



# News

Fall 2012

[www.CongressParkNeighbors.org](http://www.CongressParkNeighbors.org)

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## 9th and Colorado Boulevard Developer Invites Wal-Mart

By Lisa Bingham, Congress Park Neighbors Representative

The big news from the Colorado Boulevard Healthcare District (CBHD) meetings is, of course, that Wal-Mart is slated to become the anchor tenant of the 9th & Colorado redevelopment project. The news was formally announced to the CBHD Board on June 13. There are mixed reactions to the news, but from the more than 200 people at the subsequent June 26 public meeting, the response seemed mostly negative.

Here's a basic timeline for the project:

- 2004 – 2010: Shea Properties, under contract to redevelop the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center's site at 9th & Colorado; develops zoning and General Development Plan (GDP)
- 2008: UC moves to their new facilities on the Fitzsimmons campus
- February 2011: Shea Properties terminated their contract for redeveloping the site
- April 2011: Sembler Development announced they were under contract for the project
- Fall 2011: Amendments to the GDP were reviewed; the Site Development Plan and Urban Design Guidelines under development
- March 2012: Jeff Fuqua leaves Sembler to form Fuqua Development, retaining the 9th & Colorado project
- June 2012: Fuqua announces that Wal-Mart is on board as the anchor tenant

At meetings discussing Wal-Mart as the development's proposed anchor, many have expressed disappointment at what they call a "down market" tenant and concern about the effect on existing and potential businesses and real estate in the area. They say that Wal-Mart doesn't "fit" into the neighborhood. Others have welcomed an affordable shopping option in the neighborhood, and expressed relief that the property wouldn't remain vacant for much longer.

Development details are not final. A lot of time, effort, and money have already been invested to get the site rezoned, and create the GDP, Site Plan and Design Guidelines. Remaining challenges include reinstating the street grid and remediating or demolishing the old hospital buildings. Addressing these issues will involve additional risk and capital investment by the developer.

To help mitigate infrastructure improvement costs, Fuqua has applied for a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district for the site. A TIF uses future tax revenues to subsidize current improvements. The Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) oversees TIFs, with City Council approval. To make a TIF work, a retail anchor that can generate a high volume of sales tax dollars is key. After approaching a number of big-box retailers, only Wal-Mart expressed interest. Without the involvement of Wal-Mart, Fuqua is likely to walk away from the project.

Continued on page 3



### *Congress Park's Vision (1995 Neighborhood Plan)*

*Congress Park is a traditional city neighborhood with a small-town atmosphere. Here, people of diverse cultures, ages, colors and economic backgrounds share a sense of community, value older homes and mature trees, and enjoy the convenience of city living amid the stability of a thriving neighborhood.*

## Volunteer Opportunity: Newsletter Coordinator Needed by October 15

Congress Park News is a quarterly publication of Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. A network of volunteers produces and distributes it to a circulation of more than 4,500 residents and businesses within the area bounded by Colfax Avenue, Sixth Avenue, York Street and Colorado Boulevard.

www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

Congress Park News  
P.O. Box 18571  
Denver, CO 80218

Editorial Board:  
Wendy Moraskie  
Linda Smoke

Advertising Coordinator,  
Layout & Design Editor:  
Michelle Murphy  
michelle.murphy@congressparkneighbors.org  
720-231-0475

Distribution:  
Pat T-Jackson and  
Sue Dickinson

Your articles, letters and advertisements are always welcome.

We need you to help produce and distribute the newsletter. If you can volunteer a few hours every quarter to help your neighbors get the news, please contact Pat T-Jackson (DenverPatTJ@comcast.net or 303-377-8522) and Sue Dickinson (s\_dickinson@qwestoffice.net).

This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper with soy-based ink by Barnum Printing, 303-936-2345.

Are you super-organized and good at communication? We're looking for a neighbor who can be our Volunteer Newsletter Coordinator. You'll work with an existing volunteer editorial and layout team to manage the production of the 30-plus year-old vibrant quarterly neighborhood newsletter. It's a great opportunity for long-term residents to be more involved, and for newcomers to learn more about our terrific neighborhood. The newsletter informs Congress Park neighbors about neighborhood-related issues and works with the volunteer neighborhood Board in the best interest of the neighborhood to further the neighborhood vision. The newsletter coordinator will: Solicit and gather news copy from continuing and new writers on topics of interest to our dynamic neighborhood; write as needed to share news and issues; deliver to and collect e-copy from volunteer editors and layout designer; communicate with advertising and delivery coordination volunteers; help obtain

stats for the crime mapping volunteer; ensure that information about newsletter articles, layout, proofing, printing and bulk delivery gets to the people who need it; keep current on issues relevant to the neighborhood in order to solicit news articles from experts; and advise the CPN, Inc., Board of newsletter and neighborhood issues. Email cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org to express your interest in volunteering. Not sure? Email Wendy Moraskie at wendyrich@msn.com to hear more.

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president@congressparkneighbors.org

Tom Conis—Vice President  
tom.conis@congressparkneighbors.org

Ted Boeckman—Treasurer  
treasurer@congressparkneighbors.org

Bill DeMaio—Membership, Zoning,  
Hospital District  
bdemaio@aol.com

Maggie Price—Website  
1465 Fillmore; 303-333-5478  
maggie.price@congressparkneighbors.org

Wendy Moraskie—Newsletter  
1475 Milwaukee St.; 303-355-3735  
wendyrich@msn.com

Your elected, all-volunteer Congress Park Board invites you to attend the open meetings at National Jewish Hospital on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Heitler Hall.

Lots of other neighbors help with communications, membership, and more, and generally make Congress Park a great place to live—you know who you are and how much we depend on you—Thanks!

And we thank these committed neighbors:

Carolyn VanSciver—Congress Park Historic Preservation Committee 303-377-4913

Michael Sutherland—Denver Botanic Gardens liaison

Lisa Bingham—Hospital District Redevelopment

Larry Goldman and Rachel O'Bryan—Crime Action  
crime@congressparkneighbors.org

### Do you have a suggestion for your Board?

Send hints and help to  
CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org

Two slots are open to represent Congress Park on the Botanic Gardens Neighborhood Advisory Committee. Contact Bill DeMaio at 303-321-2718 or bdemaio@aol.com to express your interest.

The CPNews has a need for a volunteer who can visit with CPN professionals and businesses about advertising in the neighborhood newsletter. Call Wendy at 303-355-3735 for more information.

## Congress Park Historic Speakers Series 2012

By Carolyn Van Sciver

The tenth season of Congress Park Neighbors Historic Speakers series is presented by the CPN Historic Preservation and Education Committee. Lecture topics are chosen to help the owners of old houses in the area learn how to better care for their fine “antique” homes and appreciate the history and architectural style of these homes. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact me at 303-377-4913 or [cvansciver@earthlink.net](mailto:cvansciver@earthlink.net). We always need people to help flyer their block before a talk.

The 2012 schedule wraps up with:

August 29, 2012. *Architecture 101*. What features make a bungalow a bungalow, a Denver square a square? How do you tell your house’s style? Join preservation historian Brian Shaw, and learn to identify the common architectural styles around your neighborhood.

September 26, 2012. *Designing Period Sensitive Additions*. Hear how to get the space you want while maintaining the integrity of the original home. Improve the quality of life and maximize your investment with, pop tops, additions, interior and exterior make overs and curb appeal projects to your home. Local architect Paul Bormann of Bormann Eitemiller architects will show you how.

### Links for Old House Aficionados

Do you have an Arts and Crafts home design or a Bungalow? Maybe you believe that you have a Sears designed home? Congress Park Neighbors website has an extensive collection of web-links that can assist in the restoration and history of your home, from the interior to arts and crafts gardens.

We have links about everything from Aladdin Ready Cut Homes and Bungalow floor plans to the Roycroft-er movement. Go to [www.congressparkneighbors.org/other-links/arts-and-craft-homes/](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org/other-links/arts-and-craft-homes/) and take a look under Arts and Crafts Homes.

The Congress Park neighborhood website has links to other topics under the Other Links page too; such as Museums and Institutions, News Organizations and Preservation Organizations.

If you have additional links that you think would be of service to others, please send them to us at [webadmin@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:webadmin@congressparkneighbors.org)

*Underwritten by: Susan Bradley, Broker Associate, The Bradley Group Real Estate Services 720-327-4993*

## 9th and Colorado Boulevard Developer Invites Wal-Mart

*Continued from page 1*

The TIF district has not yet been approved by either DURA or the City Council. Additional public meetings will be held to give residents an opportunity to voice their opinions.

In the meantime, the site at 9th & Colorado sits empty. The neighborhoods bordering Colorado Boulevard need to decide what we want for our community: Do we hold out for a better offer, or do we take our chances with Wal-Mart?

For more information:

-Congress Park Neighbors: <http://www.congressparkneighbors.org/current-zoning/redevelopment/>

-GDP, Planning Design Guidelines: <http://www.denvergov.org> and search for “9th & Colorado”

-DURA: [www.renewdenver.org](http://www.renewdenver.org) and click on the link to “Tax Increment Financing (TIF)” on the home page.

### Historic Speakers Summer Series

Lectures run June through September, with a lecture given the last Wednesday of each month. The lectures are held at Heitler Hall, National Jewish Hospital, at 7 PM, unless otherwise stated. Lectures are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the lot on Jackson Street. This schedule is also posted on the Congress Park website at [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org).

**Did you attend this season's talks? What new stuff did you learn?** Write it up for the CP News. Send your article to [cpnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org)

Remember to submit your ideas for next year's speaker series to Carolyn Van Sciver, at [cvansciver@earthlink.net](mailto:cvansciver@earthlink.net)



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## The View From East

By Jacqueline Kimmell

As a new voice in this column, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jacqueline Kimmell and I am a Congress Park resident and an incoming senior at East High School. I've attended East the past three years and I'm a tad bit obsessed with it. Unlike every other school that I've visited, East has a certain kind of undeniable energy. At East it's cool to have a passion, cool to be excited about your classes, and cool to care about your future. My passion has always been international politics so my interests at East have taken a corresponding path. I'm the person groggily driving down Elizabeth Street at 5:00am for Speech and Debate meets on Saturday mornings, groggily driving home from Constitutional Law practices at 10:00pm, and groggily going to school early for Model United Nations meetings. Obviously, I and many other high school students don't get all the sleep we need.

But all that changes in the summer. Gone are the long school days, and instead, East students spend their Sundays walking to the Esplanade farmers market, hurrying to the Daily Scoop to get there before it closes, and lounging around the Congress Park pool sunbathing. It's the good life for a East student living in Congress Park over the summer. Not that things are all easy. In fact, many East students, especially the older ones, chose to take on summer jobs and other

responsibilities to get extra cash. Many Congress Park teens apply for work as lifeguards at the Congress Park pool, ice cream scoopers at Liks or Yogurt Guru in Cherry Creek, tennis assistants at the Gates Tennis Center, or food deliverers at Peter's Chinese. Some have decided to expand their horizons with summer travel, such as my East neighbor who is spending six weeks of her summer in Israel. I'm personally traveling to Victoria, Canada for a month as the United States ambassador to an International Peace Camp.

Both the community work and the global outreach are not particularly surprising considering the spirit at East. East has always been a community-minded school; we go to Congress Park to learn about plants in Freshman Biology, jaunt over to the religion section in the Tattered Cover to get inspired for projects in World Religions, and partner with local businesses when holding fundraisers to benefit extracurricular activities. When students need activities for the summer, they reach out into the community as well.

However, the lazy days of summer are drawing to a close. Soon students return en masse to East, pass under the red and white clock tower and register for classes. It's a bittersweet reunion; we are excited to see friends again and frankly, to have more to do, yet it also means a return to the long evenings of homework and the high school activity balancing game. And hopefully, this coming school year will be just as good as the last. New freshmen will be welcomed into the community. A note to incoming freshman: map out your courses so you don't get lost in the halls and, remember, the upperclassmen don't bite!

Want to join CPN, Inc. but can't find your checkbook?

You're saved. The CPN, Inc. website uses Paypal! Become a member the easy way and make sure our neighborhood's voice is heard. Visit [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) and join today!

## Have IRA questions? Let's talk.



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## Introducing: Jessica Downs, Teller Elementary's New Principal

Hello Congress Park neighbors! I am delighted to have an opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Jessica Downs. I am the new Principal at Teller Elementary. I am looking forward to becoming a part of this vibrant community of learners. I am joining the school leadership with experience primarily in elementary education. Last year I was the Assistant Principal at Godsmen Elementary in southwest Denver.

Teller was the only school I applied to for a principal position this year. Why Teller? First of all, I was drawn to Teller because of the school and community focus on the arts. This is a passion I definitely share. Since I was a young girl I have participated in choirs, from the cherub choir in my youth to St. Martin's Chamber Choir as an adult. In our local theater in Michigan where I grew up, I spent my summers through college performing in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. I played the cello in high school and continue to knit, draw and paint. I have long believed that the arts helped build my dedication to lifelong learning and ability to think critically and openly. I am committed to providing this same opportunity for the children at Teller.

Teller's integrated education programs also called to me. As both a neighborhood school and a gifted and talented magnet school Teller is uniquely situated to focus learning in problem solving and questioning. I am passionate about the concept of learning to learn and know that all children benefit from the model of teaching that has been traditionally used for gifted and talented programs. When we focus on teaching children to think, question, state their thoughts and support them with evidence, we will be giving all our students the skills to learn beyond the goals of our annual high stakes assessments.

I will bring to Teller a focus in instructional practice. In my educational career I have had the privilege to teach ECE, Kindergarten, first grade and sixth grade. In DPS, I have been a Humanities Facilitator and an Interventionist for K-5. I have worked on the district level as a Response to Intervention Specialist for all K-8 schools. I completed my principal licensure through the Ritchie Program for School Leaders at the University of Denver. I am committed to service for Denver's kids. As your new Principal, I will strive to keep our focus on what is best for our community of students, not on what is convenient for us as adults. I am committed to creating a community of learners where thinking and questioning is valued in all stakeholders, most particularly in our young learners. I believe that we owe our kids a relentless commitment to equity in education where excuses are not tolerated.

What can you expect of me? Don't expect to find me in my office. Three days of every week I will be in classrooms working with our amazing kids and dedicated teachers helping to continually build instructional practice for our diverse community of learners. Expect an open door. No one person is ever smarter than our collective intelligence. Only together can we create the best school possible. I am looking forward to many years as your partner in building the best neighborhood school in Denver, Teller Elementary. Go Tigers!

### Your City Council Representatives

Jeanne Robb, District 10  
City Councilwoman  
720-337-7710  
jeanne.robbs@denvergov.org

Robin Kniech  
Councilwoman at large  
720-337-7712  
kniechatlarge@denvergov.org

Debbie Ortega  
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720-337-7713  
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## Denver Preschool Program Tips for Preparing for Preschool

By Eileen Piper



Eileen Piper is  
CEO of the Denver  
Preschool Program

**A**t the Denver Preschool Program, where we offer tuition support to all Denver families to help send their children to the preschool of their choice, we know families wonder – and worry – about what to tell their little ones who are heading off to preschool for the first time.

As an early childhood educator and mother of two young boys, I recommend spending time talking with your child about preschool. With my boys, we arranged visits before the start of school to help them become familiar with their classrooms and teachers.

The mental, physical and social stimulation of preschool takes a good night's sleep and a nap. Make sure your child can take a nap alone, and that he or she gets enough sleep – four-year-olds need 10 to 12 hours a day.

In the week preceding the start of school, talk with your child about what the first day will be like, and practice saying good-bye to each other. Have your

child practice wearing his/her backpack, an essential school supply. It holds a second set of cloths (in case of spills or accidents), supplies, and, most important, the notes that teachers and families send back and forth.

Finally, take a bow for helping your child get off to a great start. A recent independent evaluation concluded that the vast majority of the nearly 6,000 children that participate in the Denver Preschool Program every year leave the program ready for kindergarten – socially, emotionally and academically.

Denver Preschool Program tuition credits are available for all Denver families with a child in their last year of preschool before kindergarten and can be applied toward attendance at a wide variety of over 250 preschools all across the metro area.

For more tips on preparing your child for preschool and for more information on the Denver Preschool Program, visit [www.DenverPreschoolProgram.org](http://www.DenverPreschoolProgram.org).



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## The Middle School Dance: A Waldorf Tradition

By Isabella Clark

The sixth grade's first dance at Waldorf School transforms awkward fifth graders into a mature sixth grade. Vicki Hindes, the middle school coordinator, begins teaching the class to dance after the winter break. The eighth grade students assist her with these lessons.

Being sixth graders, we all felt nervous about how this would go. Dancing with partners for the first time made us all uneasy. In the end, it worked out fine.

The dance is held at the school on a Saturday night in April in the large room called the festival hall, where class plays are performed. It is a simple, square room with a tile floor but beautifully decorated on the night of the dance. We invite the middle school students from the Shepherd Valley Waldorf School in Niwot to come to the dance. About 60 kids end up attending the dance.

A band plays at the dance. It is made up of teachers from our school. They call themselves The School Boys. They have just as much fun as the kids! Their music makes you want to move. Their lead singer is Magally Luna, our school's Spanish teacher. She has a strong, outgoing voice that sounds amazing.

Walking into the festival hall, perfectly lit with a dim sparkling light that seems to smile, staring in awe at the beautiful flowers that decorate the walls! Excitement coursing through your body like someone just shocked you with a bolt of static electricity. Dancing hand in hand, giddy with the feeling of having too much soda mixed with excitement hanging thick in the air. Laughter bouncing off the walls. The music of the band in the background. The spring dance brings many wonderful memories to mind.

Fox-trot, slow, swing, cha-cha, waltz. Electric slide, stroll, conga line. We dance till our feet hurt. Almost everyone by the end of the night will be barefoot.

By 11:30 p.m., everyone is danced out. With aching feet and ready to sleep on the floor, we end the night with the conga! And at the end of the entire evening, we all cheer, not really knowing why. Most of us laugh and put our arms around each other either because we are so tired we can barely stand or because we all too giddy to even care. We all go home with a happy and warm feeling bubbling inside us.

*Isabella Clark is a seventh grader at the Denver Waldorf School*

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## Our Shade of Green: The Tank is Out

*Sharing helpful hints and home improvement ideas for our neighborhood.*

By Glen Girard

### CPN Events On Web

Once again, CPN's wondrous webmaster Maggie has outdone herself. The neighborhood website now has an events calendar. Go to [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) and look. If you have a CPN event that needs to be added in (block party? garage sale? alley clean up?), contact the webmaster or any CPN Board member at [cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org). And you can find a list of Congress Park merchants on our website. Thank you, Maggie!

The hot water tank, that is. With today's tankless water heaters or on-demand systems, as they are also called, you can produce hot water exactly when you use it. That statement may not raise your excitement level, but the benefits and overall cost savings just might. After buying our house 6 years ago; the existing storage hot water tank was one of the first items we replaced. What a difference; even today my wife continues to comment on how nice our tankless system is to use.

Yes, cost savings and reduced energy consumption are major benefits of a tankless heater. There is an abundance of industry data you can review on most manufacture's websites or [www.energy.star.gov](http://www.energy.star.gov). I will leave that information for you to research when deciding on which model to install. Now back to living without a tank.

Accurate temperature control is top on my list of benefits. Tankless heaters come standard with a digital thermostat located on the unit. I recommend installing a remote thermostat to increase control, convenience, and also cost savings. When you heat water as needed, the system can produce endless amounts of water at the desired temperature. We installed a remote in our bathroom to conveniently set the temperature. I prefer to shower at 102° while my wife likes it a little hotter at 106°. Ok that may be nice to dial in the

water temperature, but where is the cost savings. With storage tank heaters and systems without a remote, water is heated to around 120° and then cold water is added to reach the final temperature. Since we know water is precisely heated to the desired temperature, there is no need to add cold water; turn on the hot and let it go. No need to excessively heat water, just to cool it down. That proved to be even more valuable when our son was born, no more risk of scalding his tender skin. Our remote thermostat was \$115, well worth the cost.

Longer service life. Storage tanks will build up sediment and often leak when they fail. When we removed our 10 year old tank it was 30% full of sediment, which greatly reduced its water capacity and also caused three of us to have a sore back the next day. The most common failure on a tankless system is the heating element, a part that is easily changed out and costs a fraction of the price of a new tank water heater. Also, depending on the amount of use a heating element will remain idle for most of its life. Unlike the heating element in a storage tank that must maintain 50 gallons of water at 120° all day every day.

Save some valuable floor space. Every square foot counts in our historic homes. On-demand systems are compact in design, approximately 18" wide x 24" tall and hang on a wall. I installed a nice set of shelves after removing the old tank water heater. A perfect place to store our camping gear.

These are just a few of the benefits we realized from our tankless hot water system. Please contact me at [cpnnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org) if you are interested in learning more.

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## Summer in the Community Garden: Tomato Tasting Aug. 26

By Linda Smoke

It is summertime and work in the Denver Botanic Gardens Community Garden is in full swing. We have weathered many waves of flea beetles and experienced magical plant growth after the several days of rain. Due to the early onset of hot weather some gardeners were already harvesting peppers and tomatoes at the beginning of July, and we had already moved into the “What am I going to do with all of this zucchini?” phase.

Gardeners eat what they can and donate what they can't. Twice a week donated produce is delivered to the SAME (So All May Eat) Café for use in their salads, soups and pizzas. Meals are paid for by guest donations. The Café's motto is: “Everyone, regardless of economic status, deserves the chance to eat healthy food while being treated with dignity. Good food for the Greater Good.” SAME Café is located at 2023 E. Colfax. By mid-July we had reached 170 pounds of produce donated to the café and our goal for the season is 500 pounds.

Congress Park residents are also invited to a Tomato Taste Test at the Community Gardens on August 26, from 1:00-3:00 pm. Gardeners will bring the tomatoes and participants will sample the varieties and vote on their favorites. More information on this activity and others open to the public can be found on our website ([www.botanicgardenscommunitygarden.com](http://www.botanicgardenscommunitygarden.com)).

In addition to working in our own plots, gardeners work to maintain the common areas and the compost

piles, participate in committees and can take classes on garden topics. Congress Park residents are welcome to participate in the neighborhood committee. For information contact John Augenblick at [JGA@apaconsulting.net](mailto:JGA@apaconsulting.net).

Membership to the Community Gardens is open to members of the Denver Botanic Gardens. Garden members pay an annual rental fee, currently \$50, which grants access to an individual plot and covers the cost of water, supplies and upkeep. Currently 32 of the 89 plots are rented to Congress Park residents. To contact the Community Gardens leader about membership go to the website ([www.botanicgardenscommunitygarden.com](http://www.botanicgardenscommunitygarden.com)).

The entrance to the Community Gardens is next to the Water Department pump station at 11th and Elizabeth. Due to Water Department security requirements, the gate is locked. But someone will be at the gate to let folks in for the Tomato Taste Test and other community events.

District 3 Community Resource Officer is Tony Burkhardt.

Tony's contact information is: 720-913-1231 or 720-641-1164 or [anthony.burkhardt@denvergov.org](mailto:anthony.burkhardt@denvergov.org).

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*"The Congress Park Crime Action Committee is committed to coordinate efforts to rid our neighborhood of crime, thus helping to ensure personal safety for all."  
CPN Crime Action Committee Mission Statement*

### Crime Action Volunteers

Rachel O'Bryan and Larry Goldman are our crime action committee volunteers and can both be reached at [crime@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:crime@congressparkneighbors.org)

CPN is eager to revitalize our Neighborhood Watch program and if you would like to volunteer with Rachel and Larry, or learn more about Neighborhood Watch, please contact them.

## Neighborhood Watch Do's and Don'ts

By Charlotte Bentley, Former Congress Park Crime Action Chair

Neighborhood Watch can be very successful with the right volunteers and the right training. Neighborhood Watch is just that—"WATCHING THE NEIGHBORHOOD", along with neighbors together organizing in cooperation with the police, to monitor and report suspicious activity. People who live on a block know their neighborhood best and recognize things that are out of the ordinary.

NW is NOT a vigilante organization. Law Enforcement trains NW volunteers not to carry firearms as part of the NW effort and not to get directly involved with any criminal activity they may see. However, the neighbors do look out for each other, and do notify each other and police of suspicious activity. Suggestions for starting a Neighborhood Watch program:

#### --- Getting started

- Determine the area you want to organize. This could be one block or several, 5 to 150 households, whatever is effective, practical and manageable.

- Find interested neighbors to be your initial group of Neighborhood Watch Volunteers. Look for one person per 8 to 10 households, or maybe a "Block Captain" per block.
- Schedule a presentation by the local police and neighborhood crime action committee at a convenient location. Most Neighborhood Watch presentations are held during week-night evening hours.
- Prepare a Neighborhood Watch area map or plat plan showing household names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of each household.

#### --- Invite your neighbors

- Distribute invitations at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting and make reminder calls or visits 3 days prior. Ask the Neighborhood Watch volunteers to hand-carry them to neighbors and get names and phone numbers for reminder calls.

#### ---At the presentation

- Meet your neighbors and establish a telephone tree and/or email list.
- Identify concerns and develop an action plan. Consider using the Congress Park Crime Maps as a tool for identifying types of crimes reported in the neighborhood.
- Learn crime prevention techniques such as home security, personal safety and Operation Identification., and how to report suspicious activity.
- Recruit your Coordinator and Block Captains.
- Learn requirements for posting a Neighborhood Watch sign on your block and how to order the signs.

#### ---Maintaining NW

- Once your neighborhood has been organized, it's important to maintain interest. It's too easy for vigilance and awareness to wane. Try having block parties, neighborhood walks, meetings, and maybe a monthly or quarterly Neighborhood Watch Newsletter.

*Source: USAOnWatch.org and the National Crime Prevention Council*

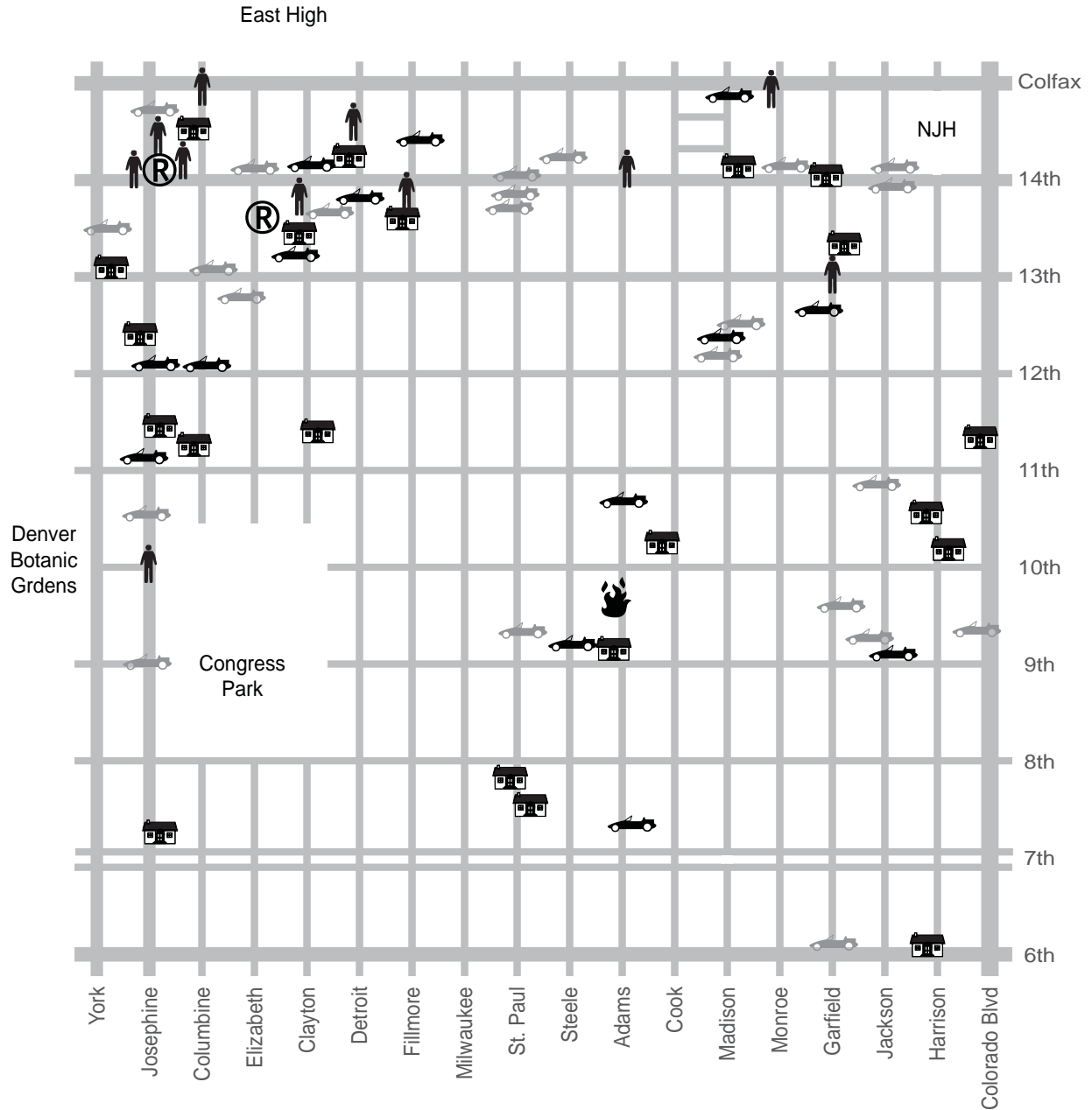
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# CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES APRIL - JUNE 2012



- Ⓡ **Sexual Assault**
- 👤 **Assault / robbery**
- 🏠 **Burglary**
- 🚗 **Auto Theft**
- 🚗 **Theft from auto**
- 🔥 **Arson**

This map shows a compilation of all serious crimes reported to police within Congress Park in the second quarter of 2012. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics relayed through Council District 10.

## Denver Opens New Crime Lab

By Rachel O'Bryan

What interesting things are your neighbors up to?

Tell us at [cprnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cprnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org).

As any good TV watcher knows from the many police dramas like CSI, it is no longer adequate to solve a crime or base a criminal prosecution on circumstantial evidence. Any self-respecting jury requires physical evidence to tie the defendant to the crime.

Denver's Police Department is well prepared to meet this increased standard of proof. The Denver Police Crime Lab (DPCL) was the third in the nation to be fully accredited in all areas of science-based criminal investigations. In 2011, DPCL processed over 13,580 cases. This included 3,386 crime scene investigations; 737 DNA matches and 1,273 latent finger prints matches.

In June, DPCL moved from 14,000 sq. ft. of lab space to a 60,000 sq. ft. dedicated facility on Cherokee St. The building is projected to meet the growing needs of the DPCL for the next 25-30 years. It is a "model of modern forensic practice and equipment with an efficient layout, and an environmentally sustainable and appealing design."

Before the DPCL went "live" DPD conducted tours of the building. For \$36 million the building design provides dedicated space for several labs and separate meeting space to maintain the labs' restricted access. There is also a conference room that is wired to be the Denver crisis command center.

The DPCL comprises several units.

- Forensic Imaging authenticates and archives digital evidence images (both video and still) from crime scenes, morgue examinations, victim injuries and suspects.
- Forensic Chemistry identifies unknown substances and analyzes blood alcohol levels.
- Firearms studies shell casings and bullets for unique identifying markings, examines and tests recovered firearms, and analyzes gunpowder patterns.
- Latent Prints processes evidence such as firearms, drug packaging, and burglary tools for finger print evidence and feeds it into national, state and local finger print identification databases. The unit also analyzes shoe and tire impression evidence.
- Trace Evidence relies on inorganic chemistry procedures to identify fibers, paint and gun shot residue pursuant to the basic principle of forensic science that "Every contact leaves a trace."
- Crime Scene screens evidence collected at a crime scene and identifies it. While much of that work is done offsite, the Forensic Garage is used when large pieces of evidence, such as an entire car or wall, need to be analyzed.
- Forensic Biology/DNA extracts DNA from biological material such as blood, saliva and semen for amplification and matching through the FBI's CODIS database

Denver's new Crime Lab will help it successfully prosecute criminal cases and obtain solid convictions that keep criminals off the streets.

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## New Program Helps Low-Income Coloradans with Health Care Needs

By Aubrey Hill

Going to the doctor can be expensive, especially when you don't have health insurance. But when you aren't getting regular check-ups and aren't keeping your chronic conditions under control, you can wind up in the emergency room where health care is much more expensive and difficult.

There is a new Medicaid program that might be able to help you get the health care you need if your income is very low and you do not have any dependent children living with you.

This new program established with the help of a new state law offers the coverage that will provide regular health care to keep chronic conditions under control and avoid the emergency room. Even if you are currently on CICP, you should consider applying. You will get more benefits with Medicaid and have quicker access to health care services.

Medicaid benefits include (but are not limited to) coverage for: regular check-ups, prescription drugs, hospitalization, medical transportation, mental health, substance abuse issues, immunizations, lab and x-rays and more.

You should consider applying if you are:

- An adult without dependent children
- Under age 65
- Are earning little to no income

If you think you might qualify, you should apply today! There are several ways to do this, such as visiting your local county department (in Denver, the department is located on 1200 Federal Blvd., and open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.) or applying online via [Colorado.gov/PEAK](http://Colorado.gov/PEAK). You can also call 1-800-221-3943 if you have questions.



## Large Item Pickup Helps Keep Congress Park Beautiful

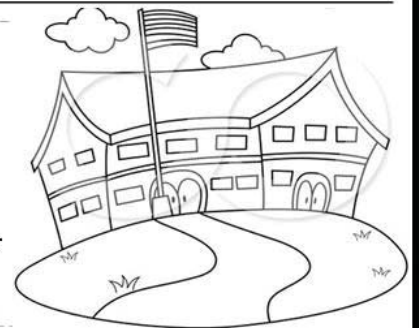
Donate those large items for re-use, hold them for charity pickup at your house or have a yard sale. If they must go to the landfill, please wait until just shortly before the next large item pickup is scheduled to leave them in the alley or out by the dumpster. We can all agree that heaps of mattresses, chairs, plumbing and whatnot can be pretty unsightly, especially after a rain. The large item pickups for Congress Park are September 4 - 8 and November 5 - 9. What about planning an alley-clean-up-block-party for the weekend prior, too?

## Strong Schools Ensure Strong Neighborhoods!

10% of Commissions to be DONATED to the School of your Choice

To help our schools, I will donate 10% of my commissions for any sales or purchases of homes for the 2012-2013 year to the Congress Park school of your choice.

Please contact me if you or someone you know would like more information on buying or selling a home in our great Denver neighborhood.



**COMMITTED to CONGRESS PARK**

Margaret Marshall CRS, GRI  
Mobile 303.918.3507  
[margaret@kentwoodcity.com](mailto:margaret@kentwoodcity.com)



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## Back to School Waste Reduction

For more information on waste reduction or Denver Recycles, please call 311 or visit [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles).

### Your Name in Lights? Volunteer Opportunity: Newsletter Writer

You know what's going on around your block and at your favorite neighborhood businesses on Colfax and along 12th Avenue. Who better to write that up for the newsletter? Volunteer to write about Congress Park Neighborhood or get involved in another way. Call 303-355-3735 or email [wendyrich@msn.com](mailto:wendyrich@msn.com) with "CPNews" in the subject line.

You can also send your items to [cpnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org)

Parents, students and teachers can make less waste and save money this school year by practicing the "3 Rs" of waste reduction—reduce, reuse and recycle.

### REDUCE LUNCHTIME WASTE

- Pack a Zero Waste lunch for your child by putting food in reusable containers instead of disposable plastic bags or plastic wrap. If reusable containers are not an option, try wrapping sandwiches in aluminum foil, which can be recycled.
- Avoid buying food items in single-serving, non-recyclable packaging such as juice pouches or individual snack bags. You can also cut down on wasteful packaging by buying items in bulk. Did you know that one out of every ten dollars you spend at the market goes towards paying for packaging?
- Pour drinks in reusable, durable water bottles or thermoses instead of buying bottled water, sports drinks or juices for lunches and field trips. It takes 17 million barrels of oil to make the plastic bottles used in the United States in one year.

### RECYCLE & REUSE

- Reuse empty plastic tubs or metal cans for storing pencils, paper clips or other small items needed on hand for school projects.
- Recycle school papers such as old homework and tests in your purple recycling cart. Each ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees.
- Write and print on both sides of paper. Set your computer and printer to "double-sided" as the default option so documents automatically print on both sides. Printing double-sided handouts, reports and tests can dramatically reduce paper use, which saves

nature and money. Did you know that the average American uses 650 pounds of paper per year?

- Collect scratch paper for reuse. Start saving one-sided print jobs in a box, file or basket and use these papers for scratch paper when doing math problems, taking notes or completing art projects.

### BUY RECYCLED

- Buy notebooks, folders and writing paper made from recycled paper. When shopping, look for products made from "recycled paper" or "recycled-content paper." Try and get the brands with the highest percentage of recycled content, such as brands marked "Made from 100% recycled post-consumer recycled paper." It is important to buy products made from recycled material so we can help to "Close the Recycling Loop." By selecting products made of recycled content material, you will be supporting residential recycling programs and their associated markets
- Shop at thrift stores and consignments shops for back to school clothes. Denver savvy shoppers enjoy a variety of retailers selling almost-new clothes at much lower prices.

### DONATE & FUNDRAISE

- Donate bulk amounts of items such as CD cases, cork and bottle caps to Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT). RAFT transforms surplus materials into hands-on learning activities for students. For more information on RAFT, visit [www.raftcolorado.org](http://www.raftcolorado.org) or call 720-242-8833.
- Start a recycling fundraiser at your school such as Cartridges for Kids. This recycling program pays schools and non-profits for recycling items such as cell phone, empty laser and ink cartridges, and various electronic items. Visit [www.cartridgesforkids.com](http://www.cartridgesforkids.com) to learn how to get started.

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noisy party than being there."

- Franklin P. Jones

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Your neighborhood needs you! Join your neighbors today.

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address:

phone:

The above information will only be used for contacting you about Congress Park  
Neighborhood issues.

- Member (individual or household)                    \$20
- Patron (get a T-shirt!):                                    \$30  
    (circle shirt size: S M L XL XXL)
- Business or organization:                                \$40

(Circle amount enclosed)

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- Graffiti abatement
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- Traffic/Parking
- Zoning
- Other

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events like the ice cream social and ongoing activities to benefit the neighborhood.