Improving Public Participation

At the January 27 meeting of the INC Zoning and Planning committee, the committee voted unanimously to recommend that the INC delegation vote in favor of the following position statement at the delegation meeting on February 10. Delegates are encouraged to review the statement and be prepared to vote on February 10.

IMPROVING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DENVER CITY GOVERNMENT

For many years, the discussion, making, and implementation of public policy by the Denver city government has been characterized by strong and meaningful involvement by citizens of Denver, including, but certainly not limited to, members of Denver's approximately 180 registered neighborhood organizations (RNOs).

Denver's system of registering RNOs and notifying them of important issues affecting neighborhoods (such as re-zoning applications, zoning variance requests, liquor, and cabaret license applications and many other issues) was adopted as an ordinance by the City Council in 1979. The legislative intent statement is just as true today as it was then:

"It is the intent of the Council to increase access to various agencies and departments of the city for neighborhood organizations; to improve the flow of information between these groups and agencies of the city; and to enable such organizations to present their positions before certain decisions affecting their neighborhoods are made by agencies and departments of the city."

Denver's RNOs and Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) have been active participants and partners in many major policy initiatives affecting Denver neighborhoods including:

- Making neighborhoods safer by reducing the number of one-way streets.
- Making Denver more attractive by having strong codes to regulate billboards and to require landscaping for new parking lots.
- Making Denver safer by establishing a public nuisance abatement program.
- Making Denver safer by increasing the number of police officers.
- Preserving Denver's historic and architectural heritage through protecting Denver landmarks and landmark districts.

Elsewhere in This Issue	9	
Executive Committee Minutes		
Delegates Meeting Minutes		
Around the City		
Zoning and Planning		
Raising the Civic Canopy		
Writing Contest		
Graffiti Taskforce		
Home Improvement		
Deadline Extension		
Teacher Awards		
Heating Assistance		
Health Insurance		
Free Concerts		

- Improving Denver's infrastructure by being actively involved in formulating and passing the 1989 and 1998 city bond issues.
- Improving Denver's park system by being actively involved in preparing the Game Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department and the Civic Center Master Plan.
- Planning for the future of the city by being actively involved in developing the 1989 Comprehensive Plan, the 2000 Comprehensive Plan, Blueprint Denver (2002) and many neighborhood plans.
- Attempting to improve the quality of life in Denver neighborhoods by developing positions on hundreds of re-zoning cases, zoning variance hearings and liquor and cabaret license hearings.
- Working with the Department of Human Services to develop the Plan to End Homelessness.
- Improving Denver's zoning system by working on numerous language amendments and currently participating in the Zoning Code Update.

INC, a coalition of 86 Denver RNOs, has a

(Continued on page 8)



February 2007

www. neighborhoodlink. com/denver/inc

Connection Connection

INC Member and Associate Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Member Organizations

Advocates for Diverse Denver Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn

Ball Park Neighborhood Assn

Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn Berkeley Neighborhood Assn Berkeley-Regis United Neighbors Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Assn

CCHN Country Club Historic Neighborhood

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods Inc Cherry Creek East Assn Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Assn



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> Editor: Ken Beaudrie kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net 303-798-9306

Articles must be e-mailed to the editor by the 20th of the month.

Subscriptions are free. INC organizations should send changes to their organization personnel to the membership chair at kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net or 303-798-9306.

Subscription

information and changes of address for non-INC organizations and persons should be e-mailed to Karen Cuthbertson at athmarpark@ecentral.com.

INC Delegates' Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 8:45 a.m. See this issue for location.

The INC Executive Committee meets monthly. All members are welcome. Call the Chair for time and location.

Cherry Hills Vista Community Assn. Cherry Point Homeowners Assn City Park West Neighborhood Assn Civic Association of Clayton Clayton Neighborhood Assn Colfax Business Improvement District Colfax on the Hill, Inc Congress Park Neighbors Cook Park Neighborhood Assn Cory-Merril Neighborhood Assn Crestmoor Park Homeowners Assn

2nd filing Crestmoor Park Homeowners Inc Filing

Curtis Park Neighbors

Denargo Market Neighbors Coalition Denver's Art District on Sante Fe

Downtown Denver Residents Org

Driving Park Historic District East Montclair Neighborhood Assn Elyria Swansea/Globeville Business Assn.

Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc George Washington Homeowner's Assn. Inc.

Globeville Civic Assn I Godsman Community Neighborhood

Golden Triangle Museum District

Golden Triangle Assn

Greater Mar Lee Community Org

Greater Park Hill Inc.

Hampden Heights Civic Assn Hampden South Neighborhood Assn Harkness Heights Neighborhood Assn Harman Neighborhood Assn Inc. Highland United Neighborhood Hilltop Heritage Assn LLC Historic Montclair Community

Association, Inc.

Humboldt Street Neighborhood Assn Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA Inspiration Point Neighborhood Assn Ivy Street Neighbors Assn Leetsdale Cop Shop Lowry Community Master Assn.

Lynwood 7 & 8 Neighborhood Assn

Mayfair Neighbors, Inc

Mayfair Park Neighborhood Assn Montbello United Neighbors

Neighbors and Friends for Cheesman Park

North City Park Civic Assn Overland Neighborhood Assn Park Forest Homeowner's Assn Platt Park Peoples Assn Sloans Neighborhood Assn

South City Park Neighborhood Assn South Hilltop Neighborhood Assn South Jackson Street Reg Denver Neighborhood

Southern Hills Community Assn.

Southmoor Park East Homeowners Assn

Stapleton United Neighbors Summerfield at Indian Creek

Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc

The FAX Partnership

The Five Points Historic Assn

The Unsinkables

University Neighbors

University Park Community Council Upper Downtown Development Org Virginia Vale Community Assn

Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn Warrens University Community Council

Washington Park East Neighborhood

West Highland Neighborhood Assn West University Community Assn (WUCA)

West Washington Park eighborhood Assn

Whittier Neighborhood Assn

Associates

Auditor, City and County of Denver

Bonna Gayhart

Bow Mar Heights Improvement Assn

Carter M. Ballinger, M.D.

Cherry Creek North BID

Councilman Doug Linkhart

Councilman Rick Garcia

Councilwoman Carol Boigon

Councilwoman Jeanne Robb

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson

Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann

Denver Health Medical Center

Denver Water

Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.

FRESC (Front Range Economic Strategy Center)

Gertie Grant

Hilltop

Historic Denver Inc.

League of Women Voters of Denver

LoDo District Inc.

Morrison Road Business Association of Denver

Neighborhood Resource Center

Pam Schenkein

The Greens @ Pinehurst HOA

Transportation Solutions

Xcel Energy

Minutes of January 8 Executive Committee

By Karen Cuthbertson, Secretary

Chair Dave Webster called the meeting to order at 6:44 p. m. In attendance were Executive Committee (EC) members Karen Cuthbertson, Loretta Galla, Al Habercorn, Harriet Hogue, Charles Howard, Bill Johnston, Monique Lovato, and Anthony Thomas. Also in attendance were Standing/Special Committee Chairs Billie Bramhall, Cathee Fisher, Michael Henry, and Steve Nissen. The December Minutes were approved. The Treasurer's report was not available.

Committee Reports:

• Audit: Al and Bill reported on the audit of INC finan-

cial accounts and development of a final 2006 budget by the Housekeeping Work The Group Group. finds that the monthly INC Treasurer's Report is clear, concise, accurate and and meets generally acaccounting cepted principles. A final 2006 budget has been drafted. The Group's draft audit report recommends (1) development of a monthly Budget Balance Report showing



Councilwomen Boigon and Rodriguez defend the Proposed Charter Amendment

income and expenditures by line item for year-to-date, budget, and budget balance, (2) charging the Work Group with development of the 2007 INC Budget, (3) charging the work group with development of written financial guidelines and procedures, and (4) approving the Treasurer's preparation of the annual IRS 990 form at no cost or minimal cost if assistance is required. A motion to approve the final 2006 budget and charge the Work Group with development of a draft 2007 INC budget for approval at the February 112 EC meeting was carried.

• **Dollar Dictionary Drive**: The proposed 2007 budget will be included with the overall INC budget in February. The cost of books is sometimes unknown until mid-year so expenses are estimated. Dave stated that the signature card for the Dollar Dictionary bank account must be updated. A motion to contribute a minimum of \$250 from the INC account as a challenge grant at the Presidents Dinner was carried. Monique suggested applying for an Ecel Energy grant

(Continued on page 11)

Minutes of January 13 Delegates Meeting

By Karen Cuthbertson, Secretary

Bill Fulton of Stapleton United Neighbors welcomed everyone and thanked Alisha Brown, from the Stapleton Foundation, for the refreshments. Alisha heads Healthy Neighborhood and Communications Initiatives to find opportunities to collaborate on projects, work to education components, health initiatives, and build community with the surrounding neighborhoods.

Tiffiany Moehring, from the Denver Parks and Recreation (P&R) Marketing and Communications Office, said that P&R has finally found a replacement for Harriet

Hogue (ex-P&R Community Relations Liaison). Joan Wilson will be moving from the volunteer office to take the liaison position. will be a good resource to get citizens to the proper place within the different departments in P&R. Contact Joan at 720-913-0670 or joan.wilson@ci.denver.co. us. The "7,000 Trees in 7 Days" program (slated for April) will be Joan's first big push. P&R 2007-calendars are available containing photographs courtesy of middleschool students from the Urban Lens program.

sponding to a question about the status of the Civic Center redesign, Tiffiany noted that 557 surveys and many letters were received, including one from INC, with the overwhelming opinion opposed to the Libeskind proposal. The P&R Advisory Board is reviewing these and will be providing a recommendation to P&R Manager, Kim Bailey. Tiffiany emphasized that the Libeskind proposal was only a concept.

Amber Callender, the Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison, spoke about the next Mayor's Neighborhood Conference on March 24th, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The location is to be determined but the Conference focus will be about organizing on a smaller scale with more block-byblock and one-on-one. There will be break-out sessions on safety issues, "green" issues, and more. There will be publicity to let everyone know the particulars and the public is welcome. Amber invited anyone who would

(Continued on page 10)



Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn. – Neighbors helped neighbors who where shut in during the recent storm. There is concern about people not clearing their sidewalks after a storm. People complained about the streets taking a long time to clean but did NOT shovel the 30 feet of sidewalk in front of their own homes or businesses!

Cook Park Neighborhood Assn. – The annual elections for our Board of Directors are in January.

Cory-Merril Neighborhood Assn. – CMNA submitted a letter to Councilwoman Marcia Johnson, Chair of the Public Works Committee, requesting two changes to the proposed rules and regulations the Committee is considering. To wit: 1) Delete the "fee in lieu" concept and 2) For every residential building permit issued involving improvements of \$100,000 or more, a sidewalk be installed that is ADA-compliant and otherwise consistent with the general character of the sidewalks in the affected neighborhood before a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) is issued.

Denver Solid Waste Management – Requests that residents please place trash and recycling containers a little farther out toward the street or alley and away from vehicles and that the containers not be placed behind snow banks. Your best efforts to ensure that the containers are not near ice would be appreciated. As always, please report graffiti immediately using the exact address or location.

Greater Mar Lee Community Org. – District 4 Police are moving Broken Windows Policing to GML and we are very excited about it. Abandoned homes are an increasing problem for us.

Hampden South Neighborhood Assn. – The light rail at I-25 and Hampden is operating with great success. The snow removal was adequate by CDOT. There is no news from the Police Department regarding the Police Communication Tower. Neighbors are requesting an update from the Chief. The road conditions at the entrance to the Denver Water Hill Crest Facility at Happy Canyon Road are such that the road retains a lot of water that is now ice. Denver and Arapahoe Counties have ignored this condition for years. The Neighborhood needs a solution. The steep

Volunteer at DPS

The INC Education Committee continues to keep in close communication with the Denver Public Schools (DPS) administration about the implementation of the plan to address three of the most critical concerns of DPS students and the district: 1) the high dropout rate, 2) the achievement



gap between minority and Anglo students, and 3) the continuing trend of Denver families to choose out of DPS schools. Many Denver children are not attending Denver Public Schools, the dropout rate is high and growing, and minority children's test results are poor.

Happy Haynes of DPS attended the INC regular meeting in August 2006 and made a number of helpful suggestions about volunteer activities that neighborhood organizations and their members could participate in. Our members are active in several efforts in the overall system as well as in DPS classrooms. For example Bill Johnson and Monique Lovato are participating in communitydriven reform efforts in their respective communities -Bill in Northwest Denver and Monique in the Northeast. Cathee Fisher and Al Habercorn are on the citizen group assessing information to decide on the next DPS bond issue. Karen Cuthbertson recently revived a tutoring program at Rishel and Billie Bramhall and Monique Lovato are participating in the A+ Denver (a gang of 100) examining how best DPS can implement its Denver Plan, tackle recruitment, and retention of students, and in particular, the issue of school closings that is so important to INC. DPS has promised that we will be consulted and have input on any school closing plans.

The purpose of this article is to again urge you to volunteer in your neighborhood schools or any Denver public schools – mentoring, tutoring, checking on truancies, and other ways that keep kids in school and learning. Many of you are already doing it but it is important that the INC Education Committee know what you and members of your organization are doing.

Please email us with your stories about how you and your neighbors are making a difference in your local DPS schools; we would like to highlight your efforts. Send your stories to Monique Lovato at monique.l. lovato@excelenergy.com, Bill Johnson at wmwjohnston@msn.com or Billie Bramhall at bramhall1@msn. com. Also, by highlighting these efforts, we will be keeping DPS administration informed about INC contributions to help implement the Denver Plan. If you are having problems in arranging a volunteer activity, let us know.

Raising the Civic Canopy

Come join fellow citizens and civic leaders for the 3rd annual *Raising the Civic Canopy* at the Belmar Center, 405 S Teller Street, in Lakewood on Thursday, the 15th. The doors open at 2:30 p.m. with events starting at 3:00 p.m. that includes "Networking and Info Sharing," "Small Group Dialogue," "Large Group Engagement," and "Action Planning." There will be a 6 p.m. reception.

The Civic Canopy is a diverse and growing network of individuals, organizations, and institutions working together to improve our communities. Come join over 300 fellow citizens and civic leaders as we:

- Engage in dialogue about how to best improve our civic health;
- Look for ways to collaborate around common goals and outcomes; and
- Plan action steps to extend the reach and impact of our individual efforts.

The event is free and open to the public but an r.s.v.p. is requested. Register online at www.civiccanopy.org or call 720-331-4210. Participating organizations include Anti-Defamation League, Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, Center for Public Deliberation at CSU, Colorado Common Cause, Community Shares, Denver Public Library, Denver's Road Home, El Pomar Foundation's Forum for Civic Advancement, Facing History and Ourselves, FrontRange Earth Force, The Harmony Project, Inspired Economy, Jared Polis Foundation, League of Women Voters, Mi Casa Resource Center for Women, Metro Volunteers, MOP, Montview Presbyterian Church, Open World Learning, Omega Point, International Inc., OMNI, PeaceJam Foundation, Regis Institute on the Common Good, The Spirituals Project, Stapleton United Neighbors, Study Circles Resource Center, and The Veterans of Hope Project. Organizations listed in bold typeface are INC members or associates.

Writing Contest

The Arapahoe Library District Writing Contest is back and this time it's open to everyone – ages 5 to 105 and even to those residing outside of the District. To enter, write a story of 1,000 word or less where a gift is a significant part of the plot. Stories will be judges in five categories: grades K through second, third through fifth, sixth through eighth, ninth through twelfth, and adult. A \$50 gift certificate goes

to the winner and a \$25 gift certificate goes to the honorable mention in each category. Winning stories will also be published in the library newsletter. The awards reception is April 27 at the Koelbel Library.

Pick up complete rules and an entry form at any Arapahoe Library District location. The deadline for entries is March 15.

Graffiti Task Force

Purpose: The Graffiti Task Force has been charged with making comprehensive recommendations for policy and procedural improvements involving graffiti prevention, abatement, and enforcement. Task Force members will also work to identify potential resources and partnerships for these efforts.

Vision and Mission:

Vision: A city free of graffiti within 3 years.

Mission: Develop a three-pronged approach (prevention, abatement, and enforcement) to graffiti elimination that recognizes the values of Denver residents relating to abatement of graffiti on public and private properties, development of enforceable ordinances that recognize those values, and provides the resources necessary to support and encourage positive programs for prevention.

Process: The Task Force will make final recommendations based on reports from the Subcommittees listed below. Subcommittees are made up of Task Force members and concerned citizens. Everyone is welcome to participate in the Subcommittee process.

Subcommittee Emphasis

Abatement Removal of graffiti and keeping property

free from unwanted graffiti.

Enforcement Targeting those who have violated com-

munity, city or state laws and regulations.

Prevention Working to reduce the likelihood of an of-

fense occurring.

<u>Task Force</u> – Wednesday, February 28, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Denver Police Department Auditorium (DPDA), 1331 Cherokee, limited parking in north lot.

<u>Abatement</u> subcommittee: DPDA, 1331 Cherokee, limited parking in north lot.

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Danamarie Schmitt, Chair

Danamarie.schmitt@ci.denver.co.us

Don Pesek, Chair - dpesek@downtowndenver.com

Lisa Flores, Chair - Iflores@gatesfamilyfoundation.org

(Continued on page 7)

Data Corrections

Keep INC informed of changes in your organization's president and delegates. Notify the membership chair at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net

Organizations and persons not affiliated with INC should communicate their desire to obtain this newsletter or submit address changes to the secretary at 303-936-9206 or athmarpark@ecentral.com

Home Improvement



Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, a non-profit homeownership program, celebrated the grand re-opening of its Denver Habitat Home Improvement Outlet this past January 6th. The Denver Outlet is one of two large warehouses filled with new and used donated building materials, furniture, appliances, hardware, lumber, paint, tools, and more. This 30,000 square foot "do-it-yourself" paradise sells

items to the public at up to 80 percent off retail prices allowing everyone to afford home improvement projects.

The proceeds from the sale of items go directly to Habitat to support its mission to help families in need own a decent, affordable The Outlets have raised more than \$1.5 million since their inception three years ago. Opening day for the Denver Outlet saw \$40,000 worth of goods sold.

This unique business venture is a win-win situation for all. Habitat for Humanity has an additional funding source - homeowners and businesses get to donate items that might otherwise end up in landfills and shoppers get to purchase home improvement items at a very low cost.

Habitat is a community-based, home-ownership program. Homeowner candidates and volunteers soil. build decent, affordable homes

throughout the Metro Area. Hard working families purchase Habitat homes with zero-interest loans and make mortgage payments based on 25 percent of the family's income. Habitat for Humanity of metro Denver has built 300 homes in the Metro Area. For more information on Habitat, visit www.habitatmetrodenver.org or for information on the Outlets, visit www.habitatoutlet.org. The Denver warehouse is at 70 Rio Grande Boulevard (Take Ellsworth westward from Santa Fe Drive or Kalamath Street.

Deadline Extended

The deadline for requesting low-cost or free street-trees through The Park People's Denver Digs Trees program has been extended to March 9th. Tree request forms are available on The Park People's website at www. theparkpeople.org. Forms can also be requested by calling 303-722-6262, or by sending an email to info@theparkpeople.org.

All of the available tree varieties have been selected for their adaptability to Denver's climate. Trees will be distributed to Denver residents at six convenient sites on Saturday, April 21st – EARTH DAY – for planting along the public right-of-way. A yard-tree sale will be held in conjunction with tree distribution day for those wishing to plant trees on private property. The free and low-cost street tree program is only for Denver residents but the tree sale will be open to the public.

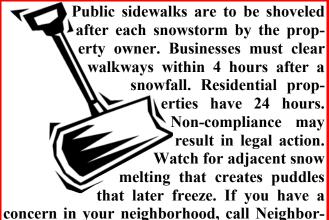
Street trees for Denver residents are \$20 each - or

free for those unable to pay. Residents who live in any of nineteen specially targeted neighborhoods automatically receive fee waivers. Targeted neighborhoods for 2007 are: Baker, Barnum, Barnum, West, Cole, Clayton, Elyria/Swansea, Five Points, Globeville, Jefferson Park, Lincoln Park, NE Park Hill, Skyland, Sunnyside, Sun Valley, Valverde, Villa Park, West Colfax, Westwood, and Whittier.

Volunteer opportunities exist for anyone interested in getting volved. Simply call The Park People's office at 303-722-6262, or email them at info@theparkpeople.org, to learn about volunteer opportunities.

The Denver Digs Trees program is made possible through the generous support of Denver Housing and Neighborhood Development Services, the Xcel Energy Foundation, Esurance, The Home Depot Foundation, Alliance for Community Trees, the Colorado Tree Coalition, and Plant It 2020.

The Denver Digs Trees program is a joint effort between The Park People, a private non-profit organization, and the Denver Parks and Recreation Forestry Department.



hood Inspection Services at 311. It may help to place common ice-melt products or sand on icy spots to provide traction. Use pure sand as common Colorado dirt may contain slippery clay. Likewise, cat litter may soften and create a slippery surface. Aquarium gravel will work and the bright color may serve as a warning. Use caution with ice-melt products around plants and grass as it may adversely affect the

Teacher Awards

If you know a Denver Public School teacher who creates connections between his or her school and the community, nominate that individual for the 2007 MetLife Foundation Ambassadors in Education Award. The winner will receive \$5,000.

The award honors middle- and high-school educators who build partnerships and improve communications between the school and its stakeholders, including students, staff, families, local government, community groups, and businesses. Members of all of these groups are encouraged to nominate a teacher who is improving their school by working with the larger community.

"Teachers are key to establishing a culture of caring and community involvement in their schools." said Sibyl Jacobson, MetLife Foundation President and CEO. "Their leadership in reaching out to their students' neighborhoods sets an important example for all citizens including students, parents, and school staff."

The Ambassadors in Education Award recognizes educators who are outstanding citizens and encourages others to model their best practices. Denver Public Schools has had four Ambassadors in Education since the award came to the city in 2003: Cheri Wright of Career Education Center, Steve Finesilver of George Washington High School, Nicole Veltz, formerly of Cole Middle School, and in 2006, Michael Gaither of Martin Luther King, Jr., Early College.

March 14 is the deadline for nominations. For more information about the award, visit www.ncl.orglmetlife/index.html.

Heating Assistance

As Coloradans continue to experience a bitter-cold winter, help is available for those struggling to pay heating bills through the Colorado Department of Human Services Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). LEAP provides cash assistance to help families and individuals pay winter home heating costs. The program pays the highest benefits to those with the highest heating bills and lowest incomes by family size. Applicant income cannot exceed \$2,559 per month, that is 185 percent of the federal poverty index before taxes for a household of three people. The anticipated average LEAP benefit for 2006-2007 is approximately \$280 per family.

According to LEAP staff, in 2005-2006 approximately 107,000 Colorado households received LEAP payment assistance compared to 96,000 the previous winter. As of December 28, almost 39,000 household have been approved to receive LEAP assistance.

LEAP applicants must reside in Colorado and be U.S. citizens or legal aliens. Applicants must also be responsible for paying heating costs—either to a utility company or to a landlord as part of rent.

For more information about LEAP or for an application, call 1-866-432-8435 or visit www.cdhs.state.co.us/leap.

(Continued from page 5, Graffiti Taskforce)

Enforcement subcommittee:

DPD Auditorium (1331 Cherokee, limited parking in lot north of the building)

Wednesday, February 7, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 21, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Capt. Doug Stephens, Chair

stephensd@ci.denver.co.us

Margaret Escamilla, Chair

margretescamilla@aol.com

Prevention subcommittee:

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN VENUE

Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center – 3334 Holly St.

Tuesday, February 6, 8 to 9:30 a.m.

Erin Trapp, Chair - erin.trapp@ci.denver.co.us

Jerome Davis, Chair

jerome.davis@excelenergy.com

For updates and information contact Neddra Niblet, 720-865-6900, neddra.niblet@ci.denver.co.us or visit www.denvergov.com/graffiti

Health Insurance

After discovering that nearly one quarter of Colorado's estimated uninsured are eligible for government health insurance but aren't enrolled, the Foundation for Health Coverage Education expanded its 1-800 Uninsured Help Line to offer eligible Coloradans access to information about available public and private coverage.

"Research shows that many Coloradans have access to programs, but they're either unaware of the programs or need help signing up." said Philip Lebherz, founder of FHCE. "This service provides live counselors to help simplify the eligibility and enrollment process in order to help more people obtain the coverage they need."

A close look at the 687,000 Coloradans reported to be without health insurance reveals the truly uninsured number is only 180,000. The rest of this identified population is composed of those eligible for public insurance programs (161,000) but not signed up, those temporarily uninsured because of transitions in employment (125,000), and those earning \$50,000 or more annually (221,000) who prefer to pay as they go or think insurance is too costly. The Help Line (800-234-1317) provides live oneon-one assistance and is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week with friendly information specialists and interpreters who speak multiple languages and offer basic screening for both public and private health insurance. The information specialists help callers identify their potential options and connect them to program representatives. The center can directly refer the consumer to the appropriate state sponsored program according to various medical conditions and guide the caller to obtain the appropriate health coverage.

The U.S. Uninsured Help Line is one of several community outreach services offered by the FHCE. In addition to educational seminars for health and social service

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 1, Public Participation)

strong interest in maintaining and improving Denver's process of public participation in city issues, particularly those affecting neighborhoods. In particular, INC encourages the Mayor and City Council and all city departments and agencies to establish and enforce high standards in all city agencies and departments for welcoming and encouraging citizen awareness and participation. Currently, some agencies appear to have minimal interest in citizen involvement while others are very neighborhood and citizen friendly.

City officials should recognize that, for the most part, citizens who want to take part in discussion of public issues are unpaid volunteers, not represented by lobbyists or lawyers. However, they contribute great value to the public discussion. Grass-roots neighborhood representatives can contribute valuable perspective and knowledge to policy discussions that "professionals," "experts," and city officials and staff often do not have. An example is the recently appointed Foreclosure Task Force that does not have any neighborhood representatives even though neighborhoods with high foreclosure rates suffer serious harm and could offer important insights and recommendations.

Citizen involvement a) usually improves the content of new policies or programs; b) serves as a communication link between citizens and the city regarding the issues in question and; c) builds community support for the new policies or programs. Citizen participation must be meaningful rather than window-dressing. Public officials must be willing to listen to the grass-roots public rather than just going through the motions.

INC recommends the following to the Mayor, City Council, and city department heads and requests that the city adopt a citywide policy incorporating these recommendations:

- Department heads should be held accountable for a) involving the public in important policy issues and b) responding promptly to communications from the public.
- 2. Members of RNOs should be included on city boards, commissions, task forces and working groups regarding all matters that affect Denver neighborhoods.
- 3. Notification of vacancies on such boards, commissions, and task forces should be sent to citizens and RNOs.
- 4. Administration of the RNO registration process should be improved by making an updated and accurate list of RNOs available to all city agencies and training agency staff to access and use the registration list and to comply with notification requirements.
- Agency staff should communicate regarding neighborhood issues with the most up-to-date list of neighborhood contact persons. Some agencies send notices to out-of-date contact persons and do not send to current contact persons.

- 6. Adequate time for notice to RNOs of meetings, hearings, and etcetera must be given. Less than 30 days is not adequate because most RNOs do not meet more than once a month and neighborhood newsletters are not published more than once a month.
- Agencies should be able to communicate to neighborhood groups both by e-mail (which most neighborhood groups prefer) and by regular mail for those who do not have e-mail capability.
- 8. Elected officials, agency heads, planning staff, community police officers, and neighborhood inspectors should visit RNO and other public meetings periodically not only to announce and explain city programs but also to listen to neighborhood concerns and issues.
- 9. Elected officials, agency heads, and planning staff should involve the public in developing major new initiatives and plans well in advance of adoption.
- 10. The Community Planning and Development Department should develop a systematic and meaningful method to encourage and implement citizen involvement in neighborhood planning and transit-oriented development planning.
- 11. The Public Works Department should develop a systematic and meaningful method to encourage and implement citizen involvement in transportation planning for both small and citywide projects.
- 12. The Parks and Recreation Department should develop a systematic and meaningful method to encourage and implement citizen involvement in planning for parks and recreation centers.
- 13. Government officials should minimize the use of acronyms in verbal and written communications. Acronyms minimize citizen understanding.
- 14. Elected officials, agency heads, and planning staff should promptly respond to letters or e-mails from RNOs and other members of the public regarding significant issues and should not ignore such communications.
- 15. Agencies should schedule community meetings at times and locations convenient to citizens because most citizens are not able to take off from work during workdays.
- 16. Parking for citizens who attend meetings should be conveniently available.
- 17. Public meeting locations should be accessible to the disabled.
- 18. Community meetings should be discouraged between late November and early January in order not to interfere with citizens' obligations during the holiday season.
- 19. Public hearings and meetings should be held in locations with good acoustics and with adequate seating.
- 20. Citizens who participate in public meetings should have access to agendas, meeting notes, documents, and progress reports and other important information re-

- lated to those meetings by website, e-mail, or regular mail. Websites should be regularly updated.
- 21. The city should work to eliminate some customerunfriendly aspects of the 311-telephone help service and should consult users to offer suggestions for improvement.

2007 Dollar Dictionary Drive By Steve J. Nissen

INC is proud of its charitable project aimed at helping with elementary education in our fine city. The Dollar Dictionary Drive is all geared up for the 12th annual drive. Yes, we need to shoot for a goal of more than 2,007 dictionaries. We will be raising funds to purchase 8,500 dictionaries and 8500 thesauri for the third-graders in 100 Denver Public Schools.

We gratefully acknowledge the wonderful support of our member neighborhood organizations in this annual effort. The year 2006 shows member support to be 50-percent greater than the previous year. Grants and donations were received from hundreds of individuals and businesses. The number of individual donations continues to rise year after year.

This project receives great endorsements from the classroom teachers, DPS Superintendent Bennet, and Mayor Hickenlooper who said; "This is a wonderful project and I support it enthusiastically." In 1997, this project resulted in INC receiving the first place award for "Neighborhood of the Year" by Neighborhoods USA (NUSA).

As you think about your budgeting and any pocket finances this coming year, we hope you will think about how you can help with the education situation in our communities. All of the funds raised are put into this project. We have no paid staff and administrative costs are well below 2-percent. The new brochure will be available at the INC February 10 meeting. For further information, please contact one of the persons listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Neighborhood Walkability

If you have completed the Neighborhood Walkability Survey, thank you very much for your time. Your input will help me analyze the relationships between neighborhoods and the physical activity of individuals who live in that neighborhood. If you have not yet completed the Neighborhood Walkability Survey, your input is valuable. If you would like to participate, please go to the following Internet location:

http://websurveyor.net/wsb.dll/13000/wellness.htm The survey should take about 5 minutes to complete. Participation is anonymous and voluntary. Thank you for your assistance.

New City Website

In an effort to improve customer access to information on the Web, the City launched a new Web site today, January 19, 2007 with a completely fresh look and a brand new easy to use navigation system that makes finding information easier than ever. The new site features special resident, business, and visitor sections; new simple language navigation that directs customers to topics of interest; and a new content management system for easy and efficient updating of agency content by City staff. Other enhancements include a new search engine and real-time news feeds for multiple electronic devices to keep users informed of current government issues and community initiatives.

"With the help of a leading Internet consultant and months of work by City staff, we are making the City's web site more streamlined and user-friendly to better serve Denver's residents and businesses," said Mayor John Hickenlooper. "The City and County of Denver's web site receives close to one million site-visits each month and has thousands of pages of content. Our goal is for everyone using the new denvergov.org to quickly and easily locate the information they need."

In preparing for redevelopment of the site, Technology Services analyzed Web trends and statistics and relied on assistance from over 200 Denvergov liaisons to ensure critical information appeared at the forefront of the newly developed Web site. In addition, the City retained Web site usability experts at Forrester Research to evaluate the site and to advise the City on areas that would deliver the greatest customer value and improved user experience. Forrester's comprehensive site evaluation measured the overall value, navigation, presentation, and trust offered by the new site. Close attention to accessibility needs of people with disabilities was also a focus of the redevelopment effort.

Technology services will continue to depend on customer feedback as well as encourage comments, suggestions, and ideas from City staff about future improvements to the site. Technology Services recommends that all staff suggestions about future improvements to the site be submitted to the agency Web site liaisons.

(Continued from page 7, Health Insurance)

related professionals, the FHCE also offers a free brochure.

FHCE is a nonprofit 501(c)3 private organization based in San Jose, Calif. The FHCE was founded in response to the increasing number of uninsured who are eligible for programs but not enrolled. Its mission is to simplify public and private health insurance eligibility information in order to assist more people in accessing health coverage. For more information call 800-234-1317 or visit www. coverageforall.org.•

(Continued from page 3, Delegates Meeting)

like to help to contact her at 720-865-9051. There was a comment that this is timely as the snow removal for disabled and elderly is something that neighborhood groups can and should take on. There was also a comment that neighborhood response involves more than snow removal and this Conference can help with that dialogue.

Sarah McCarthy, speaking as the new Executive Director of the Neighborhood Resource Center (started 14 years ago by Doug Linkhart, Janey Hanley, et al.), spoke about the NRC. The NRC helps facilitate the kind of block-by-block connections that were being discussed. NRC serves as administrator for the City for small grants in focus neighborhoods (\$2000 for RNOs and \$2500 for schools) for neighbor-to-neighbor projects. The City also has money earmarked for replacing sidewalks in focus neighborhoods. NRC has a "Good Neighboring" program that uses Xcel Energy mini-grants for specific block activities. NRC also has "Party Packs" for block parties. Sarah is looking to tap into Homeland Security funding to help sponsor more of these types of neighbor-to-neighbor initiatives. Call 303-477-0023.

Councilwoman Rosemary Rodriguez spoke about the special ballot issue. The Councilwoman relayed that the Mayor, City Council, and the Denver City Auditor believe that the City should move to an elected Clerk and Council decided to let the voters decide whether to change the charter. The Election Commission (EC) staff assured Council that they can distribute, collect, and tally the mail-in ballots and Sequoia assured the Administration that they can provide accurate and effective results to the City. Councilwoman Carol Boigon spoke about the start of this effort in 2005 with Common Cause. They found that the 3-member EC were disagreeing with each other and resisting the management changes necessary to improve the technology to accommodate the new election formats. The EC also refused to accept help with the system architecture from the City's Information Technology experts. The Councilwoman feels that there needs to be a single person (a "general") to oversee the elections. If approved, the position will be a Career Service position with all those qualifications. The Elected Clerk will be able to hire a Deputy Clerk and Recorder and a Director of Elections.

Jan Tyler, a former Election Commissioner, spoke in opposition to this change. Jan noted that the EC personnel were not involved in the formulation of the proposed amendment and that an elected Clerk and Recorder will not solve the problem. The new person would have the same responsibility as the EC only now the new person would be a politician instead of being independent and diverse. Jan claimed that there have been serious problems in counties that have an Elected Clerk, e.g., Douglas County where election-day backups kept some voters in line until after 1:00 a.m., and Pitkin County where 1,200

phantom votes existed. Jan recommended voting "no" on the amendment saying electors could elect a competent or incompetent Clerk and Recorder just as they now can with Election Commissioners. For more information, visit www.nocharterchange.org.

Questions included why the EC hardware servers were not sufficient and why the EC refused City help. Jan responded that the City budget would not allow for the additional hardware but that the observation about insufficient IT expertise was valid. Al Habercorn, an Election Judge who is also a database designer, noted that the problems were technical in nature so any solution whether EC or elected Clerk and Recorder - is about expertise and competency. Nancy Ulrich noted that the League of Women Voters voted at their January 9th meeting to support the move to a Clerk and Recorder. The issue of the Election Commissioners being part-time came up. Ms. Tyler noted that Council positions were part-time until recently and the folks don't take a part-time position if they are not committed. Councilwoman Carol Boigon related that her experience with Sandy Adams, et.al., was that there were times they couldn't respond because they didn't have the time. Sarah McCarthy, now speaking as a member of the League of Women Voters, mentioned that the mail-in ballot requires 63-cent postage and must be back by January 30th. If the voters approve the charter change, the election will be on the May ballot.

Landri Taylor of Forest City (master developer of Stapleton) spoke about the redevelopment of Stapleton since 2001. Senior housing, livability, and sustainability are foremost goals yet the United Airlines Training Center is still active as well. Stapleton's borders are 56th Avenue on the north, Montview Boulevard on the south, Peoria Street on the east, and Quebec Street on the west. There currently are 2,600 housing units with 10,000 more coming over 10 years. A cooperative effort is underway to help retailers new to the area market themselves to the rest of the city. Dave thanked Landri for his good Chairmanship of the P&R subcommittee of the Infrastructure Task Force. Landri noted that his subcommittee is almost ready to publish their findings and recommendations back to the Infrastructure Task Force. The larger publicity to the public will be after the May election.

Monique Lovato, INC Education Committee member, updated the delegates on the Denver Public School (DPS) funding and school closings. There are no scheduled closings in the 2007/2008 school year. A+ Denver is a group that is putting together a list of schools for potential closing. Monique stressed that every INC member should get involved at their local school level to get something better than just closing schools. Monique is encouraged that the current process regarding Manual High School in her neighborhood includes looking at new school formats and that Montessori schools are coming back. Bill Johnston, another Committee member, spoke about his experi-

ence in Northwest Denver. Twelve middle-schools feed North High School. Most schools' enrollment is declining and test scores are low. DPS lost 1,000 students over a 5-year period. Forty-two percent of residents do not go to their local schools. Bill said that the closing of Manual served as a "wake up" call so parents, teachers, business, and community leaders met with DPS Superintendent Michael Bennet and demanded immediate and dramatic change at North High. Bennet initiated a community process (to the tune of two meetings a week over four months) to look at all schools in Northwest Denver. Meetings in open public schools were held at all feederschools and high schools. A summary of community expectations (including high-quality instruction, intentional school culture, and effective academic support and services) was presented to several hundred community members last week. Bennet said that DPS had "missed the boat" with regards to Manual High School and noted that the summary showed a large gap between what the public wanted in their schools and what DPS was providing. The new plan for Northwest Denver schools includes:

- Creating a Valdez Elementary School/North High School campus for early childhood through 12th grade with a Montessori pre-kindergarten and dual language immersion pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade.
- Implementing an "EXCELerator" program at North High School.
- Formalizing the "International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme" at Lake Middle School.
- Beacon programs at several schools.
- Phasing out attendance barriers.

DPS is still considering closing Horace Mann Middle School. Bill noted that this is a great example of what can be accomplished when residents get involved. Bill Johnston applauded DPS (including Theresa Peña and Michael Bennet) for their responsiveness and strongly stressed that INC Delegates take this back to their respective organizations and **press their members to get involved**. The summary presentation is available on the DPS website www.dpsk12.org. There was a question about Cole Middle School as the Knowledge Is Power Program is pulling their charter from Cole because they could not find a principal. The district seems willing to step up and help but they do not have all the answers right now.

Dave passed around a sign-up sheet for hosting INC meetings and for helping with the Presidents Dinner (which is now scheduled for late April or early May).

The Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP) is meeting in two weeks. ZAP is dedicated to keeping in touch with the Zoning Code redesign. It finally looks like progress is being made and ZAP will be obtaining a draft when it's available.

There were no other committee reports. •

(Continued from page 3, Executive Committee)

- and Dave suggested applying for a Kiwanis Club grant. Loretta suggested trying the Channel 4 "Pay it Forward" program. Cathee read a "Thank You" letter from Mary French, Director of The Dictionary Project, expressing gratitude to INC for their leadership in helping provide every third-grader in Denver with a dictionary.
- Education: Billie announced that she is retiring from Golden Triangle Board in February. Margery Hicks will replace Billie on the Education Committee and Ann Lindsey will replace Billie on the ZAP Committee. Monique and Billie attended the A+ Denver meeting regarding DPS funding and school closings. They will present their findings for the February newsletter.
- INC Presidents Dinner: Bill Mitchell and Gabie Romano have finalized the menu. The Johnson and Wales' facility is limited to a maximum of 250 persons. The date will be set for a time when INC can have a good speaker and program and award presentation. Harriet will pick up the invitations when they are ready, label, and mail them.
- Membership: No report. A motion to send an invoice to all Member Organizations to renew membership carried with two opposed. Dave will provide the cover letter.
- **Newsletter**: No report.
- **Public Relations**: Monique got a press release into *Life on Capitol Hill* regarding re-registering RNOs on denvergov.org. Monique will send out a press releases about the INC vote on the Civic Center remodel and about the Presidents Dinner.
- Public Safety: Loretta reported that DPD is preparing the language for changing the Nuisance Abatement ordinance. Committee members are going to meet with Council members next week. Loretta will write up something for the February INC newsletter to have the Delegates vote on it.
- Transportation: No report.
- Zoning and Planning: Michael passed out a draft of suggestions for how to improve the public participation process consistently across departments. He asked for input from the EC. He will have the ZAP Committee vote to adopt a final Position Statement for submission to the full Delegation for approval. Mike would like to invite candidates for the May City election to respond regarding how they would address these complaints.

Loretta Galla announced her resignation as President of the Greater Mar Lee Community Organization effective December 16, 2006. The EC agreed that she could finish her term on the EC.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

(Continued from page 4, Around the City)

elevation of the sidewalk at the south end of the Rosemont Park Bridge could cause a serious accident. The City has been silent for years. The Neighborhood needs our City representatives to act.

Historic Montclair Community Assn. – Celebrates the 100^{th} anniversary as a neighborhood organization this year! Special events will take place in May. Stay tuned.

Lowry Community Master Assn. – The Lowry Redevelopment Authority (LRA), who has total control of all of our sites, is sun-setting out at the end of 2007, three years early, saving some \$8 million dollars. This popular living area will be overseen by the Lowry Committee Master Association (LCMA). Building and life are great in Lowry.

South City Park Neighborhood Assn. – The Mercy Hospital site redevelopment is at the point of human reality. There are as many new residents at this point as we have members in our association! Most are located in "Retreat at the Park" with some at "Wonderland Homes." And the "Twin Towers" are under construction. We are growth challenged.

Stapleton United Neighbors – A recent big concern has been about schools meeting the needs of the Stapleton neighborhood while also integrating with the surrounding neighborhoods.

The FAX Partnership – The Denver Economic Development Office granted funding over a three-year period to help us with our efforts to revitalize East Colfax Avenue from Colorado Boulevard to Yosemite Street (the FAX). Blueprint Denver Committee recently recommended Main Street zoning for "The FAX." We are currently going through the process of hiring an Executive Director. The FAX held a "Business after Hours" event on January 10th at the Elm Bar & Restaurant and hosted our neighbor

organization, Colfax on the Hill. It was a wonderful evening of networking and cooperation.

University Park Community Council – Our Winter meeting is February 7th to work further on the Neighborhood Plan and discuss opportunities in support of University Park School that has received a "High" rating for excellence.

West Washington Park Neighborhood Association – Three new liquor license applications in the last two months have kept us busy.●

Free Concerts

The following are free concerts offered by the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver's Newman Center, 2344 E. Iliff Avenue. Free parking is usually available in the Center's garage.

February 6, 7:30 to 9 p.m. The Lamont Symphony performs Brahm's Third Symphony and First Piano Concerto in the Gates Concert Hall. Admission is free but tickets must be obtained from the box office in advance.

February 20, 7:30 to 9 p.m. The Lamont Guitar Chamber Ensembles in the Hamilton Recital Hall.

February 25, 7:30 to 9 p.m. The Lamont String and Wind Ensembles in the Hamilton Recital Hall.

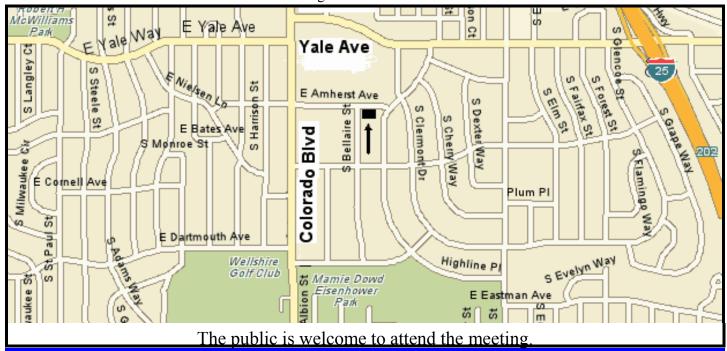
February 26, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Three large jazz ensembles in the Gates Concert Hall.

February 27, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Lamont Percussion Ensembles in the Gates Concert Hall.

February 28, 7:30 to 9 p.m. The Lamont Men's and Women's Choirs in the Gates Concert Hall.

February 28, 7:30 to 9 p.m. The Lamont Wind and String Ensembles in the Hamilton Recital Hall.

Every Friday, 5 to 7 p.m. Jazz Combos in room 121.



Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

2007 Membership Application

INC is a consortium of Denver neighborhood representatives who believe that neighborhood organizations deserve a greater participation in city government and possess a shared vision that individual neighborhoods are stronger when they work together and learn from one another. To join as a member neighborhood organization, the organization must be registered with the city as a Registered Neighborhood Organization. Log on to Denvergov.org for details. The names of Patron members and associates are listed in bold in our newsletter.



	ood organization: Regu ee below to apply as an I	ılar Member (\$35) □ Patron (\$75) □ NC Associate	
Organization name:			
Address:			
Borders: North	East		
South	West		
President's Name:			
Address:			
Phone: ()Cell:	: ()	President is a voting delegate:	
E-mail Address:	TIC M DE 1		
E-mail Address: Send newsletter via: E-mail []	U.S. Mail []	Don't want newsletter []	
Voting Delegate Name:			
Address:			
Address: Cell:	:()	E-Mail Address:	
Send newsletter via: E-mail []	U.S. Mail []	Don't want newsletter []	
Voting Delegate (if President is not a voting delegate)			
Delegate Name			
Address:		_ E-mail Address:	
Phone: () Cell:	: ()	E-mail Address:	
Send newsletter via: E-mail []	U.S. Mail []	Don't want newsletter []	
Join as a non-voting su	pporting Associate : R	egular (\$20) □ Patron (\$75) □	
Organization Name:			
Organization Address:			
Agent's Name:			
Address:			
Phone: () Cell	l: ()	_ E-mail Address:	
Send newsletter via: E-mail [] U.S	S. Mail [] Don't want i	newsletter []	

Bring this form to an INC meeting or mail to:

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

PO Box 181009

Denver, CO 80218-1009

Meeting Saturday February 10th

The public is welcome to attend.

Ross University Hills Branch Library 4310 E Amherst Ave

See map on page 12

8:45

Coffee and Chat

9:00

Welcome by Diane LaPierre, Library President, and Diane Young of Councilwoman Lehman's office.

Infrastructure Task Force update by Diane Barrett

Speaker from the Colfax Marathon

Revision of Ordinance regarding Liquor in the Parks

Denver Water Billing and Usage Update

Around the City

Committee Reports

Noon Adjournment

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

P.O. Box 181009 Denver, CO 80218-1009

Officers/Executive Committee/Chairs

Dave Webster, Chair 720-941-8026 dj-jl-webster@att.net Colfax on the Hill, Inc. Charles Howard. Vice-chair 303-282-0982 ae5260@msn.com West University Community Assn. Al Habercorn, Treasurer 303-778-8087 ahabercorn@msn.com Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn. Karen Cuthbertson, Secretary 303-936-9206 athmarpark@ecentral.com Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn. Loretta Galla, Delegate-at-large 303-935-5470 (cell 303-669-1419) lorettagalla@comcast.net Greater Mar Lee Community Assn. Harriet Hoque, Delegate-at-large 303-322-9484 hrhthefirst@access4less.net City Park West Neighborhood Assn. Bill Johnston, Delegate-at-large 303-455-9535 wmwjohnston@msn.com West Highland Neighborhood Assn. Monique Lovato, Delegate-at-large 303-294-2220 monique.l.lovato@xcelenergy.com Whittier Neighborhood Assn. Anthony Thomas, Delegate-at-Large

303-399-1379 (cell 303-388-0648)

antthomas@juno.com Civic Association of Clayton bership Committees 303-798-9306 kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net Bow Mar Heights Improvement Assn. Billie Bramhall, Co-chair, Education Com-303-534-2272 bramhall1@msn.com Golden Triangle Assn. Karen Brown-Gerdine, Co-chair Education Committee. 303-695-8202 kargerdi3@aol.com The Five Points Historic Assn. Cathee Fisher, Co-chair, Dollar Dictionary Committee 303-333-3141 cathee@earthlink.net East Montclair Neighborhood Assn. Mike Henry, Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee 303-377-6609 Capitol Hill United Neighborhood, Inc. Steve Nissen, Co-chair, Dollar Dictionary Committee 303-733-8524 pennissen@cs.com Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn.

Ken Beaudrie, Chair, Newsletter & Mem-