The next INC general meeting will take place May 11 at the Highlands Masonic Lodge, 3550 North Federal Boulevard. Plenty of parking is available.

The featured speaker at the meeting will be Margaret Browne, the city’s Director of Finance. Browne will lead a presentation on the city’s budgeting process. Her topics will include: how the budget is developed each year; what its major sources of funding are; and the breakdown of expenditures. She also will review the distinction between the operating budget and the capital budget, with emphasis on how the capital budget ties in to Blue Print Denver, the Comprehensive Plan, and the city's long-term land use goals. Browne will also review the Mayor's Core Values of kids and schools, parks and recreation, education, and safety, and will ask for input on budgeting for programs in these areas.

In addition to Margaret Browne and the budget discussion, Jennifer Moulton will spend a few minutes discussing the proposed charter amendment that would change the status of the Community Planning and Development Agency to a charter department. (see the related article on page 3).

The April INC meeting marked the launch of this year’s Dollar Dictionary Drive. Each of the more than 50 attendees received a copy of the 250 page thesaurus that was given to every Denver Public Schools (DPS) third grade student last year. Each student last year, and again this year, will receive both this thesaurus and a separate 350 page dictionary of their own in September.

The books we have been giving to DPS students since 1996 have been a gift from the community for them to use for their continuing education and to share with their family members. The books the INC members received are meant to be used when needed, but are more importantly a visible example of the "dinosaur book" (thesaurus) that each student receives. It is a "gift" to be used as a show and tell fundraising tool.

Additionally, our brochure has been updated to reflect this year’s program. Inserted in this newsletter are both our bold new gold edition and a white copy that can be easily copied. This program has worked because neighborhood organizations, individuals, businesses and our civic workers and leaders have said "great program!" and have supported it with their enthusiasm and dollars.

Your support is most needed in spreading the word, so people can participate. Please copy the tri-fold brochure for extended distribution or place excerpts in your neighborhood newsletter. If you need more copies let us know!
I would like to say “thank you” to those of you who attended the April INC Membership Meeting. There was an excellent turnout for the meeting, and we discussed many great topics, starting with Around the City, moving through committee reports, and finishing with T-REX. People seemed to be engaged with the issues; the discussions were lively; and everyone was having such a good time at the break that I didn't want to end it and get back to the meeting.

It reminded me of why I got involved with INC in the first place - - I have always loved the energy people bring to INC meetings. It's my theory that we all work hard on issues in our own neighborhoods during the month, and that we come to INC meetings not so much to work on those issues, but to share our stories, get a little support, and, most of all, to have a good time with our friends.

I will continue to try to run meetings where we can help each other take care of the business of neighborhoods, but still have fun. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for meeting topics, or advice on how to run the meetings so that we can continue to engage our membership. Just call me at (303) 433-8577. And don't miss our May meeting. I think it's safe to say that understanding Denver's growth, traffic, public safety, and other issues that affect our quality of life requires an understanding of the budget process, and no one understands that process better than Margaret Browne. So bring your questions and let's have another lively meeting!

Advertise In
Denver Neighborhood Connection

INC is now accepting ads for its newsletter. The circulation is about 400, going to all the Neighborhood Association Presidents and INC delegates as well as various city offices. Your ad should be business card sized and should be e-mailed to craig@eley.net. The deadline is the 20th of the month, and the cost is $30.00 per ad per month. You will be invoiced after the ad has run. Please call Jennifer Merriam at 303-782-0270 for further information.
Proposed Charter Amendment Seeks Elevation of Community Planning Agency

A Denver Charter amendment has been proposed that would change the status of the Denver Community Planning and Development Agency (CPDA) to a charter department. The following is a summary of those changes prepared by the CPDA.

Charter departments deliver basic city services to its citizens to insure their health, safety and welfare. The Community Planning and Development Agency (CPDA) became the agency charged with the planning, building and maintenance of a safe and beautiful Denver after merging in 1998 with the Building Department and Neighborhood Support Services of Public Works, and Housing Inspections of Environmental Health. CPDA is the key player in delivering on the promise of a high quality of life for Denver citizens. The agency should be put on the same level as the other charter departments due to the critical nature and monumental impact of services provided in the protection and renewal of Denver's neighborhoods.

CPDA touches all 560,000 residents and the nearly 500,000 people who work in Denver through its extensive activities and responsibilities. CPDA is the agency responsible for directly planning all of the private land in Denver. CPDA has planning coordinating responsibilities on public land. In addition, CPDA directs the permitting of development, insures construction quality, and enforces the ordinances that deal with property maintenance on all land - public or private - in Denver. Whether through planning or permitting or code enforcement, CPDA touches every acre of land within Denver's boundaries.

The land area of the City and County of Denver is 154.6 square miles. Approximately 73.1 square miles of land in Denver is privately owned. CPDA directly oversees the planning, building and maintenance of private lands.

CPDA provides leadership and funding for preservation, rehabilitation and new construction of housing for Denver's low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

CPDA is the advocate for neighborhood groups with other agencies and departments within the city. Our staff assists citizens in navigating the bureaucratic channels of the city.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much will it cost? As the election is being held for other ballot measures, there is no cost for the election. As the Community Planning and Development Agency already exists, no additional funds for agency staffing, equipment or office space is required.

Why is it needed? Private property interests ranging from individual homeowners to large developers are important enough to be permanently represented at the level of the Mayor's Cabinet.

How will it affect current employees? No positions will be created or abolished as a consequence.

Will the charter amendment diminish the importance of the Comprehensive Plan, Neighborhood Plans or guidelines related to Historic Districts? No. These visions of how Denver is to be developed and maintained will gain additional weight by being associated with the Mayor's Cabinet.

What are the services of CPDA?

Building and Construction Services
  - Building Plan Reviews
  - Building Permits
  - Building Construction Inspections

(Continued on page 5)
Suds, Sun and Fundraising
Fun at People’s Fair
June 1 & 2

By Craig Eley
Editor

The People’s Fair is just around the corner (June 1 and 2, 2002) and INC needs volunteers to staff its beer booth at the event. Those helping at the booth earn money for their neighborhood associations of $15 per person, per shift. This fundraising opportunity is not just for INC delegates, but for anyone from an INC member neighborhood association who wants to make some money for the neighborhood and have fun at the same time.

At last year’s People’s Fair the INC Beer Booth came close to being the number one selling booth, and this year the goal is to top every other booth.

Anyone who has ever worked at the INC Beer Booth will testify to the fun and camaraderie which is enjoyed there as beer is poured and served to happy fair-goers.

The shifts on each day are: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., and 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (the last shift on Sunday includes partial tear-down of the booth).

Each shift needs 10 volunteers. Volunteers are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. The volunteer's neighborhood association that will benefit from the earnings of the beer booth must be a current member of INC (see membership list on this page). If you are not sure as to whether your neighborhood has renewed its membership for 2002, contact Lew Gaiter, Jr., INC Membership Chair, at (303) 333-7933.

To take advantage of this once a year opportunity for fun and funds, call Wayne Jochem, INC Vice Chair, at (303) 756-9904.

INC Member Neighborhoods
That Have Paid 2002 Dues
(Patrons in Bold)

Alamo Placita NA
Athmar Park NA
Baker Historical NA
Ballpark NA
Beacon Club
Bear Creek HOA
Bellvue Hale NA
Berkeley NA
Capitol Hill United Neighbors
Cherry Creek North BID
Citizens for a Residential Quebec
Clayton NA
College View NA
Congress Park Neighbors
Cook Park NA
Cory-Merrill NA
Country Club Historic Neighborhood
Cranmer Park Hilltop
Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 2
Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 1
Curtis Park Neighbors
Denargo Market NC
Downtown Denver Residents’ Org.
East Montclair NA
Far Northeast Neighbors
Golden Triangle NA
Greater Park Hill Community
George Washington Homeowners
Hamden South NA
Harkness Heights NA
Harman NA
Highland Economic and Community Health Org.
Highland United Neighbors

Hilltop Heritage
Historic Montclair Community
Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point NA
Indian Creek NA
Inspiration Point NA
Ivy Street NA
Lowry Neighbors
Lynwood 7 & 8 HOA
Mayfair Park NA
North City Park CA
Northern Airport Corridor Assoc.
Platt Park People’s Assoc.
Progress & Preservation Together
South Gaylord NA
South Hilltop NA
South Jackson Neighborhood Org.
Southwest Improvement Council
Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc.
University Park Community Council
Upper Downtown Development Organization
Uptown On The Hill
Virginia Vale CA
Virginia Village/Ellis Community Association
Washington Park East NA
Wellshire HOA
West Highland NA
West Washington Park NA

Supporting Organizations
Counillewoman Elbra Wedgeworth
Denver Water
One Sky One World

Denver Neighborhood Connection May, 2002
May, 2002

Dear Friends:

This newsletter is specifically sent to you as a previous participant in INC’s Dollar Dictionary Drive. Some of you have been supporters of this program since 1996. Your continued support has given us great courage and hope every step of the way.

We thank every one of you for your initial and continued support! We have not sent thank you cards and letters because we would rather put that money to use buying books for our young Denver students. Your support, however, has been noted and appreciated.

This newsletter is to let you know the 7th Annual Dollar Dictionary Drive is officially launched and up and running in full swing. Please read our new brochure, 2002 Dictionary Drive events and other current news about INC. The Dictionary Drive is a thrilling program for our members, but they are also involved in all the other aspects of life in Denver. You are welcome to join INC as an associate member or attend any of our monthly meetings.

Please spread the word by using the inserted brochures or just ask your friends, family and neighbors to participate. This is a community program for our younger citizens. Time does fly and our first recipients of their own dictionary and thesaurus will be 9th graders in September.

If you have already made a contribution this year then this is a note of appreciation from me and my Co-Chair Steve Nissen.

Please pass a brochure to a friend, join us to help with labeling in August AND call to schedule a time and school to give the dictionaries to the third graders in September.

Thank you for your support!!

Cathee Fisher, Co-Chair - INC Dollar Dictionary Drive
Dollar Dictionary Drive
National Award Winning
But
The Best Rewards Are:
Thousands of Thank-You's

"Thank you for buying and giving the dictionary and the thesaurus to us. Now I can spell words and it gives me ideas of other words."

"Thank you for the dictionary. We really appreciate it. I have learned more new words. I think that a dictionary helps kids and people find out a word. It helps me a lot with words that I don't know. I use the dictionary. My Mom uses the dictionary and so does my brother. It helps my brother a lot because words that he doesn't know, now he knows. That is why we use the dictionary all over the place."

"The classroom sets we received in 2000 let us coordinate home and school work and the books are an invaluable asset for our children."

Denver, Colorado 2002

A Dictionary & Thesaurus of their own for every Denver Public Schools 3rd Grade Student
DENVER'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON US!

...to literacy and learning. Please be conscious...

Your contribution can help give DPS third-graders a successful start on their education.

This valuable life-long tool for their education

The price of books for each student costs $17.75.

The second, double the price of books has increased.

just like a "full throated"

spark. More children become "higher"

and have "higher" aspirations.

After "reading" the program, we see that third
day, 1 book becomes a "gift".

The flow of books now ensures that all the children are "higher"

and have "higher" aspirations.

The program has been successful.

Since 1996, two changes have occurred with this program:

1-3 dollars = 1 dictionary

How you can help

Volunteers Needed! Two important activities:

- Placing gift labels in 17,000 dictionaries

- Donating time on October 11 and 12

Volunteers are needed throughout the year.

The best time to donate:

Location: All 96 DPS Elementary Schools

Dates: September 10 to October 11

Giving dictionaries to the students

Individuals or groups are welcome for an hour or more.

Northwest Denver

Location: Rocky Mountain School

Dates: Friday, August 9 - 9 am to 9 pm

- Placing gift labels in 17,000 dictionaries

www.mentorship.org/denver

Friedman Center

303-399-5394

Fried CD

303-381-8548

Fried CD

303-333-3194

Fried CD

For more information contact:

INC's Literacy Coordinator

www.mentorship.org/denver

Fried CD

303-399-5394

Fried CD

303-381-8548

Fried CD

303-333-3194

Fried CD

In 2002, each DPS third-grader student will receive

2 books. The program and the monograph of

II.

has continued over the years.

This support

a younger generation.

display a generation of children, and also our future.

We face the real possibility of losing an entire
count on children cannot read. Unless we take action.

of losing our communities and our world.

Reading America Today. We have come a long way.

Literacy is one of the most important issues

7th Annual Dollar Dictionary Drive

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
May-Around the City

Hampden South Neighborhood- The rebuilding of the intersection at Monaco & Hampden is still under construction. A new Wal-mart is scheduled to open in May along Hampden near Kennedy Golf Course. The theatres at Tamarac Square are being renovated into an art film cinema similar to the Mayan & Esquire Theatres.

Platte Park People’s Association- continues to address the concerns of neighbors working hard to make progress on the big house/ scrape off issue with quick wins II. The traffic committee is working with neighbors and businesses to address the sound wall concerns. It is their hope that a sound wall will not enclose Platt Park. We are also planning our first annual picnic in the park on Friday 7/26.

West University Community Association- The University of Denver continues to grow, and is currently asking to rezone one full city block to allow the construction of a new classroom building and additional playing fields. Even though DU has responded to many neighborhood concerns, the neighbors immediately across the street remain opposed, so WUCA is opposing the rezoning.

RTD- The “C” line opened last weekend, serving both the sports venues and lower downtown- If you don’t want to pay to park in LoDo, take the light-rail.

Mayfair Neighbors, Inc- will hold a general meeting with an individual explaining how the Art Institute (or “AI”) of Colo. Plans to use certain facilities. The AI on May 17th will host an open house for the Mayfair Neighborhood. They will offer a tour of the building, displaying art projects from students and refreshments served by the culinary students. Marc of Old Vine Properties will explain how they plan to develop the property. Contact Nancy Jackson at (303) 388-0321 concerning any questions. Both events will be held at the towers located at 5785 E. 8th Ave. Anyone interested is invited to attend these events.

Upper Downtown Development Organization- New one block development from 23rd to 24th between Market & Larimer (one complete block) mixed use development including shops, stores, condo’s, etc. it is going before the zoning committee. 3600 + units within a mile and a half circle of our district are being developed. Ball Park neighborhood has had preliminary approval of their historic district by the Landmark Commission and will now wait for city
council approval on April 29. For further information pertaining to these issues please call Gene Tepper at (303) 355-4000.

Baker Historical N/A- Neighborhood plan has scheduled the last set of public meetings. The plan will become a model for future plans. We are represented on the city parking task force as members from the South Broadway Business District. The board is up for election in May and we have expressed an increase in people becoming involved with our zoning committee.

University Park Community Council- The DU neighborhood traffic mitigation plan for UP has gone to Public Works for approval. The Historic Buchtel Blvd. Park plan has been endorsed by the Parks Dept. and awaits the city’s arrangements with RTD to obtain its strip of land along the trail. We noticed a major zoning slip-up, the project architect has been asked to redesign to apply with code standards. We are restating our policy toward variance requests, and studying the INC proposed letter on Quick Wins II. We would like to welcome back our city planner after a long absence as we attempt to reconstruct our neighborhood framework plan to meet the city’s new format.

Harkness Heights N/A- Later this month we will meet to discuss current INC projects that are underway and determine if we might be able to host an upcoming meeting.

GPHC Inc- The Greater Park Hill Garden Tour will be held Sat., June 8 from 10 am until 4 pm. For ticket information call the GPHC Inc office at (303) 388-0918. We were also recently awarded a Neighborhood Resource Center grant to help expand communications via web page design and distribution. We are also currently working with Northeast Park Hill on a community showcase scheduled for August.

City Park West N/A- The City Park Festival of the Arts will be held May 19th at the City Park Pavilion from 11 am until 6 pm. Two stages and nine bands will be included plus children’s entertainment and a walking venue. This unique community event promises to be a showcase of Denver’s premiere events of 2002. For more information please call (303) 333-6063 or visit our website at

Virginia Village/ Ellis Comm. Assoc.- Concerned about the recent amendments to the photo radar (bad!) and the need to support neighborhood concerns with the Quick Wins II solution.
INC Recipient of Matching Grant for First $5,000 Raised in 2002 dollar Dictionary Drive

By Cathee Fisher
Co-Chair
Dollar Dictionary Committee

The numbers - 1996 to 2002 - just simple arithmetic!

- Students to receive a dictionary and thesaurus of their own in 2002 = 8,500
- Total books distributed since 1996 (including 2000 classroom sets) = 80,000
- Cost of the 2002 program = $15,000

Major donations since the INC President’s Dinner of November 1, 2001

- Councilwoman Cathy Reynolds = $1,000
- INC delegate Eugene Tepper = $1,500
- 9 Who Cares Award Winner Steve Nissen = $900

These three donations plus individual and neighborhood donations put us in the black for 2001 and gave us a good start on funding the 2002 program.

If 50 people (the recipients of a gift thesaurus) each raise $100 we will have reached 1/3 of our fund raising needs for 2002. How does it happen? One dollar at a time!

First Time Match Challenge

It just so happens one of our members has a special interest in literacy. Gene Tepper’s wife, Sheri, is a prolific writer! Sheri S. Tepper has published over 50 books in both the mystery and fantasy science fiction genres. Her mystery writing pen names are A. J. Ord and B. J. Oliphant. They are both firm believers and strong supporters of literacy.

Gene’s Challenge! In honor of his wife, Gene will match our initial $5,000 attendee challenge! To participate, please mark your brochures and donations with “5K Challenge!”

Hopefully, we will reach our 2002 goals before September and build a nest egg for 2003.

Thank you Eugene Tepper, Sheri S. Tepper and all our donors!

Charter Amendment on Community Planning Agency
(continued from page 3)

Zoning and Development Review
Land Use and Development Plan Reviews
Zoning Permits
Zoning Code Revisions
Rezoning & Map Amendments
Urban Design
Development Of Standards
Development Review
Neighborhood Inspection Services
Enforcement of one-third of the Denver
Revised Municipal Code
Property Maintenance Standards
Interior Habitable Requirements
Zoning Code
Housing & Neighborhood Development Services
Housing Development
Neighborhood Development
Economic Development
Enterprise Community
Federal Grant Administration
Planning Services
Comprehensive & Small Area Planning
Landmark & Historic Preservation
City Information & Analysis
Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
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Denver, CO 80218

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The Article Deadline for Denver Neighborhood Connection is the 20th of each month.