The Museum is CLOSED For the Winter.
REOPENING Sunday, May 26, 2019!

2018 Season Highlights

The Elbert County Historical Society celebrated a major milestone this year with the completion of the final phase of the Smoky Hill Trail exhibit. The finished display examines and follows the history of the trail and transportation in Elbert County from its early days up through the modern era. In partnership with the creative team of Visual West and an army of museum volunteers; the exhibition was designed and constructed over the last five years in three separate stages: origin of the trail, trails to rails, and the automotive age. Along the way, the exhibit was largely funded in part by a grant from the Boettcher Foundation, gifts from the Colorado Tourism Office - Heritage and Agritourism Program, several anonymous donors, and through the generous support of museum season sponsors and visitors. To celebrate the latest addition to the museum, a new t-shirt design made its gift shop debut in May.

In addition to the opening of the Smoky Hill Trail automobile exhibit, the museum also featured a couple other automotive-related displays over the summer season. Visitors - young and old alike, enjoyed an array of Nash, Rambler and American Motors Corporation (AMC) memorabilia from Terry Gale’s Rambler Ranch. The diversity of this impressive collection included: children's toys, scale models, promotional materials, stock parts and much, much more. Another fun extension to this year’s car theme highlighted road signs in Elbert County. Hank and Donna Smith traversed the towns and back roads taking photos of well-known and sometimes unusual signs for this display.

Independence Day was celebrated with old and new friends, good food, and a museum open house at our 18th Annual Pioneer Fourth. Live music, kid’s games and an enthusiastic cake walking crowd opened up the festivities, with the pie judging contest and silent auction following. The day was

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For Giving Made Easy, Donate Online!

Visit Elbert County Historical Society & Museum on ColoradoGives.org, a year-round online giving website that features more than 2,000 Colorado charities. Learn about our programs, how we are helping our community, and donate online directly to us. Tell your friends and family -- no more stamps, no more envelopes -- simply donate online.

Go to ColoradoGives.org and enter Elbert County Historical Society in the search field. Or, simply click on the Donate Now link from our website. From all of us at Elbert County Historical Society & Museum, thank you for your support! ColoradoGives.org is made possible by Community First Foundation.

Membership Levels

- **Individual** - $15
- **Student/Senior** - $8
- **Family** - $20
- **Volunteer** - Donation of six (6) hours of volunteer time or participate in two (2) functions and/or events.

Season Sponsorships

Museum Season Sponsorships are collected annually and expire at the end of each calendar year. Sponsorships support the general operating fund, new and permanent exhibits, development of educational initiatives and public programs, and the historic museum building and its infrastructure.

Season sponsorships are available at four different levels and are identified by icons of early Elbert County industry.

**Locomotive** -
Contributions of $200 cash/merchandise or more will receive:
- acknowledgment as a Season Sponsor on all exhibit and event flyers (including Pioneer Fourth)
- recognition on signage inside the museum and at the Pioneer Fourth
- inclusion in the newsletter(s) and
- on our website

**Ponderosa Pine** -
Contributions of $100 cash/merchandise or more will receive:
- recognition on signage inside the museum
- inclusion in the newsletter(s)
- on our website

**Windmill** -
Contributions over $25 cash/merchandise will receive:
- recognition on signage inside the museum
- inclusion in the newsletter(s)

**Cultivator** -
Contributions of $250 cash or more through the East Central Enterprise Zone** will receive:
- acknowledgment as a Season Sponsor on all exhibit and event flyers (including Pioneer Fourth)
- recognition on signage inside the museum and at the Pioneer Fourth
- inclusion in the newsletter(s) and
- on our website

**East Central Enterprise Zone**

By making a $250 or more cash donation, contributors receive 25% of that amount as a credit against their state tax liability (i.e.: $250 donation = $62.50 credit). The contribution also may be itemized on their federal tax return.

For additional details on the different levels of membership or sponsorship, forms can be picked up at the museum’s visitors desk or printed off our website at ElbertCountyMuseum.org.
2018 Season Highlights
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cut short with a fast moving thunderstorm but not until after the BBQ lunch and highly-anticipated pie auction. Special thanks to our fantastic group of volunteers who each year do a superb job setting up/tearing down and cleaning up afterwards. We’re also thankful for our talented musicians, auctioneer and pie judges- Duane, Billie and Anna Owens, Buddy Strachan, Amelia Campbell, Lee Benjamin, Linda Ehmann and Jim Emig.

In August ECHS sponsored a field trip to 17 Mile House Farm Park outside of Parker. Karen Sear and Garry O’Hara welcomed our group and presented an exceptional program and tour.

The Annual General Membership Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation reception was held the weekend after Labor Day. Following a recap of the summer’s activities and recognition of our talented museum hosts and volunteers; board members Joe Martell (President) and Lucy Hoffhines (Secretary) were reelected. After serving four consecutive terms on the board, John Metli retired and Patsy North was elected to that position (1st Director-at-Large). John and his wife Sherry have been involved with the museum for a number of years -helping build exhibits, refinish floors and furniture, fundraising and more. We wish them a well-deserved break and look forward to seeing them at future events!

This year’s Pedal the Plains bike race started and finished in Kiowa, in mid-September. The three-day tour took riders on a 200 mile adventure through Elbert, Arapahoe and Lincoln Counties; and members of the historical society hosted a booth at the fairgrounds, as well as an open house at the museum on the final day of the race. During the closing ceremonies, ECHS was honored to receive the community grant award from the Denver Post Community Foundation and the Town of Kiowa.

In October, ECHS joined representatives from the Arriba Museum, Castle Rock Museum, Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society, Eastern Colorado Historical Society, Historic Douglas County, Historic Littleton, Kit Carson County Carousel Association, Larkspur Historical Society, Limon Heritage Museum, Old Town Museum, Our Journey/ECCOG, Parker Area Historical Society, and 17 Mile House Farm Park for the Eastern Colorado Museum and Historical Society’s Annual Fall meeting hosted by Old Town Museum in Burlington. The conference is always a fun and interesting day; catching up with museum friends, learning what each group has been doing over the previous year, discussing new ideas and techniques, and touring the host venue’s facility. This year was no exception. Following a lively gunfight performance by Old Town’s High Noon Gunfighters, the group enjoyed a self-guided tour of the museum grounds.

And lastly, the Elbert County Historical Society saw one additional milestone this year -64 Season Sponsors! Gifts were made through the East Central Enterprise Zone and Colorado Gives website, as well as in person. Thank you to all our sponsors, we appreciate your support.

17 Mile House Farm Park Tour

On Saturday, August 4, the Elbert County Historical Society and friends had an enjoyable field trip to the 17 Mile House Farm Park. The 17 Mile House is located in Arapahoe County near the Douglas/Arapahoe County line just north of Parker. Today many people driving down Parker Road probably don’t realize the historical significance of this property, but the 158-year old farm served as an important resting stop for pioneers traveling on the Cherokee/Smoky Hill wagon trails in the 1860’s. More recently (up until about 25 years ago) the property was operating as the Richlawn Turf Farm. In 2001, nine entities collaborated to preserve this valuable piece of Colorado history and provide an open space area for the public to enjoy. Partners included: Arapahoe County, Douglas County, Town of Parker, Great Outdoors Colorado, Gates Family Foundation, Colorado State Historical Fund, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, City of Aurora and the Trust for Public Land.

The field trip was well attended with nearly 30 participants taking part. Garry O’Hara with Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society presented an interesting program on the origin and history of the property; while Karen Sear with 17 Mile House Farm Park led visitors through the old farm house and out buildings, sharing stories of the families who lived and worked on the farm. Thanks Karen and Garry for a fun and memorable tour!

Friends of the Museum

Thank you to our fantastic museum hosts for another successful season! Our hosts for the 2018 Season included: Darrel & Shirley Abbey, Monty Ashliman, Terry Courtright, Jan Erker, Harold Heckman, Lucy Hoffhines, Dulce Jones, Rick & Katee Kolm, Jim & Carla Martell, Herb & Nita McKnight, Helena Miller, Marge Mottinger, Margie Musgrave, Paul Nasrallah, Patsy North, Verena Nelson, Sylva Pemberton, Tom Peterson, Cecil Pugh and Hank & Donna Smith.

The board of directors appreciates the dedication of all our faithful hosts. If you would be interested in being a museum host in 2019, please call Carla Martell at 303.621.2229.
Elbert County Museum Sponsors

While the museum receives funds through monetary donations given at the museum and with annual historical society memberships; Season Sponsorships and the Pioneer Fourth celebration are the main areas of income which allow the Elbert County Historical Society to develop exhibits and educational opportunities and to improve and maintain the museum building.

Thank you for your commitment to the educational and historical importance of the Elbert County Museum!

**Locomotive**
- Alan Lasater Foundation
- Anonymous Donor
- Bender Menders
- Laurel Brown
- Jeff & Connie Lehman
- Denver Post Community Foundation
- Dr. John Stevens.com
- Ben & Laurie Duke
- Elbert County Abstract & Title Co.
- Elizabeth Auto Repair
- Elizabeth Locker Plant
- Front Range Kubota
- High Plains Food Store
- High Prairie Survey Co.
- Lucy Hoffhines
- JR's Village Repair
- Katee & Rick Kolm
- Legacy Plow & Trailer
- Jim & Carla Martell

*(Locomotive continued)*
- Ed and Marcia Stafford
- Spring Valley Golf Club
- Spring Valley - Jim Marshall
- Sun Valley Electric Inc.

**Ponderosa Pine**
- Advanced Quality Auto Repair
- Angie's Cuttin Corner
- Community Banks of Colorado
- James Duvall
- Hamacher Well Works Inc.
- Jill's Feed & Country Supply
- Kiowa Alumni Association
- Napa - Elizabeth
- Stablemaster Products, Inc.
- Jeanne Thompson

**Windmill**
- Anonymous Donor
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- Roger Berst
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- Big R - Elizabeth
- Burger King - Parker
- Costco - Parker
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- Laura Lempe
- MK Liquors
- Mountain Man Nut & Fruit Co. - Elizabeth
- Murdoch's - Parker
- Parker Port-A-Potty

*(Windmill continued)*
- Ann Pidgeon
- Safeway - Elizabeth
- Sizzor Magic Haulmann / Jean / McFarland
- Sprouts - Parker
- Sweet Alfas
- Cherie Wyatt

**Cultivator**
- Glaser Gas & Equipment Co. - Kiowa
- Harold Heckman
- HOO Motors
- JC Martell
- John & Sherry Metli
- Smith Ranches

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