

mation, see <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/artile/south-platte-flood-1965>.

Houses in Palmer Lake were being flattened during the tornado, taken right off their foundations and moved down the street. Residents Bert and Norita Tattman were home with their daughters Rhonda, 8 and Becky, 6. They watched from their picture window as roofs went floating by—that’s when they grabbed the girls and went to the basement.

“The thing I remember the most was that it got so dark that the streetlights came on” said Norita Tattman. After the tornado passed and they climbed out of their basement through the stairwell, hail and rain hit their faces as they realized that part of their house and their roof were gone. Suddenly there was another roaring noise and the residents of Palmer Lake saw a

wall of water coming out of the canyon at the top of High Street and they watched as more houses were demolished in the flood. See palmerdividehistory.org for more info.

The United States Air Force Academy, Lowery Air Force Base and Fort Carson came to help rescue the survivors. The Army and Air Force brought in generators for electricity, Mountain State Telephone provided telephone lines for emergency services, and the 7th Engineer Battalion from Fort Carson brought water purification equipment. Soldiers filled and stacked hundreds of sandbags at the Monument Lake Dam to hold flood waters back, according to the USGS.

Palmer Lake was known as a beautiful, sleepy, quiet mountain town. That month there were 30 houses destroyed. The residents came together to

help each other to safety and worked together to rebuild.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society (PLHS) usually meets on the third Thursday of the month with a 6:30 social hour and presentation at 7 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. The November meeting was cancelled due to weather concerns, and in lieu of a meeting in December, the PLHS will join the 89th Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt and Wassail Ceremony, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. For more information on this and other events, see www.townofpalmerlake.com.

Marlene Brown can be contacted at marlenebrown@ocn.me.

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG) December gardening

By Janet Sellers

The outdoor soil will soon be frozen, but we can remember to bring nature indoors. Our native plants have gone into winter sleep mode, but indoors we can create the climate. I need flowers around me—keeps me feeling cheery in the winter—so I keep orchids, Christmas cactus, and poinsettias around in the house.

The November community garden efforts by Palmer Ridge Key club members proved our fall compost layering strategies work even within a couple of months. By mid-November, the September and October compost layering had become viable, fluffy vegetable growing soil. Filled with earthworms, that soil went right into the garden beds on garden day. Everyone worked to weed out green grasses and layer dried-out plant leftovers to create compost for next year.

The deer—and a bear, too—left their “calling cards” and had eaten leaves and vegetables planned for harvest. At day’s end, we covered the beds with pine straw (local pine needles) and even planted some of the fallen marigold, bok choy, and radish seeds, which were our best seed crops this year. Great work, everybody!

No digging? Our ground may still allow us to dig into it. Many nurseries report that we can plant bare-root trees for a couple more weeks if the ground will allow it. I found information that explains the five-year plan for planting dormant, bare-root trees. It showed creating a planting zone around where the tree will grow, pulling out grasses up to a 6-foot diameter circle, and making a hole in the center.

Gardeners.com reports, “Although it was once common to modify the backfill soil with amendments—such as compost, peat moss, aged manure, and other ingredients—it is now considered best practice to leave the backfill unaltered or to add minimal amendments. This encourages roots to spread out into the native soil rather than staying within the confines of the planting hole.” And they say to not fertilize the first year. I realized the fact that my backyard apple trees had been fine for two years but failed in

three years due to not knowing this.

The key to success is to find the way the roots need to grow with three to five years of future growth in mind. The usual cone/hill shape backfill step helps new roots in spring, and soil should go as high as the root flare area of the trunk.

Janet Sellers is an avid “lazy” gardener, letting Mother Nature lead in the garden and overwintering to protect the wildlife cycle. Send your handy tips to janetsellers@ocn.me



Above and left: Students from Palmer Ridge High School Key club worked for several hours Nov. 12 to prepare the vegetable garden beds for overwintering. From left are Kaylei, Brooke, Nick, Caleb, John, Dane, Hiram, Connor, Amber, and Lily. Photo by Janet Sellers.

Art Matters

How to buy real art, within any budget



By Janet Sellers

Fine art collecting has a long history, especially among the ultra-rich. But with an eye to art collecting, any price point can work. The great thing about art is that you just need to like it and enjoy it. The price point isn’t really a factor, because there is more to the story, literally. Art is a purchase that can increase in value, too, compared to other things people buy.

“It’s easy to fall into the trap of ... thinking that taste equals the amount you spend or where you bought it,” says Colleen Cash, a senior vice president at Artnet, an online art auctions platform. “I think some of the most beautiful collections are the ones that have meaningful stories.” We often find engaging stories about the artist and art when talking to the artist personally (great fun) or in a gallery or catalog.

Art for where we live or work can be paintings, drawings, prints, photography, sculpture, and more. Placement is key, but that is an enjoyable learning experience as well. Pieces by emerging artists are likely to be less expensive than established artists. The term “established” usually connects the dots between fame and fortune for both the artist and the collector. Finding art early in the art and artist’s creative timeline often results in a lower price that rises with time for secondary sales markets.

Prints are often lower in price, because they are made in specific editions or batches. The fewer the prints in the edition, the more rare and valuable the art print. The art purchase will benefit the artist and their hard work directly, along with the gallery venue that invests its time and place as well. Artists are also more often creating their own online catalogs and

shipping the artwork to the new owners be it for oneself or as a gift.

Janet Sellers is a local artist, writer, and speaker, with a focus on helping develop local cultural awareness in the community. Contact her at: janetsellers@ocn.me



Above: When we obtain the art we like, that we connect with, we can enjoy the hunt as well as the owning— and legacy—of the artwork. And, conveniently, just by changing out the artworks for our rooms, we can create an ambiance at will, without needing to paint walls or purchase furniture. We can take down a grouping and put up a single, large piece. This can offer a dramatic effect easily and quickly. Photo of local artists’ art by Daryl Munsen, Jefferson Studio Gallery.