



# News

Winter 2010

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## Congress Park Celebrates Neighbors, Ice Cream

Thanks to CPN volunteers and generous sponsors, the 16th annual Congress Park Neighbors Ice Cream Social was a great success. The event was held August 4 at the Congress Park pavilion. The Fire Department staff arrived with a ladder truck to the delight of the kids, who received free fire hats because of a generous (and anonymous) donation. Neighbors devoured over 300 ice cream cones. They renewed their Congress Park Neighbors memberships, volunteered to post signs for our monthly board meetings (always open to the public) and voiced concerns and compliments to CPN Board members.



Congress Park Neighbors again gratefully thanks long-time neighbor and realtor, Elizabeth Clayton, who is continuing her own annual tradition of helping to sponsor the social. Outstanding volunteer Jake Stauber tracked down the required permits and organized the annual event. Jake cheerfully secured coolers, ordered the fire hats for the kids, designed and printed postcards, and did much more, helping to make this the “go-to” event this summer. Mark August 3, 2010 for next year—see you there!



The Ice Cream Social would have been much more complicated and less delicious without the help of our neighborhood ice cream shop,

The Daily Scoop. The owners provided cones, napkins, scoops, and dry ice to keep the Vanilla, Chocolate and Congress Park Blend (Yum!) frozen custard “scoop-worthy.” Three outstanding volunteer scoopers served the ice cream: Marianne Evans, Ed Connolly and Kedrick Taylor-Connolly.



### *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.CongressPark  
Neighbors.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 call Wendy or Julie.

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

## Fraud Prevention

From the Office of Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey

### Minimize Your Exposure

One important way to prevent fraud and identity theft is to minimize all the “junk” coming in and going out of your life. Take a few minutes to remove your information from marketing lists by following these easy steps:

- Sign up for the Colorado No Call List for both your home and cell phones at [www.coloradonocall.com](http://www.coloradonocall.com) or 303-776-2678.
- Register with the National Do Not Call Registry at [www.ftc.gov/donotcall](http://www.ftc.gov/donotcall) or by calling 1-888-382-1222. Re-register every five years.
- Make direct requests for charities and companies with whom you do business to put you on their Do Not Call Lists.
- Take two steps to stop pre-approved credit card applications:

1. ‘Opt Out’ of credit reporting agencies’ credit card solicitations at: 1-888-567-8688 or [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com).

2. Call your current credit card(s) customer service number(s) (on the back of the card) to ‘Opt Out’ of all their marketing programs, including Convenience Checks.

- Request a free Preferred Service Provider Freeze by calling 1-800-922-1879 to prevent unauthorized changes to your phone service.

- Reduce e-mail and junk /mail through the Direct Marketing Association at [www.dmaconsumers.org](http://www.dmaconsumers.org) (\$1 fee).

Need help or have a question? Call the Denver District Attorney’s Fraud Line: 720-913-9196

## Your Congress Park Neighbors 2008 Board of Directors

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1475 Milwaukee St.; 303-355-3735  
[wendyrich@msn.com](mailto:wendyrich@msn.com)

And we thank these committed neighbors:

Michael Sutherland and Bill DeMaio—Denver Botanic Gardens Liaison

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

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.

## CP Neighbors Hear, React Quickly With Email Blasts

By Kathleen Hynes, CPN Board Member

How is it some neighbors seem to know what is going on and you don't? Did you know in one week CPN, Inc., was informing neighbors that:

- Tavern Hospitality Group (THG), the potential new owner of 2510 E. Colfax, the former Neighborhood Flix, seeks an All Dance Cabaret License with a total capacity of 790 for entertainment: concerts, shows, bar, and restaurant
- Larimer Associates seeks a liquor license for their proposed new restaurant and patio at 12th and Madison (the former dance studio, prior 7-11 store) and have plans for development of Capitol Heights pharmacy and Domino's Pizza buildings when those leases expire
- A proposed development of a sixteen-unit Assisted Living facility at 1452 Elizabeth Street

While the majority of Congress Park is designated an "area of stability" by Blue Print Denver (the City's guiding document for development), changes are happening very quickly in several quadrants of our neighborhood. In case you think, this is not happening on my block, so no worries, development projects seem to be accompanied by issues transcending their immediate location: parking and traffic concerns, noise, hours of operation, lighting, property values and density.

If you too want to be "in the know," please sign-up for the CPN Inc.'s email broadcast. It is green, it is quick, it is current and it is imperative because most often, there is very little lead-time for residents to learn about proposed developments and changes and possible consequences. That, in turn, leaves little time for neighbors to ask questions and respond. What's happening near you? Sign-up on line and find out. <http://www.congressparkneighbors.org/eblast.html>

### 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](mailto:cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org)



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## Open Houses 2009-2010

**Early Bird: Thursday, November 12, 8:30-10:00 am**

**Morning: Tuesday, January 12, 8:30-10:00 am**

**Evening: Wednesday, January 20, 6:30-8:00 pm**

**School Tours Every Thursday at 11:00 am**

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## Teller Thanks Denver Voters for New Technology Lab

By Michele Foust

At the beginning of the school year students returned to Teller to find a new Technology Lab on the third floor. The new Tech Lab includes 26 new Dell Computers, 3 Mimio interactive systems, 3 laptops and 3 projectors. All of this was accomplished thanks to the Denver voters.

In November 2008, Denver voters approved the sale of bonds, in the amount of \$454 million dollars, to fund improvements in every public school in the District. This was the largest bond issue ever sought by a Colorado School District, and was approved by a margin of 2 to 1.

The bond money will be received over a five-year span. It can be used for safety improvements, technology enhancements, existing school maintenance and expansions, and new school construction.

Funds issued to Teller will be used to make critical repairs and renovations throughout the entire school, improve computer technology, and replace the deteriorating playground with a new safer one (look for a future article on Teller's new Learning Landscape).

Teller will receive a total of \$75,000 for instructional technology. The money will be distributed in three installments. The first \$25,000 installment paid for the Tech Lab. The second installment is projected to be available in January 2010, and will fund additional computers in classrooms (every Teller classroom currently has 3-6 computers), document cameras, additional Mimio interactive systems, laptops and projectors.

Teller students and teachers are very excited about the new Tech Lab. Currently, every grade level has daily scheduled time in the lab. Students can utilize the Lab for research, publishing and project presentation. In addition, the Lab time is used to enhance basic computer skills, support math skills, and improve reading comprehension through use of the Accelerated Reader software program.

The Accelerated Reader (AR) software program came to Teller two years ago from the Carmel Hill Fund. The Fund is a private foundation, established by William Ruane in 1986 to support social services, mental health and education initiatives around the country.

In addition to the software, the Carmel Hill Fund provided Teller with an additional computer for each 1st-5th grade classroom, ongoing technical support and the commitment to give each classroom \$300 in books when they reach their learning goal.

AR is a tool that enables schools to monitor the quantity and quality of their students' reading practice. It also motivates students to read and better comprehend a greater quantity of books, all the while exposing children to new genres and styles of literature. Teller is using AR to help children become more excited about reading. Students can set their own reading goals and learn to read for enjoyment as a part of their everyday lives.

Teller's new Tech Lab is allowing more children to benefit from this amazing reading program. It is also helping children learn how to use new technology to enhance their learning and to make connections between their world and the exciting world that awaits them outside of Teller.

### 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!

Every time Mike closes a home sale from a Congress Park referral, he donates to Teller School. **Another way to support Teller— thanks, Mike!**

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## Historic Church Opens New Doors to All

**Thanks to all who volunteered to distribute newsletters.**

If you want to help, Contact Julie Lang 303-333-7489

**Conservation Specialties still caring for Congress Park homes**

Lou Cilento of Conservation Specialties is still taking care of older houses and the people who love them, and still offering a donation to Congress Park Neighbors for every job he does in the neighborhood.

Conservation Specialties does security doors, replacement windows, flat concrete work, garage doors, tuckpointing, tile, brickwork and more.

Wondering how much that next project will cost? Get a few estimates, then call Lou Cilento at 303-322-4130. He may be able to give you a better price, and, if you choose his services, Congress Park Neighbors will benefit by a donation.

By Monte Clarke

Three congregations that share the Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church building at 11th and Fillmore dedicated replicas of turn-of-the-century doors on Sunday, October 4. Thanks to a grant from the State Historical Fund, the new, neo-gothic doors welcome all to a church that houses the vibrant, ecumenical Capitol Heights Faith Communities.

Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church has called this beautiful building home since 1911; the building is listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. It has also been the church home of 10:30 Catholic Community for 38 years and Dignity Denver for 25 years.

The overarching principle that binds the three groups together is “Celebrating Diversity, Seeking Unity.” Each group encourages and supports the gifts and participation of its members in the life of the congregation, the community and the world with tremendous inclusivity and participation. The three groups worship four times a year in ecumenical services that are inspired by the traditions of each. They also work together on several common missions.

The Presbyterian congregation was originally organized as the York Street Presbyterian Church in 1896 and met in a tent on the corner of 13th Avenue and York Street. A permanent building was erected on the same site. By 1911, the membership had grown and made the decision to purchase three lots at the corner of 11th Avenue and Fillmore Street for a new church building.

The Woman’s Christian Missionary Society, founded in 1919, conducted presentations at CHPC on the massacre of Armenians by Turks, the plight of Native Americans and the suffering of China during the 1930’s. During the 1930’s CHPC raised considerable monies and provided many volunteers for the construction of the first Denver Presbyterian Hospital. Additionally, the congregation donated money for farm families in Eastern Colorado suffering from the Dust Bowl



and Great Depression. The 1940’s and 50’s were a period of high membership, which included many neighborhood families.

The 60’s marked a renewal in the emphasis on involvement in the community by CHPC, with work for civil rights. These commitments continued into the 1970’s and grew into work with “People Who Care” program, which supported minority job placement and work in economically underdeveloped areas of New Mexico and Colorado. In 1980, the church provided sanctuary for those fleeing persecution in Central America. The church became a “More Light” church in the 1990’s to welcome the full participation of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, and now shares its facility with Dignity Denver.

The church provides space for many community meetings and events. The three congregations support the AIDS Walk, Capitol Heights Urban Ministries, Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., Green Jobs Coalition, Metro CareRing, the MLK Parade, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, The Saturday Lunch Program, and an Ecumenical Women’s Retreat, among others.

The CHPC community wishes to thank the State Historical Fund; Nancy Stephenson, of Dignity Denver, who worked for several years on the grant proposal process; Laurie Niederhauser, with Custom & Historic Millwork, LTD.; Mike Albi, with Citywide Residential Electric Company, Inc.; Chip Gobrecht, with Wallalternatives Painting; Capitol Heights Shared Operations Board; and the church members who keep all this going.

## Looking East

By Jess Lindimore

Another year comes into swing at East High school, reminiscent thoughts of summer have subsided and school is officially in session. The freshmen are officially welcomed into the school and early cases of senioritis have already been confirmed. Yes, it's the beginning to a wonderful new year. The school year will be especially wonderful if you are one of the lucky students to be attending East High.

School hasn't even been in session for three months and there are already some pretty fantastic things going on at East. East has always been known for amazing athletics, but it is also known for a spectacular fine arts department. This year there has already been a wonderful production put on by the East High Choir known as "The Cabaret." This year, as usual, the extremely talented Choir students blew everyone away with their remarkable performance. The Choir department isn't the only one who can put on a jaw-dropping performance; the Drama department has an interesting fall show planned. This year's fall show is "Catch 22" and it is expected to do extremely well. From auditions to curtain call the Drama department does their best to put on the best show possible. If you have never been to an East High theatre production, you are truly missing out.

Although for many the fall can be exciting, for some this time of the year is nothing more than days on a calendar until the return of summer. These are the people who are not involved with anything at school and spend their afternoons watching TV instead of being a part of something. The key to happiness in high school is being involved.

Being involved in numerous school activities allows you to meet new people, and truly identify with your school. Feeling like you're a part of the school, whether it is in a Varsity sport or a club will truly make your high school years some of your best. Some of the clubs I have joined this year are: Amnesty International, Angels Against Abuse, Yearbook,

Key Club and East Theatre Company. All of them have been amazing. I just can't stress enough that involvement in school plays a really big role in over-all happiness.

Adjusting to being back at school can be difficult and sometimes even I find myself in a slump where I have no real interest in class work. Occasionally I do tend to let things slide in my school-work. Do not allow yourself to do this; dedication in classes is tough but necessary in order to succeed in just about anything in "real life." Except in real life you will not have stellar teachers like the ones at East to explain to you that lack of interest happens to everyone and no matter what you still have to continue to succeed. Otherwise you might find yourself ten years older and wishing that you had committed yourself to a better education.

I'm officially a sophomore at East High and loving every minute of it, I couldn't have dreamed of a better school for me, or anyone, for that matter. East has it all: amazing sports, terrific art program, and charismatic teachers. Although not everyone cares to agree with me, coming from a private school there were many parents who were skeptical of the academics of East. Obviously those people had no idea what they were talking about. East is full of vigorous classes and intelligent students. In fact, in 2000 Newsweek recognized East as "one of America's top one hundred public high schools" -as noted on the East High website. So next time someone is skeptical of East, have them check their facts. As always, I love being an East Angel.



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

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## Editorial: New Zoning to Change Your Street With or Without Your Input

By Kathleen Hynes, CPN Board Member

### New District 10 Rec Center at Colfax & York?

On Monday, October 26th, at the City Council Bond Implementation Committee, Parks and Recreation presented their recommendation, unanimously supported by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, for City Council to authorize the expenditure of \$6 million to purchase the former Church in the City site at Colfax and York for a future central Denver Recreation Center.

As a group of seven neighbors sat around a table discussing the proposed zoning changes for Congress Park, one person commented how scary it was that just a few of us could provide input in the process that might have such a big impact on our neighbors' property values. It is chilling, in part, because all too often neighbors do not make time to help formulate changes that will impact them and then are shocked to find they don't like what is recommended.

Neighborhoods comprise individuals with many divergent views and the legislative process seems to work better when a cross-section of these views are represented in city decision-making. However, democracy requires counting only the votes of those who show-up—those who make their preferences known.

The November 18 and 19 hearings are the last to voice your position on the proposed zoning changes for Congress Park. This is how it works: if you don't speak up, the decision-making on

how your block will be zoned will reflect the preferences of those who do speak up. Sign up to voice your opinion at the November 18 and 19 hearings (see next page for details).

While CPN, Inc., has focused its attention on the residential and business areas within our boundaries, our wonderful Congress Park could be significantly impacted by changes in the proposed zoning codes. At issue is what City official will have control over park regulations. The City's Community Planning Department has recommended that final decisions about our parks should be exclusively in the hands of the Manager of Parks and Recreation. Some folks advocate that City Council should be able to review these regulations as a check and balance method.

Tom Morris wrote about "Danger To Denver Parks In Proposed Zoning Code" in the Cherry Creek News (August 2009) focusing on the proposed changes to our Denver parks zoning code. You can read the article in its entirety on CPN's

website [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org). Mr. Morris raises thought-provoking issues that need considerations if the new zoning code removes City Council's oversight of the Manager of Parks and Recreation. If you live near Congress Park or if you are interested in Denver's extensive park system, it's a "must-read."



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## Zoning Code Update: Joint City Council and Planning Board Listening Sessions

By Councilwoman Jeanne Robb

Save the date for joint City Council and Planning Board Public Listening Sessions on the New Zoning Code for Denver on Wednesday, November 18 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm and Thursday, November 19 from 1-4 pm at the Wellington E. Webb Municipal Building, 201 W. Colfax Ave. Denver, CO 80201, Room 4.F.6. Arrive up to 30 minutes prior to the meeting for speaker sign-up and to review materials. Speakers will be called in sign-up order and will be limited to 3 minutes for questions or comments.

The proposed schedule includes the following target dates:

- Late October 2009: Publication of a semi-final draft, revised to reflect comments from the Round 3 public meetings and to correct typographical and format errors, will be posted online at [www.NewCodeDenver.org](http://www.NewCodeDenver.org).
- November 18 and 19, 2009: Day and evening listening sessions held jointly by City Council and Planning Board for public comment.
- December 22, 2009 - Publication of the final draft on [www.NewCodeDenver.org](http://www.NewCodeDenver.org) on or before this date.
- January 6, 2010 – Public Hearing held by Denver Planning board
- January 13, 2010 – City Council Blueprint Denver Committee consideration of final draft
- January 21, 2010 – Community, Planning and Development (CPD) files bill for an ordinance for the new code to be considered by City Council.
- January 25, 2010 – First reading of the bill by City Council
- February 22, 2010 – Final consideration of zoning code bill by City Council, following a formal public hearing. If the bill passes, it becomes an ordinance, or city law.

If at any step in this timeline, the Planning Board or the City Council decides the code is not ready to move forward, the dates could be pushed out to allow for more work and refinement.

Between the old zoning code and the new zoning code, there is a transition that requires fine print, so the resolution also provides details about the **4-month transition period following the new code's implementation**. The resolution states the new code and map shall be effective upon final publication of the ordinance adopting the new zoning code and map. However, during a 4-month transition period, persons may continue to apply for development review or zoning permits under the old code and map or, alternatively, may elect to apply for development review or zoning permits under the new code and map. This does not allow someone to submit an application for a zoning map amendment (re-zoning) under the new map and code. An application for a re-zoning pending before the effective date of the new code and map will be returned to the applicant (with no additional fee) to be submitted in compliance with the new Code.

### Your City Council Representatives

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## “Puff,” the Cold Weather Dragon

By Charlotte Bentley, Former Congress Park Crime Action Committee Chairperson

*“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*

**Congress Park Neighbors is looking for a volunteer to attend the District 3 monthly crime meetings and report to the CPN board the details of those meetings. If you are willing to help, please send us an email at [cpnnotify@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnnotify@congressparkneighbors.org)**

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

**B**-r-r-r, the mornings are getting cold. Climbing into a cold car sounds really uncomfortable, so we’re tempted to go out and start our car and let it warm up while we run back inside for that second cup of coffee. It might be a good idea to resist that temptation because it is against the law. In Denver this is known as “puffing.” Puffing is “an automobile left unattended and running in cold weather.” The term “Puffers” refers to the description of exhaust vapors coming out of the automobile tailpipe when the vehicle is running. The vapors can tell would-be thieves that the vehicle, most likely unattended, is ready for the taking.

Denver Police can issue “puffing” auto owners for leaving an unattended vehicle running, whether it is locked or unlocked. This behavior might provide your insurance company with grounds to refuse coverage for damages to your stolen vehicle.

Auto owners believe that if they lock their car door and leave the unattended car running, they are not at risk of having their car stolen. That’s an untrue assumption! A thief can break a window and drive off with the car in no time. If the auto owner has left their house keys on the ignition key ring, or their purse or personal belongings in the car, the thief now has those as well.

Auto theft continues to be one of the most frequently committed crimes in Congress Park. Police are making every effort to minimize the overwhelming number of motor vehicle thefts. Police say this time of year it’s easy pickings for even the most amateur auto thieves.

Officer Dan Mark says, “I realize it’s inconvenient to sit while your car is warming up or drive while your car is warming up, but it’s not as inconvenient as having your car stolen, I tell people it’s a lot colder when you’re standing outside your driveway or outside the 7-Eleven when you realize that your car’s gone.”

Remote starters or immobilizing kill switches can be installed in your car to thwart thieves. These prevent the auto from being driven without a key in the ignition. Other precautionary devices include audible alarms or tracking devices such as LoJack.

The Remote Start allows the owner to start an automatic transmission vehicle with a key fob, without going outside. It locks the car doors automatically. The owner must put the keys in the ignition to be able to put the vehicle in gear. On some cars the brake pedal acts as a kill switch, shutting off the engine. In other cars shifting gears shuts the car off. These devices cost approximately \$40 to \$400, depending on whether it’s combined with an alarm.

A kill switch is a hidden switch that has to be flipped on for the car to start. The switch can be set up to prevent the flow of electricity or fuel to the engine until it is activated. It can cost approximately \$10 to \$125.

A neighbor remarked, “I installed a remote start and I use it. When used, it locks the doors. You are unable to touch anything in the driver’s compartment or the system will shut the vehicle down and disables the vehicle until it is started with a key. While the police can still ticket me, I would fight it. If you need to leave your car running or warm it up, I recommend that you get one of these systems installed. Often they include an alarm system, and it’s not a bad idea to have one.”

All of these preventative measures are beneficial, but they are no guarantee that the owner won’t be ticketed for leaving their running car unattended. “Unattended” still is defined as unattended, even with extra measures.

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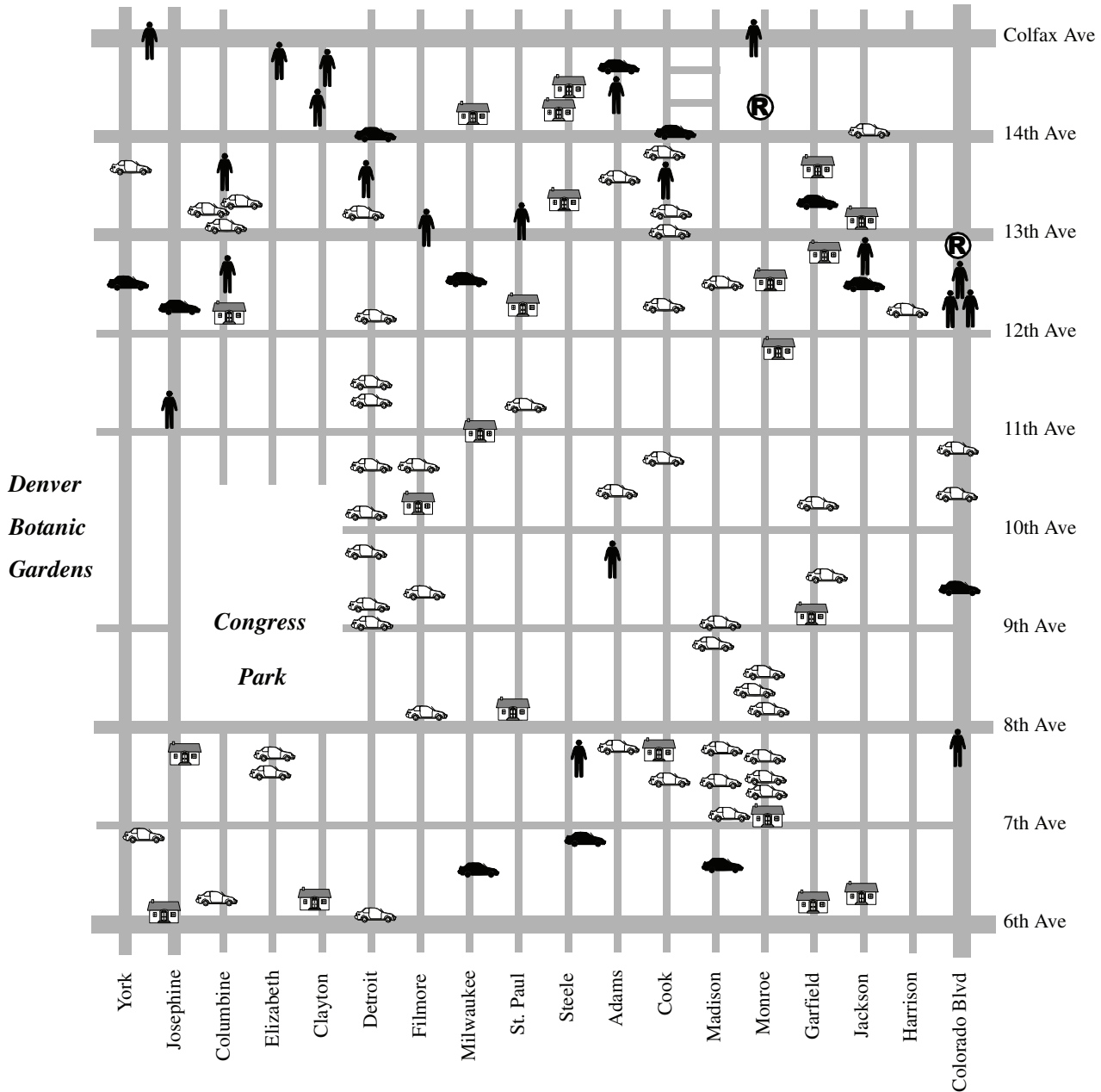
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# CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2009

*East High*



-  **Sexual Assault**
-  **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 third quarter of 2009. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics relayed through Council District 10.**

## Our Neighborhood Forest: Trees You've Got to See!

By Susan Bardwell

### *From Corner to Corner, European Mountain Ash Dot the Neighborhood*

*"The tree which moves  
some to tears of joy is in  
the eyes of others only a  
green thing that stands  
in the way."*

-William Blake  
1799

**Do you know of a notable tree "we've got to see" in the neighborhood – a big one, a beautiful one, or just a favorite one – that we could feature in the newsletter?**

Please contact  
Susan Bardwell at  
SusanBardwell@msn.com  
or 303-399-1155.

### **The Many Benefits of Urban Trees**

Studies Show that Trees...

- Beautify urban spaces
- Enhance property values, up to 10%!
- Attract businesses and shoppers and help revitalize local economies
- Build community by creating great public spaces, from our sidewalks to our parks to our city centers
- Improve our mental health and sense of well being
- Improve our physical health by attracting us outdoors
- Buffer noise
- Improve traffic safety
- Reduce air pollution
- Improve water quality and reduce runoff
- Provide shelter for birds and other wildlife
- Save energy by cooling our buildings, neighborhoods, and city

The birds sure know where they are. Do you? The showy orange red fruit of the European Mountain Ash is a favorite food for some birds and eye-candy for passersby. While not common in the neighborhood, *Sorbus aucuparia* is a popular ornamental tree throughout the country. It is decidedly happiest in cool climates, but otherwise isn't well suited to our sunny hot summers and dry, compacted alkaline soils. Poor growing conditions make the trees particularly susceptible to a battery of diseases and insects. Like so many of the exotic tree species planted in Denver, none-



One of few European Mountain Ash trees in Congress Park, 1000 block of Garfield St.

European Mountain Ash originated in Europe, northern Africa, eastern Asia, and Siberia. It isn't an ash at all, although its compound leaves somewhat resemble those of ashes. Rather it is in the rose family and closely related to apples and hawthorns. The "mountain" in its name celebrates the claim that it grows higher in the mountains of Scotland than any other tree. Giving it even more lofty credit, the Scots once planted the "Rowan" tree for protection from evil. Ironically, since its first cultivation in North America in the 1800s, the tree has naturalized in 27 northern states in the country and, according to the USDA Forest Service, it "has escaped ornamental plantings and is able to invade, integrate, and dominate plant communities." In fact, the tree is considered an invasive weed in Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Maine.

Taken by the features of the European Mountain Ash, but would like a plant with more local roots?



Our native Mountain Ash in flower (Mary Ellen Harte, Bugwood.org)

Consider planting Colorado's own Western Mountain Ash (*Sorbus scopulina*—"scopulina" meaning "growing in rocky places"). It is an uncommon, small multi-trunk tree or shrub found in the cool, moist and shady canyons of the montane zone. It has the same attractive shiny smooth brown bark, showy white flowers, lustrous green foliage (with good fall color some years), and spectacular orange-red fruit as its European relative. A shady location with well-draining soil near a downspout might suit it best.

In the meantime, take the root of its Latin name *aucupor* to heart and "go bird-catching" to see if you can find other European Mountain Ashes in fruit around the neighborhood...before the birds seek them out for winter food. If you are even more adventurous, pick a few for yourself to steep a warm cup of tea.



Our native Mountain Ash's fall color and fruit (Daniel Mosquin, ubcbotanicalgarden.org)

Thanks to Stephen Gale for suggesting the European Mountain Ash for this article.



## 2009 Historic Preservation Series to Include—Your Ideas!

By Carolyn VanSciver

The 2009 Historic Speakers series was a great success. Thanks to all who presented programs, and to all of you who attended the talks last spring and summer. Attendees at seminars found the monthly talks on the care and feeding of old houses useful and informative. So did the expert presenters. One said, “Old houses are my passion—if I can help with a few people restore theirs, these great buildings could still be homes for families in another hundred years.”

Plans are underway for the 2010 series. To that end, I would appreciate feedback from you about talks you have really liked and ideas for topics you would like to hear about next summer.

What do you need to know about? Mixing plaster without personal injury? Researching the history of your house? Heartache and hardwood floors? The psychology of 100-year-old plumbing? Demons in knob-and-tube wiring?

As usual, we will plan one evening of neighborhood renovation stories. If you know of a sensitive, well-done, award-winning—or just funny—renovation in the neighborhood, please let me know about it and how I can contact that homeowner. And if you have a great story to show and tell, don't be shy—tell me about your project! Or bribe your friends to tell me!

Please contact me with your suggestions, at 303-377-4913 or [cvansciver@earthlink.net](mailto:cvansciver@earthlink.net).

Thanks for making the 2009 series a great success. See you at the 2010 series.

Historic Preservation lectures are held at 7 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month in the series. National Jewish Hospital is once again graciously hosting the 2010 talks in Heitler Hall at 1400 Jackson Street, and offering free parking in the Jackson Street lot.

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

You're saved. The CPN, Inc. website now uses Paypal! Become a member the easy way. Visit [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) and join today!

## Fabulous New Fall Listings!!!!



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765 Humboldt \$789,000



1333 Lafayette \$419,000



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| 540 S. Forest     | 1111 Gaylord     | 837 17th Ave.     | 715 Adams         |
| 1414 Gaylord      | 3601 E. 7th Ave  | 1532 Madison      | 766 Downing       |
| 944 Ivanhoe       | 1726 Krameria    | 600 S. Washington | 1313 Steele       |
| 281 S. Washington | 1615 Ivanhoe     | 250 Magnolia      | 1135 Adams        |
| 853 S. Emerson    | 36 S. Emerson    | 1632 Gilpin       | 1234 Josephine    |
| 2928 Eudora       | 3333 E. Florida  | 4714 W. 35th      | 525 S. University |
| 800 Pearl         | 1033 S. Vine     | 2211 Lafayette    | 457 Clarkson      |

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## Milwaukee Street Neighbors Hold 2009 Block Party

By Sarah Benson

The 2nd Annual Milwaukee Street Block Party was held on Saturday, September 12, 2009. Cool temperatures and rain did not dampen the event as neighbors and former residents of the 1300 block of Milwaukee Street joined together for an afternoon and evening of fun, food and friendship. State Representative Beth McCann spoke to attendees at the event. The band Cymbalizm entertained during the afternoon. A neighbor on the block gave a pottery demonstration with hands-on activities. Denver Staff of Fire Station #15 stopped by with a ladder truck and a pumper truck. Carnival activities for the children included face painting, balloon toss and cupcake walk. Local businesses donated food and provided gift certificates for door prizes. The evening concluded with a wine tasting lesson and karaoke for adults. The Block Party was another example of why living in the Congress Park Neighborhood is special.



## Wells Fargo Awards Alley Clean Up Grant to CPN, Inc.

Thanks to Jacqueline Kimble, CPN volunteer, Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., received a grant from Wells Fargo Community Assistance Fund for CPN's Annual Alley Clean-Up program. Jacqueline developed the Alley Clean-Up idea with the goal of beautifying alleys and meeting neighbors and all of us in Congress Park continue to benefit from her dedication and hard work. A big thanks to Jacqueline for submitting the grant and to Wells Fargo for recognizing the benefits of Congress Park's Alley Clean-Up event. Visit [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) to see pictures and to sign-up your alley for next year's fun and rewarding event.



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<p>Lawn Care</p>	<p>Repairs/Remodeling</p>	<p>Worship</p>
<p><b>Marc's Mowing &amp; Home Improvement</b> Your neighborhood handyman who will also take care of your yard! CALL US—WE CAN HELP! 303-320-6861 marc@marcsmowing.com</p>	<p><b>720-351-3871</b> Will renovate your basement and bathroom, modify an antique armoire and fix that sticky door in the garage. Congress Park references. Call Joe for a free estimate.</p>	<p><b>10:30 Catholic Community</b> 1100 Fillmore; 303-333-9366 Lay-led Vatican II Catholics. Sunday Mass 11:00 am, 12/6: Ecumenical Advent Service, 11:00 am 12/24: Children's Mass, 5:00 pm; Evening Mass, 7:00 pm</p>
<p>Housecleaning</p>	<p>Service Club Meeting</p>	<p>Worship</p>
<p>Offered in the Congress Park neighborhood. 7 days a week. Call for your free estimate. 303-329-8205. Ask for Bob.</p>	<p><b>Zonta Club of Denver</b> 303-355-3735 85 years working to improve the condition of women and children. Monthly dinner, program &amp; meeting on 2nd Thursday, \$35.</p>	<p><b>Dignity Denver</b> 1100 Fillmore; 303-322-8485 Catholic Mass Sundays @ 5:00 pm Lesbian, gay, bisexual &amp; transgender Catholics, families and friends. All are welcome.</p>

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“The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Congress Park Neighbors Membership Form

Your neighborhood needs you! Join your neighbors today.

Name:

e-mail:  
 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

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- Graffiti abatement
- Crime prevention
- Traffic/Parking
- Zoning
- Other

Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. is a non-profit organization with an elected, volunteer Board of Directors. Your tax-deductible annual dues support the newsletter, website ([www.CongressParkNeighbors.org](http://www.CongressParkNeighbors.org)), mailings and fliers about hot issues, events like the ice cream social and ongoing activities to benefit the neighborhood.