



# News

Winter 2009

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## What Were You Doing Thursday Night?

By Congress Park Neighbors Board Member Kathleen Hynes

**T**hursday? I was finishing four full days of learning and writing about Denver's Excise and Licensing processes and procedures. No, it's not a course in city government. I'm a neighborhood activist and we're becoming scarce.

There need to be more of us. A friend and fellow activist likened neighborhood activists to Shakers, the religious sect which is dying out with few new members to replace them. Although the lack of young Shakers may be tied to their belief in abstinence, I suspect our paucity of neighborhood "shakers" is due to apathy.

Then again, who wants to bang their head against City Hall, over and over, only to learn the system masterfully points fingers at every other city agency, and neighborhoods are left to fend for themselves?

After a while one feels a bit like Alice in Wonderland, sorting out what is real from

what is spin, politics or posturing, trying to discover what is negotiable and what is a deal breaker.

But we need new "shakers," because apathy is the drug that allows our city agencies to get lazy.

Apathy says, "There's nothing we can do," and lazy agencies continue inconsistent and unfair behaviors unchecked. Apathy says "it takes too much time," and lazy agencies become less accountable. Apathy says, "it (whatever it is) is not affecting me," and lo and behold you have given up innumerable opportunities to make your neighborhood better.

I'll bet all my volunteer salary on the following statement: Recently or soon, on a block near you, you have benefited or will benefit from the efforts of a "shaker" who has learned a bit more about how the city works, the impact of politics, or how to find information relevant to an issue important to you.

The best way to find an activist is to become a "shaker" and get involved in your neighborhood. The best time to start is now, because we are a dying breed.

Interested in helping this species thrive? Contact me or any CPN Board member (see page 2) to hear how your neighbors need your help.

**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.*

Annual CPN, Inc., MEMBERS meeting	Annual Congress Park NEIGHBORS meeting
Heitler Hall National Jewish Hospital (Colfax & Colorado)	Teller Elementary School (12th and Garfield)
Jan. 14, 2009 7 - 8 p.m.	Jan. 21, 2009 6 - 8 p.m.

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 call Wendy or Julie.

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

## Running on Air?

Shoes hanging from overhead lines may look amusingly post-modern, but there is also some evidence that this is being used as a marker for a location to purchase drugs. This annoyance continues all over the City.

Please call in your shoe sightings to 3-1-1. It will help establish some consistency on how this is handled and document the number of sightings. 3-1-1 now has contact information for Qwest, Comcast and Xcel Energy.

If you report items hanging from overhead lines, please provide as much location information as possible, so the problem can be remedied quickly.

Annual CPN, Inc.,  
MEMBERS meeting

Heitler Hall  
National Jewish Hospital  
(Colfax & Colorado)

January 14, 2009  
7 - 8 p.m.

Annual Congress Park  
NEIGHBORS meeting

Teller Elementary School  
(12th and Garfield)

January 21, 2009  
6 - 8 p.m.

## Neighborhood Watch Works!

By Joe Ely, CPN Crime Action Committee

Are you on an active Neighborhood Watch block? For the last two years crime has been 26 percent lower on these blocks than in Congress Park as a whole. That's a good reason to activate Neighborhood Watch on your block.

If you want more information about how to add your block to the list of Congress Park blocks with active Neighborhood Watch programs, contact me at [joe.ely@congress-parkneighbors.org](mailto:joe.ely@congress-parkneighbors.org).

## Your Congress Park Neighbors 2008 Board of Directors

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[wendyrich@msn.com](mailto:wendyrich@msn.com)

And we thank these committed neighbors:

Nancy Nelson 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.

### Annual CPN Members Meeting

### Annual CPN Neighbors Meeting

By Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., Board of Directors

It's time once again to celebrate our neighborhood with the annual meetings. These meetings give us all a chance to touch base with the volunteer neighborhood Board, and each other, and discuss what's important and what needs to be worked on in the coming year. If you aren't already a member, please consider joining. Find out why at the meetings.

**Who: Members of Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.**

**What:** Annual CPN, Inc., Members' meeting

**When:** 7 - 8 p.m., January 14, 2009

**Where:** Heitler Hall, National Jewish Hospital (Colfax & Colorado)

**Why:** Members will discuss the activities of the Board and the organization, note concerns for the organization to address and provide input for future projects.

**Who: All Congress Park Residents**

**What:** Annual Neighbors Meeting

**When:** 6 - 8 p.m., January 21, 2009

**Where:** Teller Elem.School Auditorium (12th and Garfield)

**Why:** Devour pizza and slurp pop with your neighbors; hear from the Denver Police Department District 3 leadership, and the City Council on crime prevention and city happenings, get zoning news (first code update in 50 years); hear brief reports from the CPN, Inc., Board, and more.

### CPN Annual Meetings Need You

The best part about the annual 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.



**Thanks for your business and referrals and your on-going support of the Children's Miracle Network**

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### DBG 2009 Calendar

Denver Botanic Gardens' 2009 calendar is hot off the presses. Get your copy at the Tattered Cover. You could order it online, too, but who has the patience to wait for the mail?

## Teller Makes Music

By Linda Smoke

Another well-kept secret of Teller Elementary School is its instrumental music program. Begun seven years ago by music teacher Nico Baker, it started with a handful of students and some instruments found in a closet at Teller. Since then the program has expanded to over 50 students in beginning and intermediate bands.

Students perform two concerts at school and will be featured at the spring Tellerpalooza fund-raiser for the fourth year in a row.

Mrs. Baker works hard to reach all interested students. Students use Teller's instruments free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Musicians pay a small elective fee and buy their own books and incidentals such as valve oil, cork grease and reeds.

Thanks to Mrs. Baker's efforts, the program has been very successful. Some students stay in the program for three years and then go on to play in middle school bands. Since its inception, six Teller band students have been accepted into the instrumental music program at Denver School of the Arts.

Since its inception, six Teller band students have been accepted into the instrumental music program at Denver School of the Arts.

### Old Tuba Gathering Dust?

Teller would gladly accept donations of no-longer-used instruments or cash to help defray the costs of instrument repair. TO donate, call Teller at 303-333-4285.

### You can tutor

Teller School needs volunteer tutors in the after school study hall Tuesdays or Thursdays, 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Call Christine Coleman, 303-333-4285.

New principal Jennifer Barton and retiring principal Karti Lyons share a laugh at Teller.



## Teller Greet's New Principal

By Michelle Foust

After 10 years at Teller's helm, principal Karti Lyons is retiring in December. She contributed enormously to Teller's success story. Her tireless efforts have brought a school that was just a decimal point away from being designated "low performing," to its current CSAP high ranking status and designation as one of DPS's "top performing schools."

A dedicated committee of parents and teachers interviewed and hired a new principal. Their choice, Jennifer Barton, has been working with Lyons over the past nine months to make the transition seamless. Barton takes over in December.

Barton comes to Teller with long experience as an educator and as a school leader. She has a BS in journalism and a Masters in Education with emphasis in Administration and has been with DPS over 12 years.

Over the transition period, Lyons and Barton have worked closely together to ensure Teller's excellence continues. Barton is committed to making sure Teller never loses its focus on engaging each individual child.

"As an educator and Administrator, it is my goal to ensure a learning environment that fosters the academic and social growth of the whole child," Barton said. "I want children to be excited about school, to enjoy their relationships with peers and staff, and to experience a thrill of learning that they will carry with them the rest of their lives."

With heavy hearts the Teller community says goodbye to Ms. Lyons. We can't thank her enough for all she has done over these last ten years. She will be greatly missed.

Teller parents and students are excited about continuing and improving upon the academic excellence we have achieved and looking forward to the exciting directions in which Ms. Barton will lead us. We welcome her to our neighborhood elementary school.

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## Teller A New DPS HGT Magnet Site

By Michelle Foust

At the end of last school year Teller Elementary was approached by Denver Public Schools (DPS) about becoming a Highly Gifted and Talented (HGT) magnet site. Teller’s staff and parents decided to accept and Teller is now the eighth HGT magnet site in all of DPS.



The HGT program was developed in 1985 for students in grades one through eight who have demonstrated the extraordinary academic achievement or abilities and intellectual potential found in the top one percent of the national student population. The full-day program at magnet sites is designed for students who need the support and challenge provided by specifically trained teachers.

Students, nominated by parents or teachers, are selected for HGT based on testing, achievement, teacher recommendations, identifiable characteristics and extraordinary abilities and accomplishments. (For more information about HGT, contact the DPS GT Department at 720-423-8272.)

Teller’s principal and teachers have undergone extensive training in HG education. They will undergo continued professional development on differentiated learning for all ability levels. The school’s goal is to create intentional and effective learning environments for all students. Every child at Teller benefits from this highly differentiated curriculum, instruction and assessment.

In order to incorporate highly gifted students into an already academically successful and diverse school, the school and community chose to implement an “integrated” model. HG children are clustered in groups of six to eight and then integrated in mixed-ability classrooms. Only two out of eight of the HGT magnets in DPS use this model.

Teller chose the integrated model because every child benefits both academically and socially by interacting with children with different talents, much like real life.

Teller is excited about being honored with this designation and thrilled for the opportunity to individualize instruction for every student.

The Teller community also benefits from this opportunity. Our neighborhood elementary school is highly thought of. Fifty percent of the Teller student population now “choices in” from other neighborhoods. It is now a high ranking CSAP school with over 350 students attending this academic school year. This year, there were waiting lists to get in for almost every single grade.

### Teller Welcomes Visitors

If you are interested in Teller Elementary, come check it out:

- Open Houses:**  
 -Tues., Nov. 18, 6:30-8 p.m.  
 -Tues., Jan. 13, 8:30-10 a.m.  
 -Weds., Jan. 21, 6:30-8 p.m.  
**School Tours:**  
 Every Thursday at 11 a.m.

For more information call Teller at 303-333-4285.

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



“The best compliment I can receive are referrals you pass my way”

*Thank you!*

**Mike Finesilver**  
 The “Real Estate Doctor”  
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### Historic Preservation Speakers Series whens and wheres

The Historic Preservation lectures are held at 7 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month, from May through October. They will start again in May 2009.

National Jewish Hospital graciously hosted the 2008 talks in Heitler Hall at 1400 Jackson Street, and offered free parking in the Jackson Street lot.

### CPN Website Adds Good Service Listings

By Allen Swartzberg

The Congress Park Neighbors website has yet another reason for you to drop in—a listing of service people tested by your neighbors. O Joy! Contractors who have worked on old houses near you. Stalwarts unfazed by floating bricks and aluminum wiring. Yeomen who will laugh at the poltergeists of plumbing. Zen masters who can levitate frozen window weights.

Your path to Old House Nirvana begins at [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) > your blog > My Old House. There are instructions on the cover page. Create a user name and provide an email address, then wait patiently for the mailman to bring you a password. After you have served that penance, you may log in and then, you are in!

Share your positive experiences with your neighbors about plumbers, electricians and other tradespeople. And thank CPN webmaster Maggie for this excellent feature!

### 2009 Historic Preservation series needs your ideas

By Carolyn Van Sciver

The ninth season of Congress Park Neighbors Historic Preservation Speakers series concluded in October with the popular presentation on researching your house's history at the Western History room in Denver Public Library's Central Branch.

Participants in the 2008 Speakers Series found the monthly talks on the care and feeding of old houses useful and informative. So did the experts who gave the talks. One said, "Old houses are my passion—if I can help a few people restore theirs, these great buildings could still be homes for families in another hundred years."

The sessions in the Series' ninth year were also supportive and cathartic. Old-house owners need to know they're not alone as they lament the agony suffered by abused oak floors, resignedly paint a 9th (or 19th) coat of moisture-blocking paint on the strange stain on one interior basement wall, or when they celebrate the sweet victory of mixing the

perfect consistency of tuck-pointing mortar.

What do you need to learn to improve your relationship with your old house? Tell the members of the Congress Park Historic Preservation Committee, so they can present the experts you need during the next series.

Contact me at 303-377-4913 or [cvansciver@earthlink.net](mailto:cvansciver@earthlink.net).

## Finally! It's OK to be a Nosy Neighbor!

*We have a new program! It's called Market Snapshot.*

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3. Enter your information. Hit send.

You'll receive a Market Snapshot.

*Questions? Contact Margaret or Charles,  
Your Congress Park Experts!*



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

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[charles@kentwoodcity.com](mailto:charles@kentwoodcity.com)



[www.CongressParkSpecialist.com](http://www.CongressParkSpecialist.com)

## The View From East

By Jess Lindimore

School is officially in for the East High Angels! I love my school; East is truly a wonderful experience.

During the summer I attended the 9th Grade Academy and I strongly encourage future freshman to attend. The academy helped me get a feel for the school, the teachers, the expectations and I even made some friends, which made the first day a lot easier. Maybe I should backtrack a bit though.

It was August 12, the final day of volleyball tryouts. I was so nervous, and my stomach felt like some kind of Russian gymnast in a pretzel position. I thought the suspense would kill me. Finally, I was called up to hear if I had made it past cuts. My knees felt like they would buckle and my hands were shaking.

Two minutes later, I had my answer. I hadn't made the team. I'd been cut and to be honest, I didn't take it well. I felt like high school was starting in the wrong direction. Volleyball was something I loved and now I couldn't play.

For about three days I was miserable, then while browsing the East High website I found "Cross Country," hmm. I'd heard about it at 9th Grade Academy and it seemed like something that could be fun. I still really wanted to be involved in a sport, so on the first day of school I decided to go to practice.

Maybe being cut from volleyball is one of the best things that ever happened to me. On that first day in cross-country I fell in love with the sport. Granted, I was not, nor will I ever be the best runner, but I loved it.

One coach, Ms. Koshio (who also happens to be my counselor) helped me improve my running, gave me valuable advice and really inspired me. I met a bunch of really amazing people on my cross country team and I do not think I could be happier doing anything else.

If you're worried about trying out for something, don't be. I would never have learned how much I love cross-country if I hadn't been cut from volleyball.

On another subject, adjusting to high school academically is quite a change. For example some teachers don't remind you to hand in an assignment—they expect you to remember to put it in their box on the day it's due. Most teachers at East will not accept late work. Although this may seem harsh, it really makes you keep up on your assignments.

As a high school principal, my mother's advice for this article is to remember that all four years of high school count towards acceptance to college. Freshman and sophomore years are usually the most crucial academically, as they set the foundation for your high school career. Starting out with full class loads and keeping your grades as high as possible will allow you to take college prep and AP classes later. She says you definitely want to avoid being a junior or senior with freshman credits, or not graduating on time. This can happen if you mess around for your first two years.

East High School is so far a wonderful experience and I couldn't be happier at any other school. Look for my next article to see what else is going on at our neighborhood's fabulous East High.



**New Year, New School**  
Jess Lindimore is in her freshman year at East High this fall and offering a Congress Park highschooler's perspective to the Congress Park News.

FINE ART OF YOUR LOVED ONES

*Petrains*

by Maggie Malm

303-388-7821

## City Council at Work

By District 10 City Councilwoman Jeanne Robb

### Your City Council Representatives

Jeanne Robb  
District 10 City Councilwoman  
303-377-1807  
1232 E. Colfax  
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Doug Linkhart, Councilman At-Large  
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Email: [LinkhartatLarge@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:LinkhartatLarge@ci.denver.co.us)

Carol Boigon, Councilwoman At-Large  
720-865-8100  
e-mail: [carol.boigon@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:carol.boigon@ci.denver.co.us)

**Living Streets Initiative**  
This effort aims to bring pedestrian life back to the streets. The initiative's primary goals are to:

- Improve access for all ages and abilities
- Improve the built environment
- Enhance carrying capacity of our corridors
- Encourage better use of land near transit
- Increase the return on investment in infrastructure improvements
- Incorporate sustainable, best management practices in our investments

The emerging Living Streets Initiative brings together eight city departments/agencies to unify the City's efforts to redevelop our corridors in support of the Blueprint Denver vision. The eight agencies are: Community Planning & Development, Public Works, Environmental Health, Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, Greenprint Denver, Budget & Mgmt Office, and Community Relations.

Visit the Living Streets Initiative on the city's website, [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org)

### Main Street Zoning Changes

Three years ago Council created the Main Street zone district and applied it to East Colfax Avenue. One of the intentions of Main Street zoning was to create a friendlier and more welcoming environment for pedestrians. Council has recently considered two language amendments to improve on those zoning efforts.

**Language Amendment 1180:** This amendment will improve window transparency so that street pedestrians can view into businesses along the Colfax corridor and the public realm is more activated.

**Language Amendment 1174:** This amendment requires owners of certain parking lots to plant and maintain street trees in accordance with rules and regulations of the City Forester.



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Annual CPN, Inc., MEMBERS meeting

Heitler Hall National Jewish Hospital (Colfax & Colorado)

Jan. 14, 2009 7 - 8 p.m.

## New Old House Group

By Ann Charles

Denver's legion of old house lovers is growing. That is, lovers of old houses, not...well, you know what I mean. Denver's Old House Society, begun by Elizabeth Wheeler has already begun advocacy and education about and for old houses with historic tours, a website and quarterly educational workshops.

The group has a representative or two from each old house neighborhood and includes architects, other professionals, and interested neighbors.

The quarterly Saturday morning workshops run from 9 a.m. to noon and usually feature three old-house experts. Locations will rotate around the city, and sometimes include a tour.

The mid-November workshop will be in the Whittier neighborhood and include presentations by The Color People and an expert in restoring hardwood floors.

Keep an eye out for more on Denver's Old House Society.

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Annual Congress Park NEIGHBORS meeting

Teller Elementary School (12th and Garfield)

Jan. 21, 2009  
6 - 8 p.m.

## Turn Leaves to Gardening Gold

By Denver Recycles

One more leaf-raking session in your future? You still have time to take those bagged leaves to a LeafDrop site for composting. Then, reclaim them next spring in the form of rich compost at the Treecycle Mulch Giveaway and LEAFDROP Compost Sale. For more information call 720-865-6810 or visit <http://www.denvergov.org/re-coth/LeafDrop/tabid/425975/Default.aspx>

Drop-off locations (until December 5)  
Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (closed Holidays)

Havana Nursery  
10450 Smith Road  
just south of I-70 and Havana St.

Denver Solid Waste Transfer Station  
7301 E. Jewell Ave.  
Quebec St. & S. Cherry Creek Drive

**CPN Events On Web**  
CPN's marvelous webmaster Maggie has once again outdone herself. [www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) now has an events calendar. Go to the home page and look for the icon on the left side. 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).

How is the Congress Park market doing in today's economy? Go to...  
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## Who Pays for the Dog Bite?

By Charlotte Bentley, former Congress Park Crime Action Chair

*"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*

The Congress Park Neighbors Crime Action Committee needs you. For more info, e-mail Congress Park Neighbors Crime Action Coordinator Joe Ely at Joe.Ely@congressParkNeighbors.com

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 have 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 for dog bites. Some

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.

breeds have been "blacklisted" by the industry because they cause the greatest number of dog bites and lawsuits.

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 dogs' 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.

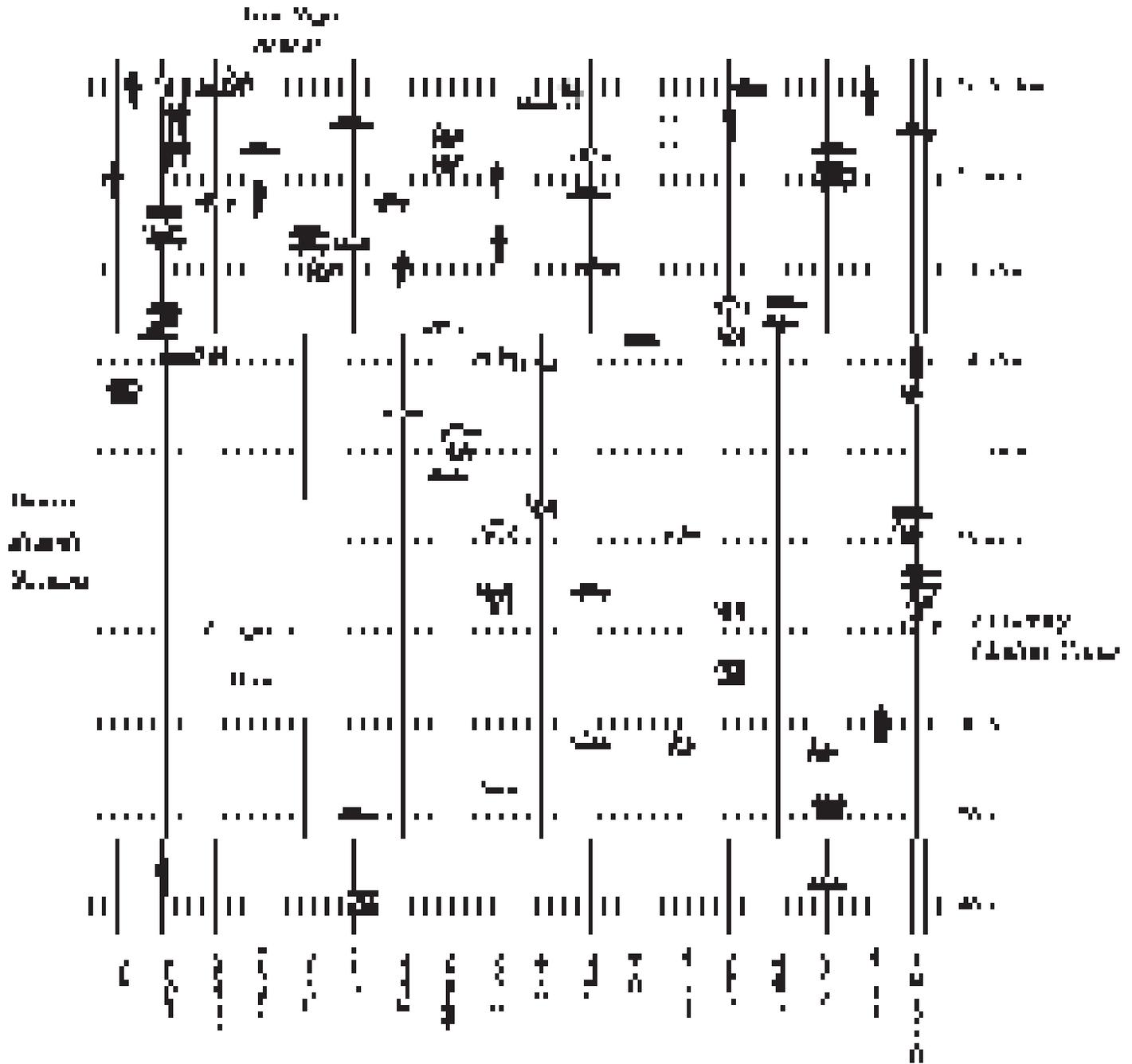
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National Jewish Hospital (Colfax & Colorado)	January 21, 2009 6 - 8 p.m.
January 14, 2009 7 - 8 p.m.	

# CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2008



-  Homicide
-  Assault/robbery
-  Rape
-  Auto Theft
-  Theft from auto

This map shows a compilation of all serious crimes reported to police within Congress Park each year. 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

### 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.

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Annual  
CPN, Inc.,  
MEMBERS  
meeting

Heitler Hall  
National Jewish  
Hospital  
(Colfax &  
Colorado)

Jan. 14, 2009  
7 - 8 p.m.

By Nancy Ash-Shofner

*Ulmus americana*, commonly known as the American Elm, is a species native to North America. Common in the eastern half of the U.S., the elm's native range probably extends as far west as Kansas and Nebraska, and possibly to the base of the Rockies. It is a hardy tree that can easily survive Colorado's sub-zero winters and live for hundreds of years.

Even so, Saco DeBoer, one of historic Denver's premier landscape architects preferred to experiment with a variety of other trees like hickory, oak, linden and spruce, as he planned and planted Denver's urban forests over 75 years ago. He also thought planting too many of the same kind of tree would leave Denver's canopy vulnerable to disease. Mayor Speer disagreed and prevailed, and thousands of elms were planted in Denver between 1910 and 1930. Years later, we have witnessed the wisdom of DeBoer's opinion as many of our city's elm trees have been lost to Dutch elm disease.

Fortunately for us, however, some of the elms DeBoer was coerced into planting still grace Denver's streets. A favorite example of this species lives in the heart of Congress Park at 1020 Garfield Street. Approximately 90 years old, it may have been planted as a street tree when the house was built in 1922.

We know for sure that since 1956 this particular

elm tree has been cared for by Fran and Merrill Adams, almost as a member of the family, complete with an endearing nickname, "The Monarch."

When the Adams moved into their Congress Park bungalow, the tree's scraggly limbs sprawled low across the sidewalk, but since they came, the Monarch has received regular trimming, spraying, and inoculations every 2-3 years. Other elms on the block have come and gone, but this elm tree has endured and thrived – to approximately 75 feet tall, with a trunk circumference over 14 feet. Clearly, the years of attentive care have created a healthy masterpiece of an elm.

Recently, when the front sidewalk finally buckled after 35 years of continued growth of sturdy roots, the Adamases were on the job to even things out for the neighborhood children on bikes and scooters. As usual, they were looking out for the Monarch too. The cement

contractor suggested cutting out the bulging root, but Fran and Merrill suggested a nice smooth slope gently draped over the tree's strong foothold. Merrill thinks the new sidewalk will provide smooth sailing for the kids on wheels – and here's to many more years of smooth sailing for the Adamases and their Monarch.



## Open Studio Art Walk, Anyone?

By Martin Lambuth

Would Congress Park artists and neighbors be interested in organizing a neighborhood Open Studio Art Walk?

An Open Studio provides an opportunity to explore the world of art that exists in your own neighborhood, as well as a chance for area artists to exhibit their work. Open Studios blend art, education and community. Open Studios are well-established events in several localities, but would be new for the Congress Park neighborhood.

An Open Studio is generally an annual event, free and open to the public, taking place over one or two weekends. During the Open Studio, artists will open their private studios for an afternoon.

This kind of event allows you to:

- Meet the area's artists in relaxed settings
- View art that is not exhibited elsewhere
- Purchase pieces for yourself and for gifts

An Open Studio usually begins with a preview exhibit. Attendees would see one piece of each artist's work and decide which artists they would most like to visit. The art walk itself is generally self-guided. Participants set their own schedules using a map marked with studio locations.

Painters, sculptors, jewelers, woodworkers, fiber artists, and more will welcome participants to their unique working spaces to see finished pieces, works in progress and demonstrations.

Does a Congress Park Open Studio sound interesting to you? If you are

- a Congress Park artist and would like to participate, or
- a natural-born organizer and want to develop a Congress Park Open Studio, or
- brimming with talents for any part of this idea, for example, its advertisement, flyer, map or resource directory, please convey your interest to me at 303-355-1954.

## Vallier Shows Us Denver

By Wendy Moraskie

Myron Vallier is just the right person to give us a view of Denver over the past 150 years, and he does so charmingly in *Historic Photos of Denver*, recently published by Turner Publishing. The book is a wonderful reminder of why it's important to honor and preserve our historic buildings—so many depicted in this book are no longer with us.

Vallier, as a visual materials librarian for Denver Public Library's Western History Department, has the inside track, and we benefit from it in this collection of photos.

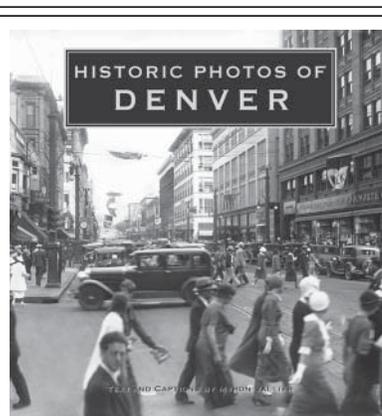
He shows Denver as it was, including, for a reality check, some not-so-nice scenes. Crowds and a victim are depicted from the 1920 Tramway Strike, a 1929 Ku Klux Klan parade makes one cringe, and Larimer Square is shown before its makeover, when it was mostly flophouses.

The book also includes photos of brave men going off to fight in wars, well-dressed people in beautiful landscapes and quaint (as they seem now) amusement parks. It's laid out chronologically, so I like to flip from back to front and bring back all the grand old buildings. Thank you, Myron Vallier.

Annual  
Congress Park  
NEIGHBORS  
meeting

Teller  
Elementary  
School  
(12th and Gar-  
field)

Jan. 21, 2009  
6 - 8 p.m.



Available Now

Historic Photos  
of  
Denver

by  
Myron Vallier

Pick up your copy at your local retailers or direct from the publisher



[www.turnerpublishing.com](http://www.turnerpublishing.com)

## Neighborhood Directory

*Visit these advertisers, and tell them you're glad you found them here.*

*For advertising rates, call 303-355-3735*

**Construction, Remodeling**

**Frambach Construction**  
From Framing to Paint; from Eaves to Decks, we do it all. Call 720-252-1144 for a free estimate. Congress Park referrals available.

**Lawn Care**

**Marc's Mowing & Home Improvement**  
Your neighborhood handyman who will also take care of your yard! CALL US—WE CAN HELP! 303-320-6861 marc@marcsmowing.com

**Worship**

**Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church**  
1100 Fillmore; 303-333-9366  
Alternative faith community in Congress Park. Sundays: 9:30am worship service, 11:00am education hour.

**Hair Salon**

**The Cutting Edge**  
1160 Madison; Open 7 days. 303-322-1633  
Congress Park's only full-service salon. Offering complete hair, nail and skin care, waxing and massage. Major credit cards accepted.

**Plumbing/Heating**

**Vail Plumbing & Heating**  
303-329-6042  
Older home specialist, service, repair, remodeling. Evaporative cooling. Licensed, insured, V/MC

**Worship**

**10:30 Catholic Community**  
1100 Fillmore; 303-333-9366  
Lay-led Vatican II Catholics. Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m., Children's Rel Ed 10:30 a.m.

**Housecleaning**

Offered in the Congress Park neighborhood. 7 days a week. Call for your free estimate. 303-329-8205. Ask for Bob.

**Repairs/Remodeling**

**720-351-3871**  
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.

**Worship**

**Dignity Denver**  
1100 Fillmore; 303-322-8485  
Catholic Mass  
Sundays @ 5 p.m.  
Lesbian, gay, bisexual & trans-gender Catholics, families and friends. All are welcome.

**Advertise Here**

**Service Club Meeting**

Are you reading this?  
So are your customers...  
Great exposure, low cost. Call 303-355-3735 for rates.

**Zonta Club of Denver**  
303-355-3735  
85 years working to improve the condition of women and children. Monthly dinner, program & meeting on 2nd Thursday, \$35.



**Twin Pines Window and Gutter Cleaning**  
Serving Denver's Great Homes since 1984  
Pleasant service  
Call for your free estimate  
(303) 328-8208

**Shop at your Congress Park businesses.**

**November**

- 2 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 4 Election Day: THANKS FOR VOTING!
- 10-14 Large Item Pickup week; 720/865-6900
- 13 Zonta Club of Denver meeting; 303/355-3735
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 15 America Recycles Day
- 19 CPN Board meeting; Nat'l Jewish, 7 p.m.
- 27 Thanksgiving

**December**

*Visit the Zoo and Botanic Gardens light shows!*

- 11 Zonta Club of Denver meeting; 303/355-3735
- 14-20 Human Rights Week
- 15-19 Large Item Pick-up Week; 720/865-6900
- 17 CPN Board meeting; Nat'l Jewish, 7 p.m.
- 21 Winter Solstice
- 22 Hanukkah
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Kwanzaa
- 31 New Year's Eve; Downtown Fireworks

**January 2009**

- 1 New Year's Day
- 1-11 Christmas Tree Pick-up
- 6 National Clean Off Your Desk Day
- 8 Zonta Club of Denver meeting; 303-355-3735
- 14 CPN, Inc. Annual MEMBERS meeting; Nat'l Jewish, 7 p.m.
- 19 Martin Luther King Day
- 19-23 Large Item Pick-up Week; 720/865-6900
- 20 Inauguration Day
- 21 Congress Park Annual NEIGHBORS meeting; Teller School, 6 p.m.

**February**

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 7-14 National Crime Prevention Week
- 8 Boy Scout Day
- 11 Zonta Club of Denver meeting; 303-355-3735
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 St. Valentine's Day
- 16 Presidents' Day
- 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 17 CPN Board Mtg; Nat'l Jewish, 7 p.m.
- 22 Washington's Birthday
- 23-27 Large Item Pick-up Week; 720/865-6900

**Around the Neighborhood**

*Call the editor with your important dates. 303-355-3735*

November is American Indian Heritage Month; World Communication Month; Great American Smokeout Month; Peanut Butter, Fig & Split Pea Soup Month

December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month, National Stress-Free Holidays Month, and Universal Human Rights Month

January is Eye Care Month, Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Hot Tea Month, Prune Breakfast Month, Oatmeal Month, Hobby Month, and Soup Month

February is African American History Month, Children's and Pets' Oral Health Month; Pet Owner, Wild-Bird Feeding, Cherry, Snack Food and Potato Month.

**Alternative Health**

wealthy wise

**First time massage special: \$50/hour**

*Dr. Thomas McCroskey, D.C.*  
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 Corner of 12th and CO BLVD.  
 chiropractic • massage • therapy

Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 18571  
 Denver, CO 80218  
[www.CongressParkNeighbors.org](http://www.CongressParkNeighbors.org)

Annual CPN, Inc., MEMBERS meeting	Annual Congress Park NEIGHBORS meeting
Heitler Hall National Jewish Hospital (Colfax & Colorado)	Teller Elementary School (12th and Garfield)
January 14, 2009 7 - 8 p.m.	January 21, 2009 6 - 8 p.m.

The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a good neighbor.

*Hubert H. Humphrey*

(A "good neighbor" is defined here as one who volunteers with the neighborhood organization. Call a CPN Board member today.)

### 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

(Circle amount enclosed)

Make check payable to:  
 Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 18571  
 Denver, CO 80218

Date:

I am interested in learning more about:

- Neighborhood beautification
- 12th Avenue Business Support
- Neighborhood/Colfax Plan
- Historic Preservation
- Newsletter reporting
- Newsletter advertising
- Newsletter production
- Newsletter distribution
- Neighborhood Watch
- Outreach
- Membership
- Social events
- 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.