

Cook Park News

COOK PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.cookparkneighborhood.com • cpneighborhood@gmail.com

The Thin Blue Line – Blue bow and lapel pin campaign to support law enforcement. *by Barbara Fallon*

The blue ribbon campaign is a national effort to support law enforcement. Rumored to have started in Chicago by wives of police officers, blue bows displayed and blue lapel pins worn are a symbol of appreciation for the men and women protecting and defending us. Initiated in our neighborhood on social media Nextdoor by Linda Schaefer, mother of a police officer, the recognition of law enforcement has grown legs in Denver. Having learned about the Blue Bow campaign, I purchased ribbon at Hobby Lobby, knowing full-well that bow-making was not a strong suit. That afternoon, Arzella Dirksen (Note Arzella's picture with all the bows) came over to visit. "Yes," she replied, "I can make bows."



Friend Barbara Gessler returned home from Leader School in Michigan, having trained with Tessa, her leader dog. As providence would have it, Barbara G has been making bows and wreaths "all her life". Thus, the campaign to support police was featured on 9News on Friday, October 16 (with Barbara G making eight bows during her interview!).
(*cont. on page 7*)

Cook Park Neighborhood Association 2015 Board

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(nb@barlowadvertising.com)
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Our Neighborhood

Cook Park Neighborhood is bordered by Cherry Creek to the North, Evans Avenue to the South, Quebec Street to the East and Holly Street to the West.

 www.facebook.com/pages/Cook-Park-Neighborhood-Association

President's letter:

Goodbye 2015 and hello new year! This past year has been an incredible time in the Cook Park neighborhood. Much was accomplished and we have you to be thankful for. I personally couldn't be prouder of the contributions so many of you have made to enrich our small Denver community.

Reflection is an opportunity to be thankful. I'm thankful for our emergency responders for their strong desire to deepen their relationship with us to keep us safe. I'm thankful for our new leadership on the City Council who have demonstrated their sincere desire to concentrate efforts on improving the East Evans corridor. I'm thankful for every person that gives of themselves to help a neighbor or volunteer their time to make someone else's life better. I'm thankful I live in a free country that inspires me to want to be better every day and not settle for anything less.

If you're thankful as well, please pay it forward! Let's make 2016 even better than 2015!

Lastly, I ask you to remember your aging neighbors when Colorado snowfall challenges us. If you have an elderly neighbor that you can lend a hand with a shovel, please extend a hand. It may be a small inconvenience for you but will mean the world to them.

We hope you'll enjoy this Winter issue.

Thanks for reading!
Nancy Barlow,
President of the CPNA

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5:30 pm at the
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No meeting
in December
January 19
February 16**



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The Cook Park Neighborhood 4th annual Holiday Light contest

Help us brighten the season with your creativity! Once again we celebrate this neighborhood tradition of our festive lighting contest and you could win a prize!



Categories:

- Best Outdoor Home Display
- Best Neighborhood Group Display
- Honorable Mention

We award 1st & 2nd place winners in each category with a lawn sign & gift in recognition. Lawn signs not available for Honorable Mention.

Rules to participate in the 2015 contest are as follows:

1. Must reside within the boundaries of the Cook Park Neighborhood Association. The CPNA is bordered by Cherry Creek to the North, Evans Avenue to the South, Quebec Street to the East and Holly Street to the West.
2. Must register with Name, address, phone and category by Dec. 12th. To register call or email Stephanie Casey, Ad Dir at 303-349-8981 and/or casey-stephanie1@gmail.com
3. Judges and CPNA board members are excluded from the contest.
4. No repeat winners 2 years in a row – let's give all neighbors a chance to win!
5. Neighborhood Group Display must include a minimum of 2 homes and no more than 4 homes on the same block or cul-de-sac.
6. Judging will take place the week of Dec. 13th and lights must be turned on during the judging period to qualify. Judging will take place after sunset.
7. Winners will be announced by Dec. 19th and will be notified by phone.
8. Yard signs for the winners will be in place by Dec. 21st.
9. Winners must agree to display a sign on their front lawn from Dec. 21st through Jan. 2nd. Please do not throw away the sign. They will be picked up by Jan. 3rd. Leave by front door.
10. Winner must agree to have their address posted on the CPNA website.
11. Prize must be accepted as awarded.

Ready. Set. Go forth and show us your creativity, neighbors!

Time for some New Year's (financial) resolutions

The countdown to 2016 has just about begun. If you're like many people, you might be mulling over some New Year's resolutions, such as hitting the gym more, learning a new language or taking a cooking class. All are worthy goals, but why not add some financial resolutions as well?



For example...
... Pay yourself first. Even if you aren't living "paycheck to

paycheck," you probably don't have much trouble spending your money – because there's always something that you or a family member needs, always a repair required for your home or your car, always one more bill to pay. But if you are going to achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you need to invest consistently. So before you pay everyone else, pay yourself first by having some money automatically moved from your checking or savings account each month into an investment.

... Take advantage of your opportunities. If you have a 401(k) or similar plan at work, take full advantage of it. Contribute as much as you can afford – or at least enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered – and choose the mix of investments that give you the potential to achieve the growth you need at a level of risk with which you are comfortable.

... Focus on the long term. In the short term, you might be excused for not wanting to invest. The headlines are typically scary, the financial markets are frequently volatile and the future often looks murky. Yet, if you can look your focus on tomorrow, you will find it easier to follow a disciplined investment strategy that gives you the opportunity to meet your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

... Don't be driven by fear. When the market is down, investors tend to react with fear. Specifically, they rush to sell their investments, afraid that if they don't "cut their losses," they might sustain even bigger ones. If you can get past this feeling, you may find that a down market can offer you the chance to buy quality investments at good prices.

... Forget about the "hot stocks." You'll hear friends, co-workers and talking heads on television tout today's "hot stocks." But by the time you might hear about them, they may have cooled off – and, in any case, they might not be appropriate for your needs. Forget about "getting rich quick in the market" – it probably won't happen. True investment success requires patience and persistence.

... Cut down on your debts. It's easy to pile up debts, but a lot harder getting rid of them. Yet, if you can reduce your debt load even moderately, you'll free up money you could use to invest. So look for ways to conserve, cut back and consolidate – it will be worth the effort.

Making these resolutions – and sticking to them – can help you as you work toward achieving your financial goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



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Local businesses reviewed:

Perfect Cuts, 2233 South Monaco Parkway, #106, (303)758-1000 - Reviewed by Barbara Fallon

I prefer to shop close to home. A few years ago, I tried Perfect Cuts, and I have returned for every haircut ever since. Perfect Cuts has offered an array of services since 2010, when proprietor Young Bae established her salon in our neighborhood, initially experiencing the empty “anchor” at the Villa Monaco Plaza and major construction disruptions until Walmart opened in 2013. Perfect Cuts is a spotless, stylishly decorated salon. Young Bae is a delightful, gentle, master stylist, who listens. My hair is short, straight, and fine. I request a cut that “demands nothing.” Young graciously complies yet tries “pro bono” different products and blows my hair because she always works for the “perfect” outcome.

The salon offers an array of services at competitive prices. Perfect Cuts professional color/highlights services use Goldwell Color, voted the world’s #1 hair salon color line by over 75,000 top stylists worldwide. All highlights services use Goldwell Silk Lift Lightener.

Young welcomes me as an old friend. Her thorough and conscientious service is a treat. We talk about business neighbors, and Young relayed at my recent appointment that the Villa Monaco leasing agent was in active negotiations to fill the space between the Sewing Center and Pudge Brother’s Pizza. We spoke about our local restaurants, the good food at Yaffa’s Savory Mediterranean Café and Catering (across Monaco) and that Young promotes worthy neighborhood businesses, such as Yaffa’s, from her “chair.” What an insightful and gracious lady! I have watched the development at the plaza, a good thing for our neighborhood. When Young opened, she worked seven days a week for two years, usually the time standard for a business success or failure. We are all benefactors of Young’s dedication.

A lovely new neighbor recently purchased a home down the street from me. She is savvy, friendly, with a great style – and she is a hair stylist. When we first met, my new neighbor said, “I like your cut.” Thanks, Young!

Perfect Cuts’ website is www.perfectcuts.us. Hours are Monday through Friday 9am to 7pm; Saturday 9am to 5pm; and Sunday 10am to 4pm. For an appointment call 303-758-1000.

Chaka’s Mexican Restaurant, 6265 East Evans, (303) 993-8105 - Reviewed by Debbie Vandre

Are you in the mood for thin crisp lightly salted chips and homemade salsa that has just enough spice to leave you wanting more? Do you like to support small, locally-owned businesses that offer great service and meals at a fair price? Chaka’s is our neighborhood’s newest gem. The green chili is thick, delicious and comes mild, hot or half and half. The menu offers many of the norms for Mexican restaurants but you will also find many specialty dishes you would normally have to cross the border to enjoy. I must say that I have tried many of the specialties and they keep me coming back for more.

Jesus (Chaka) and Jessica are the owners of this neighborhood gem. They both worked for her father’s restaurant in north Denver starting in 1993 where Chaka was hired as a dishwasher. As Chaka moved his way up they began to date in 1995 and were soon married and became parents of three daughters. Both Chaka and Jessica had a strong desire to live the American dream so they worked hard and learned all they could about running a restaurant through her father’s restaurant. With many sacrifices they saved to make their dream come true. Chaka and Jessica opened Chaka’s restaurant at 6265 East Evans August 7, 2015 and they have not had to look back. *(cont. on next page)*

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<p>All About Kids & Kids Choice are a General Dentistry Practice. All About Braces has Board Certified Orthodontist. Clinics are Independently Owned and Operated.</p>			
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">DENVER - AURORA - WHEATRIDGE - LAKEWOOD</p>			

They are not just business owners in Cook Park but have a strong desire to become part of our community. The food is authentic and fabulous. The fajitas and menudo are house specialties and the burritos are large and filling. Chaka's offers \$1 margaritas (normal size) during Bronco games which you can watch on any of their 5 TV's. They offer \$2 hand held breakfast burritos to go daily, weekday drink specials and \$6 for 20 oz. margarita's on the week-end. There are 9 booths and 6 tables so call ahead for larger groups. I suggest you give them a try and tell them Debbie sent you.

Retro House Love, 1950 S Holly St Unit 3, Denver, CO 80222, (734) 355-1792, Reviewed by Nancy Barlow

This hip retail store is a match made in heaven for our Cook Park mid-century neighborhood. I personally picked up a pair of bright yellow fiberglass patio chairs "Percival Lafer Earth Chairs" to be exact (pictured here) - true vintage Brazilian designs and perfect for my 1960s home. Owner, Linda Gonto moved Retro House Love to Cook Park from her previous location on South Pearl in 2012. While they love mid-century modern design, you'll find a wide variety of new and vintage furniture, home furnishings, barware and gifts to fit many styles. Their inventory is ever



changing as they may only stock a few, or even one of an item - especially in true vintage offerings including Eames, Herman Miller, Kartel, Saarinen and Knoll items from time to time. An added service at RHL is custom upholstery by Atomic Threadwork. Laura Wilding offers a host of upholstery services. Laura's creative skill, combined with a keen analytical sense give her the edge in producing awesome results whether you need a piece repaired or completely redone. Stop by Retro House Love for more information and shop to your MCM heart's delight.

Esters, 1950 S Holly St, Denver, CO 80222 · (303) 955-4904, Reviewed by Nancy Barlow
Well, if you haven't paid a visit to Esters, our new neighborhood bar and restaurant, I recommend you plan an outing there soon. This hip new family-friendly establishment brings a fresh dining and socializing atmosphere to the hood.

The food is well thought out and everything is delicious. Craft beers, an excellent wine list and unique cocktails compliment the contemporary setting. The menu changes seasonally but mainly you'll find pizza, sandwiches, apps and salads.

Owner Paul Sullivan (and Krisana Park neighbor) has done a fabulous job of promoting his restaurant with nightly activities such as family night, football nights, trivia night (and more); on weekends you can enjoy a Bloody Mary bar with Saturday/Sunday brunch. There is a large back room that can accommodate a party or event complete with its own private bar. It's obvious the staff has been well trained as they are consistently friendly, knowledgeable and very attentive to the diner. Very refreshing!



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CPNA Board Elections for 2016 will be held at our January 19th meeting. Interested candidates please attend.

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Giving this season: Tax info to be aware of

(information compiled from Denver Post article)

Start your giving plan by ensuring that you give to a qualified organization, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3). That means the group has jumped through all the proper governmental hoops and files the proper annual paperwork. You can also check out a charity on give.org, the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliances website.

Also, you must itemize your donations on Schedule A of the 1040 form. "For every dollar you list as a charitable donation, you get an equal dollar deduction," says Denver-based CPA Ann Hinkins, who works with nonprofit organizations.

Another way to boost your donation is through matching dollars or similar incentives. Check with your employer to see if it has a matching gift program. Season To Share, run by Denver Post Charities and the McCormick Foundation, match every dollar donated at 50 percent. Colorado Gives Day, held this year on Dec. 8, also has an incentive fund to boost contributions.

If you want to really feel great about your gift, look for nonprofits that match your passions and interests and are located in your zip code, she advises. Websites such as CharityNavigator.org, Give.org and GuideStar.org can help you evaluate a charity's legitimacy and compare various charities.

ColoradoGives.org has vetted more than 1,600 area nonprofits and summarized their programs and financials. You can find out how many people they serve; you can even drill down by interests such as rescue dogs or food banks.

Want credit for every charitable gift? It's all about the paperwork. That includes those blank receipts for goods dropped off at places such as the Salvation Army or ARC Thrift and grocery-store receipts if you buy nonperishables to give to charities.

More tips from the IRS:

- When you give online, save and/or print the confirmation e-mail for your tax records.
- If you volunteer at a nonprofit, you can deduct the mileage at 14 cents per miles plus parking.
- If your contribution entitles you to merchandise, goods or services, including admission to a charity event, performance or sporting event, you can only deduct the amount that exceeds the fair market value of the benefit received. So if you pay \$100 for a seat at a charity dinner valued at \$60, you can only deduct \$40.
- Make sure all receipts or thank-you letters contain the name of the organization, the contribution date and amount.
- For a text-message donation, such as those that pop up after natural disasters, it's OK to use your telephone bill as long as it shows the name of the organization, the date and the amount given.
- If your total deduction for all non-cash contributions during the year is more than \$500, you must complete and attach IRS Form 8263, the Non-cash Charitable Contributions form, to your return.
- Finally, make any donation by midnight Dec. 31. If you make a good faith effort with a postmark a few days before year's end, you can claim the donation on your 2015 taxes even if the check doesn't clear in 2015 (be sure, though, not to claim it in both 2015 and 2016 years).



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Thin Blue Line cont.



Recognition of law enforcement officers was also proclaimed at the opening of the City Council October 26 meeting by our District 6 Councilman Paul Kashmann. With blue bows before the desk of each council member that evening, the panorama view was stunning and meaningful. We have delivered over-sized bows to District 3, 4 & 6 police stations, where we were warmly received, with visits to remaining districts planned. Approximately

100 bows were given to attendees at November's Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) to display or distribute in their neighborhoods. For a blue bow for home or business, or a blue lapel pin for personal wear, contact the CopShop at 7150 Leetsdale Drive, Denver 80224; 303-329-0500; leetsdalecopshop@hotmail.com. Join the blue brigade to make bows and lapel pins or to donate ribbon or contribute toward blue ribbon purchases. CopShop hours are: Monday through Friday 11am to 3pm.

Our nation's approximately 780,000 police officers put on a badge each day, knowing they may encounter extremely dangerous situations while carrying out their duties. There are about 40 million police-civilian contacts each year.

Law enforcement officers are the thin-blue line between a nation of law and anarchy. Every blue bow is a prayer for their safety. Plans for the campaign include recognition on January 9, 2016, *National Law Enforcement Day*. Until then, show your blue and remember to THANK A POLICE OFFICER!

Useful telephone numbers and websites

- Police/Fire/Medical Emergency 9-1-1 City Services 3-1-1
- Police (non-emergency) 720-913-2000
- District 3 Police Station (admin. and info.) 720-913-1300
- Neighborhood Inspection Service 720-865-3200
(for zoning violations, un-shoveled snow, weeds, front yard junk, abandoned vehicles, etc.)
- Graffiti Hot Line 720-865-7867
- Street Maintenance/Pothole Repair 720-865-6855
- Animal Control/Barking Dogs 303-698-0076
- Denveranimalshelter.com
- Denver Dumb Friends League to report a lost or found pet 303.751.5772 x 7254
- Denver's Household Hazardous Waste Collection 800-449-7587
- Power Failure—Xcel 800-895-1999
- Denver Recycles 720-865-6805
- Solid Waste Department (Trash Pick Up) 720-865-6900, after hours call 720-865-6855
- Mayor Hancock, MileHighMayor@denvergov.org, 720-865-9090
- Paul Rosenthal, State Rep. District 9 303-866-2910 or paul.rosenthal.house@state.co.us
- Councilman Paul Kashmann's office - 720-337-6666
- Bruce Hoyt, School Board Rep. 303-764-3210
- Bill James, RTD Rep. 303-316-6768
- Rocky Mountain Poison Center - 1.800.222.1222
- Leetsdale Cop Shop - 303-329-0500

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January - Small Colorado Microbrews, 6 pk cans

February - Crooked Stave Artisans

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The EEBA meets every 4th Tuesday of the month. Local businesses, property owners, non-profits and neighbors are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the EEBA is to improve the quality of life on Evans and its surrounding neighborhoods and to support our business community.

The Panorama Building, 2055 S. Oneida St.
Denver 80224 at 5:30 pm, lower level
(No meeting in December)

- January 26
- February 23

Phone scam activity is up - what you can do to stop it or recover from it.

by Officer Mike Borquez

I've been receiving frequent calls and emails about phone scams. To report this type of activity you should contact the Federal Trade Commission to report these crimes. Their web address is www.ftc.gov. Below is information from their website that will help you identify a call as a scam. Please help us get the word out and pay a visit to their website for very valuable information on this subject.

Common Scams: The caller tells the consumer that he has won a sweepstakes or lottery but will need to send money to take delivery. The consumer's assets are frozen until a fake debt, fine or lien is paid. The caller is going to help the consumer recover funds lost in a scam. The caller claims to be collecting back taxes or immigration fees.



Scam Alert: Imposter Lottery & Sweepstakes Scammers are exploiting the FTC's good name by promising phony sweepstakes prizes. The FTC investigates fraud and provides free consumer information. It never collects money directly from consumers. FTC staff is not involved with nor do they conduct sweepstakes or lottery contests. Scammers will impersonate actual FTC employees, but the FTC never gives awards or sweepstakes. The FTC does want you to know how to avoid being deceived by government imposters.

What to do if you receive a scam call:

Report the incident by filing a complaint at ftc.gov/complaint. Be sure to include: Date and time of the call, name of the government agency the imposter used, prize amount and amount requested in fees, and payment method and phone number of the caller. Although scammers may use technology to create a fake number or spoof a real one, law enforcers may be able to track that number to identify the caller. Plus any other details from the call.

The FTC cannot resolve individual consumer complaints, but they have tips to help you get your money back. Common scams, names, and phone numbers reported to the FTC OIG. Consumers should beware of fraudulent calls from imposters who identify themselves as government agents such as FTC employees or contractors. Even if real FTC employees' names and phone numbers are used, these calls are scams.

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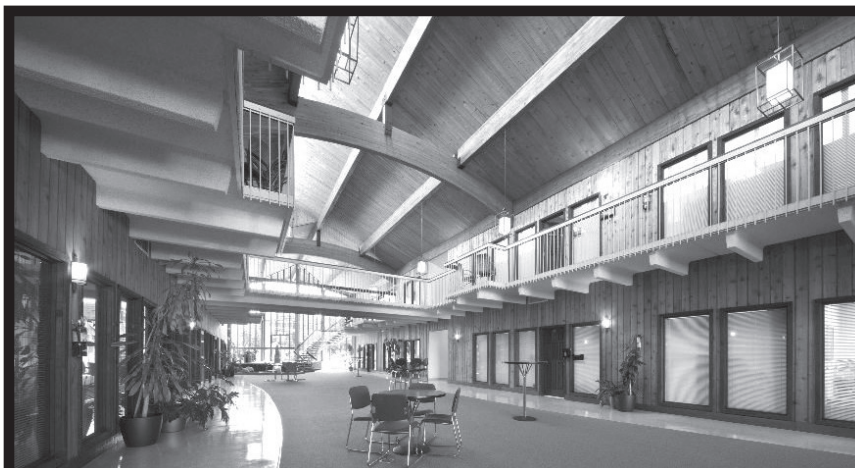
I still remember how discouraged I was a couple of days before our planned Children's Christmas pageant at church. I had envisioned kids galore playing various roles in the program. You know, an adorable Mary, a worried Joseph, cute sheep, straw-ridden shepherds and wearied wiseman huddled around the manger. Our ministry had worked hard to attract kids from Cook Park to the program. Unfortunately, we had not fared very well. We DID have the one boy who wanted to be the innkeeper... provided he could carry a sword as he climbed through a window. Then there was the cute as a bug in a rug little girl who wanted to be a llama! Other than that, we did not have kids for our program. I was so disheartened!

Then someone in our congregation suggested we get in touch with Carol! Our church had helped Carol and her two small children get into Joshua Station, an amazing Denver ministry giving a hand-up to otherwise challenged street people. Honestly, I doubted that Carol could be of much help. She had so many problems of her own! Nevertheless, I telephoned her and shared with her our kid dilemma.

A couple hours passed. I continued to fret, feeling sorry for myself. Then Carol got back in touch. She said that she had visited with a number of other parents at Joshua Station and that ALL were excited about having their children in our Christmas program! Joshua Station was even going to transport the kids to our church!

So we were able to pull off the Christmas pageant! Some of you remember! We were privileged to have you in attendance! You recall the angel in the wheelchair and that Sun, smiley-faced and all, pushing the Christmas star out of the way to shine more brightly over Bethlehem. The cattle were lowing that morning as... a stage-frightened llama... sat with her dad in the back of our church! We were all given a gift that Sunday morning... a remembrance of the Savior to be sure, but a reminder of not selling people short! I was challenged, in humility, to recognize that Christmas comes to us in its surprise and in its wonder. God pulled it off... and continues today to do so with a cast of oftentimes unlikely folk: YES, EVEN US! Let's just be mindful that when God shuts doors He will indeed open windows. Be careful though of sword-wielding innkeepers pulling themselves through! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Mike Lemke Cross of Glory Lutheran Church



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Get ready, get set (& be ready to), VOTE! (2nd in a series of four with quiz following in 2016)

By Barbara Fallon

The following is a Colorado caucus primer and time line for 2016 elections. Take part from the beginning to know the process, to influence and advocate for your values, and to be without regrets.

Colorado residents gather together in neighborhoods across the state to attend precinct caucuses. A precinct is generally the lowest-level, governmentally-related division in the United States. Each precinct contains approximately 1500 registered voters. To “decode” a precinct, the following example of voter registration information applies: Sample 7202430187, where the first 7 indicates the United States Congressional District; 20, indicates the State Senate District; 24 the State House District; 30 the County identifier; and 187 indicates a voter’s Precinct number. Bingo!

Held by each major political party, these caucuses are the first step toward choosing which candidates will represent each party in district and statewide elections. The process advances by caucus precinct attendees electing “delegates” to represent the precinct and advance to county and state assemblies and ultimately electing delegates to the Democrat or Republican national convention. These delegates have made it to the TOP! It is also an opportunity for ordinary citizens (including students) to make their voices heard and help shape their party’s official platform resolutions.

The caucus process can be confusing, especially for newcomers; however participation is essential to know what is happening in our caucus state in electing our representatives. And to make a difference. The following is a timeline for the 2016 election process.

March 1st – Republican and Democrat Party Precinct Caucus Day. In each even-numbered year, political parties hold their precinct caucus the 1st Tuesday in March; however, in presidential election years, each major party may choose to conduct its precinct caucuses on the 1st Tuesday in February. Neither major political party opted for a February caucus in 2016.

In order to vote in any precinct caucus of a political party a voter must be:

- A resident of the precinct for at least 30 days.
- Registered to vote no later than 29 days before the caucus.
- Affiliated with the party holding the caucus for at least two months before the caucus.

Dates to remember:

January 4, 2016 – Last day to affiliate with either major party – Democrat or Republican

February 1, 2016 – Last day to update your voter registration address to participate in the March 1st party precinct caucuses.

March 1, 2016, Tuesday – Precinct Caucus

March 10-March 26 – Window for individual county assemblies – The parties are obligated to provide a 10-day notice.

County Assembly: After caucus and no later than 25 day post caucus: On or before March 26, 2016

State Assembly: On or before April 16, 2016: No later than 73 days before the primary

June 28, 2016 – Tuesday Primary Election

November 8, 2016 – Tuesday General Election!

Don’t be disappointed on November 9 as media reports of how the election went and you have a queasy feeling. Each of us has the grassroots power to influence the outcome of who will serve as President of the United States, who will be our elected United States Senator and in Colorado State elections. Delegates, elected at every step of the caucus/assembly process, also influence party platforms, issues important to the people. It is a privilege to be among those who determine the course of America.

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How to send a care package to a dog serving overseas

by Holly Cooper, courtesy of BarkPost.com



Military Working Dogs (MWD) are a vital part of the US Armed Forces. These highly trained pups work side by side with their handlers in war zones as trackers or sentries, in search and rescue, explosive detection and so much more. Interested in sending these hard working canines a little TLC? Below are listed several ways you can send or contribute to care packages for these well deserving pups and their handlers...

*Disclaimer – It's important to contact each organization before you send your donation or package to verify shipping details.

The United States War Dog Association, Inc.

This non-profit organization has been sending care packages to US military dogs all over the world since 2003. President of the organization, Ron Aiello, told BarkPost that packages are sent all year round. To send specific items, visit their website for a full list of approved donations. You can also make a financial contribution by donating there.

Examples of needed items:

- K-9 Cooling Mats
- K-9 Nail Clippers, Brushes or Combs
- Kongs and other heavy duty chew toys
- K-9 Cooling Vests
- Doggles
- Collapsible Nylon Dog Water Bowls
- Dog Shampoo
- K-9 Salves For Paws/Noses
- K-9 toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Dog treats made in the USA only

And don't forget about the hoomans! Item donations for dog handlers are also encouraged. Some of the suggested items include chapstick, sun block, writing materials, chewing gum, beef jerky and a friendly note. For the full list of items go to www.uswardogs.org/needed-items



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The history of the cookie by Cook Park neighbor Judy Anne Kriss with Janice Martin

The English, Scotch and Dutch immigrants originally brought the first cookies to the United States. My writing goes back to earlier forms of cookies from England, Scotland, Germany, France, and Italy. Some of the cookies are special to Christmas and some are the forerunners that influenced the development of small cakes into cookies.

Historians state that sugar originated either in the lowland of Bengal or elsewhere in Southeast Asia and spread to Persia and then to the eastern Mediterranean. During the 7th Century AD, Persia (now Iran) was one of the first countries to cultivate sugar. This resulted in the development of luxurious cakes and pastries enjoyed by the population in large and small quantities throughout the Persian Empire.

With the Muslim invasion of Spain, the Crusades, and the developing spice trade, the cooking techniques and ingredients of Arabia spread into Northern Europe. According to culinary historians, the first historic record of cookies was their use as test cakes. Cooks would test the temperature of the oven by pouring a tiny bit of cake batter in a pan to test the over temperature. We can assume the test cakes did not go to waste and thus the development of “cookies”!

The name cookie is derived from the Dutch word Koekie, meaning “small or little cake”. In America, a cookie is described as a thin, sweet, usually small cake. By definition, a cookie can be a variety of hand-held, flour based sweet cake, either crisp or soft. Each country has its own word for cookie, and I begin with Germany.

GERMANY – LEBKUCHEN

In Germany, Lebkuchen is the traditional German baked good for Christmas, somewhat resembling soft gingerbread. Similar cookies have a history that extends back to the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. These early people believed that honey, the only sweetener widely available to them, was a gift from the deities with magical and healing powers. Honey cakes were also worn as a talisman in battle or as a protection against evil spirits.

The style of the traditional Lebkuchen probably was invented by medieval monks in Franconia, Germany in the 13th century. Lebkuchen bakers were recorded as early as 1296 in Ulm and 1395 in Nuremberg. Lebkuchen is also known as “honey cake” and may be packaged in richly decorated tins, chests, and boxes which have become nostalgic collector items. Lebkuchen range in taste from spicy to sweet and come in a variety of sizes and shapes with round being the most common. The ingredients usually include honey, spices, such as aniseed, coriander, cloves, ginger, cardamom and allspice, almonds, hazelnuts, and walnuts, or candied fruit. Lebkuchen dough is usually placed on a thin wafer base called Oblate. This was an idea of the monks, who used unleavened communion wafer ingredients to prevent the dough from sticking. Typically, they are glazed or covered with chocolate, although some are uncoated. Another German cookie cake is Pfeffernusse, a spicy gingerbread probably the forerunner to the American gingersnap and the gingerbread man. *(cont. on page 13)*



Local Real Estate News

Denver’s market is still on the rise. Here is an overview from Debbie Vandre. For more information on our neighborhood, contact Debbie Vandre at 303-517-0891 or email her at Debbie@VandreProperties.com

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 4 Under Contract Avg Sold Price \$353,720
 3 Active Sold 95.4% of List price
 Average Days on Market 26

Homes Priced Over \$400,000

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 5 Under Contract Avg Sold price \$449,000
 6 Active Sold 97.87% list price.
 Average Days on Market 34

2016

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PERSONAL RETURN <small>(plus Sch. C)</small>	\$100
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C CORP (1120)	\$200
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ENGLAND/SCOTLAND – SHORTBREAD

The story of “shortbread” begins with the medieval “biscuit bread”. Any leftover dough from bread making was dried out in a low oven until it hardened into a type of rusk. The word “biscuit” means “twice cooked”. Gradually the yeast in the bread was replaced by butter. Biscuit bread developed into shortbread. Shortbread was an expensive luxury. For ordinary people, shortbread was a special treat reserved for special occasions such as weddings, Christmas and New Year.

The Romans influenced English cooking; however, they did not venture far into Scotland. Scottish cuisine developed slowly. Scottish cooking methods advanced through French influence at the court of Mary Queen of Scots. Shortbread was attributed to Mary, who in mid-16th century was said to be fond of Petticoat Tails, a thin crisp, buttery shortbread originally flavored with caraway seeds. The traditional Scottish shortbread biscuits may in fact

date back beyond the 12th century. Triangles fit together into a circle and echo the shape of pieces of fabric used to make a full-gored petticoat during the reign of Elizabeth I. The theory is that the name may have come from the word for the pattern which was “tally”, and so the biscuits became known as “petticoat taillis”. Shortbread is traditionally formed into one of three shapes: one large circle divided into segments (“Petticoat Tails”); individual round biscuits (“Shortbread Rounds”); or a thick rectangular slab cut into “fingers”.

FRANCE – LADY FINGERS, MADELEINE, AND PALMEIRS (ELEPHANT EARS)

Ladyfingers are oval shaped cookies or cakes that are also known around the world as Boudoir biscuits, sponge biscuits, Naples biscuits, Savoy biscuits and more. The recipe, which has changed little in 900 years, dates from the House of Savoy in the eleventh century France. Historians seem to think the recipe was carried throughout Europe by the marriages of the descendants of Bertha of Savoy (1051-1081) to the royalty of Europe. In the 18th century, according to legend, Czar Peter the Great of Russia and his wife, the peasant empress Catherine, so enjoyed Ladyfingers when visiting Louis XV of France, that they “purchased” the baker and sent him immediately to Saint Petersburg.

Madeleines are very small sponge cakes with a distinctive shell-like shape acquired from being baked in pans with shell-shaped depressions. Some sources say madeleines may have been named for a 19th century pastry, Madeleine Paulmeir, but other sources have that Madeleine Paulmeir was a cook in the 18th century for Stanislaw Leszczynski, whose son-in-law, Louis XV of France, named them for her. Perhaps the centuries old, irresistibly flaky Petite Palmiers, made of over 300 layers of dough and 100 percent butter, are named for and a product of the same 18th century cook, Madeleine Paulmeir.
(cont. on page 14)

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history of the cookie cont.

ITALY – AMARETTI & PIZZELLE

Amaretti is an almond macaroon cookie. The Italian word “amaro” means “bitter” and the literal translation of “amaretti” is “the little bitter ones”. The cookie is called amaretti because the flavoring is bitter almonds. Francesco Moriodo, pastry chef at the court of Savoy, created them in the mid-17th century.

The word pizzelle means small, flat, and round in Italian. These waffle-type cookies are made by pouring batter between two places of an iron, which is then held over a fire or are heated electrically. Pizzelles were first made in the south-central area of Abruzzo in the 8th century. Two small towns each claim to have originated the treat, which is featured in their yearly festivals. These days, pizzelle can be found at almost any celebration in the Abruzzo region and across Italy.

AMERICA

Nazareth Sugar Cookie - Also called Amish Sugar cookies. This recipe was perfected by the Moravians, Protestant settlers from Germany who made Nazareth, Pennsylvania their home during the mid-1700s. Comprised of basic dough, sugar cookies are easy to make and lend themselves to be cut into shapes and decorated with a variety of toppings, including icing, sprinkles of course sugar and candies. The large variety of cookie cutters available makes these cookies perfect for any holiday and especially Christmas.

Toll House Cookie – In 1937, Ruth Wakefield, a Massachusetts toll house innkeeper was about to make cookies for her guests. Ruth’s inn was an active toll house built in 1709 where stage coach horses were changed, passengers enjoyed a meal, and a toll was charged. The innkeeper discovered she was missing one of the cookie ingredients, so she chopped up some pieces of Nestle baking chocolate, expecting the chocolate to melt into the batter. To the delight of chefs and cookie eaters, the chopped chocolate pieces did not melt but kept their shape. The fictional Betty Crocker promoted the Toll House cookie for its great taste during a radio series in 1939. Ruth eventually sold her legal right for the cookies to Nestle. Nestle kept the exclusive rights to the chocolate chip cookie trademark until losing it in court in 1983. Today the chocolate chip cookie remains a favorite choice among cookie connoisseurs. The term “toll house” has become a part of the American language.

There are hundreds upon hundreds of cookie recipes in the United States. The geographic development of the United States was reflected in popular cookie recipes. The Quaker Oats Man became the first registered trademark in 1877, and oats became an ingredient for cookies. The railroad expansion in the early 1880’s gave cooks access to coconuts from the South. Later in the century, oranges from the West were included in many recipes. In 1911, Crisco vegetable shortening was introduced, but it took several years for the shortening to be accepted into baking.

With the introduction of electrical appliances, including microwave ovens, new methods of making cookies evolved. Cookie mixes, refrigerated cookie dough, and a wide range of commercial cookies are available. Where cookies are concerned, nothing says “lovin’ like something from the oven” and the memories that favorite family cookie recipes evoke, especially at Christmas.

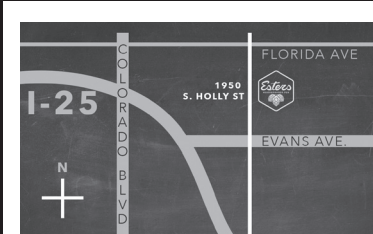


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A brief history of our hood as shared by Beth Trudgeon

To know the past is to understand (and appreciate) the present.

By Barbara Fallon

Do we know just a smidgen of what Beth Trudgeon knows? Starting with the basics: Is it common knowledge that our neighborhood was once in Arapahoe County?

If I have a question about Denver's past, friend and observer of places and happenings Beth Trudgeon has the answer. Her grandmother was a native; Beth's grandparents met in Denver. Her father, Francis B. Trudgeon, took the time to compile records with the generous insight to share his narrative with others.

There is a treasure trove in the writings of Kathie Chichester, the daughter of Francis Trudgeon's best friend, who interviewed Francis Trudgeon and had the patience and foresight to document public records and city documents that notated the past of our part of Denver. The acreage at the southwest corner of Dahlia and Mississippi, the Trudgeon property where the white houses and barn remain today, are glimpses into that past, while the Chichester home now holds the baby grand whose imposing presence once graced the Trudgeon home. No wonder our Ms. Trudgeon became a collector and appraiser of antiques and the time-proven quality of items of old.



1950s residents like the Jacobsen Family on South Forest Way built their home in 1956 on treeless land with plans for adding trees for a lush future.

From Kathie Chichester's written account, as excerpted by Beth in the Virginia Village/Ellis newsletter in 2001, within 5 years after the founding of Denver, the area that was to become Virginia Village was being settled. In 1864, Levi Booth purchased the stage stop that is now Four Mile House and, with his family, created the Booth Ranch. Five years later, the railroads came into play with first the Kansas Pacific Railroad Company, then deeded in 1880 to the Union Pacific Railroad consolidating with the Kansas Pacific and the Denver Pacific Railway and Telegraph Company. Go west, young man!

In the 1930's there were few roads into the area and the nearest bridge across Cherry Creek was a small two-lane wooden bridge at Colorado Boulevard. Because of the creek, there were no connecting north/south streets. (This may explain why we have no real north/south arterial connecting streets to this day – which was the italicized editor's note from the 2001 Virginia Village/Ellis newsletter. Would that editor be long-time, knowledgeable and effective Virginia Village/Ellis president Diane Wolta?)

For about 60 years, the area remained quietly rural. Grain was king with smaller parcels used for cash crops such as horseradish and asparagus. Colorado carnations were grown in greenhouses and were well reputed.

Several tracts became home to riding stables and bridle paths in the 1940s. The best-known path, Cavalcade Bridle Path, started at the corner of Mississippi and Dahlia, right where the Trudgeon family resided. Beth rode the bridle paths and enjoyed the open and free land that in earlier days had been ridden by VIPs of the time, including the governor of Colorado.

On August 2, 1950, the first filing of Virginia Village was platted and signed by the owners, Levi R. and Winnifred S. Roop – and so Virginia Village began. In 1954, a petition for annexation with Denver was approved and signed into law by Denver's acting mayor T.P. Campbell on August 18 of that year.

Virginia Village was owned, developed, built and sold by the companies of Marcus C. Bogue, Jr., a Denver businessman. The area and its sister area Virginia Vale were both named for Bogue's wife, Virginia. Early home prices were around \$7,500 to \$15,000. A tidbit for Krisanna home owners: Christian and Anna Noe bought the 40-acre farm which was previously Burk's Dairy in 1918 and built the house which is now 4801 East Florida Avenue. When the Noe's dairy was sold, the area where houses were built was called "Krisanna Park" for Chris, or Kris, and Anna. (As notated in Beth's papers by Genevieve Meed, 2/26/94.)

Ash Grove School was built in the 40's. The original Ash Grove was a one-room brick schoolhouse and called Ash Grove because a parent planted a grove of ash trees around the small building. McMeen elementary was opened in September 1959, and within two years it was inadequate to handle the number of children in Virginia Village, sometimes with 40 young ones on a block in the family-centered neighborhoods. Long-time residents of the neighborhood remember the corner of Holly and Florida, with a Piggly Wiggly grocery store, Snow White Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Virginia Village Drug Store, Virginia Village Creamery, with wonderful penny candies, Virginia Village Barber Shop, and Village Conoco. In 1959, the shopping center was enlarged to include a hardware store, a television repair shop, and a beauty shop. The center also had a brief fling with bars and nightclubs. (cont. on page 16)

A brief history of our hood cont.

In the 60's, with development all around, and hundreds of apartments being built in Glendale, two large open areas were preserved for parks. On the north is Garland Park, stretching along Cherry Creek from Holly to Monaco. To the east is Cook Park, the center of many of our sport activities and gatherings, including the well-renowned National Night Out (that Beth chaired for many years, with the "first annual" in 2005). The store-front Virginia Village Library opened with few reference books and no card catalog in 1969, but with a large following among residents. Potenza Park at the corner of Holly and Cherry Creek Drive South, with its international relationship to Potenza, Italy, a Denver "sister" city, and current Monday evening Bocce ball play, was added in the 80's. (Virginia Village/Ellis organizers cordially invite neighbors to join the friendly Bocce competition with starting time fluctuating with seasonal daylight hours.) And who but Beth (& Kathie Chichester) would



This 1960s promotional photo highlights the White Sands Beach Club, officially opening for business in 1948 on the land that is now the northeast corner of Mississippi and Dahlia. As the area grew, the beach club was retired in 1968 to make room for high density housing. Today, all you can see of what remains of the popular summer recreational business is the pond in the middle of the Cherry Creek Club Apartments

was active in the Cook Park Neighborhood Association. Back in the day, our neighboring associations not infrequently shared meetings. Beth served as a delegate to the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) for many years. INC's mission statement is "to advocate for Denver citizens by bringing together, informing and empowering Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing City issues". Beth was awarded the Walt Kembel award as Outstanding Delegate in 2015 and the Star award in 2012.

Her personal recognition included "a stellar community volunteer" involved with the Leetsdale CopShop for over a decade. Currently Beth is making blue bows and blue lapel ribbons to support law enforcement in the Blue Ribbon campaign. She has helped with the National Night Out since inception. Beth has volunteered with the Denver Library primary book sales each year and a multitude of other city volunteer needs that come up, reported INC in awarding Beth. Yes, I could name many more contributions among the multitude cited by INC, of which the Rocky Mountain Feline Rescue, a no-kill shelter, where Beth volunteers one day a week, comes to mind.

Thank you, Beth, for your life, your love and your dedication to Denver and its people and your living memoir thereof. You frequently remind me to "stop and smell the roses" along the way. And I am reminded by your life to take the time to know about and enjoy both the past and the here and now about living in this special "hood".

know that the land between Holly and Monaco along the old bridle path remains its original name of Cavalcade Park?

I wouldn't know these facts if Beth had not generously shared her collected writings and memories from family and friends. I wouldn't know that 6360 East Evans, where Walgreens now stands, had at one time been the Valley Drive-In Theatre, as documented by a directory on which Beth had handwritten "1966". I wouldn't have the enhanced sense of place if it weren't for Beth's knowledge, appreciation, and friendship.

Beth Trudgeon has not only observed and chronicled life, she has fully participated. In comparison to Beth's roots, I am a newcomer to Colorado, having lived in my Cook Park home about 25 years. We met initially at neighborhood meetings, where Beth was an officer for Virginia Village/Ellis, and I