INC Pulls in to Union Station for January 11 Meeting

The January 11 INC Delegates’ Meeting will be held at Union Station, beginning at 9 a.m. Representatives from RTD will make a presentation on the Union Station Master Plan. There is no free parking, and meters in the area are limited to two hours. Longer term parking can be found in nearby parking lots, or delegates may want to use Light Rail (the “C” train stops at Union Station). The meeting will be held on the second floor of Union Station. All delegates and other interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Awards Given to Recognize Those Who Keep Denver Beautiful

Keep Denver Beautiful, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management, honored groups and individuals from all over the country for their efforts in addressing the problems of graffiti and litter in Denver. These folks were recognized on Wednesday, November 13th for contributing time, talent and goods to make Denver neighborhoods better places to live and work. Dinner was provided as Paul Day of News 4 - KCNC presented plaques and described the efforts of these volunteers.

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

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

Ellie Schmidt of Cory Elementary School created this Grand Prize winning poster for the 2002 Make a Difference Day Poster Contest (original in color).
By Craig Eby
Denver Parks Going to Enviro-Friendly Bus Ridership
January 28, 2003
Public Focus Group
Scheduled for 2003

Inc. Councilman's March 8, 2003
Elections are Near

In the preparation for the upcoming election, the City of Denver Park and Recreation Commission is considering the possibility of implementing environmentally friendly bus ridership in its public service. The Commission is currently reviewing options for a new bus system that would operate on biodiesel fuel. This would not only reduce the city's carbon footprint but also promote local economic development by providing an eco-friendly mode of transportation.

The current system, which relies on gasoline-powered buses, is facing significant challenges due to rising fuel costs and environmental concerns. The Commission is exploring alternative fuels and technologies to improve the sustainability of its public service.

In addition to the environmental benefits, the new system is expected to provide cost savings for the city, as biodiesel is generally cheaper than gasoline. The Commission believes that this investment will not only benefit the environment but also save the city money in the long run.

The Commission is scheduled to hold a public focus group in March to discuss the proposed changes. The meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to voice their thoughts and concerns on the new system. The Commission is committed to involving the community in the decision-making process and ensuring that the new system meets the needs of all residents.

The Commission is encouraged by the support it has received from various stakeholders, including environmental groups, business leaders, and community organizations. The project is expected to be a significant step forward in the city's efforts to become more eco-friendly.

The Commission looks forward to working with the community to ensure that the new system is successful and promotes environmental sustainability for future generations.

Inc. Mayor Michael Hancock
The Dogs
I have recently returned from our nation’s capital, where the 2002 Rail-Volution Conference was held. It was a great opportunity to learn about the many interesting possibilities for building and shaping livable communities and the design of commuter rail systems. The four-day event allowed me to take part in numerous educational sessions that included scheduled mobile workshops, plenary sessions, workshops, and congressional meetings. It was made evident that improved mobility promotes safety, security, economic opportunity and environmental quality.

**Transit Makes Strong Neighborhoods**

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

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

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

**Travel Time Reduction Enhances Job Accessibility**

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

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

---

**Upcoming INC Meetings**

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

---

**From the Chair**

From page 2

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

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

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

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

---

**INC Member Neighborhoods**

(Patrons in Bold)

- Alamo Placita NA
- Athmar Park NA
- Baker Historical NA
- Balpark NA
- Beacon Club
- Bear Creek HOA
- Bellvue Hale NA
- Berkley NA
- Capitol Hill United Neighbors
- Cherry Creek North BID
- Cherry Creek North NA
- Cherry Point HOA
- Citizens for a Residential Quebec
- City Park West NA
- 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
- Country Park HOA
- Filing 1
- Curtis Park Neighbors
- Denver Market NC
- Downtown Denver Residents’ Org.
- East Cheesman Park NA
- East Montclair NA
- Far Northeast Neighbors
- Golden Triangle NA
- Greater Park Hill Community
- George Washington HOA
- Hampden South NA
- Harkness Heights NA
- Harman NA
- Highland Economic and Community Health Org.
- Highland United Neighbors
- Hiltop Heritage
- Historic Montclair Comm.

- Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point NA
- Indian Creek NA
- Inspiration Point NA
- Ivy Street NA
- Lowry Neighbors
- Lyndwood & 8 HOA
- Mayfair Neighbors, Inc.
- Mayfair Park NA
- North City Park CA
- Northern Corridor Coalition
- Northern Airport Corridor Assoc.
- Platt Park People’s Assoc.
- Progress & Preservation Together
- Ruby Hill NA
- South Gaylord NA
- South Hilltop NA
- South Jackson NO
- Southmoore Park E. HOA
- Southwest Improvement Council
- St. Charles NA
- Sunny Side United Neighbors, Inc.
- University Park CC
- Upper Downtown Development Organization
- Uptown on The Hill
- Virginia Vale CA
- Virginia Village/Elris Community Association
- Washington Park East NA
- Welshire HOA
- West Highland NA
- West Washington Park NA

Supporters

- Councilwoman Elbrautt
- Councilwoman Kathleen MacKenzie
- Denver Water
- One Sky One World
- Gertrude Grant

---

January, 2003 Denver Neighborhood Connection
Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
2003 Membership Application

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

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

Name of Organization: ________________________________

President: ___________________________ Address: ________________________________

Home Phone: ___________________________ E-mail address: ___________________________

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

INC Delegate #1: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Home Phone: ___________________________ E-mail address: ___________________________

INC Delegate #2: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Home Phone: ___________________________ E-mail address: ___________________________

Association Boundaries (approximate):
North ________________________________
South ________________________________
East ________________________________
West ________________________________

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

Letters from INC

From page 8

Editor
Rocky Mountain News

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

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

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

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

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

Other topics under INC study are the complete reorganization of the Denver Zoning Code which is in progress, the development proposed for light rail station areas, ramifications of the placement of the proposed justice center, prospective new City formats for Neighborhood Plans, and much more.

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

Wayne Jochem
Chairman, INC

Denver Seeks Incredible Shrinking Zoning Code

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

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

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

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

December 14, 2002
Mayor Wellington Webb
1437 Bannock Street #350
Denver, CO, 80202

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

Re: Office of Neighborhood Response

Dear Mayor Webb:

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

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

Sincerely,

[INC Delegates]

December 14, 2002
Mayor Wellington Webb
1437 Bannock Street #350
Denver, CO, 80202

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

Re: Nuisance Abatement Unit of Denver Police Department

Dear Mayor Webb and Chief Whitman:

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[INC Delegates]

Around the City

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

Justice Center

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

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

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

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

Those seeking more information on the proposed justice center should contact Division Chief S. Comito at (720) 865-4024.

See Working the Room

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

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

Around the City

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

University Park Community Council will hold a neighborhood work session on its Small Area Plan at University Park School on February 5 at 7 p.m. A special alert is offered on UPPC’s website at www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/ups for those who wish to receive e-mail notices of meetings and other UP events.

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

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

Continued on page 9

January, 2003
Denver Neighborhood Connection
School. Volunteers helped out in the Cores food and toy drive, delivering over 50 Thanksgiving Baskets, with a plan to distribute 75 Christmas Baskets. Two board members now serve on the East Denver Civic Roundtable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congress Park Neighbors are continuing to challenge the rezoning of the block at 9th and Harrison. The PUD zoning for a 193-unit apartment was approved in May by city council. The neighborhood filed a legal challenge, which is working its way through the courts. The developer has filed a new PUD application for an identical project. If successful, this application will set a dangerous precedent and essentially eliminate the opportunity for a legal challenge. The neighborhood asked for support at the planning commission on December 18th and at a future city council hearing.

Kids Say “Thanks”

For Dictionaries

By Cathe Fisher

Dollar Dictionary Drive Co-Chair

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Neighbors Meet with Chief Over Police Department Cutbacks

By Keith Howard

On Wednesday, December 28, seventeen neighborhood leaders met with Chief Gerald Whitman of the Denver Police Department and with Commander Gallagher of District 1 to discuss the major changes that Chief Whitman has instituted in recent weeks. These changes include: instituting a police work week of four ten-hour days; eliminating the DARE program; in District 1 the community resource officers and neighborhood police officers will join new "street crime attack teams;" nuisance unit detectives being divided among the various districts with no single coordinator for the nuisance abatement program; the reduction of the police in schools program; the reassignment of the two officers currently assigned to the Contemporary Learning Academy; and the assignment of patrol officers to specific precincts.

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

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

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

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

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

Receive Denver Neighborhood Connection by E-Mail

You will receive this publication up to one week earlier than usual if you choose to receive an e-mail edition instead of a paper copy.

To be put on the e-mail subscription list, send an e-mail to the editor at craig@eley.net. Be sure to put "DNC e-mail" in the subject line. The e-mail edition is done in Adobe Acrobat, which results in an exact replica of the printed version.