

ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS: COMMUNITY
 MEMORIAL GARDEN
 By Mike Von Hatten

The Community Memorial Garden located at Linden Drive and South Cedar Brook is complete. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers from across the Fire District, members of the PBH Enhancement Team, and donations from residents, this garden is a memorial to the 2013 Front Range Flood...to those who lost their lives near the site, as well as to the heroic efforts of the members of Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District, residents, and local governmental agencies.



The completed Community Memorial Garden includes metal screens designed, fabricated, and donated by resident Uriah Beuhler. The materials for the landscaping were donated and installed by PBH residents.

The garden honors Wiyanna Nelson and Wesley Quinlan who lost their lives on Linden Drive when their car was caught in the debris flow from the canyon to the west of the area. Two of their friends were rescued from the car by a BMFPD firefighter who happened by at the right time.

Other rescue efforts happened across the fire district as residents experienced the results of the torrential rains and mud and rock slides. The memorial site exists because of the efforts and resilience of residents who supported each other through the event. As Chief Benson commented in his remarks, “We bent, but we did not break. We strained, but we did not snap.”

On September 15 the fifth anniversary of the Flood, around 125 residents and officials came together to dedicate the site and remember Wiyanna and Wesley. Many members of their families were present, including their parents Glenda Aretxuloeta, Ron Quinlan, and Jennifer Nelson. Native American flute music provided by Bear Limvere welcomed guests as they arrived. He opened the ceremony with an honor song followed by a moment of silence for Wiyanna and Wesley and their families. Speakers included Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pella, BMFPD Chief John Benson, Boulder County Flood Recovery Manager Garry Sanfaçon, and BMFPD Firefighter and PBH resident

Allen Saville. Boulder County Commissioners Cindy Domenico and Elise Jones joined participants in marking the anniversary. Next-door neighbors to the garden, Steve and Glennis Smith welcomed participants to their property after the ceremony for a reception provided by the BMFPD Auxiliary.

The CMG is just the beginning. It demonstrates how a committed group of residents can transform an area into a beautiful and meaningful feature of the neighborhood. Plans are in the works to make improvements to the J. Kirk Hendricks Community Center. If you would like to join the Enhancement Team, contact Mike at mvhconsultant@earthlink.net. It is a rewarding and productive way to give back to the PBH community.

The Community Memorial Garden was dedicated on September 15.

PHOTOS ON THE RIGHT, COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP:

Family and community members gathered on the plaza.

A plaque commemorates the events of the 2013 Front Range Flood at the site.

Sheriff Joe Pelle and John Benson spoke to those gathered.

Family members gathered to remember the two young people who lost their lives.

Bear Limvere welcomed guests with Native American flute music.



Photos by Jim Adams