

Annie Lessem 0:00

Hi. Okay, so first thing up state your name and the date and our relationship.

Judy Kelly 0:10

Well, my name is Judy Kelly. And today is September 25 2018.

Annie Lessem 0:16

It is? I thought it was the 26. I'm a day ahead of myself.

Judy Kelly 0:21

Pretty sure it's the 25th.

Annie Lessem 0:23

Could be either one of those days.

Judy Kelly 0:25

Or maybe not, though. The 26th,

Annie Lessem 0:28

Okay! Alright, you're a day behind, I'm a day ahead okay. Okay. And we just are friends.

Judy Kelly 0:38

That's right. Did you give your name?

Annie Lessem 0:40

No, I didn't give my name. So I'm Annie Lessem. And it's the same day Judy said. So tell me. When did you move here?

Judy Kelly 0:53

We moved here in June of 2013. So five, just about five and a half years ago.

Annie Lessem 1:01

Okay. From where?

Judy Kelly 1:03

From Michigan, we moved from Michigan. Our son and daughter in law and family relocated here from the Bay Area about 18 months before we came. And when my mother passed away, we figured if we were going to make any kind of a change, we better do it quickly. So we came out, we came out and spent six weeks in Longmont. We rented a house and realize that was just a little bit too far away and too far away from the airport. I've never lived more than probably 15 to 20 miles from any airport. I've always big airports. I've just always been a priority for me. And so Broomfield was a good location and close to our family.

Annie Lessem 1:57

Yeah, and it sounds the same as me. Because we moved here just about four years ago, because my kids and their families are here one in Longmont and one in Broomfield but the one in the Broomfield is, has my granddaughter. And so Longmont was just too far to be driving multiple times, even though it's not that far. And so we moved here. So if you've been here five years, do you have a best memory?

Judy Kelly 2:32

I'm not sure about a best memory, I just one thing I'd like to say is where we live. We have an HOA and a community law, a community association building that has like exercise equipment, there's probably 90 clubs, at least 90 clubs, there's social events. There's a lot of things going on there. And that was a very good way for somebody who's come here and know no one to meet people. Okay. But what I also find in a way is it's also can be isolating, because then the only people you know, are in that little neighborhood. All right, and there tends to maybe not be as much connection to the rest of the city. What's kind of ironic for me is my work with oil and gas is how I've met people outside of Anthem Ranch and in Broomfield in general. And I had never even been in a home anybody else's home outside of Anthem Ranch, let alone socialize with people until I got involved with oil and gas and 301 movement. So I that's kind of just ironic to me that that would be a way that I would have broadened first of all my perspective of Broomfield I also got to know Broomfield itself better because I live on the north end and I would tend to go to Lafayette or Louisville or Erie or something and maybe not drive down to the down to Broomfield to the the retail area Broomfield so it's been interesting that what's brought me more familiar and intimate with Broomfield.

Annie Lessem 4:20

And for me it was the opposite. Because we bought a house in a neighborhood without an HOA site unseen. My kids picked it out, because we couldn't get here to so they showed me videos on their phone and moved here and only knew my kids. But partly the oil and gas helped me to know people in other parts of Broomfield like you. So it was it was an interesting experience moving into a neighborhood with No HOA. And not knowing anybody and then how do you get to know your community? Kind of, like you I find found Broomfield a very difficult community to get to know. And I don't know if that similar to your experience or not.

Judy Kelly 5:23

I just I guess you know we had a tendency to gravitate toward the the small downtown's like we love Longmont downtown too and Louisville and Lafayette we tend to gravitate more toward those. We came from a small city and town in and Michigan and we're used to like a little small downtown area, which really Broomfield doesn't have. It doesn't have I know it has a Civic Center, and all of that, but it doesn't really have a downtown. And that's kind of the atmosphere we were used to from, you know, in coming here. And so I think we just reached out to what we were used to in other places.

Annie Lessem 6:05

Mm hmm. I'm trying to go down this list.

Judy Kelly 6:09

Yep.

Annie Lessem 6:10

But since you didn't go to school here. I will tell you my best memory of Broomfield because we are a lot alike, I like small towns. I haven't always lived in small towns, but I really like small towns. And so my best memory of Broomfield are the high school marching bands. Because a high school marching band says, This is home. This is a small town, this is home. You live here. So that that's and some times when I we're close enough to Legacy High School, we're far but we're close enough that if I'm walking in that direction, I can hear the marching bands, practice the marching band practice and then it's like, okay, this is a place it has a marching band. I don't know why.

Judy Kelly 7:09

Sure, And you know, where we are way up in the north west corner. You can feel sort of unconnected because there's nothing that you can walk to nothing in Broomfield. If you wanted to go to a coffee shop, or grocery shop or anything, you can't walk to anything where we live. Now you can do that into Erie. On the other side of baseline, you could walk to you know, coffee shop and you could walk to the grocery store, ride your bike up to the brand new King Soopers, which we all love. And I'm sorry to say that that's you know, it's taken out some of my grocery shopping away from Broomfield and put it into Erie because it's so darn close and convenient. And the people there have been trained to be so friendly and helpful. So it's got a great atmosphere. But so you know, it's so it's different, because we have to drive well, down to 144th to get to Safeway, and that's a pretty small store, you'd have to actually go down way down to 136th and Zuni to get a decent size, king superstore to shop out and other retail, so it's kind of I don't know, Broomfield is spread out as a city. And so it's just different for us. And we don't have any public transportation that would even encourage us to be able to get down south and 100/20 or something. We don't have any public transportation at all. And that's something that's kind of that can be limiting for people who don't drive.

Annie Lessem 8:49

Yes, yes. And again, same experience only going the opposite direction, because I'm in the southeast corner of Broomfield and I can walk to a tavern which is fair. So you know, there are a couple places I can walk to. But if I want to go to a coffee shop or a different restaurant, I'm walking into Westminster.

Judy Kelly 9:19

Oh, interesting.

Annie Lessem 9:23

And when I go to the grocery store, I'm going to the grocery store and it's in Westminster. So it's kind of you know, it's this is you are Broomfield we are Broomfield. And yet, there's nothing concrete that hooks us to Broomfield. And that's an interesting experience for me because liking

small towns or any kind of town, you feel like you should be drawn to the center of your community and There is no center of the community to be drawn into.

Judy Kelly 10:04

Exactly.

Annie Lessem 10:05

But I do have to say, I love the library. I think our library is absolutely fantastic. And I love the fact that our downtown civic center has lakes and trees and open space, if it had permanent shade structures, if it had a coffee shop, I don't. I'm not all that excited about a multimillion dollar Civic Center. Because I feel like that's just going to look like another shopping center without really any character to it. But I like I wish Broomfield was building on the fact that our downtown area was natural and had geese and like I said, ponds and trees and parks, and places to sit and easy things to help you communicate with other you know, sit down and talk with other people like a coffee shop or a bakery.

Judy Kelly 11:17

And I appreciate the auditorium. Okay, the Broomfield auditorium. I've been to at least 10 different presentations, there are concerts or whatever. And I really appreciate that facility a lot. It's just a nice venue for and it's nice the variety of things that happen there. That is very pleasant to me. I enjoy that.

Annie Lessem 11:45

Yes, so we're talking about entertainment, what we do for entertainment in Broomfield because you go to the Audi I've gone to the Audi I go to the library, I walk, I love the open space.

Judy Kelly 11:59

Me too.

Annie Lessem 12:00

I love the fact that Broomfield has open space. I love the fact that there were a group of people that battled to get that open space here. And that felt it was so important that they had to buck the city and buck the establishment and get that open space. I am very disappointed. That same group of people doesn't see oil and gas as a threat to our open space. And isn't continuing to buck the city to keep our open space, much more pristine and much more compatible to the wildlife that lives there. I want to sometimes shake them and say, What's happened to you, you buck the establishment, and now you won't do anything to buck the establishment. And, and that, to me is very sad.

Judy Kelly 12:58

And I also found find it misleading that on, like the maps that are included in the comprehensive plan. And they're labeled open space, but then they end up to be drilling pads. I find as a person who is investigating, and looking at Broomfield possibly to move here, that's very misleading to me. I think it needs to be relabeled into something that designates what it is so people know

what's around them, or could potentially be around them. I don't I really don't think it should be called open space because there's that's just not I don't put oil and gas and open space together drilling an open I just don't fit to me.

Annie Lessem 13:43

No to me either. And yes, and I understand that some open spaces are for the wildlife and for the wild plants and people upset that system. But I'm with you. I think having oil and gas drilling upsets that system even more than if people were there to walk and and it like I said it is a shame that people worked so hard to get the open space and fought so many battles to get the open space and didn't fight a battle to keep our company the open space comprehensive plan to not allow oil and gas on the open space. I think that that's a gross error. And I wish there was a way to correct it. Oh, I can't talk correct it. So anyway. It's hot in here. How do you think Broomfield has changed since you moved here?

Judy Kelly 14:52

Well, certainly, I mean, I. We chose Broomfield because we absolutely refused I used to live in Erie or Weld County because of all the wells. So we chose Broomfield because everything I saw, had no indication of that kind of drilling. And so to me, it's changing a lot where I live, it's changing dramatically with 84 wells coming in very close to us. It will change the whole atmosphere of that part of Broomfield tremendously for anybody who lives up there, it's going to be very very different not just in nuisance things about traffic and that but just the way it looks and to have 19 Wells 19 well pad or 18 well pad and a 17 well pad next door to it. These are large industrial projects. And I think it changes the whole flavor of our neighborhoods in the north part of Broomfield so that's a big change for me.

Annie Lessem 16:00

And how have you changed since you moved to Broomfield?

Judy Kelly 16:04

I well, I find myself more politically involved than I've ever been in my whole life. Because of this project happening, I also found, I'm a little surprised by coming from Michigan where we have lots and lots of water. There were automatic things that we did like our sprinkling system had a rain indicator on it. When we built our home, we put in a rec- a recycle pipe for the hot water to the farthest away sink. So we always had instant hot water. The people that that built our house, there's no rain sensor on the irrigation system. It takes a gallon of water to get hot water in our bathroom sink, I keep a jug, two jugs underneath the sink, and I fill it up trying to get hot water. And then I take that and water my plants. So it's like I I'm very aware of the the semi arid, pneus nature of this area. And it concerns me, I in fact, I meant to say something to our HOA today. I drove by and there was a sprinkler watering the street last night. That really bothers me in this area that there's such a waste, what a waste of water. That is that's so precious. So I'm really aware of those kinds of things in a much different way. In Michigan, I participated in it, but I don't know I didn't feel the pressure, about looking at needing water or being worried about water the way I am here. I'm much more concerned about water here. And you know what bother was kind of I'm not used to the brownness of this semi arid area area where the native grasses and

stuff. They're Brown, you know, 10 months out of the year. I'm not used to that I'm used to more green. Now. You know, our neighborhoods are green because we do water. Our grass isn't that but when you're just out driving, I'm just not. I'm not used to that. Look.

Annie Lessem 18:10

Yes. And again, similar. Because my lived in a lot of different places. Ohio, Pennsylvania, also Michigan, and Texas. And in the part of Texas that gets a fair amount of rain, a lot of rain. Like they just had six inches one over the past weekend. So lots more rain. But then I lived in New Mexico, which is much more arid than here and much much browner than here. And it does surprise me that there's so little xeriscaping that the medians in the roads, have plants that take water, they're not xeriscaped. And those sprinkler systems are not drip systems. And so they water the road. Our neighborhood does not have sprinkler systems in it. The neighborhood behind me that I walk in a lot does. And every day I walk past and they're just running the waters just running down the gutter. And you're right that that really is disturbing to me. The other thing that is interesting to me is the lack of trees.

Judy Kelly 19:36

Yes,

Annie Lessem 19:37

because growing up in Ohio growing up in Michigan, we're growing up in deciduous forest

Judy Kelly 19:42

that's right

Annie Lessem 19:43

and here. We're in Prairie and the trees were put here, but they don't necessarily like living here. And so you have to nurture your trees. It's almost like they're a baby that you have to do all kinds of special things to make sure your trees are healthy, rather than walking around and going, well, let's get rid of this tree. And we don't need this one over here. And if we cut down that one, we can build a coffee table. So it's a whole different. But you're right, it's almost like this area is trying to be that Midwestern area have the feel of that Midwestern area. But it isn't.

Judy Kelly 20:36

That's right.

Annie Lessem 20:38

But one of the things I have to go back and say one of the other things I really like are mountains. And of course, in Ohio, and in Michigan, you don't have mountains.

Judy Kelly 20:51

Right. You have an occasional Hill, but that's about right.

Annie Lessem 20:54

Right. Yeah. Right. So the the mountains help to make up for some of the other things. What about the future? How do you hope Broomfield will change in the future?

Judy Kelly 21:10

Well, the I do look forward to the civic center being built. And it'll be interesting. I've, I've seen a several different presentations on that. It'd be curious to see how it actually all plays out. I'd like to see Broomfield move toward a definite plan and sustainability. So I'd like to see them set goals for that, and using renewables and zero carbon municipal buildings, and zero escaping and how can we conserve water? I think that is a huge vision for the future. And I would really like to see Broomfield, I read that their chapter in the comprehensive plan, but I don't see much happening yet. And so that's the big change. I'd like to see, I'd love to have them say by, I don't know 2030, we'll be you know, we'll be independent. We will have everything, you know, be renewable and will be independent, and we will work towards xeriscaping. I know that takes a large monetary commitment in the beginning. But once you have everything in place, then the expenses are over. So that would be a wonderful change. I'd like to see.

Annie Lessem 22:33

I like to see Broomfield wake up. I sometimes feel like when you've crossed the county line from Boulder County into Broomfield County, there was some sort of odd something in the air and everybody went to sleep. Because there's just not the energy here that I find in other towns I've lived in or even in some of the communities in Boulder County, or even the communities in Adams County, that Broomfield just seems to be drifting, let's just drift along. Don't make any waves. Everybody stay. Do what you do pay attention to whatever, but but don't cause any problems. Don't do anything that's at all controversial. Don't try to pull people together in a way where they have group power. Let's let everybody just be separate. That's and so my, and that may be total misperceptions on my part, but when i i hope Broomfield were will change for the future. I hope that that stops, I hope that people wake up, I'm hoping that the oil and gas issue wakes people up. And that they realize that this isn't a one issue town, that there are many more issues that need people behind them. I'm hoping that the Moms Demand Action Group wakes up and as much as I believe in their cause. I want them to also not be a one issue. Team. I just feel like wake up, Broomfield. You can do so much better. There are things here that are great, but you can do so much better. There's so much potential and you're sleeping through it. I don't know if that's how other people feel, but I'm looking at this to see anything else.

Judy Kelly 24:54

Well, one thing I wanted to ask you about. I wondered about what it's like To be Jewish and living here? And is there a Jewish community that you feel connected to, or a part of?

Annie Lessem 25:09

Interesting? I am about as Jewish is this table from a religious perspective, from a cultural perspective, very much so. So it's a very secular Judaism. My daughter in law's father, who lives in Westminster is also Jewish. My husband was Jewish. So my kids are Jewish. That's my Jewish community. My daughter in laws are not Jewish, even though both of them had people in their family that were but not their mothers, which is how Judaism passes. I'm kind of hinging

around your question. But no, I find there is no religious entity in the Broomfield area that I am comfortable with.

As far as being Jewish, sometimes it's, I like it. Because we were always taught question everything. And that's the piece of Judaism that I really like. And I like that that's a natural to me to look at the world in question what you're seeing. But to answer your question, there is a Chabad house that's just south of here in Westminster. And that's where my father in law, Mike, my son's father in law, goes to Jewish services, and they have a Jewish community. There are Jewish synagogues and temples in Boulder. And but I don't affiliate with any of them.

Judy Kelly 27:03

Have you been to the Jewish Community Center in Boulder?

Annie Lessem 27:06

I've driven past it.

Judy Kelly 27:08

I've been there twice, I think. I asked because we have. We have Jewish people up on Anthem ranch, and they hold, they do Jewish. Like they'll have a Hanukkah dinner for one day, you know, at the lodge, they do have a l'chaim, a brunch, you know, another in the spring, and so they do different things. And then anybody is welcome to come. Okay. And most of them are very secular also, and mostly cultural. And I just wondered about, you know, if there was, I don't know, a way to be connected in Broomfield. And I didn't know if I don't know, I mean that. I don't imagine that the city would have to do anything. But I just wondered about that about the Jewish community here in this area. If you find very many Jewish people,

Annie Lessem 28:10

more Jewish people than I knew in Texas, and more Jewish people than I knew in New Mexico, even though in New Mexico, there were more Jewish people than I knew in Texas. But I just it's difficult and going back to the you know, how Broomfield doesn't have a center. It's very difficult when you move into a community where the religious organizations are considered the centers of community and you don't have a religious affiliation. That is a real I find that is really difficult. And culturally, it's difficult for me to do something with a Christian church, because of so much growing up with the negative connotation of Christian churches. And so I, I'm hoping that that helps me to understand how someone who may be Muslim or maybe Hindu, and you say, well, there's stuff for them if they need things they're this church provides or this religious organization provides that and how hard that may be, even though the church is willing and open and cares about people coming in, how hard that might be for the people to actually go in, because they've been brought up with the same negative connotations related to Christianity that I was brought up with And, you know, I think people don't appreciate that just because you open your door doesn't mean somebody is going to feel comfortable coming in it.

Judy Kelly 30:09

And, you know, my, my husband was brought up, very, very Catholic, and went to all Catholic school, all their friends were Catholic, they would have hold prayer sessions in their home, because many of their neighbors were Catholic. And of course, at that point in time, it was a sin to go to any other religious entity. And he got caught one time, like trying to peek in like the inside a Presbyterian Church or something, and gotten a lot of trouble over it. So he grew up very isolated in his Catholic world, that was, that was his world. I was brought up Protestant. But my world was never isolated like that. And there was a time I didn't really have Jewish friends as far as in high school in grade school, in college is where I, my, my roommate was Jewish. And she was really the person who taught me about the Holocaust. I really don't ever remember that being taught in school in high school. It was her that taught me about it, and showed me books and told me her family story and that, but my, my father was Romanian Orthodox and mother was Lutheran. But there was a time a period of time when like, and I had a friend who was Catholic, and I would spend a lot of time not necessarily in church, but trying to start a youth organization. And my mother was pretty open and accepting about that. So I wasn't as isolated my husband, it was just kind of crazy. To me, it was pretty extreme to what I was used to. We're not, we don't we don't go to church. We try churches around here. And we just weren't comfortable at all. And so, and sometimes I'm just I find religion sometimes to be divisive. And that really bothers me. Yeah. So I'd rather not be affiliated.

Annie Lessem 32:21

Yes, I agree. It's interesting to me. Because we came from different places, we moved to different parts of town. But we came for similar reasons. We have similar perspectives on what's going on. In it's like, there, there's this commonality, that I'm hoping, as they're doing more of these you are Broomfield interviews, that they're seeing what the commonalities are between the people who live here. And like I said, my Pollyanna side says, If we understand the common ground, then we can move forward into grounds that maybe are not quite so common. So it's encouraging to me to be able to find common ground with somebody. That seems like there shouldn't be any. And yet, almost every step of the way, it's the same, right.

Judy Kelly 33:24

And you know, what bothered, here's something that's unusual for me in the area is diversity, the lack of diversity in this area that it's very much predominantly white. And I am I'm not used to that in Michigan, we were quite diverse. There's a huge Muslim population at in a suburb of Detroit. I mean, it just, I don't know, I'm not used to lack of diversity. So that's very different for me here, too. I find some diversity in anthem wrench, which is comforting to me. But when I go out into the world, we went to the boulder dinner theater, and there were four African American people performing on the stage. And I was making a joke. I said, that's the only time I've seen before African Americans in Colorado together. I mean, it just doesn't happen. So and when I go home, it just feels more comfortable to me. When I go to Detroit or whatever, it just feels. I don't know, the world feels a little bit more diverse than

Annie Lessem 34:28

here. Yes. So thank you,

Judy Kelly 34:31
I've guess Thank you.

Annie Lessem 34:33
And I'm going to flip this off. I think. Did I?

Judy Kelly 34:38
I don't think so. It still looks like it's recording.

Annie Lessem 34:42
Okay, now it looks like maybe it's still recording. All right.

Judy Kelly 34:47
Maybe we can get her to come in.

Annie Lessem 34:49
Maybe I can push this

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