



News

Summer 2012

www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

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What's Happening in Congress Park This Summer?

By Wendy Moraskie

Congress Park is such a great place to live. We can always find something to do any night of the year, probably within 10 minutes of our houses. In the summer the challenge is choosing among all the options. Here's news about a traditional summer outing, a weekly old favorite and a new option.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 7 for the 29th annual **National Night Out in Congress Park**. All the usual suspects will be in attendance, including the frozen custard, kids, dogs, parents, bicycles, skateboards, soccer balls, our City Council and State House reps, the fire department ladder truck, and perhaps some mounted police. It's always a blast.

This year, the new kid on the block is Denver Film Society's **RAISE THE ROOF** - An Elevated Block Party on the Roof of the Denver FilmCenter. On June 14, July 12, and August 9, from 5 - 9 p.m., come celebrate summer, neighbors and great views of Denver with some of our favorite local food vendors. Music, featuring a great mix of eclectic Colorado artists, starts at 6 p.m. with breaks for special acts. At 9 p.m., head downstairs to catch a film for FREE.

RAISE THE ROOF nights, with input from Twist & Shout and Tattered Cover, are sure to be great entertainment. Keep an eye on www.denverfilm.org for the latest information or call 303-595-3456 for updates. [Ed: *The DFS wants to be a permanent neighbor. Wouldn't that be great? Find out how to support their capital campaign so they can buy their "house."*]

And the old favorite is, of course, **City Park Jazz** starting June 3 this year. See <http://cityparkjazz.org/schedule.html> for the whole schedule. Photographs of City Park from the turn of last century offer scenes of ladies in fine hats and gentlemen in their Sunday best listening to concerts at the City Park bandstand.

The current series began as a handful of jazz concerts in 1986. Each year since, thousands of fans of all ages, ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds visit the park on summer Sundays for the special combination of music, nature and community organized by volunteers and supported by donations.

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.

We have long been impressed with the many Denver Film Society 's productions of Film On The Rocks, the Starz Denver Film Festival, and VOICES: Women +Film, so



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

Congress Park News
P.O. Box 18571
Denver, CO 80218

Editorial Board:
Wendy Moraskie
Linda Smoke

Advertising Coordinator,
Layout & Design Editor:
Michelle Murphy
michelle.murphy@congressparkneighbors.org
720-231-0475

Distribution:
Pat T-Jackson and
Sue Dickinson

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 contact Pat T-Jackson (DenverPatTJ@comcast.net or 303-377-8522) and Sue Dickinson (s_dickinson@qwestoffice.net).

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

Volunteer Opportunity: Newsletter Coordinator Needed by June 15

We're looking for a neighbor who can be our Volunteer Newsletter Coordinator. You'll work with an existing volunteer editorial and layout team to manage the production of the 30-plus year-old vibrant quarterly neighborhood newsletter.

It's a great opportunity for long-term residents to be more involved, and for newcomers to learn more about our terrific neighborhood. The newsletter informs Congress Park neighbors about neighborhood-related issues and works with the volunteer neighborhood Board in the best interest of the neighborhood to further the neighborhood vision.

The newsletter coordinator will:

- solicit and gather news copy from continuing and new writers on topics of interest to our dynamic neighborhood
- write as needed to share news and issues

- deliver to and collect from volunteer editors and layout designer
- communicate with advertising and delivery coordination volunteers
- help obtain stats for the crime mapping volunteer
- ensure that information about newsletter articles, layout, proofing, printing and bulk delivery gets to the people who need it
- keep current on issues relevant to the neighborhood in order to solicit news articles from experts
- and advise the CPN, Inc., Board of newsletter and neighborhood issues

Email cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org to express your interest in volunteering. Not sure? Email Wendy Moraskie at wendyrich@msn.com to hear more.

Your Congress Park Neighbors 2012 Volunteer Board of Directors

Brent Hladky—President
958 St. Paul St.; 303-393-9072
president@congressparkneighbors.org

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

Ted Boeckman—Treasurer
treasurer@congressparkneighbors.org

Bill DeMaio—Membership, Zoning,
Hospital District
bdemaio@aol.com

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

Wendy Moraskie—Newsletter
1475 Milwaukee St.; 303-355-3735
wendyrich@msn.com

And we thank these committed neighbors:

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

Michael Sutherland—Denver Botanic Gardens liaison

Lisa Bingham—Hospital District Redevelopment

Larry Goldman and Rachel O'Bryan—Crime Action
crime@congressparkneighbors.org

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!

Do you have a suggestion for your Board?
Send hints and help to
CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org

Two slots are open to represent Congress Park on the Botanic Gardens Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

Contact Bill DeMaio at 303-321-2718 or bdemaio@aol.com to express your interest.

Your elected, all-volunteer Congress Park Board invites you to attend the open meetings at National Jewish Hospital on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Heitler Hall.

Congress Park Historic Speakers Series 2012

By Carolyn Van Sciver

The tenth season of Congress Park Neighbors Historic Speakers series is presented by the CPN Historic Preservation and Education Committee. Lecture topics are chosen to help the owners of old houses in the area 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 me at 303-377-4913 or cvansciver@earthlink.net. We always need people to help flyer their block before a talk.

The 2012 schedule includes:

June 27, 2012 - *Comfort and Efficiency for Your Home*. Does your house need an energy “tune up”? Deacon Taylor, SolarCity, can help you solve energy, cooling, or ventilation problems in your old house while maintaining its historic style and integrity. Learn how to have a cooler home this summer.

July 25, 2012 - *Foundation Woes*. After all these years, most of our old houses have experienced at least some foundation settling. Jason Shaw, Crawl-spaces 2 Basements, will help you understand what causes this and some ways to deal with the resulting cracks, bulges, etc.

August 29, 2012, and September 26, 2012 - To Be Announced. Look here in the next issue for details, or check www.congressparkneighbors.org.

Links for Old House Aficionados

Do you have an Arts and Crafts home design or a Bungalow? Maybe you believe that you have a Sears designed home? Congress Park Neighbors website has an extensive collection of web-links that can assist in the restoration and history of your home, from the interior to arts and crafts gardens.



We have links about everything from Aladdin Ready Cut Homes and Bungalow floor plans to the Roycrofter movement. Go to <http://www.congressparkneighbors.org/other-links/arts-and-craft-homes/> and take a look under Arts and Crafts Homes.

The Congress Park neighborhood website has links to other topics under the Other Links page too; such as Museums and Institutions, News Organizations and Preservation Organizations.

If you have additional links that you think would be of service to others, please send them to us at webadmin@congressparkneighbors.org.

Underwritten by: Susan Bradley, Broker Associate, The Bradley Group Real Estate Services 720-327-4993

Historic Speakers Summer Series

Lectures run June through September, with a lecture given the last Wednesday of each month. The lectures are held 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 lot on Jackson Street. This schedule is also posted on the Congress Park website at www.congressparkneighbors.org.

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Calum's Column

By Teller Fifth Grader Calum Abeywickrema

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

You're saved. The CPN, Inc. website uses Paypal! Become a member the easy way and make sure our neighborhood's voice is heard. Visit www.congressparkneighbors.org and join today!

Looking back on my experience at Teller Elementary, I am sad it is time to leave because it has been a great experience. I have had many great teachers, but four really stand out. Those four are Miss Hoffman, Miss Sackett, Miss Lang and Miss Coats. And my Grandma.

Let's start with Miss Hoffman, 4th grade teacher and home room. Every day I came into the fourth grade, I either saw her laughing or with a nice big smile on her face. She inspired me to go above and beyond. She helped me grow as a writer, and got me to like writing.

My other fourth grade teacher was Miss Sackett. She was the best math teacher ever. She helped me with multiplication facts and division. She and Miss Hoffman were always making the best plans to make the day fun.

Miss Lang was my kindergarten teacher. She's the one who started me off at Teller. Whenever I left my mom to start the day, I'd be in tears. But she'd always cheer me up by writing me notes saying, "Calum, you're going to do very well in

school today and I know it." Miss Lang always made it fun in kindergarten, whether I was having a bad day or a very good day. I always felt very confident in her class.

Miss Coats is my 5th grade home room teacher. Every day I walk into her class I feel inspired to do well. She makes hard assignments fun. She has pushed me to my limits and made me into the good student I am now. When it's time for reading, sometimes it's hard for me to settle down, but she has gotten me to be able to sit down and concentrate and enjoy what I am reading. She has faith and hope in me and knows that I can do well in 6th grade.

Last but not least is my Grandma. She is a Para at Teller and I get to see her every day. It is the best thing in the world to have your Grandma as a teacher in your school. She is always cheering everybody up and making the day fun. I am really going to miss having her around next year when I am at Morey.

I've had so many great teachers and this page is too small to mention everyone. All of my teachers have been so good to me, and I thank all of them and I have to say I have had the best experience of my life at Teller Elementary.

Thank you for tuning in to Calum's Column. My readers are what keep me going. Thank you.

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A Talented Spring at Teller Elementary

By Allyson Mendenhall

There was no gradual winding down of the school year at Teller Elementary this spring. Instead there was a host of performances and events for which the students, faculty and parent volunteers feverishly prepared and practiced. Below is a list of just a few of them:

Destination Imagination

Teller boasted five Destination Imagination teams this year—three competitive and two non-competitive. On team, the Hungry Predators coached by dads Robb Troxler and Jeff McClure, tied for third place at the annual tournament in March and went on to the state-level competition on April 14th.

Shakespeare Play—Two Gentlemen of Verona

The 2012 Teller Shakespeare cast (20 students) and crew (over 20 students) performed Two Gentlemen of Verona in the Teller auditorium on May 3 and also participated in the Denver Shakespeare Festival downtown on May 11. Led by teachers, Joy Urbach, Jennifer Bartos and Joyce Whitman, the students presented a cut version of the Shakespeare play in its original language.

Each year a different play is performed. This year, the play included musicians playing recorders and also a voice solo. The primary players were Cassidy Nicks (grade 5), Lulu Scully (grade 4), Kaija Koenigberg (grade 4) and Bella Sundstrom (grade 4).

Teller Talent Show

The third annual Teller Talent Show took place on April 13. Over 50 student acts auditioned for 15 spots and exhibited a multitude of talents. The Talent Show is hosted annually by the 4th grade classes. The students serve in different roles for the event—emcees, backstage crew, prop set-up, advertisement, ticket sellers and ushers.

Proceeds from the Talent Show tickets sales and bake sale typically total over \$1200. 100% of funds raised go to the Teller PTA to support special programs at the school.

Retrieve Purple Recycle Bins

Denver Public Works Solid Waste Management reminds us that however adorable we find the purple recycling bins, they must be brought back to our property when pickup is over for the two week period. As proud as we are of our recycling program, after collection time, the purple bins may not be left in the alley or at the curb, but need to be out of public view.



Congress Park homes are moving fast! Buyers and other Realtors are calling me to find out if I have anything new coming on the market. If you've been thinking about selling but holding off, now is a GREAT time to list! Call me to discuss!

www.congressparkhomevalues.com



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9th Annual Tellerpalooza—May 5, 2012

By Allyson Mendenhall

Your City Council Representatives

Jeanne Robb, District 10
City Councilwoman
720-337-7710
jeanne.robbs@denvergov.org

Robin Kniech
Councilwoman at large
720-337-7712
kniechatlarge@denvergov.org

Debbie Ortega
Councilwoman at large
720-337-7713
deborah.ortega@denvergov.org

Local rockers Bop Skizzum and My Body Sings Electric led a diverse line-up of musical talent at the 9th Annual Tellerpalooza fundraiser on May 5, 2012 at the Mercury Café. This year's mini-music festival also featured Jaden Carlson, Popcult and Nautical Mile. Teller's own school band, comprised of a record 85 students during the 2011-2012 academic year, launched the festivities.

Drawing over 700 people and typically raising approximately \$14,000, Tellerpalooza funds music, art and physical education as well as Gifted and Talented programs and teacher assistants.

Conceived in 2003 by a group of music-loving Teller parents, Tellerpalooza is one of the school's biggest fundraisers. Past musical acts have included: DeVotchKa, Wendy Woo, The Heyday, The Swayback and Angie Stevens.

This year's acts represented a wide range of musical styles—from pop rock to reggae.

"The event really offers something for everyone," said Teller parent and Tellerpalooza talent recruiter Bryan Giese, "from bands that are just emerging and making a name for themselves to groups such as Bop Skizzum whose members have been mainstays on the Denver-area scene."

"In this era of budget cuts, Tellerpalooza is absolutely essential," said Teller Elementary Principal Jennifer Barton. "It not only allows us to continue to provide valuable programming to our students, but also enables us to hire staff to keep teacher-to-student ratios low. We're so grateful to all the bands who donate their time to make Tellerpalooza such a success."

Biographies for each band are included below:

- Bop Skizzum <http://bopskizzum.com/>
- My Body Sings Electric <http://mybodysingselectric.com/>
- Popcult <http://popcultband.com/>
- Jaden Carlson <http://jadensound.com/>
- Nautical Mile <http://www.nauticalmileband.com/>

The Mercury Café has long served as the home of Tellerpalooza. Known for serving fresh, organically grown local food, the restaurant and music venue provided a special menu for Tellerpalooza.

The 2012 event was sponsored by: KTCL 93.3, Sticker Giant, Rapps Drums, O'Dells and Del Norte. For more information visit www.tellerpalooza.com.



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Congress Park's Waldorf School: An Insider's Perspective

By Lucy Gallagher

The Denver Waldorf School is an oasis of sorts. I started there when I was 3, and at that young age I learned of gnomes, fairies and many other mythical creatures. Every afternoon for three years in kindergarten, I would doze off to the sound of a Grimm's fairy tale spoken by a teacher with a calm voice.

On that fresh first day of first grade, I met 23 glorious people who, most of them at least, have become like brothers and sisters. That day we had the Rose Ceremony where we each received a rose from an 8th grader who became the person always there with arms wide open for the next five years, if they stayed for high school. First grade was filled with many other beginnings such as hand-work, where we learned to knit, arithmetic and roman numerals, and drawing gnomes our teacher drew on the board.

Second grade is very unique in that we hadn't fully established our ability to read. We learned through our imagination when we drew a picture for each letter in the alphabet. But now we would begin to read our first book! It wasn't difficult at all; we knew the letters and the sounds. We just had to put them together, and in no time at all we were reading.

Third grade was the year we broke into groups and I met my best friend. We also learned to farm, can and pickle foods. We heard the creation story and others from the Old Testament and built a life-sized sukkah (a shelter used a very long time ago).

In fourth grade, we learned Norse myths, the history of Colorado, and advanced into difficult form drawing, which was a sneaky way of teaching us geometry.

Fifth grade was a year filled with coming of age in an indescribable way. We learned geisha myths, ancient Greek mythology and history and botany. We went to a pentathlon in Boulder in honor of Greek history and competed with other Waldorf schools.

In sixth grade, we continued geometry and began ancient Roman history. In seventh grade, we studied the Renaissance and the Middle Ages. Art always has been incorporated in our learning but more than ever in seventh grade.

My experience at the Denver Waldorf School has been that by teaching history and other subjects like a story, it's always fine to become immersed in my thoughts and the tales that run through my head. I have learned about the arts through annual class plays, music classes and writing. But most important to me, the relationships that I have made, make me a better person every day.

Backpacks Are Basic: Let's Fill Them

Spring is here and soon children will be getting out of school for the summer. That means it is time, once again, for the Backpack Collection Program.

Currently there are 81,870 students in the Denver Public School system. Over 59,363 of them take advantage of the free/reduced cost lunches, and 2,000 are completely homeless. This is an increase of 200 more students from last year. These children are in need of basic necessities such as backpacks, pencils and notebooks. Right now they carry all of their belongings in grocery sacks, which they carry like a backpack.

Minority Enterprise & Educational Development, Inc., (MEED), collects new and gently used backpacks, and school supplies to distribute to these homeless students, in the fall. They need assistance in this effort to help these children. Monetary contributions are always welcomed, as well, so that they can purchase the needed supplies. Last year they collected 3,503 backpacks and were able to assist homeless youth and disadvantaged families, who had a roof over their head, but did not have the funds to give their children the necessary school supplies.

If you would like to help, please bring backpacks and/or school supplies to one of these drop sites:

MEED
Sara Fuentes
6740 E. Hampden Ave., Ste. 106
Denver CO 80224
sfuentes@meedcolorado.org

Denver Public Schools
Sharon Gonzales
1350 E. 33rd Ave.
Denver, CO 80205
sharon_gonzales@dpsk12.org

Lucy Gallagher is an 8th Grader at the Denver Waldorf School

Hunger Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation: Summer Program Feeds At-Risk Students

Have you heard about the Summer Food Service Program? It's "Food That's In When School is Out." The Colorado Department of Education uses this USDA program, through numerous community partners, to fill potentially empty tummies during the summer school break when school breakfast and lunches aren't served. To learn more, to volunteer or to bring a student to a site near you, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutrisummer.htm>

Continued on page 12

Our Shade of Green

Sharing helpful hints and home improvement ideas for our neighborhood

By Glen Girard

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!

How do you measure the value of "green improvements" when buying or selling a home? Do houses with solar sell faster or for more money? We now we have the tools to help us answer these questions.

Denver's MetroList MLS, the database used by realtors to list homes for sale, recently launched their green-field addendum (GFA). The GFA include searchable database fields for finding, describing and valuing green home features.

The searchable fields are split into two categories, "Certifications" and "Features." Certifications are third party verified programs such as LEED for Homes, HERS Rating, ENERGY STAR qualified, and NAHB/NGBS-ICC 700. Features focus on renewable energy such as Solar PV and Solar Thermal.

In addition, home owners and realtors would also have the ability to showcase other green features in an addendum field. With every home being unique, this provides a catch-all feature to include items like no-VOC paint or recycled content cabinets. These might not be easy items for an appraiser to value individually, but they are most certainly features that a home buyer, or seller, may want to identify in their search.

Providing the Real Estate industry with data specific to a home's green attributes will assist in building industry awareness and a verifiable system to quantify the impact of green home attributes. The goal is to make it as easy to find a LEED certified home as it is to find a three-bedroom home.

Having searchable fields will make it easy for buyers, appraisers and lenders to review a home's green building attributes, as well as providing sellers the ability to differentiate the property by listing the green investments they have made in the home.

As an example, appraisers will no longer need to sort through multiple documents detailing all the green aspects of a home. Now they can look at these designations on the MLS. An appraiser doesn't need to figure out what increased insulation means to the bottom line when they have a LEED for Homes Gold designation and a HERS rating in front of them as a justification.

This will not be an overnight solution, but as the database grows with the sale of each green home, more tangible data will be available for homeowners, appraisers and lenders. Visit www.metrolist.com for more information.

So be sure to ask your realtor about the searchable green home fields for your listing or when you are looking for a new home.

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Prosecute Juveniles as Adults? Let Courts Decide.

By State Representative Beth McCann

Current law allows a prosecutor to charge a youth as an adult for qualifying crimes by directly filing a case in adult court. This decision determines if a juvenile will be sentenced to the adult prison system or to the juvenile correctional system and also whether he or she will have a felony record. Before now, this decision to file in adult court was never reviewed by a judge. In my opinion, a decision with such significant ramifications should be subject to judicial review.

I co-sponsored House Bill 1271 which provides that for 14-15 year-olds, a prosecutor must request a case transfer to adult court and a juvenile judge will decide whether a transfer is warranted.

This bill allows prosecutors to file directly in adult court against 16 and 17 year olds, but these juveniles can ask a judge to review the evidence and decide on the proper court.

A recent Colorado Juvenile Defender Coalition report documented that 85% of the direct-filed cases are for Class 3 and 4 felonies, not the more serious Class 1 and 2 felonies. Evidence also suggests that recidivism is worse for juveniles sentenced to adult prison than those in the juvenile system. The youth correctional system is better equipped to manage and rehabilitate its offenders, who are at greatest risk of victimization in the adult system.

Our juvenile justice policies must facilitate the best possible outcomes when youthful offenders reintegrate into our communities.

The changes to the direct-file statute will serve our community by preserving public safety, identifying those juvenile offenders who can be rehabilitated, and providing them the opportunity to learn new behaviors. Young people who should be rehabilitated in a juvenile facility will be given that chance in a locked and safe environment. Those juveniles who should be tried, convicted, and sentenced as adults will be.

Just before publication, this bill was signed into law by the Governor and will become effective this summer. Please feel free to call (303-358-9247) or email beth@bethmccann.org to discuss this bill or any other state issues.

Sunflower Farmers Market Coming to East Colfax

By Linda Smoke

Rosen Properties has entered into a contract with Sunflower Farmers Market (Sunflower) to construct a grocery store on the former Rosen-Novak property, located on the north side of Colfax between Monroe and Garfield Streets. Construction of the 26,000 square foot structure is scheduled to begin in 2012, with an opening date towards the end of the year. Sunflower stores are no-frills operations with lower-priced goods that might be compared with those found in Whole Foods.

Prior to construction Rosen Properties will need to obtain a rezoning of three parcels to the north of the proposed site. Currently zoned Residential (U-TU-B), which allows two units per lot, the desired zoning category is Main Street (U-MS-2X). Main Street allows two-story structures and special conditions or exceptions to be added to the zoning requirements.

Some residents in the South City Park Neighborhood, which includes the site, are opposed to the proposed development. Some are concerned that at the end of Sunflower's lease the developer will put in a multi-story structure or will lease to less desirable tenants. The plans call for heavily landscaped surface lots for 100 to 120 cars to be located primarily to the north of the store. This aspect of the proposed development is also of concern.

Construction of the grocery store is the first phase of proposed development. The second phase, to occur within the next 5 to 10 years, is development of the property between Garfield and Jackson Streets, currently used for parking for National Jewish Hospital employees. The third phase would be development of the property located in the Congress Park Neighborhood from the former Galaxy Auto Body to Garfield Street.

To see drawings of the proposal, go to: <http://rosendevelopments.com/project>. Of course, the plans are still being finalized, so the end result may look slightly different from these depictions.

District 3 Community Resource Officer is Tony Burkhardt.

Tony's contact information is: 720-913-1231, or 720-641-1164, or anthony.burkhardt@denvergov.org.

We very much appreciate Tony's care for our safety.

Trader Joe's to Settle at 8th and Colorado?

After months of excited rumors speculating about the grocer said to have picked the corner at 8th and Colorado, the Denver Business Journal reported that Trader Joe's has signed up. We look forward to this merchant as well as the new Sunflower Farmers Market at Colfax and Madison being very good, and very welcome neighbors.

Correctional System's "Revolving Door" Opens to Congress Park

By Charlotte Bentley, Former Congress Park Crime Action Chair

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

Crime Action Volunteers

Rachel O'Bryan and Larry Goldman are our crime action committee volunteers and can both be reached at crime@congressparkneighbors.org

CPN is eager to revitalize our Neighborhood Watch program and if you would like to volunteer with Rachel and Larry, or learn more about Neighborhood Watch, please contact them.

Within a given year, nearly 700,000 offenders return from state and federal prisons to our communities nationwide. Statistics report that despite continual increases in spending on prisons, America's national recidivism (offenders returning to prison) rate is very high, estimating that 75% of offenders return to prison within three years of their release. When released, those offenders will spend time in our communities, will re-offend in our communities, and will re-enter the system because of yet another offense. This is the correctional system's "revolving door."

Offender desperation leads to poor judgment and decisions, which increase risk to all of us. If an offender can return to the community mobilized to become a productive member of society and with options besides re-offending, then the community is stronger and safer.

There are many services available to assist offenders in their transition from criminal to productive citizen. Success is determined by the offender's choices to take advantage of potential interventions or gravitate to familiar cohorts, dangerous environments and illegal behaviors. What chance do they have there?

A stable community can encourage rehabilitation. The community that respects itself and nurtures disciplined honorable behavior is a great start for a person who wants to improve his/her chances. Such a community has neighbors working together to keep their habitat beautiful, clean and crime-free, free of human and substance abuse traffic, and continually working towards building a cohesive participatory society.

Congress Park is such a community. Here, neighbors can join the CPN monthly meetings, assist the Congress Park Crime Action Committee with safety issues, look out for each other, support churches and spiritual groups, offer to serve on a half-way house community advisory committee, and more. It doesn't happen without all of us participating in the effort every day.

Don't wait for "them" to do what you see needs to be done—find a way you can contribute to making Congress Park a model of a nurturing, respectful community.

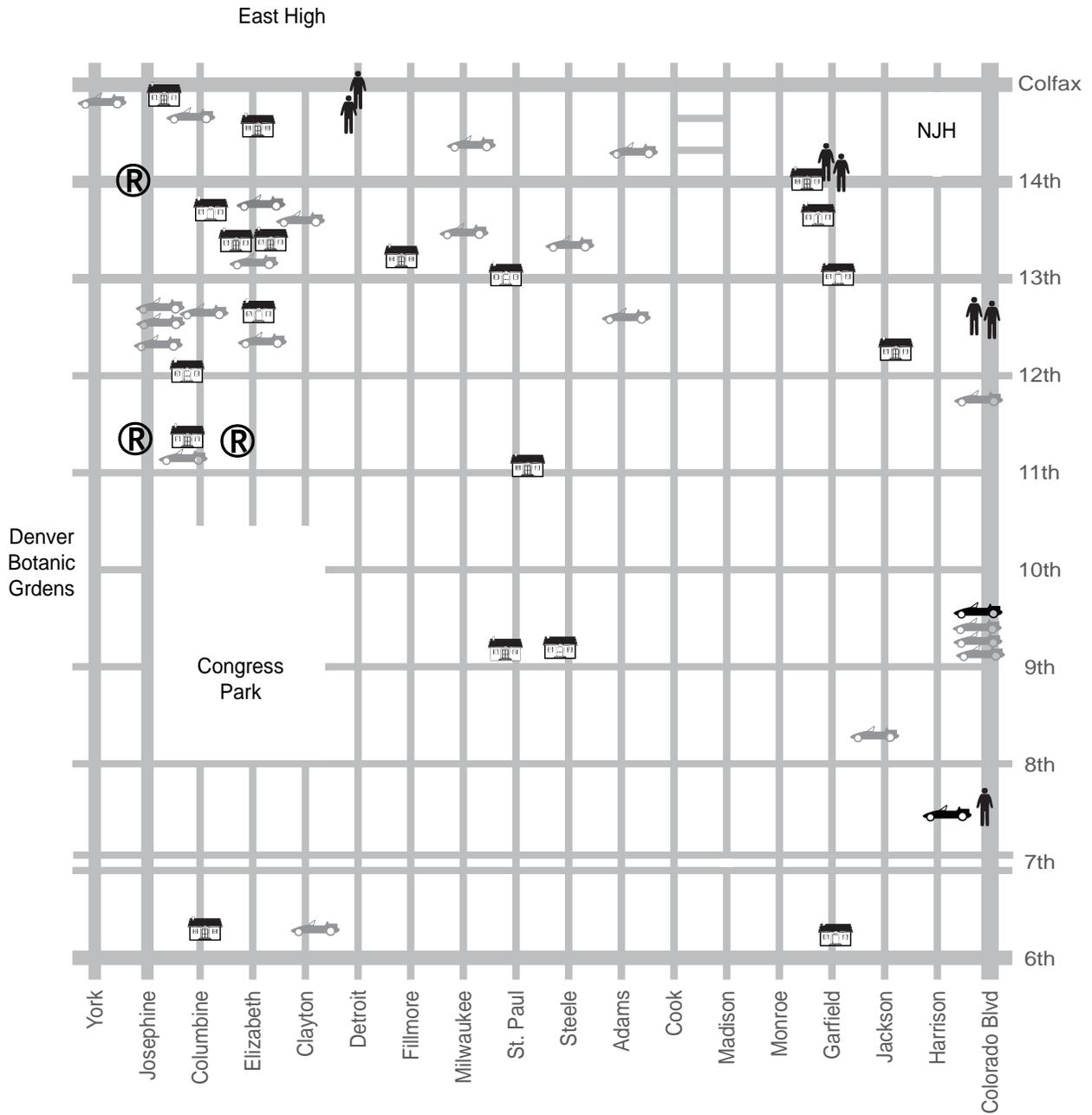
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CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES JANUARY - MARCH 2012



-  **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 2012. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics relayed through Council District 10.

MissionWear Provides Reusable Bags, Re-Skilled Employees

By Vibeke Brant

What interesting things are your neighbors up to?

Tell us at cprnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org.

When you feel personally committed to two seemingly unrelated, though equally important, issues, could you find a common solution? You could if you put on your creative hat and invented something new.

This was the case in 2006 when Beth McWhirter was confronted with two perplexing problems – (1) how to help women gain employment after struggling with homelessness and street living and (2) how to help people become more socially conscious about their consumption.

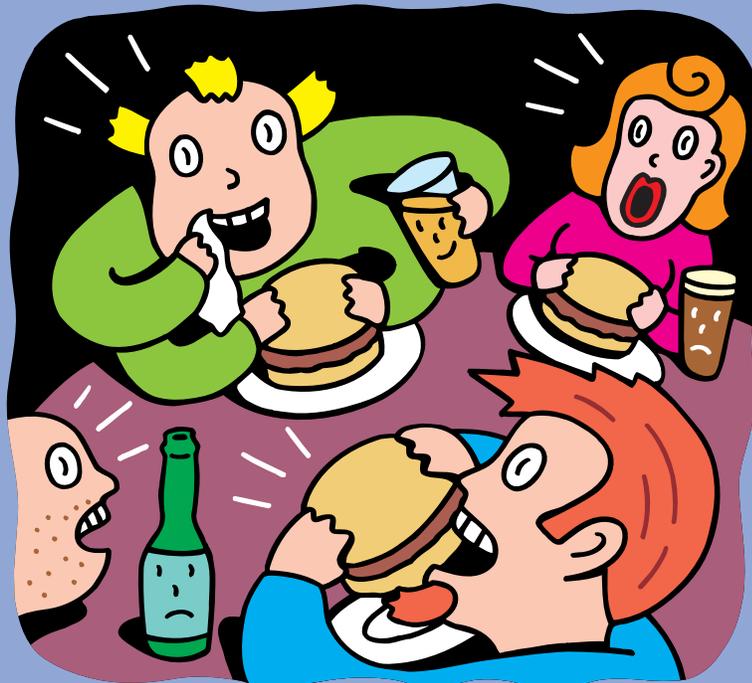
Out of this conundrum MissionWear was born. MissionWear is a local non-profit organization that

employs women to fabricate reusable shopping bags out of old jeans and used advertising banners while providing skills and an entry path back into the workforce. Birthed in the Capitol Hill/Five Points neighborhood, MissionWear has helped over 35 women get back on their feet since 2006.

Beth and MissionWear have received several local awards and have been given Honorable Mention in the *Wall Street Journal*. Check out MissionWear online at their website: www.themissionwear.org or friend us on Facebook at MissionWear.

Next time you are faced with a complex puzzle, use it to fuel a creative idea. Be the solution that your community needs.

The only bad thing about our burger is you have to put down your beer to eat it.



The Cherry Cricket

Open every day: 11 am to 2 am Kitchen hours: 11 am to midnight
Happy Hours: 4:30 to 6:00 pm & 10:00 to midnight cherrycricket.com
2641 East 2nd Avenue in Cherry Creek North 303-322-7666

Backpacks Are Basic: Let's Fill Them

Continued from page 7

Basic School Supply List:

Kindergarten-5th:

Box of pencils, box of colored pencils, box of markers, box of crayons, 4 spiral notebooks-wide lined, 1 pair of scissors, 2 bottles of glue, 3 sturdy pocket folders to be used for homework, composition book.

Middle School/ High School (6th-12th):

1 binder, set of dividers, notebook paper, pencils to last the whole year, package of pens (blue, black, red), 1 small bottle of glue, 1 pair of scissors, ruler, with both inches and metric measurements, 1 highlighter, 1 pencil pouch, 2 composition notebooks, 4 spiral notebooks, 4 folders, calculator, compass/protractor, colored pencils.



Renew and Reuse With Habitat's Restore

By Kathleen Kurtz

Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver has the perfect place for you to donate and buy used—and sometimes new—household items. The “Restore” at 70 Rio Grande Blvd in Denver has more than 30,000 sq. ft. of donated tile, light fixtures, paint, carpet, cupboards, counters and much more.

Remodeling a kitchen or bathroom? Habitat has a deconstruction crew that can help you with the first step—getting rid of the old cupboards and appliances. Did you already take out the old, still useable cupboards? Don't stack them by your dumpster, call Habitat and they'll pick them up and sell them.

By donating these items you can get a tax receipt and the proceeds they get from selling the items at the Restore go to running the organization. This process allows all checks written to Habitat for Humanity to help low-income working families build homes and purchase their home at no interest.

The Restore has shelves filled with good, reusable low flush toilets, bathroom sinks, windows, doors, tools and hardware. Do you need a small piece of carpet? They have that too, and pieces are often new and left over from a big commercial job.

In the flooring aisle there are pallets of new tile and laminate, and boxes of wall tile. You never have to buy nails or electric switches at retail—Habitat has a huge supply of these items.

In addition to the store in Denver, there are also stores in Wheat Ridge and Littleton. Call 303-960-4811 for deconstruction information and 303-421-5300 for pick up of your donated items.

Help keep usable material out of landfills, help yourself by purchasing items at up to 80% off retail and help deserving families have an opportunity for simple, decent housing. Donate to and buy at Habitat for Humanity's Restore.

Salute to Seniors Sails on May 11

By Eileen Doherty

The Colorado Gerontological Society presents the 23rd Annual Salute to Seniors on Friday, May 11 at the Colorado Convention Center. The annual get-together is a compendium of resources for Senior and their caregivers.

Do you have questions or concerns about aging in Colorado for a loved one or yourself? Like so many others seeking help and information for the future, you can come to one place on one day to learn what Colorado has to offer.

Once a year, The Society brings together over 90 organizations to present their resources, information, and services to the aging population. Your one-stop research can be done at this year's Salute to Seniors at the Colorado Convention Center, Friday, May 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come for the adventures, lectures, dancing, prizes, free food and dozens of attractions all at the largest senior fair in the state.

Themed to honor the centenary of the Titanic's maiden voyage, the conference will feature Molly Brown's great granddaughter as a speaker. Bring Mom for this early Mother's Day treat because tickets are buy one get one half off! To purchase your tickets in advance call: 303-333-3482 or visit senioranswers.org. Tickets are also available at the door. There is free parking at the Pepsi Center with free shuttle service to the Convention Center. Don't miss this once a year event!

Eileen Doherty, M.S. is the Executive Director of the Colorado Gerontological Society. She has more than 35 years of gerontology experience in administration, research, training and education and clinical practice. She can be reached at 303-333-3482 or at doherty001@att.net.

Large Item Pickup Helps Keep Congress Park Beautiful

Donate those large items for re-use, hold them for charity pickup at your house or have a yard sale. If they must go to the landfill, please wait until just shortly before the next large item pickup is scheduled to leave them in the alley or out by the dumpster. We can all agree that heaps of mattresses, chairs, plumbing and whatnot can be pretty unsightly, especially after a rain. The large item pickups for Congress Park are July 2 - 7, September 4 - 8 and November 5 - 9. What about planning an alley-clean-up-block-party for the weekend prior, too?

**Your Name in Lights?
Volunteer Opportunity:
Newsletter Writer**

You know what's going on around your block and at your favorite neighborhood businesses on Colfax and along 12th Avenue. Who better to write that up for the newsletter? Volunteer to write about Congress Park Neighborhood or get involved in another way. Call 303-355-3735 or email wendyrich@msn.com with "CPNews" in the subject line.

You can also send your items to cpnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org

Sienna Wine Bar

By Ann Charles

It was a lovely afternoon at Sienna Wine Bar & Small Plates, located at 3422 East 12th Avenue. On the patio, clustered with small tables and chatting patrons, I was reminded of similar piazzas from vacations.

Sienna has an intriguing wine list, enough to make you want to come back and learn about more of them. The menu has a sufficient selection of food to appeal to most palates, but not too much to be overwhelming and mediocre. You could easily pick a few favorites and happily order them every time. Owners Mary Kent and Quince and Turner Rickard have re-created your favorite "cool" Aunt's parlour, and no patent-leather shoes are required.

Sienna offers more than 30 wines by the glass for about \$6 to \$8. The cozy bar opens at 3 p.m. daily, with Happy Hour from 3-6 p.m. daily and all day Sunday. Call 303-355-2202 for more information.

Madison Street: A Neighborhood Bar and Grill

By Ann Charles

Madison Street, at 12th Avenue and, well, Madison Street, features everyday food with an emphasis on fresh and flavorful ingredients.

Madison Street's menu offers a thoughtful selection of soups, salads, burgers, sandwiches, baja-style fish and shrimp tacos, and rotisserie chicken. Madison Street also has an extensive list of wines by the glass and hand-crafted cocktails – all in a warm and comfortable atmosphere.

Stop by 1222 Madison Street for dinner, snack, happy hour or weekend brunch. Madison Street is open 4 – 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 4 – 11 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. on Sunday. Call 303-736-2260 for more details.



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

June is Recycling Month, Fireworks Safety, National Dairy, and Zoo & Aquarium Month.

July is National Blueberry Month, National Ice Cream, National Recreation & Parks, and Tahiti Awareness Month.

Service Club Meeting

Zonta Club of Denver
303-355-3735
85 years working to improve the condition of women and children. Monthly dinner, program & meeting on 2nd Thursday, \$35. Stop at the Annual ZCD Yard Sale, May 19, 8 am-3 pm, 1360 Glencoe

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“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.

Name:

email:

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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 P.O. Box 18571
 Denver, CO 80218

Date:

I am interested in learning more about:

- Neighborhood beautification
- 12th Avenue Business Support
- Neighborhood/Colfax Plan
- Historic Preservation
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- Newsletter distribution
- Neighborhood Watch
- Outreach
- Membership
- Social events
- Graffiti abatement
- Crime prevention
- Traffic/Parking
- Zoning
- Other

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