

Benefit for Denver's Road Home

By Lisa Betchey, Mile High United Way

Did you know? In Denver, sixty percent of the homeless are people in families with children and forty percent are working but simply cannot afford the current housing costs. By ignoring the problem, taxpayers spend approximately \$40,000 per year on a chronically homeless person for such services as emergency room visits and police arrests. By providing the same person with housing and surrounding them with services for job-training, healthcare, etcetera, we reduce that cost to around \$14,000. Denver's Road Home couples compassion with accountability too as we work to ensure that every man, woman, and child has an alternative to living life on the streets. Read the next story to see how you can help!

The reviews are in! Denver's Road Home's PJ Day is a hit!

"It's a great way to bring awareness to the community and have a little fun!!" – Jill A. Corcoran, Elementary School Principal.

"Not only is it the right thing to do to help homeless people, but it helps the quality of life for the homeless and the non-homeless alike in all Denver neighborhoods." - Michael Henry, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

Pajamas and homelessness? Who would have thought that the two could or would go together? However, in Denver they do and it is changing people's lives for the better.

It all started five years ago when Mayor John Hickenlooper hosted the first PJ Party benefiting Denver's Road Home at the Residence Inn Denver. Since then, the party has become THE event of the season, raising nearly \$1 million to date. These funds have been used to develop more than 1,500 units of housing and prevent 2,232 seniors, families, and individuals from becoming homeless while helping those experiencing homelessness find new hope and independence. In an effort to increase awareness and resources, Denver's Road Home decided that wearing your PJ's during the day could be a fun way to do it and so they created PJ Day.

One school that participated last year, Westerly Creek Elementary in Stapleton, had a great time while supporting this cause. "Each month WCE adopts a cause within the local community and tries to bring awareness to our students, staff, and community," said principal Jill A. Cocoran. "In January our focus was Denver's Road Home. Kids, staff, and parents not only got to wear their PJ's for the day but learned that their donation would help kids and families across the Denver area who are not as fortunate as their family. We had kids bringing in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars, and even a couple emptied their piggy bank."

Many merchants, restaurants, and hotels will be donating a portion of their receipts on January 28th, 2010 to Denver's Road Home. Neighborhood associations can publicize those sites in their neighborhood to their members and other residents, sponsor meals at those restaurants, request donations at an upcoming neighborhood meeting, or come up with creative ideas to participate in other ways.

Michael Henry, the representative of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation on the Denver Homeless Commission, encourages neighborhood groups to participate in this City-wide effort. "Not only is it the right thing to do to help homeless people but it helps the quality of life for the homeless and the non-homeless alike in all Denver neighborhoods."

PJ Day is coming up on January 28th, 2010! Talk it up in your neighborhood and with your employers and schools and let us know how you plan to participate

The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



December
2009

www.
neighborhoodlink.
com/INC/home

Denver Neighborhood
Connection

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INC Member and Associate Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Member Organizations

ABC Streets Assn
 Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn
 Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn
 Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn
Ball Park Neighborhood Assn
 Belcaro Park Homeowners Assn
 Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn
 Berkeley Neighborhood Assn
 Berkeley-Regis United Neighbors
 Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Assn
Broadway Partnership / MDLDC
Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods Inc
 Cherry Creek East Assn
 Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Assn
 Cherry Hills Vista Community Assn.
 Cherry Point Homeowners Assn
 Civic Association of Clayton
 Colfax on the Hill, Inc
 College View Neighborhood Assn
 Congress Park Neighbors
 Cook Park Neighborhood Assn
Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Assn
 Cranmer Park Hilltop Civic Assn
Crestmoor Park Homeowners Assn 2nd filing
 Crestmoor Park Homeowners Inc
 Filing One
 Curtis Park Neighbors
 East Montclair Neighborhood Assn
 Elyria Neighborhood Assn
 Elyria Swansea/Globeville Business Assn.
 FAX Partnership
 Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc
 George Washington Homeowner's Assn. Inc.
 Globeville Civic Assn #1
 Golden Triangle Assn. of Denver
Golden Triangle Museum District
 Greater Mar-Lee Community Org
Greater Park Hill Community, Inc.
 Green Valley Ranch Citizen's Advisory Board
 Hampden Heights Civic Assn
 Harkness Heights Neighborhood Assn
 Highland United Neighbors Inc.
 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
 Lighthouse at the Breakers HOA
Lower Downtown Neighborhood Assn (LoDoNA)
Lowry Community Master Assn
 Lowry United Neighborhoods
Mayfair Neighbors, Inc
 Mayfair Park Neighborhood Assn
 North City Park Civic Assn
Old San Rafael Neighborhood Assn
 Overland Park Neighborhood Assn
 Park Forest Homeowner's Assn
 Platt Park Peoples Assn
 Plaza III Townhomes Association
 Rangeview Neighborhood Assn
 Ruby Hill Neighborhood Assn - RHINO
SWIC Southwest Improvement Council/Westwood
 Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Assn
 South City Park Neighborhood Assn
 South Hilltop Neighborhood Assn
 South Jackson Street Registered Neighborhood
Southmoor Park East Homeowners Assn
 Stapleton Master Community Assn
 Stapleton United Neighbors
 Stokes Place Green Bowers HOA
 The Unsinkables
 University Neighbors
University Park Community Council
Upper Downtown Development Org
Virginia Vale Community Assn
 Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn
 West Highland Neighborhood Assn
 West University Community Assn (WUCA)
West Washington Park Neighborhood Assn
 Whittier Neighborhood Assn

Associates

Bernie Jones PhD
 Bill Johnston
 Bonna Gayhart
 Cathee Fisher

City Council Pres/Dist 10 Councilwoman
 Jeanne Robb
 Councilman Doug Linkhart
Councilman Paul Lopez
Councilman Rick Garcia
 Councilwoman Carla Madison
Councilwoman Carol Boigon
Councilwoman Marcia Johnson
Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann
 Dennis Gallagher, Auditor
 Denver Community Group
Denver Health Medical Center
Denver Mayor's Office
Denver Water
 Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.
 FRESC
Gertie Grant
 Historic Denver Inc.
 League of Women Voters of Denver
 Leetsdale Cop Shop
 Morrison Road Business Association of Denver
 Rosy Griffiths
 Sandra D. Shreve
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 Vicki Gritters
Xcel Energy



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INC organizations should send changes to their president and delegate data to the membership chair at kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net

Delegates' Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m.
 See this issue for location.

The INC Executive Committee meets monthly at 1201 Williams Street in the 19th floor meeting room.

RNOs are welcome to reprint the articles in their own newsletters.

and have fun while making a difference in your community. To obtain more information, buy tickets to the PJ Party in downtown Denver, or learn how to become a sponsor, please visit www.pjday.org or call Lisa Betchey at Mile High United Way at (303)561-2354.

Delegates Recap

By Dave Felice

INC Chair Karen Cuthbertson called the November meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at Denver Water's Three Stones Building. Joe Sloan of Denver Water welcomed the delegates. He explained that the building was originally a pumping station for Denver Union Water Company, drawing water from the Platte River. He reminded delegates that Denver water rates would be increasing to cover costs next year. He said Denver has sufficient watersheds until 2030 and has options on other sources.

Randle Loeb presented the "Point in Time" report on homelessness in Denver. The Metro Denver Homeless Initiative continues to advocate permanent housing options including the acquisition of land to construct "affordable" housing. Loeb mentioned several times that having a home is critical to the resolution of many problems in human services and criminal justice. Loeb disagreed with the City's Road Home reports, saying his statistics show the latest increase of homelessness is the highest ever. Many people are becoming homeless, he said, because of poor finances or poor employment conditions.

The executive Director of The Greenway Foundation, Jeff Shoemaker, said the organization is in its 36th year of working to enhance the "livability" relationship of waterways to the urban environment. Greenway has just completed its second master plan, looking at factors including National Western, Elitch Gardens, and Overland Park Golf Course. The organization has also received a new planning grant. Shoemaker presented a 10-minute video summarizing the work of Greenway Foundation, established by his father, Joe.

Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Scott Robson presented the preliminary proposals for the Park Stewardship Program. He said this undertaking expands what was previously known as "Adopt-a-Park." Stewardship will improve the program by providing more volunteer opportunities for effective involvement. The objectives are to support park staff in "high standards of care" and "build awareness and appreciation" of the park system. The stewardship program will be officially launched in January 2010. Stewards will be asked for a one-year commitment. Park staff will determine what work needs to be done. There will be no signage in the parks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Transportation: Dave Webster reported RTD is proposing a streetcar to extend transit from 30th and Downing to the airport light rail along 40th Avenue. The committee is

involved in the Colfax Corridor study and the Living Streets initiative.

Dollar Dictionary: Steve Nissen reported receipt of a \$2,500 donation from the Anschutz Foundation. He said the Dollar Dictionary fund is still about \$2,000 short of fundraising.

Parks and Recreation: Katie Fisher and Larry Ambrose reported there are several actions pending such as continued opposition to admission-based events and development of dog-park policy. The admissions policy will be subject to a public hearing December 10th at La Alma Recreation Center. The Dog Park Task Force proposes two unfenced, off-leash areas in City Park. Denver Parks and Recreation is negotiating a contract for closing sections of Civic Center and City Park next year for Open Air Cinema as part of the biennial arts observance. INC Parks Committee is also opposing the section of zoning code rewrite to transfer control from City Council to the Parks Manager.

Zoning: Michael Henry again urged every resident to get involved and express an opinion on the zoning code revisions. He said changes have been made in the third draft, based on citizen comments. The solar access study is a major concern. He also noted that zoning changes would affect Neighborhood Inspection Services.

Census: See article on page 9.

Education: See article on page 9.

Recovery Act: Total ARRA grants awarded to Denver is \$55,614,366.00 (50% formula grants and 50% competitive grants). \$38,915,576 has been received and \$15,273,373 was expended as of November 12th.

Denver ARRA awards by area of impact:

- ◆ Infrastructure 42%
- ◆ human services 14%
- ◆ Housing 7%
- ◆ Green 13%
- ◆ Education 2%
- ◆ Community 5%
- ◆ Workforce 8%
- ◆ Safety 9%.

Total jobs affected over the terms of the grants: 919.

Executive Committee Recap

By Fran Rew

Karen Cuthbertson, INC Chair, called the meeting to order on Monday, November 9th, 7:00 p.m., at 1201 Williams Street. Other Executive Committee (EC) members present were Larry Ambrose, Ray Ehrenstein, Steve Nissen (Treasurer), Anthony Thomas, and Brad Zieg (Vice Chair). Also present were Education Committee Chair, Billie Bramhall; Membership and Newsletter Chair Ken Beaudrie; Parks and Recreation Committee Co-Chair Katie Fisher; Zoning and Planning Committee Chair Mike Henry; Assistant to the Secretary Fran Rew; and INC Din-

ner Party Planning Committee members Diane Wolta and Susan Morrison.

A motion to approve the INC Delegates Minutes for September and October was approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report:

The September balance was \$18,334.89, October balance is \$18,860.01. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for October was approved by acclamation. A \$7,000 CD was renewed for seven years at 3.06%.

Even though INC does not write many checks and the procedure already requires two signatures on the signature card, it was recommended that the INC bylaws be amended to clarify the existing INC check-signing procedure. Brad Zieg will develop draft language for submission in March 2010.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

INC's Presidents and Delegates Dinner:

Diane Wolta of the INC Dinner Party Planning Committee reported that the Visitor's Bureau will pay for 200 participants; last year they paid for 250. There was discussion as to whether INC should consider paying for an additional 50 people out of the budget or ask representatives from non-member RNOs to pay their own admission. The decision was that the 200 free admissions would be on a first come, first serve basis for members, guests, and politicians. The recommendation from the Dinner Planning Committee was to limit the dinner to 200 complimentary dinners. The EC accepted that recommendation.

Steve Nissen submitted an award nomination to Karen Cuthbertson.

The INC Presidents and Delegates Dinner will be on January 28th, 2010, at the Stapleton Doubletree Hotel at 3203 Quebec Street.

Colorado Nonprofit Association (CANPO):

Brad Zieg reported his research regarding renewing membership with Colorado Nonprofit Association. Zieg said that they are setup for major nonprofit organizations and require a \$350 membership fee; they are not geared to volunteer organizations. Mike Henry asked about the potential of CANPO's grant book in helping INC submit grant proposals for the DDD and volunteered to look through a demonstration copy of their book.

Dollar Dictionary Drive (DDD) Committee:

Steve Nissen reported that there had been an unpaid balance on the Thesauri of \$4,500 before the donation by the Anschutz Foundation. The DDD's year-to-date total income is \$17,298.86 with a total expense of \$15,547.15. As of November 6th, the DDD had a remaining negative balance of \$1,769.64. A motion for the INC to pay off any outstanding DDD balance remaining at the close of 2009 using INC funds passed by acclamation.

Steve passed along a seven-year, 2003 to 2009, list of donations from each RNO, the total seven-year donations from each RNO, and total annual RNO donations. The INC as a separate entity donated \$1,000 in seven years.

The total seven-year donations by RNOs have been \$32,369.74.

Education Committee:

Billie Bramhall recommended that INC communicate with the INC membership to find out what they are doing to help the schools in their neighborhoods and urge them to get in touch with the principals of their schools.

Bramhall will be submitting a report for the INC newsletter that will include the new link that will be on the Board of Education web site describing how each DPS and charter school is doing in terms of their improvement on an ongoing basis, with data that does not focus on CSAP scores. The School Board wants to use that information to decide what changes they will be making. They plan to meet with the schools one by one and go over this information.

Parks and Recreation Committee:

Larry Ambrose reported about his committee's ongoing negotiations for new off-leash dog parks. The only park that did not have anyone on the INC Parks and Recreation Committee was City Park. That is why City Park was considered for becoming an off-leash park. There was a proposed off-leash park at Commons Park but they are currently proposing a dog park there.

The monthly Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings are open to the public. However, from the experience of the INC Parks and Recreation Committee, the dates and locations for these public input meetings have been changed without adequate online notice. District 8's Carla Madison posted an "expected" public hearing date of December 10th in the City Park Pavilion at 6:00 p.m. on the "Admission Based Events Policy".

The INC Parks and Recreation Committee meets monthly on the third Tuesday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Heritage Club, 2020 South Monroe Street.

Transportation Committee:

Brad Zieg, Transportation Committee co-chair, reported that his committee has decided to share information through news articles in the INC newsletter.

Zoning and Planning (ZAP) Committee:

Mike Henry reported that the next ZAP meeting is on November 21st. (Editor's note: ZAP meets December 19th)

Steve Nissen said that Alamo Placita was very pleased with the response to their zoning input. Billie Bramhall said the Golden Triangle is also getting a good response. Anthony Thomas said that Clayton is getting good success as well. Brad Zieg said that the land investors are not going to be happy because the profitability figures are not compatible.

Karen will re-send Julius Zsako's email regarding the zoning code update "Listening Sessions" to Ken for distribution.

OLD BUSINESS:

Diverse Neighborhood Collective (DNC): Billie continues to try to arrange a meeting between the DNC and INC.

INC fundraising booth at the CHUN People's Fair: No new information about other alternatives for INC fundraising other than an INC beer booth in the People's Fair.

Bulk Mailing Permit: Steve Nissen said the DDD mailings cost \$1,012. If INC used a bulk-mailing permit, it could cost only \$257, saving \$754. It costs \$185 times two for the first year (\$370) for a bulk-mailing permit that has to be renewed annually, with \$185 charged for the ongoing years.

A motion to approve the purchase of an INC bulk-mailing permit was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

INC Food Donations: Anthony Thomas's recommendation that INC donate cans of food to Project Angel Heart Food or Food Bank of the Rockies from the next Delegates meeting received unanimous agreement.

Water Rate Increases: Mike Henry recommended that the topic of water rates going up be introduced at the next Delegates' meeting.

INC Tour of the New Justice Center (Jail and Courthouse): Michael Henry reported that Wayne Jochem, past INC chair who works for the Sheriff's Department, has offered to host an INC meeting at the new Justice Center before it opens next year. Billie Bramhall was a member of the Citizen's Advisory Board that worked with the Center architects and City personnel during the Center development. The post office parking garage across the street is available. There may be underground parking.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

From the Chair By Karen Cuthbertson

INC volunteers have been working overtime during 2009 to keep quality of life for Denver residents in the forefront. Many, many individuals have spent countless hours reviewing the zoning-code update drafts - analyzing the impacts of the proposed zoning, communicating with other neighborhoods to ensure consistency in zoning application, and more. INC's Education Committee has been striving to impress upon Denver Public Schools that it is in DPS' best interest to involve residents early and honestly. A rather last-minute round of community meetings regarding the disposition of "excess" DPS properties resulted in DPS reconsidering the recommended disposition of several of those properties. A new committee, INC Parks and Rec-

reation, formed and has been operating at light speed all year, tackling issues ranging from advertising on dog waste dispensers, selling alcohol in public parks, leasing / closing public park land to accommodate private for-profit venues, and much more. The Dollar Dictionary Drive delivered more than 12,000 books to Denver Public School third-graders. With the wonderful support of the Denver League of Women Voters and Denver 8 TV, INC sponsored yet another successful televised candidate forum (very well attended despite a very frightening ice storm that day). INC volunteers served on several key City committees, including the Census Committee, Economic Stimulus Committee, Mayor's Graffiti Oversight Committee, Zoning Code Task Force, Safe City H.A.L.O. Committee, and many more. INC volunteers partnered with the Urban Land Institute, area architects, Community and Planning personnel, and others to conduct a very successful workshop to identify areas for improvement regarding implementing development projects in Denver. The results of that workshop were the basis for a "Best Practices" document of guidelines for the City, developers, and neighborhood residents that INC will soon be submitting to the City for inclusion in their processes and procedures. INC's hope is that these best practices can spread to all City departments so that major projects are implemented in similar fashions, with similar processes. I could go on and on as this has been the busiest year for neighborhood advocates in my 20 years of being involved in neighborhood issues, but I think you get the idea. INC continues to be a valid and powerful force in influencing policy towards being more neighborhood-friendly and forward-thinking. To continue this work, I urge more of you to join INC's committees and spend a few extra hours working to implement INC's vision.

Zoning and Planning By Diana Helper

The INC Zoning and Planning Committee (ZAP) met November 21st with a very large and vocal attendance. Seldom have we heard so many members ask so many questions and express so many ideas and concerns on so many agenda topics.

David Roberts, Chief Services Officer for Denver appointed by the Mayor, spoke about his job of connecting services across City departments. His goal is to make services consistent and user-friendly including the City website and its 311 system.

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 also communicate their desire to obtain this newsletter or submit address changes to the editor at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net.

Dan Roberts (no relation) spoke of Development Services simplifying the permit-process for citizens with a sort of “one stop” system and a project coordinator for all applicable city departments. He plans to focus city services on “What we do” rather than just saying “Who we are” and to create policy advisories to explain the purpose and intent of City services.

Mike Sizemore, Inspection Services Manager (formerly Neighborhood Inspection Services), has begun issuing a quarterly newsletter with inspection-related information. His department also works with enforcement of graffiti laws and he urges every property owner to file an Authorization Form (this can be done on line at www.denvergov.org under Permit and Inspection Services). Such a form would enable City personnel to remove graffiti without waiting for the owner’s permission.

Co-chairs of the Zoning Code Task Force (ZCTF), Diane Barrett and Steve Kaplan, spoke briefly about the progress being made and the great assistance citizens have provided through constructive input. The ZCTF will meet weekly in December on Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. The fourth draft of the zoning code and zoning map will be posted before Christmas at www.newcodedenver.org. All citizens and neighborhood groups are encouraged to review the next draft because of the many changes. The Planning Board public hearing on the new zoning code and the new zoning map is scheduled January 6th, 2010, and City Council final hearing is scheduled February 22nd, 2010.

A strong concern of INC has been the presence of environmental sustainability in the new zoning code including active and passive solar access. Tina Axelrod of the Planning Office introduced Greg Hall of CRI+IGEN, a consultant company that provides solar access models and analyses. A comparison of the old and proposed new zoning codes relating to building form and size as they affect solar access generally shows an improvement in the new code. There will be new models using sample blocks with structures of varying sizes. Planning Director Peter Park also spoke about the zoning code changes and intent in this regard. Kevin Dickson, Alan Gass, Rich Heinmeyer, Bernadette Kelly, and Gerry Todd also spoke to solar access concerns as did many other ZAppers.

The next ZAP meeting will be Saturday, December 19th. Contact ZAP committee chair Michael Henry at 303-377-6609 if you wish to receive notices of the committee’s monthly meetings.

Dollar Dictionary Drive By Cathee Fisher

Neighborhoods - Schools - People - Community. A Dictionary and Thesaurus of their own for every third-grade student in Denver Public Schools. Thank you to all for your support and donations.

Our newest Gold Star donor is the Anschutz Foundation with a \$2,500 grant. To those 25 individuals who participated in this year’s Macys Community Shopping Day, we hope you had a fun day.

Our special appreciation to all who have supported us thus far in 2009:

Gold Star Donors: \$1,000 +

Anschutz Foundation
Capitol Hill United Neighbors
Denver Kiwanis Foundation
Mayfair Neighbors

Silver Star Donors: \$500 - \$999

The Kephart Family
League of Women Voters Education Fund
Stapleton Master Community Association
West Washington Park Neighborhood Association Red and

Green Star Donors: \$1 - \$499 Over 200

Individual Businesses (please support them):

Casey’s Construction
Creative Wiring
Denver Museum of Nature and Science
Great-West Life and Annuity Insurance
Joy Wine and Spirits
Washington Park Profile
Our loyal fellow RNOs
ABC Streets Association
Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn.
Athmar Park N.A.
Baker Historic N.A.
Ballpark N.A.
Bear Valley Improvement Assn.
Bellevue-Hale N.A.
Cherry Creek North N.A.
Cherry Point H.O.A.
Civic Association of Clayton
Country Club Historic District
Crestmoor Park H.O.A., 2nd Filing
Downtown Denver Residents Organization
East Montclair N.A.
Elyria N.A.
George Washington H.O.A.
Greater Park Hill N.A.
Harkness Heights N.A.
Hilltop N.A.
Historic Montclair Community Assn.
Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point H.O.A.
Inspiration Point N.A.

North City Park Civic Assn.
Overland Neighborhood N.A.
Sloan's Neighborhood Assn.
South City Park N.A.
University Neighbors N.A.
University Park Community Council
Virginia Vale Community Assn.
Virginia Village Ellis Community Assn.
West University Community Assn.

See pictures of the INC 2009 book labeling at www.dictionaryproject.org/national/projects/colorado.

We are almost to our 2009 fund raising goal. We still have a shortfall and need your help in December. Even a small donation will help us achieve a clean and fresh start for the 15th Dictionary Drive. When paying your INC dues please consider adding a donation to this project.

Please send tax-deductible contributions to:

Dollar Dictionary Drive
PO Box 18347
Denver, CO 80218



ABC Streets – ABC Streets encourages everyone to get actively involved in issues impacting City Park: 1) an off-leash, unfenced dog-run area, 2) commercial, fenced admission events in the park, 3) a Parks and Recreation Plan for an Open Air Cinema.

Athmar Park N.A. (APNA) – The construction of Lowe's at Alameda Square continues quickly. APNA is spearheading the selection of the public art component of the redeveloped shopping center. Interested residents should contact APNA President Carol e. Campbell at 303-698-0161.

Baker Historic N.A. – We had some success with the zoning update in getting some changes put into draft three. We are still working to have some other changes made in our neighborhood.

Ball Park – Security Summit, January 20th, 2010 at Coors Field from 6 to 8 p.m. If you have a table to set up with information regarding security, please contact me at judy.ballpark@gmail.com

Brad Kiafehn (HPIA non-delegate) – I am starting to research a proposal to be made to Greenprint Denver to have

CCD establish a "clean energy finance district" that would let residents obtain energy efficient and renewable energy loans that are then paid back through property tax bills. Boulder and Aspen have established districts by issuing bonds. I prefer a revolving loan fund instead of a one-shot bond issuance. If folks would be interested in pursuing this idea with me, please contact me at 303-868-0497 or brad@bradk.org.

Civic Association of Clayton – We have been working with the Denver Human Services to build a full service center in the Clayton Neighborhood. It is the only full service center other than the Federal Street complex.

College View – The College View neighborhood was reassured that the City expected a partner for our recreation center in order to keep it open. As of Thursday, November 12th, no organization responded to the RFP for College View. Our center, our only safe local setting for many children, teens, young adults, and seniors, is scheduled to close January 1st.

Our recreation center provides "heart" to many members of our community. Some of these aspects include help for neighbors to access LEAP and other resources; parents spending a few hours (near home) watching and cheering their kids with sports (over 40 teams); having a personal relationship (parents and kids) with kids' coaches within the neighborhood; a place for young adults to hang out, exercise, and play pool; staff who help with homework for some kids; providing a food bank that people can walk to; and etcetera.

Sixty to seventy-five seniors come to the center to see a registered nurse for foot care four times a year; the nurse reports that they will not be able to come to other locations. It is an opportunity for her to make brief assessments of these poorer seniors. We also have square dancing, breakfasts for seniors, and other activities that are well attended.

Here are a few facts about our neighborhood: 90% of our schoolchildren have free or reduced lunch. Our neighborhood has many Spanish-speaking members and we need outreach to these neighbors (comments from neighborhood meetings). Attendance at one meeting was 79; I know that many people were not informed of the meeting so this was a high number for us. Our neighborhood has no other social centers that are healthy and positive for children, young adults, adults, and seniors or have the "family" feel of this recreation center.

A few more facts: The recreation center feeds snacks to about 35 kids daily (food from the Food Bank of the Rockies). They field nine basketball teams for boys/girls ages 9 to 14, plus about four to five peewee (ages four to eight) teams. There are also teams for baseball/softball (about 10 teams for girls/boys ages 9 to 14, and seven to eight peewee teams), volleyball five teams for girls 9 to 14, and five flag football teams for ages 9 to 14, plus five peewee teams. Up to 80% of our kids have to scholarship up to

50% of their center fees. Where else will these kids obtain adequate practice time, supervision, coaching?

We have a gang problem in Southwest Denver and our center is used by young adults (potential gang members) who are over 18; they need this healthy outlet and support!

We are at a loss as to how these integral, basic functions can be shifted to multiple other busy centers (across one or more busy streets, and often unsafe to walk after dark).

Cook Park – Cook Park elections are in January 2010. A new-format newsletter is coming out in January. Many events are coming up at the Cook Park Recreation Center. They have a monthly e-newsletter.

Elyria N.A. – The Johnson Recreation Center is to be closed after 100 years serving one of Denver's poorest, most isolated neighborhoods. The DEIS for North Metro Fastracks proposes a station within one block of the Johnson Recreation Center. The DEIS for I-70 is now going into a collaborative process with the Keystone Group. The Elyria tunnel will not be considered; Councilwoman Montero is to choose the stakeholders allowed to represent the neighborhood. The new Denver zoning map shows heavy industry on both sides of the greenway, three sides of Elyria Park, and on three sides of North Side Park. The aquaponics on Claude Court has not yet attempted to meet with the RNO. The National Western may move using the S.B. 173 subsidy leaving Denver taxpayers with one million square feet of bond-built buildings. The ENA is still in court with the City over the bio-fuels refinery on the greenway. The ENA is a complainant on the Xcel Cherokee pollution suit. The ENA 2020 Vision Plan is still stalled by Councilwoman Montero.

George Washington H.O.A. (GWHOA) – The census is coming; do whatever you can do to get out the message. Tell people not to fear it. GWHOA is excited that Fallis Elementary may reopen as the Green School – contingent upon the November 30th DPS vote. We have a committee that proactively campaigned for many months to make this happen. This committee will evolve as an active support group for the school when it opens. This common-ground focus has increased our membership to thirty-percent of the households – a record number within our HOA boundaries. A past INC delegate, Lew Gaiter, headed-up the activity. The GWHOA Board approved hosting an INC monthly meeting in the future. This would be our first time to host. GWHOA would like to applaud INC's ZAP committee on the recent comments to the City about the pending zoning code changes.

Golden Triangle – The Colorado History Museum is under construction at 12th Avenue and Broadway. The Clyfford Sill Museum (another exciting art museum) ground-breaking will occur soon. Condominium and residential construction is slowing. Beauvallon is undergoing rehabilitation. All is well!

Green Valley Ranch – Green Valley Ranch has a new website at mygrv.org.

Humboldt Street N.A. – We are very busy working especially with the Uptown Urban Design Forum to help the new zoning code work well for the residential neighborhoods that surround Denver's hospital zone. Significant progress is being made with CPD in several areas. However, the most basic rezoning issue for which we have created a good solution (in the spirit of Blueprint Denver) is not being adequately addressed yet. The current B-4 area that wraps two sides of our Historic District of 1 ½- and 2-story residences is slated under the new code for C-MS-5, with a 70-foot height and an inadequate transition of height and scale out from our historic block. We are working on two fronts: 1) to help CPD solve that transition problem with the new code or 2) to stop CPD's obstructing the movement to Planning Board of our excellent B-4 owner/developer and our neighborhood cooperative rezoning application that has been in process with CPD since May 2008, having originally been submitted in December 2007. (This week another high-level roadblock, never before discussed with us in our 18-months of meeting and working with the City regarding our owner/developer/neighborhood partnership, was introduced to obstruct our moving forward to the Planning Board.) However, fitting our reputation as the mightiest little block organization in the City ("the little block that roared," we created the OD9 solution with CPD). We are strategizing, networking, and moving ahead to compel a good solution for the future of our historic block and greater neighborhood.

Sloan's Lake N.A. – A new Northwest Denver neighborhood alliance has formed consisting of SLNA, Highland United Neighbors, Sunnyside, Jefferson Park, West Highlands, Harkness Heights, Inspiration Point, and other North Denver RNOs.

Stapleton United Neighborhoods (SUN) – The kite festival was a first try of an event parking plan for Central Park. A new elementary school is planned to be built without TIF revenue as a partnership between Forest City and DPS. A library architect contract was awarded. Our recreation center construction started on November 5th. CDOT began the I-70/Central Park Boulevard interchange construction. Mercy Housing/Parkside has design approval for the second low-income housing, a 96-unit development at Havana Street and Sand Creek. SUN's ad hoc committee is analyzing ground water and the water table that is causing thirty-plus homes to have sump pumps running every day.

University Park (UP) – UP is working hard on the zoning code. We are encouraging neighbors to help neighbors with snow shoveling and other needs.

2010 Census

By Councilwoman Carol Boigon

Stand up and be counted, for Denver and Colorado. Mark your calendars in March to take 10 minutes to fill out one short page with 10 questions and mail it back to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Census 2010 is coming in March 2010. The final tally will set Denver's population for state and federal revenue sharing, for roads, schools, human services, community colleges. Other programs supported according to the count are senior services; libraries; student loans; health services; unemployment insurance; housing and community development; youth and recreation services; services for women, infants, and children; alcohol and drug abuse prevention; and veterans.

The population number also affects the number of Legislative seats for Denver and the number of Congressional seats for Colorado.

Every ten years, the U.S. Census counts everyone in the United States. The Census counts people of all ages, all ethnic groups—both citizens and non-citizens. The data collected tells about the needs of each community.

The Census is safe and 100-percent confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share the answers given with any individual, private group, or government entity, not even the IRS, immigration, or welfare. The information on the Census form CANNOT be used against a resident in any way to collect back taxes, child support, or alimony. It cannot be used to enforce against a legal violation or warrant, to investigate your legal status, nor to garnish wages. Census information does not affect any services that a person is receiving from the government.

Based on the ten-year Census count, Denver gains at least \$826 a person in federal funds each year for ten years. This amounts to \$435 billion a year for communities throughout the U.S. More than 200 government agencies make spending decisions based on Census data. Since the 2000 Census, Denver has lost \$74 million because some residents were not counted; 8,983 individuals or 1.59-percent of the total Denver population was simply not included in the count.

Census forms will be mailed to Denver households in March 2010. The forms must be mailed back on or before April 1st, 2010. Help filling out the form is available by calling the Questionnaire Assistance Center toll-free at 1-866-872-6868.

Other questions can be answered by calling the Denver Regional Census Office at 1-800-852-6159. If a household does not return its form by mail, that household will be called or visited by a Census worker.

The form is one page and asks ten questions on the number of people living in the household - by age, race, and gender. It should take less than ten minutes to com-

plete. Forms may be requested in Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, or Vietnamese by calling the request line on the back of the English form.

Denver's Complete Count Committee of community leaders is working to raise awareness of the 2010 Census campaign in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau. The committee is targeting groups that historically have been undercounted including children, seniors, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, Native Americans, and others. Census 2010 will work with Denver Health, Denver Public Schools, and various faith- and community-based organizations to reach these communities.

To obtain more information or to help, please call 311 or visit www.denvergov.org/census2010.

Denver Public Schools

By Billie Bramhall

The Vision of DPS and its Denver Plan is that "all its 75,000 students will learn at grade level or higher (no excuses) and graduate from high school ready for college or a career." There were several identified concerns that were paramount since the launching of the Plan in 2005: (1) the "achievement gap" of about 35 points between minority children and their Anglo and Asian-American counterparts continues, (2) DPS has a very high dropout rate hovering at about 50%, and (3) it enrolls only 72% of school-age Denver children with many parents choosing private and parochial schools, home-schooling, or enrolling their children in adjacent suburban school districts. The good news is that enrollment has risen and continues to, and achievement scores are increasing slightly with some exciting success stories.

However, this School Board election has resulted in a complicating and disturbing situation for DPS. There have been some conflicts about charter and other innovative schools versus traditional neighborhood schools with a fair amount of concern expressed by strong believers in public schools who oppose any voucher-type system. The Teachers Union is concerned that these alternate schools not weaken the public school system and not endanger the benefits they have long fought for for themselves. In addition, it is clear that DPS did not adequately inform parents, teachers, neighbors, and students of their plans for the failing schools. Even as DPS began to have successes with its substantial program to transform/turn-around/improve failing schools, it still had few discussions with the community about the plans and the rationales behind them - often too little and too late.

DPS has put together a well-thought out program for addressing the schools that are doing most poorly, based on carefully researched data (not just CSAP scores) and success stories from other cities. Superintendent Tom Boasberg is working very diligently to bring about the changes needed and it appeared that the Board was supporting him.

As you can see from the December 1st *Denver Post* article describing the November 30th contentious “Changing of the Guard” meeting, the new Board has a number of challenges to overcome, not the least of which is learning to work together and to help DPS improve its communication with parents/teachers/neighbors about its programs at the same time that it needs to move its programs along. For a student, every year in a failing school makes it harder and eventually impossible for him or her to catch up.

In preparing this article, I wanted to encourage all INC organizations to be calm and respectful in their dealing with schools and their related issues in this chaotic period. We want the DPS program to move ahead and succeed, we want DPS to improve communication with the communities about the serious academic situation, and we want everyone to work together to achieve the excellent school system Denver needs and deserves. How can each neighborhood organization contribute to this effort?

The INC Education Committee will try to re-form in the new year with a questionnaire to RNOs about their volunteer activities in their neighboring public schools and ideas they may have for supporting their schools. If any of you are interested in participating in a newly formed INC Education Committee, please contact Billie Bramhall at bramhall1@msn.com.

This is a link to the Denver Public Schools website that describes how every DPS and charter school is doing academically including improvement with data that does not focus on CSAPs exclusively.

[HTTP://communications.dpsk12.org/initiatives/school-performance-framework](http://communications.dpsk12.org/initiatives/school-performance-framework). Note: the dash following “school” is part of the address and not a paragraph hyphen.

Recycler's Corner

By Tom Strickland

Treecycle 2010: Jan. 4th through 15th

Make recycling your Christmas tree your first New Years resolution in 2010. Recycling your Christmas tree is as easy as can be. Denver residents just need to follow these simple guidelines:

1. **Remove all tinsel and decorations** from your Christmas tree. **Real** Christmas trees only (No artificial or flocked trees, tree stands, or trees in plastic bags).
2. **Manual and Barrel customers** should set trees out on their normal trash collection day during the two-week period starting January 4th, 2010 **Dumpster customers** should set trees out for collection on January 4th or January 11th, 2010 and the trees will be collected during that week.
3. Be sure your tree is **set out by 7 a.m.** on your collection day and **at least four feet away** from any containers, bags, dumpsters, or other obstacles.
4. **Do not place trees in dumpsters or carts.**

The Christmas trees are then ground-up and the resulting mulch is made available free to Denver residents at the annual “Treecycle Mulch Giveaway and LeafDrop Compost Sale”. Recycling your tree saves landfill space, helps Denver avoid landfill disposal fees, and allows the City to provide residents with free mulch made from the recycled Christmas trees.

Residents may call 720-865-6810 after April 1st, 2010 for more information about when the 2010 Treecycle Mulch Giveaway and LeafDrop Compost Sale will be held. For more information about Treecycle and other Denver Recycles programs, call 311 or visit us online at denver.gov/denverrecycles.

Membership Renewal

The INC membership year ends on December 31st and 2010 dues are payable on January 1st.

Membership in INC is limited to organizations that are registered with the City and County of Denver as a “Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO)” in accordance with Section 12, Article III of the Revised Municipal Code. Denver defines a “neighborhood organization” as a voluntary group of individual residents and owners of real property, including businesses, within a certain prescribed area of the City, and/or a coalition of such groups formed for the purpose of collectively addressing issues and interests common to and widely perceived throughout the area.

There are two categories of INC membership: “Regular” and “Patron.” Each is allowed to appoint two delegates to represent their organization and vote upon matters brought before the meeting of the delegates. “Patron” RNOs are named in boldface type in the list of members within INC’s newsletter, *Denver Neighborhood Connection*. Because RNOs must be composed of a **group** of homeowners or a **group** of business owners, INC has established an “Associate” category for those individual homeowners, business owners, or other persons who would like to support INC’s purpose. Associates may bring issues before INC but do not have a vote. As with RNOs, there are two categories of Association: “Regular” and “Patron.” Patron Associates are listed in boldface type in the INC newsletter.

To join or rejoin INC, fill out the application form included in this newsletter and mail it to the address listed on the form or bring it to the next INC meeting.

As noted above, a neighborhood or business group must be registered with the City as an RNO. To do so, visit the City’s web site, this month or next, at “www.Denvergov.org” or call 720-865-2969 for help. Those groups who have formed corporations also need to check the State’s annual requirements.

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

2010 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.**



We wish to donate \$ _____ to the Dollar Dictionary Drive.

Join as a voting neighborhood organization: Regular Member (\$35) ☐ Patron (\$75) ☐
 See below to apply as an INC Associate

Organization name: _____
 Address: _____
 Borders: North _____ East _____
 South _____ West _____

President's Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ President is a voting delegate: ☐
 E-mail Address: _____
 Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Voting Delegate Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ 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: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____
 Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Join as a non-voting supporting Associate : Regular (\$20) ☐ Patron (\$75) ☐

Organization Name: _____
 Organization Address: _____
 Agent's Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____
 Send newsletter via: E-mail [☐] U.S. Mail [☐] Don't want newsletter [☐]

Bring this form to an INC meeting or mail to:

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, PO Box 181009, Denver, CO 80218-1009

**No Meeting
In December**

**No meeting this month.
Happy Holidays!**

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
P.O. Box 181009
Denver, CO 80218-1009

Officers/Executive Committee/Chairs

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303-936-9206
athmaratlarge@ecentral.com
Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn.
Bradley Zieg, Vice-Chair
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bradleyzieg@msn.com
Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn.
Dave Felice, Secretary
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ABC Streets Assn.
Steve Nissen, Treasurer
Co-chair, Dollar Dictionary Committee
303-733-8524
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Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn.
Larry Ambrose, Delegate-at-Large, Co
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303-571-1744
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303-698-0337
James_bear_sample@mac.com
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303-399-1379
anththomas@juno.com
Civic Association of Clayton

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