



News

Winter 2012

Inside

Notes from the Neighborhood	2
SchoolChoice Process & Gourmet Popcorn	3
Notes from City Council	4
"Intell" from Teller	5
Calum's Column	6
Sunflower Market	7
Congress Park Real Estate	8
Open Fires & East High Activities	9
Crime Action, Map	10-11
Crime Story	12
Our Shade of Green	13
Winterizing Your Garden	14
Biz Directory	15

New Neighbors Contribute to the Congress Park Culture

By Ann Charles

It's a great time to be living in the heart of Denver. On Colfax we have welcomed some new neighbors and are expecting more. Last year, The Denver Film Society moved into the vacant theatre space between Tattered Cover and Twist & Shout and immediately got involved with Congress Park Neighbors, attending meetings, and hosting a membership drive. Next year, the car lots between Madison and Colorado are slated to see a makeover, with one new tenant expected to be a Sunflower grocery store (see page 7). And in the midst of a sluggish economy, Congress Park property values are holding their own (see page 8).

DFS Membership and Volunteer Director Eileen O'Brien said she has enjoyed working with the neighborhood groups near the new location. The joint membership drive, she said, "both helped us to introduce our theater and membership to the neighborhood and incentivized folks to join CPN, Inc. Partnering with neighborhood organizations has been

vital in our amazing success and growth in membership. Since moving to Colfax, we have increased membership by 80% over the same time period last year."

Denver Film Society PR/Media Relations guru Tammy Richards Brislin said, "Overall, everyone here at the DFS is excited about the location [and about the] exciting cultural center developing around the Lowenstein Complex."

"I love being on East Colfax," O'Brien said. She said the neighborhoods embraced the DFS right away and neighbors, volunteers and organizations "have gone out of their way to tell me how happy they are that we are here. It makes me want to make sure that everything we do has a positive impact on the community."

For more information about the Denver Film Society, see www.denverfilm.org. To find out how you can get involved with your registered neighborhood organization, see www.congressparkneighbors.org.

Congress Park's Vision (1995 Neighborhood Plan)

Congress Park is a traditional city neighborhood with a small-town atmosphere. Here, people of diverse cultures, ages, colors and economic backgrounds share a sense of community, value older homes and mature trees, and enjoy the convenience of city living amid the stability of a thriving neighborhood.

Let There Be More Light!

As the evenings get darker earlier, turn on your porch light. You'll deter crime and help to light your small portion of the block for kids, seniors, bicyclists, dog walkers and everyone else. Thanks!

Congress Park News is a quarterly publication of Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. A network of volunteers produces and distributes it to a circulation of more than 4500 residents and businesses within the area bounded by Colfax Avenue, Sixth Avenue, York Street and Colorado Boulevard.

www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

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.

Notes from the Neighborhood

Teller Elementary hosted its Wine-Tasting fundraiser, and that was just the start of the holiday fun that sparkles through Congress Park Neighborhood in the winter. Keep an eye out for the holiday decor at our local restaurants, unique gift ideas at businesses along Colfax and 12th avenue, and craft fairs at community centers and schools.

The 8th and Colorado Hospital campus redevelopment is now looking like mostly one-story retail. The Developers are being asked to tailor the design as much as possible to fit into the existing neighborhood.

The Rosen Novak car lots on Colfax between Madison and Jackson are under discussion for a makeover. One corner is currently slated to be the new home of a Sunflower Market.

The Community Gardeners at Denver Botanic Gardens are asking for a change in their hours of access.

There's a lot happening as we approach this delightful time of year. It's a great time to find ways to show your support for the entities that make our neighborhood the kind of place you want to live. Eat local. Shop local. Volunteer local.

For more information on any of these items, email cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org, and come to the next neighborhood meeting, Nov. 17.

within your budget...
beyond your imagination

LANDSCAPE
Consultation-Design-Installation-Care

- reduced lawn areas & maintenance
- more native & drought-tolerant plants
- hand-pruned shrubs for beauty & wildlife

Susan Bardwell MLA landscape designer
SusanBardwell@msn.com 303-399-1155
Specializing in Denver neighborhoods since 1992

Your Congress Park Neighbors 2011 Volunteer Board of Directors

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

Tom Conis—Vice President, Membership
tom.conis@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

Ted Boeckman
tedwb@mac.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

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.

DPS Rolls Out New SchoolChoice Process

By Amy Asper

Regional Events to Help Families Explore School Options and Learn How to Enroll in a New School

Denver Public Schools is implementing a single application system for families to enroll their children in school. The new process, SchoolChoice, will be featured at regional events in December. The regional expos will information about SchoolChoice and the public schools in their neighborhood, with principals, teachers and students on hand to answer questions.

Starting with the 2012-13 school year, the SchoolChoice form will replace the currently more than 60 different enrollment processes, forms and dues dates for DPS schools. The new system will reduce the number of processes and deadlines to one, and will maintain an emphasis on choice. Parents will be able to select up to five different schools.

“SchoolChoice will boil the process down to one piece of paper and one timeline,” said DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg.

The expo events, divided up by geographic regions, are scheduled as follows:

REGION	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
Southwest	Sat., Dec. 3, 9 - 11 a.m.	Lincoln High School
Far Northeast	Sat., Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - noon	Evie Dennis Campus
Southeast	Sat., Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - noon	Merrill Middle School
Near Northeast	Tues., Dec. 6, 6 - 8 p.m.	Bruce Randolph School
Northwest	Sat., Dec. 10, 9 - 11 a.m.	North High School

All elementary schools in each region will be represented. Participation is optional for middle and high schools and charter schools.

Families may contact the DPS Office of Choice and Enrollment Services with questions about SchoolChoice at 720-423-3493 or schoolchoice@dpsk12.org.


New Neighbor: Edmonds Gourmet Popcorn

By Rachel O'Bryan

If you haven't yet visited Edmonds Gourmet Popcorn, now is the time. They sell six varieties of flavored popcorn, plus a special flavor concocted by the owner himself, Freddie Edmonds. You can buy bagged popcorn in sizes ranging from ¼ pound to 1 ½ pounds. This gluten-free snack is also a great gift idea and gift tins are available in 1 to 6.5 gallon proportions. Employees say the most popular flavor is the Chicago Mix, a combination of caramel and cheese flavors. The caramel coating is made on the premises with coconut oil. Try it—I did and it's delicious! The store is located at 2418 East Colfax Avenue across from East High School and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

SchoolChoice Info

For a list of schools by region, please visit <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org>



Edmonds Gourmet Popcorn
2418 E Colfax, Denver, CO 80206
Across from East High School, Next to Maaco

*"Nobody pops
Chicago style popcorn
like Edmonds"*

Freddie Edmonds, Owner
303-862-6273
720-298-2104 cell
Tuesday-Saturday 11am - 7pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

10% off with this card!

We carry gift tins! 1/2 price on refills!

Taste for Teller

Wine Tasting & Silent Auction

When: Sat., Nov. 5, 6-7:30pm.

Where: Capital Heights
Presbyterian Church,
1100 Fillmore St.

What: They're bringing back last year's popular Around the World in Wine theme.

Come taste wines from France, Italy, Australia, South America, and the USA. More info on the Teller School website.

Your City Council Representatives

Jeanne Robb, District 10
City Councilwoman
720-337-7710
jeanne.rob主@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

Notes from City Council

By District 10 City Councilwoman Jeanne Robb

As the leaves change and drop and as children (and adults) contemplated their Halloween costumes, City Council is wrapping up our annual budget process. The 2012 budget marks the fourth year in a row we have had to close a deficit between projected revenues and expenditures. When we pass the mayor's budget this month, we will have closed a combined \$446 million shortfall over four years. That equates to approximately 13 percent of the budget each year in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Over the four years more than 750 positions in city government have been eliminated.

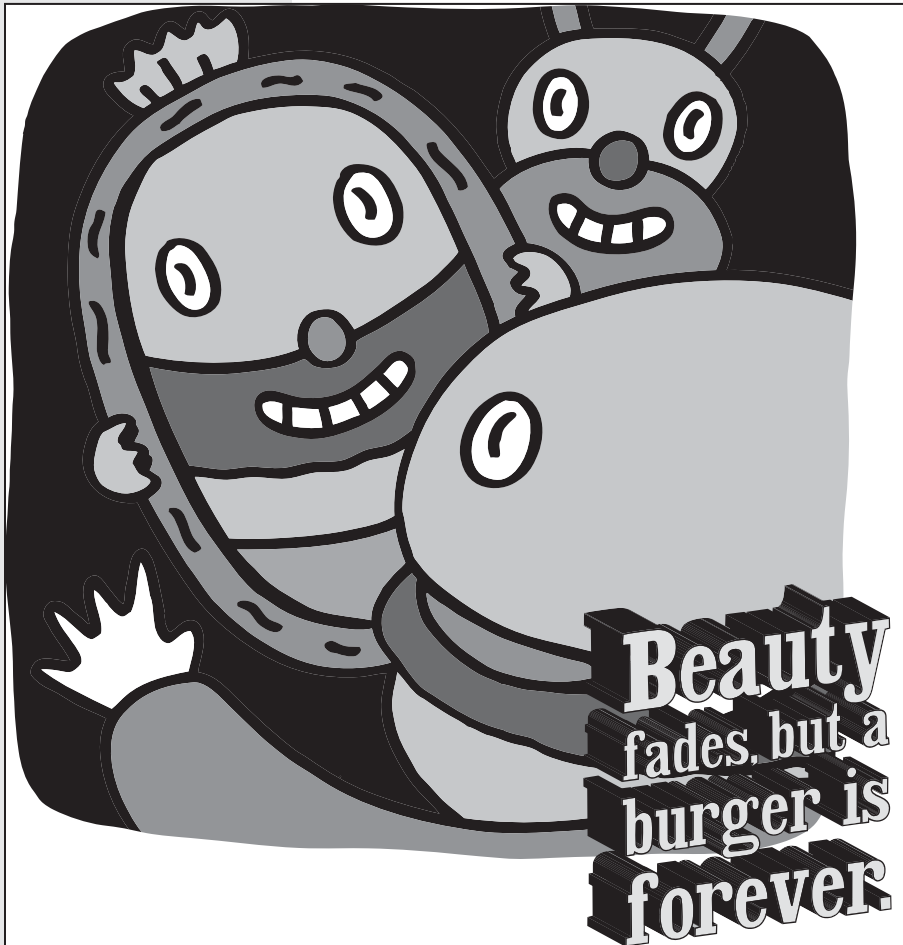
Overall general fund revenues are projected to be \$908 million, an increase of 2.1 percent from the revised 2011 projections of \$889 million. The revised 2011 projections represent a 2.2 percent increase over 2010 actuals. The City and County of Denver's Main Operating Fund receives revenue from various sources including:

- Sales and use tax - 50 percent
- Fees, permits and fines - 28 percent
- Property tax - 7 percent

Changes you may see or experience include longer repair cycles for curb and gutter and other street repairs, similar reduction in large item trash pickup as in 2010, and fewer flowers planted in flower gardens next spring. (Fortunately, there will be no reductions to the present library and Rec center hours although there may be some rearrangement of hours.)

The Structural Financial Task Force created by former Mayor Bill Vidal will wrap up its considerations by the end of the year. Revenues are not growing as fast as expenses. While Denver continues to cut expenses, our population continues to grow. Unfortunately, the Mayor and Council will have to make some tough decisions that could impact you. I will do my best to keep you informed of all ways to provide input.

On the brighter side, I am sure this Congress Park newsletter contains information about projects that could create jobs and revenues in Denver – National Jewish Hospital, real and exciting efforts to re-develop the former CU Health Sciences Center at 9th and Colorado with retail and housing, and the potential location of a grocery store on Colfax at the former Rosen-Novak site (it's great that the property owner actually lives in Congress Park).



**The
Cherry
Cricket**

Open Every Day
11am to 2:00 am

2nd & Clayton in
Cherry Creek North
303-322-7666

“Intell” from Teller

By Cathy Boies

Teller Elementary School has a new face—introducing the new Teller Tiger! Last spring, the school held a mascot contest. Aislinn Lewis, then a 4th grader, won with the design above.

She worked with a professional logo artist to finalize her work and then unveiled it to the school. Watch for T-shirts and other school gear with this great new face.



This silent auction and wine-tasting event, for adults only, is a major source of fundraising for the school. Our neighbors in Congress Park are

encouraged to participate in both these events. If you missed them this year, please join us next year. Watch our website for school happenings: Teller.DPSK12.org

Enrollment at Teller is up to 463 students this year—a record number. With plans to add one more class in fifth-grade next year, the school is at full capacity with long waiting lists for families wanting to “choice in”. This is a far cry from the school of a decade ago that was in danger of closing due to under-enrollment. Such a sought-after school is a great anchor for the neighborhood!

Do you have a talent or skill you would be willing to share with our students? Or could you spare a couple hours a week to help a student with reading or homework? Help us strengthen neighborhood ties; please volunteer. Contact Cathy Boies: acboies@earthlink.net

The school has been a hive of activity lately, hosting both the annual Halloween Carnival and the fundraiser Taste for Teller. The Halloween Carnival occurred on October 21st, with little ghosts and goblins pouring into the school for Halloween fun in a chaperoned environment.

The Taste for Teller took place a few weeks later at the Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church.

Neighborhood Tutors Contribute to Test Scores

Teller students do really well, and some of the credit can go to their neighborhood volunteer tutors. Do you have a few hours a week to help a student grasp that math concept or practice his/her reading? Call Teller at 303-333-4285 or email acboies@earthlink.net to volunteer.



Get the Answers!

CongressPark.com for

- Updated Real Estate Blog, News and Opinion
- “Insights” Online Newsletter

John Sullivan

johnsullivan2000@gmail.com

RE/MAX of Cherry Creek

303-331-4556

Contact me for a no-obligation evaluation of your home.



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 now uses Paypal! Become a member the easy way. Visit www.congressparkneighbors.org and join today!

I'm two months into fifth grade at Teller Elementary, and so far so good. I have three really good teachers. They are Miss Mary, Miss Coats and Mr. Riddle. Miss Mary is our student teacher. She is really nice. She is not strict at all and is really cool. Miss Coats is really nice, too. Miss Coats isn't very strict either, but she doesn't let the classroom go wild. Mr. Riddle is my math and science teacher. He is really cool and funny and really nice too. He has a good personality and really cool glasses.

I have really cool friends, too. Like Joey. Joey's the kid with the awesome red glasses. He is fun

to hang out with. He goes with the flow. Joey and me always hang out at lunch recess. He always plays four-square but I mostly play soccer. Now, let me tell you about Jacob. Jacob and I have a lot in common. We are both daredevils and we like to do a lot of stunts together. We like going off jumps on our skateboards and going off stairs on our bikes. Oh yeah, I can't forget to mention Christian. Christian and I love to play basketball together. We love swimming at the YMCA, too. This summer we got to go play in the Platte River together. Lon, Bilal and Antonio are all good friends, too. We all love legos. Me and Lon like Lacrosse. Bilal and Antonio aren't really sports guys – they're more into legos. I have a bunch of other good friends in fifth grade, too.

Now that I am a fifth grader I have to conquer some of my fears about 6th grade like getting beat up by the big kids or getting bad grades. I hope I go to Morey or DCIS or maybe RMSEL for middle school. I am going to work on conquering my fears with my friends and with my teachers by getting my grades up in 5th grade, but I still might have to worry about getting beat up.

Just about 3 weeks ago my fifth grade class went to Balarat. That's the outdoor education center for DPS. We went on the high swing and it was really fun and scary because it went so high.

This fall I am playing soccer at Congress Park. One of my teammates is Ryan. He is a soccer fanatic. I am also really excited for snowboarding season so I can do rad stuff like going off jumps and back country snowboarding with my class. We go through a lot of trees. My instructor last year was awesome. I go snowboarding with my brother and some of my friends; Maya, Jason and Jacob. I love snowboarding. Last year I boarded a black diamond and this year I want to shoot for a double black diamond. Jason said he'd take me down.

Well that's about it from this fifth grader. See you next time in Calum's Column.

North America's Leading Discount Real Estate Company

Assist 2 Sell

DENVER METRO REALTY

We...

- ✓ Advertise your home for free.
- ✓ Show your home to prospective buyers.
- ✓ Pre-qualify all buyers.
- ✓ Negotiate the purchase agreement.
- ✓ Help arrange financing and oversee the inspections.
- ✓ Handle all necessary paperwork and supervise the closing.

Don't let high commissions take a bite out of your home's equity!



We will sell your home for as low as \$2,995!

Paid at closing. Fees vary for homes over \$200k. Call for details.

We've moved up the street!



12th and Elizabeth St.
(Across from Shells and Sauce)



Stosh Cortner
Realtor®/Interior Decorator
Todd W.W. Barker
Broker/Owner, Realtor®

Selling Congress Park since 1995

Give us a chance. We'll sell your home & save you money!*

Call: 303-316-7000

Or Visit: WeSellCongressPark.com



Assist 2 Sell

SOLD

*Savings based on comparison to 6% commission. 6% used for comparison purposes only. Commissions may be negotiable and are not set by law.

Each office independently owned & operated. ©2006, Assist-2-Sell, Inc.

Sunflower Farmers Market Coming to East Colfax

Compiled 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 early 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.

Marc's Mowing & Property Maintenance

Marcus Gras
Owner

Let us take care of your yard, build/repair fences/decks, maintain your property and remove leaves, weeds and snow!
We Can Help!

303 320-6861
marc@marcsmowing.com

Volunteer Opportunity Community Board Caretaker

Tend the community board on 12th Ave. at Madison St. (next to WildFlowers)

Approximately once a month: Keep postings up-to-date

Sometime during the year: Clear the wood panels of postings and staples/tacks/nails, lightly sand and brush with stain/sealer (provided by CPN)

Maybe interested?
Please contact Susan at SusanBardwell@msn.com or 303-399-1155



CLASSIC
HOMWORKS

DESIGN/BUILD REMODELERS

**Remodeling specialists in
Denver's older homes**



303.722.3000 • www.ClassicHomeworks.com

Your Congress Park Neighbor - 12th & Madison

Whole House Renovations

Pop Tops

Additions

Kitchens

Basements

Master Suites

Much more...

Congress Park Real Estate is a Secure Investment

Part one of a two-part series

Volunteer Opportunity: Newsletter Coordinator

We're looking for a neighbor who can be our Volunteer Newsletter Coordinator, You'll work with the CPN, Inc., Board and manage the production of the 30-plus-year-old vibrant quarterly neighborhood newsletter in the best interest of the neighborhood, upholding the neighborhood vision. The newsletter coordinator will: solicit and gather news copy from continuing and new writers; 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 issues. Email cpnboard@congressparkneighborhood.org to express your interest in volunteering.

By Allen Helmer

As we find a “new normal” for the overall economy and our investments, we wonder what to make of the variety of predictions we hear. Congress Park News asked a few local real estate experts what they’re seeing.

John Sullivan: Just like politics, markets are local. We need to take all that we hear with a grain of salt. Our Congress Park market is affected by what is available and competing with for buyers in other neighborhoods such as Park Hill and as far flung as Stapleton and the Highlands.

In a nutshell though, here are some interesting things to know. Currently, with a relative shortage of good listings, those good listings are selling very strongly. What is a good listing? Today’s buyers will pay for quality: New kitchens and baths, well finished basements, open floor plans, and good locations. They’ll also pay for homes without these things, but not nearly as much.

Here are some Congress Park stats for reference. As of this writing, there have been 92 sales and 12 pending to close. There are 46 homes on the market. In comparison, 5 or 6 years ago there may have been 120 sales YTD and 75 homes on the market. Moreover, Denver ranks high in the Case Schiller National Home price strength index compared to most others.

The real estate market is made up of a lot of factors and a lot of moving parts. Some homeowners today might benefit from some advice regarding short sales and foreclosures. Don’t be afraid to ask for data from a professional who can help you. It’s free and easy.

Sonja Leonard Leonard: I am a “figures freak” and am happy to talk about values in Congress Park. The news is extremely good—values are holding steady. Congress Park is doing well because it never “streaked” to overinflated values; it is a strong location—not too urban and not too suburban; it is a good mixture of all price ranges and not dependent on one economic demographic, and it is a community with a strong neighbor-

hood association, filled with informed people who take an active, involved role.

Margaret Marshall: I’ve lived in Congress Park for nearly 40 years. It just keeps getting better and better and I can’t imagine living anywhere else! Congress Park is one of the most vibrant, friendly neighborhoods in the city. Almost everyone knows their neighbors, many blocks have parties, and everyone truly cares about this wonderful neighborhood. CP’s shopping areas are strongly supported, the restaurants are great, Teller school is extremely successful and has strong parent participation, and our namesake park offers a variety of activity options. It is an extremely stable community and there are enough different styles of Congress Park homes (Denver Squares, Bungalows, Victorian, contemporary and more) to appeal to everyone from singles to large families.

Mike Finesilver: Congress Park continues to improve its real estate values. There are currently 44 active listings and 11 under contract as of October 17, 2011. The following statistics average all types of homes whether they are bungalow, story and one-half, two story, or three story. Within the past six months, 73 homes have sold in Congress Park. 170 homes have sold within the past 18 months. All these homes have sold for at least 93% of the original listed price. The average sold price for the past 18 months was \$411,031. The price per square foot has gone up to \$284 for the past six months, from \$274 for the past 18 months.

We’ll hear from more local Real Estate experts in the next issue of the CP News.

LAW OFFICE OF DON A. McCULLOUGH

Inactive CPA

Congress Park Resident Since 1978

- Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning
- Probate
- Business Law
- Real Estate
- Litigation

Convenient Office Location
950 S. Cherry Street Suite 510 Denver, CO 80246
303-782-4900

Fire Pits, Chimineas and Open Fires

By Tom Conis

Ahh, the cooler weather and falling leaves make you want to sit out in your yard and light a fire in that chiminea. But wait—get the permit first.

Even though portable fire pits and chimineas are fashionable and widely offered for sale in garden centers and home stores, open burning of wood (or any products other than propane, natural gas, or charcoal briquettes) is outlawed in Denver without permits from the Denver Department of Environmental Health and the Fire Prevention and Investigation Division.

This regulation stems from the years of Denver's "brown cloud" and the area's subsequent efforts to maintain clean air standards.

(Please note that home barbeques using propane, natural gas or charcoal briquettes are exempt.)

If you would like to pursue open burning, you must obtain permits from two different agencies (special requirements for each agency will be listed on the permit itself), the Fire Prevention and Investigation Division (call 311), and the Denver Department of Environmental Health, 720-865-5452

Open burning permits are rarely issued to individuals, and permits are never issued for chimineas. If you do obtain permits for open burning in a qualifying outdoor fireplace for a special event, the permits from both agencies indicating their approval must be posted on site and a variety of requirements must be met.

For more information see: <http://www.denvergov.org/OutdoorAirQuality/OpenBurning>



Winter Fails to Chill East High Activities

By Jess Lindimore

Winter is finally here and it is definitely an exciting time at East High School. This time of year most students would be feeling tired and less-than motivated, but at East High things are very different. The school, from the second of our return has been well, buzzing. At various times in Denver's winter, snow can be clogging streets and high school students might be forced to head indoors. While sometimes the insane Colorado weather can be rather unsettling, with so much going on at East I will probably hardly notice.

During the winter East is absolutely buzzing with excitement because of, yes, you guessed it, sports. Both boys' and girls' basketball teams are playing and in case you are completely oblivious, basketball is a big deal at East. Back in 2008 East took state in Boys' basketball, and let me tell you there has never been a school more proud. Although East hasn't taken state since, there is still immense school spirit behind the basketball team, making the games all that much more fun to attend.

Although sports are a big part of the winter activities it is definitely not the only thing. There are multiple activities going on at East, such as the preparation for the East high musical "Funny Girl" in the spring. This is a very exciting time for the East High theater department. The musicals are always big and spectacular and this year is no exception. The play this year has a cast of around sixty, over one hundred and fifty costumes and an array of songs that are sure to please the audience. As always, the productions at East High school are over the top and extraordinarily entertaining, so come this spring be sure to look for show dates so you can experience the wonderful drama department first hand.

As always there are wonderful things happening at East High and I feel lucky to be a part of it. If you are an incoming freshman looking to be an East Angel next year, this is the time to shadow East and see for yourself what a spectacular school it truly is.



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

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!

What Happened to My Car??

By Charlotte Bentley, Former Congress Park Crime Action Committee Chairperson

We Knew That!

Our District 3 Community Resource Officer is Tony Burkhardt. This has been incorrectly reported in several issues and we're glad to correct our mistake. 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.

"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." Crime Action Committee Mission Statement

New Crime Action Volunteers

Rachel O'Bryan and Larry Goldman are our new 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.

According to statistics of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)'s Uniform Crime Reports, a motor vehicle is stolen in the United States every 26.4 seconds. The odds are highest in urban areas, which fits with the council district reports CPN receives regarding reported crimes within our neighborhood. More thefts occurred in Denver than elsewhere in Colorado. Auto theft and/or theft from autos continues to be one of the highest volume crimes in Congress Park (see the CPN Crime Map on the next page). Thieves keep themselves very busy in our neighborhood, sometimes at the invitation of our residents who may leave valuables, keys, or garage door openers in their cars, along with unlocked doors.

Topping the list of cars stolen in Colorado are Hondas, Toyotas, Jeeps and Cadillacs. Why? Because they often are relatively easy to steal. The most frequently stolen vehicles since January, according to the Colorado Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center, include: 448 Honda Accords, 332 Honda Civics, 240 Ford F Series, 227 Chevrolet Silverados, 185 Jeep Grand Cherokees, 176 Jeep Cherokees, 141 Toyota Camrys, 122 Nissan Maximas, and 116 Acura Integras.

Commonly used break-in tools include, a slide hammer puller to break into the door/cylinder locks, a "Slim Jim" to open the lock behind a window, test lights to find the source of the battery, and a spare wires/screw driver to connect the battery source to the ignition/starter wires. Thieves may use a rock or baseball bat to shatter a window, however the noise could alert residents, so this would be a last resort. Even if a thief is not successful in entering your vehicle, just an attempt can leave your vehicle terribly damaged.

Auto-theft devices, though not foolproof, can stop the amateur and may slow down the professional thief, particularly those devices that are designed to attract attention. It generally takes longer to steal a car with an anti-theft device. Common anti-theft devices include: Alarm systems; fuel switches, which stops the fuel supply; kill switches, meaning the car will not start unless a hidden switch is activated; Crook Lock, which consists of a long metal bar which locks the steering wheel to the brake pedal; Steering wheel locks and wheel locks, as well as Global Tracking Systems which can assist police in tracking a vehicle. Electronic immobilizing devices that prevent thieves from bypassing the ignition and hot-wiring the vehicle have favorable reviews as well.

Prevention is your best defense. Start by keeping your doors locked at all times, particularly if parking on the street. Do not leave valuables visible, and park in a well lit area. When possible, use your garage and be sure the garage doors are adequately locked. Consider an alarm system for the garage. Don't keep spare keys inside the vehicle. The Colorado Auto Theft Investigators Association (CATI) recommends a layered approach to preventing auto theft, meaning utilizing more than one theft prevention device, and using them regularly.

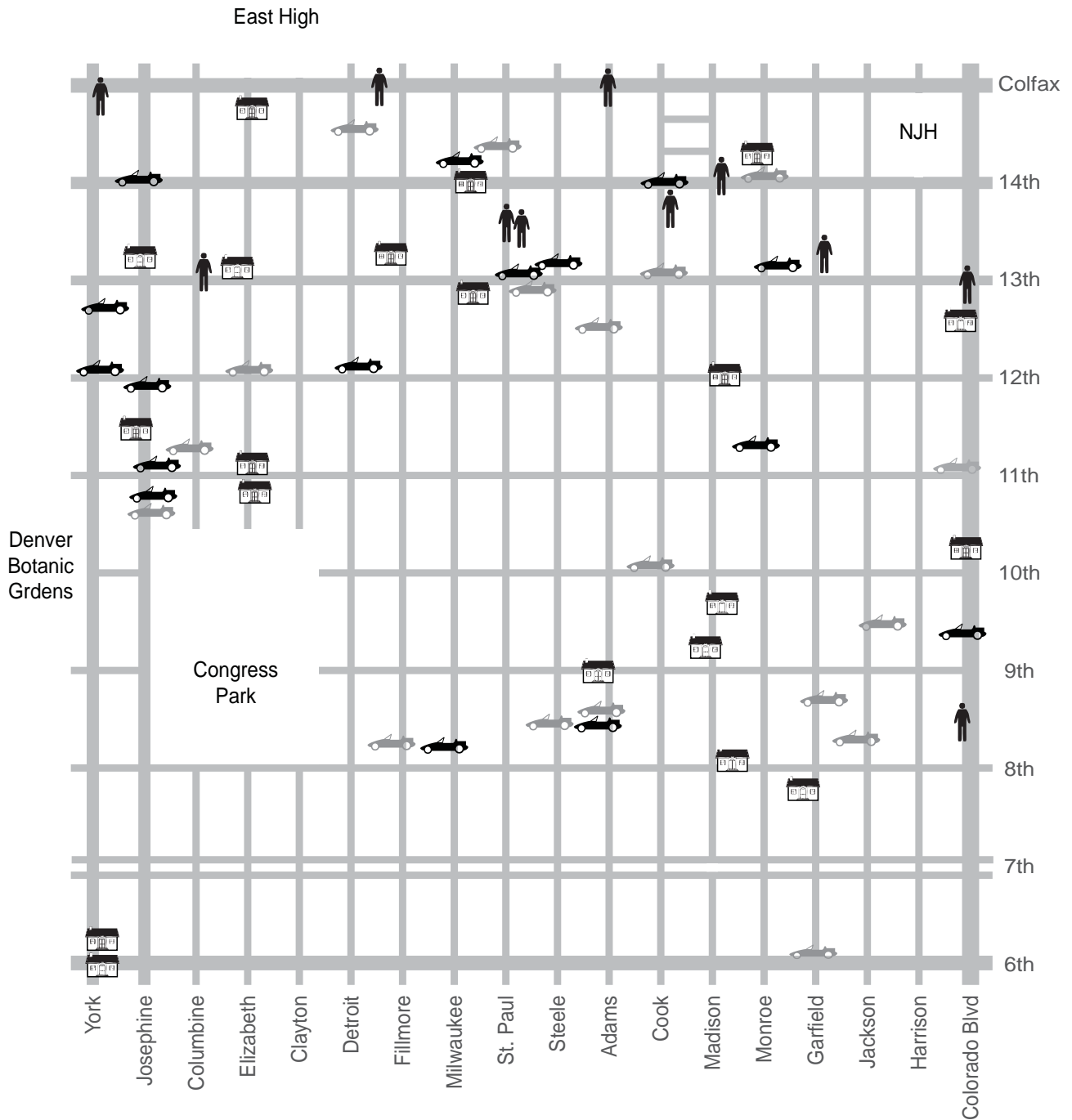
As soon as possible after seeing that the car has been stolen, and/or damaged, report the incident to the authorities. Quick action might contribute to the recovery before the vehicle might be used for additional crimes. In order for the vehicle to be listed as stolen, you must have the license number and the vehicle identification number (VIN), then notify your insurance agent if you have theft coverage. Often, insurance may not cover theft if the auto owner was negligent in preventing an auto theft.

If your vehicle is stolen, you might consider the website StolenCarReports.com where you can report the theft to a Nation's Neighborhood Watch for Stolen Vehicles, which might improve your chances of recovery. There is also information on identifying a vehicle you are considering buying, that has been stolen, and/or the latest crime of "cloning" VINs. Carfax reports that VIN cloning has cost consumers and insurance companies \$4 billion over the past decade.

Another informative website is Auto-Theft Info., an on-line theft information clearinghouse, then look for the link to CATI. They aim to bring together public law enforcement and insurance company investigators, who are concerned with the prevention and investigation of motor vehicle thefts and kindred crimes in Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Region, and the Nation. The site contains valuable information on auto theft prevention.

Wouldn't our CPN crime map in this newsletter look so much better without all the stolen vehicles and/or thefts from vehicles dotting our neighborhood? Lock your car. Don't leave it running unattended to "warm up." Take valuables inside.

CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES JULY - SEPTEMBER 2011



-  **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 third quarter of 2011. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics relayed through Council District 10.

A Congress Park Crime Story

By Rachel O'Bryan

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.

When I first read that CPN was looking for volunteers for the Crime Action Committee, I felt compelled to sign-up. I have had personal experience with how neighbors can lookout for each other and minimize crime on our streets. And this lesson was taught to me by three adolescents.

I was sitting in my living room on a sunny spring day. My son and several other kids from the block were outside playing. Suddenly there was banging on my door. "Rachel! Rachel! Come quick!" I ran outside expecting to see a bloody nose or knee. Instead, one of the girls pointed to my perennial garden in the hell strip. "Look. A man just drove up and stole your flowers." Indeed, when I looked closely, I saw 2 clusters of irises broken off at the stems and a few rhizomes pulled out completely.

Her brother and another young girl from the block came over. "We told him to stop. He told us to 'Shut up!' and called us stupid kids!" The oldest of the group showed me her cellphone and said, "I wrote down his license plate number." This trio of preteens looked at me and said, "You need to call the police."

Now, I was mighty miffed. I bought my irises from a special breeder across town and they are the most beautiful mix of pinks and lavenders

and deep purples. And, as any gardener knows, they come up only once a year for a few short weeks. But, call the police and make a report? What was I going to say without sounding ridiculous?

Then I looked at these children who stood up for me and I knew I needed to stand up for them and model active citizenry (and I was hoping that the Denver Police Department would play along). So I called and placed the report. Later that afternoon, a police cruiser pulled onto the block and an officer came to the door. He was remarkably patient with his time considering the small nature of the claim. He took my brief statement (yes, I had irises and now they are gone). Then he took the eyewitness statement of each of the children. They gave a description of the man and the car. Once he left, the excitement was over.

End of story? Not at all. The next day, a detective called my house. She was looking into the allegations. I expressed surprise that she was assigned the case. She said the kids had provided enough information to pursue leads. The car description and license plate matched. She would contact the owner. A few days later she called again. She had solved the case. The kids' description of the perpetrator did not match the owner, but did match his friend who had borrowed his car. Two weeks later, she personally delivered a cashier's check to me for the value of the flowers, paid for by the man who brazenly called my neighbors "stupid kids."

These wonderful young people taught me a lesson we can all learn: Be aware; speak up; cover your neighbor's back. As the Denver Police Department says, "Neighbors working together can make one of the best crime fighting teams around."

I have a great crime fighting team on my block. Do you have one on yours?

BRINGING COLOR TO CONGRESS PARK

Since 1995

• COMPLETE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PAINTING •

CALL (303) 512-8777

Ireland's Finest



Painting Company

www.irelandsfinestinc.com

Our Shade of Green

By Glen Girard

Sharing helpful hints and home improvement ideas for our neighborhood.

As Winter settles in, it's time to look around the house and prepare for those cold nights ahead. Here are some ideas to green your home and save some green on your heating bills. Most of these can be completed in a few hours with supplies available at your local home improvement store.

Start with doors and windows to find air leaks or daylight shining through cracks or larger openings. Install weather stripping to seal exterior doors and windows, caulk gaps around the trim, and install new door sweeps at the bottom of entry doors. Stop cold air from unheated closets by placing a door draft blocker, towel or blanket on the floor in front of the door. Install plastic over windows that do not need to be opened until Spring.

Now it's time to look at the attic. It is recommended for homes in our climate to have a minimum attic insulation of R-38. Consult an insulation professional, visit a home improvement store, or search for websites to calculate your current R-value and identify what is needed to obtain a target R-value. Insulation might require an investment, but it can also have the greatest impact for energy savings and overall home comfort.

The fireplace is a common area where heat escapes. Keep the chimney flue closed when not in use. Often a chimney will continue to leak air even when closed. Reduce the heat loss by sealing off the fireplace opening. You can purchase a glass enclosure or for a budget solution, use a piece of Plexiglas or plywood with weather stripping to block the fireplace between uses.

Maintaining your heating system can save money and improve your indoor air quality. Start by reviewing your manufacturer's recommendations. They will often call for changing air filters, oiling circulator pumps, cleaning air ducts, or changing furnace filters.

Another simple energy savings tip anyone can implement. Change your light bulbs to Compact Fluorescents (CFL). Start with lights that are on the most; including front porch or exterior lights, kitchen and living room lights.

CPNews: New Green Column

Glen Girard volunteered (thanks, Glen!) to write "Our Shade of Green." Look for great "green" ideas in future issues of the Congress Park News. If you have good ideas for this or any other section of the CP News, drop us a line at cpnewsletter@congressparkneighbors.org

One Under Contract & Two Price Improvements



990 Cook Street

Wonderfully remodeled story & a half. Very open floor plan & many windows make this three bedroom two bath home light & bright.



748 Adams Street

Charming Classic Bungalow! Original Box-Beamed Ceilings and Built-In Hutch, Large Open Rooms. Updated Kitchen and Bath. Now priced at \$639,000



860 Monroe Street

Gorgeous remodeled Victorian! Luxury cook's dream kitchen opens to sun-filled family room. Rich wide-plank flooring and beautiful moldings. Now Priced a \$660,000



COMMITTED to CONGRESS PARK

Margaret Marshall CRS, GRI
Mobile 303.918.3507
margaret@kentwoodcity.com



www.CongressParkSpecialist.com



Winterizing Your Garden

From our friends at Wildflowers and Urban Roots

It's fall, so there's nothing to do in the garden until next spring, right? **WRONG!** Add these items to your outdoor to-do list before you hang up those gardening gloves.

- Plant new perennials & divide existing perennials, shrubs & grasses.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs, safe to do until the ground is frozen.
- Dig up summer-flowering, tender bulbs (dahlias and gladiolas) and store for next year.
- Mulch around tender perennials, shrubs, roses and new beds (best to do after the ground freezes).
- Rake up the leaves and take them to the Denver Leaf Recycle centers.
- Remove only dead branches from shrubs.
Note: Pruning green branches may encourage new growth that will be vulnerable in winter.
- Cut back on watering and winterize irrigation systems by Halloween.

Ask the experts at Wildflowers (12th and Madison) and Urban Roots (10th and Acoma) for more advice about plants in our climate.

Have IRA questions? Let's talk.



Ken Blair, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

3925 East 8th Avenue
Denver, CO 80206
303-322-4993

Member SIPC
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Country Club New Listings!!! Immaculate Painted Ladies



428 Humboldt



\$750,000 423 Downing

\$629,000



Sonja Leonard Leonard

303-744-6200

Leonard Leonard
& Associates

"We Are The Heart Of Denver"
www.leonardleonard.com



Neighborhood Directory

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

For advertising rates, call 720-231-0475

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

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

January is Eye Care Month, Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Hot Tea Month, Oatmeal Month, Hobby Month

<p>Hair Salon</p> <p>The Cutting Edge 2924 E. 6th Ave. 303-322-1633; Open 6 days; Sun. by appt. Credit cards OK except Discover. Hair: cuts, color, highlights, perms, extensions, dreadlocks. Skin: care, facials, waxing.</p>	<p>Worship</p> <p>Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church 1100 Fillmore; 303-333-9366 A Diverse, More Light Faith Community in Congress Park. Sundays: 9:30am worship service, 11:00 am education hour.</p>	<p>Window and Gutter Cleaning</p> <p>Twin Pines Window Cleaning Contact Bob at 303-329-8205 Offering Complimentary Estimates Since 1994</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Service Club Meeting</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Advertise Here</p> <p>Are you reading this? So are your customers... Great exposure, low cost. Call 720-231-0475 for rates.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

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.

Sold in Congress Park by The Santos Davis Group in 2011:

- 1257 Saint Paul St.
- 1126 Steele St.
- 823 Monroe St.
- 1426 Fillmore St.
- 1232 Jackson St.



Lisa Santos
Broker/Co-Owner
Phone: 720.933.3377
Office: 303.331.4664
lisasantos@comcast.net
www.findingyourspace.com

the Santos & Davis group

Congress Park is still going strong. Call me for a free consultation if you're thinking of selling in 2012!

Living and selling homes in Congress Park for 10 years

3773 Cherry Creek N. Drive | Suite #801 | Denver, CO | 80209
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.
 P.O. Box 18571
 Denver, CO 80218
 www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

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

KEENETAX
 INCOME TAX PREPARATION
 CAROLYN M. KEENE
 ENROLLED AGENT

SPECIALIZING IN:

- Individuals • Small Businesses
- Estimated Taxes • Tax Planning

303/394-3273
 KEENETAX@COMCAST.NET
Call or Email Today!

“The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a good neighbor.”
 - Hubert H. Humphrey

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:
 Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.
 P.O. Box 18571
 Denver, CO 80218

Date:

I am interested in learning more about:

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

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