

# Good Neighbors



## Man pays tribute to friends Colorado style

Friendship means a lot to Dick Carlton. He has lived in Lakewood for the last 30 years, and one special deed has helped him make a lot of friends during that time.

For the last 12 years, he has given out individually crafted plaques that read "You're a good neighbor!" when he sees a good deed done or just to make his friends feel good.

"I saw a 'good neighbor' plaque in a catalog and started making them," he says. "Everyone who saw them liked them and started asking for them for their friends."

He has given hundreds of the plaques away because it's important to him to let others know they're special and appreciated, he said.

It's a small touch from one neighbor to another, and it's an endeavor that puts his best skills to work. Carlton is an expert woodcarver of faces, animals,

and baskets and is one of the original members of the Colorado Carvers Club.

The wood for the plaques comes from just about anything he finds on hikes in the mountains, giving them a true Colorado touch. A self-described adventurer and outdoor enthusiast, he once hiked so deeply into the mountains looking for just the right wood, he got lost. He ended up burning the wood he'd collected to stay warm that night.

On another hike, Carlton emptied a can of Mountain Dew he'd found onto a tiny pine tree before tossing the can into his car. A bear caught scent of the sweet soda and lumbered from the woods. Carlton saw him approaching, giving Carlton just enough time to scramble into his car before coming eye to eye with the bear. Luckily, the bear turned his attention to the small soda-covered pine, chewing on it as if it were a sweet treat.

Carlton is 90 years old and a World War II veteran, and last year it was his turn to be honored. He was selected to participate in an all-expense-paid trip in October to see military memorials in Washington, D.C. Veterans are nominated for this honor and are selected by the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight organization to visit the memorials and meet dignitaries. The trip included visiting with former Sens. Bob and Elizabeth Dole.

"They really put on the dog for us!" he said. "People cheered us at the airport."

The trip was made even more special because Carlton's younger brother turned out to be on the same trip. Carlton and

his three brothers lost their parents to black smallpox when the boys were children, and the boys were adopted by different families.

"My brother and I shared a lot on the Washington trip and talked about how we grew up after our adoptions. He knew a lot of things about our family that I didn't know."

During the war, Carlton served in the Air Force as a photographer and member of the heavy bomb group that helped end Hitler's march across Europe. "I had to learn everything from how to fly a B-24 Bomber to how to drop bombs from each of the four bomb bays," he said. "Only 30 percent of my group came back alive from the war, and I was one of those who made it."

After the military, Carlton spent almost 30 years as an executive with the Colorado/Wyoming Restaurant Association. He helped rewrite the health code pertaining to restaurants, making dining out a safer and healthier experience.

Looking out for others seems to be a theme in Carlton's life, and handing out impromptu plaques is just the latest effort that makes Carlton a good neighbor.

*Editor's note: If you know of a good neighbor, contact the Looking @ Lakewood editor at 303-987-7058 or staoul@lakewood.org.*



## City Hall lights make a switch

Lighting for offices in Lakewood City Hall has been switched to "green" technology.

Offices in the north and south buildings at 480 S. Allison Parkway, the Public Safety Center at 445 S. Allison Parkway and the Lakewood Cultural Center at 470 S. Allison Parkway now have occupancy sensors instead of regular flip switches. The sensors turn on lights when an employee enters an office. After 15 minutes of no movement in an office, the sensors turn off the lights.

The sensors also have been installed in all the restrooms in Lakewood's Civic Center buildings, turning off after 30

minutes of no movement in the room.

The sensors can reduce electricity needed for lighting by as much as 45 percent. Not only will this save money, but it also is another step toward making the City's buildings as energy efficient as possible through the use of sustainable practices often called "green." The sensors are expected to result in an \$11,000 a year savings for the City, which will recoup the City's investment in the sensors in the first year. City funds were matched with money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as federal stimulus funds, to pay for the project.

### Audition Notice:

Sister Cities Music Scholar Exchange Competition

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

- Open to young instrumental musicians in Jefferson County ages 16-23
- Travel expenses paid for two-week trip to Chester, England (approximately June 22-July 6, 2012)
- Perform with Lakewood Symphony

Program sponsored by Lakewood Symphony, City of Lakewood, Lakewood Sister Cities, Lakewood Rotary and Jeffco Schools.

For complete information: [www.Lakewoodsymphony.org](http://www.Lakewoodsymphony.org) or call 303-980-0400.



## KLTv8's distinctive programs

KLTv8, Lakewood's government-access channel, has new and original programs that inform and inspire. Watch them on cable channel 8 or on-demand at [www.Lakewood.org](http://www.Lakewood.org) by clicking on the KLTv8 logo.



### "Spotlight on Lakewood," Historic Edition

Lakewood Mayor Bob Murphy and City Manager Kathy Hodgson talk with some of Lakewood's early council members and guiding influences. Bill Wilson, Ray Wells, Carl Neu and Johann Cohn discuss Lakewood's beginnings and how the city has evolved into a diverse community.



### Lakewood's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

What do recycling, water conservation, emissions reductions and community workshops have in common? They're all "green" living practices that are a part of Lakewood's sustainability goals. They're also aspects of the City's new Sustainable Neighborhoods Program that encourages good neighborhoods to become sustainable ones.



### Lakewood's Property Codes

Do you know the maximum number of dogs allowed in each house in Lakewood or how high weeds are allowed to grow? Lakewood has regulations that cover everything from pets to the height of grass and weeds. The regulations are in place to protect the value of properties as well as the health and safety of all residents. Complaints about code violations are the No. 1 issue reported to the City, and this video covers what homeowners need to know.



### "Welcome to Lakewood"

Mayor Bob Murphy welcomes visitors to Lakewood and invites viewers to take a tour of the city's shopping, residential, entertainment, and recreational areas. See why this gateway to the Rockies is one of Colorado's most vibrant and beautiful cities.