



# BONNIE BRAE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 2007, Issue 4

The "Take a Bite Out of Crime" Issue

## Knock, knock Who's there?

### Crime, that's who.

During the recent Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting at the District Three office on University, the Denver Police gave updates on the latest statistics and trends in crime in our neighborhoods.

The Belcaro precinct (which includes Bonnie Brae) had an excellent showing of citizens. Thank you to all that showed up. As part of the presentation the officers shared some advice of crime prevention that we can all make good use.

#### Crime Prevention Tips

Thanks to the Denver Police Department for compiling these useful tips on staying safe. *This information comes from Cpl. Kevin Malloy in District 3.*

What is causing this rise in property crime in our neighborhoods? There are many theories. Some have blamed a sluggish economy and a rise in drug use

(especially methamphetamine). No matter the cause, what is important is that many of us have had their stuff taken and our lives inconvenienced by the rise in property crime.

Your Denver Police Department is hard at work to stop this problem. No doubt, you've noticed an increase police in activity in your neighborhood. Patrol officers are concentrating on neighborhood patrols in the areas hardest hit by the rise in property crime. Many officers are working overtime shifts targeting property crime in these areas. We are contacting suspicious people, looking for suspicious vehicles, finding open doors and garages, and raising police visibility. We've also made some high-profile arrests of burglars who have apparently been responsible for hundreds of break-ins in our neighborhoods. Statistics show that the burglary rate has fallen, dramatically, over the past few months.

However, the battle has not been won and there is still more to do.

**In almost half of the residential burglaries the bad guy enters through an open or unlocked door or window.**

Many burglaries are crimes of opportunity. In almost half of the residential burglaries (including garage burglaries), the bad guy enters through an open or unlocked door or window. In most cases of theft from vehicles, the items taken are in plain view in the passenger compartment. Many cars are being stolen with keys in the ignition and the car running. You can help bring the crime rate down even further

#### CORRECTION

The BBNA Newsletter failed to include Councilman Charlie Brown in the listing of supporters for the Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Association Annual Picnic. Councilman Brown brought some of his homegrown tomatoes (aka yummy tomatoes) that were raffled off along with donations from our other wonderful local businesses. Thank you Mr. Brown! And someone's spaghetti sauce thanks you also. Or perhaps a salad.

Those responsible for this omission have been sacked.

### Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors:

Neighborhood Watch. (I believe that here is also an article in this edition with more details.) If we have enough blocks that want to do it, 'Tis the season for cold, snow and the holidays. Driving through Bonnie Brae is a treat for the eyes with all of the great holiday decorations. As the snowier months approach, let's be good neighbors and get our sidewalks and entryways cleared in a timely manner. Please get any great stories to our newsletter editor, Mike Slattery, for the next newsletter.

As many of you know, there has been an increase in robberies and thefts over the past couple of months. I have heard other neighborhoods complaining of the same issues in the monthly Inter Neighborhood Cooperative meetings that I attend as the representative for Bonnie Brae.

Every first Wednesday, there is a Citizen's Advisory Board meeting at the District 3 Station, where anyone can stop by and listen to what's been going on in the department, the statistics of what crimes are being committed and where, and what can be done to deter future problems. There was a nice crowd from Bonnie Brae that attended on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The police officer giving the presentation specifically mentioned Bonnie Brae as being a very pro-active neighborhood, with several blocks organizing a Neighborhood Watch in the last few months.

It was recommended that each block talk about that as a possibility. In a nutshell, you have a Block Captain who is the contact person for the city. That captain arranges for one of the District 3 Officers to come out and speak to the group about what to do to, what to watch for, who to call, etc.. The city puts up a sign on the block, so that would be robbers know that they are being watched. The neighbors meet once or twice a year to talk as a group so that everyone knows a little about everyone else. Neighborhood watch programs around the country have a proven record of reducing crime.

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Association  
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**BONNIE BRAE**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**Newsletter Submittals:**

We encourage you to participate in supplying items of interest to the community for this publication. You must have material for inclusion in the first 2008 edition of the newsletter, to our editor by March 5, 2008.

**Please submit all material to:**  
Michael Slattery  
988 Bonnie Brae Blvd  
Denver, CO 80209  
[mslats64@aol.com](mailto:mslats64@aol.com)

**Ask Bonnie & Brae:**  
[BonnieandBrae@aol.com](mailto:BonnieandBrae@aol.com)



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**Bonnie Brae Board Meetings**

If you would like to participate in any of our quarterly Board meetings to voice your concerns or share great ideas for our neighborhood, please join us.

**February 20, 2008**

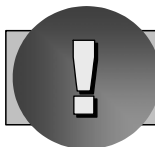
**May 21, 2008**

**July 16, 2008**

**Annual Picnic Aug 24, 2008**  
*Annual General Meeting and Election of New Board of Directors*

**November 19, 2008**

To confirm location and time of these meetings, please contact Mary Broere at [mary@thirdbrew.com](mailto:mary@thirdbrew.com).



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

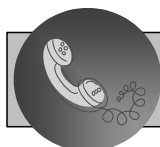
**LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD NEIGHBORS...**

to serve on the Board of Directors for the BBNA. The Board meets four times a year, publishes this newsletter and puts on the annual picnic. If you would like to help, please contact our current president Mary Broere.



**BONNIE BRAE  
WINE CLUB**

Meets on the Third Saturday of every month, in a different hosts' home. For more information, or to get on the list, call Nancy Eggert at 303-321-3155, or email — [nanegg@comcast.net](mailto:nanegg@comcast.net).



**IMPORTANT  
CONTACTS**

Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Association  
[www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/bonniebrae](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/bonniebrae)

City of Denver ..... 311  
[www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org)

**EMERGENCY ..... 911**

**Fire Dept (district 3) ..... (303) 698-4921**

**Police ..... (720) 913-2000**

Councilman Charlie Brown.... (303) 871-0601

Animal Control ..... (303) 698-0076  
*Cats and Dogs must be vaccinated and licensed. Call to report barking or vicious dogs, dog at large. No snakes, poisonous reptiles, pit bulls, or livestock. Leash laws enforced.*

Better Business Bureau..... (303) 758-2100

Cable TV Complaints ..... (720) 913-8888

City Attorney ..... (720) 865-8600

Clerk & Recorder..... (720) 865-8400

Crime Stoppers Hotline ..... (720) 913-7867

Curb & Gutter Hotline ..... (720) 913-4574  
*To report any problems with the curbs and gutters within the Denver corporate limits*

Dead Animal Pickup ..... (720) 865-6900

Denver Water..... (303) 628-6000  
[www.denverwater.org](http://www.denverwater.org)

Noise Control ..... (720) 865-5452  
*Call for violation of noise ordinance, including construction noise*

Neighborhood Inspection Services  
Complaint Line ..... (720) 865-3200

Recycling..... (720) 865-6805

RTD / Bus & Light Rail ..... (303) 299-6000

Speeding Enforcement ..... (720) 865-6905

Snow Removal ..... (720) 865-6855

Street Maintenance..... (720) 865-6855  
*To report potholes, damaged streets or alleys, inoperable traffic signals, etc.*

Street Sweeping..... (720) 865-6855

Trash Pickup ..... (720) 865-6900  
*To find information on scheduled pick-ups or large-item pickup*

Zoning Permits ..... (720) 865-3200

Please contact me or Lynn Crist if you'd like more information about how to organize your block in a Neighborhood Watch. If we have enough blocks that want to do it we may want to consider having a larger meeting at the station to get the information as a large group.

On a related note, PLEASE CALL 720-913-2000 with any NON EMERGENCY reports of unusual behavior or activity that you might witness on your block. Let's keep an eye out for ourselves and each other.

As 2007 comes to a close, my family and I wish you a very happy holiday season, and much love, luck and happiness in 2008.

Mary Broere  
BBNA President



## 2007 BBNA DUES

If you have not already sent in your dues for 2007, please do so to help us fund our annual picnic and this newsletter. Please enclose your BBNA Membership Fee of \$10 for the calendar year 2007 to:

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## Animal Lovers Needed!

The Denver Municipal Animal Shelter is looking for volunteers to help shelter animals. A variety of opportunities are available for anyone interested in helping animals in need, such as walking dogs, playing with cats, or just helping keep their environment enriched. Volunteers make a huge difference. If you are able to lend a couple of hours each week to make a difference in the lives of animals living at the shelter please contact Lisa at (303) 698-5553 or visit this website at <http://west.petfinder.com/shelters/dmas.html>.

Donations of toys, blankets, towels, or other items are also appreciated.

"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."

*Will Rogers, 1897-1935*



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(Continued from page 1)

by taking a few simple common-sense steps to protect yourself, your family, and your possessions.

You can help protect your home by keeping it secure. Make sure that your garage door is always kept closed so that the contents aren't visible to anyone passing by. Your expensive mountain bike sure is tempting to someone walking down the alley and it only takes a few seconds for someone to grab your bike and ride off. There are many attached garages in the neighborhoods I patrol. Oftentimes, people don't lock the deadbolt between the garage and their home. Always using this lock will protect your home should you happen to leave your garage door open.

**Last year, we saw a spate of burglaries where a burglar entered an unlocked back door while the homeowner was working on the lawn or tending their landscaping.**

Many people don't lock their doors when they are home. While on patrol, I frequently see open, unlocked doors when people are doing their gardening. Last year, we saw a spate of burglaries where a burglar entered an unlocked back door while the homeowner was working on the lawn or tending their landscaping, taking the wallet or purse that was on the kitchen countertop. Keeping your doors locked at all times will end this crime of opportunity.

**We have also seen an increase in door-to-door salespersons, petitioners, and people delivering flyers in our neighborhoods.**

We have also seen an increase in door-to-door salespersons, petitioners, and people delivering flyers in our neighborhoods. While most of these people are legitimate, some are trying doors and are making note of the residences where they get no answer to their knock. If you see someone suspicious in your neighborhood, especially a salesperson that is not prominently displaying a Peddler's Permit issued by the city, we want to know about it. Call us and give us a description of the individual and a direction of travel, and tell us why you think they are suspicious. Thefts from cars are almost always a crime of opportunity. We are seeing an

increase in thefts of briefcases, laptop computers, purses, and packages from vehicles. In most cases, the items taken were left on a seat or on the floor of the passenger compartment. You can help stop these thefts by locking your car and securing your valuables in the trunk of your car or covered storage area of your SUV while running errands. Be sure to take your valuables inside when you get home.

Lastly, don't leave your keys in your car and don't leave your car running, even for a minute. Some people leave their car running when they go pay for gas or run into the store for quick purchase. If you do, you might come back to find your car gone. Some kids call these "puffers" or "smokers" and they look for unoccupied running cars to take for joy rides. You can help by taking your keys and locking your car when you run into the store.

Denver is a great city and it is made greater by its wonderful, livable, safe, and vibrant inner city neighborhoods. We should all be proud to live in the neighborhoods that we have helped build and preserve. However, we need to be mindful that we live in the middle of a metropolitan area of nearly

2.5 million people. By taking basic common-sense precautions that remove opportunities for crime, by closing and locking doors and by securing valuables in locked vehicles out of public view, we can further reduce property crimes in our neighborhoods and make our neighborhoods safer.

To report a crime, please call Denver Police Non-Emergency Dispatch at 720-913-2000. If you have an emergency, please don't hesitate to dial 9-1-1. If you would like a home security survey, please call your Denver Police District Station and ask to speak to a Community Resource Officer. They will be happy to make an appointment to visit your home and suggest simple improvements to make your home more secure. If you are interested in starting or joining a Neighborhood Watch program, your Community Resource Officer can help.

**Your District 3  
Community Resource Officer is:**  
Tech. Anthony Burkhardt  
Call Officer Burkhardt with any questions you may have  
(720) 913-1231

## Neighborhood Watch

It's more than just watching your neighbors

The Denver police Department Community Resource Officer can assist you with organizing a neighborhood watch program on your block. Here are some of the basics:

They suggest organizing by block with one neighbor taking the role of Block Captain who serves as a leader for their block and encourages neighborhood involvement. Block groups normally meet 1 to 2 times per year.

**Neighborhood Watch programs reduces crime by an average of 20%.  
It can also reduce your homeowners insurance rates.**

To organize a Neighborhood Watch network, contact your Community Resource Officer. A one hour meeting with the police department is all it takes to get your group up and watching.



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## Quotables

Florida wants to change the state's motto to attract younger people. They're thinking about: "More than just a great place to die."

- Joan Rivers

"Son, weaseling out of things is what separates us from the animals. Except the weasel."

- Homer Simpson

"A word to the wise ain't necessary -- it's the stupid ones that need the advice."

-Bill Cosby

## Daffynitions

Claustrophobia: The irrational fear of Santa Claus.

## Burglary Prevention

- ♦ It should be light enough to read a newspaper in your yard at night.
- ♦ Make sure all of your trees and bushes are trimmed so a burglar cannot hide in your yard.
- ♦ Your address should be visible from the street and alley.
- ♦ Do NOT leave messages that you are away on your voicemail.
- ♦ Have a neighbor pick up your newspaper and mail. Also have them remove those small flyers taped to your door.
- ♦ Call the local police station to let them know you are going to be away. The police will check your house until you return.
- ♦ Lock all your door and windows when you are not at home.



- ♦ Keep some shades and blinds up and curtains open to maintain a normal, everyday appearance in your residence.
- ♦ Although they are convenient, eliminate dog doors. This is a perfect way for a burglar to enter your home. (Ed. Especially a cat burglar.)
- ♦ Organize a community watch program to protect your neighborhood. An alert community is a safe community.
- ♦ Always lock the door to an attached garage. Don't rely on your automatic garage door opener for security.
- ♦ Create the illusion that you are home. by using timers on lights, radios and TV's. Making your residence appear occupied, even when no one is home, will deter criminals

The Denver Police Department offers free home security surveys to evaluate your property. Call Officer Anthony Burkhardt at (720) 913-1231 or [burkhardta@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:burkhardta@ci.denver.co.us)

## THE VERDICT: HANG UP Don't Fall for Jury Duty Scam

The phone rings, you pick it up, and the caller identifies himself as an officer of the court. He says you failed to report for jury duty and that a warrant is out for your arrest. You say you never received a notice. To clear it up, the caller says he'll need some information for "verification purposes"-your birth date, social security number, maybe even a credit card number.

**This is when you should hang up the phone. It's a scam.**

Jury scams have been around for years, but have seen a resurgence in recent months. Communities in more than a dozen states have issued public warnings about cold calls from people claiming to be court officials seeking personal information. As a rule, court officers never ask for confidential information over the phone; they generally correspond with prospective jurors via mail.

The scam's bold simplicity may be what makes it so effective. Facing the unexpected threat of arrest, victims are caught off guard and may be quick to part with some information to defuse the situation.

"They get you scared first," says a special agent in the Minneapolis field office who has heard the complaints.

"They get people saying, 'Oh my gosh! I'm not a criminal. What's going on?'" That's when the scammer dangles a solution-a fine, payable by credit card, that will clear up the problem.

With enough information, scammers can assume your identity and empty your bank accounts.

"It seems like a very simple scam," the agent adds. The trick is putting people on the defensive, then reeling them back in with the promise of a clean slate. "It's kind of ingenious. It's social engineering."

Call your local District Court office and FBI field office if you receive suspicious calls.

The jury scam is a simple variation of the identity-theft ploys that have proliferated in recent years as personal information and good credit have become thieves' preferred prey, particularly on the Internet. Scammers might tap your information to make a purchase on your credit card, but could just as easily sell your information to the highest bidder on the Internet's black market.

Protecting yourself is the key: Never give out personal information when you receive an unsolicited phone call.

The BBNA will never call you and ask for personal information



### Who is who in BB?

Do you believe that you or one of your neighbors has been in the neighborhood the longest? We are looking for the person(s) that have lived the longest in Bonnie Brae. We would like to know! E-mail us and let us know (mslats64@aol.com).

## Understanding the Burglar

There are generally three different types of burglars: the professional, the semi-professional and the amateur. Although the average homeowner will probably not have to face a professional thief who focuses on extremely valuable items, you need to be aware of semi-professional and amateur burglars.

Residential burglars are often male teenagers who live near your home. They are opportunists who look for easy targets. If the risk of detection is too high, the average burglar will not attempt to enter your home.

Burglars know that the key to success is planning. The semi-professional burglar may scout a neighborhood for up to a week, while the amateur burglar will spend only a few hours "casing" a residence. After determining his target, the average burglar spends just a few minutes burglarizing it.

Whether you leave your home for five minutes or five weeks, recognize that it's vulnerable whenever it's unoccupied. While you cannot be home all of the time, you can devise a home security program that works for you around the clock.



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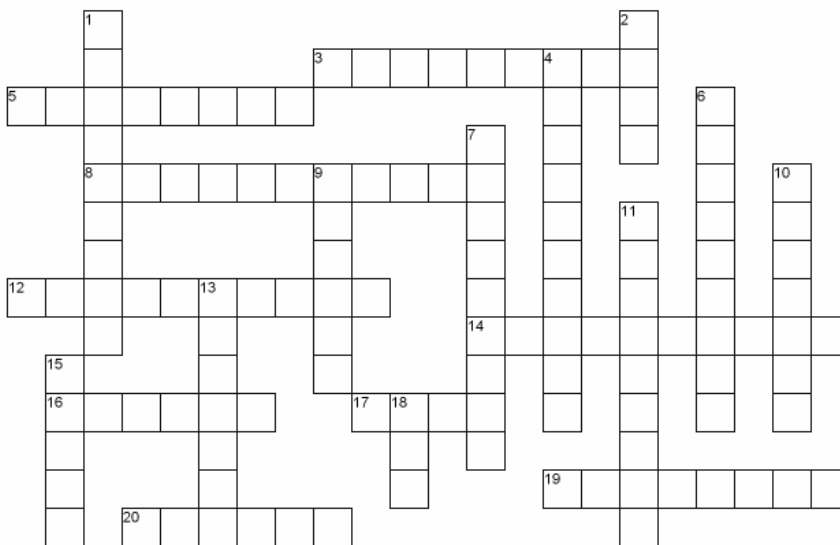
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### Call for Pictures

The BBNA Newsletter is looking for a little history. If you have photos of the neighborhood showing how it looked over the course of time, and would like to share them, please send them in. (We will make sure you get any originals back.) Or e-mail them to [mslats64@aol.com](mailto:mslats64@aol.com)

Would you like to receive e-mail versions of the BBNA Newsletter? If so, send you e-mail address to [mslats64@aol.com](mailto:mslats64@aol.com).

## Streets of Bonnie Brae



### ACROSS

- 3 John the Baptist's mother
- 5 Millard \_\_\_\_, U.S. president
- 8 Capitol is Jackson
- 12 Pleasant Hill
- 14 Higher learning institution
- 16 Greek mathematician
- 17 Grotto
- 19 Louisville locale
- 20 Pierce Brosnan as Remington

### DOWN

- 1 Colorado State Flower
- 2 Buckeye State
- 4 Detailed explanation
- 6 Nashville locale
- 7 Brewers' Home
- 9 City in Minnesota (2 wds.)
- 10 Lone Ranger Actor Moore
- 11 Napoleon's wife
- 13 Kind of circular shape
- 15 Daughter of King Aetes of Colchis
- 18 Measurement of resistance

*Answers are on street signs all over your neighborhood*



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## DEAR BONNIE & BRAE

*Dear Bonnie and Brae,  
How can one love thy neighbor when  
thy neighbor neglects to shovel thy  
walk?*

*Broken Hip Waiting to Happen*

### Bonnie replies:

Dear BHWtH, you are so right. It might be a good time to remind our neighbors about Denver's snow removal policy:

**Snow removal isn't just neighborly,  
its the law**

Denver allows residential property owners and apartment complexes 24 hours in which to remove snow from adjacent sidewalks after each snow-fall. Businesses are allowed 4 hours after the end of a snow event to have their sidewalks clean.

Dangerous sidewalks lead to seniors and other regular pedestrians being trapped due to fear of travel. Please be a courteous neighbor.

Community Planning and Development reports that common ice melt products, cat litter or sand help to provide some traction on especially icy areas.

To report icy sidewalk hazards, please call Neighborhood Inspection Services at 720.865.3200. Please have addresses ready.

### Brae Replies:

And shoveling snow is also an excellent workout. Tests done to evaluate the intensity level of snow shoveling have found that, at times, it can even be classified as vigorous exercise. So if you can't get yourself out to the gym today, then you can still get a good workout by shoveling snow.

Feel the muscles in my arms....go ahead, feel 'em.

*Be kind to  
your block,  
shovel your  
walk.*



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## ANGELA FOX

I really enjoyed working with Angela. From the beginning she presented a professionalism and enthusiasm that I knew made her right for the job. When the usual hiccups arose during the showing and closing process, Angela worked very diligently and very quickly to make sure that all potential issues and problems were remedied. One of the most impressive things that Angela did was arrange for my empty house to be professionally staged and the results were tremendous, if only my house had looked that good when I was living there. Angela has become a friend and I would not hesitate for a minute to recommend her to anyone looking to sell their home.

HELEN MCGOWAN, Bonnie Brae Client



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