

## Outdoor Craftsmen to help fund connectivity project



Courtesy Photo/Outdoor Craftsmen

A color rendering of the outdoor community area featuring art installations and seating areas that will be built at the intersection of 79th Street and Niwot Road on the lot north of Cottonwood Park West HOA.

By JOCELYN ROWLEY  
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The Niwot Business Association's plans to create a visitor attraction connecting Old Town and Cottonwood Square got a big boost late last year when local businessman Scott Deemer

of landscape design firm Outdoor Craftsmen, Ltd., agreed to donate both labor and materials towards the creation of a public art space on the northeast corner of the Cottonwood Park West neighborhood.

Construction of the park-like

area could begin as soon as late January, according to NBA's Chuck Klueber, who has been working with property owners Cottonwood Park West Homeowner's Association (HOA) on plans to develop the area since

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## Left Hand Grange seeks stronger member participation



Photo by Vicky Dorvee

Grange treasurer, Sue Wilson, secretary, Bruce Johnson, and member, Kathy Koehler, pose in the main room of the Left Hand Grange.

By VICKY DORVEE  
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At the heart of each community are places where locals gather -- newcomers are welcomed, food is shared, ideas are discussed, holidays are celebrated, accomplishments are acknowledged, information is disseminated and music is enjoyed.

The result is a coming together that brings a sense of being part of vibrant community. Left Hand Grange No. 9 fulfills all of these needs in Niwot.

## Little Library dedicated at Niwot Children's Park



Photo by Karen Copperberg

Dedication of the Little Free Library at the Niwot Children's Park took place on Saturday, Jan. 6. The library, which was built by Kirk Stewart of the Rotary Club of Niwot, was fixed to the south end of the pavilion building near the storybook tree. Stewart designed the library with a gambrel roof to fit with the town's style. Many members of the Niwot Rotary, which sponsored the project were present for the dedication. Children are asked to "Take a Book, Return a Book," according to the sign on the library. First customer, Dominic, gets a book from the new Little Free Library. Looking on are Pat Engstrom, left, current President of the Rotary, and Bruce Warren, President of Niwot Cultural Arts Association.

Over 150 years ago, when the United States was primarily an agrarian society, people lived more isolated lives on farms or homesteads. Places that became the community hub were called granges. The Grange Movement was a direct outgrowth.

Left Hand Grange Hall is located in the distinctive two-story, white-washed building on the southwest corner of Second Avenue and Franklin Street. Part

of a national network of 3600 granges and first chartered in 1873, Left Hand Grange No. 9 is now the oldest active grange in Colorado, having outlived the first eight.

Initially, the purpose of the Grange revolved around agriculture. Today, the Grange hosts a diverse array of get-togethers: Niwot Rotary Club meetings, weekly Cub Scout and Boy Scout

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## OUTDOOR

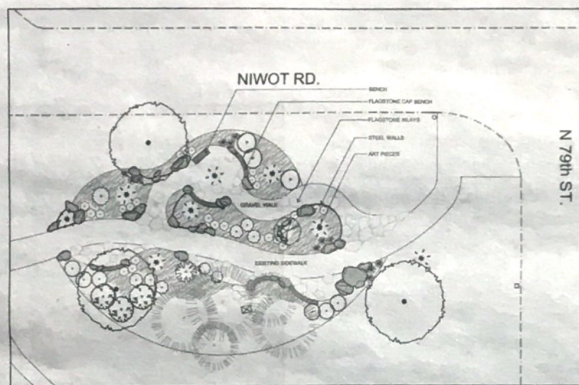
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last summer. He added that Deemer's donation more than doubled the size and scope of the original design, which was completed last August with a budget of just over \$20,200.

Deemer, who moved to Niwot with his family in 2000, said that contributing to the project is a way for him to share his success with his adopted hometown.

"I opened my business in 2004, and it has flourished, and that has a lot to do with the homes in the Niwot area," he said. "I thought something like the connectivity project would be a way that I could be generous with a little bit of my good fortune and create something of beauty for the whole community to enjoy."

After languishing for years, the connectivity project was revived last summer by a new leadership team at the HOA, which was tasked with imple-



Courtesy Photo/Outdoor Craftsmen

Outdoor Craftsmen, owned by Niwot resident Scott Deemer, will be contributing labor and materials to the construction of a sculpture garden at the southwest corner of 79th Street and Niwot Road.

menting the neighborhood's long-term beautification goals. According to board President Nicholas Whitaker, earlier HOA concerns about both the short-term and ongoing costs of developing the space were allayed by the enthusiastic response of local businesses and civic organizations, which quickly stepped

forward with offers of monetary and material support.

"After many months of careful consideration of the options, the current HOA was able to come to consensus around what was possible, and with the help of various community partners, bring this project to life," Whitaker explained. "It really

is a community effort, and one that couldn't have been possible without the support of everyone involved."

Deemer made his offer to the NBA and HOA shortly before Thanksgiving, after Outdoor Craftsmen was asked to bid on the project. Deemer, an NBA member, was involved in the early stages of the design of the Niwot Children's Park, and his firm has provided landscape design services for a number of local businesses.

Deemer proposed a number of upgrades to the original design, including additional seating areas, a flagstone walkway, and display space for up to eight sculptures throughout the expanded planting beds. An artist by formal training, Deemer hopes to see Niwot become a destination for artists and art-lovers alike.

"My passion is art...I want to see a high level of quality and refinement and discernment that really distinguish Niwot as a cultural and very livable community that has an artistry about it," he said.

Whitaker acknowledged that the HOA wasn't sure what to make of Deemer's proposal initially.

"The reaction was cautious excitement at first, as Scott's offer was so generous," he said. But the board quickly warmed up to his vision, after hearing directly from Deemer.

"Our core concerns have always been about sustainability, long term maintenance, conservation of the limited water available, the aesthetic value of the design, and finding reliable funding options," he said. "Outdoor Craftsmen was able to deliver a design that met all of those needs, while also providing a centerpiece for the area that reflects the rich arts

community and aesthetic appeal of the town which Cottonwood Park West is proud to be a part of."

Outdoor Craftsmen submitted its final design to the NBA last week, and Deemer's hardscaping and other construction could begin at the end of this month, providing "the stars align." He hasn't pinned down a finish date, but said that all building and planting should be complete sometime in the spring.

As of yet, no specific art pieces have been chosen for the space, but Deemer said it shouldn't be hard to find local creators to fill either permanent installations or rotating exhibits. There has also been talk of preserving Eddie Running Wolf's tree sculptures and installing them in the space, but there are no formal plans at this time.

Nor are their formal plans for future enhancements on the site, but the NBA, HOA and Deemer all hope to see the area blossom into a true community gathering place.

"With gracious partners like the LID, NBA, Rotary, Boulder County, and neighbors like Outdoor Craftsmen, I'm sure that we will be able to build off of what we've started here in order to bring our little corner of Niwot up to a standard that we can all be proud of," Whitaker said. "The Cottonwood Park West HOA is grateful for the opportunity to work with its Niwot neighbors, and all of the local organizations who pitched in to make this possible. Niwot is a special community and we're excited to help make it as beautiful and desirable a place to live and work as possible. It's only through cooperation and dialogue that projects like this can flourish, and we're happy to be a part of it."

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## The Rotary Club of Niwot

Niwot Rotary is a dynamic group of professionals dedicated to serving local and international causes. We meet weekly to support projects that promote the common good and have fun doing it!

Thursdays: 7:30 to 8:30am at Left Hand Grange.  
NiwotRotary.org 303-746-1490

Interesting weekly speakers. Free breakfast for all guests.

