

# Historic Littleton Inc. 2022 Year in Review



On February 6, HLI held its first ever dog walk, with 40 people and 15 dogs meeting at the courthouse to walk north along the Community Trail. Larry Borger and Charlie Blosten explained the historical importance of the City Ditch to the group.

It was such a bright sunny day that Dog Mayor Murdoch wore his sun goggles!

The City Ditch, which was surveyed by Richard Little in 1862, is the oldest working



structure in the entire metro area. Englewood uses it to convey their drinking water and wants to pipe it along its entire length. Preserving the historic alignment of the ditch (and hopefully keeping water flowing in several open sections) was one of the main educational and advocacy focuses for HLI in 2022.

HLI President Gail Keeley wrote a letter to the EPA explaining the importance of the ditch. Larry Borger presented a lecture at Carson Nature Center, sent packets of information to both the Littleton and Englewood City Councils and also attended several meetings with Englewood city officials. This effort will continue in 2023. Thanks to HLI member Larry Borger for all his hard work and enthusiasm in leading this effort!



Another dog walk along the southern portion of the City Ditch in Littleton was held July 21. Rebecca Kast led the tour which followed several open sections of the ditch with running water. The group also learned about the historic rhyolite railroad bridge over Lee Gulch and the Littleton cemetery.



On July 30 an overflow crowd gathered under the shade at the J.D. Hill General Store in downtown Littleton to celebrate the building's 150th birthday! Gail Keeley talked about past days of this historic landmark. Littleton Mayor Pro Tem Gretchen Ryder cut the birthday cake and received dog kisses from Dog Mayor Murdoch and Dog Mayor Pro Team Nettie, who, as always, were a hit with the youngest history lovers!



First Friday Historic Walking Tours on Main Street were given May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5 (during Western Welcome Week) and September 2. Over three hundred people attended these popular free tours. Thanks to our tour guides Margi Clute, Lisa Hendry, Gail Keeley, Rebecca Kast, and Paul Malinowski.

Gail Keeley devoted countless hours to advocating for the preservation of one of the last barns in Littleton: the 100 year old Canary Barn on 7951 South Santa Fe Drive. After many meetings and negotiations, Gail and Historic Littleton agreed not to pursue landmark designation for the barn in exchange for Toll Brothers saving the barn and moving it to a new location on the property. The barn's roof was repaired, the structure was stabilized, put on a trailer and moved in October. Kudos to Gail and Gretchen Ricehill for all their work on this!



Our Annual Meeting was held outside September 15, under the lights at Depot Art Center.



Kudos also to Dog Mayor Murdoch and his owners Beverly and Howie Pillow who served as ambassadors for Historic Littleton to lots of happy children at Bemis Library during the year.