

Next Meeting Saturday October 9 2004

**Ft. Logan Mental Health
Center**

(see map below)

AGENDA

9:00

Welcome

9:15

Ballot Issues Forum

FasTracks

10:00

Property Owners' Rights

10:25

Renewable Energy

10:50

Police Oversight

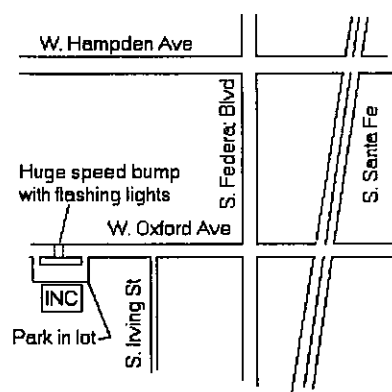
11:35

Presidential Electors

12:00

Adjourn

Map to October 9 INC Meeting



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Denver, CO 80218

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October 9 INC Meeting Features Ballot Issues Forum

which will be on the November ballot. These issues include FasTracks, Property Owners' Rights, Renewable Energy, Police Oversight, and Presidential Electors.

Attendees should enter Ft. Logan on West Oxford Avenue from South Federal Boulevard. Heading west on Oxford, attendees will spot a very large speed-bump in the middle of Oxford. There will be a stop sign and flashing red lights at the bump. Attendees should turn left (south) into the parking lot before actually reaching the speed bump. Those who miss the turn into the parking lot can continue across the speed-bump and turn into the parking lot past the bump. The building is immediately south of the parking lot and will have the INC signs out front (see map on page 12).

Suits Against Citizen Participation Subject of October 23 ZAP Meeting

The October 9, 2004 INC Delegates' meeting will be held at Ft. Logan Mental Health Center, 3520 W. Oxford Avenue. The speakers at the meeting will present pro and con arguments on a number of issues

In the last few years, a number of neighborhood organizations or individual neighborhood activists in Colorado and across the country have either been sued or threatened with suit for their words or actions in opposing proposed rezonings or development

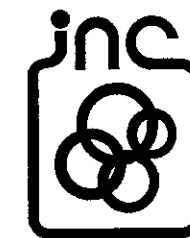
plans in their neighborhoods. Such suits are almost always unsuccessful and the plaintiff-developers often have to reimburse the defendant-activists for their attorney's fees.

University of Denver Law Professor George Pring will speak to the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Zoning and Planning Committee about these lawsuits on Saturday, October 23 at 9:30 a.m. at 1201 Williams Street (north edge of Cheesman Park) in the 19th floor party room. All neighborhood groups are encouraged to send representatives. Professor Pring is the world's top expert on what he has named SLAPP suits (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) and he has written many publications on the subject.

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The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



October
2004

www.
neighborhoodlink.
com/denver/inc

Denver Neighborhood
Connection

INC Member Neighborhoods (Patrons in Bold)

Alamo Placita NA
 Athmar Park NA
 Baker Historical NA
 Bellevue-Hale NA
 Berkeley NA
 Bonnie Brae NA
 Bow Mar Heights Improvement Assoc.
 Broadway Partnership
Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods
 Cherry Creek East Association
 Cherry Creek North NA
 Cherry Point HOA

Citizens for the Preservation of Cherry Creek North
 Citizens for a Residential Quebec
 City Park West NA
 Civic Assoc. of Clayton
 Colfax BID
 Colfax on the Hill
 College View NA
 Cook Park NA
Cory-Merrill NA
 Cranmer Park - Hilltop NA
 Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 1
Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 2
 Curtis Park Neighbors
 Denargo Market NC
Downtown Denver Residents Organization
 East Montclair NA
 Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc.
 Godsman Community NA
Golden Triangle Arts District
 Golden Triangle NA
Greater Park Hill Community
 Green Valley Ranch HOA
 Hampden Heights CA
 Hampden South NA
 Harkness Heights NA
 Harman NA
 Hilltop Heritage
Historic Montclair CA
 Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA
 Inspiration Point NA
 Ivy Street NA
 LoDo District, Inc.
 Lowry Neighbors
 Lynwood 7&8 NA
 Marston Shores HOA
Mayfair Neighbors
 Mayfair Park NA
 Metro Denver Local Development Corporation
 North City Park CA
 Northern Corridor Coalition
 Old South Pearl Street
 Park Forest HOA
 Platt Park People's NA
 Progress & Preservation Together
 Ruby Hill NA
 Sloan Lake NA

Sloan's Lake Citizen's Group
 South Gaylord NA
 South Hilltop NA
 South Jackson NO
 Southern Hills NA
Southmoor Park East HOA
 SouthWest Improvement Council
 Stapleton United Neighbors
 Stokes Place/Green Bowers
Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc.
University Park Community Council
 The Unsinkables
Upper Downtown Development Org.
 Uptown on the Hill
Virginia Vale CA
 Virginia Village/Ellis CA
 West Highland NA
 Washington Park East NA
 West University CA
 West Washington Park NA
 Westwood NA
 Whittier NA

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Gertie Grant
Harriet Hogue
 Beth McCann
 Morrison Road Business Association
 Neighborhood Resource Center of Colorado
 One Sky, One World
 Stapleton Forest City

Cruising Task Force Report

Continued from page 6

problems with adapting this ordinance for Denver would be posting the portable signs in sections of streets where there is limited access/egress into side-streets. In most of the current problem areas, cruisers can just turn down side-streets into neighborhoods to bypass a control point. So this would need to be looked at, insofar as implementation.

A question was raised about impounding the vehicles and Puckett replied that it is hard to do that without a criminal offense, denying people their right to their property. He was asked if he thought an anti-cruising ordinance was the way to go. He replied that a citizen-based task force, such as those assembled for this meeting, should determine that.

Lisa requested a show of hands of those who would support working with City Council representatives to draft a workable version of a cruising ordinance for Denver. Three-quarters of the 60 persons assembled raised their hands. She encouraged those present to contact their City Council representative, as well as the two at-large Council representatives and ask that they initiate discussion at a council level about this issue and the need to address it. Five Denver City Council representatives were present at the meeting: Rick Garcia, Kathleen Mackenzie, Rosemary Rodriguez, Carol Boigon, and Doug Linkhart, and each took an opportunity to speak at the meeting.

Another question arose from the group to the City Council representatives in attendance: "Is anyone on council looking at increasing the number of police officers?" Many persons at the meeting had reported an increasing perception of lawlessness on neighborhood streets, and understand that the Police are overwhelmed and under-staffed. Dobson pointed out that the authorized strength of the Denver Police Department had not been increased since 1976, while the population increase over the last 28 years has been enormous.

Rosemary Rodriguez replied that the Department of Safety budget is increasing. Rick Garcia pointed out that a lot of the shortage of patrol officers on the streets

has to do with retirements and people moving up into other positions and that the 2004 budget did not decrease the number of street Officers. Kathleen Mackenzie pointed out that no NIS Inspector positions were cut, either. Doug Linkhart stated that with the budget crunch, we need to be able to count on more help from neighborhood groups and promoted Neighborhood Watch.

Division Chief Mary Beth Klee, Commander David Quinonez, Commander Rudy Sandoval, and Captain Eric Rubin, all of the Denver Police Department, were in attendance and answered questions. Commander Sandoval stated that District 4 currently has the highest calls-for-service volume in the City, that he has officers, NPOs, CROs, and the impact team working Sunday evenings, when cruising is worse in southwest Denver, and they write some 40-50 tickets per Sunday evening for traffic infractions and amplified sound violations related to cruising.

Some attendees expressed a need to make our youth more aware of the effects these activities have on their communities. Commander Sandoval pointed out that some 40% of those coming to cruise do not live in Denver. In May, cruisers come from many surrounding states. Dobson mentioned that you cannot appeal very successfully to someone's sense of community if they don't live here.

A representative from a car club, while supporting the need to deal with the cruising problem, also expressed the need to be careful that something isn't adopted that infringes on car club events.

Conclusions made from the meeting were that the neighborhoods would like to continue this dialogue and process with council representatives and police, as the major detrimental impacts of out-of-control cruising have to be dealt with because they are a significant quality of life problem for City residents.

RNO Ordinance Changes Considered

The Blueprint Committee of City Council will be considering modifications to the Registered Neighborhood Ordinance at 1:30 p.m. on October 13th.

Those seeking more specific information should contact Gretchen Williams at the City Council Office, Gretchen.Williams@ci.denver.co.us, or 720-865-9341.



Denver Neighborhood
Connection

Denver Neighborhood Connection
 is published monthly by

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
 (a coalition of Denver neighborhoods)
 P.O. Box 181009
 Denver, CO 80218

Editor: Craig Eley, craig@eley.net.

Articles must be e-mailed to the editor
 by the 18th of the month prior to
 publication.

Subscriptions are free. Subscription
 information and changes of address
 should be e-mailed to
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INC Delegates' Meetings are held on
 the second Saturday of each month at
 8:45 a.m.

The INC Board meets on the second
 Monday of each month at 6 p.m. on the
 top floor of 1201 Williams Street,
 Denver, CO. All members are
 welcome.

The INC web page can be found at
www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc

Mayor Responds to INC Inquiry About Office of Neighborhood Response

Editor's note: INC President Elizabeth Hamilton sent a letter to Mayor John Hickenlooper on behalf of INC, inquiring about the future of The Office of Neighborhood Response and the important functions which it has fulfilled in the past. Below is the Mayor's response, dated August 20, 2004.

Dear Elizabeth,

Thank you for your letter regarding The Office of Neighborhood Response (ONR). The ONR office coincided with the tenure of Jennifer Moulton, and I remain very grateful to Jennifer for helping orient me to the issues that led to the creation of ONR.

A major issue then and now is the volume and complexity of governmental regulations and processes. I've tasked Peter Park with implementing Blueprint Denver. He is sorting out the Zoning Code, the pre-permitting process known as "development review," and his staff is leading our effort to hold the most comprehensive neighborhood leadership conference ever.

My staff has begun work on implementing 311, a critical tool in assisting residents in accessing information and resources on every government service imaginable. Despite the significance of 311, our neighborhood organizations hold a position of great importance in my administration. I will be announcing neighborhood initiatives in the near future and look forward to working with you to resolve all of your issues.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper, Mayor

Dictionary Drive Report

Continued from page 9

U.S. neighbors? Name the president. How many planets are there in our solar system? The two new ones beyond Pluto are planetoids. A long word is supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (a word to say when you don't know what else to say) on page 364. Harry Potter, they all know who he is, has his own personal library. He is a wizard who attends Hogwarts School. He usually goes to school on the Hogwarts Express from platform 9 3/4. He has his owl who lives in a cage, his wand, his broomstick, his invisibility cloak and his personal library (books). Most of his belongings are carried in his trunk - a special carrying case.

Then there is the thesaurus - the dinosaur book. All third graders know names of dinosaurs and that the stegosaurus is the Colorado state fossil. Telling a story of the "big" body parts of a dinosaur gets boring, so there are other words they know instead of big. Then look up big in the thesaurus and you will find 19 words. The concept of synonyms is conveyed and you can see the light bulbs go on in their heads.



Yes, they are all going to college and they promise to take care of their books. Just ask them!!

Thank you to Vicky Gritters, Agnes Bush, Sarah Bradley, John Smith, Jaye Kephart, Annette Woodward, Sally Kurtzman, Nancy Jackson, Anthony Thomas and Karen Cuthbertson for setting up handouts. Thank you everyone who has joined us in this great adventure.

Donations are still welcome. Thank you to the East Montclair and Wyman Historic neighborhood associations for your donations. Contributions can be made to:

INC Dollar Dictionary Drive
PO Box 18347
Denver, CO 80218



From the Chair

By Elizabeth Hamilton
INC Chair

Mark your calendars for November 6, 2004. On this day the City and INC will co-sponsor a Neighborhood Conference. There will be many high level speakers including Mayor John Hickenlooper and Peter Park, Director of Community Planning and Development.

When: Saturday following the presidential election, November 6th

Where: Wastewater Management Division, 2000 West 3rd Avenue (see map below)

Time: 8:30 a.m. registration, opening remarks at 9 a.m., event concludes at 12:30 p.m.

There will be a welcome by Mayor Hickenlooper and remarks by selected cabinet members/appointees including: Community Planning and

Development, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Excise & License, Housing & Neighborhood Development and Public Safety. There will be City departmental displays with break-out sessions on subjects such as ground water pollution, neighborhood organization membership cultivation, how to generate community interest and

involvement in your registered neighborhood group and a session on how to find information on DenverGov.Org and what City services are available on line 24/7.

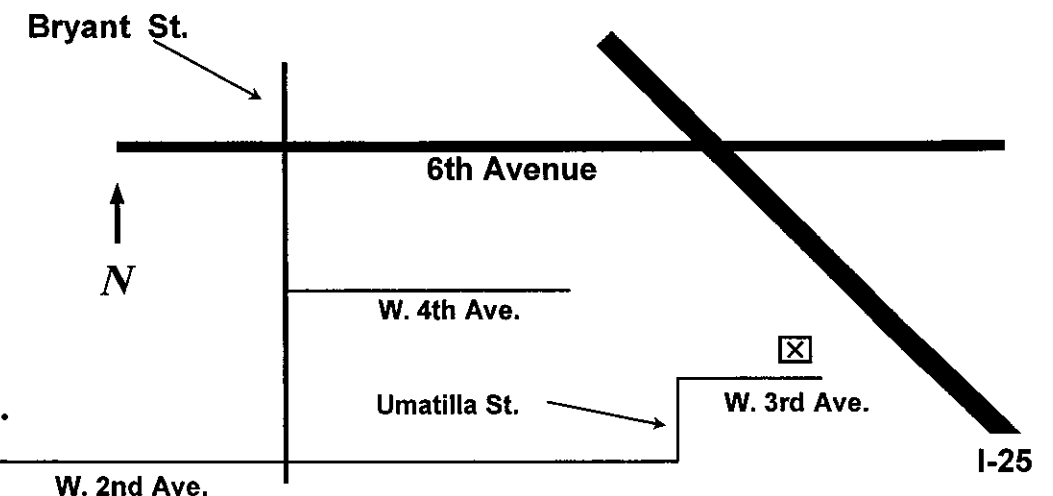
INC will hand out the newly updated Neighborhood Handbooks for each registered neighborhood in the City.

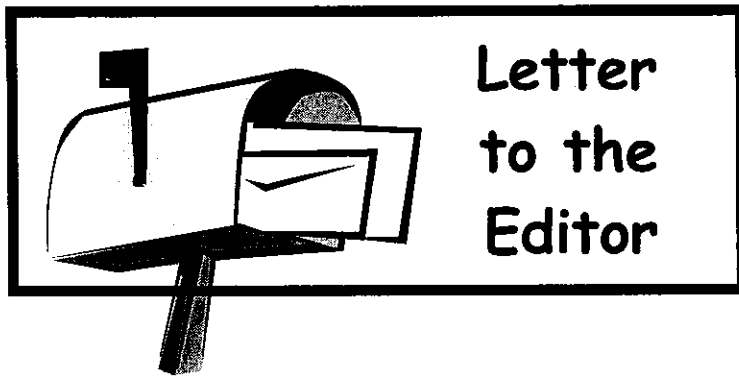
For more information contact: Event Coordinator Julius Zsako at Julius.Zsako@ci.denver.co.us, 720-865-2969 or Event Facility Manager Carlos Guerra at guerracm@ci.denver.co.us, 303-446-3452.

Please invite your neighborhood association board members and interested citizens to this important conference.

Together we can make a difference in our great City.

Map to
Neighborhood
Conference
November 6
Wastewater
Management
Building
2000 W. 3rd Ave.





More on Highland Cell Tower Dispute

The recent Denver Neighborhood Connection "Letter to the Editor" concerning the Highland cell tower concluded that "rather than accepting the Board of Adjustment's ruling and working to uphold the zoning code, the City Attorney is trying to quash the BOA - and the rights of the citizens who sought a remedy here."

The Highlands Neighborhood successfully appealed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding the Zoning permit issued to T-Mobile. The Zoning Board of Adjustment findings were then successfully appealed by T-Mobile in state district court. It should be noted that decisions of the Board of Adjustment are appealable by any party. As noted above, this appeal was undertaken by T-Mobile, not the City & County of Denver.

The placement of cell towers and antennas is governed both by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Denver Zoning Code. The FCC mandates that local governments not interfere with the completion of the cellular "grid."

The Denver Zoning Code encourages cell facility location on existing structures. Unfortunately, that is not always possible. We are currently working with Councilwoman Montero's Telecommunications Task Force in an effort to come up with an ordinance that works better for all parties concerned, and still meets the parameters of the federal law.

Community Planning and Development seeks to guide and promote the planning, building and maintenance of an outstanding Denver. We welcome input from every corner.

Julius Zsako
Communications Director
Denver Community Planning and Development
Julius.Zsako@ci.denver.co.

Minutes of September 11, 2004 INC Delegates' Meeting

By Diana Helper
INC Secretary

INC delegates met September 11 at Westwood Community Center. The meeting was sponsored by the SouthWest Improvement Council.

Delegates presented interesting and informative "Around the City" reports (their written comments are on page 5).

Marty Flahive of the Denver Department of Safety spoke about the Urban Area Security Initiative and Homeland Security process. Local governments work on prevention, response and recovery for all hazards. Inter-operability is a priority so all agencies can communicate quickly. For information please call Bonnie Martinez at 720-913-1900.

Ron Liggett of the American Red Cross spoke next, regarding five steps to take for emergency preparedness: Make a Plan, Build a Kit, Get Trained, Volunteer, and Give Blood. An illustrative brochure was distributed. It is important that we feel comfortable with our ability to help others, especially in times of crisis. Call 1-800-417-0495 for more information.

Jim Jones of West Washington Park Neighborhood Association presented information on liquor license issues. Jim and Barbara Gibson of Lower Downtown are the neighborhood representatives on the Mayor's Commission on Liquor Licenses, which will eventually make some recommendations to the Department of Excise and Licenses and to City Council. The 19 delegates present voted unanimously to support fourteen specific recommendations that have been developed by INC to make the liquor and cabaret licensing process more neighborhood-friendly. There were no abstentions. For further information about the INC recommendations please contact Michael Henry at 303-377-6609.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Minutes of September 13 INC Board meeting

By Diana Helper
INC Secretary

The INC Board met at 6 p.m. September 13, 2004. Present were Elizabeth Hamilton, Dave Webster, Diane Wolta, Diana Helper, Ken Beaudrie, Karen Cuthbertson, Nell Swiers, Anthony Thomas, Michael Henry, Cathee Fisher, Steve Nissen, Vicki Gritters, and guests Nancy Jackson and Paul Ryan.

Minutes of the August 9 Board Meeting were approved. Diane Wolta presented the Treasurer's report. Fund-raising ideas were discussed briefly.

Paul Ryan discussed the October 9 Delegates' meeting, which will have an election issues forum. Five issues were chosen for presentation: FasTracks, Police Oversight, Property Owners' Rights, Renewable Energy, and Selection of Presidential Electors. Paul will get speakers and format the program and its timing. The Board hopes that Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz will welcome delegates to this meeting, which is in her district, at Fort Logan.

Dave Webster gave an update on the Infrastructure Task Force, Elizabeth Hamilton talked about the Telecommunication (Cell Tower) Task Force, and the Board agreed there is a need for information about the Parking Commission. Mike Henry reported on the Neighborhood Handbook being updated by the City. INC will pay for its printing.

Regarding the new position of Liaison between City and neighborhoods, of which John Huggins spoke in July, Elizabeth reported that this is "on hold" at present. Also, in reply to INC's letter sent to the Mayor regarding the Office of Neighborhood Response (ONR, no longer in existence), Elizabeth received a reply (see page 10) which indicated that other arrangements are being made by the City to do the work of ONR.

Vicki Gritters discussed the membership database developed by Ken Beaudrie, and urged that

membership forms be completed in full. Cathee Fisher said that Nancy Jackson (Mayfair neighborhood) has offered to address, stamp and mail the hard-copy *Denver Neighborhood Connection* issues to those who do not receive them by e-mail. This offer was gratefully accepted.

Other reports: The Cruising Task Force will meet later in September to craft an ordinance. Dictionary Drive had good PR on Channel 7. Mike Henry said, regarding Zoning And Planning (ZAP), that the city may hire consultants to work on "form based zoning," which comes out of Blueprint Denver and may be implemented using the East Colfax plan as a pilot project. INC ZAP plans to have a special meeting on legal matters with a speaker on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP). The Board voted to fund that meeting at the Ramada Hotel on East Colfax Avenue.

Neighbors Distribute Dictionaries

By Cathee Fisher
Co-Chair
INC Dollar Dictionary Drive

Neighborhood and community members have been spending the last few weeks celebrating the fruition of the 9th Annual Dollar Dictionary Drive by visiting the third graders in schools throughout Denver and giving them their own dictionary and thesaurus. Although some of the schools had already given the books to the students, a presentation was still fun to do. Even if the surprise is over the excitement has not disappeared at receiving two books for their own personal library.

Speaking with third graders will keep you on your toes. Just think of it as trivial pursuit. If you don't know the answers - they will tell you, or you can look it up in their new dictionary. NO, they don't always get it right, but it is fun to show them how much they really do know. Just keep asking questions.

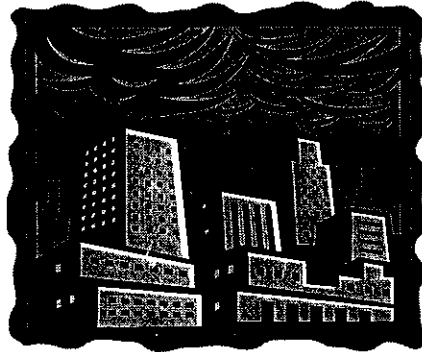
Some suggested topics. What is a volunteer? What do you find in a neighborhood? Basic geographic questions (city, state, country, continent). Who are our

Continued on page 10

Minutes of September 18 INC Zoning & Planning Committee

*By Diana Helper
Committee Member*

A large group gathered at 9:30 a.m. September 18 for the monthly meeting of the INC Zoning and Planning (ZAP) Committee. Chairman Michael Henry asked all those present to sign the ZAP committee's letter to the Department of Excise and License with recommendations regarding liquor licenses. He stated there will be a special meeting for members of the Liquor License Task Force to speak on this topic, details to be announced. Another special meeting is to be set for information about legal matters which affect neighborhoods, including SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation). See the meeting announcement on page 1.



Sarah McCarthy and Everett Shigeta spoke on the work of The Denver Landmark Preservation Commission. They explained the impact addressed by the National Register and State Register of Historic Places, and the Denver-designated districts and landmarks, including parkways. Members of this commission are appointed by the Mayor, and have an increasingly heavy workload. They are studying methods used in other Denver-size cities, to help discover creative ways to streamline the system and enable timely, but nevertheless thorough, handling of cases. For information please call the Landmark Commission at 720-865-2944.

Stu Williams gave an update on the 1998 Bond Issue projects. He is a consultant for the City, and may be reached at 720-913-4517. He distributed information on the projects, listing which are completed, and which in various stages of work, and those which have been deleted. A major storm water project is underway, and the neighborhoods affected by this will be contacted,

and a program offered on the topic.

Elizabeth Hamilton, Mike Kloefkorn, and Nicole Hernandez spoke about the work of the Telecommunications Task Force, which is addressing the issue of placement of cell towers in neighborhoods. There will be increased need for towers, and good solutions are sought. City Council can be pressured to help protect neighborhoods. Rent for tower space is a part of the issue, so there is money to be made, perhaps, for neighborhoods with tower sites - on right-of-ways, by tall buildings, adjoining City light-posts, etc. Committee members were asked to take photographs of the worst and best examples.

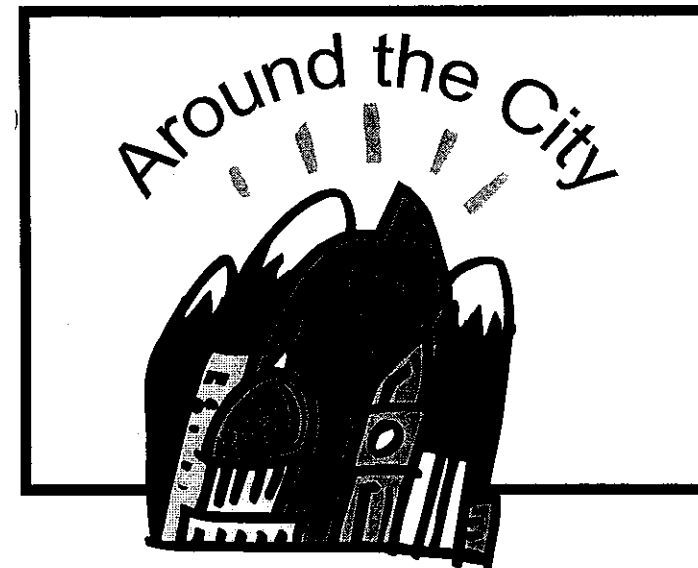
Board of Adjustment for Zoning Appeals is proposing some changes in its processes. There is an important meeting open to all on October 5 from 7-9 p.m. at the Webb Building. RSVP if possible by Sept. 24. Each Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) was

sent details. One item is that only near neighbors would be contacted regarding appeals. After discussion, ZAP members voted to communicate to the BOA that ZAP generally supports the idea of streamlining the variance process of BOA, but we do not feel we have had enough time to study the changes. ZAP believes ample (45 days preferably) notification to the

RNO is necessary as well as to near neighbors, and prominent posting of the property in question is needed.

Form-Based Zoning is a proposal put forth by Peter Park, Director of the Community Planning and Development Department. Michael Henry reported that the East Colfax Plan would be a pilot project for this proposal. As Park told ZAP in July, this idea asks "what do we want?" at a certain site, then addresses the zoning that is appropriate. ZAP hopes Park will speak at another ZAP meeting soon, and looks forward to talking with him at the Nov. 6 INC General Meeting/Mayor's Neighborhood Training Conference. The City plans to hire an outside consultant, and to form a staff committee and then a citizens' task force to work on this for the next two years. Evaluation of this type of zoning will be addressed. A number of ZAP members signed an interest sheet as potential task force members.

This very interesting ZAP meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m. The next meeting will be October 23, 2004.



Around the City from September 11 INC Meeting

Athmar Park - Federal Boulevard adjoining Athmar Park is getting repaved. More than 100 people, including Mayor Hickenlooper, State Sen. Mike Cerbo and other city and state officials attended the annual neighborhood picnic in August. The Goldrick Elementary "Learning Landscape" school playground is almost finished.

Cherry Creek East - Is a new member of INC, looking forward to learning from and collaborating with neighbors throughout Denver.

Cherry Point - 178 attended its neighborhood picnic in August. The new median and repaving of Happy Canyon Road are under construction. The project should be completed in a few weeks with planting of xeric trees, shrubs and perennials.

Ruby Hill and SouthWest Improvement Council - Hosted the INC meeting and are pleased to welcome INC to urban southwest Denver. They are concerned about the proliferation of liquor license applications in the area, the widening of South Federal and cruising, and graffiti vandalism. They appreciate INC's support of neighborhood improvement and preservation.

Stapleton United Neighbors - SUN is a new INC member and a new neighborhood association. It is currently working with a traffic task force addressing issues throughout the redevelopment. It has received a grant with the Active Living Partnership that is

being used to sponsor a neighborhood kickball tournament promoting health, neighborhood intramurals and pedestrian oriented activities. It is also forming a neighborhood watch.

University Park - Its annual Fall Meeting is October 13, 7 p.m. at UP School, East Iliff at South St. Paul, with speakers from T-REX, Transportation Solutions, Neighborhood Watch, and special recognition of UP School and Girl Scout troop 2402 for their "Safe Routes to School" project. East Iliff Avenue now has continuous sidewalk from the school east to Colorado Boulevard, thanks to efforts of the UP Sidewalk Committee and Councilman Charlie Brown. On Sept. 16 the UPCC Board attended a productive mini-retreat on policy, structure, leadership and outreach.

Washington Park East - Its 2nd Annual July 4 celebration co-sponsored with West Washington Park was a huge success. The September WPENA meeting was on FasTracks. It has been in negotiation with South Gaylord NA and Japon Restaurant on its planned expansion, now cut back, and a survey will be distributed to the neighbors. Dennis Gallagher and Cathee Fisher helped give out Dictionaries at Steele School - a wonderful experience. Project Vote is a WPE campaign with one message: Exercise your right to vote! Its goal is to increase voter turnout by 10% this election year. Currently, only 40% of eligible voters turn out in WPE. This is a model for surrounding RNOs in future elections. Details: Project Vote chair Fail Todaro, e-mail gail@projectvote.us to present at your neighborhood association meeting.

Denver Parks and Recreation - As fall approaches, Parks will begin winding down and the next big volunteer event will be "Put the Beds to Bed." See the Hands on Denver website at denvergov.org for dates, locations and times. Check out the fall programs at your local recreation centers. Contact Harriet Hogue at 720-913-0694 to arrange for a Parks/Rec speaker or with your concerns.

Solid Waste Management/Denver Partner Against Graffiti encourages RNOs to organize a graffiti volunteer group to clean or report graffiti. Free supplies are available to remove graffiti by calling the Graffiti Hotline, 720-865-7867.

Meeting Explores Cruising Problem, Solutions

By Karen Cuthbertson
President
Athmar Park Neighborhood
Association, Inc.

A meeting concerning the possibility of creating a Denver cruising ordinance took place on August 31, 2004 at the Ramada Inn at 1135 East Colfax Avenue. Lisa Dobson, cruising task force chair and board member of INC, opened the meeting with an overview of the nature of the cruising problem; i.e., it's a year-round occurrence now, a traffic issue across the City, a public safety concern, and an enormous expenditure to the City during a time of fiscal deficits. She announced that there would be a follow-up meeting on September 30 at 5:00 p.m. at the District 1 Police Station conference room, first floor, 1311 West 46th Avenue (at Lipan).

Commander Tim Tripp of the Westminster Police Department was unable to attend. Paul Puckett of the Denver City Attorney's office summarized his conversations with Commander Tripp. The Westminster cruisers made a loop around the Westminster mall from 82nd and Harlan out to Wadsworth and up and around the Mall. The Westminster PD tried stepped up enforcement of ticketing for amplified sound from vehicles, ticketing traffic infractions, etc. for 2-3 years, but determined that it was ineffective in reducing cruising. So citizens and city officials formed a task force and developed an anti-cruising ordinance, based on a model from Napierville, Illinois. There are also similar ordinances in other cities. Copies of these ordinances were handed out.

Westminster's traffic ordinance provides for the issuance citations starting at \$125 for the first offense, with incremental increases in fines for subsequent

violations, up to \$300. There are no criminal charges. The city posts portable signs at varying locations, notifying "You are entering a no-cruising area, violators will be ticketed." These signs are posted at either end of the designated area and Officers enter license plate numbers into mobile computers. The third time a vehicle license plate is entered as having passed a control point in three hours, a citation is issued, along with a digital photo taken as evidence. Within 2-3 weeks, as word of the expensive fines spread, the cruising problem disappeared.

Dobson and Puckett then fielded questions and suggestions from the assembled 60 participants. It became evident that people are concerned about the noise from these vehicles, (boom-boxes), as much as the cruising activity itself. Dobson pointed out that with amplified sound violations in Denver, City Council has imposed a \$50 maximum fine, which is often dismissed by the court, which means that these tickets have no teeth nor ability to deter. She mentioned that the Westminster ordinance stipulates that the fines cannot be reduced or dismissed by the court, maintaining their effectiveness as a deterrent to repeat offenses, and that any Denver cruising ordinance should have this provision included also.

Adrienne Benavidez asked Puckett if the Westminster ordinance or other cities' anti-cruising ordinances had been challenged as civil rights violations? His answer was that they had not been. This is an ordinance dealing with traffic violations, no different than any other traffic infraction, and wouldn't target any specific person, group of people, etc., just those in violation of its specifics. He was asked how long it took Westminster to create this ordinance. The answer was 2-3 years to conclude that existing laws were insufficient and one year for the ordinance to be written and adopted by City Council.

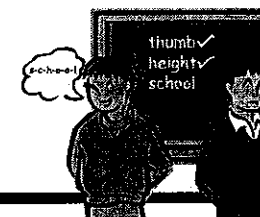
Areas identified as having a cruising problem were the Sloan's Lake area, Sheridan Boulevard, Federal Boulevard from I-70 to Dartmouth, and West Alameda Avenue from I-25 to past Morrison Road, as well as some areas in the northwest part of town that were not specified.

Puckett and Dobson pointed out that one of the

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School Revitalization in Full Swing

By Jerry Wartgow
Superintendent
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It's hard to believe, but we are nearing the first anniversary of the overwhelming vote of support by Denver voters for Denver Public Schools' \$20 million mill levy and \$310 million bond elections in November 2003. Before I go any further, thank you for that support and clear vote of confidence in the district's continued momentum.

There is considerable progress underway with all bond and mill levy activity, but I wanted to focus on one initiative that's vital to neighborhoods - the school revitalization effort.

The idea was simple: provide additional resources so schools could begin to improve student achievement and, as a result, have a better chance of building stronger support from the surrounding community. Out of the \$20 million mill levy, \$2.5 million was earmarked each year for just that purpose.

As many of you know, the district earlier this year organized a "Mill Levy Revitalization Initiative Committee" to guide the decision-making process and make recommendations to the Board of Education. The committee said schools would be chosen using the specific guidance in the original mill levy proposal given to voters.

That proposal provided that schools would receive support for revitalization efforts if they were operating at or below 70% of student enrollment capacity, had academic underperformance as demonstrated by "low" or "unsatisfactory" state ratings, and had 35% or more of the children in the neighborhood opting to attend another public or private school.

Under the proposal, schools that met all three criteria

would be given priority; schools that met two of the three criteria also would be considered, particularly if they provided a special opportunity to establish a new program.

The committee urged the district's staff to prioritize the recommended schools based on several factors, including the local community's readiness and whether agreement can be reached on proposed changes; staff resources available to support the initiative at particular schools; available revitalization dollars; and timelines associated with restructuring pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The committee ultimately recommended nine schools and the district staff urged four more. The final list of 13 schools included Bradley, Brown, Ford, Gilpin, Montclair, Remington, Sabin and Stedman elementary schools and Cole, Henry, Hill, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Skinner middle schools. The mill levy funds will support revitalization work for a few years; funds then will shift to other schools.

Now, here's where parents and community members come in - each school has organized a committee to evaluate what program or changes to consider as a means to making specific improvements and revitalizing each school.

Some schools already are up and running with new efforts. Bradley and Henry, for instance, have already launched new programs geared around the International Preparatory. Other schools are just beginning the process of evaluating what direction to recommend for their school.

You can help by attending revitalization committee meetings. Either check with the school that's closest to you or watch for news releases about upcoming meetings (to sign up for customized district news, look for "Stay Connected" under "Updates" right on the district's main web page at www.dpsk12.org).

Schools and revitalization committees need your best thinking and ideas as they move forward with plans to reinvigorate their programs.

By the way, many thanks to INC for the ongoing Dollar Dictionary Drive. This is a meaningful effort that puts useful resources in the hands of students. I know this takes countless hours of work and organization and on behalf of teachers and students across the district, and we are very grateful.