

Next Meeting Saturday February 12 2005

District 2 Police Station

3921 Holly Street

AGENDA

8:45

Coffee and Chat

9:15

Around the City

9:30

Committee Reports

10:00

Sex Offender
Presentation

11:00

Kevin Patterson
DPS Board Member

Noon

Adjourn

Address Corrections And Subscriptions

Those wishing to be added to
INC's subscription list, or
present recipients who wish
to change e-mail or other
addresses, should contact
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at
athmarpark@ecentral.com

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Education, Sex Offenders are Topics Of February 12 INC Meeting

offenders, as well as the usual INC business and committee reports.

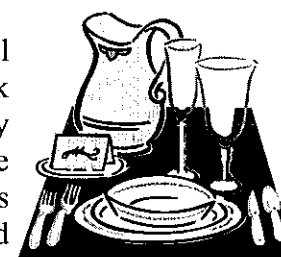
Presidents' Dinner Features Peter Park and INC Awards Presentations

began with a delicious dinner and dessert, served under the sparkling lights of one of the main ballrooms. Following the meal, the following three annual INC awards were presented:

The **Virginia Oredson Award** is given to an individual who has encouraged Denver neighborhoods to work together in a common effort to solve community problems and in particular has supported INC. The winner should have an established record of selfless community service in a number of different causes, and should have encouraged and motivated others to volunteer their services to engage in community improvement efforts.

The February 12, 2005 INC Delegates' Meeting will start at 8:45 a.m. at the District 2 Police Station, 3921 Holly Street. Kevin Patterson, a member of the Denver Public Schools Board of Education, will speak about education issues. There will also be a discussion on sex

About 300 INC members and neighborhood presidents attended the INC Presidents' Dinner on January 26, which was held in the new addition to the Colorado Convention Center. Underwritten by the Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, the evening



The winner of the award was **Jim Zavist**, who could not attend the dinner because he had recently relocated to the St. Louis area. Jim started his community involvement in Denver in the early 1980's, when he was running the Designer Volleyball League. It ultimately ended up with his appointment to

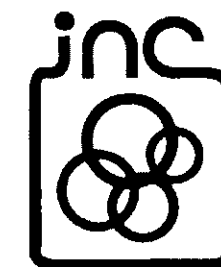
Continued on page 2

In This Issue

Minutes of INC Board Meeting	3
Around the City	4
Minutes of Last INC Meeting	5
DURA Home Repair Program	5
Excise & License Meeting	6
City Park Arts Festival	6
New Jail Needed	7
McDonald's Controversy	8
INC Membership Application	11

**New
Neighborhood
Fundraiser
See Page 6**

The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



February
2005

www.
neighborhoodlink.
com/denver/inc

Denver Neighborhood
Connection

INC Member Neighborhoods (Patrons in Bold)

The names below reflect 2005 dues received by press time. Organizations whose dues were received after that time will be listed in the March *Denver Neighborhood Connection*.

Baker Historical NA

Ballpark NA

Berkeley NA

Bonnie Brae HA

Bow Mar Heights Improvement
Assoc.

Cherry Creek North NA

City Park West NA

Colfax BID

Colfax on the Hill

Congress Park NA

Country Club Historic District

Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 1

Denargo Market NC

East Montclair NA

Globeville United Neighbors Group

Golden Triangle NA

Hampden Heights CA

Hilltop Heritage Assoc

Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA

Inspiration Point NA

Ivy Street NA

Lynwood 7&8 NA

Mayfair Neighbors

Montbello United Neighbors

South City Park NA

South Jackson St. Neighbors

Sun Valley CA

University Hills NA

**University Park Community
Council**

Virginia Vale CA

West Highland NA

Wyman Historic District NA

ASSOCIATES

Carter Ballinger, M.D.

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson

Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann

Councilman Doug Linkhart

Denver Water

Front Range Economic Strategy
Center

Historic Denver, Inc.

Leetsdale COP Shop

Morrison Road Business Association

Presidents' Dinner

Continued from page 1

The Parks Advisory Board where he represented Council District 7 under both Bill Himmelmann and Kathleen MacKenzie. In 1987 Jim moved into the Platt Park neighborhood and in 1988 started his own home based business. He was the editor and president of the West University Community Association, which involved a lot of contact with City agencies and projects, including Board of Adjustment zoning cases, Denver Water's Citizen Advisory Committee, the redevelopment of the Safeway at Downing & Evans, issues with the University of Denver, multiple traffic studies and multiple transit studies (Metro Area Connection, the original RTD light rail line and the southwest and southeast extensions), which led to a 5-year term on the RTD Board.

Jim has served on many City committees and task forces. These have included everything from the last Comprehensive Plan update to issues like cell phone towers, temporary commercial signs, bus bench advertising, the nuisance abatement task force and issues involving the building code.

The **Bill Gross Award** is awarded to a nominee who is employed in the public safety sector of Denver and has a strong record of working with neighborhoods to better public safety in the community. The nominee should have made Denver a safer place in which to live. This year's Bill Gross award was presented to

Continued on page 3

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) 2005 Membership Application

INC is a consortium of Denver neighborhood representatives who believe that neighborhood organizations deserve a greater role in participating in city government, as well as a shared vision that individual neighborhoods are stronger when they work together and learn from one another.

Please visit www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc for more information and a copy of this application.

NOTE: Only delegates of Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) may vote on INC issues. Dues must be paid by March 12, 2005 for delegates to vote in the March election.

Date: _____ My organization would like to join as a(n):

- ☐ Member (voting RNO: \$35)
☐ Member Patron (voting RNO plus contribution: \$75. Patron names appear in **Bold** in our newsletter.)
☐ Associate (non-voting individual or group: \$20)
☐ Associate Patron (non-voting individual/group plus contribution: \$75. Patron names in **Bold** in our newsletter.)

Organization name: _____ Email address: _____

Organization boundaries (if applicable):

North: _____ South: _____

East: _____ West: _____

Organization address: _____ Zip: _____

NOTE: Each organization may list TWO voting delegates, whose names MUST be entered below. The President of the organization is NOT automatically a delegate.

Organization President: _____ ☐ Check here if President is also a delegate

Mailing address: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

INC Delegate #1: _____ **NOTE: If President is a delegate, then he or she is delegate #1. Proceed to Delegate #2**

Mailing address: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

INC Delegate #2: _____

Mailing address: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Please enclose your dues with this form and bring to an INC meeting or mail to:
Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, P.O. Box 181009, Denver, CO 80218



Denver Neighborhood
Connection

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athmarpark@ecentral.com.

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](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc)

McDonald's Development in Dispute



Continued from page 8

To date, the City has succeeded in adding many important design elements such as reduced lighting, no playground area (which is customary with similar developments), masonry screening walls, and masonry rather than cinder-block building construction. Perhaps most significantly, the restaurant would be placed on the Colfax side of the lot with the "drive through" traffic facing Colfax Avenue, not the neighboring properties.

This past November, after further review with the developer, we advocated an additional solution that we felt would benefit all parties by providing access to Colfax Avenue. Not only would this solution reduce the traffic on Krameria and Leyden Streets, which concerns many neighbors, but it can be done without compromising traffic safety or disrupting the proposed McDonalds' operations. We required that the developer provide access to Colfax, and we submitted such a request to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), since it has the authority to grant such a curb cut. Unfortunately, a McDonald's Corporation representative asked CDOT to deny this access point to Colfax. As a result of his effort, CDOT denied the access request to Colfax.

The City still believes that the access point to Colfax will lessen the impact to the neighborhood without seriously affecting the proposed development; therefore, we have asked CDOT to grant a variance to their Access Code and to approve the Colfax access. We are awaiting CDOT's answer.

We appreciate your sharing your concerns with the City. We hope this letter helps your understanding of the City's limited options in this matter.

Sincerely,

Guillermo Vidal
Manager
Public Works

Peter Park

Manager
Community Planning and Development

Cole Finegan
City Attorney

Presidents' Dinner

Continued from page 3

areas looking for graffiti vandalism in progress. The volunteers use cell phones to make direct contact with officers in patrol cars. The officers can then respond immediately to the exact location and effect an arrest. These stings have netted many vandals, and have also resulted in felony arrests.

The **Walt Kembel Award** is named for the former treasurer of INC. The winner must be an INC delegate or member, and should have contributed to INC during the past year over and above normal expectations to develop and promote the organization or should have moved INC forward or in new directions in creative or unexpected ways. This award was presented to **Craig Eley**, who has been a long time INC Board Member. For the past five years, Craig has taken time away from his family and his workers compensation law practice to edit the INC newsletter the *Denver Neighborhood Connection*. Craig has contributed to INC above and beyond normal expectations by continuing to edit the newsletter year after year.

Craig's careful editing has received many compliments from INC members and City Council members as he documents meetings and neighborhood issues. Furthermore, Craig has helped INC transition from a paper based newsletter to a newsletter that is mostly distributed electronically.

Following the award presentations, Peter Park, Denver's Manager of Community Planning and Development, delivered the keynote address. He explained many of the issues surrounding revising Denver's zoning code. Through the use of projected graphics, he demonstrated examples of both good and bad zoning practices. Of particular interest were drawings of decades-old proposed City plans that were not implemented, which would have demolished some buildings which are cherished today.

Minutes of January 10, 2005 INC Board Meeting

By **Diana Helper**
INC Secretary

The INC Board met January 10, 2005 at 6:10 p.m. Present were Elizabeth Hamilton, Dave Webster, Diane Wolta, Diana Helper, Nell Swiers, Karen Cuthbertson, Ken Beaudrie, Anthony Thomas, Michael Henry, Cathie Fisher, Steve Nissen, and Vicki Gritters. The minutes of the December meeting were approved, as was the Treasurer's Report.

Six Flags Elitch Gardens has offered INC a fundraising opportunity (see article on page 6). The Board decided to participate. Diane Wolta will coordinate this for INC.

The Presidents' Dinner was discussed, including nominations for the INC awards to be presented at this event. Board members will notify the nominees in advance. It was suggested that a large Denver map showing all neighborhoods be available at this dinner and at future Delegate meetings.

Future Delegate meetings and programs include the need to reschedule the Strategic Transportation Model topic which did not materialize in January. It is hoped this will be in March. The Board agrees it is important to hear and comment on the City's ideas and aims early in the process. Dave Webster will contact Public Works Manager Bill Vidal.

The Neighborhood Handbook is to be done by March 1. The current draft may be seen on the denvergov.org website, or you may contact Julius Zsako at the planning office, 720-865-2969.

Work on the updating of INC Bylaws continues, Ken Beaudrie reported. We hope to have them ready to publish in the March *Denver Neighborhood Connection*, as part of the "Call to the Annual Meeting" (March 12).

The INC archives will be sorted by Nell Swiers, Cathie Fisher, Karen Cuthbertson and Michael Henry. Elizabeth Hamilton will scan necessary documents electronically. Past INC presidents, who may also have

INC papers to add to the archives, will be contacted.

The Dollar Dictionary Drive (DDD) has funds to print a new brochure, Cathie Fisher reported. There will not be a formal request for Presidents' Dinner guests to contribute to the DDD but Steve Nissen will provide a large jar for donations of change (or larger amounts) that evening.

The INC Zoning and Planning (ZAP) committee meets January 22. We should be sure to attend the meetings that councilpersons have set up on homelessness. INC should set up a special meeting with Excise and License Manager Stephanie O'Malley regarding new regulations on liquor licenses.

Only 15-20 RNOs have paid 2005 dues so far. A reminder letter will be sent to those who have not paid.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Presidents' Dinner

Continued from page 2

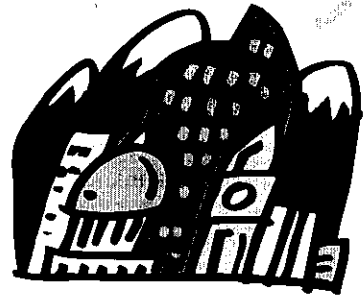
Commander Rudy Sandoval. He uses innovative methods to establish police outreach and community policing in Denver Police District 4.

Commander Sandoval took command of District 4 12 years ago. He strongly believes that effective resolution and prevention of crime is only achieved with the direct involvement of residents and businesses. To garner involvement, he started bi-weekly community meetings shortly after taking command. Any District 4 resident or business person can attend these meetings to report concerns; from ongoing criminal activity to worry about an elderly neighbor. In addition, meeting attendees hear reports of current police activity from patrol officers and Community Resource Officers.

A recurrent reported concern at these meetings was the volume of graffiti and its negative effect on quality of life. "Why can't you catch them?" was a frequent question. Commander Sandoval knows that marked police cruisers are easy for graffiti vandals to spot and elude, so he decided to attack the problem through community policing. Two years ago he started his "Graffiti Sting" program. Neighborhood volunteers pair up and drive their own cars in defined

Continued on page 10

Around the City



Around the City

From January 8, 2005 Meeting

East Montclair -- In December a new president, vice-president and secretary were elected, and the annual Holiday Party was held. Increased traffic is a major neighborhood concern.

Inspiration Point -- Thanks to the *Rocky Mountain News* for the great article regarding GOCO support for the purchase of Camp Rollendet.

Platt Park -- The City surprised the neighborhood by a proposal to house homeless men in the Senior Center at Platt Park during this winter. The neighborhood reacted negatively to the proposal. Nearby New Hope Church then said it would provide the homeless shelter. The City agreed with that offer instead of Platt Park Center.

Stapleton United Neighbors -- Is working on community policy, block captains, and creating a newsletter and logo. It is working with the developer and businesses to attract small non-chain businesses to the Town Center.

University Park -- Is striving to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood character while integrating increasing development due in part to its location between two light rail stations and ever-growing DU. The association's winter meeting will be held on February 2 and will address T-REX, the storm drain project, DU, archives, construction, safety, sidewalks, and the budget.

Washington Park East -- Has three main concerns:

1) Crime increasing, especially burglaries, car break-ins and theft, speeding with resulting accidents. In response, it has established a Crime Prevention Committee headed by Joanne Asher; 2) Potential TCE/PCE contamination from Focal Dry Cleaners. EPA's Diane Sanelli contacted the neighborhood about groundwater and soil vapor testing starting in January. Per a fact sheet, at least one home tested with "slightly higher levels" than acceptable; 3) Outdoor Seating Exception is a matter about which Jim Jones of West Washington Park contacted the association. The neighborhood needs to educate itself about the impact that outdoor seating at local cafes, etc., has on the quality of life and property value issues, so that it may be proactive on this topic.

West Washington Park -- It remains concerned that further exploration needs to continue regarding soil and groundwater contamination from the Gates property east of Broadway.

Whittier -- This year it is working on redevelopment along Downing and will continue to support a growing cadre of mentors at Manual High School. The school continues to need mentors from around the City. Those in the program from the neighborhood are reaping personal rewards and none of the students being mentored has dropped out of school. Freshman and sophomore years are the most critical.

Front Range Economic Strategy Center (FRESC) -- Is working on issues of industrial contamination associated with the Gates Rubber Factory brownfield. The group has succeeded in getting the state to strengthen the standards for testing and remediation of TCE. FRESC is now working to improve the process of public participation and oversight for voluntary clean-up of contaminated sites. It is also working on the issue of Tax Increment Financing (TIF), public subsidies to promote private development projects. It has published Part I of a 3-part study that details the current budget costs and hidden service costs associated with TIF.

Morrison Road Business Association -- The vacant building at the corner of Alameda Avenue and Morrison Road has been sold and will be a Mercado Supermarket and some smaller stores inside, hoping to open in March. Graffiti and crime are still a concern in the area.

Citizens Advisory Committee Works with Denver Water Board

**By Roberta Simonton
Vice Chair
Denver Water Board
Citizen's Advisory Committee**

The Denver Water Board Citizens Advisory Committee is charged with representing public interests to Denver Water Board proposals. The CAC exists as a result of the Foothills Agreement. In the late 1970s, Denver Water found itself in need of a new treatment plant and operating reservoir. Public concern over growth issues and potential environmental impact in the canyon where the reservoir was to be built led to the Foothills Agreement -- a pact between Denver Water, federal agencies, elected officials and the environmental community. Among other things, terms of the 1978 agreement required the formation of a citizen group charged with representing public interests.

Scope of Work and Role of the CAC

The Denver Board of Water Commissioners recognizes that there is a need for full and timely public participation in the decision making process of the Board on important Board decisions. To insure that participation, it has created a Citizens Advisory Committee with a substantial degree of independence. The CAC assists in and facilitates public review and discussion of Board plans. The CAC serves as a source of advice for the Board in planning for issues of interest. The standing committee provides guidance to the Board as to public concerns and as needed assist in the facilitation of public review and discussion of Board plans.

Areas of interest:

RATES...water budgets?...Denver as a low cost provider?...use more pay less?...rates as a conservation tool?... interesting, difficult conversations occurring

now. Boulder just passed a new rate plan which took two years of focused work to develop.

CONSERVATION is an ongoing practice, not the temporary practices during a drought. Should we provide everyone what they want, is unlimited water a right of citizens?...should Denver Water require behaviors?...what can a municipality do within its own behavior and its ordinances?...is a water budget the answer?...is pricing the answer? part of the answer? Will we ever be able to justify more storage capacity if we are not doing a reasonable job of conservation? Conservation has been an ongoing topic for years, however it has taken the recent drought to cause the topic to reach a turning point, elevating the discussion toward the top of the list.

DROUGHT-is this a normal expected cycle or do we want to pay the cost, price and environmental, of additional storage?...Are surcharges a valid strategy?... Is it okay for those with money to "pay" their way to all the water they want? If there is a lot of rain and snow in Denver does that mean we are now okay? Is growth the real issue? Why do the water bills go up when we are using less?...is this a trick to collect more money? Drought may or may not be behind us in 2005 but the impact will reach decades ahead.

WHO ARE THE CAC MEMBERS?

The CAC has nine members, each approved by the Board of Water Commissioners. Three members represent Denver citizens. Membership also includes one from each of the following diverse areas: Suburban Customer, Western Slope, Environmental Community, Public Interest Group, Home Builders' Association, and Suburban Distributor. For biographical information on the current members go to denverwater.org to the membership section of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Those seeking further information may contact Roberta Simonton at 303-777-6246.



Denver Neighborhood Connection Article Deadline

is the 18th of each month. Submit articles by e-mail to craig@eley.net.

CPD Manager's Response to Concerns Over Neighborhood Inspection Services

Peter Park wrote the following letter to those who wrote to him in December concerning Neighborhood Inspection Services.

Dear Neighbor:

You are among the signers of two letters we received in December concerning the role of code enforcement in our neighborhoods. We agree that a working group should be formed to address this important issue.

The group should consist of twelve members. A representative of the City Attorney has been invited to join the working group, as many issues are legal in nature. Neighborhood Inspection Services will be represented as well. Our meetings will be open to the public and all are welcome to observe.

We propose meeting monthly on the 3rd Thursday evening of February, March and April. In May we should finalize our examination and move forward with implementing our recommendations. We may then reconvene in December to check the status of our action items. Our first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17th in the 4th floor conference room 4 G 4 of the Webb Municipal Building from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

We will devote our first meeting to discussing the concerns raised in your December letter suggesting that the focus of our committee have three aspects related to code enforcement. They are:

1. The potential updating of the ordinances.
2. Enhancing responsiveness and tracking the status of complaints.
3. The effectiveness of the legal process.

We ask those of you who are interested in participating and can commit to attending the sessions to alert us of your desire to serve on the committee by February 1st. We are also contacting those persons who voiced an interest in being involved while attending our December 16th Neighborhood Inspection Services forum. We will then select six citizens to represent the

diverse neighborhoods of Denver to serve on the working group along with staff from CPD and the City Attorney's Office.

If you are interested in joining the working group, or if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call on Julius Zsako at 720-865-2969. We greatly appreciate your suggestions and concerns. Thank you and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Park, AICP
Community Planning and Development Manager

City Addresses Citizen Concerns About McDonald's



The following letter was circulated to residents by Peter Park, Bill Vidal and Cole Finegan concerning the proposed development at East Colfax and Krameria.

Dear Citizen:

Mayor Hickenlooper received your petition opposing the location of a McDonald's restaurant at the northeast corner of Colfax Avenue and Krameria Street. On behalf of Mayor Hickenlooper, we are responding individually to each petitioner. We want to explain the City's limited legal options in this matter and to summarize the work that we have done in the process of site plan review.

The use of the site, as proposed by the property owner, is allowed by the existing zoning of this property. By law, therefore, the City cannot prevent the proposed use on the property. The law only permits the City to try to mitigate the effects of such a use through the site plan review process. This can be an effective tool for neighborhoods, since the site plan review process is designed to minimize adverse impacts upon adjacent properties as well as to encourage high quality site design. Although Blueprint Denver specifies the site of the proposed McDonald's to be included as part of a larger "Town Center," Blueprint Denver does not prohibit drive-through developments within a "Town Center."

Continued on page 10

Minutes of January 8, 2005 Delegates' Meeting

*By Diana Helper
INC Secretary*

INC Delegates met January 8, 2005 at the Gateway Recreation Center. INC Vice-president Dave Webster called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. There was an extensive "Around the City" portion which included 34 reports. Bill Johnston of Highlands spoke of adding indemnification information to an RNO's bylaws. Perhaps INC can develop a packet of legal information for the use of RNOs. Billie Bramhall spoke of Golden Triangle's development of design guidelines to assist in evaluating that RNO's response to the City's Justice Center proposal. A brief presentation on Denver Digs Trees encouraged all to spread the word.

Guest speaker Julius Zsako, from Community Planning and Development, talked about improvements to be made in Neighborhood Inspection Services (NIS). There was then a Q & A period covering building construction quality, education to improve prompt residential snow-shoveling, how to contact NIS on weekends and holidays (suggest it have a 24-hour answering service for messages), need for material stating answers to commonly asked questions (e.g. what are the regulations for house residential capacity), and other concerns.

Zsako then addressed the amendments proposed for the City's RNO Ordinance. After discussion, the INC delegates voted, with one abstention, none opposed, to support the proposal.

Kevin Patterson of the Denver Public Schools (DPS) Board of Education spoke with regard to the tragic death at Montbello High School earlier that week, and measures DPS continues to take to make schools safe.

Dave Webster reported that a draft of the City's Infrastructure Task Force report has been issued, to prioritize regulation and maintenance of City assets such as parks, lights and streets in a 15-20 year plan. He will report more fully at a later meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Denver Urban Renewal Offers Home Improvement Programs

As cold spells and snow sweep through Denver this winter and many homeowners find themselves in need of repairing their homes to get through the remaining cold months ahead, two programs administered by the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) could provide low-interest home improvement loans for eligible homeowners in the City and County of Denver.

One is the Single Family Rehabilitation Program, which provides loans for renovation and rehabilitation of major systems within a residence, such as roofing, heating, electrical, plumbing, insulation, gutters, steps, windows and doors.

Qualified applicants, who must own and occupy the home, can obtain up to \$25,000 in low-interest loans. Two types of loans are available, with eligibility depending on the individual's income. One is a "pay back" loan at a one percent interest rate, and the other is a deferred loan on which no payments are required, with the loan due only if the homeowner dies, sells the home, or ceases to occupy the property.

A second program, the Emergency Home Repair Program, provides low-interest deferred loans or grants to correct emergency situations such as a sewer system failure, mechanical or electrical problems that pose a danger to residents, furnaces that are inoperable or are a hazard to occupants and leaking roofs that threaten habitability of the structure and inoperative hot water heaters.

The Emergency Home Repair Program is for emergencies that would require homeowners to vacate their homes if left unattended, not general maintenance. Eligible homeowners can obtain up to \$3,000 for an emergency repair.

Both programs are designed to assist low-income homeowners. For more information, call 303-534-3872. Spanish-speaking assistance is available.

City Park Arts Festival Slated for May 21, 2005

The City Park West Neighborhood Association has scheduled the 5th Annual City Park Festival of the Arts for Saturday, May 21, 2005 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the City Park Pavilion.

The 2004 Festival welcomed between 10,000 and 15,000 guests, 100 booths, four stages, \$5 meals, free soft drinks and a full time children's area.

Artists and crafters, whether professional or amateur, who create their own work and live in Denver are invited to exhibit at the 2005 Festival. Cost for booth space is \$60 (returning artists receive a \$10 discount).

The Festival will also be accepting a limited number of businesses from the City Park area. Locally-owned businesses in north east Denver are invited to participate at a cost of \$100.

Booth space for non-profit, community service or youth education programs is available for those programs that directly enrich the community. The only requirement is a non-refundable \$10 deposit.

The Festival is also seeking a few new acts to add to

Excise & Licenses Schedules Citizens' Meeting Feb. 22

The Director of the Department of Excise and Licenses, Stephanie O'Malley, will meet with INC members and other neighborhood representatives to explain the recommendations being made by a citizens' task force that she established several months ago and to hear neighborhood comments about those recommendations.

All neighborhood representatives are welcome: Tuesday February 22 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Ramada Hotel at 1150 East Colfax (between Downing and Marion).

the event. Last year featured 47 sets of music, dance, martial arts, spoken word and comedy, walk-around and children entertainment.

A maximum of 125 booth spaces are available, and space will be determined by the date of reservation, so those seeking to participate should lock in their spaces as soon as possible. Applications are available online at www.cityparkfestival.org or by calling Paul Weiss at 720-205-6506.

Elitch Fundraiser Available for Neighborhoods



By Diane Wolta
INC Treasurer

Get your neighbors revved up to purchase tickets for a special park preview day! Tickets are just \$19.99 (regular price this year will be \$37.99 for everyone over 3 years of age) -- that's an \$18 savings. It's a great way for the grandparents to spend a day with the grandkids. The date is Sunday, April 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This is a fundraiser for INC and it will find a way to get your association a few dollars too even though INC only make \$5 per ticket sold -- so let's sell LOTS!

Put the discounted ticket price and the savings of \$18 per ticket in your neighborhood newsletters, on websites, at your kids' schools, at work, sell them at your councilperson's office, and any other place you can think of. Your neighborhood needs to collect the \$19.99 per ticket up front and then send or bring a check to INC treasurer Diane Wolta at an INC meeting by April 13th, and you will get the tickets to distribute to your buyers. It's very simple, and should create value added for your neighborhood association and as well as lots of good will.

For more information, contact Diane Wolta, 303-759-4089; dewol99@hotmail.com.

Mail checks to:

Diane Wolta
INC
PO Box 181009
Denver CO 80218

Denver's Justice System Needs Overhaul

By James E. Meija
Denver Mayor's Office

Since 1991, Denver's courts and jails have been overcrowded. Both our City Jail (also known as the Pre-Arrest Detention Facility) and the County Jail at Smith Road are overcapacity by approximately 130%. In overcrowded conditions, the already challenging job of the Sheriff's Department in maintaining order is made that much more difficult. New facilities are necessary to ensure deputy and inmate safety.

Denver's courts are also currently stretched beyond capacity. According to standards established by the National Center for State Courts, the City's courts are undersized by 140%. In addition, unsafe conditions are created with the mixing of inmates, witnesses, victims, jurors and innocent bystanders all walking within feet of each other in the public hallways of the City and County Building. In 2004, deputies responded to 35 incidents of inmate violence within the building - all of which created disruption of work.

Upon taking office and observing unsafe conditions, Mayor Hickenlooper called for an objective analysis of the overcrowding in the justice system. The Urban Land Institute (ULI), comprised of subject matter experts from across the country, performed such an analysis, concluding that new buildings should be constructed to accommodate more jail beds and additional courtrooms. ULI recommended that the Rocky Mountain News site downtown be used as well as the block west. Its proposed solution would accommodate the return of civil courts to the City and County Building from space they are currently leasing in the Adam's Mark Hotel.

The Proposal

Upon receiving the ULI's summary, Mayor

Hickenlooper formed the Justice Center Task Force, made up of 50 Denver citizens charged with recommending a financing scenario, programming, and design and construction guidelines for new buildings. The work of the Task Force has concluded and Mayor Hickenlooper is evaluating its recommendations to determine a final program for a new justice center. The Mayor's solution looks to efficiently and effectively process inmates through the court system, to house inmates in a humane fashion, and create the safest possible conditions in the jail and court system for City employees and inmates.

Alternatives to Sentencing

Along with building a new justice center, alternatives to sentencing and diversion programs are important initiatives. Thinking proactively about reducing recidivism rates creates cost savings. Lowering the number of potential inmates allows a facility that is built today to last much farther into the future. Mayor

Hickenlooper is committed to funding alternatives to sentencing and diversionary programs as a holistic approach to solving Denver's current justice system problems.

How to Finance the Project

Using general obligation bonds to finance the project allows the City to structure the debt so that there is no tax increase. Furthermore, the structure allows for future general obligation debt to be issued while still remaining at the current tax rate. The structure calls for the debt to be issued in three different series, coinciding with the construction timeline, so that funds will become available as they are needed.

I'll Take That As a "Yes."

When the City sends an RNO notification of something proposed, or which otherwise might elicit the RNO's comment, approval or opposition, and the RNO does not respond at all, the City takes the lack of response as approval. Therefore, if your neighborhood has any reservations about being shown as agreeing -- such as "we don't know enough about this to make a statement," "we are neutral" or "we have not had time to poll our membership regarding this topic" -- you should indicate this in a reply.