

IN RETROSPECT

East Pearl Street businesses changed with the times

More than a century ago, the east end of Pearl Street had everything we aspire to in a community. A vibrant and diverse part of town, the blocks east of 15th were ‘mixed use’ with residences amidst locally owned business, convenient transit and even shops for recycled materials.

Working families found the necessities for daily life on the east end: dry goods, work clothes, furniture, ice, coal for heating and fuel, mechanical parts, farm supplies, as well as a family grocer, a barbershop, the post office, and public schools.

Boulder Feed Mill, at 2027 Pearl, sold flour, grain, hay and coal. Livery stables for feeding



Carol Taylor

and boarding horses also populated the east Pearl blocks. Stagecoaches made regular trips from one of the livery to mountain mining towns.

The Denver & Boulder Valley Railroad depot was located on Pearl Street between 22nd and 23rd streets, from the 1870s to 1880s, allowing access to Denver and other big markets. A bit later the Denver and Interurban electric passenger trains ran along east Pearl, from 1908-1917.

The Hygienic Ice and Cold Storage Company, 2105 Pearl St., established in 1905, produced 15 tons of ice daily and provided space for grocers and butchers. Ice was delivered to customers by horse and wagon.

The Golden Ash Coal Company at 22nd and Pearl was one of several places in the neighborhood selling coal for heating and fuel.

Many businesses on the east end were founded by immigrants. A Swedish couple built the John Lund Hotel in 1887 at 1908 Pearl Street which became a gathering spot for Swedes. Swedish immigrants John Borgstrand, a miner, and his wife Matilda bought property from Matilda’s uncle John Lund and built a house on the same block.

A Jewish immigrant from Poland, Ben Wigotow founded a clothing store, Star Shoe and Clothing (later changed to Starr’s), on east Pearl in 1914, selling workwear, shoes and Sunday suits.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY FOR LOCAL HISTORY, MUSEUM OF BOULDER COLLECTION
Wagons with horses and drivers in front of the Golden Ash Coal Company at 22nd and Pearl Streets.

INAUGURAL NEDERDAYS

FESTIVAL FINDS LOCAL FUN



PHOTOS BY CLIFF GRASSMICK — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elinore McEvoy, 3, tries the waffles at the Salt restaurant during the inaugural Nederdays on Saturday.

Town touts community after Frozen Dead Guy Days moves to Estes Park

By Dana Cadey

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Frozen Dead Guy Days might have left Nederland, but the town is keeping the spirit of community and celebration alive with a new event, Nederdays.

This weekend marked the inaugural Nederdays, a free, all-ages spring festival filled with games, competitions and entertainment. With townwide activities starting Friday and continuing into Saturday night, Nederdays is a response to the absence of the traditional Frozen Dead Guy Days festival this year, after the event moved to Estes Park — but it’s also an opportunity to try something different.

“It’s a new beginning for both us and Frozen Dead Guy Days,” said Peter Cacek, one of the event’s founders. “We get to explore who we are now.”



Matt Owensworth, of Fort Collins, makes a phoenix ice sculpture during the first Nederdays on Saturday.

Cacek, who works for the town, said supporting local businesses is a big focus of the event, especially since March is one of the slower months for Nederland. Cacek came up with some of the weekend’s activities by looking at the town’s past;

Friday night’s barn dance, for example, was inspired by barn dances that used to take place at the Nederland Mining Museum.

“I was like, ‘Why don’t we take some of those ideas and redo them and really focus on making this an event for the

locals?’” he said. “I wanted to make something where people aren’t afraid to leave their houses because there’s 10 times the amount of people in town over the weekend.”

Cacek said around 200 people came to the barn dance to mingle and have fun with their neighbors, which was exactly what he was hoping for. With Saturday also bringing hundreds of locals out for the festivities, Cacek said the event coordinators are already thinking of ways to do Nederdays more than once a year.

Town administrator Miranda Fisher helped manage the Visitors Center, where guests could buy Nederdays memorabilia bearing the slogan, “Every day is a better day in Ned.” Proceeds from merch sales go to the Nederland Area Youth Activities Scholarship Fund, which helps local kids afford outdoor programs.

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LONGMONT SHOOTING

Youth dies after being shot, crashing car

Police identified a suspect, continue investigating

By Dana Cadey

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A male juvenile has died after being shot and crashing his car in Longmont on Friday night.

About 9 p.m. Friday, the Longmont Emergency Communications Center received a call regarding shots fired at the Twin Peaks Square Shopping Center in the 800 block of South Hover Street.

Officers arrived to find a large crowd attending a “car meetup,” according to a news release from Longmont Public Safety communications manager Robin Ericson on Saturday.

Maxton Fanberg, a witness at the scene, said he was attending the meetup when he heard about five shots about 8:55 p.m. Fanberg said he heard yelling and saw a crowd of people start running.

He waited for the police to arrive before leaving the scene in his car.

According to the release, officers identified a suspect vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. A backseat passenger of the vehicle then left the car and fled the scene on foot.

Additional officers detained the other occupants of the car, who were juveniles.

Shortly after, police were sent to Nelson Road and Hover Street, where a vehicle had struck a pole. The driver, a juvenile, had been shot.

He was taken to a nearby hospital where he died from his injuries.

Officers have identified a suspect and are investigating leads. No charges have been filed against the juveniles detained by police. They were interviewed and released.

Any witnesses are encouraged to contact Detective Daniel Kilian at daniel.kilian@longmontcolorado.gov or call 303-774-3693 and reference Longmont Police Report No. 23-2740.

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Nederdays

FROM PAGE 1

“This is a bigger collaboration with the businesses, the residents and the town staff to see what could be built,” said Stephanie Andelman, one of the event coordinators. “It’s given the town the experience of seeing an event from the inside-out, instead of the outside-in.”

Saturday’s competitions included ice-sculpting and wood-splitting contests, along with the Snow-K run, a 5K race through town.

“This is my first group 5K,” said Nat Kerman, a Boulder resident who joined the race alongside roughly 20 other runners. “I come up to Ned often, so I’m just happy to be out in the mountains.”

Family-friendly activities were also abundant over the weekend, with a sledding course down East First Street, scavenger hunts and face painting. One popular event was the hot cocoa trail, which featured five local stops, like Salto Coffee and The Train Cars Coffee and Kava, for participants to visit and enjoy some hot chocolate.

Jesse Fox, owner of The Train Cars Coffee and Kava, said the Nederdays crowd



PHOTOS BY DANA CADEY — STAFF WRITER

Ari Goodman and Peter Cacek enjoy the sledding course on First Street in Nederland at the Nederdays festival on Saturday.



The roughly 20 participants of the Snow-K 5K run take off from the starting line on First Street in Nederland at the Nederdays festival on Saturday.

doesn’t compare to the sheer volume of people who would flock to the town for Frozen Dead Guy Days, but believes it can build up into “something really cool.”

“I would say this festival has promise,” he said. “So far, it’s been a little smaller and more local, which is kind of good. We kind of like that vibe a little more.”

Local Car Dealerships Cleaning Up Our Rivers!



Wednesday, March 22 was World Water Day and to celebrate, a group of local car dealerships partnered with Protect Our Rivers to host a St. Vrain Creek cleanup. Valley Subaru, Valley Nissan, Valley Mitsubishi and Prestige Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram sponsored the event. Despite the snow and cold weather, 40 people showed up to help pull trash from the St. Vrain near Dickens Farm Nature Area. The group of volunteers pulled 585 lbs of trash from the creek and surrounding areas! These dealerships are continuing their partnership with Protect Our Rivers to implement an ongoing series of river cleanups throughout Northern Colorado. The next event will be the South Platte River cleanup on April 29, 2023. For more information on future cleanups, visit www.ProtectOurRivers.org!



Retrospect

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Wigotow regularly sent a train car packed with Levi’s jeans and other sturdy clothes up to the mining towns.

Reuse businesses were successful on east Pearl as well. Harry Blackmarr established a used (and new) furniture store in the early 1900s, growing to two locations in the 1600 block.

Louis Goldberg and his family, Jewish-American immigrants from Lithuania, had a scrap metal business and lived in a house at the property, beginning in the early 1900s. The business stayed in the family for many decades.

Eugene Horner, one of Boulder’s early African American entrepreneurs, started a secondhand furniture and hardware store in the 1800 block of Pearl around 1917, while he lived with his family a few blocks away.

As transportation modes changed, services and supplies for horses and livestock gradually gave way to services and supplies for automobiles. Car and tire dealerships, auto repair garages and Claude’s Sinclair gas station moved in.

In the 1950s, a booming Boulder required new enterprises. Multiple lumber companies were established on east Pearl to supply housing construction materials for the growing population of workers

at the new federal science labs.

The success of the Pearl Street Mall, pedestrian-only blocks between 11th and 15th streets completed in 1977, spilled over to the west and east ends. Professionals established office space on east Pearl including realtors, insurance companies, dentists, and architects. Artists found spaces for dance, photography, and jewelry studios as well. New businesses catered to an increasing number of tourists.

Today many people visit the east end for upscale dining rather than shopping for daily necessities. Nevertheless, like always, local entrepreneurs are responding to the tastes of our ever-evolving city.

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