What Aspects Of Our Neighborhood Do You Celebrate?

For Carolyn and Jim Kent it is caring neighbors:

Our cat, Max, has been found and miraculously survived sub-zero temperatures. Thank you to all who helped with the search. We especially want to thank Mary Lou Fenili, Karen Hansen and Kate Kachmer. Congress Park is a wonderful neighborhood.

For Marcy Dolan it is a lasting, timeless character:

We fell in love with it right away. We found our house on the first try. We felt at home on the first day. Six months after our move to Congress Park, we know we’re here to stay. In our time, we have lived in exciting cities (Manhattan) and charming cities (Santa Fe) and the historic neighborhood of Georgetown in Washington, D.C. Even so, we have never felt quite as comfortable as we do here, in a relatively short time. We have tried to define why this is so.

Maybe it’s the grand old trees or the graceful homes. Maybe it’s the friendly neighbors. Maybe it’s fine landscaping on the Parkway. Places have personalities; areas have ambiance. For us, Congress Park has a quiet charisma. It is elegant but never elitist. It is historic but never hokey. This community has something far better, far more lasting than glamour — it has character.

As a writer, working at home, I am sensitive to my surroundings. We converted an upstairs sunroom into my office and I look out on the angled gables, the tracery of branches against the sky. There is a sense of deep roots here, reflected by the hundred year-old houses and the high reach of mature trees. Ten minutes from Cherry Creek shopping and downtown’s diversions, Congress Park is “our town” now. We hope it never changes. My husband grew up here decades ago and finds the neighborhood much the same. We value this continuity. The weather may have turned a bit wacky since 1989 and downtown Denver, of course, has been transformed. Yet, Congress Park is at once vibrant and venerable. Our quaint Tudor house, circa 1924, has its idiosyncrasies but we don’t worry us. In return for a few quirks we have a quaint home in a community of lasting, timeless character.

For Geri Reinardy it is generosity:

“We’re very grateful to our neighbors whose donations helped us assist needy families,” said Geri Reinardy, Director of Public Affairs for National Jewish Health. She noted National Jewish collected 1,200 pounds of food and nearly $700 in cash during a food bank drive held last December. The food and cash donations were given to the Food Bank of the Rockies and Volunteers of America. These agencies estimate the donations fed approximately 1,860 families this past holiday season.
Teller’s Elemental Learning Landscape

By Twila Warner

After years of planning and waiting, the grounds at Teller Elementary will be receiving a major make-over. The unique design of Teller’s Learning Landscape is based on the four elements of Earth, Water, Air and Fire. The new space will be used by Teller teachers and students as an outdoor extension of the indoor classroom, in addition to a really fun play area. The design includes a school garden, new play equipment, a shade structure, seating areas, and a new, reconfigured field edged with a running track. Congress Park parents will happily say goodbye to the treacherous pea gravel and find the space is reorganized in a way that makes the outside areas much more usable for the students and the neighborhood.

We are grateful to the parents who over the years have worked to make this happen, as well as the design and the construction team, who took on the challenge of limited square footage and created an imaginative and functional space where our children can play and learn. Construction is slated to begin in May and continue through the end of July. If you would like to see the final design or get more specific information regarding the construction schedule, a community meeting will be held on March 9 from 6-7 p.m. in the auditorium at Teller.

Congress Park Annual Neighborhood Meeting Pizza and Pop
March 17th Teller School 6-8 p.m.

Join us for the Annual Neighborhood Meeting--Get an update on the issues affecting Congress Park from our City Council members, the Denver police and others. Let your registered neighborhood organization know the issues important to you.

Your Congress Park Neighbors 2010 Board of Directors

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958 St. Paul St.; 303-393-9072
brent@congressparkneighbors.org

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

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

Bill DeMaio—Membership
bdemaio@aol.com

Kathleen Hynes—Consigliera, Newsletter
khynes377@earthlink.net

Wendy Moraskie—Newsletter
1475 Milwaukee St.; 303-355-3735
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.
Teller’s Penny Harvest Helps Community
By Lisa Boeckman

Teller Elementary is a participating school in the Penny Harvest. Teller students gather pennies, coins, and some paper money from where they tend to collect—couch cushions, piggy banks, that certain compartment in the family car—then they forward the “harvested” money to Penny Harvest Leaders, who are third-to-fifth grade Teller students. These students collect the harvested pennies and ultimately decide where the money will be donated through a process that is defined by the original Penny Harvesters in New York City.

Under this process, individual classrooms brainstorm, discuss community needs, and vote to select the greatest community concern. That decision is recorded on a wedge that, when combined with other classrooms’ wedges, turns into the Wheel of Caring. During the winter, Penny Harvest Leaders consider the causes on the Circle of Caring through Roundtable discussions. They discuss the wishes of the Teller student body, and they think of organizations that support the suggested causes. After researching an organization, they invite representatives to talk about a specific need and request funding for one item. The greatest challenge for the Penny Harvesters is deciding who should receive funding. However, they make the decision in an hour. Finally, on the Day of Caring, Penny Harvest Leaders report to the student body how they spent the money through displays they create about funded organizations. Penny Harvest doesn’t end with just a monetary contribution. Penny Harvest kids also “harvest” their time and donate it to the organization.

As you might expect, Penny Harvest Leaders learn about community needs, philanthropy, leadership, collaboration, and how their resources can make a difference in the community. It also prepares them for junior high, which might be different than the junior high we remember. “Junior high is asking for a different set of skills, like problem solving,” said Ms. Cecelia Coats, fifth grade teacher and co-coach for the program with Ms. Annie Witwer, third grade teacher. For more information about Penny Harvest, go to www.CommonCents.org.
Update on Congress Park Zoning Changes
By Bill DeMaio, CPN Board Member

Hopefully everyone has heard about and familiarized themselves with the new Denver Zoning Code that has been in the works for over 5 years. We at Congress Park Neighbors have been working closely with our district councilperson, Jeanne Robb, who is a member of the Zoning Code Task Force to educate as many property owners in Congress Park as possible about the zoning changes in various parts of the neighborhood. As we summarized in an earlier newsletter article, these changes correspond to the neighborhood. As we summarized in an earlier newsletter article, these changes correspond to the North, Central, and South sections of Congress Park. Here is an update on where we stand today:

North Congress Park: 13th Ave. to Colfax from York Street to Colorado Blvd.
This area, currently zoned R-3, has had the most discussion about how to be re-zoned. Overall, the new zoning category is U-RH-3A with row-house forms conforming to 2½ story maximum height while allowing three story apartment buildings on corner lots. In an effort to respect the time and effort many property owners put into changing the zoning from R-3 to R-2, those areas will be U-RH-2.5 which does not allow corner apartment construction. New development will be required to match existing front setbacks and heights will be more in keeping with existing 2½ story residences. Check out the website to see illustrations of the row house form.

Central Congress Park: 11th to 13th Avenues from Clayton to Harrison Streets
The business area will be rezoned to allow for two-story development. Adjacent streets are rezoned to allow for two units on 5,500 square foot lots. This respects the many single unit residences that are on smaller lots as well as the many duplexes and courts that occur on larger lots. New development will conform to existing front yard setbacks and have the opportunity for some innovative tandem house possibilities (see the illustrations on the website).

Colorado Boulevard
Along Colorado Blvd. from 10th Ave. to 13th Ave. up to five-story residential apartment buildings would be allowed. The area from 7th Ave. to 9th Ave. will permit mixed-use buildings up to three stories high.

South Congress Park: 6th Ave. to 11th Ave. from Detroit to Harrison Streets
The area from 8th to 11th Ave. is currently R-0 or R-1 and the new zoning will not significantly change. It will allow single unit residences on 4,500 square foot lots, consistent with the existing houses. There is an area adjacent to Congress Park that is designated as U-SU-C (5,500 square foot lots) to accommodate the larger lots that exist in the area. The blocks between 6th and 8th Avenues are similarly designated U-SU-C which matches the development that exists there as well.

Final consideration for the zoning bill is planned for April 19th. There will be a 6 month transition period once the new code is adopted where projects submitted will be able to choose either the existing or the new code. If you have further questions or comments, you can still address them to the new code website: http://www.newcodedenver.org/ or send an e-mail to Jeanne Robb at Jeanne.Robb@denvergov.org.

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7th Avenue Historic District
Best House...Best Condition...Best Location

765 Humboldt $775,000
Congress Park Values are...UP UP UP!!
Congratulations...You Invested Well!!

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Average Days on Market</td>
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Stats are for 8th to Colfax and York to Harrison
For a complete list and details of all sales go to www.leonardleonard.com
Unfortunately, Foreclosures are also up.

Call me directly for a list of
Foreclosures/Short Sales in Our Area

Sonja Leonard Leonard
303-744-6200 - www.leonardleonard.com
Teller School

By Jennifer Barton, Teller’s Principal

Since its opening in 1920, Teller Elementary has been remodeled and enlarged. For a period of time, this space was under-utilized and classrooms sat empty due to many extenuating circumstances. This is the case no longer.

About 10 years ago a group of Congress Park families decided to invest its energy and faith into this neighborhood school. Through parent involvement, recruitment of a strong staff, implementation of programs to support all students, marketing and fundraising, Teller has morphed into not only a neighborhood school, but a school that pulls in students from across our diverse city. Enrollment has grown from a floundering 200 to this year’s enrollment of 393 students.

While our numbers grow, we demonstrate academic, social and emotional success for our students, and parent involvement balloons, our school budget does not experience a parallel growth and success. Due to the economic climate of our country, Denver Public Schools anticipates that money per students will stay flat, yet average salaries will rise. This will reduce schools’ purchasing power.

“Unfortunately, school budgets cannot always support the extras for students,” said PTA President Brian Koenigberg. “PTA strives to raise money to support those educational perks outside of the regular classroom, such as the Arts, classroom assistants, fieldtrips, and after school programs.”

Over the years, the Teller PTA has come up with some very creative and thoughtful fundraising events. Tellerpalooza brings in area bands to play for an annual event at the Mercury Café. The Taste of Teller is a wine tasting and silent auction event. Simply Giving offers parents, grandparents and other friends of Teller an opportunity to have a committed amount of money donated from their accounts each month. All the money raised goes directly to the school. For more information visit the Teller Elementary web page at teller.dpsk12.org.

CPN Events On Web

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

CONGRESS PARK: 3-YEAR ANALYSIS

YEAR 3: January 1, 2007 to January 1, 2008: Average Price $435,852 - 84 Properties
YEAR 2: January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2009: Average Price $415,171 - 89 Properties
   Annual PRICE Change -4.7%  Annual PROPERTIES Change 6.0%
YEAR 1: January 1, 2009 to January 1, 2010: Average Price $420,598 - 82 Properties
   Annual PRICE Change 1.3%  Annual PROPERTIES Change -7.9%

My research indicates that the overall market price for all Congress Park homes has remained very healthy. The number of homes sold has increased 1.9% Excellent numbers in today’s economy! For a free market valuation of your home, call or email me.

25 Year Congress Park REALTOR® and Resident!

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The information contained herein is deemed to be reliable, but is not guaranteed. Based on information from METROLIST®, Inc. for the period January 1, 2007 through January 1, 2010. Note: This representation is base in whole or in part on content supplied by Metrolist®, Inc. Metrolist® Inc. does not guarantee nor is it in any way responsible for its accuracy. Content maintained by Metrolist®, Inc. may not reflect all real estate activity in the market.
Community Support Sought For East High’s Entry Plaza Renovation

By Susan Bardwell

Conceived in its park-like setting south of City Park in 1925, East High School has long served Denver’s downtown neighborhoods, including Congress Park, with one of the city’s pre-eminent college preparatory programs. East is the largest high school in Denver Public Schools, with about 2,200 students. This coming spring, the school’s entrance at 16th Avenue and the Esplanade is getting a face-lift.

Since 2003, students, faculty, parents, alumni, and neighbors of East have been working together, under the non-profit umbrella of Project Angel Pride (PAP), to complete a wide range of capital improvement projects on the venerable campus. The goal: To promote pride and respect for the school among students, alumni and citizens. PAP’s current effort is to renovate the East High School Entry Plaza, what East Principal John Youngquist calls “the gateway to learning.”

In its first six years, PAP has successfully raised the funds and constructed sports bleachers, field lighting, and an outdoor scoreboard; funded reconstruction of the Esplanade to its original configuration; and rejuvenated long neglected gardens, trees, and lawns.

The landmark clock tower once again keeps correct time because of the help of a small group of dedicated community volunteers. East High School was placed on the National Register of Historic Places through the efforts of PAP and the historic preservation community.

PAP is currently working to raise the $250,000 estimated costs for the Entry Plaza renovation. Principal John Youngquist and PAP invite Congress Park Neighborhood residents to become a lasting part of East’s legacy by purchasing a commemorative brick or paver on the new plaza.

Order your own commemorative brick or paver by visiting www.ProjectAngelPride.org or contact Susan Bardwell at 303-399-1155 or susanbardwell@msn.com. To simply donate to the project, please send checks to Project Angel Pride, PMB 176, 1305 Krameria St, Ste H, Denver, CO, 80220-2743.

Additional information on East High School, PAP and other East/community organizations is at www.eastangels.org and www.eastangelalliance.org.
EAST HIGH SCHOOL ENTRY PLAZA RENOVATION  Home of the Angels

The entry plaza project is designed to renovate and expand the existing plaza to provide a social gathering place and lasting first impression of East High School. You have four options for participating in this unique, one time opportunity.

- Keystone, Capstone and Cornerstone Pavers are engraved with a timeless quote and your inscription.
- Bricks are engraved with your personalized message.

PURCHASE YOUR COMMEMORATIVE PAYER OR BRICK TODAY!
For more information please contact Susan Bardwell at 301-399-1155
www.ProjectAngelPride.org

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March 10 - 6:30pm
May 25 - 6:30pm
Please go to our website or call to register
Thanks to all who volunteered to distribute newsletters.

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

December 6, 2009 Party for Congress Park Volunteer Newsletter Distributors

Slippery Sidewalks

By Linda Smoke

Warm days this time of year bring thoughts of spring. They also melt snow that runs down onto sidewalks and freezes at night. This film of ice can be hard to spot and treacherous. For folks who are mobility impaired it can be scary and exhausting just trying to make it to the bus stop. Even sure-footed folks take tumbles.

If you park your car in the garage and rarely go out the front door, please make a point of checking your sidewalks periodically. Ice forms anywhere but it is especially troubling on shaded sidewalks and where the gutters direct melted water onto the sidewalks.

Let’s be caring neighbors and make sure our sidewalks are cleared of snow and ice as soon as possible after a storm or a warm day.
Congress Park Annual Neighborhood Meeting Pizza and Pop
March 17th  Teller School 6-8 p.m.

Join us for the Annual Neighborhood Meeting--Get an update on the issues affecting Congress Park from our City Council members, the Denver police and others. Let your registered neighborhood organization know the issues important to you.

Iran: At Your Own Risk

Dr. Tom Sutherland
Tuesday, April 13, 2010
7:00 p.m.
East High School Auditorium
Tickets (in advance):
$5 for Students,
$15 for Adults
www.eastangelalliance.org

Six Years. Think what you could do — or have done — in six years.

Now consider six years held hostage in a foreign country. What would you think about? What would you learn — about yourself, your captors?

Come hear Dr. Tom Sutherland, the former CSU professor who was held hostage in Iran for six years speak.
Congress Park Experiences Emergency Reverse 9-1-1

By Charlotte Bentley, Former Congress Park Crime Action Committee Chairperson

There is an armed suspect in the neighborhood. Keep your doors and windows locked and if someone tries to enter your house, call 911.” This was the city activated Reverse 911 telephone message sent to some Congress Park residents in mid-December, 2009. Quick and reliable dissemination of information is crucial to the successful mitigation of incidents and the safety of citizens. Using the Reverse 911 Community Notification System allows public safety officials to send a recorded message via telephone to thousands of homes with landlines in the event of an emergency or significant event. The system can quickly target a precise geographic area and saturate it with calls in a short period of time. If an answering machine picks up the call the emergency message is left on the machine, but the system generally will not successfully work on phone lines having call screening features.

As with all systems, Reverse 911 has its limitations. But these can be minimized with diligent administration of the system and information sharing by neighbors. If an Emergency Reverse 911 call is received and verified, hopefully neighbors will call each other and help to spread the word.

On that recent fateful mid-December evening when the Reverse 911 calls saturated parts of Congress Park, neighbors did not know at the time that there had been a bank robbery at 7th & Colorado Blvd., and the suspect(s) were reported to have fled on foot into the surrounding neighborhoods. The two armed robbers were dubbed the “Hopping Hooded Bandits” by police because they wear hoods, masks, and hop over counters to steal the money. Although they were not caught in the neighborhood, the emergency alert system had done its job by notifying neighbors to be vigilant.
The maps show a compilation of all serious crimes reported to police within Congress Park for the past three years. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics relayed through Council District 10.
Looking East: The Fall Show

By Jess Lindimore

As always there are many wonderful things going on at East High school but lately it has come to my attention that I have never gone into specific detail about any of the events. This year I have taken a special interest in the Drama department and so for this column thought it would be interesting to give my full perspective on our last production: “Catch 22.”

The Fall show, “Catch 22,” was absolutely delightful. The characters were both convincing and entertaining. The acting was wonderful, and the costumes were spot on. Having also seen the movie version of this play, I can honestly say I felt the play was a wonderful rendition of the story line. The characters were gripping, and each one had their own unique charm. This was truly one of East’s better productions.

Last year’s Fall show was somewhat of a disappointment, but this year I have a new appreciation for the Fall shows at East. I felt the story was one that was relatable. I mean, who hasn’t felt like they were in a Catch 22? Although the flashbacks were a little hard to follow I found the actual play itself to be enchanting.

David, who was cast as the lead, really struck a chord in me. Every time he felt pain I almost felt like I understood what he was going through. He is a truly talented actor and deserves recognition for his wonderful acting skills.

I also really enjoyed Ally as the whore; she was fearless and truly became her character on stage. The actors were truly in character, even when slight stage problems occurred (like the awkwardness of rolling the hospital beds on stage and catching it on someone’s backpack) they stayed in character.

Something I especially enjoyed during the show was the special effects. The bloody plane crash victim was awesome—gruesome but awesome. The effect really helped the story truly come to life and gave a sense of reality to the play. I can honestly say it helped me to better understand the pain and suffering a lot of those men endured under the extreme war conditions.

I have to admit I might be in East Theatre Company but I never knew what amazing actors these people really were until seeing the Fall Show. You could really tell how much talent there is in the theatre company here at East. I thought all the characters had a spectacular performance, everyone seemed so comfortable on stage which made for a more believable performance. The play was especially amazing because it didn’t feel like a performance or an “act”—it felt as if we were getting some kind of private view on these people’s lives, truly amazing show.

Jess Lindimore is in her sophomore year at East High and offering a Congress Park highschooler’s perspective to the Congress Park News.
Susan Bardwell’s wonderful tree
Column returns next quarter.
Meanwhile she reminds us of the
Many benefits of urban trees

Studies Show 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

Tree Tour Notice:
Join others for an informal walking
tour of the parkway trees.

Sunday, May 15, 1:00pm
Meet at flower bed at
Colorado Blvd. and 7th Ave. Parkway

Questions/Ideas:
Susan Bardwell
303-399-1155
SusanBardwell@msn.com

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Congress Park Annual Neighborhood Meeting Pizza and Pop
March 17th  Teller School 6-8 p.m.

Join us for the Annual Neighborhood Meeting--Get an update on the issues affecting Congress Park from our City Council members, the Denver police and others. Let your registered neighborhood organization know the issues important to you.

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.
February is African American History, American History, and National Children's Dental Health Month.

March is American Red Cross, American Diabetes Alert, and Women's History Month.

April is Cancer Control, Alcohol Awareness, Autism Awareness, Child Abuse Prevention, and Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month.

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Congress Park Neighbors Membership Form

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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:
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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

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

- Hubert H. Humphrey

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.