

# Congress Park

# News

Winter 2016

www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

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## Denver Parks and Rec Considering District 10 Rec Center Request to Use East High Turf Field

By Aaron Goldhamer

The construction groundbreaking at Josephine and Colfax marks the beginning of a great new addition to our neighborhood. As part of the planning, community surveys showed strong support for use of a turf field for recreational leagues in connection with the Rec Center, however, Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR) is not sure it will negotiate for use of East High School's adjacent turf field.



Artist's rendering of proposed Central Denver Rec Center

A City-commissioned survey found that over 56% of people in the area (and 59% of families with children) preferred an indoor turf field plus a basketball court, as compared to basketball-court-only options.

Turf fields afford a great variety of uses for any sport not played on a hard court, such as soccer, field hockey, flag football, ultimate frisbee, etc. A turf field could provide DPR with an opportunity to reach out to a wide diversity of users.

There are very few central options for publicly-available lighted turf playing spaces in Denver. The Bladium at 26th and Yosemite has such strong demand that its adult leagues play until midnight throughout the week. Other lit turf field locations include 60th and Quebec, Sheridan and Evans, I-25 and Arapahoe, I-70 and Kipling, and Kipling and Hampden. Pickings in central Denver for

lighted turf sport locations are slim, and all of our grassy park space is unusable when it's dark (and DPR cancels activities to preserve field health when it's too muddy from snow or rain). By contrast, there are umpteen indoor and outdoor basketball courts in the existing Rec Center system and Denver Parks (see <http://www.courtsoftheworld.com/United-States/Denver-CO>).

While the current design for the new Rec Center has a basketball court, it does not include an indoor turf field due to budget constraints. However, DPR and DPS are in ongoing negotiations regarding parking and for East High School's swim team use of the new Rec Center pool. My dogged efforts as a member of the Rec Center Stakeholder's Committee to request that those negotiations include DPR's use of the East High School turf field when it's not in use (during school vacations, after practices and games have concluded, etc.) have been met with various shrugs.

Continued on page 9

### *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.*

## What's Going On?

**Congress Park News** is a quarterly publication of Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. A network of volunteers produces and distributes it to a circulation of more than 4,500 residents and businesses within the area bounded by Colfax Avenue, Sixth Avenue, York Street and Colorado Boulevard.

www.CongressParkNeighbors.org

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Volunteers Needed

Your articles, letters and advertisements are always welcome.

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

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

**W**hat's happening in your area of the neighborhood? Is there a construction project that doesn't seem quite right? An abandoned house? A building being allowed to fall into dangerous disrepair? Don't ignore it, it might be significant, and no, someone else won't call about it—they're as busy as you are.

It's your neighborhood, stand up for it. Call 311 (get a reference number) and tell the city, city council and your neighborhood organization when something doesn't seem right.

An unfamiliar car that hasn't moved for an unusually long time? The city inspectors can't be everywhere at all times and depend

on your knowledge of your block and what seems appropriate. It takes all of us in the neighborhood to love our neighborhood.



## Your Congress Park Neighbors 2016 Volunteer Board of Directors

Tom Conis—President  
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Victoria Eppler—At-Large  
1254 Clayton St.; 303-912-7988  
[victoriaeppler@comcast.net](mailto:victoriaeppler@comcast.net)

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

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

And we thank these committed neighbors:

Kris Schindler—Congress Park  
Historic Preservation

Lisa Bingham—Hospital District Redevelopment

Steve Eppler—Crime Action  
[crime@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:crime@congressparkneighbors.org)

**Denver Botanic Gardens Liaisons**  
Bill DeMaio; [bdemaio@aol.com](mailto:bdemaio@aol.com)  
Myles Tangalin  
Victoria Eppler

### Do you have a suggestion for your Board?

Send hints and help to  
[CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:CPNBoard@congressparkneighbors.org)

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

## Denver Botanic Gardens: A Peaceful Winter Retreat

By CPNews Staff

There are classes and special events at our own Denver Botanic Gardens throughout the winter. Enjoy a peaceful walk on a sunny, crisp day or lounge with the lizards in the Tropical garden. Here's just one of the many special treats in store:

Tibetan Singing Bowls Concert  
Monday, December 14, 2015 - 7 p.m.  
York Street  
Classes & Lectures - Lifelong Learning | Adults

The Denver Botanic Gardens will be hosting its annual Tibetan Singing Bowls Concert to help you relax and get away from all of the holiday stress.

## Shop LOCAL & Handmade for Holiday Feasts and Gifts!

*Think Outside the Big Box*

By Shelley Wood

Many stores in Congress Park carry locally sourced items. I've spied everything from homemade pickles and bread to cards and artwork in the shops on 12th Avenue. The pharmacy at 12th and Madison now carries a nice variety of wines and craft beers for taking to a party. Even if the item wasn't made locally, a purchase or gift certificate to one of our Congress Park restaurants, shops, or salons will bring our local economy a boost.

If it's a Holiday Craft Fair you seek, try going to [www.craftmasternews.com](http://www.craftmasternews.com) or [festivalnet.com](http://festivalnet.com) for a listing of fairs held all over the Denver area. Remember, nothing says "I love you!" more than a hand crocheted grocery bag holder or some bath salts in a mason jar! Seriously, there are some amazing and truly unique gifts to be found that will support a local artist or business.

Congress Parkers know that we are an oasis from the Big Box -- let's keep it that way by making our neighborhood's cash registers JINGLE during the holiday season.

### Keep the lights on

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



## News From the Neighborhood School, Teller Elementary

By Jennifer Bartos, Music and Theatre Specialist

On November 19 make sure you're at Teller to enjoy the winter concert. This year Teller musicians will be featuring songs from hit Broadway shows including "The Sound of Music," "Peter Pan" and "Oliver". The concert will be a display of all the after school music groups, including: Tiger Voices, Beginning Band, Advanced band and Beginning and Intermediate violins.

The concert will begin at 5:30 and should be about one hour to one and a half hours long. Please come and see our amazing talented musicians at Teller.

### Teller Mission 2015

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

### Happening at Teller

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



The 5th grade will present "The Phantom Tollbooth Junior" on December 8th, 9th and 10th at 5:30 each night.

This is a fun Junior musical that take us to the land of Dictionopolis and Digitatopolis where two rival brother have banished the only thing that makes sense, the princesses Rhyme and Reason.

Join Milo and Tock the dog on a crazy journey to rescue the two princesses to restore rhyme and reason to the land. Milo will also learn that the world is full of amazing journeys as long as you put your mind to it.

Each night the musical will be presented by a different 5th grade class; December 8th- Ms. Slivnick's class December 9th: Ms. Bornstein's class and December 10th: Mr. Kraft and Ms. Kandi's classes.



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:: SURVEY AND INVOLVEMENT ::

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

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

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

## Teller Backpack Friends

By Sandy Parker

The Teller Backpack program is starting up again for the 3rd year. We have 8 families now and are open for more. Teller families are so responsive to the needs of the children and the parents who are in the program. Many of you are donating groceries into the bin outside the gym. We are also needing cash donations so that we can purchase food from the Rocky Mountain Food Bank at significant savings.

The children in the program are small and carry two bags of food home per week. We have had to figure out how to maximize nutrition while keeping the bags as light as possible. To this end, we have had to research and balance size, maximum nutrition, taste, and food that does not need refrigeration, and The Dollar Tree on Colfax near Colorado has sizes of peanut butter and jelly that fit well into the mix. Some families are able to cook or use a microwave and others have no kitchen facilities. We are always looking for better ways to meet their needs. Suggestions are always welcome.

Dona, Jim and Sandy are grateful for the many women and men who show up each week to pack bags. Some also volunteer along with Jim and Sandy at the Rocky Mountain Food Bank. The program is seeking fund raisers and publicity experts to further get the message out. Children over the age of 14 are welcome to be a part of the Food bank volunteer program. Jim will be assisting young people who wish to be involved on Saturdays. We have a need for people who are good at fund raising and publicity.

The number of homeless and hungry kids in Colorado is increasing. It seems hard to believe that there are so many children who come to school hungry and have little or no food over weekends and holidays. Imagine trying to focus and learn while tummies are empty. Your help and response makes all of the difference to these little ones and their families. For more information, please contact: Sandy Parker at [walkingteam@aol.com](mailto:walkingteam@aol.com).

### Filling Tummies So Minds Can Learn

To donate to the Teller Backpack Program, send your contribution to Teller Elementary School in the care of the Backpack Friends, 1150 Garfield Street, Denver, 80206-3513.



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### Green Door Fitness

By Shelley Wood

I entered the world of Green Door Fitness at 10am on a Monday morning. Instead of “gym rats,” I found a busy crew including seniors, students, and a pudgy fellow running on a treadmill. A friendly trainer walked right up to me smiling and said “Welcome to Green Door Fitness!”

Near the corner of Josephine & Colfax, owner Matt explains that they offer a standard membership program with a twist -- each time you

come in, you are assigned to a personal trainer for that session. No appointment necessary! So, stop by and meet the team - you might find yourself getting in shape with the friendly folks at Green Door Fitness.



2404 E Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80206  
720-541-7163

### Metal and Wood Studio Craftsmen Will Bring Your Vision To Life

By Ann Charles

C-Squared Studios is a new metal and wood fabrication shop in town. The shop is just outside Congress Park neighborhood, at Colfax and Dahlia, and the owners are CongressPark-ers. Chad and Jack will create just what your house, garden or business needs, including sculpture and functional pieces.

They can turn your imagination into decor, sculpture and design to complement the aesthetics of your home or business. Visit [c-squaredstudios.com](http://c-squaredstudios.com) to check out the video of them crafting an intriguing outdoor fountain.



1501 Dahlia St., 80220  
219-309-7053  
[csquaredstudios@yahoo.com](mailto:csquaredstudios@yahoo.com)

### The Denver Center for Estate Planning & Elder Law

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## Utility Assistance Started on November 1 for Low Income Coloradoans

By Eileen Doherty, M.S.

Although Colorado has experienced a rather mild fall, some predictions are that Coloradans may be in for a long cold winter. Long cold winter days bring high heating bills.

Colorado is participating in the Low Income Energy Assistance or LEAP program. LEAP will help to pay a portion of the monthly heating costs, but not electrical costs (unless the home is heated with electricity).

LEAP will help with costs for natural gas, propane, wood, steam, and electrical heat. LEAP is not meant to pay the total heating bill for a household.

LEAP benefits start November 1, 2015 and continue through April 30, 2016. Applications can be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed if the county department of human services accepts electronic mail. Most counties are accepting electronic filings.

Households qualify for LEAP if the monthly income for a single individual is less than \$1,618 per month (\$2,190 for a couple), if the individual pays home heating costs to a utility company or to a landlord as part of rent and is a permanent legal resident and a Colorado resident. Individuals who live in low income housing who only pay a third of their income in rent and who do not pay electricity as a separate bill are not eligible for LEAP.

To apply individuals need to submit a copy of the completed and signed application with Social Security numbers and birth dates of members of the household, proof of income for the past year, a copy of the most recent heating bill (or a copy of the rent receipt showing that heat is included in the rent), as well as a readable copy of a valid photo identification. Individuals must also complete and sign the affidavit of lawful presence.

Individuals who received LEAP benefits in 2014-15 will automatically receive an application form in the mail if they are still living at the same address. Others may call 303-333-3482 or 1-800-HEAT-HELP.

At this time of the year, many households are faced with non-working furnaces. Energy Outreach Colorado operates the Crisis Intervention Program. This is an emergency home furnace repair or replacement program for qualifying low-income Coloradans. Qualified vendors are trained to trouble-shoot the problem as well as repair (or replace)

the furnace. For assistance call 1-855-469-4328.

The Colorado Energy Office offers a free Weatherization Program for low income individuals to make the household more energy efficient. These cost-effective improvements and upgrades reduce energy usage, save money, and improve the overall comfort of the home year-round. Weatherization improvements may include: light bulb retrofits, air sealing, insulation in attic, furnace safety testing, furnace repair or replacement, refrigerator replacement, and storm windows and doors.

Individuals who receive Old Age Pension, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, SNAP (food stamps), or LEAP automatically qualify. Individuals not receiving benefits can qualify if their annual income is less than \$1962 (\$2655 for a couple) in gross income per month. Call 303-333-3482 or 303-226-5059 to find a vendor in your area who can determine if your household is eligible to receive services.

Homes that were weatherized prior to September 30, 1994 are not eligible. Renters who live in a single family residence, or a duplex, triplex or four-plex as well as homeowners are eligible for the program. Some multi-family units with the same heating source are also eligible.

Another program that is available to low income individuals who qualify for LEAP is the Property Tax/Rent/Heat Credit Program, sometimes referred to as the PTC 104. Individuals who are 65 and over or disabled, who have resided in Colorado for the entire year in a building that the owner pays property taxes, and who makes less than \$12,720 per year or \$17,146 for a couple per year are eligible for a minimum of \$250 per year and a maximum of \$792. Individuals who need an application can call 303-333-3482 or 303-238-7378.

Some counties and municipalities also offer property tax and rent credit programs such as Denver which offers the Payment to the Elderly and Disabled Program. Check with your county department of revenue.

For copies of application forms, locations of when and where to file forms, and other assistance with any of these programs, call 303-333-3482.

### Services for Seniors

For more information about services for seniors, connect with Eileen Doherty, M.S., Executive Director, Colorado Gerontological Society, Senior Answers and Services, 3006 East Colfax Avenue, Denver CO 80206; 303-333-3482, 303-333-9112 (fax), Doherty001@att.net or cogs@senioranswers.org, www.senioranswers.org, Eileen has been the Executive Director of the Colorado Gerontological Society since 1982. She has almost 40 years of experience in education and training, advocacy, clinical practice, and research in the field of gerontology. She is an adjunct instructor at Fort Hays State University teaching non-profit management.

## Homeless Are Not “Them”

By Martha Woods

On district 10 city councilman Wayne New's website, there is a recent article (<http://www.congressparkneighbors.org/2015/10/03/helping-communities-and-the-homeless/>) about homelessness. The article, subsequently posted on the Congress Park neighbors website, is a collaboration between District 6 police Commander Tony Lopez, City Attorney Chris Gaddis, and Denver's Road Home Executive Director Bennie Milliner.

In response, a neighbor sent the following to the cp news for consideration.

Regarding the article “Helping the Community and the Homeless” from Councilman Wayne New's Office, I eagerly started reading the article and was so disappointed to find that most of it pertained to helping “the community” rather than helping “the homeless.” I also found the lumping of people into 2 groups--the community and the homeless--a prejudicial and divisive description, similar to “us” and “them.” The homeless are part of our community. The laws and ordinances referred to in the article apply equally to all of us, not just to homeless individuals. For example, no one is permitted to sleep or urinate outside my property or my place of business, regardless of whether they are in homeless circumstances or not. Likewise, not all who panhandle are in homeless circumstances. The laws in question likely do not contain the word “homeless,” because laws pertain to behaviors not group membership. To write legislation otherwise would be unconstitutional.

People living in homelessness vary considerably in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, marital status, duration of homelessness and other characteristics. A significant number of those living in homelessness are families with children, unaccompanied youth, military veterans, elderly individuals, and those with significant medical and mental disabilities including substance abuse. The most common reasons persons become homeless include these disabilities, family discord/dissolution, domestic violence, job loss/unemployment, and inability to pay rent/mortgage/utilities.

A substantial number of homeless persons in Denver County are only recently (versus chronically) homeless. About half of Denver's homeless persons live “on the street” or in emergency shelters, while most of the remainder are in transitional housing. We are all members of the human community, each of us deserving of respectful treatment. (See “Metro Denver Homeless Initiative: 2015 Point-in-Time Report, Seven County Denver Metro Region)



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[www.ph7pilates@gmail.com](mailto:www.ph7pilates@gmail.com)

CONGRESS PARK HERITAGE PRESERVATION  
:: SURVEY AND INVOLVEMENT ::

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

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

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



## Denver Parks and Rec Considering District 10 Rec Center Request to Use East High Turf Field

*Continued from page 1*

By Aaron Goldhamer

Recent estimates for potential revenue related to league fees at the turf field are \$250,000.00 per year. That revenue, even if split with DPS, could permit DPR to keep the new Rec Center staffed and open for many more hours each week.

Call and email our DPS Board Members, City Council Members, and DPR to request that the East High turf field be put to its best use by DPR when it's not occupied by East High events!

For more information about the new District 10 Rec Center, got to Denver gov, parks and Rec planning, or use this link:  
<http://bit.ly/1WYvUri>

Contact info:

mike\_johnson@dpsk12.org,  
Landri\_Taylor@dpsk12.org,  
board@dpsk12.org, 720-423-3210;  
wayne.new@denvergov.org, 720-337-7710;  
albus.brooks@denvergov.org, 720-337-7709;  
parksandrecreation@denvergov.org, 720-913-1311.

## Updates from City Council

By Deborah Ortega, City Council At-Large

### Updated Bike Map

Denver has updated its bike map. Download your free bike map or find printed copies at Denver libraries and recreation centers.

### LeafDrop Sites are Open

Don't let your leaves become waste at a landfill, turn them into compost instead! Weekday drop-off sites are open through November 30th. Weekend drop-off sites are open November 7 - 22. Paper leaf bags are free to Denver residents at Ace Hardware. Your Jack-O-Lanterns and pumpkins can be dropped off after Halloween for recycling. Visit the Denver Recycles webpage for drop-off locations.

### Foster Parents Needed

More than 700 children are in need of foster and adoptive parents in Denver. If you can provide a loving, safe home for a child, please consider becoming a foster parent. Information meetings are held twice a month. To learn more about fostering and adoption at [www.denvergov.org/standupforme](http://www.denvergov.org/standupforme).

### Snow Plan and Updates

Now is the time to plan for winter. Learn which streets are plowed first, when bike lanes are cleared and the plan for plowing residential streets. Denver Public Works snow plan and current conditions are available online. You can also learn how to be a snow buddy for a neighbor that needs help and tips for biking in winter.

### Body Cam Updates

As I reported in my September newsletter, Denver is in the process of equipping police officers with body cameras. You can view a demonstration of the cameras and how Denver Policy Department is implementing the cameras.

**Deborah Ortega**  
City Council at Large  
720-337-7713  
[Deborah.ortega@denvergov.org](mailto:Deborah.ortega@denvergov.org)



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*"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*

**Does the fresh fall weather and upcoming holidays have you thinking of home improvements?**  
Before you choose a contractor, check with Home Advisor's tips and red flags <http://welcome.homeadvisor.com/home-improvement-fraud->

## Congress Park Crime Update

By Stephen Eppler

Congress Park continues to have a relatively low crime incidence and remains a safe place to live.

Denver has 78 neighborhoods. So far this year, Congress Park ranks 70th in violent crimes and robberies and 62nd in burglaries. Compared to 2014, violent crimes and robberies have decreased from 62nd and 59th respectively. This represents a 20.1% decline in robberies for 2015. Burglaries rose from 65th reflecting an increase from 3.71 to 4.49 per 1000 residents. In absolute numbers, this 21.1% increase reflects 46 reports compared to 38 at this point in 2014. Although bike thefts are down 8% (23 vs 25 in 2014), Congress Park ranks 19th in 2015 compared to 21st last year with an incidence of 2.25/1000 residents (2.44 in 2014).

Property crime represents the biggest problem area for 2015 and has increased 24.1% compared to 2014 (216 vs 174). Increased theft/larceny, theft from motor vehicle and auto theft account for the bulk of this change and are largely due to increased reports during June, July, August and

September. The September and early October numbers suggest a downward trend but the incidence remains increased compared to 2014. Historically, crime rates drop during colder weather and hopefully this pattern will repeat.

Congress Park abuts the Cheesman Park, Cherry Creek, Hale, City Park and Country Club neighborhoods. For 2015, Congress Park ranks #4 in domestic violence, #5 in violent crime, rape, robberies, property crime and assaults. Of the adjacent neighborhoods, only Country Club has a more favorable crime profile (ranking #6 all categories).

Robberies, larceny, and theft from motor vehicles continue to offer opportunity for improvement. Roughly half of all robberies did not require forcible entry. Stop these. Lock your doors. Keep valuables in your car out sight or remove them. Reach out cultivate shared neighborhood vigilance. Do your part to drop our crime statistics. If you see suspicious activity, call 911 and report it.



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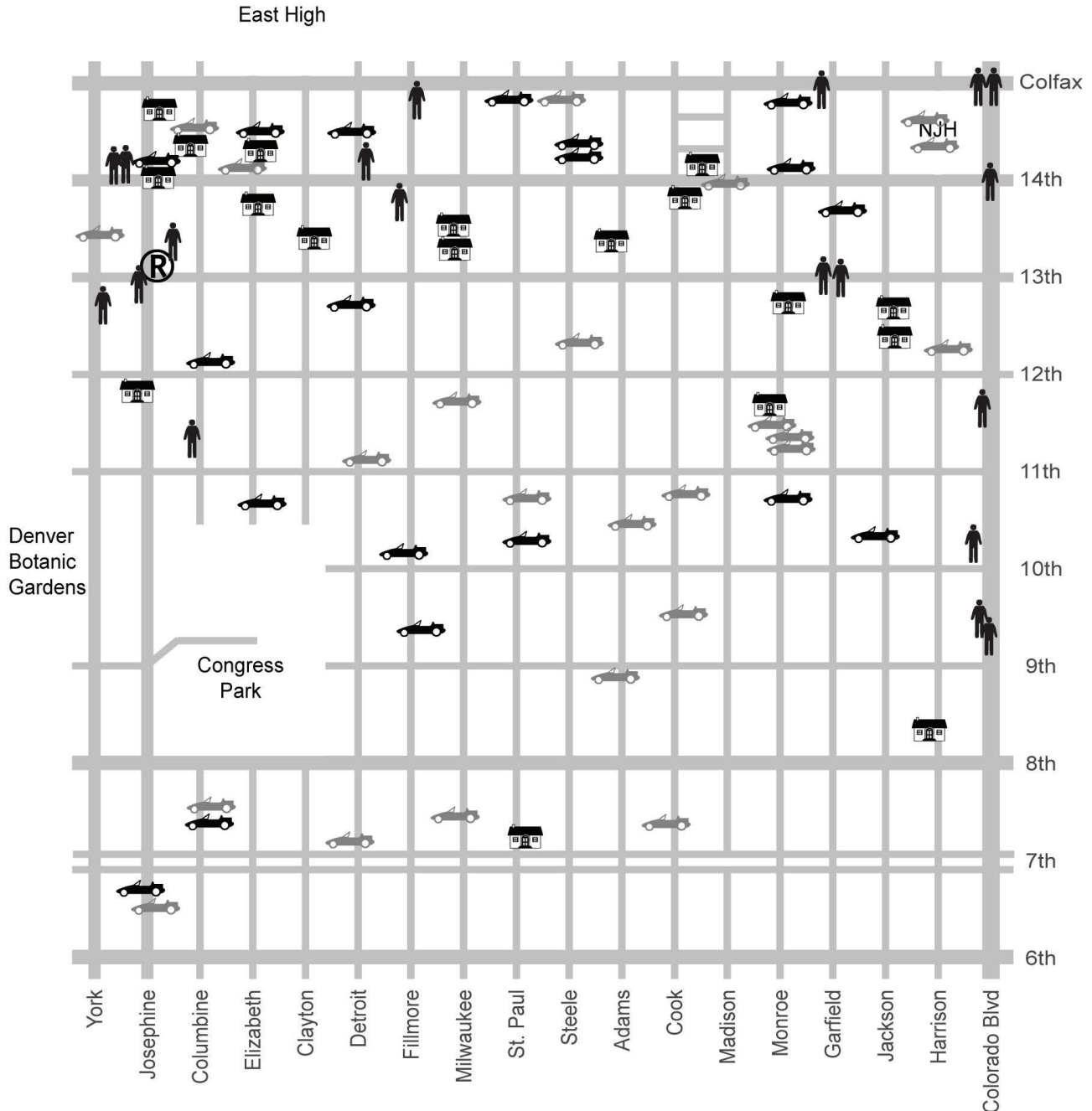



DENVER'S DESIGN/BUILD REMODELER SINCE 1985



*1st Place, Whole House Remodel, 2015 C.A.R.E. Awards / Photo: Vantage Architectural Imagery*

# CONGRESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CRIMES JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015



- Ⓜ Sexual Assault
- 👤 Assault/robbery
- 🏠 Burglary
- 🚗 Auto Theft
- 🚗 Theft from auto

**This map shows a compilation of all serious crimes reported to police within Congress Park in the third quarter of 2015. Crime mapping is provided by the Congress Park Crime Action Committee using City and Police Department statistics relayed through Council District 10.**

## 2016 Denver Budget Highlights Safety Net, Mobility

By Robin Kniech Councilwoman At Large

**Robin Kniech**  
Council At Large  
Phone: 720-337-7712  
kniechatlarge@denvergov.org

City Council is debating the Mayor's proposed budget for 2016, to be adopted in November. We're fortunate to be debating Denver's future priorities with very strong revenues, which are growing at a pace that parallels growth in costs like utilities, health care, inflation etc. Denver once again will be maintaining a strong savings account of 15% reserves, as well as investing one-time revenue from this year's strong economy into one-time capital projects to continue catching up on our backlog of aging infrastructure and buildings.

While it was not part of the Mayor's Draft Budget, the Mayor has agreed to amend his Budget to include a proposal led by me and Council President Herndon to expand composting with two new routes in 2016. The Mayor's First

Draft Budget did include many other significant investments in areas City Council had requested in our annual Priorities:

- \$8 million for affordable housing
- Significant staff increases to speed up permit review and inspections
- New staff to complete an update to Denver's comprehensive plan that guides development in the future, as well as to complete more neighborhood plans
- 18% increase in capital and operating for multimodal transportation, including 10 miles of additional bikes lanes, 2 miles of protected bike lanes and 5 miles of neighborhood bikeways
- Increased funding for street paving and more personnel for pothole repair and other street maintenance
- Funding for new technology and additional staffing at the Jail to implement reform

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## Artists in Your Backyard

By Shelley Wood

**Congress Park Artist:**

**Gina Klawitter – [AliveOnCanvas.com](http://AliveOnCanvas.com)**

You might see artist Gina Klawitter taking a walk through Congress Park, thinking about her next painting. She draws inspiration from the palette of our central Denver life-- falling leaves, branches against a blue sky, planters on the front porches, and the bustle of dog walkers. “There are the neighborhood ‘usuals,’ and my favorite houses...” she muses. Gina finds artistic value in both the well-tended and the well-worn.

Her life as an artist revolves around treasured personal belongings brought to her that represent a loved one or life moment her clients want to preserve. But rather than creating a scrapbook-style shadow box, Gina mounts these mementos on canvas and builds a lively abstract or realistic scene around them. A child’s first violin and recital dress seem poised to strike the first note against a lively background of painted colors. The finished work can be as small as a pair of baby shoes or as large as a mural mounted in the library at Polaris-Elbert Elementary School in Five Points.

“Sometimes, I work in close consultation with a client, even matching room colors to the piece” she relates. “Other clients want me to take the treasure and run with it on my own.” As I talked with Gina, her eyes sparkled. She recalled a favorite commission - a pair of toe shoes and costume replicated from a performance at the DCPA.

Wishing I had my grammy’s old spurs and bridle, I could imagine infinite possibilities from kid’s team uniforms to an antique pocket watch – any of which would make a great gift for a loved one. For more information on Gina’s work and how to reach her with YOUR commission, go to [AliveOnCanvas.com](http://AliveOnCanvas.com).



### CALLING CONGRESS PARK ARTISTS!

Local artists seek others to form supportive group for artists in Congress Park.

Contact Gina Klawitter at [gk@aliveoncanvas.com](mailto:gk@aliveoncanvas.com).

First meeting will be early in 2016.



**Denver Preservation Commission Considering Guideline Revisions**

By Barbara Stocklin-Steely

The Landmark Preservation Commission is considering revisions to the 2014 Design Guidelines for Denver Landmark Structures and Districts. The Commission, landmark staff and the public use the guidelines in the design review of new construction and projects in historic districts and for Denver landmarks.

A public hearing on the proposed revisions will be held at the Landmark Preservation Commission's December 15, 2015, regular meeting at 1 p.m., Webb Municipal Building, Room 4.F.6. Written public comments are officially due Dec. 1, although anyone who wants to speak at the Commission is welcome and encouraged to do so at the meeting.

A markup copy of the relevant design guideline pages is at the link below. The draft/ revised character-defining features for the above-listed districts is also at: <http://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/community-planning-and-development/landmark-preservation/design-review/design-guidelines-update.html>

If you would like additional information or have questions, please contact the Commission or me at [barbara.stocklin-steely@denvergov.org](mailto:barbara.stocklin-steely@denvergov.org).

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**I**t's FREE and Easy! Recycling your discarded Appliances in Denver is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

Denver residents serviced by Solid Waste Management may schedule a FREE appliance collection by appointment. Appliance collections are done by the city's contractor (EcoProjex) to ensure that metals are recycled and Freon gases from refrigerated appliances are handled in an environmentally safe manner.



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- Freezers
- Air Conditioners
- Washers & Dryers
- Stoves/Ovens
- Hot Water Heaters
- Furnaces
- Dishwashers
- Microwave Ovens

To schedule an appliance collection appointment call 1-800-479-4159 or go to Denver's recycling page and schedule your appointment online <http://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/trash-and-recycling/trash-collection/appliance-collection.html>.

CONGRESS PARK  
HERITAGE PRESERVATION  
: SURVEY AND INVOLVEMENT ::

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

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

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

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Worship      Volunteer Opportunities

**Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church**  
1100 Fillmore; 303-333-9366  
A welcoming, diverse and inclusive faith community in Congress Park. Sundays: 9:30 am worship service, 11:00 am education hour.

**Congress Park Neighbors**  
Meet new friends, share your expertise at neighborhood meetings and discuss issues that are shaping your neighborhood. Third Wednesdays of even months, 7 p.m., National Jewish Heitler Hall. Contact [cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org](mailto:cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org) and visit [congressparkneighbors.org](http://congressparkneighbors.org)

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

**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

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*Shop at Your Congress Park Businesses*  
[www.congressparkneighbors.org](http://www.congressparkneighbors.org) lists all merchants in Congress Park. Please visit our site and see how our local businesses support our neighborhood.



Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 18571  
 Denver, CO 80218  
[www.CongressParkNeighbors.org](http://www.CongressParkNeighbors.org)

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“The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

**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 Name: \$20  
 If household membership, other persons name:  
 Patron (receive 2 passes to the SIE Film Center!): \$30  
 Business or organization: \$40

(Circle amount enclosed)

Make check payable to:  
 Congress Park Neighbors, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 18571  
 Denver, CO 80218

Date:

I am interested in learning more about:

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- Newsletter advertising
- Newsletter production
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- 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](http://www.CongressParkNeighbors.org)), mailings and fliers about hot issues, events like the ice cream social and ongoing activities to benefit the neighborhood.