

**Next Meeting**  
**Saturday**  
**January 11**  
**2003**

## Union Station

### AGENDA

**8:45**

Coffee and Chat

**9:00**

Around the City

**10:15**

Committee Reports

**11:00**

Speakers  
 Union Station  
 Master Plan

**Noon**  
 Adjourn

## Denver Neighborhood Connection

**article submission  
 deadline is the 18th of  
 each month.**  
**Submit articles to**  
**craig@eley.net**

## Check Out The INC Web Page

**www.neighborhoodlink.com/  
 denver/inc**

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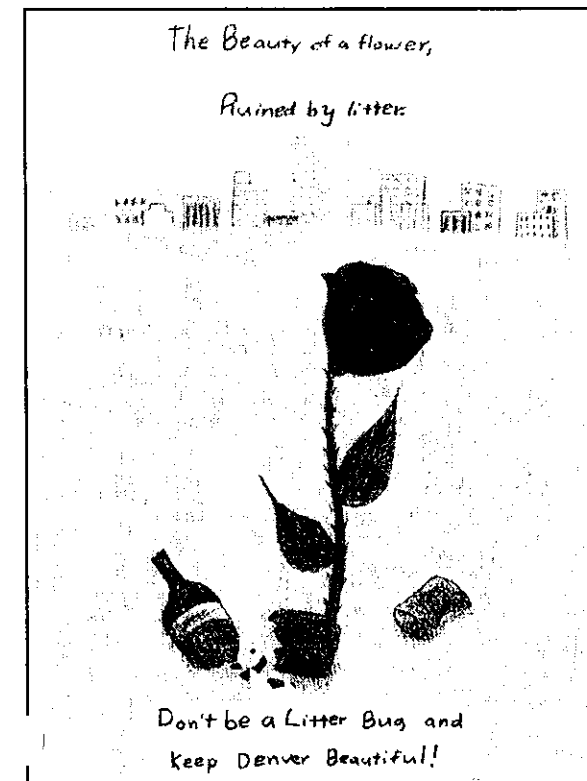
## INC Pulls in to Union Station for January 11 Meeting

are limited to two hours. Longer term parking can be found in nearby parking lots, or delegates may want to use Light Rail (the "C" train stops at Union Station). The meeting will be held on the second floor of Union Station. All delegates and other interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

## Awards Given to Recognize Those Who Keep Denver Beautiful

day, November 13<sup>th</sup> for contributing time, talent and goods to make Denver neighborhoods better places to live and work. Dinner was provided as Paul Day of News 4 - KCNC presented plaques and described the efforts of these volunteers.

This annual awards event highlights the good works of people and groups such as :



Ellie Schmidt of Cory Elementary School created this Grand Prize winning poster for the 2002 Make a Difference Day Poster Contest (original in color).

The January 11 INC Delegates' Meeting will be held at Union Station, beginning at 9 a.m. Representatives from RTD will make a presentation on the Union Station Master Plan. There is no free parking, and meters in the area

Keep Denver Beautiful, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management, honored groups and individuals from all over the country for their efforts in addressing the problems of graffiti and litter in Denver. These folks were recognized on Wednesday,

- Gerald Simpson of the Platt Park neighborhood who rides his scooter through alleys to paint over graffiti on dumpsters;
- Lifeway Ministries, based in Nashville, Tennessee, that brought church groups from all over the country to donate thousands of hours to help keep Denver beautiful;
- The La Familia and Girls Empowerment Youth Opportunity programs that utilized the Adopt-A-Spot program to connect with their neighborhood;
- The Frito-Lay Green Team for working hard to clean up tons of debris along a one-mile stretch of road near their plant.
- Ellie Schmidt of Cory Elementary School - the grand prize winner of the 2002 Make a Difference Day Poster and Essay Contest.

The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



January  
 2003

Denver Neighborhood  
 Connection



# From the Chair

By Wayne Jochem  
INC Chair

Because INC has greatly expanded its newsletter distribution list, this may be the first *Denver Neighborhood Connection* that many of you have seen. Therefore, I am going to take this opportunity to explain some of what INC does and who it is. For those of you who are longtime members of the organization, don't stop reading - I will be discussing future plans, as well.

## Elections

The first half of 2003 will be a very busy one for INC. On Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, INC held a special meeting with groups such as the League of Women Voters, the Convention Center/Visitors Bureau, Historic Denver, Inc., and neighborhoods too numerous to list here, to work together to organize candidate forums. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and all interested persons are welcome at 7:00 pm at 1201 Williams Street (19th floor).

Due to the large number of people running (over 50), when considering the races for mayor, auditor and city council, many of us foresaw a very long and drawn out process for any one group to attempt forums with all the candidates. This is why we have decided to go forward with a collaborative effort with the above groups and you, the neighborhoods of Denver. Past INC Chair Dick Bjurstrom has already been working with Channel 8 to have many, if not all, of these forums televised.

I would ask any neighborhood, even if you are not a current member of INC, to think about what issues or topics are important to your neighborhoods and communities and let me, or any INC board member, know what these are. We would like your input on this by late January so that we can look over this

information to find issues that fall into two categories. The first would be common issues and topics, for example: traffic, scrape-offs, pop-tops and crime. The second would be district-specific issues, such as historic districts, commercial business issues, pollution, etc. This

information would then be used to help develop a questionnaire that all candidates for office could answer so that we can see where they stand on issues.

If you or your neighborhood group would like to be involved in this planning process or if you are organizing something, please give me a call or e-mail, as we may be able to help each other.

For those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the annual INC Presidents Dinner, our guest speaker, Dr. Bob Clifton, spoke about neighborhoods being a power within local government. We should use that power to meet with the candidates, talk with the candidates, question the candidates and see where they stand and what their philosophies are when it comes to dealing with us, the neighborhoods of Denver.

## Candidate Endorsements

This also brings up the issue of endorsing candidates. INC cannot endorse candidates. I'm sure all the candidates are all well intentioned, but this is a time for us, the neighborhoods of Denver, to speak out about what is important to us to see which candidates will be responsive to our needs. Candidates are welcome to attend the monthly INC meetings. These meetings are held at various locations and are held on the second Saturday of every month. This information is listed in the newsletter as well as on our website.

All this brings us to the second half of the year. We then begin the challenge of now working with (and breaking in?) our newly elected officials. This could be a difficult and long process that could last

Continued on page 3

## Public Focus Group On Transit Issues Scheduled for January 28, 2003

The "project team" phase of the Central Connector study involving the consultant contractor will end soon with completion of a report that documents the study process to date. This report will include the staff recommendation of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as the preferred alternative in the Broadway/Lincoln corridor, with the optional route of continuing to Denver Union Station to be determined as part of Denver's upcoming Downtown Multi-modal Access Plan. The Central Connector BRT alternative is also referenced in a slide presentation and video that RTD uses to provide information about FasTracks, the system buildout plan, a portion of which generates the need for the Central Connector project.



At this point, further steps in the study process will be undertaken as an element of Denver's Downtown Multi-modal Access Plan, also known as DMAP (see below for details), including an analysis of how the BRT alternative would best operate in the overall context of downtown circulation needs. Once these findings are determined, it is anticipated that RTD will hold an additional round of public meetings and the Central Connector PAC/TAC would reconvene to review the results.

The first DMAP activity will be a public focus group meeting to help provide a focus for the subsequent planning process. It will take place on Tuesday, January 28, 2003 from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at the Wellington Webb Municipal Building, 201 West Colfax. The meeting will be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

For more information, contact Mark Najarian, (720) 865-3172, or visit [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org) (go to "About Denver," "Departments," "Community Planning and Development," then click on "Planning Services").

## Denver Parks Going to the Dogs

By Craig Eley  
Editor

Beginning in June, 2003, nine Denver Parks are slated to begin a one-year experiment during which dogs will be allowed to run without leashes. The parks chosen for the trial run are Fuller, Cheesman, Ruby Hill, Berkeley, Barnum, Northside, Kennedy soccer fields, Veterans and Green Valley Ranch East.

Dog owners favor the proposal because it provides a place for their pets to get needed exercise.

Other park users aren't as supportive, citing continuing problems with owners picking up after their dogs, and warning that free-ranging dogs could run up to and scare small children, making parks child-unfriendly places. The city's present plan, however, is to have the dog running areas fenced.

Public meetings will be held in communities near the designated parks so that Parks Department officials can gauge the level of support or opposition.

When asked to comment about the proposal, Sparky, a wire-haired terrier, looked forward to participating, stating that "it will be a great opportunity to meet, socialize with and sniff other dogs." Omer Starkweather, who lives adjacent to Ruby Hill Park, had a different opinion, noting that during his walks in the park he already finds himself stepping in dog droppings too often, and predicted that the new plan will expand their number "excrementally."

## INC Elections are March 8, 2003

INC Officers and Directors will be elected at the Delegates' Meeting on Saturday, March 8, 2003. Only delegates from neighborhood organizations that have paid their 2003 dues will be eligible to vote.

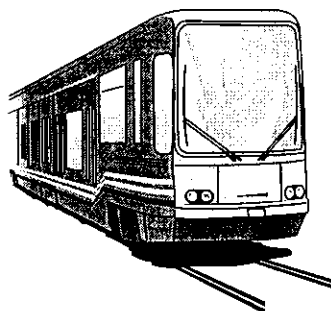
To be eligible to vote, complete the membership application on page 4 and submit it to INC with your neighborhood's 2003 dues.

# National Transit Conference Offered Ideas, Opportunities

By **Eddie Britt**  
INC Secretary

I have recently returned from our nation's capital, where the 2002 Rail-Volution Conference was held. It was a great opportunity to learn about the many interesting possibilities for building and shaping livable communities and the design of commuter rail systems.

The four-day event allowed me to take part in numerous educational sessions that included scheduled mobile workshops, plenary sessions, workshops, and congressional meetings. It was made evident that improved mobility promotes safety, security, economic opportunity and environmental quality.



## Transit Makes Strong Neighborhoods

I took a close look at the transit-oriented development plans of other cities, which have resulted in strong and distinctive neighborhoods. At the same time, public transportation and light rail attempt to address growing problems, such as traffic congestion, that continue to choke Denver's roadways and retard community and business development. Light rail also addresses America's concerns over national issues such as

pollution reduction, energy conservation and the reduction of dependence on foreign oil.

The institution of well-planned transit-oriented development will ameliorate growth, improve regional environmental quality, increase access to opportunity, and promote exceptional urban design.

The extension of Denver's light rail system provides for more capacity, creating more choices, and helps address the needs of a growing and changing population of the future.

## Travel Time Reduction Enhances Job Accessibility

The reduction of travel time, which is a remarkable benefit, also addresses other important issues regarding Denver and light rail, such as expanding the labor pool and job accessibility and reliability. This alone could help address Denver problems such as affordable housing and revitalization of activity centers and business districts such as the Gates Rubber Company facility.

However, it was made very clear that we as citizens and neighborhood activist should be aware of the implications of TEA-21, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. This was enacted by Congress on June 9, 1998 as Public Law 105-178. TEA-21 authorizes federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 6-year period of 1998-2003. It should be preserved, and we should make sure that in place are effective tools and structure to challenge federal, state, and regional partnerships to do their jobs and implement the law in ways that meet the public's legitimate expectations. Finally, performance and accountability measures with increased choice and intermodalism (such as Denver's Union Station) should be central tenets of renewal of the law.

## Upcoming INC Meetings

- January 11** (9 a.m.) Union Station. Presentation by RTD on the Union Station Master Plan.
- February 8** (9 a.m.) Heritage Club, 2020 So. Monroe (between E. Evans Ave. and Buchtel Blvd.)
- March 8** (9 a.m.) Location to be announced. Meeting will be INC Annual Elections.
- April 12** (9 a.m.) Denver Water Board. Meeting to cover snow pack and impact on summer drought water surcharges.

# From the Chair

From page 2

the rest of the year. Some officials may have made promises that they find they can't deliver. Most will be dealing with the learning curve associated with any new position. However, through all of this, the city keeps on going and the work doesn't stop, so they will have to jump in with both feet and learn as they go.

As some of you may already know, INC is a city-wide organization, and part of what we do is address city-wide issues. We also provide information and training to neighborhood groups in Denver. Another thing we do is staff beer booths at festivals and give a portion of the proceeds back to the volunteer neighborhoods. Additionally, we also undertake an annual dictionary drive in which we provide a dictionary and thesaurus to every third grader in DPS.

For those of you are new readers of this newsletter, I encourage you in particular to take a look at the "Around the City" article. It's a good way to learn about the concerns of Denver's diverse neighborhoods. We also have occasional updates on committees such as the Quick Wins 2 issue. It's even better if you are able to attend one of the monthly meetings to talk with others about your issues. We send this newsletter to all Registered Neighborhood Organizations in the City and County of Denver. We also send this newsletter to various city agencies, state legislators, etc. Generally, we have room to list your neighborhood's upcoming activities such as annual garage sales, park clean-ups, community fairs, etc., as well as information from various city agencies regarding upcoming meetings, committee reports, etc. If you are interested, articles need to be e-mailed to Craig Eley, the editor of *Denver Neighborhood Connection*, at [craig@eley.net](mailto:craig@eley.net) by the 18th of each month in order to be placed in the following month's newsletter. On occasion, we receive more material than we can fit into the newsletter, and sometimes worthwhile articles cannot be published.

If, after looking through our newsletter, you find that it is useful, informational or benefits you, please consider having your neighborhood join INC. A membership form is included on page 4 of this issue.

# INC Member Neighborhoods

(Patrons in Bold)

Alamo Placita NA	Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point NA
Athmar Park NA	Indian Creek NA
Baker Historical NA	Inspiration Point NA
Ballpark NA	Ivy Street NA
Beacon Club	Lowry Neighbors
Bear Creek HOA	Lynwood 7 & 8 HOA
Bellvue Hale NA	Mayfair Neighbors, Inc.
Berkeley NA	Mayfair Park NA
<b>Capitol Hill United Neighbors</b>	North City Park CA
Cherry Creek North BID	Northern Corridor Coalition
Cherry Creek North NA	Northern Airport Corridor Assoc.
Cherry Point HOA	Platt Park People's Assoc.
Citizens for a Residential Quebec	Progress & Preservation Together
City Park West NA	Ruby Hill NA
Clayton NA	South Gaylord NA
College View NA	South Hilltop NA
Congress Park Neighbors	South Jackson NO
Cook Park NA	Southmoor Park E. HOA
Cory-Merrill NA	Southwest Improvement Council
Country Club Historic Neighborhood	St. Charles NA
Cranmer Park Hilltop	Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc.
<b>Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 2</b>	<b>University Park CC</b>
Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 1	Upper Downtown Development Organization
Curtis Park Neighbors	Uptown on The Hill
Denargo Market NC	Virginia Vale CA
<b>Downtown Denver Residents' Org.</b>	Virginia Village/Ellis Community Association
East Cheesman Park NA	Washington Park East NA
East Montclair NA	Wellshire HOA
Far Northeast Neighbors	West Highland NA
Golden Triangle NA	West Washington Park NA
Greater Park Hill Community	<b>Supporters</b>
George Washington HOA	Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth
Hampden South NA	<b>Councilwoman Kathleen MacKenzie</b>
Harkness Heights NA	Denver Water
Harman NA	One Sky One World
Highland Economic and Community Health Org.	<b>Gertrude Grant</b>
Highland United Neighbors	
Hilltop Heritage	
Historic Montclair Comm.	

## Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation 2003 Membership Application

My organization would like to register as a: ☐ Member (enclose \$35) ☐ Patron (enclose \$70)

**Dues Must Be Paid On or By the March 8, 2003 Meeting for Delegates to Vote in the March Election**

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Each organization is entitled to two delegates, whose names must be entered below. **The president of the organization is not automatically a delegate.**

INC Delegate # 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

INC Delegate # 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Association Boundaries (approximate):

North \_\_\_\_\_

South \_\_\_\_\_

East \_\_\_\_\_

West \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclose dues** and bring this form to an INC meeting or mail to:

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

## Letters from INC

*From page 8*

Editor  
Rocky Mountain News

When Denver City Council discussed C.B. 912, the "Quick Wins Two" (QW2) bill on December 2, there were persons who opposed this bill, but the majority spoke in support of it. Those opposed seemed to be developers and real estate persons. Surprisingly, some Council members said they did not know the opinions of their constituents. The Council vote on this bill was postponed until December 16 to allow Council members more time for review.

It's regrettable that many people are not well-informed about QW2, which is proposed zoning for R-0, R-1 and R-2 residential zones. The QW2 Committee met for 9 months to reach consensus among its members who were Denver neighborhood representatives, and architects and builders.

Meetings were announced in local papers such as *The Washington Park Profile* and at neighborhood meetings, and through the citywide membership of the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) and its monthly newsletter which is sent to some 400 readers. These include all Denver's Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs), Denver City Council members, and numerous Denver City agencies.

INC voted to support QW2. It is one way to protect the character of Denver's neighborhoods, known to be a strong asset to this City. Many neighborhoods will find QW2 helpful now-- and in years to come. It includes an appeal process, for those who wish to request exemptions.

INC representatives meet each month to study and discuss current projects and proposals which affect us all. They report to their RNOs and bring feedback to INC. Ultimately, upon a vote of its members, INC conveys its comments to the appropriate City agencies and Councilpersons.

Other topics under INC study are the complete reorganization of the Denver Zoning Code which is in progress, the development proposed for light rail

station areas, ramifications of the placement of the proposed justice center, prospective new City formats for Neighborhood Plans, and much more.

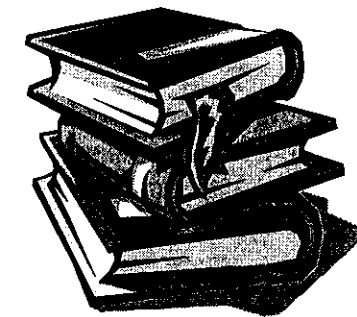
Make sure that your neighborhood has an active member of INC. Meetings are held the second Saturday morning of each month. The location varies so all parts of town may host a meeting. For information, please write to INC, P.O. Box 181009, Denver, CO 80218.

Wayne Jochem  
Chairman, INC

## Denver Seeks Incredible Shrinking Zoning Code

Denver city officials plan to simplify, streamline and shorten the cumbersome Denver Zoning Code in 2003. The zoning ordinance contains about 400 different land use types within 67 zone districts and sub-districts. It is confusing, hard to use, difficult to modify, hard to make web accessible, and 777 pages long.

"The current structure of the Denver zoning ordinance was adopted in 1956. Over the years, many additions have been made to the ordinance, but little has been deleted," stated Denver Planning Director Jennifer T. Moulton. "Reorganization and reformatting of Denver's zoning ordinance is a key priority for implementing Blueprint Denver, our city-wide Land Use and Transportation Plan," Moulton added.



A community open house has been scheduled to discuss the reorganization of Denver's zoning ordinance on Wednesday, January 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Wellington E. Webb Municipal Office Building, 201 West Colfax Avenue, in 4th Floor Conference Room 4.F.6.

## Letters from INC



*The following letters were presented to INC delegates at the December 14, 2002 INC meeting. Most, if not all, of the delegates signed them.*

December 14, 2002

Mayor Wellington Webb  
1437 Bannock Street #350  
Denver, CO, 80202

Re: Office of Neighborhood Response

Dear Mayor Webb:

At its meeting on December 14, 2002, the delegation of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation voted to urge you not to discontinue the Office of Neighborhood Response. The 220 registered neighborhood organizations in the City and County of Denver have been fortunate to have had the Office of Neighborhood Response to provide information to citizens and neighborhood organizations about neighborhood issues, to help your office to respond to neighborhood problems, and to administer the neighborhood registration ordinance. You deserve great credit for establishing the office several years ago.

As delegates to Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, we ask you to continue the Office of Neighborhood Response. If that is not possible, we ask you to communicate with INC and all of the registered neighborhood organizations to indicate who will be absorbing responsibility for the very important functions which have been served by the Office of Neighborhood Response.

Sincerely,  
[INC Delegates]

December 14, 2002

Mayor Wellington Webb  
1437 Bannock Street #350  
Denver, CO, 80202

Chief Gerald Whitman  
Denver Police Department  
1331 Cherokee  
Denver, CO, 80204

Re: Nuisance Abatement Unit of  
Denver Police Department

Dear Mayor Webb and Chief Whitman:

At its meeting of December 14, 2002, the delegation of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation voted to urge you both to re-consider what we understand is your decision to dissolve the city-wide Police Department Nuisance Abatement Unit.

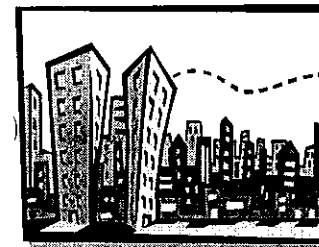
In 1997 and 1998, INC and many other neighborhood organizations strongly supported the enactment of Denver's strong nuisance abatement ordinance. The ordinance has been enforced through the city-wide Nuisance Abatement Unit and has been effective in closing numerous crack-houses, prostitution-motels and other problem properties which plagued many Denver neighborhoods for many years. To the best of our knowledge, no neighborhood organizations, including INC, were informed by your offices about the decision to dissolve the city-wide Nuisance Abatement Unit. We do not know if the Public Nuisance Abatement Oversight Committee, established in Section 37-87 of the Revised Municipal Code, received this information either. We do not believe that decentralized officers in the different police districts will be nearly as effective as a city-wide unit.

The undersigned INC delegates urge you to reconsider this decision and to communicate to INC and all other neighborhood organizations exactly how the nuisance abatement functions of the City will be conducted and coordinated in the future.

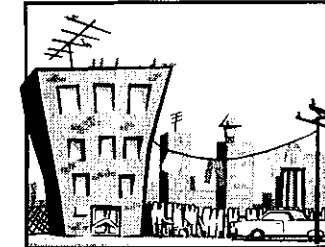
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
[INC Delegates]

Continued on page 9



## Around the City And Notes From December 14 Meeting



Two presentations were made during the December 14, 2002 INC Delegates' Meeting. Rick Ashton, the City Librarian, spoke regarding library services. He would very much like citizen input regarding what people like and don't like about the library, and what changes they would suggest for the main library or its many branches. To make comments regarding library services, or anything else regarding the library, contact Ashton at (720) 865-2009.

### Justice Center

The other presentation was made by the Denver Sheriff's Department regarding the proposed building of a Justice Center on the former Rocky Mountain News building location. Those making the presentation were County Court Presiding Judge Ray Satter, Manager of Safety Mr. T. Howard, Director of Corrections and Undersheriff Mr. F. J. Oliva, Division Chief S. Comito, Denver Asset Management Director Mr. D. Brown and Mr. N. Brisson from the District Attorney's office. The proposed project includes a number of courtrooms (the city is currently leasing courtroom space at the Adams Mark Hotel at a cost of around \$2 million per year).

The current Justice Center Committee has been working with the Golden Triangle Neighborhood to work out their concerns. From the brief report from the Golden Triangle representative, Marcus Squarrell, it appears that many of their concerns have been addressed to the neighborhood's satisfaction.

There were comments which questioned the cost and the wisdom of this proposal, especially in light of the city's present economic circumstances. It was explained that the current city administration would not be deciding this issue, but that it might become a ballot issue in 2004.

Some came to the meeting with the mistaken expectation that this issue was going to be presented as a debate, allowing persons or groups opposing this issue time to make their own presentations. Unless it is stated otherwise, scheduled speakers at INC meetings are making presentations, not participating in debates.

Those seeking more information on the proposed

justice center should contact Division Chief S. Comito at (720) 865-4024.

### Seen Working the Room

In addition to having some new faces from new neighborhoods at the meeting, a number of candidates for city offices were present. These candidates, and the offices they seek, are:

Charlie Brown, Council District 6  
Lynn Pressnall, Council District 6  
Fred Corn, Council-at-Large  
Doug Linkhart, Council-at-Large  
Jim Raughton, Council-at-Large  
Landri Taylor, Auditor  
Paul Rosenthal, Council District 4  
Alby Segall, Council District 5  
Elizabeth Schlosser, Mayor

### Around the City

Huston Lake Park, in **Athmar Park** at Ohio and Kentucky, is currently being dredged and the edges rebuilt. Athmar Park residents are looking forward to the pelicans in February.

**University Park Community Council** will hold a neighborhood work session on its Small Area Plan at University Park School on February 5 at 7 p.m. A special alert option is offered on UPCC's website at [www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/upcc](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/upcc) for those who wish to receive e-mail notices of meetings and other UP events.

Governor Owens recently honored Denver Public Schools for being the most improved district in the State. Two INC members, Al Habercorn and Cathee Fisher, are serving on the DPS Citizens Bond Committee.

**Greater Park Hill** conducted its Board Retreat on November 24th and held a social on December 5th in place of its regular board meeting. A liquor excise forum for the community was held at Smiley Middle

Continued on page 6



## Around the City

From page 5

School. Volunteers helped out in the 9Cares food and toy drive, delivering over 50 Thanksgiving Baskets, with a plan to distribute 75 Christmas Baskets. Two board members now serve on the East Denver Civic Roundtable.

**Baker's** Neighborhood Plan was subject to an unheard of amendment proposed by a developer at the city council public hearing for its adoption. After extensive planning review and public meetings scheduled over a three-year period, the neighborhood considers this an outrage. On a happier note, its Christmas party was a great success. Some problem businesses have been re-developed and new owners have done a great job of fixing up the businesses and are having a positive impact on the neighborhood.

**Hampden South's** treasurer hosted an open house in December for all long-term residents of the neighborhood. The neighborhood is working on the pedestrian master plan to improve sidewalks in the area.

**Platt Park People's Association** is having a holiday event with the Old South Pearl Street Merchants Association.

**George Washington Home Owners Association's** primary concern continues to be about what is going on with the widening of Quebec Street and the intersection of Quebec and Alameda.

The new Historic Denver book by Tom Noel on **Lowry** has been published and was featured at a neighborhood party at its new library on December 16th.

**Ivy Street Neighbors Association** will be busy with its annual Christmas Basket project for senior, sick and shut-in neighbors in the area. The neighborhood is also busy with Christmas decorating.

**Congress Park Neighbors** are continuing to challenge the rezoning of the block at 9th and Harrison. The PUD zoning for a 193-unit apartment was approved in May by city council. The neighborhood filed a legal challenge, which is working its way through the courts. The developer has filed a new PUD application for an identical project. If successful, this application will set a dangerous precedent and essentially eliminate the

opportunity for a legal challenge. The neighborhood asked for support at the planning commission on December 18th and at a future city council hearing.

## Kids Say "Thanks" For Dictionaries

By Cathee Fisher  
Dollar Dictionary Drive Co-Chair

Again we have received thank you notes from the third graders and principals throughout Denver. They came in the form of both group and individual letters; art work was often included. Here are just a few examples:

Thank you for the thesaurus and dictionary. I use dictionaries to help me spell words. If we didn't have these two books we wouldn't be able to find out how to spell something. We also wouldn't be able to find new words to use in sentences. Thank you for both of the books. You are very nice people.

Thank you for my thesaurus and dictionary. My big brother uses them to find new words. I use them to look up animals and other things. I use them when I write stories. I use them when I read hard books.



Thank you for my thesaurus and the dictionary. They really help me think of good adjectives. They help me learn new words and it really helps me do my homework. That was really nice of you because you spend a lot of your money.

Thank you for coming in and giving our class the dictionary and thesaurus. We hope you come and see us again. We appreciate what you are doing for all the third graders. I will use the books for several things like homework and classroom assignments. If you hadn't books I wouldn't be as smart. I know how hard you worked finding money and collecting it. I couldn't imagine you doing all of this for third graders, but on the other hand you want to educate third graders to be smarter. When we grow up you should be proud of yourself to know you helped us that way. Thank you.

Thank you to these additional donors: Addison Auto Center, Councilwoman Kathleen McKenzie and Representative Andrew Romanoff

Tax deductible donations can be sent to: INC Dictionary Drive PO Box 181009 Denver, CO 80218.

## Neighbors Meet with Chief Over Police Department Cutbacks

By Keith Howard

On Wednesday, December 28, seventeen neighborhood leaders met with Chief Gerald Whitman of the Denver Police Department and with Commander Gallagher of District 1 to discuss the major changes that Chief Whitman has instituted in recent weeks. These changes include: instituting a police work week of four ten-hour days; eliminating the DARE program; in District 1 the community resource officers and neighborhood police officers



will join new "street crime attack teams;" nuisance unit detectives being divided among the various districts with no single coordinator for the nuisance abatement program; the reduction of the police in schools program; the reassignment of the two officers currently assigned to the Contemporary Learning Academy; and the assignment of patrol officers to specific precincts.

Chief Whitman explained and justified these changes on grounds of budgetary and staffing constraints. The new requirement that 25 officers be devoted to DIA further stretches the department's capabilities. Chief Whitman's fundamental point was that we just don't have the money or the people right now to devote officers to certain specialized jobs.

**Denver Neighborhood Connection  
article submission deadline  
is the 18th of each month**

Articles and photos must be submitted by  
e-mail to Editor Craig Eley at [craig@eley.net](mailto:craig@eley.net).

The organizational changes are an attempt to cope with this reality. The community policing philosophy is not being abandoned, but is being reinterpreted. More officers will be continuously working in the same small areas, and those officers will be expected to develop the kinds of skills and local relationships for which we formerly relied upon CROs and NPOs.

The neighborhood representatives at the meeting expressed concern and some dismay at the loss of particular specialists and of familiar methods of dealing with typical issues. The problems facing neighborhoods haven't changed or gone away. Several speakers stressed the undiminished need for effective tools with which to defend the quality and livability of neighborhoods. Working together with the department to sort out the kinks in the new police approach will be a challenge for all INC organizations. Those organizations will also have an important role in evaluating the effectiveness of the new, more decentralized police structure.

The obvious question not answered here is, "How city-wide are these changes?" Some immediately apply to the whole city, some will be instituted district by district, as space and personnel permit.

[See a letter sent from INC to Mayor Webb and Chief Whitman concerning police cutbacks on page 8]

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