



News

Summer 2011

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Congress Park Neighbors' Plan 2011 Focus

Members and Neighbors Hear News, Discuss Issues at February and March Meetings

By Wendy Moraskie

Between bites of pizza and sips of pop at the Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., members' meeting on January 19 and all neighbor meeting on February 16, participants heard about the Board's current projects, State House and City Council work, crime prevention and fun stuff planned for the year.

Board member Kathleen Hynes called the all neighborhood meeting to order and kept it on track. She summarized the Board's goals in four categories: keep neighbors informed; promote historic preservation within a dynamic neighborhood; prevent crime; and support neighborhood cohesion.

The meeting's speakers underlined those goals. City Councilwoman Jeanne Robb and State House Representative Beth McCann gave overviews of city and state budget discussions and legislation under debate.

Denver Police Department District 3 Commander Kris Kroncke reported crime is lower in CPN, in context of the city's data. He reminded attendees to prevent car break-ins by

taking valuables in the house. He also reminded us that the cheapest deterrent against house break-ins is having the front and back porch lights on.

Denver Film Society Executive Director Tom Botelho introduced himself and said how happy he was to bring DFS in

the neighborhood. His organization is trying to raise \$1 million by September 1, 2011 to buy the theatre behind Twist and Shout and make it the DFS's permanent home. DFS's efforts will make use of the existing licenses and perhaps have jazz trios and other concerts to raise funds. Botelho said there are no plans to use the underage portion of the license or make structural changes to the building.

At the member meeting, members expressed appreciation for the variety of subjects that the Board tries to keep up on in order to apprise neighbors through the newsletter, website and email blasts.

As a closing reminder, Kathleen told attendees to mark their calendars for Tuesday, August 2, for the next National Night Out CPN Ice Cream Social.

Congress Park Neighbors extends our thanks again to Teller Elementary, our neighborhood, high-achieving, public school for hosting our annual all-neighbors meeting and to Denver Film Society for hosting our member meeting.

To make sure you get reminders about social occasions and zoning updates, among other matters, visit www.congressparkneighbors.org and sign up for the email blasts.

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.

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 4500 residents and businesses within the area bounded by Colfax Avenue, Sixth Avenue, York Street and Colorado Boulevard.

www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

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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.

Leash Law in Cheesman Park

The following article is reprinted with permission of Neighbors and Friends For Cheesman Park. Please also see Charlotte Bentley's article on page 13, about dog bites.

A leash law press conference was held on March 21, 2011 at the Cheesman Park Pavilion. With the support of Chief of Police Whitman, and public information officer Sonny Jackson, Commander Lopez organized this conference to alert the public about leash law violations. First on the agenda, Councilwoman Jeanne Robb said, "Now that the Dog Park Master Plan process, the second in ten years, has affirmed Cheesman is not a dogs off-leash site; now that we have an interim dog park at Colfax and Josephine, and now that the Cheesman Park bond improvements, with new irrigation and revived turf, are nearly complete, we want to make sure that everyone who uses Cheesman knows the rules requiring that dogs be on leashes. We're reminding people that Police District 6, Animal Control, and the Park Rangers really mean it." Dogs must be leashed so "everyone can enjoy the park, without injury and property damage," said Cmdr. Lopez. "A dog can be approached by

another dog, and before you know it, those dogs are in a scuffle," said Aaron McSpadden, animal control investigator supervisor. According to Carole Walker, executive director at the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association, dog owners can be sued for such things as their dog biting people and knocking someone over. One third of all liability claims stem from dog bites that result in settlements beyond the insurance policy limits. Fines for off-leash dog violations range from \$80 to \$300 depending on the number of citations.

Many incidents have occurred in the park due to illegal off-leash dogs. Recently a skateboarder was knocked down by an off-leash dog on the concrete trail by the Rustic Shelter and a small leashed dog was attacked by another off-leash dog.

Denver has eight off-leash dog sites; the closest to Cheesman is at Josephine and Colfax.

Cmdr. Lopez said that increased enforcement of the leash law is planned.

Your Congress Park Neighbors 2010 Board of Directors

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And we thank these committed neighbors:

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

Bill DeMaio and Michael Sutherland—Denver Botanic Gardens Liaison

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!

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

Congress Park Historic Preservation Speakers 2011

Once again Carolyn Van Sciver has lined up a splendid historic preservation speaker series to help the owners of old houses in the area to learn how to better care for their fine “antique” homes and appreciate the history and architectural style of these homes. These lectures run May through September, on the last Wednesday of each month. The lectures are held at Heitler Hall, National Jewish Hospital, at 7 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

Lectures are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the lot on Jackson Street. This historic preservation speakers series schedule is also posted on the Congress Park web site at <http://www.congressparkneighbors.org/history.html>.

If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Carolyn Van Sciver at 303-377-4913 or cvansciver@earthlink.net. We always need people to help flyer their block before a talk.

May 25, 2011. *Landscaping for Your Old House.* In spring our thoughts turn to gardening. Rachel Saunders and Don King, of Don King Landscaping, will show you ideas for your garden and answer questions you have about plant selection and how to grow your favorites, in a sustainable way. Bring your questions; Don is a wealth of information on plants of all kinds.

June 29, 2011. *Options for Old Windows.* The original windows in your old house are an important part of the design elements of your house. They were built to last the life of the house, with periodic maintenance. David Reusch, of Reusch Historic Window, has thirty years’ experience working on old houses and historic windows. Learn how to maintain and improve these important parts of your home.

July 27, 2011. *Care of Your Mature Trees.* Mature trees can add significant dollars to the value of your home. In addition to their beauty, they also save on your energy costs year round and add to the ambiance of our neighborhoods. Jim Myer, Senior Arboreal Inspector for the City and County of Denver, will give tips on the care of our urban forest, as well as species selection for different locations.

August 31, 2011. *Design Guidelines for Porches.* The front porch is one of the main architectural features for most older houses in Denver. This porch is one of the first things to need serious repair or rebuilding. John Van Sciver will walk you through the design process to rebuild a sturdy porch that maintains the original style of your home.

September 28, 2011. *Healthy Homes.* Does your house need a physical exam? Bill Lucas-Brown, GB3 Energy, is a “house doctor” who can help you locate energy, heating, or ventilation problems in your old house. Changes, from simple to complex, can make your home perform better, be more comfortable, and more energy efficient.

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CPN Monthly Meetings Need You

The best part about the monthly CPN, Inc., Board meetings are the discussions that bloom between neighbors. Only you know what’s happening on your block. Your seeds of information combined with your neighbor’s may add up to something that, with cultivation, can nourish the whole neighborhood.

Send us your ideas and suggestions to cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org

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Congress Park and South City Park Parking Issues

Your City Council Representatives

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Many thanks to Maggie Price, Board Member of Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., (CPN), and Bonita Leahy, President of South City Park Neighborhood Association (SCPNA), for conducting a joint parking study along Colfax Avenue. See complete details at http://www.congressparkneighbors.org/joint_survey.html. The highlights of the findings were sent to our city representatives in the below letter.

April 12, 2011

TO: District 6 Councilwoman Jeanne Robb
District 8 Council Office
At-Large Councilman Doug Linkhart
At-Large Councilwoman Carol Boigon
Nola Owens, Parking Operations
Cindy Patton, Associate City Planner, Strategic Parking Plan
Caroline Schomp, President, CHUN
Steve Nissen, President, INC
Don Novak, Colfax on the Hill

RE: SCPNA/CPN Parking Survey

During the first quarter 2011, a survey was taken to assess changing parking demands in South City Park and in the Congress Park neighborhood, Colfax to 13th Street. For complete survey results see http://www.congressparkneighbors.org/joint_survey.html

Both our RNOs received over a 10% response. SCPNA sent out 1200 newsletters followed by three emails to members and block captains to make sure the word was out. CPN sent out 1056 postcards to addresses listed in Denver property records. The survey was open for three weeks in South City Park and for two weeks in Congress Park.

SCPNA summary results (entire neighborhood):

- 85% of residents could not find parking for themselves or their guests during special events in City Park like Jazz in the Park;
- 76% wanted RPP (Resident Permit Parking) only during events in City Park like Jazz in the Park;
- 42% report parking is a problem for themselves and/or their guests;
- 55% have no restrictions on parking; and
- Over half have problems finding parking during concert nights (sic) the Bluebird.

CPN summary results (Colfax to 13th):

- 65% of CPN residents living in the surveyed area report parking is a problem for themselves and/or their guests (at all times);
- Daytime weekend parking is particularly more problematic than weekend parking after 6 p.m., regardless of type of residence (single family home, condo, apt. etc);
- 67% of CPN residents cannot find parking during Bluebird concerts or other concerts along Colfax;
- About 75% have no restrictions on parking; and
- Over half report having difficulty finding daytime parking during special events like Jazz in the Park.

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Congress Park and South City Park Parking Issues, cont.

During some events in City Park the capacity of the South City Park Neighborhood is so dense that access to driveways and fire hydrants are frequently blocked. We are aware of calls to the City and the Police Department about this: none of which have been responded to. Should an emergency arise, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for a fire truck or ambulance to negotiate the streets.

Statistics found in this survey show that there is a similar correlation of traffic patterns in both neighborhoods. Although the problems are not identical on both sides of Colfax; to not apply solutions on both sides will undoubtedly exacerbate the problem on one side or the other.

We propose that the information obtained from this study be used in the "City Park Event and Planning Guide." Of the SCP residents, 76% advocated the use of RPP during events such as Jazz in the Park (it has reached about 12,000 per Sunday). As a result, we recommend resident parking during Jazz in the Park and we would like all other events (non-profit and potentially for-profit) strongly discourage their attendees from parking in South City Park and across Colfax in Congress Park by providing and advertising alternate parking solutions (example: flashing signs the day of the event on Colfax). As a result of the survey, we would like to see "resident parking only" from 13th to 17th Avenues during Jazz in the Park Sundays implemented before the summer rush.

There remain problematic parking issues in many parts of our neighborhoods due to, in part, a general lack of parking provided by apartment buildings. For example, 60's and 70's structures have little or no parking and recent structures have been granted reduced parking requirements by the City.

There is a severe lack of parking for Colfax concert venues, i.e., L2 Church, the Bluebird, etc. The South City Park Neighborhood has tripled in density in the last five years and there has been an increase in density in the Congress Park survey area as well.

Continued on page 6

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Congress Park and South City Park Parking Issues, cont.

Continued from page 5


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 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. And you can find a list of Congress Park merchants on our website. Thank you, Maggie!

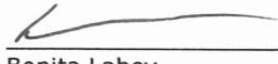
As Registered Neighborhood Associations, we genuinely welcome the benefits of and diversity that our businesses and venues provide: we are all neighbors. We believe that our business neighbors should share equally with our resident neighbors in helping to resolve our mutual parking problems. To date it appears that these mutual parking problems have been largely absorbed by residents; both north and south of E. Colfax, but these areas are now completely saturated.

Based upon our survey results, we recommend:

- For concert activities, use available parking at other businesses when the hours do not overlap – many are unused at these peak times.
- Promote businesses that allow for “walk ability” in the neighborhoods. Currently there are no basic amenities businesses (i.e. grocery stores, pharmacies) readily accessible on foot. Both neighborhoods have younger residents moving in but there is also a growing middle aged and elderly population. Without these basic amenities along Colfax, cars are still required for many basic chores.



Brent Hladky
President - CPN



Bonita Lahey
President - SCPNA

Jazz in the Park



Chris Zacher
President of Jazz in the Park

Attachments:

- A. Original Survey questions
- B. SCPNA Comments
- C. CPN Comments

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Changes Coming to Gove School and Congress Park Neighborhood

By Marcus Pachner

Editor's Note: If the zoning is approved, the property National Jewish Health owns in Congress Park will be included in its master plan revisions.

Marcus Pachner is the president and founder of Pachner Company.

National Jewish Health (NJH) and Denver Public Schools have agreed to contractual terms for the sale of the Gove Middle School property at the southeast corner of Colorado Blvd. and 14th Avenue. The purchase is conditioned upon rezoning the former school site to allow NJH to further our research, clinical and educational mission.

The Gove property offers an important opportunity for the long-term viability of National Jewish Health in Denver. Our growth in recent years has strained our existing facilities—nearly 150 employees are moving this month to offices off campus. The Gove property is contiguous with our current 111-year-old campus, and presents an opportunity to expand our campus in an otherwise fully developed section of Denver.

The Colorado Boulevard Healthcare District (CBHD) serves as the advisory board for the proposed rezoning of the site. CBHD consists of members from the six neighborhood associations bordering Colorado Blvd from 8th Avenue to Colfax in addition to representatives from each of the medical and former university facilities within the district. The CBHD has formed a subcommittee to work with NJH and the City of Denver to identify the proper zone districts for the site, commence the rezoning process, and ultimately rezone the former Gove site.

The next CBHD meeting will be held on May 10 at 4:00 pm at National Jewish in the Molly Blank Conference Center. This meeting is open to all. Please plan on attending and learning more about this project.

We look forward to working with neighborhood associations, city government and other interested parties to further our development in a manner that meets the needs of our patients, our neighbors and our academic and hospital partners. Please contact Marcus Pachner at (303) 825-1671 for additional information about the rezoning of the former Gove School.

RTD Launches Partners in Safety Campaign

By Daria Serna, Public Relations Manager for RTD

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) launched a brand new campaign earlier this year to increase public awareness around RTD buses, trains, and stations. The purpose of this program is to create a partnership with the community to be safe while using public transit. RTD has implemented the first part of the campaign with the Yield to Bus Program. It is a law passed by the Colorado State Assembly in 2009. The program is designed for drivers to yield when buses are merging back into traffic from a bus stop, so that buses successfully re-enter traffic with minimal disruption. When the yellow light located on the back of the bus next to the red break light is blinking, drivers are required to yield and allow the bus to re-enter traffic. The Yield to Bus is a partnership with RTD, local police departments, and the Colorado State Patrol. The community will also begin seeing more advertising on RTD vehicles promoting the Partners in Safety Campaign.

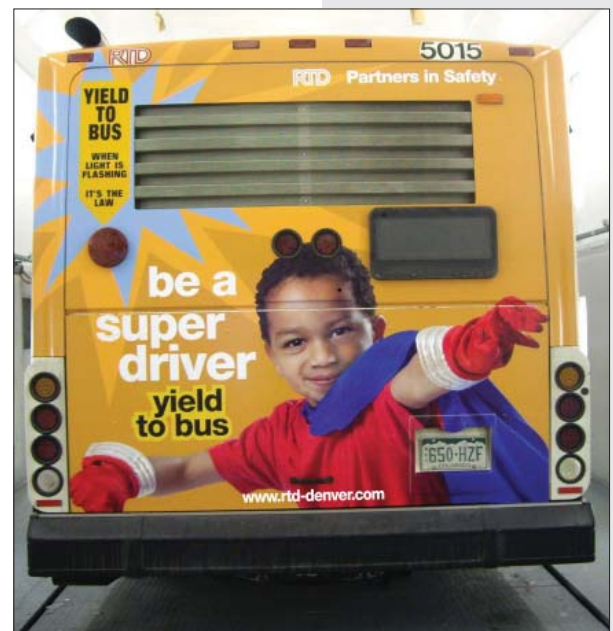
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Denver's Old House Society Announces Sidewalk Strolls, Fun City Jaunts

By Elizabeth Wheeler

Black Walnut Help Center

A disease called Thousand Cankers has been found in Colorado and is proving fatal to all black walnuts infected. Denver Forestry anticipates that in the coming year or two, many black walnuts will begin to look unhealthy and eventually die in Denver. <http://www.denvergov.org/tabid/434665/Default.aspx#notice> lists resources where you can learn more about the disease, what to do if you receive a notice to remove a black walnut, how to hire a tree care contractor and about replanting programs.

Join Denver's Old House Society as we walk, stroll and poke around five of the city's beloved old neighborhoods to learn about architecture, newsworthy residents, building materials, and other interesting tidbits—current and past. Our sidewalk strolls, which are guided walking tours, include time for light refreshments in a park setting. Beginning in April and ending with an October tour with ghouls and ghosts, the tours offer an inexpensive and fun Denver home, hearth and history course. Tickets are \$15 each, or \$60 for all five tours, and can be purchased at King Soopers stores, City Market Stores at select locations along I-70, or at www.denversoldhousesociety.org.

Held on Saturday, the neighborhood jaunts include: Capitol Hill, April 30; Country Club, June 11; The Harkness Heights neighborhood in the Highlands, July 16; The Bellevue-Hale area, September 10; and the Baker neighborhood, October 22. The July tour in the Highlands will be from 10 a.m. to noon and the rest of the tours will be in the afternoon from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Participants will view a variety of architectural styles: Victorians, Bungalows, Tudors, Denver Squares and Classic Revivals. From owners of humble abodes to some of the city's grandest mansions, Denver's famous, infamous and ordinary residents will be brought to life as will yesteryear Denver.

"Our sidewalk strolls are fun, inexpensive trips – if you will – that make Denver in years gone

by come to life. They're great ways for people new to the city and natives alike to learn about the Queen City of the Rockies. The strolls are wonderful for educating people about the care and restoration of old houses and for demonstrating how special our old neighborhoods really are and why they need to be protected from unsympathetic development. Our sidewalk strolls are mission driven," stated Denver's Old House Society Board Chair, Suzanne Minear, AIA.

In addition to learning about Denver's history, families and houses, participants will have a chance to talk with authors who have written books about the neighborhoods and win a variety of fun and entertaining items, services and meals from local merchants, who are connected to the neighborhoods of the sidewalk strolls.

Denver's Old House Society sponsors include: Desmond Brown Real Estate Group, Applewood Plumbing Heating and Electric, GB3 Energy Solutions, and Van Camp's Quality Hardwood Floors.

Denver's Old House Society, Inc. is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to educating owners of old houses (50+ years old) and helping them protect their neighborhoods. For more information go to www.denversoldhousesociety.org.



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LOCATED IN CONGRESS PARK

Looking East

By Jessica Lindimore

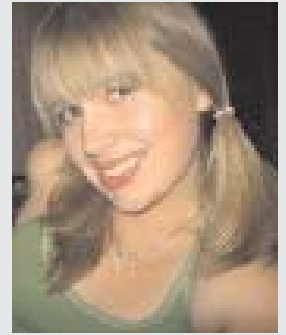
As I write this, winter break has officially ended and school is back in session for the final push until the long awaited summer break. This time of year most students would be feeling tired and less than motivated, but at East High school things are very different. The school, from the second of our return has been well, buzzing. It's the middle of January and snow is still clogging driveways and high school students are forced to head indoors to avoid the infamous Colorado winter. While sometimes the insane Colorado weather can be rather unsettling, with so much going on at East, I've hardly even noticed.

During the winter East is absolutely buzzing with excitement because of, yes, you guessed it, sports. Both boys' and girls' basketball teams are playing and, in case you are completely oblivious, basketball is a big deal at East. Back in 2008 East took state in boys basketball, and, let me tell you, there has never been a school more proud. Although East has yet to take state since, there is still immense school spirit behind the basketball team, making the games all that much better to attend.

Although sports are a big part of the winter activities it is definitely not the only thing happening. There are multiple activities going on at East, such as the preparation for the East High

musical "Funny Girl" in the spring. This is a very exciting time for the East High theater department. The musicals are always big and spectacular and this year is no exception. The play this year has a cast of around sixty, more than one hundred and fifty costumes and an array of songs that are sure to please the audience. As always, the productions at East High school are over the top and extraordinarily entertaining, so this come this spring be sure to look for show dates so you can experience the wonderful drama department first hand.

As always there are wonderful things happening at East High school and I feel lucky to be a part of it. If you are a incoming freshman looking to be an East Angel next year, this is the time to shadow East and see for yourself what a spectacular school it truly is.



Jess Lindimore is finishing her junior year at East High and offering a Congress Park highschooler's perspective to the Congress Park News.

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Independence House

Our new District 3 Community Resource Officer is **Cari Jimenez**. Her phone is 720 913-1175.

This story came to the attention of Congress Park News from the neighbors of the men who reside at Independence House in Congress Park.

Independence House began in 1977 as a Veterans Program for Vietnam Era Drug and Alcohol Offenders at the Veterans Hospital. In 1998, this Therapeutic Community, unique to the nation, began operating at the South Federal Facility and then transferred to Congress Park on May 18, 2002.

Independence House has six locations in Denver. The aim of the program is to return clients to

the community with the ability to succeed as productive individuals.

The staff created a system where clinical and medical services are integrated within the Residential Treatment Program. On site, evidence-based model programming includes life skills, culinary class, cognitive behavioral therapy groups, and financial management. The onsite staff includes a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Certified Addictions Counselors, a Marriage and Family Therapist, a Licensed Addictions Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Giving back to the community is an essential part of the program while teaching the value of building self-esteem when helping others. Independence House residents are very active in the community, participating in the following activities: helping build homes with Habitat for Humanity; cleaning the neighborhood on a weekly basis through Adopt a Spot; semi-annual participation in the Great American Clean Up sponsored by Keep Denver Beautiful, covering four city blocks; helping with set-up and breakdown of events at the Peoples Fair, (CHUN); and feeding the homeless at the Denver Rescue Mission. The goal of the program is to provide a structured, experiential, and managed environment with the purposeful use of the peer community to facilitate social and psychological changes in individuals for successful community release.

Congress Park News is always interested in sharing "good neighbor" news, so if you have a story, please send it to us at cpnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org.

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proud of
our age.

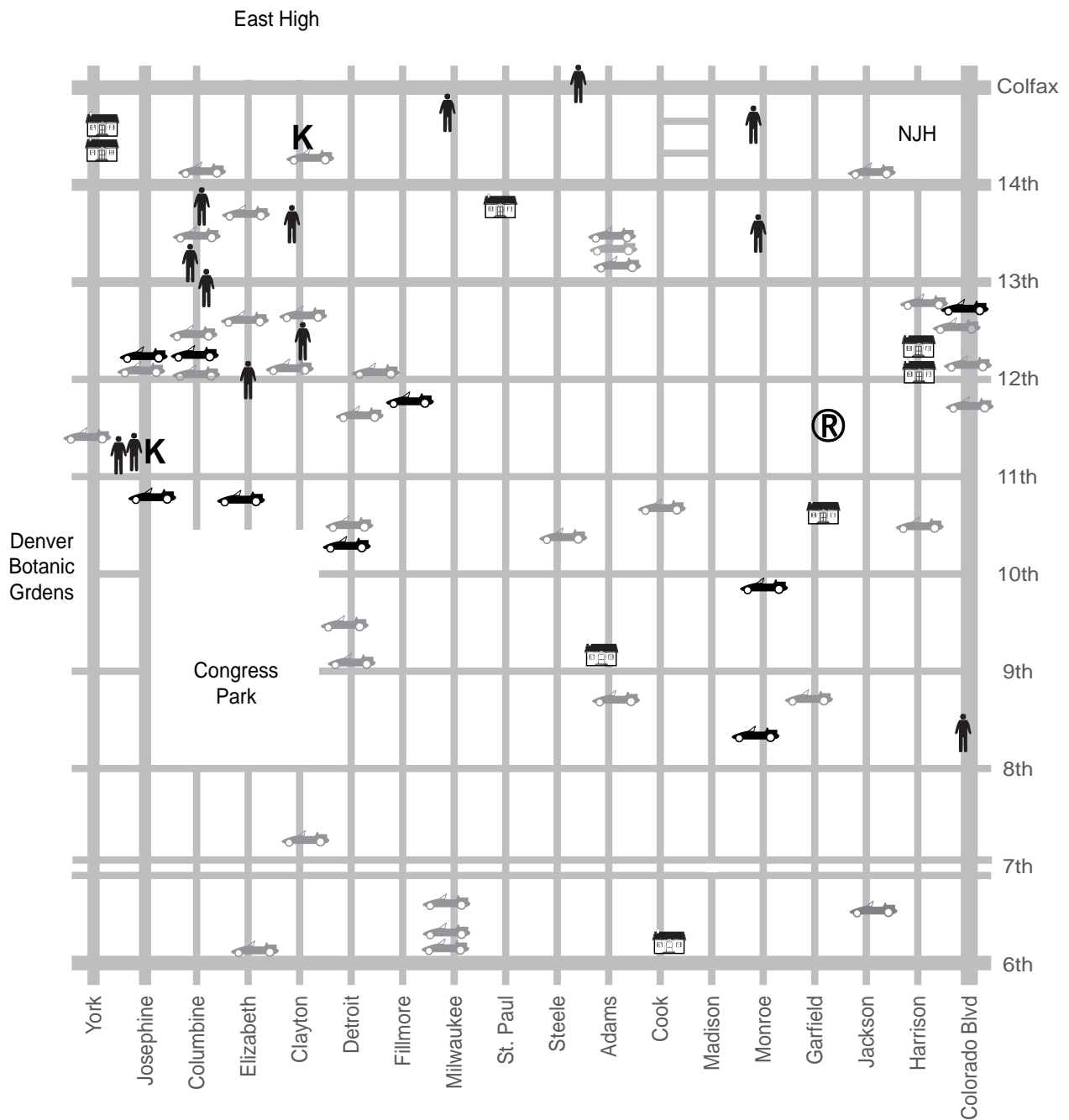


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CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES JANUARY - MARCH 2011



- ® Sexual Assault
- K Kidnaping
- 人 Assault / robbery
- 🏠 Burglary
- 🚗 Auto Theft
- 🚗 Theft from auto

This map shows a compilation of all serious crimes reported to police within Congress Park in the first quarter of 2011. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics relayed through Council District 10.

Gilpin Montessori Public School

This is an excerpt of a speech given by Gilpin Montessori Public School Principal Frank Vincent at a "Community Stakeholder Site Visit" at the school on March 23, 2011

Gilpin Montessori Public School
2949 California Street
Denver, CO
720.424.7140

Albert Einstein said, "It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education." He must not have known about Montessori. Montessori education actually stimulates curiosity. It also emphasizes responsibility and self-initiated learning, and supports collaborative learning, which is the way the real world functions.

Here at Gilpin, we are developing a sustainable model. This is our model: Quality individualized Montessori instruction with computerized practice to support that learning. To follow our model we introduced two programs this year – Reading Plus and My Access – to support students

constantly as they practice their reading and their writing. We saw results from this model very quickly. Students were reading up to three grade levels higher by this past December.

We also volunteered for the district's LEAP teacher evaluation pilot. This is a study of teacher practices in the classroom. Our results indicate that our Montessori teachers are scoring at the top of the pilot schools' scores. This indicates that Montessori education is meeting the needs of the students in a rigorous way, and is even more impressive given that most of our teachers are new to Montessori teaching.

Public Montessori schools can offer support for children that is frequently not found in private schools. For example, we have specialists in music and art and physical education. We can offer speech and languages services for children during the school day. We have a diverse group of students that reflects our community and our world's variations of languages and cultures.

We offer a Montessori elementary education with a \$10,000 per year discount. Ours is a gifted program offering quality education without the need to test into it.

Gilpin is back. I encourage you to visit our school about enrolling your child in our program.

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Who Pays for the Dog Bite?

By Charlotte Bentley

Congress Park residents love their dogs, and rightfully so. It's a "dog friendly" neighborhood for the most part, but what happens when a dog bites a child, the postman, or a delivery person, particularly on your own property? Who is responsible for medical bills and other reparations?

The Humane Society of the U.S. estimates about one in every three American households has at least one dog. That's about 53 million dogs as pets. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs annually, resulting in 800,000 injuries requiring medical attention. The average cost of a dog-bite insurance claim is \$21,200. Dog bite claims account for about 15 percent of liability claims paid by homeowners' policies.

Homeowner insurance policies vary greatly and may or may not cover dog bites. Companies may charge more to insure houses with certain breeds or require dog owners to sign a liability waiver. Some breeds have been "blacklisted" by the industry because they cause the greatest number of dog bites and lawsuits. Some home insurance applications ask, "Do you own a vicious/dangerous dog?" The term "vicious dog" is defined by the insurance provider. Previous dog-injury claims are in your claims history, which insurers check before issuing a policy.

Insurers are most concerned about unprovoked dog attacks, which would most likely show up on a police or medical report. An unprovoked attack in a dog's history might cause an insurer to cancel a policy, deny renewal, or attach an exclusion for the dog. An exclusion means the insurance policy would not cover medical bills or lawsuits resulting from the dog's actions.

Even the most friendly and docile dog may bite if it's feeling protective, jealous, fearful or ill, or if it's provoked. The dog, lacking the skills to reason with its antagonist, will bite. Every dog has a wolf somewhere in its lineage, and given certain circumstances, will revert to those basic instincts. Responsible owners protect their dogs as much as possible from stressful situations. Children and puppies are so cute, but more than half of bite wounds requiring medical attention and 75 percent of fatal dog attacks involve children. Children's natural impulsive and inquisitive

behaviors can irritate dogs. Never leave a dog and a child alone together.

Communities have recently begun passing legislation aimed at punishing dog owners rather than the dogs. Comprehensive "dog bite" legislation, along with better consumer education, can help avoid dangerous situations for dogs and their communities.

Even the best precautions cannot prevent all dog bites. If your dog attacks, it is best to be sure your homeowner's policy covers medical bills and potential litigation. It is worth your while to review your home insurance policy for adequate coverage and make sure our beloved Congress Park dogs are protected.



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Congress Park Volunteers: Old, New and You

Thank you to Julie Lang, newsletter coordinator, who has volunteered for years to coordinate the newsletter delivery. This has to be one of the most under-recognized volunteer positions in our organization. Yet Julie ensured our treasured newsletter made it to our door steps every quarter for many years. She is retiring from her volunteer position and we all owe her a huge "Thank You."

Pat T-Jackson (DenverPatTJ@comcast.net or 303-377-8522) and Sue Dickinson (s_dickinson@qwestoffice.net) have volunteered to take over as newsletter delivery coordinators and we thank them. If you can spare an hour every three months to help deliver newsletters, please contact either of them directly. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with distributing newsletters to the businesses along Colfax, Colorado Blvd. and 12th Ave.

Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. is looking for a volunteer to take over the Crime Action Committee. Please contact cpnnotify@congressparkneighbors.org if you can help.

Carolyn Van Sciver is another outstanding volunteer who has produced our wonderful Historic Speaker series. She too is looking for some volunteers to help her. "The biggest thing I need is people to flyer their blocks the weekend before a talk. They pick up the flyers at my house and on their daily walk on Saturday or Sunday, put the flyers on the doors of their block."

Please contact cpnnotify@congressparkneighbors.org if you can help Carolyn continue to produce this outstanding program.



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- Eric Hoffer

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