

Cook Park News

COOK PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.cookparkneighborhood.com • cpneighborhood@gmail.com

May 14th: The 5th Annual East Evans Clean Up Day CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

This event should be called the 2016 East Evans Clean Up FUN Day. This year, Nancy Barlow will again head the committee and she's hoping she can count on you to join her. She's determined to once again break a record of volunteers so we hope you'll help her achieve her goal. The Clean Up Day starts at 9:30 am in Milo's Tavern (6495 E Evans Ave, Denver, CO 80222) parking lot where you will be assigned to a team. Then we're off to conquer the trash and debris that has settled in the nooks and crannies of our main thoroughfare. We spend a few FUN packed hours with our friends, families and neighbors and then we meet back at Milo's for a complimentary lunch. You'll be glad you joined the effort of invigorating camaraderie and community unity that ends with great food, beverage and conversation. Contact Nancy at nb@barlowadvertising.com or call her at her office: 303.671.6639.



President's letter:

Goodbye winter and hello hopes of an early Spring.

Get ready for an action packed year in the hood. The Cook Park Neighborhood Board will once again bring you a wonderful calendar of events this year. We have formed committees and divided responsibilities to bring more value to our meetings and more polish to our events. If you would like to join a committee, please contact a board member or email us at cpneighborhood@gmail.com for details.

Our Speakers Committee has been doing an excellent job of scheduling interesting presentations. Attendance has risen at our regular monthly meetings and we are thankful to be able to bring value to you. If you have a suggested speaker please let us know.

We are looking for both sponsors and volunteers again this year for our regular events. Currently we are specifically focused on the 4th of July Bike Parade & Picnic. If you have a business that could benefit from community outreach to families, you may be interested in contributing a small donation of \$100 - \$250 to spotlight your company. Your donation will go a long way in helping us purchase food, beverage and prizes for children participating in the 4th of July Bike parade. The turnout is consistently very high and the appreciation level even higher.

Thanks for reading!
Nancy Barlow,
President of the CPNA



Cook-Park-Neighborhood-Association

Cook Park Neighborhood Association 2016 Board

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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.

CPNA
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March 15
April 19
May 17

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The Cook Park Neighborhood 4th annual Holiday Light contest WINNERS:

The 2015 Holiday light contest winners are listed below - GREAT JOB everyone!

Best Outdoor Home Display

First Place:
James Chiesa
1729 S. Monaco Pkwy.

Second Place:
John D. Carr
1932 S. Oneida St.
Denver, CO 80224

Honorable Mention:
Gary Schultz
5655 East Minnesota Dr.

Best Group Display

Tony Leopard & Paul Henni
1860 S. Monaco Pkwy.
Denver, CO 80224

Ricky & Virginia Newton
1880 S. Monaco Pkwy.

Wayne & Kathleen Aubert
1850 S. Monaco Pkwy.

Watch for our new Holiday
Light contest "No rules"
structure coming in the Winter
2016 newsletter!



Denver Police Citizens' Academy

The Denver Police Department hosts several Citizens' Academies annually. They are co-hosted by Police Districts at the newest "Super Stations", but are open to any Metro area residents. The CPA is designed to give an insight into how/what/why the Department operates. The CPA presentations may cover many aspects of policing, including: Police History/DPD History, Officer Safety, Police Communications Center, Traffic Enforcement, Counter terrorism, Less Lethal Weapons, and much more.

You must be 18 (or over 15yoa & parental consent) and pass basic background Check. CPA runs for (7) weeks, generally on Wednesday evenings, from 6pm-9pm, at varied locations. You must register in advance by submitting an application. Space is limited

The next CPA: 2016 - March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 13
Primary locations: District 3 Station, Denver Police Academy
Communications Center.
Phone: 720-913-6167

FINANCIAL FOCUS.

How Should You Respond to Market "Correction"?

As an investor, you may be gaining familiarity with the term "market correction." But what does it mean? And, more importantly, what does it mean to you?

A correction occurs when a key index, such as the S&P 500, declines at least 10% from its previous high. A correction, by definition, is short-term in nature and has historically happened fairly regularly – about once a year. However, over the past several years, we've experienced fewer corrections, so when we have one now, it seems particularly jarring to investors.

How should you respond to a market correction? The answer may depend, to some extent, on your stage of life.

- If you're still working ... If you are in the early or middle parts of your working life, you might not have to concern yourself much about a market correction because you have decades to overcome a short-term downturn. Instead of selling stocks, and stock-based investments, to supposedly "cut your losses," you may find that now is a good time to buy more shares of quality companies, when their price is down.

Also, you may want to use the opportunity of a correction to become aware of the need to periodically review and rebalance your portfolio. Stocks, and investments containing stocks, often perform well before a correction. If their price has risen greatly, they may account for a greater percentage of the total value of your portfolio – so much so, in fact, that you might become "overweighted" in stocks, relative to your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. That's why it's important for you to proactively rebalance your portfolio – or, during a correction, the market may do it for you. To cite one aspect of rebalancing, if your portfolio ever does become too "stock-heavy," you may need to add some bonds or other fixed-rate vehicles. Not only can these investments help keep your portfolio in balance, but they also may hold up better during a correction.

- If you're retired ... After you retire, you may need to take money from your investment accounts – that is, sell some investments – to help pay for your cost of living. Ideally, however, you don't want to sell stocks, or stock-based vehicles, during a correction – because when you do, you may be "selling low." (Remember the most common rule of investing: Buy low and sell high. It's not always easy to follow, but it's still pretty good advice.)

So, to avoid being forced into selling, you need to be prepared. During your retirement years, try to keep at least a year's worth of cash instruments on hand as well as short-term fixed income investments. By having this money to draw on, you may be able to leave your stocks alone and give them a chance to recover, post-correction.

And it's important to maintain a reasonable percentage of stocks, and stock-based vehicles, in your portfolio, even during retirement – because these investments may provide the growth necessary to help keep you ahead of inflation. Consequently, as a retiree, you should have a balance of stocks and stock-based vehicles, along with fixed-income vehicles, such as bonds, certificates of deposit, government securities and so on.

Being prepared can help you get through a correction – no matter where you are on life's journey. *This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

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Spring speaker series organized by your Cook Park Neighborhood Association

The Cook Park Neighborhood Association "Speakers Committee" has scheduled three events for our upcoming Spring meetings. We will continue to bring you interesting speakers and topics that we feel are important issues for you to know about.

March 15, 2016: Denver Walks (the sidewalk program) with Jill Locantore along with Paul Kashmann with an overview of sidewalks and other council issues.

April 19, 2016: We have invited a representative from INC, Inter Neighborhood Cooperative, to join us. The purpose of INC is to bring together the tremendous leadership of our city neighborhood volunteers. Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation's mission is to advocate for Denver citizens by bringing together, informing and empowering Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing City issues. Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation provides information and makes possible this dialogue in the interest of the free expression of ideas and for the edification and benefit of the community. This speaker has not yet confirmed at the time of this printing.

May 17, 2016: Speakers from the DPD District 3 will join us.

Upcoming neighborhood events:

Get ready! Our annual summer events are right around the corner. The annual neighborhood sale will undoubtedly be a huge success again this year on Saturday June 24. Watch for sign-up instructions in the summer newsletter landing on doors the first week of June. In the meantime you better start cleaning the basement, garage, closets and don't forget to check under the bed.

The 4th of July Bike Parade and Picnic will commence on Mexico and Kremaria at 10:30 am. Plan your bike adornments to win a prize.

National Night Out is Tuesday August 2nd at Cook Park. Expect nothing less than last year's huge success.

Leetsdale Cop Shop announces two new projects to promote safety with the help of DPD.

Your neighborhood Cop Shop, located at 7150 Leetsdale Drive, Unit 120A, is concentrating efforts on two major projects for 2016. In partnership with the Denver Police Department and local students, a "Safety Poster Contest" will kick off in Spring of 2016 at George Washington High School, Thomas Jefferson High School and South High School. Various student prizes will be awarded. A second project is also being planned by Cop Shop volunteers which will focus on the development of safety booklets for various age groups – children, teenagers, adults and seniors. Detailed information will be announced once the booklets are complete. The Leetsdale Cop Shop is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please stop in to see what great services they are providing the community.



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Spring season of FREE events in Denver



DENVER DAY OF ROCK

WHEN: May 28 (2:30-9:30 p.m.)

WHERE: Downtown Denver

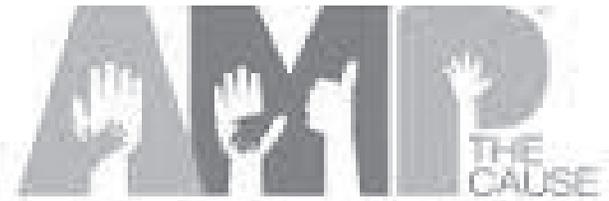
COST: Free

For the seventh year in a row, the 16th Street pedestrian mall will be transformed into a massive block party with more than two dozen free rock concerts throughout the day for the annual Denver Day of Rock.

The performance areas will be along the 16th Street Mall, making it easy to roam from act to act. Food and beer gardens will be set up throughout downtown for the event, with free music rocking the city from 2:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Denver's Day of Rock is a fundraising event for Amp the Cause, a Denver-based, non-profit organization that raises funds for more than 50 children's charities.

For full concert information and updates, visit DenverDayofRock.com.



ARTSTIR DENVER

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ARTSTIR DENVER

WHEN: May 28 & 29

(11 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

WHERE: Denver Pavilions

COST: Free

Artstir Denver is a creative art market exclusively showcasing Colorado Artists designed to stir up the artist in all of us with a spirited showcase of Colorado art, music and style. Located at the Denver Pavilions, featured works include paint, sculpture, photography, drawings, textiles, furnishings and mixed media.

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March 20 Palm Sunday
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March 24 Maundy Thursday
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March 25 Good Friday worship
12 noon and or 7 PM

March 26 Saturday prayer vigil
9 AM-3 PM

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Good neighbors helping others

by Barbara Fallon



February snow totals were big the first week of the “love” month. After a foot of snow in February’s early days, the Denver Police Department, through the voice of Community Resource Officer Sharon Avendano, asked for volunteers to help seniors or disabled residents shovel sidewalks. The shovel brigade was staged from Thomas Jefferson High School early the morning of February 3rd. (Hot cocoa and tea provided!) For those who could not participate, the call went out to “BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR” and help a fellow neighbor out in your neighborhood. To be part of future community efforts such as this, please contact Amanda Gregg, Director Office on Aging, 720-913-8456, amanda.gregg@denvergov.org

Although winter is on the wane, March and April are “snow months” in Denver, and it is not too late to observe who might need help on our streets. The city’s policy on sidewalk snow removal is stated in Denver Revised Municipal Code - Sec. 49-551 - Cleaning Sidewalks. (a) The owner, occupant or agent of the owner of any building, property, or vacant lot in the city is required to maintain the sidewalks, the parking and the curbs, i.e., the area from the property line to the gutter, adjoining the building, property or vacant lot in a clean condition and to remove snow and ice from adjoining sidewalks immediately after every snowfall. The manager of public works may adopt rules and regulations necessary for the enforcement of this section. It shall be unlawful to violate the provisions of this section or any rules and regulations promulgated hereunder. (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to sweep refuse or other waste material into the gutter.

I learned of an exceptional “snow buddy” through a friend who was “awarded a scholarship” by a young man, Connor Chidley, owner of Connor’s University Park Landscaping. The business specializes in residential snow removal service during the winter. In the spirit of giving, Connor started a program this year to provide free snow removal service for people in their neighborhood who are physically unable to shovel and cannot afford shoveling services. My friend attested after “the big snow” that Connor’s team was not only faithful but conscientious in snow removal from her property, returning to her home for the big “footer”.

As March comes in “like a lion”, not wishing life away, but looking forward to fair weather of the lamb, we can, in the meantime, help one another weather the storms of life. Happy Spring!

More about Connor and Children Without Shoes International:

Connor Chidley owns a landscaping company in Denver, CO called Connor’s University Park. Connor has a lengthy history of helping. Ten years ago, he helped his mother found Children Without Shoes International (childrenwsi.org), a charity non-profit organization that provides shoes, school uniforms, and other aid to impoverished children in rural Nicaragua. Connor has just returned from Nicaragua having spent two weeks providing for the people, the organization’s eleventh visit for this international good work. He leads the CWSI’s FRUIT TREE PROJECT which plants (*cont. on page 7*)



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Good neighbors cont.

live fruit trees in the five rural villages they support. The trees provide a sustainable source of fresh fruit for the families in these impoverished communities, and the program creates jobs for at risk young men under pressure to join gangs.

Children Without Shoes International raised \$10,000 last year to fund a preschool, a shoes and uniforms program, along with the tree planting program. As they have done for eleven years now, the money was collected largely from friends and relatives during the annual funding drive. Their **PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM** supports a preschool in Somoto for the children of women who have suffered physical and sexual abuse. In addition to receiving counseling and group support, the program also allows these mothers to earn income for their families during the day while their children receive food, care, and instruction at the preschool.



Connor is an inspiration to be better neighbors!

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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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

- March 22
- April 26
- May 24

Lessons we learn once again this Lenten season

I recall the Ash Wednesday service my mom and I attended in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico several years ago. At the beginning of the mass, there were probably 40 of us in attendance. The priest started the service much like we do at Cross of Glory with pertinent announcements before going into a familiar liturgy. Because Mom and I were seated near the front of the church, we did not realize what was happening behind us. By the time the service concluded, this with the priest repeating the haunting words, “Recuerda ustedes son polvo y a van regresar (Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return)” over 200 people came forward to receive ashes up on their foreheads. The Mexican people had come out in droves in remembrance of the Lenten season and specifically remember their mortalities and utter dependence on God. Hundreds more that day, in that very church, would receive the mark of the cross, the imprint of Christ on both head and heart.

I was able to understand most of what the priest talked about in his homily. He spoke of the changes experienced in Vallarta over the years: The sleepy fishing village becoming one of Mexico’s most popular tourist destinations; the construction of new hotels; the prevalence of road projects. He talked about the cruise ships import, the businesses setting up shops and the fluctuation of the peso. The priest reminded his congregation of the many changes experienced by so many in Vallarta over the years - this in both appreciation and caution. It was as though all in attendance concurred that some change is welcomed while other change is questioned.

And then the priest spoke of things that seemingly never change. He talked about laughter and tears being understood in any language. He pointed to a baby in the congregation and indicated how people around the globe adore such little ones. All chuckled in church when the priest remarked that in his opinion, the buses in Puerto Vallarta would always need shock absorbers! Indeed, even in a world of much innovation, there still remain those things constant and true. Some things seemingly never change.

That is when the priest stunned us. That is when he hit us over the head with a harsh reality of Ash Wednesday. While we were oohing and aahing at babies, the ways people in any culture appreciate kindnesses extended or helps afforded, the priest in a soft, matter-of-fact voice said, “Toda gente muere (All people die).” All people die? Some day all of us will die? Someday we will return to the dust from which we were created? It became quieter in the church that morning. All of us were faced with the truth of our limited time on earth - space we but a whisper of breath in the expanse at all. We who dare to think of ourselves at the center of the universe in a world that should revolve around us! How grossly insensitive this priest was! How grossly mistaken! How grossly...US!

Adam was formed from the dust of the earth. Perhaps sin entered his heart, entered into Eden, as he believed he was bigger than he really was. Maybe, given how good things were going, he didn’t think bad things could happen to him or that God was too distant to care.

However the grave disobedience of Genesis 3 is characterized, sin entered into paradise, and because of sin, death. As sinners, all of us, toda la gente, all of us, will die. How desperately we need God! We ourselves, left to our own devices, will

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Lenten season cont.

choose death over life every time! We depraved humans, full of sin and death, will throw ourselves into messes given the chance. We leap into trouble! We run into walls! We pray, "Lead us not into temptation," and can't get into sticky situations quick enough! We ask, "Deliver us from evil," but race right to destruction were it not for God.

Lent is both an opportunity and test for us - an opportunity to invite God back into our lives - and a test - A discipline of practicing, day after day, to put God in the center of our lives - to trust Him to save us and to see us

through the challenges of life. One thing the Catholic priest should have mentioned in his church that morning: That all of us will forever be challenged by life's concerns and hardships. Unfortunately, there is never a shortage of them to go around.

The world is truly a beautiful place! It is incredible with its amazing diversities and surprises. We who are but specks in the cosmos, and yet, amazing grace, Jesus knows us personally! We may feel so very lost in the immensity of it all - so overwhelmed by problems without apparent answers. The world spins so fast at times that we are afraid we will be hurled off of it! There are so many new gadgets and gizmos, so many new technologies and advances that we may occasionally feel so out of it, so other, so alone and so left behind. And yet in a world of so many changes, good and bad, as the Catholic priest in by Vallarta noted, there is forever God! Constantly faithful - constantly true - God never changes! He loves us so very much and always has. He so hopes we choose life over death. He so hopes we will choose Him over ourselves.

Let us this Lenten season allow God to raise us out of the ashes - out of the mire -out of the pits we have jumped into, that with Him we may truly experience life... and that... abundantly. Amen!

See you in worship this Lenten season?

Pastor Mike Lemke Cross of Glory Lutheran Church



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Get ready, get set (& be ready to), VOTE! (3rd in a series of four with quiz following in our 2016 Summer issue)

By Barbara Fallon from website of Secretary of State Wayne Williams

Q1. Who is eligible to vote in Colorado?

A1. You are eligible to vote if you:

- will be 18 years of age or older at the time of the next election,
- are a United States citizen,
- have resided in Colorado 22 days immediately before the election at which you intend to vote,
- are not serving a sentence of confinement, detention, or parole for a felony conviction.

Please vote.

Q2. Why do I have to register to vote?

A2. Voter registration is a means of determining the candidates and issues for which each voter is eligible to vote. Most states require voters to register to vote a certain number of days before Election Day. Voter Registration also protects the integrity of the ballot box by preventing voting in multiple jurisdictions.

Q3. When is the last day to register to vote before an election?

A3. Colorado law allows you to register to vote through Election Day. But please note that how you register to vote matters.

- If you register to vote by mail or online through www.govotecolorado.com at least 8 days before an election conducted by your county clerk and recorder, the clerk will automatically mail you a ballot.
- If you register after the 8th day before an

election conducted by your county clerk and recorder, you must visit one of the Voter Service and Polling Centers in your county to get a ballot.

- If you register to vote through a voter registration drive, your application must be submitted no later than 22 days before an election.
- You may register to vote by appearing in-person at a voter service and polling center through Election Day.

Q4. How do I register to vote?

A4. Online or Remote:

Registering to vote is free and easy. If you have a Colorado State driver's license or ID card issued by the Department of Revenue you may register to vote online at www.govotecolorado.com. If you are already a registered voter in Colorado you may confirm your registration at this website. Once your registration is verified, you can use your driver's license number to update your address and party affiliation online as well.

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What to know about B-cycle. www.denver.bcycle.com

Denver B-cycle is Denver's bike sharing system. With 87 stations and 700 bikes throughout ten central Denver neighborhoods, you can check out and return a B-cycle at any station 5 a.m. to midnight, 365 days a year. B-cycle is designed for locals and visitors for short, one-way trips that are 30 minutes or less. Check out a bike to get to work, a game or museum. Commute to work or run errands. It's an easy, cost-effective, fun way to get around. You can check out a B-cycle from any B-station, and return it to any other B-station or make a round-trip to the same one.



With B-stations at every major cultural facility, it's great for visitors who want an inexpensive way to experience the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the Denver Zoo, the Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Art Museum and more. Denver B-cycle stations are located in thriving neighborhoods that are full of restaurants, craft breweries, and all the things that make Denver such a vibrant city.

Even if you own a bike or two, a B-cycle membership makes sense. With a B-cycle, you never have to worry about theft, and many of our riders use it for one-way transportation so they can carpool or catch alternative transportation going to work or going home. Plus you don't have to worry about finding and paying for parking.

B-cycles have three speeds and fit riders of all sizes thanks to an easy-to-use adjustable seat. The B-cycles come complete with a basket, lock, bell and pedal-powered lights.

What does it cost? All access passes require a valid credit card. \$9 -24-hour • \$15-Monthly • \$13-Annual Plus* • \$10-Subsidized. Overtime Fees - All access pass pricing includes unlimited trips (0 to 30 minutes) taken during the access period. Trips lasting longer than 30 minutes during the access period incur additional overtime fees. *Allows unlimited trips up to 60 minutes. Trips lasting longer than 60 minutes during the access period incur additional overtime fees.

How does it work? Once you've purchased an access pass at the kiosk or online, you can take unlimited trips that are 30 minutes or less at no additional cost. If any of your trips are longer than 30 minutes, overtime fees apply. Ride as many times as you want until your access pass expires. Station full or empty? You can find the next closest station at the kiosk or on the B-cycle Now app. Go to www.denver.bcycle.com for complete info.



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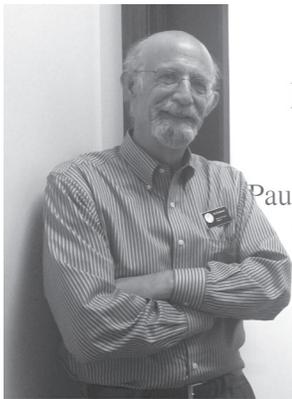
Debbie Vandre, Cook Park Neighborhood resident for 24 years.

303.517.0891

Debbie@vandreproperties.com

www.VandreProperties.com

Thoughts from Your Councilman by Councilman Paul Kashmann



ROOM
487

Paul Kashmann
City Council
District # 6

After a slowdown in constituent calls as 2015 came to a close, the New Year has dawned with a full slate of activity. On the constituent service front, we continue to deal with a variety of infrastructure, traffic control and public safety concerns, and in the realm of major issues, Council is hard at work on a number of important agendas.

Complaints about the condition of our roadways are common all around the District and the city. As with most infrastructure situations, the problem boils down to having infinite need and a finite amount of money. Denver Public Works currently runs two hard-working paving crews full time during the paving season – spring to fall. DPW had requested funding for an additional crew in the last budget season, but it was not funded. That department is able to pave about 14 sectors yearly out of some 250 sectors. Simple math tells us we are making communities with roads in poor condition wait far longer than

they would like for roadway repair. I intend to push for a third paving crew in the next budget season.

Denver Police District 3 is working hard to improve its outreach into our community. Commander Megan Dodge has divided the District into two sectors and increased Community Advisory Board meetings from once to twice each month, held on the first Monday and first Tuesday at the station, 1625 S. University Blvd. (see the map below to determine the meeting for your neighborhood). District 3 personnel are intent on reinvigorating a Neighborhood Watch-style network to increase the number of resident eyes keeping watch over our community.

Traffic speeds are a concern everywhere as frustrated drivers seek to avoid logjams by cutting through our neighborhoods. We have requested increased police presence at schools and other sensitive areas, and have provided DPD District 3 with funds from our District budget to purchase additional speed control signs (that tell you your vehicle speed and collect data on traffic speed and volumes) for use around the district. We hope to have those deployed in the coming months.

Council has formed new committees/working groups focusing on marijuana, homelessness and our pedestrian infrastructure (sidewalks). In addition, public forums are being held on a proposed ordinance to allow and regulate short-term rentals in the city and county of Denver.

When retail marijuana was legalized in 2013, the only people who could get retail licenses were those who were already licensed to sell medical marijuana. A two-year moratorium was put in place preventing additional licenses from being issued through Dec. 31, 2015. The Mayor's Office of Marijuana Policy has recommended extending the moratorium for another two years. Council requested that the moratorium be extended until May 1, to give us a chance to evaluate data on activity to date in the areas of taxation, health effects, criminal behavior and the like. The committee meetings are open to the public, and are held in Room 391 of the City and County Building, 1437 Bannock St (go to www.denvergov.org, Meeting Calendar for meeting times). *(story 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

Homes Priced Below \$400,000

16 Sold Avg Sold Price \$372,500
1 Under Contract Sold 94% of List price
3 Active
Average Days on Market 35

Homes Priced Over \$400,000

17 Sold Avg Sold price \$442,500
6 Under Contract Sold 97% list price.
2 Active
Average Days on Market 40

2016
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PERSONAL RETURN <small>(Federal + 1 state)</small>	\$85
PERSONAL RETURN <small>(plus Sch. C)</small>	\$100
PARTNERSHIP/S-CORP <small>(1065 & 1120s)</small>	\$125
C CORP (1120)	\$200
ADDITIONAL STATES	\$35 ea
<small>Additional cost may apply with excessive items on Sch D</small>	
New Business set-up/registration	- \$150

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District 10 Councilman Wayne New is heading the Committee on Homelessness that is looking at the scope of homelessness in our city; the programs that are currently in place to deal with the situation; and new programs and policies that might do a better job of getting our homeless residents off the street and into living situations and services that will stabilize their lives. Public meetings are also held in Room 391 of the City and County Building. Upcoming sessions are set for (go to www.denvergov.org, Meeting Calendar for meeting times).

As co-chair of the Infrastructure and Culture Committee, Council president Chris Herndon has asked me to head the City Council Sidewalks Working Group that has as its goal to determine policies and funding mechanisms that will improve our pedestrian infrastructure while making paying for sidewalks less burdensome than our current system, which is complaint driven and leaves property owners with expensive repairs at retail rates. The Sidewalks Working Group will meet again (go to www.denvergov.org, Meeting Calendar for meeting times) in Room 391 of the City and County Building.

The term “short-term rentals” refers to individuals renting all or part of their homes to visitors for periods of less than 30 days. This practice is currently illegal under Denver ordinance. It is estimated that some 2,000 people are engaged in providing short-term rentals in Denver each year, facilitated by companies like AirBnB, Vacation Rentals By Owner (VRBO), HomeAway and others. These rental properties are not subject to any type of safety inspections, and the “hosts” are not paying the lodging taxes that hotels, motels and bed-and-breakfasts are required to pay. Some neighborhoods are indicating that they would welcome a regulated short-term-rental structure while others are opposed to such a program. A series of public forums is under way. Meetings are coming up (go to www.denvergov.org, Meeting Calendar for meeting times).

I have been spending a good deal of time visiting the District 3 public and private schools. While our schools are run by entities separate from the city, they are integral parts of our communities and are invaluable assets. January brought visits with principals Mary Rose Gargaris at McMeen Elementary, Pam Kirk at Asbury Elementary, Sister Maria Ivana at St. Vincent de Paul, Nicole Whiteman at Ellis Elementary, Brenda Cazin at Place Bridge Academy and Alan Smiley (Head of School) at St. Anne’s Episcopal School. All of the schools I visited struggle with the same challenge of fitting into the surrounding neighborhood without overwhelming it with traffic and parking needs and all of the school leaders expressed a willingness to meet with neighbors whenever concerns arise.

Remember that I am in the District at Pete’s University Café, 2345 E. Evans Ave., every Thursday morning, 8-10a.m. Please drop by and say hello. If you would like to meet at another time and place, don’t hesitate to call my office at 720-337-6666 or my cell phone at 720-260-0638.

Regards, Paul

“Your Neighborhood Attorney”



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How to avoid conflicts with wildlife in the city

www.cpw.state.co.us

The presence of wildlife in the cities is usually a delight to Colorado residents. The close proximity, however, of wildlife sometimes causes problems. Most people agree that a porcupine in an apple tree, a family of skunks under the front porch, or a squirrel in the fireplace can be unsettling. Many people encounter these situations; yet few know what to do about them.

Avoiding Wildlife Conflicts

As cities along the Front Range and throughout Colorado grow, subdivisions impact wildlife habitat and wild animals are often displaced. Some species continue to live in open space areas, parks, undeveloped parcels of land, river bottoms, and on or near bodies of water. Others have adapted well to urban living; skunks and raccoons, in particular, seem to thrive in and near cities.

In most situations, people and wildlife can coexist. The key is to respect the wildness of wildlife. "Wildlife" is just that—wild. Most dangerous and potentially harmful encounters occur because people fail to leave the animals alone. Wildlife should not be harassed, captured, domesticated or—in most cases—fed. Intentional or inadvertent feeding is the major cause of most wildlife problems. It is illegal in Colorado to feed deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, pronghorn, and elk.

An Ounce of Prevention

The key to avoiding problem wildlife encounters is keeping unwanted wildlife out of homes, buildings, and yards.

Do not feed wildlife! Feeding songbirds is okay, but be aware it may attract other animals. Place bird feeders where they are not accessible to other wildlife species. Wild animals are capable of finding plenty of food on their own.

Cover window wells with commercially available grates or bubbles, or make a cover using quarter-inch hardware cloth or chicken wire.

Close holes around and under the foundation of your home so that animals will not be tempted to homestead. Bury wire mesh one to two feet deep in places where animals might gain access. Don't give wildlife the opportunity to get into your garbage. Store it in metal or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids. Keep the cans in a garage or shed, and put trash out only when it's scheduled to be picked up.

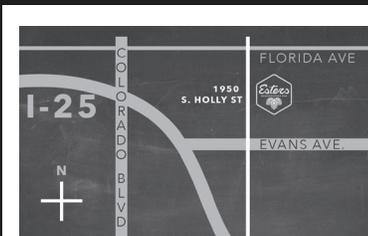


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wildlife cont.

- Keep pet food inside.
- If birds are flying into windows, mark them with strips of white tape or with raptor silhouettes.
- Fence gardens and cover fruit trees with commercially available netting to protect your harvest.
- Screen fireplace chimneys and furnace, attic and dryer vents, and keep dampers closed to avoid “drop-in” guests. Chimney tops should be screened from February to September to prevent birds and animals from nesting inside. To prevent fire and safety hazards, check with a knowledgeable source before attempting this.
- Seal all cracks and holes larger than a one-quarter inch in diameter to keep out rats, mice, bats, and snakes.



Bats

Exclusion is the best policy in preventing bats from gaining entrance into buildings. It isn't always easy, though, because of their size. Bats can squeeze through cracks as narrow as an inch wide. Some of their preferred entrances are in older frame structures where boards are loose or have shrunk. They may also enter houses through loose vents, eaves, spaces around water pipes, electrical outlets, corrugated roofing, doors or windows. Caulking cracks is most effective if applied during dry weather when cracks are the widest. Weather-stripping—which seals spaces around doors and windows—is also effective in repairing cracks.

If you're certain the noises in your attic are being made by bats, wait for them to leave, then seal the entrances before they return. Unfortunately, you'll need to do the work at night when bats depart for their nightly feeding forays. It's also wise to do this in the fall after the young have learned to fly. Or, wait until winter when many bats have migrated south. Never handle a bat that appears sick or wounded.

Bats can be helpful in your neighborhood because they consume a lot of insects and usually do not pose a health threat to humans.

Deer

If you see a deer-crossing sign, slow down and drive cautiously for the length of the crossing—especially at night. Remember, if you see one deer on the road, at least one more may be nearby.

When deer appear in or around the city, it's usually best to leave them alone. In most situations, they will move to new areas. Deer and other large animals are usually injured or killed when people try to capture them in developed areas. In fact, tranquilizing deer, elk and other large animals is done only as a last resort.

In areas where deer are common, shrub and tree damage may be a problem. Commercial deer repellents or mixtures containing eggs have proven successful in warding off deer. However, these solutions may need to be reapplied after rain or snow. You can also keep deer from eating flowers and shrubs by putting wire cylinders and fences around the plants. Contact your local CSU Cooperative Extension office to learn what plants deer avoid. Also, consider planting native flowers and shrubs.

It is illegal to feed deer in Colorado. Violators may be fined \$50 for doing so.



A handful of years ago, I met a lovely lady at an event in the Washington Park area. She told me of an effort some Wash Park residents were undertaking to provide “a little help” to elderly and disabled residents to enable their staying in their homes. I thought at the time that the concept was inspired and generous, yet in my mind I was not optimistic about the success of the endeavor.

Then a few weeks ago, a Virginia Village 90-year-old, a woman who has contributed significantly to our neighborhood and to Denver, gave me a brochure about the work of A Little Help and how the nonprofit organization had recently assisted her with transportation. Oh, me of little faith!



Within a few days after learning the organization had launched in its good works, I met a lovely lady, who, after a nursing career, was now a volunteer for A Little Help. The woman was, however, on a month's sabbatical from ALH because she had volunteered for a month in Pagosa Springs where a young granddaughter's classroom needed a teacher's assistant. What a woman!

Serendipity was afoot here, and I knew I needed to make the work of A Little Help known to Cook Park Neighbors.

A Little Background on A Little Help

A Little Help (ALH) is a nonprofit organization that connects neighbors across ages to enhance lives and strengthen our communities. ALH helps older adults thrive in their homes by connecting folks with services and resources through the unknown of aging by building meaningful connections with neighbors of all ages.

A Little Help has grown in a grassroots way by great neighbors volunteering to lead in the effort in their communities. Wash Park Cares was the founding site and original name. With the help of committed neighbors and board members, more elders have been aided throughout Metro Denver and beyond. A Little Help's Northeast Denver Site launched in winter 2013. AHL leaders are working with volunteers who want to see older adults on their own blocks and beyond thrive in Park Hill, Mayfair, Montclair, Crestmoor, Hale, Lowry, and Hilltop.

The nonprofit also has site teams in Northwest, South Central, and Southeast Denver. In summer, there are monthly picnics with a big yard clean up in the fall. There is also a Teen Team.

We get by with A Little Help from our Friends...

The elders served have made the choice of staying at home, with a little help from their friends and neighbors rather than moving to assisted living (with a lot of help). Studies show that living in the comfort of our own homes is the best, and most cost-effective, choice of most people. The staff supports volunteers and community efforts organically, block by block, to create opportunities for intergenerational connection and community engagement. The organization connects senior members with a variety of services such as transportation, yard work, and minor home repair by coordinating volunteering neighbors or vetted service providers.

Volunteers are always needed, and the Site Team of volunteers meets bimonthly to plan activities and to reach out to local businesses, organizations and events. ALH always seeks volunteers to help neighbors directly by providing transportation, caregiver respite, or yard or handy help. With the growth of A Little Help, the need for resources also grows: from volunteering neighbors to financial support for programs. All support is always deeply appreciated.

And, how about this:

“Let us know if you or a neighbor need your leaves raked, windows washed, or gardens weeded!” Wow! Talk about old-time religion of neighbor helping neighbor.

Cook Park neighbors, this one should have our name on it, too. Go to A Little Help's website - www.alittlehelp.org - for more information and contacts for the group.