

DOUG TISDALE
MAYOR
CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, COLORADO

4662 S. Elizabeth Ct.
Cherry Hills Farm
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Telephone: 303.789.0758
Mobile Phone: 303.589.0758
Pager: 201.589.0758

Email (Official): dtisdale@CherryHillsVillage.com

Email (Personal): Doug@TisdaleCherryHills.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

MAYOR'S COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE

Cherry Hills Village, Colorado. May 14, 2013. Winners have been announced in the Mayor's Competition for Student-Produced Videos celebrating the beauty, history, legacy and value of the High Line Canal Trail. Two teams from St. Mary's Academy High School, located in Cherry Hills Village, were awarded the First Place for the High School Division and the Grand Prize for the entire Competition, walking away with the coveted Leone d'Oro Prize. A team from West Middle School, located immediately adjacent to Cherry Hills, was awarded First Place in the Middle School Division. Over \$2,500.00 in prize money was at stake in this first-ever video competition.

A team consisting of high school juniors Kelsey Waldron, Kathryn Harhai and Sara Van Velkinburgh at St. Mary's Academy will share the One Thousand Dollar Leone d'Oro Grand Prize Award. Entitled simply, "The High Line Canal," their five-minute video is filled with stunning visual images of the Canal Trail and is accompanied by a moving narration replete with quotes from William Wordsworth and Albert Einstein and a poetic celebration of nature. A haunting musical soundtrack undulates in the background, together with the all-too-rare water in the Canal that the students were able to capture. The time lapse sunset scenes create striking bookends to this imaginative love letter to the High Line Canal.

The High School Division First Place Award of Five Hundred Dollars was awarded to the team of St. Mary's Academy seniors Hayley Lansing, Hanna Pardee and Liz Van Dorn for their four-minute video entitled, "Experiencing the High Line Canal Trail." The video makes effective use of a series of brief interview segments with people while they are out enjoying the Trail, punctuated by a pulsating score that is dramatically interrupted by one segment filled with sounds of songbirds and a hooting owl.

The West Middle School team of Henry Davis and Julia Merten, both 8th-graders, received the Middle School Division First Prize, and the Five Hundred Dollar Award that goes along with it. The two-minute video, "Cherry Hills Village – The High Line Canal," shows runners on the trail and makes imaginative of a head-mounted camera to capture the experience of biking on the Canal Trail, with a slow meditative soundtrack underscoring the peace and tranquility of the trail.

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The faculty advisors to the High School Division winners were Tanya Komandt and Kelsey Vroomunn. The faculty advisors to the Middle School winner were Craig Sisson and Elizabeth Mulrone. Mayor Tisdale expressed great appreciation to these hard working educators.

“I was stunned by the imagination, the skill and the talent that these young filmmakers demonstrated,” said Cherry Hills Mayor Doug Tisdale, “and I wish that we could have proclaimed all of them winners! It was a very difficult job for the judges, I can tell you!” The videos were judged by a panel of ten judges, including Mayor Tisdale, Greenwood Village Mayor Ron Rakowsky, Cherry Hills Councilor Klasina VanderWerf, and Kentwood Company realtor Rollie Jordan, among others.

The prize money for the Mayor’s Competition was graciously donated by The Kentwood Company (“Leone d’Oro Sponsor”), Kevin and Mary McNicholas (“High School Division Sponsor”), Patxi’s Pizza of Cherry Hills (“Middle School Division Sponsor”), Arapahoe County Open Space Fund (“Honorable Mentions Sponsor”) and Chase Bank at Kent Place (“Sponsor”).

“Once these videos go through a post-production process, they will be broadcast on KCHV-TV, which is our cable channel here in the Village,” Mayor Tisdale explained. “In addition, we have already received requests from other High Line Canal communities to allow them to broadcast the videos – the winners AND the Honorable Mentions – on their cable channels, as well as displaying them at various meetings and other gatherings of interested groups,” Mayor Tisdale added. “These videos are simply too good to keep to a limited audience,” the Mayor said.

Honorable Mentions, which include a prize of \$100.00 for each video, were awarded to the following entries:

--“The High Line Canal—The Environment of the Trail” A five-minute video professionally packaged and containing wildlife sequences that would be the envy of National Geographic. Filmmakers: Brendan Eckerman and Spencer Smith. West Middle School.

--“Perspectives of the High Line—A Dog’s Point of View” A three-minute video imaginatively employing a “dog-mounted” camera to capture the canine trail experience. Filmmakers: Lexi Mitchell, Emily Sutherland, Emma Taylor Killian and Cece Palmquist. St. Mary’s Academy High School.

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--“The High Line Canal—A Place Where Memories Are Made” Two very young “Adorable Boys” make their own memories – as well as those of the viewer – as they explore the Canal in this three-minute video. Filmmakers: Ramona Sandoval and Andrea Berrocal. St. Mary’s Academy High School.

--“A Gift to the City—High Line Canal Trail” A compelling contrast of the peaceful repose of the High Line, surrounded by a bustling urban environment, with a soundtrack that serves to accentuate the differences. Filmmakers: Nayeli Villalobos, Kristin Tomlinson and Catherine Ingersoll. St. Mary’s Academy High School.

“A very exciting development is that I’ve already been encouraged to do this again,” Tisdale stated. “It just goes to show how important the High Line Canal Trail is to the life of Villagers and to everyone in our great Denver region,” he concluded.

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