



News

Summer 2009

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Excise & Licenses Modify Procedures

By Brent Hladky, President Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.

Denver's Department of Excise and Licenses (E&L) is responsible for, among other things, the issuance and renewal of all alcohol and cabaret licenses in Denver.

What you may not know is each Director has the sole authority to change all E&L Policies and Procedures as they see fit and at any time. Over the past few months Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. (CPN) became aware of a number of important changes we believe you should know about as well.

One result of these changes is Registered Neighborhood Organizations are no longer able to represent neighbors at E&L hearing and individuals must attend hearings and present their own concerns.

In the past, CPN, Inc., Board Members often testified at E&L Hearings reporting the outcome of our Neighborhood Assemblies and providing examples of specific neighborhood concerns. Now, CPN, Inc., is restricted to providing only the voting results of our Neighborhood Assemblies and we are not permitted to

mention specific issues raised by neighbors. Moreover, the current Director, only accepts in-person testimony from individuals within the affected areas at the hearings designated for each hearing or certified petitions. On the CPN, Inc., website, we post applications for licenses and the boundaries set by E&L as the 'affected'

area. The new policy states that to have your concern considered in the E&L decision, you must live or own property in the designated area for that hearing, and you must attend the hearing and speak in person.

Finally, a critical component of all liquor license renewals is the documented history of the establishment. Neighbors must file complaints directly with the City's Zoning department and/or the Police, not with CPN, Inc., nor with the establishment itself. This is in contrast to the spirit of Neighborhood Agreements entered into between CPN, Inc., and several neighborhood businesses, in which neighbors are encouraged to contact either CPN, Inc., or the establishment itself with their concerns. So, if it is a small matter, we recommend you contact the owner, otherwise, call the police, so when the license is up for renewal, problems have been documented. All liquor and cabaret licenses are renewed once a year on the anniversary of their issuance.

CPN's website has a link to the City's Nuisance Abatement webpage.

Current E&L Policies and Procedures may be found at: http://www.denvergov.org/www.denvergov.org/Liquor_Licensing/HomePage/tabid/390073/Default.aspx

If you have any questions about E&L Policies and Procedures, please contact either Congress Park Neighbors at: cpnnotify@congressparkneighbors.org, and/or the Director of Excise and License, Awilda Marquez, at awilda.marquez@denvergov.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 4500 residents and businesses within the area bounded by Colfax Avenue, Sixth Avenue, York Street and Colorado Boulevard.

www.CongressPark
Neighbors.org

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Your articles, letters and advertisements are always welcome.

We need you to help produce and distribute the newsletter. If you can volunteer a few hours every quarter to help your neighbors get the news, please call Wendy or Julie.

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

Congress Park: A Brief History

By Tom Conis

In May 1859, General William Larimer and his son staked out a cemetery called Mount Prospect, two miles east of the existing Denver settlement. In reality, Mount Prospect belonged to the Arapahoe tribe and did not become United States territory until the following year when a formal treaty was concluded with the tribe.

The U.S. Congress sold the land to the City of Denver in 1872 for \$1.25 per acre. It was to be used for burials. The western 80 acres were used for Protestant burials; "Oriental" graves and a Potter's Field were located near the present entrance to the park on Franklin Street and East 12th Avenue, and a 40-acre parcel on the east was sold to the Hebrew Burial Society. The entire cemetery fell into neglect because at that time, it was so far from the center of the city.

In 1887, the city leased "forever" 20 acres in the northeast corner of the tract to the Denver Water Company for a reservoir site. In 1890, Senator Henry Moore Teller persuaded Congress to pass an act authorizing the conversion of the cemetery to a park. Mount Prospect Cemetery became Con-

gress Park. By 1904, Congress Park was becoming green -- supplied by water from the Cheesman Reservoir.

A southern part of the cemetery tract that was privately owned was sold to a real estate speculator, Samuel Morgan. The city fought the sale all the way to the Supreme Court, which in 1903 upheld Morgan's title to the land. To prevent future sales of land designated for parks, the City Charter was amended in 1904 to prevent any sale of parkland unless approved by Denver voters.

The first subdivision plat for the Congress Park neighborhood was recorded in 1887; the total platting was completed in 1888. The park and recreational facilities were a great impetus for development. By 1909 streets were improved and a number of houses built. The entire area was developed between 1900 and 1930. Since then there has been little residential construction, except along Colorado Boulevard and north of 12th Avenue. The majority of new construction north of 12th avenue has been multi-family structures.

Your Congress Park Neighbors 2008 Board of Directors

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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.

Congress Park Buzz: Rec Center & Parking Issues

By CPN Board Member Kathleen Hynes

Congress Park continues to be considered as a potential site for the City's New Recreation Center within District 10. As reported in our Spring 2008 edition of the Congress Park Newsletter, selecting the final site for a rec center is complicated. This back issue is archived on our website www.congressparkneighbors.org.

Congress Park residents face the trade-offs associated with the convenience of having a rec center located in the heart of our neighborhood versus a) keeping the open green space in Congress Park; and b) reserving surrounding on-street residential parking for our neighbors who live near Congress Park. Unless the City provides on-site parking for a rec center built in Congress Park, adjacent residential parking could be overwhelmed.

The City's Strategic Parking Plan includes review of residential parking in areas of the City including Congress Park. (See www.congressparkneighbors.org to view a map of affected area).

To ensure the City was aware of our residents' preferences about their "Resident Only Parking" designation, CPN, Inc., collected feedback online and by snail mail. We received over 240 responses from neighbors in the area under review. The responses showed the closer our neighbors live to Colorado Blvd., the more they want to retain "Resident Only Parking" designation.

CPN, Inc., presented block-by-block findings from the survey to Nola Owens, with Denver Parking, Councilwoman Robb and the Strategic Parking Plan Committee. These findings are on CPN Inc.'s website. At press time, the date for the next Strategic Parking Plan meeting is not scheduled. Sign up for CPN Inc.'s email broadcast to keep abreast of this and other important neighborhood issues by going to www.congressparkneighbors.org.

CPN, Inc. encourages all residents to directly share their opinions about parking with our Councilwoman Robb at 303-377-1807 or (jeanne.robb@ci.denver.co.us) and Ms. Owens (Nola.Owens@denvergov.org) or by calling 720-913-1790.

CPN Monthly Meetings Need You

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

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

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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Seasoned and New Congress Park Neighbors

By Lisa Boeckman

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

You're saved. The CPN, Inc. website now uses Paypal! Become a member the easy way. Visit www.congressparkneighbors.org and join today!

While some folks remain in the house where they grew up, others move when the neighborhood or their lives change. Last year, my husband, Ted, and I traded our Hampden Heights home, built on a quarter acre lot in 1966, for a house built in 1906 on Josephine Street. Our decision was clinched when we realized the public elementary school down the street was below state average in everything. When it became clear that our options were to either send our girls to a private school or move, we decided to move. And I knew Congress Park was exactly where I wanted to live.

In contrast to us "newcomers," Josephine, or Josie, has lived in our neighborhood since 1927.

She remembers seeing fire engines zoom from 11th and Clayton to Colfax. At that time Clayton was northbound only, and trolleys trundled up and down Colfax. She remembers when East High School had one gym, Pappa's Grocery Store on 12th Street was a Piggly Wiggly, Bastien's was a drive-in restaurant, and Denver extended only as far as Monaco Parkway.

While I imagined the men who built our home and/or the families who lived here--what they wore as they consulted plans, and how they laid the brick, using coal for heat, and horses and trolleys for transportation-- Josie was living 'in the hood' just a few years later.

After the depression, Josie watched investors tear down single-family homes that were built in the late 1800s and early 1900s to build apartments to house military families during World War II. Also, larger houses were converted to multiple units to accommodate military families. She remembers going to USO (United Service Organizations) dances at Lowry and Fitzsimmons, and the gas rationing, and shortages of food and other commodities that came with World War II.

Josie really likes the Congress Park neighborhood and so do we. She likes the convenience and being able to walk to stores and bus lines. She says her neighbors are very kind and helpful—they invite her to go with them to the grocery store. She also feels safe here, and she likes to see the children in young families.

We have found similar kind neighbors here. In the first half hour of owning this house, I was sweeping leaves out front when a stranger walked by and said, "Welcome to the neighborhood." Also, to my surprise, neighbors down the street gave us a plate of homemade cookies!

There is movement and activity in this neighborhood; I don't feel as isolated as I did in our old house. Our oldest daughter will attend preschool at Teller in the fall, and we couldn't be happier. We have settled into this house in a way we never settled into our previous house. It's like we have always belonged here; it's home.



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Homes Sales * Neighborhood * Park * Schools

If you're thinking about selling in Congress Park, or know someone who would like to buy, call me! I live and work in the neighborhood.

Homes I've recently sold in our neighborhood:
1151 Steele * 910 Fillmore * 1128 Gaylord (buyer) * 907 Garfield
2636 E. 11th * 834 Cook (buyer) * 1013 Monroe



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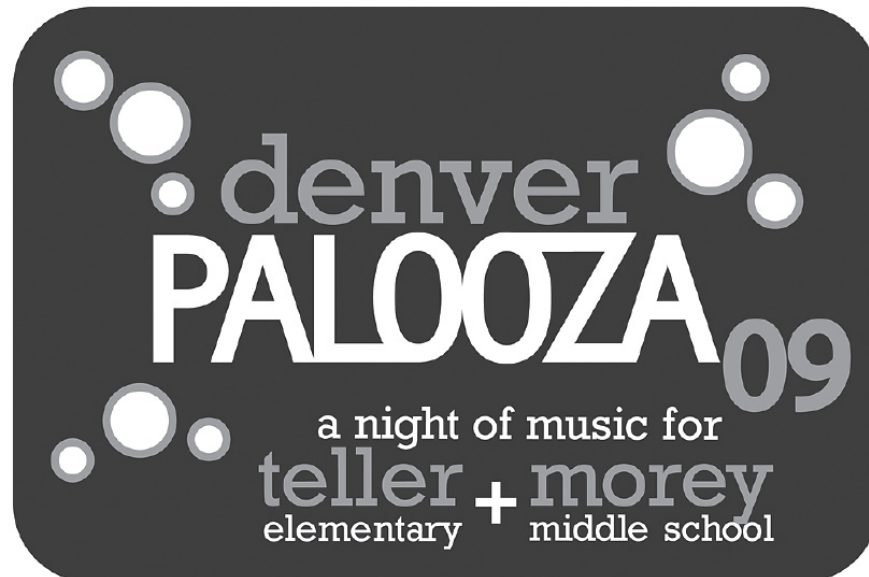
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“Out of the Box” Fundraiser Returns

The sixth annual DenverPalooza is slated for Saturday, May 16, 4p.m.-1a.m. at The Mercury Café, 2199 California. Proceeds from this night of local music and fun support Congress Park’s own neighborhood public schools - Teller Elementary and Morey Middle.



Visit www.denverpalooza.com for all the details!



Featured local Denver bands will include: Second Bell, The Panic, Hobo Nickels, A Bourbon Legend, Izcalli and Reverb and the Verse.

Tickets are available on Teller’s website (www.teller.dpsk12.org). A family 4-pack is \$60; single tickets are \$18 each. Tickets purchased at the door are \$20.

This is not your grandfather’s school band concert! DenverPalooza is not your typical school fundraiser. Bands are homegrown with some edging toward national acclaim. Past music acts have included DeVotchka, The Reals, The Autumn Film, and Angie Stevens & the Beautiful Wreck. Early in the evening, the stage features DPS (Denver Public Schools) student bands. Later, students head home to babysitters; parents and local fans stay into the night.

support these two schools and they serve as an inspiration to the kids.”

“Supporting our DPS schools while taking in an impressive lineup of bands is an unusual, but tantalizing combination to many parents and local fans,” said Teller parent, Bryann Giese.

Morey parent, Julie Kosloski, said, “It is a real community event, but with an edge. We are thrilled despite their local and national acclaim, the bands are genuinely happy to

Teller Welcomes Visitors

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

Open Houses:

More to be scheduled in Spring

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
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Congress Park Historic Speakers Series 2009

By Carolyn Van Sciver

Lectures run May through October, with a talk given the last Wednesday of each month at Heitler Hall, National Jewish Hospital, at 7 PM, unless otherwise stated. Lectures are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the hospital lot on Jackson Street. This schedule is also posted on the Congress Park web site at www.congressparkneighbors.org.

Underwritten by: Susan Bradley, Broker Associate, The Bradley Group Real Estate Services
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CPN Historic Preservation and Education Committee is presenting the Eleventh Season of Congress Park Neighbors Historic Speakers series.

Presentation topics are chosen to help the owners of old houses learn how to better care for their fine "antique" homes and appreciate the history and architectural style of these homes. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Carolyn Van Sciver at 303-377-4913 or cvangsciver@earthlink.net. We always need people to help flyer their block before a talk.

The 2009 schedule includes:

May 27, 2009. **Keeping Cool Without an Air Conditioner.** Is this possible?? Yes it is. Old houses were built before air conditioning was invented and the summers were nearly as hot in 1900 as they are today. Learn how to take advantage of the cooling systems built into your historic house. Dennis Brachfeld from About Saving Heat will tell you how.

June 24, 2009. **The Care of the Trees in Your Landscape.** Mature trees can add significant dollars to the value of your home. In addition to their beauty, they also save on your energy costs year round and add to the ambiance of our neighborhoods. Jim Myer, City Forester for east Denver gives tips on the care of our urban forest, as well as species selection for different locations.

July 29, 2009. **Urban Wildlife And How To Live With It.** Ashley DeLaup is Denver Parks and Recreation's urban wildlife specialist. As much as we enjoy seeing those cute critters in our yards, sometimes they can become destructive

pests. Learn what motivates them, how to prevent problems and protect your home from pigeons, squirrels, and other urban wildlife.

August 26, 2009. **New Space For Old Homes - Improving Existing Space, And Adding On.** Increasing useable space in your old home is a specialty of Architect Suzanne Minear. She will show ways to improve the space you have, capture unfinished spaces, or add to your home in a sensitive way, including the importance of the historic trim in your home and how to maintain or replace missing trim compatible with your home's style.

September 30, 2009. **Hardwood Floors.** Hardwood floors are a common part of our historic homes. John Van Camp has 30 years of experience installing, maintaining and re-finishing wood floors. He has done many of the floors in Congress Park. Hear his tips to help maintain your historic floor.


October 28, 2009. **Working With A Contractor.** What do you need to know to make that renovation project a positive experience for both you and the contractor who turns your dreams into reality? Learn about interviewing contractors, writing contracts, paying for work done—the in and outs of working with contractors.

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Looking East

By Jess Lindimore

Summer is less than a month away and most East High students are desperate to escape during the last month of school. The seniors are dying to experience college, the juniors can't wait to be top of the school, the sophomores can't wait to finally be considered upper classmen, and the freshman are done being "fresh meat." Most students feel exactly like this, that is except for the few lone freshmen who are coming to realize the end of this year means the end of everything being new and exciting.

At the beginning of this school year, I only knew six people entering East High and I was only friends with about four. I have to admit at the beginning of this school year I was stressed about attending East, mainly because of the size. East High currently has around 2200 kids attending, but you wouldn't know it by sitting in one of the classrooms. Throughout this whole school year not once did I feel like my class size was too big, and not once did I feel like my teacher wasn't paying attention to me. Amazing isn't it? I'm being completely honest though—East may be big but it doesn't feel big. East has all the advantages of a big school and the feel of a small school. The hardest part of high school is not the academics, or the sports: it's the social

aspect. It doesn't matter if you believe in labels, everyone needs the one place where they fit in. The advantage to going to a big high school is everyone does have that one place they fit in. I promise you, no matter who you are or what background you come from, you will fit in somewhere at East. You'll be amazed how many friends you have by the end of your freshman year.

This has been one of the most amazing years of my (short) life. This year I played two sports: cross country and golf. I joined two clubs, even made the cut for Year Book Staff, and met some of the most amazing students and teachers. I feel like I've experienced a lot of what East has to offer, but not nearly everything. At the beginning of this year I hardly knew anyone, and was really intimidated by this large school. Now here it is the end of my freshman year and I've never been happier: the place I was once so scared of is now like a second home to me. I look forward to my next three years at East.



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



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Congress Park Neighbor Helping Returning Vets

By Lisa Boeckman

HELP???

CPN, Inc. needs volunteers to help distribute our newsletters. Just four times a year while you walk our lovely neighborhood. The blocks that we need covered are: 900 and 1000 Milwaukee; 600 blocks Clayton, Elizabeth and Detroit; 700 blocks Clayton, Elizabeth and Columbine; 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400 York (East Side)

Contact Julie Lang
303-333-7489

Imagine this: you leave your job and career, and with a patriotic heart, you fight for your country's cause in foreign land. When you return to your job a year later, you find you were demoted, or worse, you were fired while you were away. What can you do?

Joe Ely, a Congress Park volunteer, neighbor, and a retired Army Lt. Col., also volunteers for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an organization working to prevent and resolve employment issues for returning vets.

According to Joe, ESGR approaches the issue on three fronts: 1) informing guard or reserve members of their employment rights; 2) meeting with employers to teach them how to support their deploying military employees and inform employers of their legal responsibilities; and finally, ESGR ombudsmen mediate cases before they become lawsuits. All of these activities are outlined in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, or USERRA, which is a federal law.

As a Military Outreach Director for ESGR, Joe tells troops of their rights and responsibilities before they deploy. In a nutshell, deploying employees must tell their employers in advance they are deploying; they must serve honorably; and they must report to work within a certain timeframe when they return to the States. If they follow these rules, their current employers must hold their jobs, or equivalent jobs, when troops return from their tours. Additionally, employers are not allowed to demote their returning military employees.

As recently as a few months ago, Joe had never heard of ESGR, although he knew of USERRA. So how did he come to volunteer for the organization? He was recruited a couple months ago.

"It's not [the troops'] fault the war is unpopular. War should be unpopular," Joe said. He knows what it's like to be a part of a disliked conflict—he was an advisor for a Vietnamese prisoner of war camp during the Vietnam War.

America needs to support all of its troops. "There are a multitude of reasons why people join the guard or reserves including money and patriotism. The vast majority, though, are kids," said Joe. He believes regardless of the reason an employee is temporarily away from work—whether it's for a two-week training or a year-long tour in Iraq—he should not be punished for fulfilling military obligations.

If you have questions about ESGR, please call 1-800-336-4590.



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Scooter Season Means Scooter Safety and Scooter Laws

By Edward Connolly

As the streets start to clear of the winter grime and the street sweeper returns, it can only mean one thing for us Denverites: Scooter Time.

Those who use scooters ride them for many reasons. The three top reasons are 1) ease of getting around town 2) free parking and 3) 100 miles to the gallon of gasoline. Now that's green.

Before selecting a scooter it is important to understand applicable laws and safety considerations:

- The classification "motorized bicycles" includes 50 CC scooters and they are allowed to park at all Denver bike racks. What a great alternative to \$20 lots at Coors Field!
- Any scooter over the 50 CC size engine is required to have license plates and the driver must have a valid a motorcycle class license. If you own a 50 CC scooter it is important to register it with the DMV. The cost is \$5.00 for 3 years. It is up to the owner to remember to renew it; the DMV does not mail out renewal reminders for these vehicles.
- All Coloradans must have proper eye protection. The use of goggles or protective eyewear keeps debris out of your eyes while enjoying your ride. Though it is not Colorado State Law, you are urged to wear a helmet for safety.
- It is not permitted to ride a scooter on any bike paths. This is a common misconception, since scooters are referred to as "Motorized Bicycles." You are required to ride in traffic with automobiles and to follow all state motor vehicle laws.

If you are not a scooter owner already but are interested in looking into them, contact your local Denver Scooter Dealers for more information. Happy Scootering!

August is CPN, Inc.'s Ice Cream Social Month

Mark your calendars for the best family neighborhood outing in the City—the Annual Congress Park Ice Cream Social on August 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m. held in conjunction with National Night Out, at the Congress Park Pavilion. The event always features free ice cream and the opportunity to talk with police and fire department officials and meet neighbors. Representatives from City Council and State Legislature are on hand to hear concerns, but the big draw for kids of all ages is the big ladder fire truck.

CPN Events On Web

Once again, Maggie, CPN's wondrous webmaster Maggie has once 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!

Three more neighbors just chose Sonja Leonard Leonard to market their homes!



680 Emerson - \$1,400,000
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1245 York - \$629,300
Stunning designer's home
Bromwell - 3 Car Garage



732 Fillmore - \$940,000
7th Avenue Bromwell Home
Immaculate - Six Bedrooms

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Always interview three!

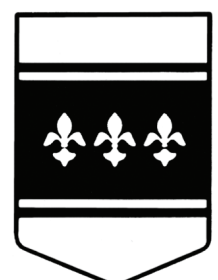


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Does Graffiti Mean Gangs?

By Charlotte Bentley, Former Congress Park Crime Action Committee Chairperson

"The Congress Park Crime Action Committee is committed to coordinate efforts to rid our neighborhood of crime, thus helping to ensure personal safety for all."

CPN Crime Action Committee Mission Statement

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

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

Graffiti has been called the "newspaper of the streets." It can be left by gang members, "taggers" or kids getting a kick out of vandalizing property. For residents, graffiti is an eyesore that defaces public and private buildings, signs and other structures. Police officers can determine whether graffiti is an indication of gang activity.

Gang graffiti, the written language of gangs, is used to mark territory, create gang identity, challenge rival gangs, make statements of loyalty or communicate messages of violence, expressions of grief or retaliation for a fallen gang member. Gang activity in a neighborhood is cause for concern. Some gangs are involved with narcotics, terrorism, illegal weapons dealing, robberies and burglaries.

Certain vandals, called "taggers" by the authorities, write as many tags as possible to gain recognition. Their messages generally are not territorial, because they'll tag anywhere.

If there is graffiti in our neighborhood, the best defense against potential gang or tagger activity is to limit the "message" mechanism. Cover over the messages as quickly as possible. If the graffiti keeps coming back, call the police and they can collect a photographic inventory of the graffiti.

Keep track of whether it is similar or changes, how often it gets put back up, or if it is crossed out and other graffiti is added. This information can help the police interpret the graffiti.

Eliminating graffiti is a way for our neighborhoods to send the message that graffiti and crime activity will not be tolerated in this neighborhood.

Agencies to contact regarding gang activity are:

Denver Police Department Gang Bureau

2205 Colorado Blvd.,

just North of the Denver Zoo

Phone: 303-331-4081

Gang Hotline or Anonymous call related to gang activity: 303-331-5912

Councilwoman Robb: 303-377-1807

Metro Gang Coalition: 720-913-6606

Graffiti Hotline: Call 3-1-1, or

720-865-STOP (7867)

www.denvergov.org/graffiti for assistance with graffiti removal

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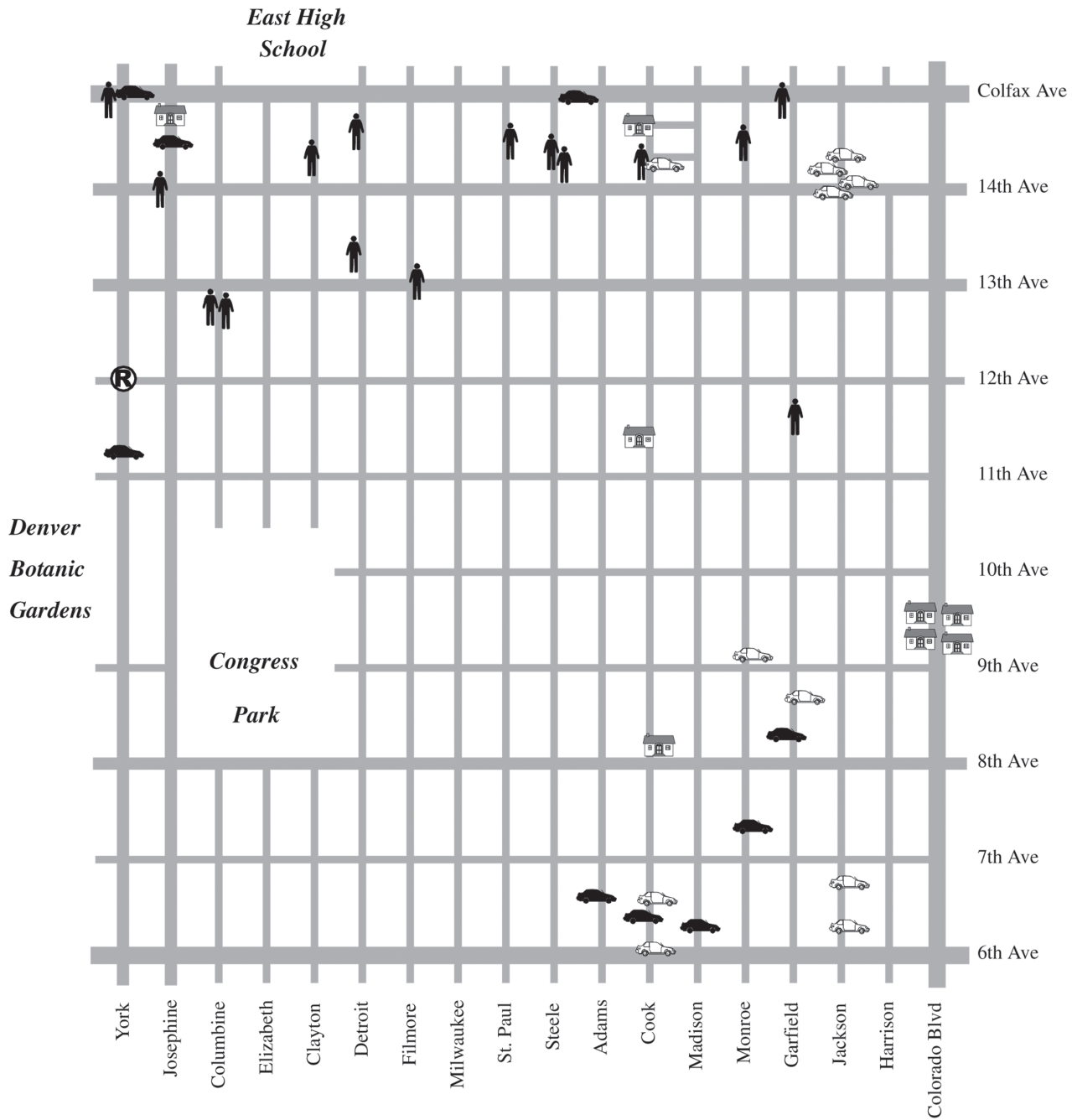







Bonded, insured, certified in pet first aid and CPR

The website for registration of sex offenders in Denver is:
<http://www.denvergov.org/criminalinvestigationsDivision/sexOffendersRegistry/tabid/392258/default.aspx>

Congress Park neighbors can use this website to see if any sex offenders are living in their area.

CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES JANUARY - MARCH, 2009



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

State Champion Identified In Congress Park Neighborhood

By Susan Bardwell

"Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."

-Abraham Lincoln

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

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

Tom Conis knew he had a big tree, but he didn't know just how big. Over the years, neighbors and arborists have commented on the beauty and size of the black locust at 2917 E. 10th Ave. Tom admits, "I am used to people knowing more about my tree than they know about me."

With a tip from Tom earlier this year, Neal Bamberger, coordinator of the Colorado Champion Tree Program (coloradotrees.org), measured the *Robinia pseudoacacia*, and found it is not only big, but the biggest in Colorado. With 236 points on the national scale, based on a formula of its height, canopy and girth, it will be listed as the #1 black locust on Colorado's 2010 list of Champion Trees.

Black locust trees are very adaptable trees. They readily grow in a wide range of soils, moisture levels, and generally challenging conditions. Being a legume, they have the ability to use atmospheric nitrogen to benefit their growth. Because of their rapid growth and susceptibility to borers, proper and timely pruning are important to maintaining the health of the trees.

The tree's showy bloom, around Memorial Day, is extremely fragrant. In light of Denver's recent beehive ordinance, it is good to know the flowers also produce a delicious honey. One cultivar of the Black Locust, Purple Robe Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Purple Robe'), is on the City Forester's list of acceptable trees to grow along our streets. It is noted for its hardiness, drought and salt tolerance, bronze-red new leaves, and cascades of purple flowers.

By the way, if you want to know more about the man behind the tree, Tom is a champion in his own right, volunteering as Vice-President of Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. Thanks, Tom, for both your selfless service and your spectacular tree!



Photo By Tom Conis

Chamber Music in the Congress Park Neighborhood

By Linda Smoke

I was a lapsed clarinetist for 20 years. I began playing again when our daughter was in the instrumental music program at Teller Elementary School. Since then I have started playing the alto sax and clarinet in a community band.

Lately I have been thinking about how fun it would be to play in small groups with neighbors. We could play just for fun and for our neighbors in their homes or back yards. A bit of music and wine or coffee and sweets would be a great way to get to know each other better. And maybe we could play in instrumental groups with our kids. This would be a wonderful way to show our children you can get past "Hot Cross Buns" and playing an instrument can be enjoyable for a lifetime.

I would love to hear from rusty musicians and more accomplished ones who live in Congress Park would like to share their talents. I would be willing to help organize groups and scrounge for music. If you are interested, please call me at 303.355.4297.

Scholarships Available for Civil Rights Activities

By Kathleen Hynes

The ACLU of Colorado invites nominations for the 2010 Civil Rights in Action Award, to be presented at the Annual Meeting in February, 2010. This award is given to a student or group of students whose activism exemplifies the ideals of the ACLU's mission to protect, defend and extend the individual's civil rights and civil liberties. Past award recipients have been recognized for their efforts to protect student privacy and defend student free speech rights, however, the variety of efforts that would be worthy of this award is as broad as the Bill of Rights.

The award recipient receives a \$600 Richard Herschopf Scholarship. This award was established by Mr. Herschopf's family to honor his commitment to civil rights and civil liberties.

Anyone may nominate a Colorado student or group of students, high school age or younger. A person making a nomination does not need to be a member of the ACLU. A letter of nomination must include: 1) the name, address and phone

number of the student(s) and the reasons for the nomination, and the author's name, address and phone number; 2) two additional references that can be contacted about the nominee; and 3) supporting materials, such as newspaper articles that would be helpful in the selection. Email addresses should be included when possible.

To submit a nomination mail, email or fax the letter of nomination to the ACLU office. ACLU of Colorado, Attn: Civil Rights in Action Award 400 Corona St, Denver, CO 80218. Fax: 303-777-1773. E-mail: erikm@aclu-co.org@aclu-co.org Nominations must be postmarked/faxed/e-mailed by February 13, 2010.

Questions? Call Erik at 303-777-5482 ext. 100

Your City Council Representatives

Jeanne Robb,
District 10
City Councilwoman
303-377-1807
1232 E. Colfax
e-mail: jeanne.robbs@ci.denver.co.us

Doug Linkhart,
Councilman At-Large
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Carol Boigon,
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New Business in Congress Park—Assist 2 Sell

Congress Park News continues its tradition of highlighting new businesses in Congress Park by offering them one free business card-sized ad and a spotlight article in our newsletter. Please let us know about new businesses near you.

Assist 2 Sell--“Don’t let the name fool you. This is not a do-it-yourself concept. . . we are a full-service real-estate business with Savings” says broker/owner Todd Barker. While other real estate groups are cutting back, Todd recently added two realtors to his team.

Todd chose his location in the heart of Congress Park, 2526 E. 12 Ave, because it is a great business site and because he lives close by and can walk to work. Please stop by and learn about this company or give Todd a call 303-316-7000 or visit them online www.2995Denver.com.





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<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church 1100 Fillmore; 303-333-9366 Alternative faith community in Congress Park. Sundays: 9:30am worship service, 11:00am education hour.</p>
Hair Salon	Plumbing/Heating	Worship
<p>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.</p>	<p>Vail Plumbing & Heating 303-329-6042 Older home specialist, service, repair, remodeling. Evaporative cooling. Licensed, insured, V/MC</p>	<p>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.</p>
Housecleaning	Repairs/Remodeling	Worship
<p>Offered in the Congress Park neighborhood. 7 days a week. Call for your free estimate. 303-329-8205. Ask for Bob.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Dignity Denver 1100 Fillmore; 303-322-8485 Catholic Mass Sundays @ 5 p.m. Lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender Catholics, families and friends. All are welcome.</p>

Neighborhood Directory

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May is Better Hearing & Speech Month, Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection, National Bike, National Photo, and Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

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Shop at your Congress Park businesses.

www.congressparkneighbors.org lists all merchants in Congress Park.

Please visit our site and see how our local businesses support our neighborhood.

Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.
 P.O. Box 18571
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www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
 - Margaret Mead

Congress Park Neighbors Membership Form

Your neighborhood needs you! Join your neighbors today.

Date:

Name:

I am interested in learning more about:

e-mail:
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 phone:

- 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 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

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.