook containing

OPEN
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS
 7:30-11 P.M. TO 6-12TH GRADERS
 COST IS FREE!
 UNLESS THERE IS A SPECIAL EVENT
 BROOMFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
 300 COMMUNITY PARK DRIVE

WELCOME!

STOP

NON-NEGOTIABLES
 NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ON THE PREMISES
 NO ONE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL
 NO USE OF TOBACCO IN THE BUILDING
 NO ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR GESTURES
 NO VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE OF PEOPLE OR PROPERTY

ADULT/YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

HOW IT WORKS:
 TEEN COORDINATORS ARE IN CHARGE OF COMMITTEES AND ARE THE LOFT POLICY MAKERS.
 ADULT BOARD MEMBERS SERVE THE LOFT BY FOCUSING ON SPECIAL PROJECTS AND DIRECTIONS.
 VOLUNTEERING ON A COMMITTEE INTRODUCES TEENS TO THE WORK BEHIND THE ACTIVITIES DONE.
 COMMITTEE ADVISORS WORK CLOSELY WITH A COORDINATOR AS A GUIDE FOR TEEN LEADERSHIP.
 SHOWING UP IS THE FIRST STEP IN BEING A PART OF THE LOFT.
 BE A PART OF THE PARTNERSHIP!
 CALL 469-5351 EXT. 19
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT SUPERVISORS ENJOY THE ENERGY OF LOFT NIGHTS.

WE'VE GOT ACTIVITIES!
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documents, newspaper articles, and photos from the program's first year. This scrapbook is now in the Broomfield History archives at 6 Garden Center. It's filled with congratulatory notes from the City Council and testimonials from parents and teens, documents that boldly declare, without exception, that the program successfully kept kids away from drugs and alcohol. This was the era of D.A.R.E



and Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" after all, an optimistic movement to educate young people on the dangers of drugs, and which has since been proven to be ineffective. Yet, when I posted some of the photos on a Broomfield facebook group, many people commented with fond memories of time spent at The Loft. In the end, The Loft did give teens a place to hang out that wasn't school or home, and activities in which to build lasting memories.

Do you have any memories of The Loft? If so, we'd love to hear them! Contact ebeaudoin@broomfield.org to share your stories.

Sources:

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/>

The Broomfield Depot Museum History Collection

If you have any photographs that show how Broomfield has grown and developed over the years, we would love to add them to our Broomfield Depot Museum archive.



Walk this Way

—Sallie Diamond

Community Ditch

Located along the Community Ditch in Broomfield is an original fencepost that is likely from the early 1900s. Adolph Zang, one of Broomfield's original founders, owned the property where the post is located. The Community Ditch is a small fringe wetland that encompasses less than 0.1 acre. It was part of a larger irrigation system which farmers utilized for their crops. The post stands in the ditch behind the Rundus Funeral Home.

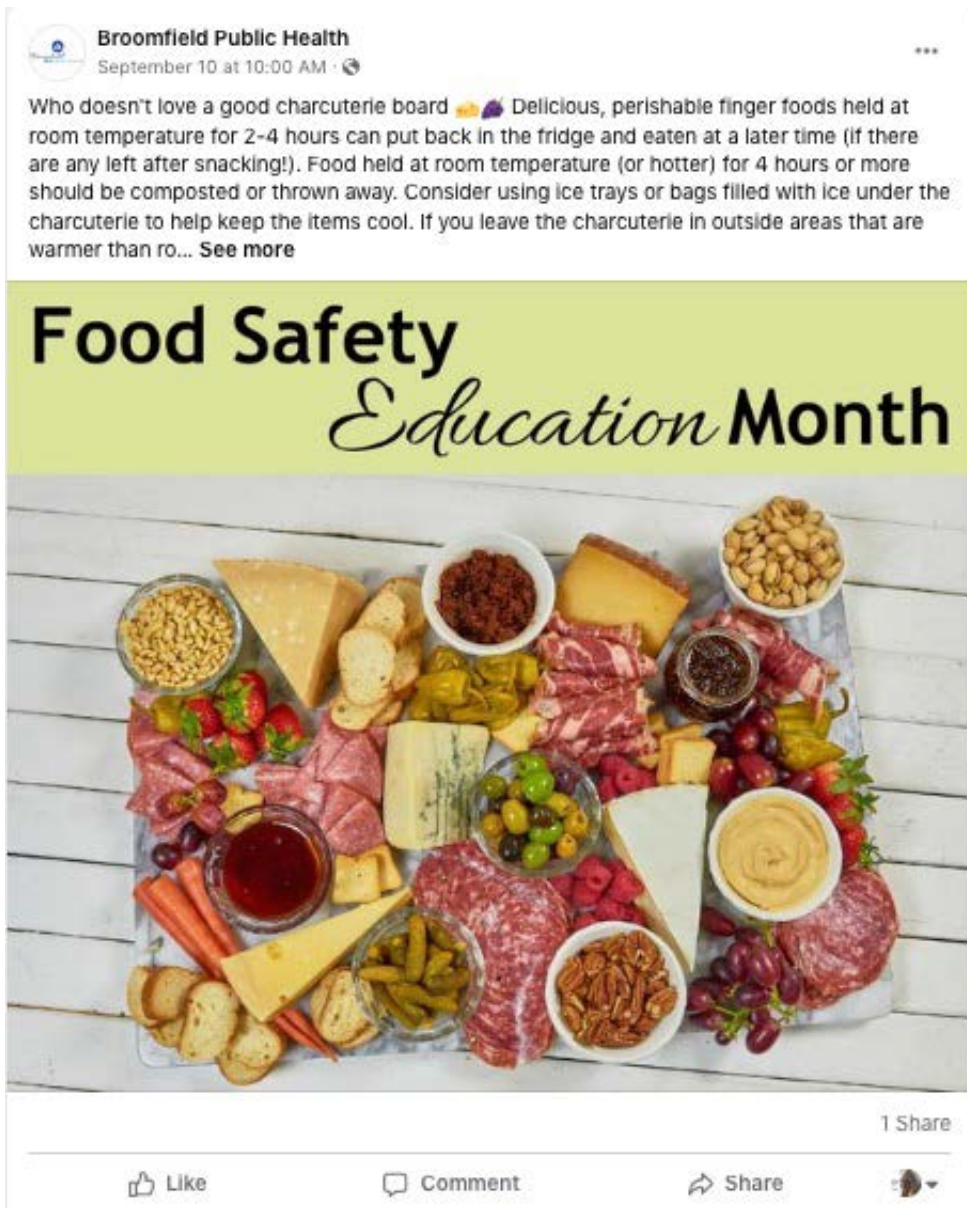
Broomfield Public Health

—Sandra Roberts, Editor

The CDC provides guidelines for the ways in which local governments should connect with their communities. On the [CDC website](#), researchers share the results of a 2020 study on the social media presence of public health departments:

Social media online platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, are promising instruments to improve population health. In 2012, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the global eHealth strategy to encourage the promotion, development, and evaluation of actions that involve these platforms. Social media can encourage citizen participation, optimize health systems, be an interactive space for science dissemination, support health policies, and promote healthy behaviors. This perspective emphasizes the benefits and limitations of social media, considering that they could effectively address public health nutrition problems.

Social media is one of the most effective ways for cities to communicate with the public. The City and County of Broomfield Public Health department uses its



Facebook page to highlight a variety of public health issues, including food safety, mental health, and much more.

The City and County of Broomfield also uses its website, <https://www.broomfield.org/259/Public-Health-and-Environment>, for outreach.


On its website, the City and County of Broomfield offers a link to its Facebook

page, a signup area for its monthly newsletter, and links to other resources. Broomfield Public Health and Environment also provides the latest news on everything from Covid-19 and Monkeypox to toxic algae blooms in local ponds.

Broomfield Public Health
September 13 at 10:02 AM · 🌐

Stress, worry and feeling disconnected from other people can make young people start or increase vaping. Unfortunately, vaping can worsen feelings of anxiety and depression. If you want to explore cutting back or quitting, a non-judgmental Quit Coach from My Life My Quit can provide confidential support to help find alternative outlets to relieve stress and create connections.

Learn more at <https://co.mylifemyquit.org/index>.



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with friends and neighbors



<https://broomfieldgensoc.org>

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Once logged into King Soopers, search for Friends of Broomfield History either by name or KU085 and then click Enroll. If you don't have a King Soopers account, open one today! You will need a loyalty card from the store and an email address.

The Friends of Broomfield History is dedicated to sustaining the history and heritage of Broomfield through our relationship with the Broomfield Museum, our members and other community partners. Your membership or contribution bolsters all our work, and we greatly appreciate your support.

“Be in! Be appreciated! Be connected! Join today!”



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