

Congress Park

News

Fall 2015

www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

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Congress Park Celebrates National Night Out with Ice Cream Social

By Ann Charles

Daily Scoop's frozen custards were the star of the show again August 4 at Congress Park Neighbors' Annual Ice Cream Social to mark National Night Out. From 6 – 8 p.m., neighbors, police, firefighters, City Council representatives, State House candidates, and others greeted friends, mingled and chatted in the shade of the park pavilion next to the sandy playground. Daily Scoop's experienced scoopers worked from coolers packed with frozen custard and dry ice, and deftly handed out 400 cones to neighbors, kids and perhaps a couple of dogs.

The beautiful, if a little extra warm, weather brought joggers, saunterers, picnickers, bicyclists, stroller-pushers and dog-walkers to the park for custard and discussion.

Maneuvering genially between the pavilion's picnic tables and conversation clusters, people asked Congress Park Board members about a wide range of neighborhood issues, turned in their Congress Park Neighbors' membership forms, applied for cards at the Denver Public Library table, signed up for the Congress Park Neighbors email blast, contributed to the Teller backpack program and volunteered to deliver the hard copy Congress Park News in between slurps of Congress Park Blend frozen custard.

Newly installed District 10 Councilman Wayne New gamely listened to suggestions for projects and District needs, although he has barely moved into his office.

The extra-warm afternoon couldn't wilt the neighborhood gardening devotee who shared her enthusiasm about the community garden near the reservoir with interested listeners.

Kids, with and without custard mustaches, lined up to get the bright red firefighters' hats (kid-sized, of course) and balloons, and ran multiple circles around their parents enjoying the approaching summer evening in Congress Park.

If you want to volunteer to help with a neighborhood initiative or have a question about CPN issues, please attend the neighborhood meetings on the third Wednesday of the even months (next is October 21) at 7 p.m. in National Jewish Hospital's Heitler Hall, or email CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org.



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 4,500 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.

Neighborhood meetings are held every other month (August, October, December, February, April and June), on the third Wednesday, at 7 p.m. in National Jewish Hospital's Heitler Hall. Watch the newsletter and the email blasts for featured speakers. Don't get the email blasts? Sign up at www.congressparkneighbors.org.

This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper with soy-based ink by Signature Offset

Congress Park Neighborhood Meetings Feature Relevant Speakers

By Ann Charles

The Congress Park Neighborhood meetings have recently included speakers ranging from our new District 10 City Councilman Wayne New, a candidate for District Attorney and a neighbor asking for support of a zoning change, to the owners of a new brewery, and law enforcement representatives with ideas on how you can protect yourself from identity theft and casual, opportunistic crime.

What would you like to hear about? Let your Congress Park Neighbors Board know (cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org), so they can line up speakers.

Check your email blast for topics for upcoming meetings and make sure you participate when the topics interest you. If you're not receiving the email blast, see below or the website, www.congressparkneighbors.org, for how to sign up.



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Your elected, all-volunteer Congress Park Board invites you to attend the open meetings at National Jewish Hospital on the third Wednesday every other month (Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., Dec.) at 7 p.m. in Heitler Hall.

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

And we thank these committed neighbors:

“Your Name Here?”—Congress Park Historic Preservation and Education Committee

Lisa Bingham—Hospital District Redevelopment

Steve Eppler—Crime Action
crime@congressparkneighbors.org

Denver Botanic Gardens Liaisons
Bill DeMaio; bdemaio@aol.com
Myles Tangalin
“Your Name Here?”

One slot is open for a CPN member to represent the neighborhood on the Botanic Gardens Neighborhood Advisory Committee. Submit a letter of interest to CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org.

Do you have a suggestion for your Board?

Send hints and help to
CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org

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

Taking Care of our Purple Recycling Bins

By Denver Recycles

Thank you for using the purple bins to reduce the amount of trash in the landfills! Remember that recycling carts must be stored on your property between collections. You may set your carts out as early as the night before your collection day and then return your carts to your property within a day after collection.

Keeping carts out of the alley and off the streets will:

- Prevent non-recyclables being deposited in your cart
- Ensure your neighbors have access to the public right-of-way
- Improve the appearance of the alley
- Prevent cart loss, damage and vandalism
- Minimize recycling contamination (non-acceptable items can contaminate entire loads)
- Reduce litter and the potential for illegal dumping

It is your responsibility to manage and care for your city-issued carts. Take pride in your neighborhood and bring your carts back.

Denver Recycles reserves the right to remove recycling carts that are consistently left in the right of way (including alleys) and suffer misuse and damage.

CONGRESS PARK HERITAGE PRESERVATION :: SURVEY AND INVOLVEMENT ::

Working together to promote the care, understanding, respect, value and enjoyment of our Congress Park neighborhood preserves the heritage of where we live.

Share what matters to you: <http://tiny.cc/cpns1>

To be involved in Congress Park Heritage Preservation contact Kris Schindler, 303-895-8622

CONGRESS PARK FIRST HALF YEAR REVIEW

January - June 2015 Review

Total Homes Sold:	67
Average Sold Price:	\$612,529
Average Days to Contract:	15
Sold Price to List Price:	99.5%
Average SQ FT:	1630
Average Price per SQ FT:	376



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Observations from a New Denverite

By Joshua Escobar

I've traveled throughout this vast changing and beautiful country we call America. I assumed moving from the shadow of the New York skyline that it would be very similar; not much of a culture shock. I wasn't ready for what was about to unfold before me as I planted my family's roots in a cute, historical and park-filled neighborhood called Congress Park.

The rows of Victorian and bungalow-styled homes really makes a breathtaking backdrop to my morning run. Waking up with boxes still waiting to be unpacked around my domicile I scooped up my family and we headed to a little restaurant at 3237 E Colfax Ave. called the "Denver Biscuit Company," suggested by a friend. It was mind-blowing to see Biscuits offered in so many different variations. This truly made the menu unique and exciting to experience.

Look, I'm no expert, just a regular guy who loves food, life and my family. But if you ask my opinion I would say that the Cordon Bleu plate is

outstanding and the strawberry shortcake dessert teleported me into another dimension. Seriously, I thought I was going to pass out, it was so good!

While my friends and family laughed and ate, the warm staff of DBC punctuated the fact that I'm a part of a great community. The endless flowing spout of coffee is the cherry on the top of the "biscuit."

Everything is still pretty new to us here in Denver and especially in Congress Park, but as a New Denverite, I'd have to say "this neighborhood is worth keeping your eyes open for."



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DENVER'S DESIGN/BUILD REMODELER SINCE 1985



Photo Credit: Vantage Architectural Imagery

95-year-old Teller Elementary Gets a Bit of a Face Lift

By Jessica Rose Downs, Teller Principal

We are looking forward to a great new year in the 2015-16 school year here in the Tiger's Lair. Teller Elementary has been serving the Congress Park Neighborhood since it opened its doors in 1920. This year, our community school which also serves as a Gifted and Talented magnet school will be full to capacity. We will have three classes of scholars at each grade level K-5 and our school will be vibrant and busy!

Over the years, Teller has continued to grow both inside and out to accommodate our community of learners. This summer has been no different. In late May, we began a new project to move our computer lab to our library space to create a library technology resource room. Our new library will have capacity for a range of books for students and



complete by the first day of school (August 24). While you are there, check out our new logo and mission statement! We are so proud of our wonder-

ful school. If you are thinking about a new home for your scholar, come and check us out. We have tours available every Friday, October through December, at 9 a.m. starting in our front office. Teller scholars are curious, dedicated learners who strive to create a better world for all. Maybe you have a future Teller Tiger in your family!



families to check out as well as 27 computers to support technology growth in our students. The most exciting news about this change is the addition of air-conditioning to our library. The new air-conditioning will help both our books and our computers stay in mint condition throughout their lifetimes so we can continue to provide our students with the best opportunities possible.

Also coming this fall, we will be launching a new website to highlight school activities and to increase communication in our community. We expect the website launch to be

Teller Mission 2015
Teller Scholars are problem solvers. They ask questions, think critically and grow through personal, social and academic challenge. Our scholars are resilient, independent learners who persevere to college success and beyond.

Happening at Teller
Check out the calendar at <http://teller.dpsk12.org/calendar/>



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Lisa Santos
Broker/Co-Owner
Phone: 720.933.3377
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For up to date news on our neighborhood, 'like' www.facebook.com/congressparkdenver

the Santos & Davis group
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Keep the lights on

Police and security experts agree that dusk-to-dawn or motion-sensor porch lights are a very effective and inexpensive deterrent to crime. For a few pennies a night, a well-lighted house sends the message that there's someone home and burglars (or others planning uninvited activity on your porch or other secluded areas) are not welcome.

Congress Park New Business Spotlight*"Small Biz in the 'Hood"*

Want to know the story behind a new or classic Congress Park business? We will have a new feature—SMALL BIZ IN THE 'HOOD starting Winter, 2016. If you see a new business you haven't noticed before, contact Shelley Wood at best1wood@gmail.com to tell her about it.

If you're a new business owner, contact Shelley by October 10, 2015, to get on the schedule for an interview and photo. Information about your new business will appear in an upcoming issue of *Congress Park News*, including a free business card-sized ad!

Let's celebrate our delightful Congress Park businesses. Remember to "Think Outside the Big Box."

"The Cleaners" Thrives Under New Ownership

By Wendy Moraskie

My comfy old black leather coat was showing its "experience." A favorite dressy melon-hued tank top had been washed with something dark blue and unfortunately generous with its dye. Some delicious red sauce fell in love with my husband's cream silk jacket (what made him wear that within 50 yards of an Italian restaurant, anyway?), and a button had come off the sleeve of an blue and white striped oxford dress shirt.

These minor dilemmas and more have been fixed by "The Cleaners" at 8th and Colorado over the past few months. Besides the good quality results and reasonable prices, new shop owner Brian Destarac is a delight to work with, too. His consistently helpful and cheerful nature and slightly skewed sense of humor tickle my own weird Monty Python-educated funny bone.

Make sure you give this local shop a try for laundry, dry-cleaning or tailoring, and share a grin with Brian.

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Denver City Council Updates

After winning the District 10 City Council seat, Wayne New was quoted as saying, “We’ve heard the same things over and over on the campaign trail: People want to be heard.”

Questions about big development and affordable-housing strategies will continue to arise during New’s term. He thought these issues were important to voters during the contest for the seat. “Absolutely, development has played a role” in the outcome [of the election], New was quoted by the *Denver Post* as saying.

New was also quoted in the *Post* as saying, “We’ve been on a development drive, but we really haven’t paid attention to the traffic and parking issues our residents are really concerned about.”

Recent discussions in the City Council include debates on whether to raise a sales tax to fund college scholarships. City Council members are considering whether to ask city voters in November about the increased sales tax, that would add 8 cents on a \$100 purchase to raise an estimated \$10 million for scholarship organizations and city-administered grants.

“What I’ve heard from my constituents is ‘Why is the city having to pick up the slack?’” said Councilman Wayne New, quoted in the *Denver Post*. “It’s hard. You want all kids to have those opportunities, but we only have a limited amount of resources.”

Denver’s proposal would be the first of its kind in Colorado. Drafted by a task force comprising business leaders, educators and politicians, the proposal would have to be approved by the council before it could go to voters. If approved, the initiative could be the first of many like it across the state.

A program started last year by the Colorado Department of Higher Education is preparing

to offer \$7 million in matching grants to communities that start their own local scholarship programs.

A study completed earlier this year, for instance, found that every dollar given by the Denver Scholarship Foundation, a nonprofit that initially started the effort for Denver’s proposal, has a local economic return nine times higher.


For more, see **City Council Considers Tax for Scholarships**

Make sure your voice is heard. Contact your City Councilman about the issues that are important to you.

Contact District 10 City Councilman Wayne New
(720) 337-7710
wayne.new@denvergov.org


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Congress Park Heritage Preservation is Listening

Let Kris Schindler (303-895-8622) know your thoughts about possible activities and speakers' topics.

Historic Preservation and Education Committee Shifts Focus to Congress Park Heritage Preservation

By Katie Bates

On the evening of June 30, about two-dozen Congress Park neighbors participated in “Bungalow Boogie,” the first of three walking field studies to be held this summer. The exploration of the bungalow architectural style and its variants in Congress Park homes took a more circuitous route than its more direct, symbolic function as the first activity of the Congress Park Heritage Preservation committee. “Quite literally, we will walk the Historic Preservation and Education committee in a new direction,” said Kris Schindler, who recently assumed responsibility for leading the committee. “We’re walking in a new direction, not running away from anything,” she said.

By expanding the scope and shifting the focus and direction from historic preservation to heritage preservation, new topics can be explored as a means to involve more neighbors in community activities. The new direction also aligns with the vision set forth in the 1995 neighborhood plan, with the goals of the Sustainable Neighborhood Program, as well as with the varied interests of

both residential and commercial neighbors—not all of whom are property owners.

Retitling the speakers series as “Learning CURVE” reflects the overarching goal of Congress Park Heritage Preservation to promote the care, understanding, respect, value and enjoyment of our Congress Park neighborhood. Three autumn sessions will be held at Reach Inclusive Elementary School on the campus of Sewall Child Development Center. As well, there are plans for three spring sessions. In addition to the summer walking field studies, the added “Winter Wonder Workshop” is also an educational activity. Kris said she hopes for something of a more social nature for December and in April, which is National Architecture Month.

“Our neighborhood has a rich heritage. I’m hopeful there are many who work, live and/or own property in Congress Park who will join in discovering, rediscovering and connecting with that heritage,” said Kris. To join the organizing

committee or to share ideas or historical resources, contact Kris Schindler at 303-895-8622.

Read an expanded version of this article online at congressparkneighbors.org.

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Congress Park Gardening: Take a Deep Breath This Fall

By Linda Smoke

It has been a tough year for gardeners in the 'hood, and especially at the community garden in Congress Park. There were the cool weather into June, the first hail, the flea beetles, the second hail, the harlequin bugs, the Japanese beetles, and then more flea beetles. But cool season crops, herbs and squash came through and the season isn't over quite yet. There are opportunities to be seized and challenges to be faced. Here are some green hints from the August Gardener's Resource Exchange and Education Newsletter, prepared by the community gardeners.

Planting in August: So to reap by season's end 'tis time to sow the seeds again. In August you can sow seeds for a late summer/early fall harvest of radishes, beets, carrots, turnips, chard, spinach, parsley, leaf lettuce, and mustard greens. These plants do not like heat. Growing in a shaded area of your garden or under a crop cover cloth will encourage germination and discourage the plants from 'bolting' (flowering and going to seed) and tasting bitter.

Aphids: There is nothing that kills the garden party quicker than aphids. Aphids transmit nasty viruses that destroy plants. Commonest of the many kinds here seem to be cabbage aphids, whose waxy coating is off putting and distasteful even to hungry ladybugs. Their colonies produce winged individuals that spread over the entire garden! What to do? Try an insecticidal soap like "Safer." Get down into those curled up leaves and just plain remove and destroy the bad areas. Whatever you do, don't let them be. These things multiply fast! As with any garden pest, early and persistent action works best.

Drying Herbs: Fresh dried herbs from your garden are much more flavorful and potent than store bought herbs. Herbs you may want to dry include dill, oregano, sage, thyme, lavender, parsley, rosemary, peppermint and basil. There are a variety of ways to dry herbs after they have been washed. One is to bundle them in about 6 or 7 stems per bundle, securely tie the bundle ends, and hang them to dry. The herbs will dry in a few days. Another method is to layer the herb leaves on a cookie sheet and cover with paper towels. Place the cookie sheet on top of a cabinet or

the refrigerator, where the air circulates. You can also oven-dry the leaves by placing the cookie sheet in the oven and heating, with the oven door open, at no more than 180 degrees. Drying time depends on the temperature and the particular herb. Store dried herb leaves in bags or jars in a cool dark place.

Powdery Mildew: This time of year squash, pumpkin, melon, cucumber, and zucchini plants become infected with powdery mildew. The mildew first appears as whitish dots on the leaves and stems. It spreads quickly and it will make short work of your plants. The best defense is to clip off all infected leaves and stems at the first sight of infection. As the mildew returns continue to cut off the infected areas. Another option is to spray the leaves with neem oil then a week later with a biofungicide like Actinovate. Continue to alternate the treatments.

"In gardening, careful deliberation is often an impediment. That is a good thing."
—Anonymous Congress Park Community Gardener

Learning CURVE

Autumn Speaker Series

September 29

Street Life: how and why transportation—past, present and future—plays a role in the Congress Park neighborhood

October 27

Spring Forward: from rooftop to foundation prioritize autumn and winter projects and prepare your historic home for spring

November 24

Trifecta: rediscover Congress Park in 1858, 1861 1902 and beyond

7:00 - 8:30 pm

REACH Charter School multi-purpose room
Sewall Childhood Development Center, 940 Fillmore

The Learning CURVE speaker series encourages the care, understanding, respect, value and enjoyment of our Congress Park neighborhood.

Sessions are free to Congress Park neighbors and open to the public as seating is available

*"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 Crime is Low: You Can Help Keep it That Way

By Steve Eppler

Overall, Congress Park continues to have a relatively low crime incidence and remains a safe place to live, but there are thefts that we can help prevent.

Congress Park abuts the Cheesman Park, Cherry Creek, Hale, City Park and Country Club neighborhoods. Congress park ranks #4 in domestic violence, #5 in violent crime, assaults and robberies and #6 in property crime and rape. Of the adjacent neighborhoods, only the Country Club has a more favorable crime profile (ranking #6 in 4 of 6 categories).

For 2015, Congress Park ranks 69th out of 78 Denver neighborhoods in violent crime per 1000 residents down from 61st last year. It ranks 66th in per-capita property crimes (up from 67th last year).

There were two reports of violent crime (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) in Congress Park in July. Both involved rape. The monthly average for violent crime during the past 12 months is 1.3/month. Despite the increase in violent crime in Denver in 2015, the rate of violent crime in Congress Park is down 21.4% compared to 2014.

Property crimes include burglary, larceny, theft from motor vehicle, auto theft and arson. These have increased 10.4% compared to 2014. The number of burglaries, thefts from motor vehicle and auto thefts in 2015 already exceed those reported for all of 2014. Most of this increase occurred in June and July, and many incidents can be attributed to unlocked cars, houses and garages and valuables left in plain sight.

The incidence of criminal mischief/damaged property from

January to July is down in 2015 compared to 2014. Bike thefts are down 50% for this year.

The website, <http://www.denvergov.org/police/PoliceDepartment/CrimeInformation/CrimeStatisticsMaps/tabid/441370/Default.aspx> has been the only public source of local crime statistics for years. Cumulative and monthly data can be accessed by Neighborhood, Police District, and City Council District. While detailed and informative, the tabular content is not very user friendly. Trend analysis is difficult. Crime totals for Congress Park can be readily compared to other neighborhoods but individual types of crime cannot.

A new website: <http://www.denvercrimes.com/> is a more user-friendly source of crime data. This website's content is based on the Denver Police data set. Monthly information about different types of crime is compared to average monthly rates. Comparison to other neighborhoods is easy. Finally, this website calculates a "Crime Quotient." This figure ranging from 0.1 to 10.0 reflects all police reported monthly crime in a neighborhood with the population factored in. This Crime Quotient allows comparison of the statistical crime risk associated with living in a given area over time. This website also has an e-mail update utility.

In summary, the Denver Police website mentioned first above has more detailed information while the DenverCrimes website is much easier to understand. The data from each website is not directly comparable. Each website has some information that the other does not. Together they provide a fairly comprehensive picture of crime in different Denver neighborhoods than either website alone.

Overall, crime trends are stable in Congress Park, although there are too many preventable robberies. Roughly half of all robberies did not require forcible entry. You can stop these. Lock your car, house and garage doors. Don't leave valuables in plain sight. Reach out to cultivate shared neighborhood vigilance. Leave your outside lights on-- criminals like to work in the dark. If you see suspicious activity call 911 and report it. Do your part to drop our crime numbers.



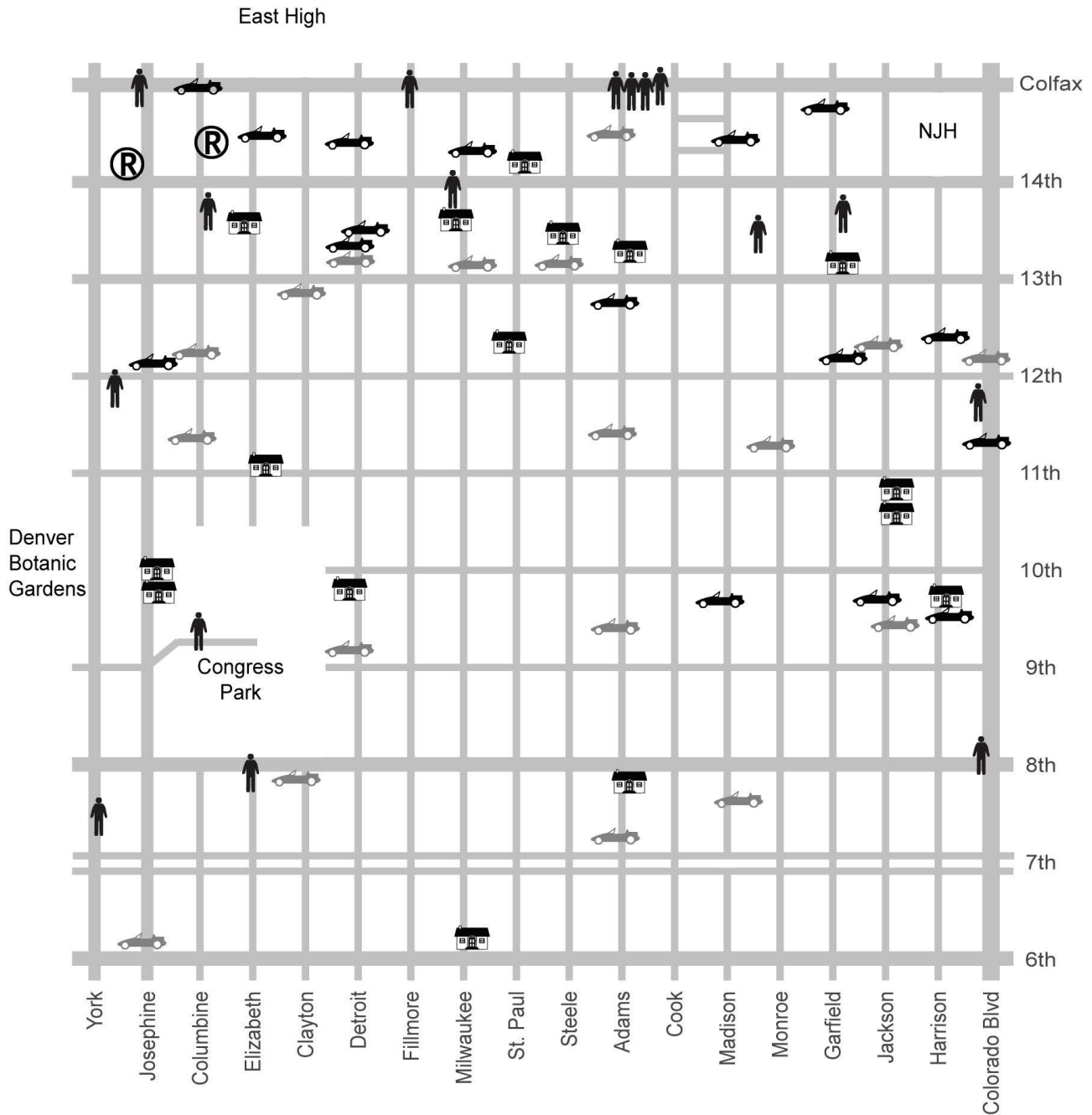
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CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES APRIL - JUNE 2015



- Ⓜ 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 second quarter of 2015. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics relayed through Council District 10.

Back-to-School Means Time to Monitor Information Shared—or —Someone's Stolen My Child's Identity!

From the Denver District Attorney's office

Social Security theft isn't just an adult problem. Scammers are stealing children's Social Security numbers at an alarming rate. With stolen Social Security numbers fraudsters can create new identities for themselves buying things, traveling, racking up debt and going undetected for years. That is until your child turns 18 and tries to buy their own car, enter college or get a job—finding out all too late that their credit rating is in the tank. How can that happen when they are barely out of middle school?

Protect Your Child From Social Security Fraud

There are a number of steps parents can take to reduce the odds that their children will be victims of identity theft:

- Keep your child's Social Security number safe. Don't put the number on forms that don't need it, and keep your records in a safe place.
- Check your child's credit report. Experts advise doing this around age 16, when there is still time to correct errors or fraud.
- Ask credit agencies for a "manual search" of your child's Social Security number. This will flag any suspicious activity from people using your child's SSN but with different names or dates of birth.
- Consider a credit freeze. Credit agencies can ensure that nobody accesses a particular credit report, which means that a fraudster cannot open new accounts in the child's name.

- You are accessing your free credit report every year, aren't you? If you aren't start now, and while you are there, check your child's report as well. Your youngster shouldn't show any activity.

Teach Your Children Well

Leave your social security card at home in a secure location, like a locked safe until you need it. This limits the chance someone could glance at your card or steal your wallet with your personal information. Photocopy your card (and your Medicare card which most often uses your Social Security number as the account number), and leave the original at home. On the copy 'sharpie' through all but the last three digits on the copy that you carry.

Shred Documents with Your Number

Shred all mail and documents to keep thieves from seeing your personal information. Never leave mail in the mailbox for long periods of time-- this could give thieves the opportunity to steal your personal documents.

Don't Share

Never give out your Social Security number over the phone if you didn't initiate the call, especially when you have no way of being sure who you're speaking with. For instance, some cons may call posing as officials from the Social Security Administration, asking you to confirm your number. Don't provide your number to anyone who asks for it by email—this is typically done by an impostor sending you an email that may look like it is your bank or credit card company asking you to fill out personal information via an online form.

Ask Questions

Signing your child up in school may require providing their SSN. Make sure you know what the school will be using the information for and with whom it will be shared. Sometimes it is necessary to provide it, to a financial institution or insurance company. But if you are not sure, ask the entities why they need it, how will they store and secure your personal information, if it will be shared with others, and what the protocols are for a data breach.

Think You've Been Scammed?

If you suspect you've been scammed or exploited, call the Denver District Attorney's Fraud Hot Line to report it at 720-913-9179

Learning CURVE

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Street Life: how and why transportation—past, present and future—plays a role in the Congress Park neighborhood

October 27

Spring Forward: from rooftop to foundation prioritize autumn and winter projects and prepare your historic home for spring

November 24

Trifecta: rediscover Congress Park in 1858, 1861 1902 and beyond

7:00 - 8:30 pm

REACH Charter School multi-purpose room
Sewall Childhood Development Center, 940 Fillmore

The Learning CURVE speaker series encourages the care, understanding, respect, value and enjoyment of our Congress Park neighborhood.

Sessions are free to Congress Park neighbors and open to the public as seating is available.

Ready for Fall and Winter? Here's a List to Get you Started

Contributed by Shelley Wood

Cold weather can sneak up and grab us like a trickster, even before Halloween. Popular Mechanics offers a list of projects so that your house is ready. I tweaked it for us Congress Parkers. Before it gets too cold, tackle one of these projects each weekend to get your home ready for Winter...

- Call for a furnace or boiler tune-up. Generally heating/cooling companies are over-booked doing this work well into winter, but call anyway to see if you can squeeze in an appointment.
- Sweep out and weed the alleyway behind your garage (make friends and organize an alley clean up).
- Clean, tune, and put away summer sports equipment.
- Blow out your sprinklers. Blow out your sprinklers. Blow out your sprinklers.
- Make a weather-stripping check. Buy and install replacement products while the weather is still nice.
- Plant some bulbs for Spring flowers – divide iris clumps that have become too dense and spread the love (aka extra-bulbs) to your neighbors or plant some in a spot in the alley.
- Remove and store window air conditioners. To protect the appliance from corrosion, be sure not to store it near fertilizer, de-icer or corrosive chemicals. Keep all mounting hardware in a plastic bag taped to the appliance.
- Add cup hooks along the eaves so you're ready to string Holiday Lights with ease! You know that it is a Congress Park inevitability that the night you want to hang lights, it will suddenly be windy and freezing cold.
- Clean your gutters. After the leaves fall, remember that snow will melt off and on all winter long and it needs to get out of your gutters.

Have you checked out Taskeasy.com? They are great for hiring help. If you need the name/number of a handyman, household organizer, water damage, or other such, feel free to contact me directly – best1wood@gmail.com

Shelley Wood is a Realtor at WOOD Realty, Inc., open at 3570 E. 12th Ave.

Extra perennials are for sharing

If you have perennials that are overstepping their boundaries, plant some in the alley when you divide them and share them with neighbors.

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Denver Botanic Gardens: Our Neighborhood Garden

By CP Neighbor

Yes, just down the street is the Denver Botanic Gardens, a treasure in our midst. There's always something fascinating to see, touch or smell there and this season is no different. The star of the show is the "Corpse Flower," which at press time, was anticipated to bloom "any minute." The Titan Arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) offers a short-lived bloom (24-48 hours) that emits a foul smell (hence its name) to attract pollinators.

In addition to stinky flowers, current attractions include classes on creating your own botanic art or frame-worthy photography. Or enjoy a tour of edible herbs (and learn how to preserve them), steppe gardens and the multitude of trees that thrive here. Sunrise and evening Yoga classes are offered and for a twist, there's a yoga class that includes violin music and wine! What else can you

do with herbs and vegetables besides salad? How about using them to spruce up your happy hour? Yep, there's a class for that, too.

Check out the DBG calendar for more, such as mushroom identification (to get ready for the mushroom fair) and science illustration, and a tour of the Butterfield horse sculptures. There are also classes in the multi-faceted history of our Rocky Mountain region, starting with the Western Expansion in 1854, and its native plants, tuned to each season.

Let's make sure we stay in touch with our neighborhood gardens—they have so much to offer us in addition to a beautiful setting for a stroll.

What's happening in the real estate market?



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The Average Selling Price of a Home in Congress Park

2nd quarter of 2015 : \$599,156.45

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Worship	Volunteer Opportunities
<p>Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church 1100 Fillmore; 303-333-9366 A welcoming, diverse and inclusive faith community in Congress Park. Sundays: 9:30 am worship service, 11:00 am education hour.</p>	<p>Congress Park Neighbors Meet new friends, share your expertise at neighborhood meetings and discuss issues that are shaping your neighborhood. Third Wednesdays of even months, 7 p.m., National Jewish Heitler Hall. Contact cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org and visit congressparkneighbors.org</p>

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September is Latino Heritage, Baby Safety, National Literacy, and Sickle Cell Awareness Month

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness, Adopt a Shelter Dog, Child Health, Disability Employment Awareness, and Fire Prevention Month

November is American Indian Heritage Month, World Communication Month, Great American Smokeout Month, Peanut Butter Month

CONGRESS PARK
HERITAGE PRESERVATION
:: SURVEY AND INVOLVEMENT ::

Working together to promote the care, understanding, respect, value and enjoyment of our Congress Park neighborhood preserves the heritage of where we live.

Share what matters to you:
<http://tiny.cc/cpns1>

To be involved in Congress Park Heritage Preservation contact Kris Schindler 303-895-8622

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www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

The best way to keep up-to-date about neighborhood issues i.e., crime alerts, parking, zoning is to sign up for CPN's email broadcast at www.congressparkneighbors.org/eblast.html

Check www.CongressParkNeighbors.org for our advertisers' most recent news!



"Nothing makes you more tolerant of a neighbor's noisy party than being there."

- Franklin P. Jones

Congress Park Neighbors Membership Form

Your neighborhood needs you! Join your neighbors today.

Name:
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Date:

I am interested in learning more about:

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

- Neighborhood beautification
- 12th Avenue Business Support
- Neighborhood/Colfax Plan
- Historic Preservation
- Newsletter reporting
- Newsletter advertising
- Newsletter production
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- Neighborhood Watch
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- Graffiti abatement
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- Zoning
- Other

___ Member Name: \$20
 If household membership, other persons name:

___ Patron (receive 2 passes to the SIE Film Center!): \$30

___ Business or organization: \$40

(Circle amount enclosed)

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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), mailings and fliers about hot issues, events like the ice cream social and ongoing activities to benefit the neighborhood.