

Cook Park News

COOK PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.cookparkneighborhood.com • cpneighborhood@gmail.com

Cook Park Neighborhood Spring Speaker's Series

Each month we attempt to bring you a speaker or two that provides entertainment, information, and insight that pertains to our Cook Park community.

Along with our monthly presenters, Denver Community Police Officer Mike Borquez and District 6 City Councilman Paul Kashmann are frequent visitors who share safety and city information.

Cook Park Neighborhood Association
2017 Scheduled Programs

This year, 2017, we have an interesting and exciting list of scheduled presenters. Join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Cook Park Recreation Center, at 5:30pm to take an active part in our programs.



- March 21 – Suzann Bacon-Taylor with the Better Business Bureau – to discuss steps that you, the consumer, can take to protect your interest in dealing with unfair or deceptive business customer. *(cont on page 2)*

Cook Park Neighborhood Association 2017 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
meets the
3rd Tuesday of
the month at
5:30 pm at the
Rec Center.**

**March 21
April 18
May 16**

President's letter:

I hope you enjoy the 2017 Spring issue of your neighborhood newsletter. Each quarter we as a board and committed neighbors spend countless hours to bring you the Cook Park News. I am humbled by the creative suggestions and time commitment that goes into each newsletter.

Here's a peak into what happens behind the scenes of this labor of love.

1. We are mindful of what we believe would be of interest to you.
2. Articles are suggested and written for the most part by your neighbors.
3. Our advertisers contract with us for 1-year commitments and with each newsletter a handful of local businesses may have to renew their contract. New advertisers are constantly added as well. The board members actively maintain these relationships on a volunteer basis, making phone calls, visiting business owners and sending emails.
4. Days are spent laying out the newsletter each quarter and proof reading duties are shared by all.
5. We use a local printer in Cook Park neighborhood to print our newsletter on time and we use a local company to distribute to your door as well.
6. At the time of door distribution the board members share the responsibility of sending newsletters to each advertiser, distribute several copies to the Rec Center, Library and MANY local businesses that have foot traffic.

Pride in our community and loyalty to our advertisers drives us to do our best.

Thanks for reading!
Nancy Barlow,
President of the CPNA



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Speakers cont.

- April 18 – Virginia Village head librarian – Martha Garbison – to speak about library programs, such as “active minds”, out of school learning for youngsters, tech help for everyone, and down-loadable items.
- May 16 – Your opportunity to ask “the judge”! Colleen Clark, recently appointed by Governor Hickenlooper, about the local judicial system.
- June 20 – Excel Energy spokesperson Lori Warner – Excel Safety Team – to discuss electrical safety. (Does your home have old outlets? Who do you call before digging in the yard? How dangerous are those overhead wires?)
- July 18 – Schedule permitting, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock will visit Cook Park.
- August – Open – Speakers are always welcome. If you would like to make a short presentation that is pertinent and relevant to our community, please contact one of the CPNA board members to be considered for our speakers series.

These are some of the presentations you may have missed in 2016.

- Commander Magen Dodge, District 3 Police
- Denver Water – Steve Snyder, Executive Communication Manager
- Timothy O'Brien, Denver City Auditor
- Jill Locantore, WalkDenver
- Elaine Lee, Education, Travel & Culture – High School Exchange Students
- Denver District Attorney Primary Candidates
- Denver Schools Board Candidates
- Colorado Amendment 69 Universal Health Care Debate
- Regional Transportation District Candidates (Dist A)
- And others

Holiday Light Contest Winners

The Cook Park Neighborhood Holiday Outdoor Light Contest was once again a great show of holiday spirit! We're pleased to announce the holiday light contest was very well received even



though we changed the rules this time. As always this was a very competitive and difficult contest to judge because all the homes were decorated with creativity, themes and holiday spirit! The committee spent one night driving throughout the neighborhood and found themselves in admiration of all the spectacular decorations and lights. The First place group display was awarded to Tony Leopard & Paul Henni and Wayne & Kathleen Aubert at 1850 & 1860 S Monaco Pkwy. Second place group display was awarded to 2 neighbors at 7122 & 7143 Jewell Ave. First place best home display went to 1810 S. Holly while Second Place best home display was awarded to Ted & Jeannie Wagner at 1245 Ivy Way. In addition we awarded two honorable mentions. We appreciate all the spirit and support shown in this last year's contest. We believe we live in the best neighborhood in Denver and look forward to this year's contest. You never know what we'll come up with so start thinking now about how you can stand out in the neighborhood!

Financial Focus

It's tax time again – which for many Americans means that a tax refund is on its way. If you're going to get a refund this year, how can you use the money to your best advantage?

Of course, it's always tempting to spend the check from Uncle Sam on something fun. But a tax refund could be sizable – the average amount in 2016 was \$2,857, according to the IRS – so putting this money to work could help boost your progress toward your financial goals.

Here are some possibilities for using your refund:

- **Help fund your IRA.** If you were to receive a tax refund of \$2,857, you'd have slightly more than half of the \$5,500 annual IRA contribution limit for 2017, although, if you are 50 or older, you can contribute an extra \$1,000. Consequently, you may find it much easier to fully fund your IRA for the year — and you should do exactly that, because an IRA is a great retirement savings vehicle. If you have a traditional IRA, your contributions may be fully or partially deductible, depending on your income, while your earnings can grow tax deferred. (Taxes are due upon withdrawal, and withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% IRS penalty.) With a Roth IRA, your contributions are not deductible, but your earnings are distributed tax-free, provided you don't start taking withdrawals until you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years.

- **Help diversify your portfolio.** If a market downturn hits one asset class, and that's where you keep most of your money, you could take a big hit. Owning an array of investments – such as stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, and so on – can help prepare your portfolio to weather the effects of market volatility. By adding new investments, or increasing your holdings of existing investments, you may be able to further diversify your portfolio – and you can use your refund for this purpose. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, can't guarantee profits or protect against loss.)

- **Contribute to a 529 plan.** If you have children or grandchildren whom you'd like to help send to college, consider using your tax refund to help fund a 529 plan. Your 529 plan contributions may be deductible from your state taxes, and your earnings are distributed tax-free, provided they are used for qualified higher education expenses. (However, withdrawals not used for higher education expenses may be subject to both income tax and a 10% penalty.)

- **Pay off some debts.** You can help improve your financial picture by reducing your debt load – but it may make sense to prioritize these debts. For example, rather than make an extra mortgage payment, you might want to first tackle those debts or loans that carry a high interest rate and that don't allow you to deduct interest payments. After all, your monthly mortgage payment will remain the same even if you make an extra payment, but if you can get rid of some smaller debts, you will free up some cash that you could use to invest for your future.

Think carefully about how to use your tax refund. It represents an opportunity that you won't want to waste.

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

Use Your Tax Refund Wisely



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Home Care vs Home Health Care. What's the difference?

by Stephanie Casey



Home care (also referred to as domiciliary care, social care, or in-home care) is supportive care provided in the home. Care may be provided by licensed healthcare professionals who provide medical treatment needs or by professional caregivers who provide daily assistance to ensure the activities of daily living (ADLs) are met. In-home medical care is often and more accurately referred to as “home health care” or formal care. Often, the term home health care is used to distinguish it from non-medical care, custodial care, or private-duty care which refers to assistance and services provided by persons who are not nurses, doctors, or other licensed medical personnel. For terminally ill patients, home care may include hospice care. For patients recovering from surgery or illness, home care may include rehabilitative therapies.

Home health services help adults, seniors, and pediatric clients who are recovering after a hospital or facility stay, or need additional support to remain safely at home and avoid unnecessary hospitalization. These Medicare-certified services may include short-term nursing, rehabilitative, therapeutic, and assistive home health care. This care is provided by registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), physical therapists (PTs), occupational therapists (OTs), speech language pathologists (SLPs), home health aides (HHAs) and medical social workers (MSWs) as a limited number of up to one hour visits, addressed primarily through the Medicare Home Health benefit.

The largest segment of home care consists of licensed and unlicensed non-medical personnel, including caregivers who assist the individual. Care assistants may help the individual with daily tasks such as bathing, eating, cleaning the home and preparing meals. Caregivers work to support

the needs of individuals who require such assistance. These services help the client to stay at home versus living in a facility. Non-medical home care is paid for by the individual or family. The term “private-duty” refers to the private pay nature of these relationships. Home care (non-medical) has traditionally been privately funded as opposed to home health care which is task-based and government or insurance funded.

These traditional differences in home care services are changing as the average age of the population has risen. Individuals typically desire to remain independent and use home care services to maintain their existing lifestyle. Government and Insurance providers are beginning to fund this level of care as an alternative to facility care. In-Home Care is often a lower cost solution to long-term care facilities.

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Insurance Scare-narios

(Part 1 of a 2-part series) *by Ed Hornung*

The following are insurance “scare-narios” that could happen to any of us. It’s better to be prepared!

Question 1: My neighbor’s healthy 80-foot tall Plains cottonwood tree falls across my fence, damages my car, and punctures a huge hole in my roof. Damages are estimated at over \$35,000. Whose insurance company generally pays for these repairs? Will my insurance rates increase?

Answer 1: Let’s see. Perhaps the damage was caused by the wind . . . And is not a wind a “named peril” on all home owner’s contracts? Yes. Hence your own home owner’s contract will respond (beyond deductible). However, we have an intervening agency (tree) that was pushed by the wind which caused the damage. Does this change anything to potentially bring in the neighbor’s insurance carrier? No. Neighbors do not normally cause wind. Perhaps the damage was caused by “earth movement”. This is not normally a “named peril”. And there would be no recovery without an “earth movement” endorsement. Your premiums should not go up as a result of this weather-related claim, depending upon the carrier.



Question 2: My neighbor’s unhealthy, dead since 2014, 60-foot tall Douglas fir tree, infested by the black-tussock tussock moth caterpillar, crashes into my brand-new Subaru Outback, knocks out six windows in the front of my house, and does major damage to the home’s siding. Whose insurance company pays now? Will my premiums go up?

Answer 2: What was the cause of this loss – vermin or negligence? Maybe both. This claim needs to be handled by your insurance company after appropriate deductibles, for comprehensive on your auto, and your own deductible on your home owner’s. After the claims are paid, your carrier gains your right of recovery against any negligence of your neighbor (subrogation). Premiums should not go up as a result of these claims, depending on the carrier. If a neighbor was cutting down the tree, he would have some liability and his carrier could pay.

Question 3: I hire a contractor to repair my damaged roof. I neglect to inspect his credentials (license, insurance, worker’s compensation). He had none! During the course of his work, he falls off my roof, and he is injured. Who pays for his medical costs/expenses?

Answer 3: If he has none of the coverages, the contractor’s next recourse is to his own health insurance. If he has none, he may attempt to sue you, in which case your own carrier should pay for your legal defense. Check existence of general liability and worker’s comp prior to hiring any worker. *(cont. on page 6)*



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Maundy Thursday:
April 13th – 7 PM

Good Friday: April 14th
Noon and/or 7 PM

Saturday Prayer Vigil:
April 15th – anytime between
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Easter Sunday: April 16th
Sunrise Worship 7:30 AM

Traditional Worship 10 AM
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Insurance Scare-narios cont.



Question 4: My roof finally got repaired. One month later, following a hail storm, I was told by three separate roofing companies that I had hail damage to my shingles. How much will my insurance costs go up now?

Answer 4: If your insurance declares a “catastrophe”, then there will be no increase in premium. If no “catastrophe” is declared, then any increase will be decided by your insurance company. It is recommended that you contact your insurance company and follow their recommendations about local-based competent roofers. Use local roofers.

Question 4a: I decided not to play the “roofer-hail-scam-scandal” game and simply have my roof replaced at my own expense. Is this something that might lower my home owner’s premium?

Answer 4a: YES! Expect a substantial reduction, particularly if you replace your roof with a certified class 4 replacement (UL4 rating on the shingles) with a 50-year warranty against wind and hail.

Question 5: My neighbor trips and falls over a raised crack in my sidewalk. She/he suffers a broken ankle and a severely sprained shoulder. Whose insurance company is picking up this bill? Are my insurance premiums on the rise?

Answer 5: Is a homeowner responsible to repair and replace a sidewalk? In Denver, yes. In this case the homeowner has medical payments coverage which will pay up to a policy limit (\$1000 . . . maybe higher) without having a lawsuit. If this policy’s declaration limit is exceeded, it would take a lawsuit against the homeowner to cover more, and insurance premi-

ums will probably go up, again depending on the carrier.

Thank you, Clint Wood, for your expert advice in answering these insurance scare-narios.

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Denver's New Pet Retention Program

- by Ed Hornung

A pet is part of your family. On a number of occasions pet owners find the ownership and care of the family pet to be overwhelming and a financial burden. The Denver Animal Shelter has a new program to help keep you and your pet together.

With grant money from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, funds are now available to provide assistance to Denver pet-owners who may be taxed with the difficult and painful decision to retain, or surrender, their pet due to financial hardships.



The program provides funding for medical care services, pet care items, behavior training, fencing repair, and pet friendly housing support. Funding is limited and services are provided on a case-by-case basis. Denver Animal Protection's goal is to keep pets in their homes and out of the shelters.

They want to help! If you, or a neighbor, or friend need support, visit the Denver Animal Shelter (1241 W. Bayaud Avenue) and speak with a staff member. Call them at 720-337-1810.

Useful phone numbers/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 3-1-1
- 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
- Ann Rowe, School Board Rep. 720-423-3210
- Kate Williams, RTD Rep. 303-316-6768
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- Leetsdale Cop Shop - 303-329-0500

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Ask your Realtor: *By Debbie Vandre*

Do solar panels help or hurt the sale of a property?

Now that is an interesting question!

The answer is going depend a lot on the buyer but first let's talk about the seller. If the seller has installed solar panels because of the desire to lower their energy bills or are concerned about being green, I say go for it. When a seller installs solar on their home I suggest they do so "without" expectations of receiving a return on their money when selling unless the property was built to be GREEN. This is actually more of a personal issue and panels should be installed if the seller is installing for personal reasons. It's much the same as the seller that wants a swimming pool in their back yard. They are installing a pool for their personal pleasure or need. As a side note, in my many years as a Realtor I have never had a buyer request solar panels to be added to their "wants and needs" list and only one buyer that requested a home with a swimming pool. When I show properties with solar panels most buyers state they will remove the panels after closing because they either don't want them, they don't like the appearance of them or just perhaps, it's because they simply don't understand their value.

If you have specific real estate questions please contact your neighborhood Realtor: Debbie@VandreProperties.com or 303-517-0891.

Debbie Vandre

Vandre Properties, LLC, Keller Williams DTC, LLC.

Cook Park Pottery Group to Hold a Sale

The Cook Park Pottery Group will hold a pottery sale on April 29th. Shop for Mother's Day and Graduation gifts! Come down to support local Cook Park Potters. Talented artists showcasing both hand-built and thrown pottery.

Join them on Saturday, April 29th from 9:00 to 3:00 PM

Cook Park Recreation Center, 7100 Cherry Creek South Drive, Denver, CO 80224

The EEBA Clean up



The EEBA will be organizing this year's Clean Up again this May. Mark your calendars for Saturday May 20th. This is the official City-wide Clean Up day. Let's do our part for our corridor! To volunteer contact Nancy Barlow at nb@barlowadvertising.com. We will serve a FREE lunch again this year for all volunteers.

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Leetsdale Cop Shop is 15 years old! *By Barbara Fallon*

(7150 Leetsdale Drive, Denver, CO 80224; 303-329-0500; leetsdalecopshop@hotmail.com)

The Leetsdale Cop Shop is a citizen volunteer staffed storefront supporting the Denver Police Department. The Cop Shop provides a place for the general public to receive assistance filing certain non-injury, non-violent crime and accident reports occurring in the city of Denver. Civilian volunteers serving the 501(c)3 non-profit also help citizens navigate a variety of city services.

When I recently visited the community operated policing store front, the Cop Shop was festive in both seasonal colors and the blue that identifies the men and women that the volunteers support. Susan Vasalle has served as President of the Board for two years, building on the strength and vibrancy of the founding of the Cop Shop fifteen years ago. Susan's ID badge was adorned with bronze pins representing 900 hours of service through 2015.

Among ways the volunteers support the community, businesses, and the police are the following:

- 1) Approximately 8,000 contacts since founding for citizen report filing (items lost/stolen, disturbances, theft from motor vehicle, etc.) and citizen information and education.
- 2) Denver Foundation grant awardee shared with aligned Denver Cop Shops for crime prevention.
- 3) Neighborhood Guide to Crime Prevention publication "Refuse to Be a Victim".
- 4) Funding of the theft from locker/vehicle "sticker" prevention program at 24-hour Fitness.
- 5) Funding of the District 3 Police Teen Leadership program. The classes were created and held at District 3 as part of the citywide effort to create positive relationships between teens and police. The students in this pilot class were all George Washington High School students and plans are underway for future classes.
- 6) Member of the East Evans Business Association.
- 7) Participant in the Blue Bow campaign to support and honor law enforcement.

Cop Shop volunteers delivered Christmas appreciation baskets to District 3 officers and remembered them with 200 trick or treat bags at Halloween. For National Law Enforcement week in May, the Cop Shop led the effort for 200 personally signed thank you notes to the officers.

Cop Shop volunteers truly shined at the National Night Out celebration at Cook Park at the popular ice cream table, scooping, with the help of Target employees, 20 gallons of ice cream into sundaes and root beer floats. Also appealing to the young and young at heart are the coloring books and crayons given to kids at the neighboring laundromat while keeping the desk officer at District 3 supplied for kids in the lobby while their parents are conducting business.

There is a "sponsor" board in the front of the Cop Shop recognizing individuals and businesses who have contributed in support of law enforcement as represented by the Cop Shop. The name of Winston Powell of Kool 105 was included for bringing by fruit and cookies after five Dallas officers were slain in April 2016. Others named had contributed office space, web designing, water coolers, printing, and financial help. A "white board" is used to inscribe thoughts for the day, while a decorative ribbon drapes a side wall with writings of young and old on specific ways to help prevent crime in the writer's neighborhood. A "sandwich board" in front of the Cop Shop displays a crime tip of the day, such as "See something, Say something". And blue bows, under the leadership of Beth Trudgeon, decorate the interior and are given away for display in the community to show honor and respect for those who serve and protect. Volunteers Beth Trudgeon and Mary Walsh have served the Cop Shop consistently from its founding in 2002.

Susan Vasalle spoke of engagement and education to link the people, businesses, community leaders, and officers. The Cop Shop supports City Council District 5 & 6; Inter-neighborhood Cooperation (INC), the umbrella organization for Denver's neighborhood associations; and the District 3 Community Advisory Board (CAB), a monthly meeting directed by Commander Magen Dodge, District 3 Police Station at University and I-25, to facilitate communication between police and community to reduce crime.

As a 501© 3, non-profit, the Leetsdale Cop Shop depends solely on the generosity of friends, family, neighborhood organizations and businesses to meet operating and project expenses and has recently established levels of giving. Of course, the volunteer organization depends on men and women giving of their time and energy to staff the Cop Shop and to be an outreach for the men and women who keep us and our neighborhoods safe.

Thank you, Susan Vasalle, and the Cop Shop team, for your inspiration and generous support of the work of law enforcement. Stop by for a visit and check out their new website (leetsdalecopshop.com). Get to know our neighborhood volunteers and take home a blue bow or lapel pin and appreciation.

The major objectives of the Leetsdale COP SHOP:

- **Assist in the creation of stronger neighborhoods through education programs, timely information, and training programs**
- **Improve trust and partnership in communities between police, city agencies and neighborhood residents**
- **Help reduce the crime rate**
- **Provide a private respite environment for officers on patrol to meet with citizens, write reports and have uninterrupted meal breaks**

Animal Control *by Ed Hornung*

On February 17 the Cook Park Neighborhood Association was honored to have two outstanding representatives from the Denver Animal Protection Services: Mr. Julian Wolff, the Outreach Coordinator for Denver Animal Protection at the Denver Animal Shelter (DAS) and Sergeant Stephen Romero, the Field Services Sergeant for Field Animal Protection. The Denver Animal Shelter is Denver's Municipal Animal Care and Protection Shelter. They provide humane animal care, adopt animals, and reunite pets with their owners. If you missed our monthly meeting, the following summarizes important information provided.

Licenses: All dogs and cats six months of age and older are required to be licensed. License fees are \$15 for a one-year license; \$40 for a three-year license; and \$150 for the lifetime of your pet. There is a senior citizen advantage of one free license per senior. Licenses can be obtained online at PetData.com, via mail, or in person at the Denver Animal Shelter.

Vaccinations required include: Rabies vaccinations are required for all Denver pets. Rabies, a disease that affects the central nervous system, has no cure and is almost always fatal. The DAS vaccination clinic hours at the shelter are Saturday and Sunday from 9:00am to 11am. There is a comprehensive vaccination schedule required for all dogs and cats. Contact a local veterinarian clinic for detailed requirements.

Spay/Neutering: All cats and dogs over the age of six months of age must be spayed or neutered. There are limited exceptions to this ordinance, so check with the Denver Animal Shelter.

Zoning: The Denver zoning codes regulate how many household pets can be part of a home residence. Violations occur when the number of household pets exceeds three dogs, five cats, two rabbits, or 25 pigeons. Under the code, a combination of up to five dogs and cats would be allowed.

Off-Leash Policy: All dogs need to be on-leash at parks, on walks, and throughout the city and county of Denver. This includes a dog in your un-fenced front yard. Denver has eleven off-leash dog parks, with one of the closest located at Cherry Creek State Park.

Microchips: Microchip your pet! The microchip contains a registration number and phone contact number of the registry for the particular brand of chip. With this protection, an animal shelter or vet clinic finding your pet can contact the registry for your name and phone number. If you relocate, make sure to notify your microchip company. A 2009 study showed that dogs with microchips are returned to their owners almost twice as often as dogs without chips. Cats with microchips are returned nineteen times as often as cats without chips. (Yes, 19 times as often!)

Adopt A Pet: The Denver Animal Shelter (DAS) has many wonderful animals for adoption! Adoptable pets can be viewed on line, or visit the animal shelter located at 1241 West Bayaud Avenue. The adoption package includes the adoption fee, spay or neuter cost, vaccination, and a one-year pet license. The goal of the Denver Animal shelter is to find the right pet for your family. This service is risk free. If a newly adopted pet is not working out, the pet may be returned and exchanged for another furry friend. The most important goal is to keep pets in their happy homes and out of shelters. The open-admission Denver Animal Shelter is home to more than 7,500 lost and abandoned pets and other animals each year.

(cont. on page 11)



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Animal Control cont.

Prohibited Breeds: Under Denver's ordinance sec. 8-55, pit bulls breeds (American pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, or Staffordshire bull terrier) are banned in the city of Denver. If you suspect that an individual is harboring a prohibited dog, call 311 and a team of canine experts can evaluate and determine the exact breed of the dog.

Barking Dogs: Procedures to deal with a barking, yelping, or howling dog were detailed and were of great interest to attendees. In a "noisy" dog situation, Sergeant Romero recommends that you first approach your neighbor in a compassionate, respectful, and polite manner. If the noisy dog problem is not resolved through this friendly attempt, then take these steps:

Step 1: Call 311 or 720-913-1311. A "warning" notice will be mailed to your neighbor.

Step 2: Wait at least one week, within which time hopefully the problem will be resolved. If not:

Step 3: Call 311 or 720-913-1311 again. This follow-up call will initiate a "visit" from an enforcement officer to your neighbor's home. Additionally, you will receive a log to record and track additional barking.

Step 4: Wait at least another week. If the problem still continues, a group mediation meeting will be arranged. Note: The mediation success rate is 85%, so hopefully Step 5 will not be needed.

Step 5: Your neighbor is facing a potential citation with a monetary fine and/or a summons for a court appearance.

Urine & damage to lawns: Did you know that is unlawful to allow your pet to destroy, damage, or injure any shrubbery, plants, flowers, grass, or lawn. Such action and damage is declared a public nuisance and is prohibited.

Excrement: It is unlawful to not immediately remove excrement deposited by an animal upon a common thoroughfare, street, sidewalk, play area, park, or upon any private property when permission of the owner or tenant of the property has not been obtained. Dog, cat, or other animal excrement shall not be placed in storm sewers, but may be placed in trash containers if contained in a closed plastic bag or other closed or airtight nonporous container. If you observe a violation of this ordinance, please report the offense, the fine for which is \$150.

Feral/Community Cats: According to an article in The Denver Post (December 8, 2012), there are over 100,000 feral/wild cats in Denver. Free-roaming cats are decimating bird populations, attracting predators and carrying diseases that can have negative health effects in humans, but there is a program available to lower the feral cat community population. The Metro Denver C.A.T. Project is a non-profit organization concerned with cat welfare and overpopulation. They can be reached at 844-336-2287, or www.denvercats.org. One program offered by Metro Denver C.A.T. is the TNR program – which stands for trap, neuter, return. The TNR program will provide humane traps at no cost. You can then:

- Trap the cats
- Transport them to be spayed, neutered, and vaccinated (at no cost to you)
- Have the cats ear-tipped (which is the universal sign that a cat has been altered. While the cat is sedated a quarter of an inch is painlessly removed from the tip of the left ear in a straight-line cut.)
- Return them to their home territory (*cont. on page 12*)

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Animal Control cont.

Extremely cold temperatures: Cats and dogs are well adapted for cold weather, but when temperatures dip below freezing they are susceptible to hypothermia and frostbite. Provide an outdoor shelter if pets are outdoors in cold weather.

Other temperature problems: Animals should never be kept in parked vehicles. Vehicles can become death traps in a matter of minutes. Leaving windows cracked (or even half-way down) and/or leaving water in the vehicle will not keep animals comfortable or safe. With an outdoor temperature of 85 degrees, car temperatures can reach 120 degrees within 30 minutes.

Neglect of Animals: It is unlawful for any pet owner to fail to provide an animal with sufficient food, water, and shelter! Report suspected cases of neglect and abuse.

Jail! Individuals have ended up in jail for cruelty to animals or animal neglect. For example, leaving an animal in a hot vehicle constitutes cruelty and could result in a fine of up to \$999 and/or one year in jail.

Kill: Regretfully, many animals are euthanized each year in Denver. Over 1000 dogs and cats were euthanized during the calendar year 2015. The Denver Animal Shelter strongly believes in not euthanizing animals for time and space, and only makes such determinations based on severe medical or behavior concerns (bite history/aggression). Euthanization can be kept to a minimum with proper licensing and community awareness.

Quacks allowed? Denver City Council recently updated its Food-Producing Animal Ordinance. Residents may pay for a license and can own up to eight hens or female ducks and two dwarf goats. There must be space for the birds. An enclosure and the coop should be a minimum of 15 feet from an adjacent neighbor. The law forbids roosters and male ducks which are considered too noisy. (The Denver Post, June 9, 2016)

Injured Animals: Do not touch an injured animal! Immediately call 311!

HELP: For assistance with any animal issue, call 311 or 720-913-1311. (There is no direct phone number to the Denver Animal Shelter. You must use 311.)

Tours: If you would like to visit and tour the Denver Animal Shelter, call ahead. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10:30am to 6:30pm; Saturday & Sunday 11:00 to 5:00pm. Sign-up for the free Denver Animal Shelter newsletter.

Wish List: The Denver Animal Shelter cares for over 7,500 stay, neglected, injured, and abandoned animals each year. Their wish list includes: canned wet food, dog and cat treats, blankets, towels, collars and leashes, newspaper, clumping kitty litter, and powdered forms of puppy and kitten milk.

Volunteering: Love animals? The Denver Animal Shelter can use your help. With over forty volunteer roles, the Denver Animal Shelter has a position for you. You can help each dog, cat, or critter have a comfortable stay, work with families to find their forever friend, and learn more by assisting in the animal clinic.

Cook Park Neighborhood's February meeting provided valuable information and guidance for pet health, safety, and happiness and owner responsibility. We are grateful to Julian Wolff and Sergeant Romero for their joining us and for their service.

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 \$500,000

12 Sold Avg Sold Price \$415,267
 0 Under Contract Sold 98.26% of List price
 0 Active
 Average Days on Market 34

Homes Priced Over \$500,000

4 Sold Avg Sold price \$553,125
 2 Under Contract Sold 96.58 % list price.
 2 Active
 Average Days on Market 119

2017
TAX
SEASON

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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News from the Virginia Village Library

Martha Garbison, Senior Librarian

If you haven't visited us in a while, you might be surprised at the many services and resources that are available, not only from Denver Public Library, but, specifically, at your local DPL neighborhood branch. We offer, not just a huge variety of movies, music, books, free wi-fi, free computer use, and the expertise of our professional staff, including librarians, but we can also guide you to our myriad of free databases (even Consumer Reports and Ancestry, Library Edition!!), show you how to download anything from our large library of emedia or help you get free passes to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science- what, free museum and state park passes? Yes! Please ask us about our "Library of Things" that includes these passes or come in and use a Chromebook on site- the opportunities are endless. We also offer programming to all ages and here is a sampling of what is coming up in March and April:

- **Drop In Tech Help** Friday, March 10, 10:30-11:30 @ Virginia Village. Need help navigating the internet, email or social networks like Facebook? Have questions about your phone or tablet? Want to know how to access eBooks on any device? Drop by to get your questions answered and learn how to use tech more effectively.

- **Mommy Meet-up (and Daddies too!)** Friday, March 24, 10:30 a.m. @ Virginia Village. Come meet and greet other moms and dads in the neighborhood. We will provide toys and books for your little ones.

- **Space Camp over Spring Break** Thursday, March 30-Saturday, April 1, 2-4:30 p.m. @ Virginia Village. Train to be an astronaut and on the final day of camp, use those new skills to help locate a lost spaceship that is orbiting one of the outer planets. For the best experience, plan to attend all days at one location. Ideal for ages 8 and up.

- **Spices** Friday, April 7, 2-3 p.m. @ Virginia Village. From the bland diets of Europeans in the early 16th century to the myriad of culinary flavors available today, spices have had a huge impact in the world. Join *(cont. on page 14)*



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Virginia Village Library cont.



Active Minds as we trace the rise of spices from colonialism and the spice trade to the hundreds of varieties that are commonly stocked in nearby supermarkets.

- **Crazy Hats** Tuesday, April 4, 4 p.m. @ Virginia Village. Get crazy with these outrageous hats! Ideal for ages 3-8.
- **Clay Bugs** Thursday, April 20, 4 p.m. @ Virginia Village. Test sculpting skills by making Clay Bugs! Ideal for ages 3-8.
- **Shakespeare in the Parking Lot with Denver Center for the Performing Arts** Saturday, April 22, 2 p.m. @ Virginia Village. Enjoy a bit of the bard with the Denver Center for the Performing Art's Shakespeare in the Parking Lot. Six actors perform a 45 minute abridged version of A Midsummer Night's Dream in and around a pick-up truck "set" right here in the parking lot at Virginia Village. Bring your own camp chair and enjoy an afternoon of Shakespeare in the sunshine. Perfect for students and families!

I hope you take time out of your busy schedule to attend one of these fun and educational programs! Of course, we still offer our regular story times and more! If you would like to hear more about what is available at Virginia Village Branch, please join me for the Cook Park Neighborhood Association's meeting at the Cook Park Recreation Center on April 18th, 6pm. Thank you and I hope to see you at the library!!

Martha Garbison, Senior Librarian
1500 South Dahlia St
Virginia Village Branch
Denver Public Library
mgarbiso@denverlibrary.org

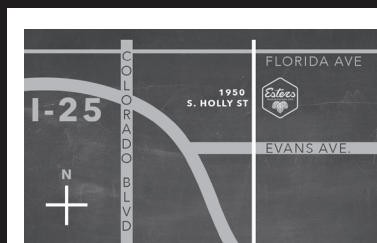


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SNAPSHOT SATURDAYS

Give up on your resolutions? Start FRESH in March.

by Pastor Mike Lemke

Dear Cook Park Friends!

I was talking to my friend Kelli recently and she lamented, “How bad is this? We are so far into the new year that I have ALREADY given up on my resolutions!” Yes indeed! Already into March! And if we are tempted to believe that summer will not be long in coming, why was my neighbor washing his car from his driveway on February 16? Researchers say that about 60% of Americans make New Year’s resolutions, but that only 8% keep them! Women tend to make health-related resolutions while men pledge to be happier at work. Researchers claim that over half of those who make resolutions fail to achieve them by the end of each January!

According to a survey of 2,000 people, here are the top 10 resolutions for 2017:

1. Diet or eat healthier (71%)
2. Exercise more (65%)
3. Lose weight (54%)
4. Save more and spend less (32%)
5. Learn a new skill or hobby (26%)
6. Quit smoking (21%)
7. Read more (17%)
8. Find another job (16%)
9. Drink less alcohol (15%)
10. Spend more time with family and friends (13%)

Take a look at the list more carefully! Do you notice that it is not until Resolution 10 that other people enter into the equation? And to think that ONLY 13 out of 100 people surveyed thought to mention prioritizing OTHERS as a 2017 hope!



My wife and I moved from the house and neighborhood we loved 18 months ago to a different home. When we moved, it was pretty obvious! Not only did we have truckload after truckload of our possessions being brought over to our new place, we were fortunate to have dozens of family members and friends help us in the move! Trucks and people were everywhere on that Saturday of a year and a half ago. Our neighbors MUST have known that we were new to the block! And if WE did not spark interest, our cute little dog Miles, should have won peoples’ hearts! The point is... 18 months after our move... we have yet to know the names of our neighbors! I get that no one wanted to help move the fridge, but NO ONE in the neighborhood offered to unload a box or two from our pick-up trucks! NO ONE! No one brought over KFC or a fruit salad as a “Welcome-to-the-Block” sign of friendship or good will! NOBODY! Barb and I have been tempted to think that our neighbors are not all that... neighborly.

But then we thought about it. How many times have WE made efforts with those on our block? How many times were WE the ones who opened our garage doors with our openers from the car, drove into our garage... and then... immediately... shut the garage door without saying “Hi” to people across the street? How many times have we been to Taco Bell... and then... ran to the border... instead of our neighbor’s for a chat and burrito? To be sure, it is a bit awkward after a year and a half to say to those on our block, “Hi, we are the semi-new neighbors! Forgive us for not making efforts with you earlier! What are your names?” Perhaps it will be equally awkward for our neighbors to remark, “Yes, we know who you are... the couple on the corner with the perfectly-working garage door!”

Heaven knows that I could stand to lose some weight. I am in agreement with 65% of the population that it is probably a good idea to take the stairs instead of the elevator. But Barb and I made a different March, 2017 New Year’s Resolution the other night! And yes, we are resolved to keep this, our new-found pledge more than for a month’s time! We are going to be number 12 and 13 out of the 100 people surveyed who want to make PEOPLE a priority this year! As awkward as it may be to say to our neighbors at this point, “Hello, I love you, won’t you tell me your name?,” my wife and I are going to do just that. Oh, it will not be the first time we have made fools of ourselves. There was the 4 AM morning that Miles, our dog, needed to go to the bathroom. Let’s just say that I should have either grabbed my bathrobe or surmised that the neighbor beyond our fence was either an early-riser or a late-to-bed guy to be sitting on his patio at that hour!

Be number 14 on our resolution list of 2017! Make a fruit salad and bring it next door... or hand it over to a guy sitting on a patio!

God’s Peace and Joy!

Pastor Mike Lemke
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church



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