



## GREETINGS, EARTHLINGS, ON THIS GLORIOUS EARTHDAY!

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### DEAR OVERLAND E-MEMBERS -

€ As younger and more "digital" neighbors join us, Overland Neighborhood Association is moving on-line.

€ You may not think of yourself as a member, but if you live in Overland, *you are* (see By-laws below)!

€ This is going out to paid members *and* folks who've signed in their e-mail addresses at meetings: please join and support ONA as a voting member!  
\$5 / household; \$35 / business

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### NEXT MEETING APRIL 27, 7:30

Education Building of John Collins Church – 2320 S. Bannock – Follow signs!

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### CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Please e-mail me [ [j.unruh@comcast.net](mailto:j.unruh@comcast.net) ] neighborhood-related topics you think ONA can help with. Topics will be added based on general interest (more than one related suggestion) and urgency. If you have immediate issues check the contact numbers at the end of ONA NEWS to see if an agency or elected official may be of help; never hesitate to contact ONA officers!

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### MINUTES OF MARCH 23 MEETING -

*Call to Order (CTO) by President Unruh at 7:31pm at John Collins Church, 2320 S. Bannock.*

*Present: President Jack Unruh, Vice President Catherine Sandy, Secretary Charley Samson, Treasurer Lois Strohmeyer, Explorer Patrick Bramley, Neighbors Judy Greek, Dora Greek, Jean Hogan, Dawn Dutton, Frank Dutton, Betsy Raube, Matt Riley, Monique Guidry, Becky Clark, Helene Orr, Joanne Weiss, Ray Ehrenstein, David M. Lipman, Arlene Lipman, Jim Sample, Jennifer Pollock, John Chapman, Melanie Ullé, Barbara Barg, Kevin Dickson.*

*Minutes of last meeting were approved, as was the Treasurer's Report, which noted a balance of \$1174.84, not counting membership receipts received tonight.*

Kevin Dickson noted that Bike Denver recommends a bridge over Iliff, but no money to fund it. An "historic" bridge over Jewell was mentioned, as were Johan Damiano and the interns. Unruh mentioned [neighborhoodlink.com](http://neighborhoodlink.com) + zip code as a resource and the need for a pedestrian friendly concourse from the Evans Light Rail Station to Broadway. A new RTD person will be invited to a future ONA meeting. The Evans station was described as an "area of change," given the owner of the snowboard outlet on Delaware and the notion of the TMU (Transit Mixed Use) concept. BARD (Broadway Area Redevelopment District?) is also interested.

Jennifer Pollock noted Julie Connor's bid to succeed MacKenzie on the city council.

Catherine Sandy brought up the subject of the Santa Fe billboard moratorium and the lack of enforcement. It costs \$4000 a month to rent a billboard.

In other news: the McStain's project south of Mississippi, and the Parks Department's plan to renovate Aqua Golf and a bike path link to same. Overland Ponds rest rooms have migrated, then were eliminated due to homeless loitering. Unruh: "supervised elimination" if the new Aqua Golf had rest rooms. Platte valley cleanup around Earth Day.

Partnership Denver, a volunteerism organization, is having a focus group at Green Valley Ranch on Saturday. Unruh said he has attended one such meeting, which concerned distressed properties and the need for financial education.

NIS (Neighborhood Inspection Service) has a checklist of property upkeep. There are DURA (Denver Urban Renewal Authority) loans available at 0% or low interest.

Jennifer Pollock noted the Portland model, which is akin to an old-fashioned barn raising, with points earned for volunteering.

Matt Riley called Overland the last refuge for cheap housing in Denver. The Galapago Group was concerned about graffiti and burglary by families known for crime. Free dumpster beige paint is available, as well as a possible District 4 "Graffiti Sting" and Neighborhood Watch. A Galapago Task Force was identified.

Kevin Dickson was approved as "E-mail Net Czar."

The meeting didn't so much adjourn as dissolve around 8:34p.m.

Submitted by Secretary Charley Samson

# Hope to see you all and any number of others on April 27!

## Please invite at least one neighbor who hasn't attended: there is power (and comfort) in numbers!

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### **APRIL-MAY ONA NEWS** current issues / possible agenda topics

#### **Great American Cleanup / Large Item Pickup**

Denver is scheduling Community Cleanups through May 22nd; these are arranged two weeks in advance so that the City can supply trash bags, etc., even tools in some cases. My favorite target is the trash on the Platte banks, but heaven knows there's plenty in Overland to be cleaned up.

#### LET'S DECIDE AT THE MEETING THURSDAY IF WE WANT TO ORGANIZE A TWO HOUR CLEANUP IN ONE OR MORE LOCATIONS IN OVERLAND ON A SATURDAY IN MAY...?

Large item pickup – May 8-12: leave furniture, bikes, barbecues, rolled carpet and tree branches (4' long max) and other large items (EXCEPT major appliances, hazardous wastes, car parts and tires, construction materials and debris) near your dumpster.

#### **Organizing Meeting for Neighborhood Watch**

Vandalism, graffiti, mugging, theft – mostly by middle school children – where will it all end? Hopefully with organized resistance. Per decisions at last month's ONA meeting, concerned Jewell, Galapago, Elati and Fox Street residents will meet at 6:30 Tuesday, April 25 at the Golf Course to take the first steps toward a Neighborhood Watch Campaign. We'll report at Thursday's ONA meeting.

#### **Image Enhancement / Branding for Overland**

Kevin Dickson, Eric Peterson and others have expressed interest in promoting a memorable neighborhood identity. This could enhance property values, encourage business, boost neighborly pride and even guide development. Trouble is, we're a diverse neighborhood that will be hard to capture with one idea (i.e. LoDo).

SoBo is a Broadway handle promoting business [ <http://www.sobodenver.com/> ] but it has yet to push its influence south through Overland (we could encourage that). But important as Broadway is, it isn't all of Overland. Changing our neighborhood name back to the historic "Overland Park" could paint a greener post-Shattuck picture of the 'hood, but although we have one of the largest green spaces in Denver (Golf Course, Grant-Frontier Park, Overland Ponds + adjacent Ruby Hill) none of it is east of Santa

Fe. Still, since re-linking across Santa Fe is a neighborhood priority, it could be good, and listing properties as being in historic Overland Park might attract interest.

#### ANYONE FOR A ROUNDTABLE ON OVERLAND IDENTITY AND PROMOTION IN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS?

##### **New members, e-mail and ONA Database Chair Kevin Dickson...**

At the March meeting Kevin agreed to establish and maintain an ONA database: here's how we can help maximize the value of this contribution...

1. add your ideas about better e-linking and communication (keep it simple – we will never have an ONA IT Department)
2. bring neighbors into the fold by forwarding their e-mails so we can get them an ONA NEWS issue to give them a flavor for what we're about
3. old-timers (Jack < Lois, Catherine, Arlene, Dawn?) need to meet and cull old membership lists
4. remaining listings who've dropped out need to be re-contacted to update info and urge active participation – volunteers for this calling activity are needed
5. existing members should add info (we'll have a quick form available Thursday), i.e...
6. name – family members – phone – e-mail – address – office, chair or committee – dues current

##### **ONA Website**

For multiple outcomes (real estate listings, recruiting membership, posting member businesses) a Website is a great "front door" to acquaint folks with Overland. **BUT!** A little thought before we leap will save headaches and misunderstandings. Easy and cheap to put up? On neutral territory (not the "property" of a business or personal Website)? Using available resources (Neighborhood Link already has our Neighborhood Assessment on its site)? Good looking and image-consistent? Simple for old software and slow connections?

Eric Peterson, who has offered to help, created and has this quick idea hosted on his Website as one possible front door to a site: <http://www.kindguides.com/Overland.html>

I'd like to have a roundtable in some wi-fi oasis and talk this through. We all have great ideas: let's meld them in a relaxed and positive way and get the *right* site up in a couple of months.

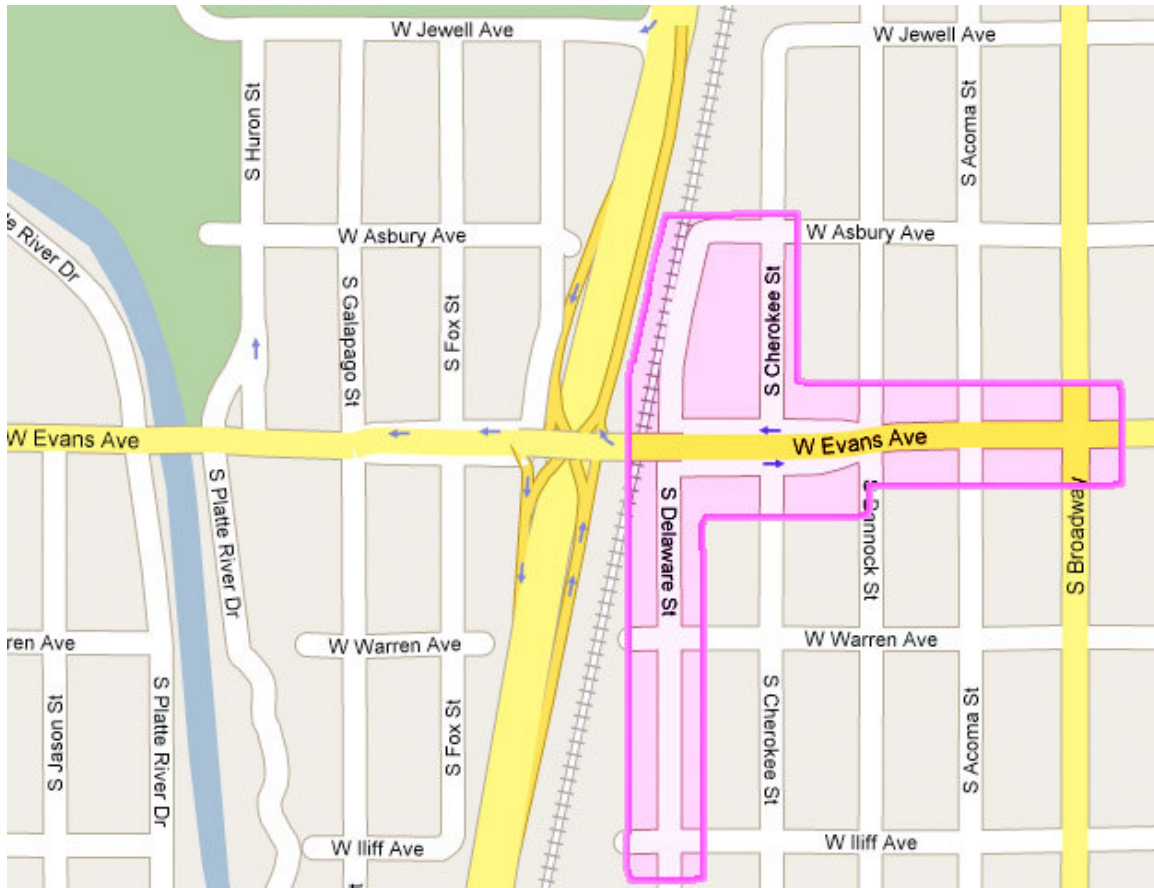
#### ANYONE FOR A WEBSITE ROUNDTABLE IN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS?

##### **Crossing Santa Fe and Living to Tell About It**

This theme has many threads already going – Kevin is working the BikeDenver folks; our glacially evolving Neighborhood Plan has certainly had this issue front and center for the last 13 years; and a TOD initiative for the Evans Station area has to key on walkability. As a finite start on the issue, how about doing an Americans with Disabilities assessment of the Evans viaduct? We can pay someone to do this officially or parse it out ourselves, but documenting that the scary bridge that's breaking our #1^##'s is also breaking the law gives us leverage. Volunteers?

##### **TOD Is German for "Death" and Urban-Planning for "Life"**

The promise of the Evans Station Light Rail stop is largely unrealized (not dead!), though we all like the Burton Snowboard building and are rooting for John's multiple-use development plans. As noted last meeting, a Transit-Mixed-Use-30 zoning designation for both sides of Delaware from Asbury to Iliff and both sides of Evans from Delaware to Broadway could attract developer attention, raise property values and express neighborhood intent. Every planner who's looked at the area has envisioned a pedestrian-friendly concourse from the station to B'way, lined with the kinds of shops that transit riders appreciate – coffee bars, newsstands, dry cleaners, daycare, restaurants, etc.



Councilwoman MacKenzie's office is currently applying to triple the parking at the station, which would also signal added interest. As weird and hostile as the station environment and sub-viaduct atmosphere may be, this is the most central piece of real estate in Overland and needs to develop if we are to be a neighborhood defined by what's here, not what we're near.

WE SHOULD DISCUSS THESE MATTERS AT THE MEETING THURSDAY.