

ATHMAR PARK

neighborhood association

Special points of interest:

- Denver Digs Trees Update New Deadline March 1st
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinics & Feral Cat Solutions
- Athmar Park Has Broken Windows Program

Issue 63

February 2008

The Athmar Park Neighborhood Association is a volunteer organization composed of residents and business owners working to improve the health, safety, and spirit of the area from W. Alameda south to W. Mississippi and from S. Platte River west to S. Federal Blvd.

ALAMEDA MARKETPLACE REDEVELOPMENT

by Pat Ayres, APNA Treasurer

You may have heard rumors or seen a public meeting notice of coming changes to the area known as Broadway Marketplace. Civic planners and developers have big plans for the area bordered by Alameda, Broadway, and I-25.

Efforts are underway to redevelop the site into a regional center similar to Cherokee (Gates) to the south in two separate developments. The "Denver Design District" area to the east of the rail lines already has design documents and a general development plan. Another, planned for the location known for being the site of the Regional Transit Authority bus barn, is currently just a slab of concrete south of Alameda and east of Santa Fe. Developers have dubbed this site the "Alameda Station" development.

Proposed development guidelines for this area follow an inner urban renewal mechanism labeled **Transit Oriented De-**

velopment (TOD). Civic planners in growing cities like Denver have begun to recognize commuter traffic's impact on quality of life. Likewise, commuters find that spending large amounts of time on the road is affecting their own lives negatively. Conse-



quently, many people are beginning to move back into the cities close to work and entertainment. This is having a large effect on the population density and near transit centers like light rail stations. Because of attraction to TODs, forward-thinking urban planners have created guidelines for their zoning. TOD zoning generally allows for multiple uses within buildings in a zoned region; uses that might seem con-

tradictory, such as combined residential and commercial.

There are definite reasons behind the push for TOD in urban development. When urban population density increases, mass transit and local business use increases, and the negative impacts of long-distance commuter travel decrease. If city planners make the initial effort to plan for this type of growth and adopt standards that maintain the quality of the architecture for TOD, developments will become attractive and interesting place to be for residents of surrounding communities. Planners must balance this with standards for development so that the density doesn't hurt the area and is inclusive of the makeup of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Plans for the Denver Design District include multiple stories of residential and commercial development, a market plaza, spacious tree-lined streets,

Alameda (Continued on page 2)

FREE ENERGY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 23, 2008 10-11am

by Carol e Campbell, APNA President

Are high utility bills putting a dent in your family's budget? APNA is hosting a free Energy Conservation Workshop to help you identify ways to reduce your energy bills and yet be more comfortable this winter. Get your home buttoned-up for winter with useful, practical advice from a certified energy efficiency expert. Topics covered include: insulation, heating, water heaters, windows, lighting, and appliances. This free workshop is scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 2008, 10-11am at Valverde Community Church, 430 S. Tejon St, in the basement. Hope to see you there!

Inside this issue:

Around the Neighborhood & City	2
Lloyd Greenwood Memoriam	2
Denver Digs Trees	3
Membership Update	3
APNA Board Recaps	4
Broken Windows	4
Spay/Neuter Clinics and	5
Contact Us	6

Around the Neighborhood and City

RISHEL AND KEPNER MIDDLE SCHOOLS SUPPORT THE CITY'S GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROGRAM

The schools are competing to see which school can return the most signed graffiti abatement forms, which then allows City crews to clean graffiti from those properties. The winning school's students get to attend a special hip-hop school dance! This program is the brainchild of Denver Graffiti Fellow, Delfino Rodriguez, who is tasked with implementing the recommendations that the Mayor's Graffiti Taskforce presented to the City last year. Sounds like a creative win-win!

VANDERBILT PARK TO BE REDESIGNED

Denver Parks & Recreation is redesigning Vanderbilt Park (Tennessee and Huron) in conjunction with the redevelopment of the former Gates Rubber Factory. Part of the redevelopment this year includes installing a bridge from "their" side across the Platte River at Kentucky Avenue to allow cars and people to get in and out of the redeveloped site. There will also be new pedestrian access into Vanderbilt Park from Santa Fe. Installing these structures will damage the existing park, so Parks & Rec is gearing up to kill two birds with one stone; implement a planned redesign of the Park and repair

the construction damage in the process. There will be public meetings to gather resident input into the design of the Park. APNA is requesting that someone from our neighborhood (preferably someone who lives near Vanderbilt Park) attend these meetings and report back. If you would be interested, please contact any Board member (see back page). To see an initial draft of the plan, visit the APNA website at www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/athmar.

NEW ATHMAR PARK LIBRARY HOURS

Monday & Wednesday - 12 to 8
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday - 10 to 6
Saturday - 9 to 5

SCHOOL ZONE FOR VALVERDE

The City plans to install flashing beacon lights on Alameda Avenue to slow traffic passing Valverde Elementary School in the morning and afternoon when the students are out. A total of 30 schools next to streets that are at least 5 lanes wide will receive these lights. The City is installing the lights at 10 schools per year, and Valverde will be one of the first on the schedule.

SENIOR CITIZEN TAX EXEMPTIONS

A property tax exemption is available for citizens who are 65 or older, and who have lived in their home for at least 10 years prior. The Colorado legislature, not the City and County of Denver, controls the amount of the exemption, and all citizens who have been approved for the exemption in 2006 or in any prior year should see a reduction in the property tax bill they received in January 2007. For more information contact Charlene Zanjani 720-913-4044 or www.denvergov.org/assessor. The deadline to apply is July 15th.

NEW GRAFFITI ABATEMENT PROGRAM

The Denver District Attorney's Office Juvenile Division is piloting a graffiti abatement program in Athmar Park. Almost every weekend through June, 10 juveniles who have a community service obligation to fulfill will be cleaning graffiti from light poles, signs, control boxes, bus benches, etc., along our Alameda and Federal perimeters. Two DA staff members will accompany and oversee the work. What a win-win for Athmar Park! Many thanks to Valerie Kerns, aide to Councilman Nevitt, for helping make it happen!

Alameda (Cont'd from page 1)

large and small retail (grocery included) and urban green-space architecture. The Alameda Station TOD will also be a combination development with an eye to the multi-modal aspect of the setting close to many transit corridors. Light rail parking is to be included in both, and access from east to west will be enhanced by an elevated pedestrian bridge at the transit-station area. Much detail is being paid

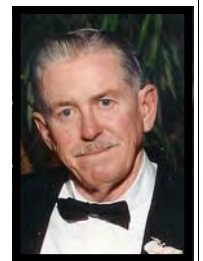
making the light rail station in the center an attractive destination for all modes of travel and to give the station a central sense of place. Future plans include the possibility of bike and pedestrian bridges across I-25 and the South Platte River.

Board members from APNA have been paying attention to these developments and volunteered time at public meetings to make sure that the interests of the surrounding neighborhoods are taken into account during development. An important part of this planning to us, as Athmar Park residents, is that access to the new development and transit within the region is strengthened so that our neighborhood's quality of life is improved by these changes. Connections to our neighborhood are included as part of the overall development plan. If you are interested in having your voice heard during the planning process, or desire to know more about these developments in detail contact me at patrick.ayres@state.co.us or call me at 720-261-3663.

In Memoriam

The Athmar Park neighborhood has lost a staunch advocate.

On January 8, 2008, neighbor and friend **Lloyd Greenwood** died after an extended illness. Lloyd served 31 years in the Colorado Army National Guard because



he believed in defending the rights of others. His devotion to doing what is right extended to neighborhood issues, as well. Lloyd actively involved himself in helping neighbors solve issues and served on the APNA board. Lloyd's lanky form and sardonic wit will be sorely missed. We salute you, First Sergeant Greenwood.

Editor's Note: Frieda Greenwood wished to express her gratitude and sincere appreciation to everyone in the neighborhood for the lovely food and all their support.

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Denver Digs Trees Update

By Matt Lopez

Denver Digs Trees has recently announced an extension to March 1st for ordering Street Trees, so if you haven't done so yet, I encourage everyone to try to take advantage of this opportunity to get a great tree for a very low price. The first step in the process is determining if you have the space available on your streetscape for a Denver Street Tree.

Denver has spacing guidelines that

should be followed to avoid hazards and ensure the health of your new Street Tree. Street Trees must be planted along the street in the public right-of-way, but you may also purchase trees for use in other areas of your yard at the tree pick up sites.

NEW TREES SHOULD FOLLOW THESE SPACING REQUIREMENTS:

- *At least 30' between large trees (some exceptions allowed)*
- *10' from driveways, alleys & fire hydrants*
- *30' from the curbs at intersections*
- *20' from streetlights or stop signs*
- *5' from buried utility lines.*

Call 800-922-1987 to have your underground utilities marked to check for utility clearance.

Denver Digs Trees can always use additional volunteers. If you would like to become involved with this program, or need additional information, please email info@theparkpeople.org or call 303.722.6262

FREE DAYS

- **Denver Zoo** — Thursday, Feb 14th
- **Denver Art Museum** — Saturdays, Feb 2nd, March 1st, April 5, and May 3
- **Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield** — Fridays, Feb 1st, March 7th, April 4th and May 2nd
- **Denver Museum of Nature and Science** — April 20th, May 3rd
- **Denver Center for the Performing Arts** — Shows at 6:30 p.m.
"Gee's Band", March 13th, Space Theatre
"The Merry Wives of Windsor", March 20th, Stage Theatre
"Doubt", April 3rd, Ricketson Theatre
"3 Mo'Divas", May 8th, Stage Theatre

(For ticket information and rules call 303-893-4000)

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APNA Membership

by Carol Warner, Membership Secretary

While there are approximately 3,200 households and businesses within 'our' borders, current APNA membership is about 150 households and businesses; 238 individuals. In order to continue the good work YOUR association does, and has been doing since 1991, for YOU and your family or business, I ask each person reading this, to complete the form elsewhere in this newsletter and mail it to the address provided, and join us in being part of a viable, successful neighborhood group.

The following memberships either are due currently or are due through May 2008 (April newsletter issue). Please renew, and get your neighbors, if not members, to join. It's the best \$10 (\$5 for seniors) your household will spend this year!

Arellano / Campbell, W. /
 Christie / Corbridge / Foster /
 Gerlick / Hays / McCully / Mills /
 Mueller / Raear / Sargent /
 Snow, R. / Snow, T. / Toole

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APNA Board Recaps Valverde Community Church

October 23, 2007

Mark Ferrandino introduced himself as the new representative for State House District 2. Mr. Ferrandino lives in the Baker neighborhood and wants to concentrate on health care as a legislator. Gia Irlando, an aide for Councilman Paul Lopez, said the councilman's office is working on graffiti abatement and is working with Lakewood PD on a sting along Sheridan Boulevard. Power poles have been removed along S. Lipan Street.

Negotiations are progressing between the Brighton Corporation and the shopping center owners to construct a Lowe's Home Improvement Center. APNA will continue its participation with other Southwest Denver neighborhoods to bury the power lines at Ruby Hill Park. The city is looking into the feasibility of installing crossing gates at railroad intersections to limit noise from horns. The project is in the talking stage at this time. Fifteen thousand square foot Walgreen's to be completed in July 2008 at Alameda and Federal.

November 26, 2007

Chris Jones, SCAT officer, is trying to pick up those wanted on warrants. Also mentioned the Broken Windows program, neighborhood officers anticipate the major concerns will be: graffiti, traffic and cruising at the park. Cameras will be deployed at Graffiti hotspots at a later date. He would like to have input on bills he will sponsor concerning Tuberculosis updates, copying fees and petitions to

seal criminal records. Gia Irlando, an aide for Councilman Paul Lopez, said it looks like the retail liquor license application at Morrison Rd. and Kentucky will be denied. A 2-day graffiti sting conducted by Lakewood and Denver PDs resulted in 40 tickets being written. Federal Blvd expansion from Alameda to 5th is being planned. Tom Wotten and Tyler Lowe spoke about plans to develop the former RTD Bus Barn site near Alameda and Santa Fe. It is an eight-acre site and they are proposing it rezoned to RMU-30 with 300 to 400 residential units including a six-story building. I-25 will be widened from Broadway to 6th Ave and Off Ramps will be relocated. Traffic exiting I-25 will be re-routed north of Home Depot. A pedestrian bridge is planned from the Alameda Station to the proposed development. Parking for light rail – a "kiss and ride" is planned and may alleviate traffic under the Alameda railroad bridge. Petrochemicals and underground storage tanks have been found at the site and needs to be cleaned. No groundwater contamination has been found. The developers plan to apply for a zoning application in January and will begin infrastructure improvements in the summer. Negotiations are progressing between the Brighton Corporation and the shopping center owners. Developers are trying to save facades of the old factory as environmental cleanup proceeds. The Colorado Civic center is looking for a new location either at the Civic Center or at the Permit Center. The old Permit Center would be ideal.

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Broken Windows

By Dist 4 Commander Rudy Sandoval

District Four Police will commence the "Broken Windows" strategy in Athmar Park neighborhood on January 27, 2008. What this means is that extra precinct cars will patrol the neighborhood seven days/nights a week for a minimum of four hours each day or night. Officers will be addressing crime and disorder in the neighborhood looking for crimes in progress, suspicious persons or vehicles, abandoned and stolen vehicles, unkempt properties, graffiti and traffic violators. They will utilize vehicle, bicycle and foot patrols in these efforts.

District Four officers will be assisted by detectives, traffic officers, neighborhood inspection services, nuisance abatement, public works, the city attorney's office and a crime analyst, as required, during the five-month period of the project.

District Four has been very successful in reducing crime, cleaning up neighborhoods and making people feel safe since being selected as the first police district to utilize "Broken Windows" in the City and Country of Denver. I just want to emphasize that honest, forthright and cooperative citizens have nothing to fear from the extra police presence in the neighborhood, only the criminals should be concerned.

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APNA MEMBERSHIP FORM February 2008	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> Annual Dues for 2008 <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member \$10.00/year Any person, age 18-64, who owns or rents property in Athmar Park. All adults living at one address pay one annual household due of \$10.00. Each adult entitled to one vote. </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> RENEW </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> NEW </div> </div>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Member \$5.00/year Any person, age 65 and over, who owns or rents property in Athmar Park. All seniors living at one address pay one annual household due of \$5.00. Each senior entitled to one vote.	Name: _____ Address: _____ City and Zip: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational \$25.00/year Any club, church, business, educational institution or organization (except registered neighborhood associations) in Athmar Park. One representative entitled to one vote.	COMMITTEES I would like to volunteer to serve on:
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate \$10.00/year Any person or organization wishing to support APNA activities but who does not own or rent property in Athmar Park; no vote. <div style="text-align: center;">Additional Contributions Always Welcomed!</div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Planning and Redevelopment (Alameda Square, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> NIS Code Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Parks <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Neighborhood/Graffiti <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Comments: _____
Donation: \$ _____ Donation for APNA Legal Defense Fund: \$ _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Total Remitted: \$ _____</div>	
Make checks payable to <i>APNA</i> and mail to: Carol Warner, APNA Membership Secretary P.O. Box 19732, Denver, CO 80219	

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Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinics and Feral Cat Solutions Coming to Athmar Park

By Sherrie Fleck-Miller, Animal Issues Chair

There have been many sightings of stray cats indicating that we may have a couple of feral colonies in the Athmar Park neighborhood. Unmanaged colonies can spread disease and they grow rapidly. Trying to catch these feral cats and move them to another area or have them euthanized only allows more animals to move into the area. Fixing and releasing the cats back into their "home" prevents the colony from increasing and keeps out new cats that have not been fixed.

To help combat our growing stray cat problem, APNA is hosting two low-cost spay-neuter clinics later this Spring. We are setting up a mobile spay/neuter clinic through the Meow Mobile for cats at a cost of \$10. We are also hosting the Lulu

Mobile for dogs at a cost of \$35. The clinics are first come, first served. We will send out the clinic dates by email (another reason to get on the neighborhood email list!).

If you are unable to make it to the mobile clinics, Harrison Memorial Animal Hospital (303-722-5800) and the MaxFund Animal Clinic (303-595-4917) both offer discounted spay/neuter and vaccinations.

Another way to limit our feral cat problem is if we work with Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance (RMACA), an agency that uses a Trap, Neuter & Release (TNR) program to successfully limit the number of cats in the colony and helps to prevent the spread of disease. The

cats are trapped, fixed, and given shots for the more common diseases. Any animal that has a life threatening disease or injury is euthanized to prevent the spread of the disease. I am looking for volunteers to help manage our feral cat colonies by trapping cats to bring to the vet, taming feral kittens so they can be placed into homes, and people willing to bring fresh food and water out to help keep our colony healthy. If you want to participate or volunteer to help, please call me at 303-881-4821 or e-mail lady_tiki@hotmail.com. More information can be found at <http://www.rmaca.org/>. If you would like to help or volunteer for a larger area, please contact the RMACA.

APNA Information & 2008 Board Members



P.O. Box 19732
Denver, CO
80219-0732

AthmarParkna@comcast.net

APNA meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except for Dec) at 6:30 p.m., at the Valverde Community Church, 430 S. Tejon St. **Upcoming Meetings:** Feb 26th, March 25th, April 22nd, and May 27th.

Please join us!

President

Carol e Campbell– 303-698-0161
Zoning Co-Chair, NIS Partners, Zoning Code Task Force: CAG

Vice President

Rick Taylor – 303-922-5916
Planning & Economic Development Chair

Treasurer

Patrick Ayres – 720-261-3663

Recording Secretary

Susan Vermeer-Lopez – 303-282-3984

Membership Secretary

Carol Warner – 303-935-9526

Newsletter Editor

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susborg@comcast.net

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Community Accountability Board (CAB)
Karen Cuthbertson – 303-936-9206
Zoning Co-Chair, NIS Partners, Mayor's, Mayor's Graffiti Executive Oversight Committee
Andy Davis – 303-935-7078
Kathe Greenstein – 303-922-1736

QUADRANT LEADERS

Northeast

Nadine Ortega – 303-722-5241

Northwest

Gregg Whelen – 303-935-2822

Southeast

JoAnn Martinez – 303-778-1022

Southwest

Wayne Knox – 303-934-8707

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Animal Issues

Sherrie Fleck-Miller – 303-881-4821

Block Contacts

Robin Faliveno – 303-955-4420

Denver Digs Trees

Matt Lopez – 303-282-3984

Commander's Meeting Rep.

Tony Guerrero – 720-275-3269

Resources

Abandoned Vehicles	303-295-4367
Alley Cleaning	720-865-6900
<i>thru the Juvenile Youth Offender Program; ask for Neddra</i>	
Alley/Street Repair	311
Animal Control	303-698-0076
Building Inspections	720-865-2505
Building Permit Verification	720-865-2790
City Info	311 or www.denvergov.org
Denver Mediation Center	720-865-2998
DPS Security	303-764-3911
Drug Hotline	720-913-DRUG (3784)
Dumpster Violations	720-865-6899
<i>(Dumping IN PROGRESS)</i>	720-865-6815
Environmental Health	311
<i>unsafe / overcrowded housing & food peddlers</i>	
Environmental Protection	720-865-5452
<i>Noise and fumes</i>	
Forestry	720-913-0651
Gang Hotline	303-331-5912
Graffiti	720-865-STOP (7867) or www.denvergov.org/graffiti
Larry's Grocery Cart Pick-Up	303-919-9452
Neighborhood Inspection Services (NIS)	
www.denvergov.org/NIS ; select "Neighborhood Concerns Report"	
Complaint Line	720-865-3200
Athmar Park's Inspector Luisa Martinez	720-865-3199
Neighborhood Liaison, Mayor's Office: Heather Barry	720-865-9103
Parks: Jill Coffman	303-937-4638
Planning: Doug Hendrixson	720-865-2972
Police	
Dispatch (non-emergency)	720-913-2000
District 4 Station	720-913-0200
Community Resource Officers:	
Dean Christopherson, dean.christopherson@denvergov.org	720-913-0277
Nick Grove, groven@ci.denver.co.us	720-913-0276
Strategic Crime Attack Team (SCAT1) (Friday thru Sunday):	
Sgt. Andrew Howard	720-913-0286
Strategic Crime Attack Team (SCAT2) (Monday thru Thursday):	
Chris Jones and Ron Hackett	720-913-0226
Pot Holes	311
Right-of-Way / Dangerous Sidewalks: Troy Aguinaldo	303-446-3656
Street Light Repair	1-800-895-4999 #4
Trash & Large Item Pick-Up	311
Wastewater Hotline	303-446-3700, #1
Zoning/Permits	720-865-3000
CITY COUNCIL	
District 3 (west of Zuni): Paul Lopez: 3/922-7755, paul.lopez@denvergov.org	
District 7 (east of Zuni): Chris Nevitt: 7/865-8900, chis.nevitt@denvergov.org	
At-Large	
Doug Linkhart	720-865-8000, linkhartatlarge@denvergov.org
Carol Boigon	720-865-8100, carol.boigon@denvergov.org
STATE REPRESENTATIVE	
District 2 (all of Athmar Park): Rep. Mark Ferrandino	
mark.ferrandino.house@state.co.us	
STATE SENATORS	
District 34 (west of Raritan appr): Sen. Paula Sandoval	
paula.sandoval.senate@state.co.us	
District 31 (east of Raritan appr): Sen. Jennifer Veiga	
jennifer.veiga.senate@state.co.us	