There is still time (January 8th)

One of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation's most enjoyable tasks is to acknowledge those individuals who have been endorsed, by an organization or individual, as worthy of an award because of the outstanding efforts those individuals have put forth to help Denver neighborhoods. Nominations are now open. These awards are presented at the annual INC Presidents and Delegates Dinner. There are four main awards named for some of INC's finest leaders, all now deceased.

One is the **Virginia Oredson Award**. Virginia was the secretary of INC for several years in the 1980s and was very active with the Montclair Civic Association. She was a gentle lady with firm ideas about protecting her neighborhood from crime and problem bars as well as encouraging neighborhoods to work together through INC. The Virginia Oredson Award is given to a person who:

- has encouraged Denver neighborhoods or citizens to work together in a common effort to solve community problems
- ♦ has established a record of selfless community service and has motivated others to volunteer their services to engage in community improvement

Another INC award is the **Bill Gross Award**. Bill was the chair of INC in the early 1990s, was very active as president of the Whittier Neighborhood Association, and was an organizer of the Northeast Denver Congress. His particular passion was building partnerships between neighborhood groups and the Denver police to improve neighborhood safety. The Bill Gross Award is given to a person who:

- has a strong record of working with neighborhoods to better public safety in the community
- has made Denver a safer place in which to live

Another INC award is the **Walt Kembel Award**. Walt was the treasurer of INC in the late 1990s and was active in the Cherry Creek North neighborhood where he constantly and vocally tried to maintain the neighborhood character of smaller, modest homes in the North Cherry Creek area. The Walt Kembel Award is given to a person or group who:

- is an INC delegate or a member of a member RNO
- has contributed to INC during the past year over and above normal expectations to develop and promote the organization or has moved INC forward or in new directions in creative or unexpected ways

Another INC award is the **Nancy Jackson Award**. This award is given to a person who has made an outstanding or innovative contribution to the Dollar Dictionary Drive. The contribution can be financial, personal time, public relations, fundraising, et cetera.

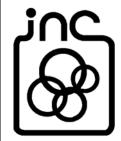
Another category of awards are the "Neighborhood Stars" Denver Good Neighbor Awards. Neighborhood Stars are nominated by the Board of an INC-member RNO or by

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an INC Associate Member. Neighborhood Stars do not need to belong to any RNO. A Star can be the person on the block who shovels walks for elderly neighbors, or who tutors at the local middle school, or cleans up graffiti, et cetera. A Neighborhood Star is awarded to a person who has:

- worked individually or with a group to make "Denver a Better Place to Live"
- worked individually or with a group over the past year on a cause or a project that has improved the appearance or the quality of life in their neighborhood

Send to: AthmarAtLarge@ecentral.com.



January 2011

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www. neighborhoodlink. com/INC/home

Connection Connection

INC Member and Associate Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Member Organizations

ABC Streets Assn Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn Baker Historic Neighborhood Assn

Ball Park Neighborhood Assn

Belcaro Park Homeowners Assn Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn Berkeley-Regis United Neighbors Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Assn

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods Inc

Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Assn

Cherry Hills Vista Community Assn.
Cherry Point Homeowners Assn
Civic Association of Clayton
Colfax on the Hill, Inc
College View Neighborhood Assn
Congress Park Neighbors
Cook Park Neighborhood Assn

Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Assn

Cranmer Park Hilltop Civic Assn

Crestmoor Park Homeowners Assn 2nd filing

Crestmoor Park Homeowners Inc Filing One

Cultural Arts Residential Org (CARO)

Curtis Park Neighbors

East Montclair Neighborhood
Assn

Elyria Neighborhood Assn Elyria Swansea/Globeville Business Assn

Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc George Washington Homeowner's Assn. Inc.

Globeville Civic Assn #1
Golden Triangle Assn. of Denver
Golden Triangle Museum District
Greater Mar-Lee Community Org

Greater Park Hill Community, Inc.

Green Valley Ranch Citizen's
Advisory Board
Hampden Heights Civic Assn
Harkness Heights Neighborhood
Assn

Highland United Neighbors Inc. Hilltop Heritage Assn LLC Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc.

Humboldt Street Neighborhood Assn Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA Inspiration Point Neighborhood Assn Ivy Street Neighbors Assn Lighthouse at the Breakers Homeowners Assn

Lower Downtown Neighborhood Assn (LoDoNA)

Lowry Community Master Assn Lowry United Neighborhoods

Master Homeowner Assn for Green Valley Ranch

Mayfair Neighbors, Inc

Mayfair Park Neighborhood Assn Montbello 20-20

Morrison Road Business Association of Denver

Neighbors and Friends for Cheesman Park

North City Park Civic Assn Northwest Ouadrant Assn

Overland Park Neighborhood Assn

Park Forest Homeowner's Assn Platt Park Peoples Assn Rangeview Neighborhood Assn Rosedale Harvard Gulch N.A. Ruby Hill Neighborhood Assn RHINO

Sloan's Lake Neighborhood Assn South City Park Neighborhood Assn South Hilltop Neighborhood Assn

Southmoor Park East Homeowners Assn

Southmoor Park Homeowners Assn Southwest Improvement Council -SWIC

Stapleton Master Community Assn

Stapleton United Neighbors Stokes Place Green Bowers HOA Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc The Unsinkables

University Hills Neighborhood Assn

University Park Community Council

Upper Downtown Development Org

Villa Park Neighborhood Assn Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn Warrens University Community Council

Washington Park East Neighborhood Assn

West Highland Neighborhood Assn West University Community Assn (WUCA)

West Washington Park Neighborhood Assn

Whittier Neighborhood Assn

Associates

Bernie Jones PhD

Bill Johnston

►Bonna Gayhart

Brad & Christine Klafehn

Cathee Fisher

Clerk & Recorder Stephanie Y. O'Malley

Councilman Doug Linkhart

Councilman Paul Lopez

Councilwoman Carla Madison

Councilwoman Carol Boigon Councilwoman Jeanne Robb

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson,

Council President

Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann

Dennis Gallagher, Auditor

Denver Health Medical Center

Denver Mayor's Office

Denver Public Schools

Denver Water

Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc.

DECC.

FRESC

Gertie Grant

League of Women Voters of Denver

Leetsdale COP Shop

LoDo District Inc.

- ► Nathan C. Briley
- Rosy Griffiths

Sandra D. Shreve

Stephen Griffin

Vicki Gritters

2011 members indicated by

January 2011

Executive Committee Recap By Larry Ambrose

The Executive Committee (EC) was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on December 13th at 1201 Williams Street by Chair Steve Nissen. Other EC members present were Larry Ambrose, Karen Cuthbertson, George Mayl, and Brad Zeig. Also present were Membership and Newsletter Chair, Ken Beaudrie; Parks and Recreation Committee Cochair, Katie Fisher; Public Safety Committee Co-chairs, Anthony Thomas and Merce Lea; ZAP Committee Chair, Michael Henry; and INC Parks and Recreation Committee members Cathy Donohue, Jay Rust, Kathleen Rust, and Kathleen Wells.

Anthony Thomas asked that confidential information that is so designated not be published in the EC minutes and that all committee chairs should be should be provided drafts of the newsletter. Larry Ambrose moved and George Mayl seconded that the Minutes of the November meeting be approved; the motion passed by acclamation.

George Mayl moved that the October Treasurer's Report be approved; Larry Ambrose seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation. Brad Zeig moved and George Mayl seconded that the November Treasurer's Report be approved; the motion was approved by acclamation Committee Reports:

Steve reported that the Dollar Dictionary Drive has received \$23,000 income, has had \$14,700 in expenses, and has raised \$7.000 so far this year for next year's program. Brad asked that a separate yearend DDD report be presented to the EC. Discussion ensued as to whether he meant that there should be a fiscal yearend report (April 1 to March 31) or a calendar yearend report. Ultimately, Brad decided he would be satisfied with at fiscal yearend report.

Billie Bramhall sent Steve notification that the Education Committee would be having a special meeting on December 15th at 2 p.m. regarding making Byers a second Science and Technology School within the DPS District. She will be inviting persons who have been suggested to her as potential Education Committee members.

Larry and Katie introduced the INC Parks and Recreation Committee's "Platform for Urban Parks." Larry and Katie introduced the four other Committee members who were present, Jay and Kathleen Rust and Cathy Donohue from Cheesman Park West and Kathleen Wells from CHUN. Kathleen Wells explained that the Platform is intended to define parks in such a way as to help resolve conflicts between citizens and the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. The Committee believes that the primary and historical purpose of Denver parks was to provide a place of beauty, nature, and retreat from the urban environment. Kathleen Rust explained that the Platform also calls for doubling the acreage of urban land devoted to parkland

in the City over the next ten years. Brad, who was concerned where this land was going, pointed out that the whole City had been rezoned recently and asked where the City would get the land for parks. Ken said there is State land available and Kathleen Rust pointed out that the document is stating a goal and that getting the land could be worked out over time. Michael asked that the amount of parkland that exists now be put in the document. Karen and Ken disagreed with the concept that nature and beauty should be the primary purpose of parks. Jay stated that what needed to be recognized was that, because the likelihood of tremendous population growth, parks should not have to be everything to everyone and that a primary purpose does not exclude other purposes or uses. Kathleen Wells agreed to take into account the concerns of the Executive Committee and revise the Platform and submit back to Executive Committee in the next week. Larry moved and Brad seconded that the Platform be considered an "exceptional item" under the Bylaws and that it be sent to members of the EC for consideration and a vote to publish it in the newsletter and forward it on to the Delegation for consideration at the January 8th meeting. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Ken reported that there are 84 member RNOs, 17 of which are patrons, and 29 Associates, 10 of which are patrons.

Karen made a report on the Presidents Dinner. She explained two kinds of invitations will be sent out, one to those whose dinner will be complimentary and the other to those who will be asked to pay. EC members were asked to think about potential business sponsors and contributors to the silent auction. Volunteers are also needed from the membership to help with the dinner.

Anthony and Merce reported they are putting out feelers for people to join the Public Safety Committee as they visit cop shops around the City.

The Transportation Committee is planning to have a meeting on several transportation issues.

Michael announced that ZAP would be talking about medical marijuana at its meeting on December 18th. He said ZAP was not as far along on its platform as the INC Parks and Recreation Committee

Old Business

Progress on the INC website has stalled temporarily. Michael Smilanic, who is an art designer for Mad Lab, an officer of SLNA and Parks Are for People, has agreed to donate some time to update and train people to update a dynamic style website. Mad Lab would like to have the opportunity to submit another bid. Steve asked Larry and Brad to work with William to keep the process moving forward.

Work continues on the new INC Brochure and the Neighborhood Handbook.

New Business

A vacancy on the EC exists with the resignation of Eugene Howard. Steve nominated Cathy Donohue to fill the vacant seat. The EC voted unanimously to forward her nomination to the Delegation for approval in January.

Michael announced Planning for the Channel 8/INC/ League of Women Voters of Denver Candidate Forums is ongoing. Ideas for locations, yet to be chosen, are being entertained.

The future of the Mayor's Neighborhood Conference was discussed. Because who will be Mayor is likely unknown until May, it is also unknown as to whether a conference will be planned for 2011. Larry pointed out that if there were enough interest and someone willing to spearhead the program, it would be better for INC to take the initiative and run it from the neighborhood perspective.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Zoning and Planning NotesBy Diana Helper

The INC ZAP (Zoning and Planning) Committee met on December 18th with nearly 30 in attendance. There was a brief discussion regarding notification problems from City departments to neighborhood organizations. Members were urged to check City websites and to ask RNO contact persons to forward City Council schedules and agenda when they are received each week. Many problems have been encountered, particularly with excise and license notification.

City Council President Chris Nevitt spoke about the historic-landmarked, former Byers Junior High School building at 150 South Pearl Street in West Washington Park. Denver Public Schools (DPS) wishes to sell this vacant building but neighbors and others wish to have a DPS Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) there. After lengthy discussion, the ZAP committee voted to support this request to DPS (which was also supported by the INC Education Committee) and to send a motion to the INC Delegation at its January 8th meeting; see the motion elsewhere on this page. The INC Education Committee is working on this matter and requests more committee members. Please contact INC Education Committee Chair Billie Bramhall at bramhall1@msn.com if you are interested in joining the Education Committee or if you can recommend other members.

Assistant City Attorney Kerry Bucky spoke about medical marijuana centers, grow facilities, and manufacturing facilities. A draft of a City Council bill is in progress and will get to Council in February. By July 1st, all present medical marijuana retail licenses must be renewed so it is important to clear up many questions to coordinate with federal and state law and to the new zoning code's rezoning of some present dispensary sites (now to be known as centers). With one abstention, ZAP members voted to

recommend the motion on this page: (1) Repeat INC's earlier request for notification to RNOs regarding application for medical marijuana centers, (2) Support addition of medical marijuana concerns to the public nuisance abatement section of the municipal code, and (3) Create stronger buffers between grow facilities and residential neighborhoods and between each other. A second motion, to require that only centers that meet the current spacing district rules be allowed to receive licenses after July 1st was defeated

Other Topics-- After discussion, it was agreed to advise the Public Nuisance Abatement office in the Police Department that it appears RNOs are receiving information on only about half of the properties being designated as public nuisances. In Curtis Park, a concern about new zoning rules for business patio size and hours should be addressed. The Strategic Parking Plan was suggested as a topic for discussion in January. City and federal cooperation are creating an improved triangle along Speer Boulevard at the Cesar Chavez building. An intergovernmental agreement is being worked out for the Cherry Creek North Fillmore Plaza project. Hearings will be held by the Landmark Preservation Commission on December 21st on preservation of the Bosler House and Denver's Hose Company No. 1; both are landmarked structures with demolition applications.

There was discussion about the Community Coordinating Metropolitan District (CCMD) and the related Denver Parks and Recreation Department's (DPR) plan to turn over "stewardship" of a problem park (Triangle Park in the Ballpark Neighborhood) to the religious, non-profit Denver Rescue Mission. Many concerns were raised including the complete lack of information provided to INC about CCMD and DPR meetings on this civic project and several others, although two INC members were on the task force, as was DPR's liaison with INC's Parks and Recreation Committee. They were told not to talk about this matter because this public property concern was in mediation -apparently right up to the Council vote. City Council passed the CCMD bill on December 6th.

The next ZAP meeting is January 22, 2011.

ZAP MotionBy ZAP and Education Cmtes

On December 18th the INC Zoning and Planning Committee passed the following two motions to be considered by the INC Delegation on January 8th. Delegates should come to the meeting prepared to vote.

Motion 1: Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) supports the reuse of the vacant Byers School building at 150 South Pearl Street, a designated Denver landmark structure, as a charter Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) for grades 6 through 12 with the following provisions:

(Note that this motion was also passed by the INC Education Committee)

- The reuse of the school building, and any other school building, should be considered openly and transparently with community participation. The proposed reuse is supported by parents and the community at large.
- A DSST campus at Byers would make this fine opportunity more available to a geographic area not close to another DSST.
- Planning for a grade 6 through 12 DSST at Byers should consider enrollment and programs at existing middle schools, particularly Grant and Cory-Merrill.
- DPS should seek partnership funding for the rehabilitation of the Byers building. Funding was widely supported and promised in the 2003 bond issue but was diverted by DPS for other purposes without transparency in the process.

Motion 2: Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation should communicate the following to City Council regarding the proposed medical marijuana ordinance that will be considered in February 2011:

- Repeat INC's earlier request for notification to Registered Neighborhood Organizations regarding applications for medical marijuana center licenses;
- Support the addition of unlicensed locations that unlawfully distribute medical marijuana to the public nuisance abatement section of the municipal code; and
- Create stronger buffers between grow facilities and residential neighborhoods and between each other.

Parks Platform By INC Parks and Recreation Cmte

(Editor's note: The following has been edited to fit the format and punctuation style of the newsletter. The document to be submitted, if approved, will be as constructed by the Parks and Recreation Committee.)

The following platform was been approved and submitted to the Executive Committee by the INC Parks and Recreation Committee for consideration by the Delegation. By a vote of seven in favor and none opposed, the Executive Committee has authorized its publication in this newsletter and recommended it for approval at the January 8th meeting of the Delegation

INTRODUCTION

The following document, *Platform for Denver's Urban Parks*, was created and supported by the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) Parks and Recreation Committee. The purpose of the platform is to provide a proactive and positive framework in which citizens of the City of Denver may discuss public policy pertaining to the size, function, location, and purposes of urban parks with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, elected officials, and other residents.

Over the past several years, INC has taken positions in reference to the following Denver Department of Parks and Recreation proposals: Admission Based Events, U.S. Open Air Cinema, Park Zoning, Dog Park Master Plans, and advertising in the Parks. Opposition to aspects of these proposals and presentation of constructive alternatives reflect INC's concerns over the commercialization of urban parks, the limitation on the use of urban parks by the public, and a perceived erosion of support for the principle that urban parks should provide opportunities for equal access by all citizens to the experience of nature.

This platform is an extension of prior positions taken by INC. It is an effort to move the public policy discussions toward broad solutions to the conflicts that have emerged over the use of urban parks.

The platform is based on four broad assumptions:

- 1. There is a need to preserve open green space and citizens' opportunities to experience nature through free and open access to parks;
- 2. There is a need to implement a community-based process for the development of park policy;
- 3. There is a need to significantly increase the amount of parkland within the City; and
- 4. There is a need to have sustained and dedicated revenue sources for parks.

In this way, park policy will be anchored in Denver's historic commitment to providing access to open green space for its citizens and oriented toward the future development of urban parks in the 21st century.

PLATFORM FOR DENVER'S URBAN PARKS

The Historical Perspective

Denver has a proud tradition of being one of the few cities in the United States to exemplify the best features of the City Beautiful Movement that began in the early part of the past century. The community leaders of this movement in Denver, including prominent elected City officials, were central to the creation of the City's public parks and parkways; they advanced their purpose as to provide beauty, to promote mingling of people from all socio-economic backgrounds, and to endorse the principle of equality by allowing all citizens access to free open space.

Evaluation of the City's park system, one hundred years after its creation, shows the wisdom of the original plan. The 2010 report of the Trust for Public Land documents the economic value of Denver's parks in relation to public use, health, community cohesion, clean air, clean water, property values, and tourism. The Trust calculates the total annual economic value of the Denver park system to be over \$48,000,000.

The Contemporary Parks Controversy

Despite the demonstrated economic value of the park system to the community, Denver's urban parks have become a source of contention over the past several years. Denver's Mayor and his appointee, the Department of Parks

and Recreation Manager, have been in conflict with segments of the public over the primary experiences that should be available in parks and how multiple uses of parks should be managed. For example, there has been a public outcry over the proposed (but never implemented) 2007 plan to enclose a large portion of Denver's City Park for a three-day rock music festival; the number, type, and placement of dog parks; and the use of parks for admission-based events.

On this latter point, neighborhood groups have adopted formal written statements objecting to this policy. These groups include neighborhood associations, groups representing parks, and organizations representing multiple neighborhood organizations such as the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, a group comprised of 85 registered neighborhood associations.

The Department of Parks and Recreation "Game Plan" Denver's master plan for its parks, The Game Plan, sets forth the following four principles to guide their maintenance and development: sustainability, equity, engagement, and sound economics, with sustainability of parkland being the most important of these. Because the plan lacks sufficient detail regarding implementation of these principles, the plan has contributed to public controversies such as those noted above.

This debate will continue until the following occurs: 1) there is clarity of purpose as to the foundational purpose of Denver's parks; 2) there is a significant increase in the acreage of urban parkland, and 3) there is a set of criteria for evaluation of whether or not a proposed use of a given park is appropriate. This Platform addresses these issues.

THE WAY FORWARD

Open Green Space Protected

While parks serve a variety of purposes including providing citizens recreational opportunities, for example, to play games, ride bikes, and take walks, urban parks should not be considered as sites for every activity that requires open land. Within the context of a growing population, a limited amount of urban parkland, and an increasing pressure to use parkland to raise revenue for the City, it is critical that the historic purpose of urban parks be protected: providing all citizens free access to open green space, trees, lakes, and gardens.

Protecting this purpose must be the cornerstone of public policy for Denver's urban parks. This assertion does not undermine the importance of recreation. It does serve to anchor Denver's urban park policy in its historic purpose--to provide all citizens access to the experience of nature—an experience that cannot be fulfilled by any other public space in the urban environment.

Urban Parkland Needed

Conflicts over how this experience may be protected within the context of other recreational uses of parks such as providing playgrounds, recreation centers, or fields on which to play team sports requires that additional land in the City be converted to parkland.

There is a lack of adequate urban parkland for the size, density, and expected growth of Denver's population. For example, the city had 555,000 residents in 2000 and is projected to grow to 700,000 2020. When the amount of urban parkland in Denver - 6,286 acres - is compared with the amount in a city with a comparable population and level of density such as Portland, Oregon, Denver lags far behind. Denver has 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 people compared to Portland's 25 acres per 1,000 people. Denver has fewer acres of urban parkland than half the other 28 intermediate-low-density big cities in the country that were studied recently by the Trust for Public Land.

In addition, Denver's relatively young and outdoororiented population requires more green space than we have currently.

As a result, a sustained effort to double the amount of urban land devoted to parkland in the City over the next ten years is warranted. Despite the fact that Denver is land-locked, multiple opportunities for expansion exist in relation to development of parkland including remediated industrial sites along the Platte River.

Community-based Park Policy Required

How multiple uses of parks should be balanced is a matter of public policy. Nonetheless, any use of parks other than the uses that are easily compatible with preservation of nature (and of historic structures within parks) such as walking, biking, and playing informal games and with sustaining parkland, should be tested against the following principles:

- The proposed use does not inhibit the primary and or established uses of the park;
- The proposed use is respectful of the neighborhoods surrounding the park;
- The proposed site has adequate space for the proposed use;

Data Corrections

Keep INC informed of changes in your organization's president and delegates. Notify the membership chair at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net.

Organizations and persons not affiliated with INC should also communicate their desire to obtain this newsletter or submit address changes to the editor at 303-798-9306 or kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net.

- The Department of Parks and Recreation has adequate funding to oversee the proposed use and for repair of any damage to parkland caused by the new use; and
- Any new proposed use of a park must be supported by a sophisticated and publicly available cost analysis.

Festival Site Should be Established

Some proposed uses are not appropriate for any park. For example, admissions-based events are incompatible with Denver's long-standing commitment to parks that are free and open to the public. However, if Denver's voters agree to establish a revenue-generating and financially feasible festival site, where both large and small admission and non -admission-based events could take place, the broad philosophical principles on which the rest of the park system has been built could be maintained.

Dedicated and Stable Funding for Parks Must be Sought

Even if multiple uses of parks could be balanced according to the principles outlined above, Denver currently lacks the funds to maintain existing parkland, to preserve and maintain park monuments, and to monitor parks to prevent vandalism and other social problems that occur in parks let alone to develop new parkland. Indeed, in 2003, the City's Game Plan projected a \$6 million yearly shortfall for capital maintenance and repairs and a \$10 million yearly shortfall for current capital upgrades and expansions for City parks.

A broad range of funding sources must be pursued in order to sustain and to expand Denver's park and parkway system. This includes sources such as the ones listed below:

- Local and state level dedicated revenue sources;
- Federal programs that advance sustainable urban communities; and
- Endowments that support Denver's parks and parkway system.

A commitment to securing funds to support a worthy plan for Denver's park system requires that alliances be built among the citizens of the City of Denver, the Mayor of Denver, the City Council, the Manager of the Department of Parks and Recreation, the business community, and private conservation groups. Civic-minded individuals created Denver's parks more than 100 years ago. With unity of purpose and a common vision, they can restore and expand Denver's parks once again.

Denver County Fair

(Editor's note: The Fair appears to be planned by a private group not associated with the City and County of Denver.) Denver County Fair, L.L.C., is pleased to announce the dates and venue for **Denver's first County Fair** in this century! Help them pass the word! To obtain more infor-

mation or to sign up on their mailing list, please visit their web site at http://www.denvercountyfair.org.

Historian Tom Noel said Territorial Governor John Evans and William Byers founded the Colorado Agricultural Society in 1863 and bought 40 acres east of Denver as fairgrounds in what is now City Park. But "there was no money for a fair that first year," he said, and "the second year the Indian Wars and the Civil War were going on, so there was no fair." - Colleen O'Connor, *The Denver Post*

The Denver County Fair will be held at the National Western Stock Show Complex next summer during the last weekend of July.

This annual event will encourage Denver citizens to bring out their best! The Denver County Fair will be a place to share ideas, traditions, creativity, local culture, and intellect. The Fair will highlight the talents, trends, diversity, and interests of the residents and families of our amazing City and County. Our vision is to identify Denver's unique character and reflect it back to the community in a spirit of celebration and healthy competitive fun.

Event organizers are Dana Cain, Al Kraizer, and Tracy Weil. For questions on how to get your neighborhood involved, please contact tracy@denvercountyfair.org.

What to expect at the Denver County Fair in 2011

The Denver County Fair will house several different "Pavilions" throughout the National Western Stock Show Complex. Each pavilion will have local vendors, sponsors, competitions, entertainment, and exhibitors based on each theme below.

Backyard Farm and Garden

Kitchen

Green/Sustainability

Crafts

Fine Art

Fashion

Holistic

Animals

Buy Local

Youth - Sponsored by CSU Extension and Denver 4H The Denver County Fair will also host several unique food vendors, a carnival, and urban side show. Demonstrations and contests will also be a big part of the Denver County Fair!

Like your traditional County Fair, we will have open competitions for several of the following categories and more! Visit our website for our updated list.

- Baking (pies, breaks, rolls, cakes, gluten free, sugar free, cake decorating, pastry, chocolate, and candy)
- Cooking (canning, preserves, salsa, green chili, chutney, jams, jelly, honey, and open class)
- In-season Produce: Fruits, Vegetables and Herbs
- Flower Arranging and Bonsai
- Fine Art in the Various Mediums

- Textiles and Crafts (sewing, knitting, crochet, needle point, recycled clothing, artistic clothing, fiber, ethnic, fashion, holiday, and weaving)
- Scrapbooking
- Animals allowed in the City and County of Denver (Chickens, Bees, Rabbits, Domestic Pets)
- Green/Sustainability
- Performances (Dance-offs, A Cappella Sing-offs)
- Competitive Eating
- Spirts, Beer, Wine, and Mead
- And more!

ENTERTAINMENT:

The Denver County Fair experience will be unlike any other. Wrangler Al Kraizer, who ran the LoDo Music Festival and the International Busker Fest here in Denver, has been engaged. Our entertainment will be a truly interactive experience filled with music, performances, wow factor events, and visuals.

Free Tax Preparation

Free tax filing is available for Denver families with income under \$49,000. IRS-certified college students from Community College of Denver, Metro State College, and Emily Griffith Opportunity School will prepare and e-file tax returns for taxpayers whose household income qualifies!

Tax Help Colorado sites:

Manual High School, 1700 E. 28th Ave, Third Floor January 29th to March 12th

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursdays, 5 to 8 p.m.

Emily Griffith Opportunity School, 1250 Welton Street, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., January 29th to February 26th Tuesdays, 2 to 8:30 p.m., February 1st to March 1st Thursdays, 2 to 8:30 p.m., February 3rd to April 14th (closed March 24th and 31st)

Keep more of your refund, do not pay to have your tax return done.

Dial 2-1-1 (a free call) or go to www.piton.org/eitc for more details and the locations of other free tax sites in Colorado.

Recycler's Corner By Tom Strickland

The Department of Public Works recently completed the development of a Master Plan for Managing Solid Waste that lays out a 20-year vision for waste management services in Denver. The Plan also assesses what is required by Public Works' Solid Waste Management section to achieve Denver's waste management goal of a 30 percent reduction in landfill tons, using 2004 as the base year. The Plan was presented to City Council on October 27th and is available to the public to view online at **DenverGov.org/SolidWastePlan**.

The vision that the Plan lays out is that Denver will have a comprehensive, sustainable, and efficient waste management system that will serve as a national model and will enhance the quality of life, health, and beauty of the Mile High City. Every Denver household will have three standardized waste carts – recycling, composting, and land-fill – so that residents can manage their waste material services to align with community values for high customer service, sustainability, and efficiency.

Denver Public Works will have a waste management system that provides state-of-the-art customer service, reduces waste generation through innovative programs and policies, and encourages diversion of recyclables and organics. Denver Public Works will continue being a good steward of the environment, operating cost-effectively, protecting the safety of its workers, and preparing Denver for the future.

Making the vision into a reality will require change in three strategic focus areas – legislative, operational, and behavioral. If we can fully implement this vision, the outcomes will be transforming:

- Solid waste services will become fully automated, with vastly improved collection efficiencies.
- O Denver residents will be empowered to recycle and compost, reducing our landfilled waste by as much as 32-percent or more.
- Worker safety will be improved.
- Methane and greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced.
- Services will be maintained or expanded to Denver residents.
- o New "green" jobs will be created.
- o The life of the City's landfill will be prolonged.
- Ultimately, Denver streets and alleyways will benefit by being cleaner.

We hope you will take a moment to look at the Master Plan. Questions and comments are always welcome.

E-cycling Event Planned for February

Are you stockpiling unused or outdated electronic equipment in your closets, garage, or basement? Would you like to recycle these items? Well you are in luck! Denver Recycles is planning to hold an E-cycling Collection Event in February.

Many people keep old electronics around because they are either not sure what to do with them, know that throwing them in the trash is a hazard, or feel there is some better purpose for them. And, there is a better purpose for these materials. Electronics recycling is one of the fastest growing recycling industries and one that many people are just learning about for the first time. Recycling electronics is not free. While there are some valuable materials contained in electronic waste, the cost to dismantle equipment into the various materials is labor intensive and expensive.

That is why responsible electronics recyclers charge a recycling fee.

Properly and responsibly recycling electronic equipment is very important. Electronics contain a variety of harmful and in some cases even toxic substances that, when discarded, can pose risks to our health and the environment. Cathode ray tube televisions and monitors on average contain 4 to 8 pounds of lead each. Flat panel televisions, laptops, and monitors have mercury-containing lamps inside and electronic circuitry and some cords and cables contain significant amounts of lead and cadmium. It is also important to ensure these materials are recycled so that we can reduce our need to mine or extract more of the natural resources used to make electronics.

Details on the February E-cycling Collection Event are still being finalized. Please visit our website for information on how you can participate in this event. (DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles)

Cannot wait to recycle your electronics? Then apply online for an "E-cycle Coupon" at DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles. The E-cycle Coupon allows residents to drop off televisions, computers, monitors, and other electronic devices for recycling at a **significantly discounted rate**. Please note the E-cycle Coupon program is limited so coupons are only available while supplies last; there is a limit of one E-cycle Coupon per household per year. All electronic items need to be delivered to the City's recycler during normal business hours and residents must present the E-cycle Coupon on arrival. This program is made possible by our partnership with Metech Recycling. For more information on Denver Recycles program, visit us online or call 3-1-1.

Denver B-cycle

Denver B-cycle, the nation's first large-scale, citywide bicycle sharing system, closed out its inaugural year on December 6th. With Kaiser Permanente as presenting sponsor, Denver B-cycle succeeded in offering Denver residents and visitors a viable transportation option that increased their daily activity, saved money, and reduced unhealthy air toxics and carbon emissions. Launched on April 22, 2010. Denver B-cycle reached 102,981 rides, after less than seven months of operation. Denver B-cycle is going into winter hibernation in order to take time for a thorough first season review, to make operational adjustments, complete systematic bike fleet maintenance, and to make system IT enhancements. Denver B-cycle also had concerns about winter operations including safety, accelerated bike wear and tear, and lower usage and membership revenues. During the coming winter, Denver B-cycle will examine more closely the feasibility of staying open for future winter seasons. The system will reopen in March.

2010 RESULTS

- Short-term Memberships (24-hour kiosk, 24-hour online, 7-day, 30-day) Purchased: 32,922
- Annual Memberships Purchased: 1,784
- B-cycle Rides: 102,981 rides
- Miles Ridden: 211,111 with an average of 2.05 miles per ride

Health benefits included:

- 6.333.332 calories burned
- 1,810 pounds lost

According to a survey of B-cycle members, 43.16 percent of Denver B-cycle trips replaced car trips, resulting in the following environmental and economic benefits:

- 312,121 pounds of carbon emissions avoided
- 9,613 pounds of toxic air pollutants avoided
- 15,868 gallons of gasoline not used
- \$41,256 estimated savings on gasoline
- \$311,126 estimated saving on car parking fees

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

Denver B-cycle will not rest during hibernation but will continue to offer programs that build its community of users starting with its Holiday Gift Special. For only \$50, people can purchase a Denver B-cycle holiday gift certificate that entitles the gift recipient an annual membership; that is \$15 off the regular price. The clock on the annual membership will not start until the first time a new member checks out a bike. While annual members cannot check out B-cycles during the winter, they will be able to use their annual membership card for special deals and discounts at participating restaurants and businesses. For the holiday gift specials, visit http://denver.bcycle.com/ AnnualMembershipGift.aspx. For more information about restaurant and business discounts for Denver B-cycle annual members, visit http://denver.bcvcle.com/About/ BcardBusinessDeals.aspx.

From the Chair By Steve Nissen

Happy New Year to all from all of us at INC.

It is with disappointment that I announce the resignation of Eugene Howard from the Executive Committee. Eugene will remain active in his Sunnyside neighborhood and may be available to serve on INC committees. I have appointed Cathy Donohue to fill that position for the remainder of the term. Cathy has accepted, the appointment has been approved by the Executive Committee, and now awaits the approval of the delegation at the January meeting.

The January Delegates Meeting location should be a treat for all of us. The meeting will be at the Evie Garrett Dennis Campus of DPS. This is a campus of new colorful buildings of modernistic style. Please allow extra travel time as it is nearly all the way out to DIA. See he map onpage 12.

The past year has been challenging for INC in many ways and the new year will probably be no less challenging. There are many exciting events on the horizon. January 26th is the date of the Annual Presidents and Delegates Dinner at the Doubletree Hotel in the Stapleton neighborhood; invitations have been sent out. It is important that you r.s.v.p. promptly as seating is limited and will be honored on a first come, first served basis. Please consider nominating that unsung neighborhood hero in your neighborhood for one of the many awards to be presented at the dinner. Nominations are being accepted until January 8th and should be directed to Karen Cuthbertson or myself--contact information is on the last page. We will be having our first silent auction at the dinner event. Proceeds will go toward the Dollar Dictionary Drive that will also have its kick-off at this event. If you have something to offer, or a suggestion for the auction, please let us know as soon as possible.

May 3rd is an important day for all of us. We will be electing a new mayor, filling City Council seats, and other City offices as well; the list of candidates seems to be growing daily. At latest count, there are twelve (12) persons vying for the Mayor's Office. INC, in partnership

with the League of Women Voters of Denver and Channel TV8, are currently in the process of planning several candidate forums. Details will emerge as candidates register and as dates and locations are selected. All of these positions are critical as we consider the economic health and livability of our neighborhoods. Get to know your candidates. Study their history and ask them questions so you can make sound choices in selecting officials who will be working for you. You are the "employment interviewer" for elected

Renew INC

The INC membership year 2010 has come to an end; membership in INC needs to be renewed for 2011. A membership form is included in this newsletter. You may bring it to the meeting of the Delegation on Saturday or to the Presidents Dinner if you are attending. Your membership privileges are carried over up to but not including the March meeting, the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting includes the election of INC officers and potential changes to the By-laws. If your RNO membership

is not renewed by that meeting, your delegates may not run for office, vote for those who do, or vote on any other matter brought forth. Now is the time to get the application process started.





Trees need water during dry winter

Without proper watering, dry winter weather could harm trees. Take the time to water trees to maintain optimal health and to avoid potential damage to these valuable shade providers. Water only during prolonged dry periods when the temperature is above 40 degrees and

there is no snow on the ground.

2011 rebates change in March

Currently Denver Water offers rebates of \$125 for high-efficiency toilets and \$150 for high-efficiency washers, if purchased before March 15. Beginning March 16, Denver Water will reduce the amount offered for toilet and clothes washer rebates. The new rebate amounts will be \$75 for qualifying toilets and \$100 for qualifying clothes washers.

The product eligibility list still applies. The prices for toilets and clothes washers have come down in recent years. As a result, Denver Water's rebates will cover a similar percentage of new product purchases. Denver Water's rebate program is available as funding permits. It is subject to change or discontinuation at any time.

is published monthly by Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

Denver Neighborhood

Connection

(a coalition of Denver neighborhoods)
P.O. Box 181009
Denver, CO 80218-1009
Editor: Ken Beaudrie

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Subscriptions are free. Subscription requests and changes of address should be e-mailed to kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net

Articles should be e-mailed to the editor by the 20th of the month.

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

Delegates' Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m.
See this issue for location.
The INC Executive Committee meets monthly at 1201 Williams Street in the 19th floor meeting room.
RNOs are welcome to reprint the articles in their own newsletters.

Track your water use online

Most Denver Water customers can now download a graph displaying their water consumption over a specified period. Compare your usage month-tomonth and see how your water use pattern changes over the course of a year.

Denver Water adjusts rates for 2011

Denver Water's rates will increase beginning in March to provide further funding for the utility's capital projects that include upgrades to aging infrastructure during the next decade.

Typical Denver residential customers will see their bills increase by about \$41 a year — an average of \$3.40 per month. Typical suburban customers served by Denver Water will see an increase of \$32 per year — an average of \$2.66 per month.

Renew RNO Status By Julius Zsako

From Community Planning and Development: Neighborhood Organizations wishing to re-register with Denver, as required each year by ordinance, may do so at this time. Please note that re-registration is conditional upon meeting the ordinance requirement that all groups "shall hold meetings at which all members may vote, not less than once in each calendar year. A list of those attending the annual meeting shall be kept and at least twelve members must be in attendance at said annual meeting."

If there have been no changes in the information required and your group has met the minimum meeting requirement, you may re-register through an email to me at Denver Community Planning and Development requesting continued registration for your organization in the coming year. Deadline for re-registration is January 31st. Persons wishing to register a new organization may do so by contacting Julius Zsako at 720-865-2969.

Citizen Oversight Board

The Citizen Oversight Board is looking for potential board members. Interested individuals should complete a board application (available at www.denvergov.org/portals/673/documents/boards and commissions application 2010.doc) and return it to Suzan Moore, Director, Boards and Commissions, no later than January 7th.

The function of the Citizen Oversight Board is to assess the effectiveness of the Independent Monitor's Office and make policy level recommendations regarding discipline, use of force, and other policies; address rules, hiring, training, community relations; and the complaint process. The Board also addresses any other issues of concern to the community, members of the Board, the Monitor, the Manager of Safety, the Chief of Police, the Under Sheriff, or the Fire Chief.

Qualifications:

- Must be a resident of the City and County of Denver.
- May not be an employee of the City and County of Denver.
- No member of the Board or any of their immediate family members shall have ever been employed by the Denver Police, Sheriff. or Fire Department.

Potential board members should have sufficient background and experience to develop objective views and opinions relating to issues significant to Denver law enforcement and the community. Most of the board's work is intended to be transparent - open and televised meetings, visible records, annual reports, et al.

The selected candidate will serve a four-year term that will begin as soon as possible. The Board meets the first and third Friday mornings of every month and conducts quarterly public meetings that are televised on Denver Channel 8. Each Board member receives a stipend of \$100 a month.

. For further information, please contact Suzan Moore, Director, Boards and commissions 720-865-9034 or Suzan.Moore@denvergov.org.

Bicycle Advisory Cmte

The Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee (MBAC) is looking for potential committee members. If you are interested or involved in bicycling, this is an opportunity for you! As advisor to the Mayor and City agencies, and conduit to our community, the MBAC plays a leading role in making Denver a more bicycle friendly city. Denver is looking for committed individuals who will represent our diverse City and bicycle community.

To apply, please fill out a committee application (available at www.denvergov.org/portals/673/documents/boards and commissions application 2010.doc). Return it with a letter of interest and resume to Suzan Moore at Suzan.Moore@denvergov.org. All applications must be received by January 21st.

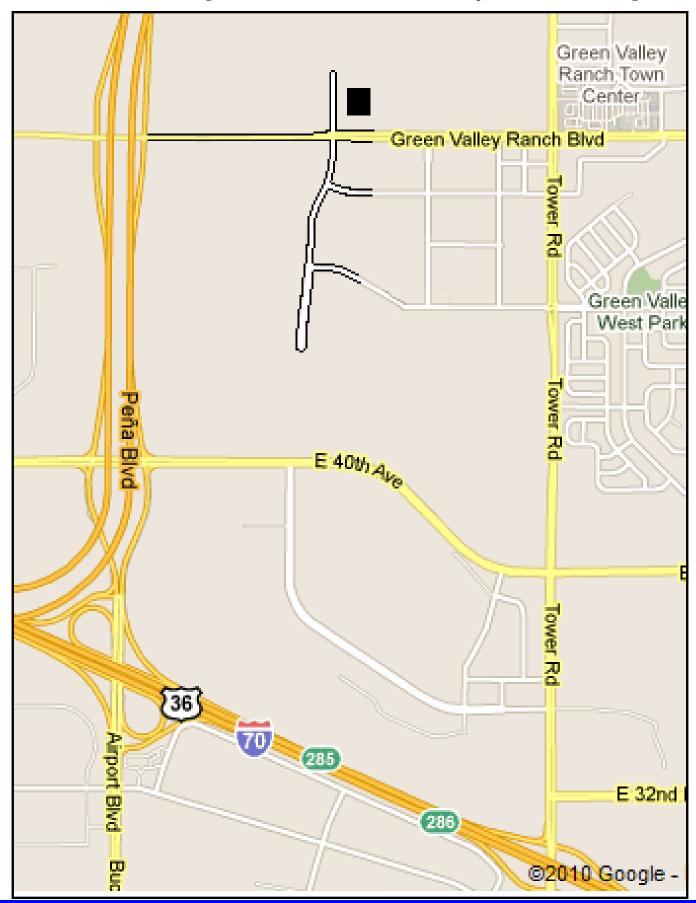
When applying, please address the following in your letter of interest:

- How often do you ride a bike (daily, weekly, monthly) and for what purpose (recreation, transportation, et cetera)?
- Are you a member of any bicycle organizations? Which ones?
- What bicycle-related activities do you or have you participated in?
- Do you use public transportation? Do you combine it with bike riding?
- Are you familiar with the Bicycle Friendly Communities program?
- Will you be able to make the time commitment to attend the monthly MBAC meeting and at least one sub-committee meeting per month?
- What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee?

For more specific information about MBAC roles and responsibilities, please feel free to contact select members of the MBAC Nominating Committee, including Roger Adams, rogerkadams@rka-law.com, 720-877-1855; David Rapp, david.rapp@qwest.com, 303-965-3160; MBAC Chairman John Hayden, haydenpryor@msn.com, 303-297-3994; Emily Snyder, Senior City Planner, Denver Public Works, emily.snyder@denvergov.org, 720-913-4562.

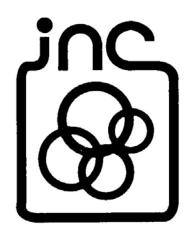
From Pena Boulevard, turn eastbound onto Green Valley Ranch Boulevard and proceed to the first intersection.

Turn northbound at the light and enter the Evie Garrett Dennis Campus. Look for the INC signs.



Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation 2011 Membership Application

INC is a consortium of Denver neighborhood representatives who believe that neighborhood organizations deserve a greater participation in city government and possess a shared vision that individual neighborhoods are stronger when they work together and learn from one another. To join as a member neighborhood organization, the organization must be registered with the city as a Registered Neighborhood Organization. Log on to Denvergov.org for details. The names of Patron members and associates are listed in bold in our newsletter.



We wish to donate \$	to the Dollar Dictionary Dri	ive.	
Join as a voting neighborhood organization: Regular Member (\$35) ☐ Patron (\$75) ☐ See below to apply as an INC Associate			
Organization name: Address: Danders: North	Foot		
South	East		
President's Name: Address:			
Phone: ()	Cell: ()	President is a voting delegate:	
E-mail Address: Send newsletter via: E-mail []	U.S. Mail []	Don't want newsletter []	
Voting Delegate Name:Address:			
Address: Phone: ()(Send newsletter via: E-mail []	Cell: () U.S. Mail []	E-Mail Address: Don't want newsletter []	
Voting Delegate (if President is r Delegate Name			
Address: Phone: ()(Cell: ()1	E-mail Address:	
Send newsletter via: E-mail []	U.S. Mail []	Don't want newsletter []	
Join as a non-voting	g supporting Associate : Reg	gular (\$20) □ Patron (\$75) □	
Organization Name:Organization Address:Agent's Name:Address:			
Phone: () Send newsletter via: E-mail []	Cell: ()	E-mail Address:ewsletter []	

Bring this form to an INC meeting or mail to:

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

Meeting Saturday January 8th

The public Is welcome to attend.

DPS Campus 4800 Telluride St

See map on page 12

8:30 a.m.

Coffee and Chat

9:00 a.m.

Welcome by Green Valley Ranch Citizens' Advisory Board and Councilman Hancock

9:10 a.m.

Approve vacancy appointment Vote on Parks Platform Vote on Zoning Motion

9:30 a.m.

Around the City

10:00 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m.

Neddra Niblet Denver Public Works Graffiti Report

11:00 a.m.

Committee Reports

Noon Adjournment

You can always view upcoming INC meeting locations and get information about presentations on our website. Click on the "meetings & more" link. www.neighborhoodlink.com/ INC/home

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

P.O. Box 181009 Denver. CO 80218-1009

Officers/Executive Committee/Chairs

Steve Nissen, Chair & DDD Co-chair 303-733-8524

pennissen@cs.com

Alamo Placita Neighbors Assn.

Bradley Zieg, Vice-Chair

303-994-1395

bradleyzieg@msn.com

Bellevue-Hale Neighborhood Assn.

Karen Cuthbertson, Treasurer

303-936-9206

athmaratlarge@ecentral.com

Athmar Park Neighborhood Assn.

Ray Ehrenstein, Secretary

303-698-0337

james_bear_sample@mac.com Overland Park Neighborhood Assn.

Larry Ambrose, Delegate-at-Large, Co-chair

of Parks and Recreation Cmte 303-571-1744

Ida@earthnet.net

Sloans Neighborhood Assn

William Cornell, Delegate-at-Large

303-295-1149

william.cornell@northcitypark.com North City Park Civic Association

Randle Loeb, Delegate-at-Large

303-620-1999 msg, 720-292-0757 cell

randlalach@amail.com

randleloeb@gmail.com

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods **George Mayl**, Delegate-at-Large

504-339-9119

comayl@aol.com

Cory-Merrill N.A.

Vacancy

Cathy Donohue appointed to replace resigning Delegate-at-large Eugene Howard. Awaiting confirmation by the Delegation.

Ken Beaudrie, Chair, Newsletter & Membership Committees

303-798-9306

kbeaudrie@totalspeed.net

Unaffiliated

Billie Bramhall, Chair, Education Committee.

303-534-2272

bramhall1@msn.com

Golden Triangle Assn.

Cathee Fisher, Co-chair, Dollar Dictionary Drive

303-333-3141; 303-548-5769 cell

cathee@earthlink.net

East Montclair N.A.

Katie Fisher, Co-chair, Parks and Recreation

Committee

303-744-3888

kfisher@iliff.edu

Mike Henry, Chair, Zoning & Planning Com-

mittee

303-377-6609

michaelhenry824@comcast.net

Capitol Hill United Neighborhood, Inc.

Merce Lea, Co-chair, Safety Committee

720-210-4056

Broadway COP Shop

Anthony Thomas, Co-chair, Safety Commit-

tee

303-399-1379

antthomas@juno.com

Civic Association of Clayton

Dave Webster, Chair, Transportation Com-

mittee

720-941-8026

dj-jl-webster@att.net

Colfax on the Hill, Inc.