

## Save the Date: December 2nd!

### The Hot Chocolate Express Rolls Again at the Whittier Holiday Market

The Whittier Holiday Walking Market returns to Whittier Cafe, Sun Market, Scoops, Hope Tank, and Sherlock Hound on December 2 from 11AM-3PM. Stop by to purchase holiday gifts for the whole family from local vendors. There will also be a Historical Homes Walking Tour to explore landmarks within Whittier.

During the market, be on the lookout for the Whittier Hot Chocolate Golf Cart Express rolling through the neighborhood sharing cups of Whittier Cafe Hot Chocolate with everyone. For more details and to volunteer for the Hot Chocolate Express go to <https://www.whittierneighborhood.org/walkingmarket>.



### Honoring Whittier's own Tuskegee Airman, Lt. Colonel John Mosley Jr. (1921-2015)

As a young man, Manual High School valedictorian and star athlete John Mosley Jr. knew he wanted to be a pilot. To overcome the color barriers that prevented him from becoming an Army pilot, he earned his private pilot's license while at Colorado A&M (now Colorado



State University), fully qualifying before the Army launched the Tuskegee Airmen program in 1941. He was also elected class vice president in his junior and senior years at Colorado A&M, a remarkable accomplishment since the campus was segregated at the time.

When the Tuskegee program started, Mosley immediately signed up. After his flight physical, he was told he had a heart murmur and couldn't join. Mosley didn't believe that he truly had a murmur, so he began a letter-writing campaign to elected officials, persisting until he was finally able to join the Airmen.

The Tuskegee program was envisioned as an "experiment", based on the racist stereotype that Blacks couldn't fly. The White instructors believed that the Black airmen would fail and guaranteed that the number of Black graduates wouldn't exceed that of Whites. Despite the blatant racism and demanding conditions, Mosley succeeded in earning his wings.

His son Eric treasures a card written by his dad in June 1944 when he had just finished his training as a B25 pilot. It reads "Packing bags, might be heading out to the Pacific, don't know if I'll be back for Christmas..." In the end, the atomic bombs were dropped, and Mosley was not deployed.

At the end of the war, Mosley left the service, disillusioned because the military was still segregated. After President Truman desegregated the army, Mosley rejoined, serving during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He eventually left the service in 1969 and continued his career in the Health, Education, and Welfare Department and later the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

He continued to blaze trails and fight for civil rights in partnership with his wife, Edna, also a Manual graduate from a family of educators. John, Edna, and their family became one of the first Black families to integrate Aurora. Edna was the first Black person elected to the Aurora City Council and served three terms.

Among the many honors bestowed for the Mosleys' efforts to secure rights for African-Americans and commitment to service is the naming of John & Edna Mosley P-8 School in Aurora. Together with other Airmen, Lt. Colonel Mosley received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007.

Mosley's legacy of service inspired his son Eric, grandsons, and other family members to join the military and participate in our country's defense, while holding the country accountable for the promises described in the U.S. Constitution. Learn more at [colorado-redtails.org/](http://colorado-redtails.org/).

## In Memorium: Thelma Beard

Thelma Beard passed away in February of this year. She lived on the 2600 block of Vine for decades, grew up in Whittier, and attended Manual High School. She was 103!

Thelma lived a long, enjoyable life. After retiring from nursing, she spent her time traveling the world. She visited Spain, Italy, China, Japan, Nederland, Germany, England, the Virgin Islands and more. She had a vast doll collection from all the countries she visited. Thelma was very wise, kind and devoted to her family, friends, and church!

A Whittier neighbor shoveled her walk for years.

## WNA Board Election Results

At our meeting on November 11th, we passed our updated bylaws and we re-elected these folks to these positions:

Danny Havelick	Vice-President	2025
Scott Holder	Secretary	2025
Gerald Hamel	Fundraising	2025
Karlynn Russell	Communications	2025
Marcus Owens	Safety/Zoning	2025

We are proud of our hard-working, community building board! Thank you each for serving Whittier! At our January 20th meeting, we plan to hold an election for a new position for the board. We expand the board as people are interested in leading our neighborhood's community.

## Upcoming Events at Whittier Schools

### Manual HS events:

- Nov. 1 - Dec. 1: Holiday toy drive! Drop off new toys at the school to make someone's holiday special.
- Dec. 1: Boys Basketball vs. Yuma, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 8: Winter Showcase and Posada Community Night, 4:00 – 9:00 pm
- Dec. 11: Boys Basketball vs. DSST Montview, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 14: Boys Basketball vs. Kennedy, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 18: Girls Basketball vs. the Academy, 5:30 pm

### Whittier ECE-8 events:

- Dec. 8: Winter Concert

## Get Involved with the Whittier Neighborhood Association!

If you live in Whittier, which is defined as 23rd to MLK south to north and Downing to York west to east, then you're a member of the WNA! There are no dues and membership is open to all.

What does the WNA do?

- Fundraise and write grants to fund activities in the neighborhood such as Whittier Dayz and Walking Markets.
- Hold bi-monthly community meetings. The next meeting is January 20th at 10:30am at Ford Warren library.
- Review zoning and liquor licensing requests and inform residents of requests, seeking resident input to create Good Neighbor Agreements.
- Publish the Spotlight newsletter; delivered four times a year by Whittier volunteers to your door.

How can I stay involved?

- Attend neighborhood meetings! The next WNA meeting is Saturday, January 20th, at 10:30am in the Ford Warren Library. We will learn about heat pumps from the Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency.
- Check out our updated website at [www.whittierneighborhood.org](http://www.whittierneighborhood.org). The site includes an event calendar, business directory, information on parks and neighborhood history, and more!
- Join the Whittier Neighborhood Facebook group, which stays active with buy and sell requests, questions, and events coming up.
- Text WHITTIER to 844-283-5563 for news and events.
- Follow the WNA on our Instagram account @whittierneighborhood.
- Any questions? Send the board an email at [board@whittierneighborhood.org](mailto:board@whittierneighborhood.org).