# December 11 INC Meeting Discusses Neighborhood Diversity, Noise

The December 11, 2004 INC Delegates' Meeting will be held in the newly-renovated District 3 Police Station,, 1625 South University Boulevard (just north of I-25 on the west side of University).

The subject of the program will be "How to encourage

diversity in membership and participation for neighborhood groups." Many Denver neighborhood groups realize that their neighborhoods are reflecting increasing ethnic diversity among their residents and businesses.

Most neighborhood groups would like to find methods and tools to encourage new residents to join and participate in the work of the neighborhood groups and to partner with longtime neighbors who are ethnically different. Many groups would also welcome ways to engage young people, elderly citizens, disabled folks, economically disadvantaged people, etc., so that the whole range of neighborhood populations can participate in neighborhood activities. A panel of people with different experiences and vantage points will give valuable and constructive ideas.

Also at the meeting Lisa Dobson, who chairs the INC Cruising Committee, will request petition signatures and votes from INC delegates and RNOs from all over Denver. This will be to support a request to City Council to

substantially increase the fines for amplified sound violations and make them mandatory fines. It is currently a \$50 ticket that can be and often is dismissed in court. It is being requested that

\$50 ticket that requested that alties equal to those levied fo

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The current ordinance be amended to provide penalties equal to those levied for disturbing the peace, which is a \$100 fine for the first offense, \$250 for a second offense within

5 years and \$500 for third and subsequent offenses within 5 years, which cannot be suspended or discharged except for a finding of indigency, in which case public service hours

may be substituted.

## In This Issue Notes from Neighborhood Conference 3 INC Membership Information 4 ZAP Minutes 4 5 Dollar Dictionary INC Awards Nominating Form 6 Letters to City Officials 7 Non-Profit Resources 8 SLAPP Suits 9 Denver Digs Trees 10 Membership Application 11

Annual Presidents' Dinner Scheduled January 26, 2005

The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Colorado Convention Center. Keynote speaker will be Peter Park, Manager of the Denver Department of Community Planning and Development.

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www. neighborhoodlink. com/denver/inc

Connection

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## INC Member Neighborhoods (Patrons in Bold)

Alamo Placita NA Athmar Park NA Baker Historical NA Bellevue-Hale NA

Berkeley NA

Bonnie Brae NA

Bow Mar Heights Improvement Assoc.

Broadway Partnership

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods

Cherry Creek East Association Cherry Creek North NA

Cherry Point HOA



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Editor: Craig Eley, craig@eley.net.

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

Subscriptions are free. Subscription information and changes of address should be e-mailed to Karen Cuthbertson at athmarpark@ecentral.com.

INC Delegates' Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 8:45 a.m.

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

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

Citizens for the Preservation of Cherry Creek North

Citizens for a Residential Quebec

City Park West NA

Civic Assoc. of Clayton

Colfax BID

Colfax on the Hill

College View NA

Cook Park NA

Cory-Merrill NA

Cranmer Park - Hilltop NA

Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 1

Crestmoor Park HOA Filing 2

Curtis Park Neighbors Denargo Market NC

**Downtown Denver Residents** 

Organization

East Montclair NA

Far Northeast Neighbors, Inc.

Godsman Community NA

**Golden Triangle Arts District** 

Golden Triangle NA

**Greater Park Hill Community** 

Green Valley Ranch HOA

Hampden Heights CA

Hampden South NA

Harkness Heights NA

Harman NA

Hilltop Heritage

Historic Montclair CA

Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point HOA

Inspiration Point NA

Ivy Street NA

LoDo District, Inc.

Lowry Neighbors

Lynwood 7&8 NA

Marston Shores HOA

Mayfair Neighbors

Mayfair Park NA

Metro Denver Local Development

Corporation

North City Park CA

Northern Corridor Coalition

Old South Pearl Street

Park Forest HOA

Platt Park People's NA

Progress & Preservation Together

Ruby Hill NA

Sloan Lake NA

Sloan's Lake Citizen's Group

South Gaylord NA

South Hilltop NA

South Jackson NO

Southern Hills NA

**Southmoor Park East HOA** 

SouthWest Improvement Council

Stapleton United Neighbors

Stokes Place/Green Bowers

Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc.

**University Park Community Council** 

The Unsinkables

Upper Downtown Development Org.

Uptown on the Hill

Virginia Vale CA

Virginia Village/Ellis CA

West Highland NA

Washington Park East NA

West University CA

West Washington Park NA

Westwood NA

Whittier NA

**ASSOCIATES** 

**Auditor Dennis Gallagher** 

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Historic Denver, Inc.

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Morrison Road Business Association

Neighborhood Resource Center of

Colorado

One Sky, One World

**Stapleton Forest City** 

## Notes from Nov. 6 Neighborhood Conference

By Diana Helper INC Secretary

Nearly 300 neighborhood representatives, City staff members and City Councilpersons attended the Neighborhood Conference sponsored by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper and Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) on November 6, 2004 at the Denver Waste Water Building.

City departments and agencies set up displays in the lobby, with staff members and with informative handouts. These tables were well-visited before the meeting and during breaks. INC President Elizabeth Hamilton introduced the Mayor, who listed many City accomplishments and said there is much yet to be done. **Better** communication and notification neighborhoods by the City, more "give and take" is a priority, and the Mayor will name a Neighborhood Liaison person by the end of the year. Awards for community service were presented to Tom Knorr. longtime Executive Director of CHUN and the People's Fair, and to Carla Madison and Paul Weiss for their work with City Park West.

Questions for the Mayor regarded enforcement for parking, anti-crime leases, and for number of cars and residents at a dwelling, traffic planning, neighborhood plans, creating a new central park in the City, and support for the Pedestrian Master Plan.

Kim Bailey, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the Department must take care of "what we have" and provide upgrades. She talked about improvements in the Department accomplished and underway.

Peter Park, Director of Community Planning and Development (CPD), said regulations should be a means of development. CPD is working to align planning, permitting, and inspection. Zoning should be based on people, not vehicles. We must recognize urban strengths, recognize and encourage good design, and

create a predictable environment for developers which does not compromise neighborhoods. He said CPD will be initiating a Neighborhood Planning process in 2005.

Bob Kochevar, representing the Manager of Public Works, spoke of the master plan for a Strategic Transportation Plan, based upon Blueprint Denver; also parking, paving, and Single Stream Recycling. Following his presentation, there was a break, allowing time for attendees to talk informally with the speakers and other City personnel present.

Stephanie O'Malley, Director of Excise & Licenses, talked about licensing for safety, for alarms, and liquor and cabaret licensing. At the request of Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) there is now 45-day advance notification to RNOs for the latter types of licenses. The Liquor Licensing Task Force is hard at work.

Police Chief Jerry Whitman said more recruits will get awareness training for 911, and cited the work of the Discipline Review Board and the Use of Force Review Board. Following this presentation, Gaetano's Pizza was served (by arrangement of INC's Karen Cuthbertson).

Lucia Guzman of the Mayor's Office of Human Rights talked about inclusiveness, getting along together, learning about each other and working to make Denver one of the most diverse but unified cities in the country.

Julius Zsako, Communications Director of CPD, read the changes proposed for the RNO Ordinance, and said that RNOs should register with the City during December and January. Another informal break followed this presentation.

Peter Park then gave a power-point talk and fielded a Q & A time on Form-based Zoning and other related topics. The present zoning process is very complicated, and at times out of sync with Blueprint Denver and the Comprehensive Plan. A task force to work on zoning change has been assembled, and citizens' advisory groups will be convened as time goes on. The proposed timeline is to define the process, then January - March '05, establish problems, April - August, discuss alternatives, September - March '06, write many drafts, April - October, adoption.

Continued on page 4

# Neighborhood Conference

Continued from page 3

A lively Q & A time followed, and because the majority of the concerns expressed by RNO representatives dealt with issues under the jurisdiction of Neighborhood Inspection Services, Zsako asked if there is a need for a separate meeting on these topics. This was agreed to be a good idea, and he will try to set up such a meeting before the holidays. Those interested may call Julius Zsako at 720-865-2969. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m. A number of attendees remained to talk further with some of the speakers.

# INC Membership Information

By Vicki Gritters INC Membership Chair

Hello from Vicki Gritters, INC Membership Chair. Some of you have been asking "How do I join INC?" This month we are putting the membership form in the newsletter. Fill it out and mail it to the address listed on the form along with your membership dues. Dues vary depending on what class of membership is appropriate for you or your organization. Dues amounts are explained on the membership form on page 11.

If at any time you need additional forms, please call me at 720-283-3169 and I can e-mail or fax a form to you. From time to time I will be mailing additional forms and letters to you reminding you that it is time to renew your INC membership.

Karen Cuthbertson distributes the INC newsletter electronically. If you have any e-mail address changes, please send them to her at Athmarpark@ecentral.com.

In order to vote in INC elections, dues must be paid

by the March, 2005 meeting.

New members are welcome to join at any time. Those with questions can contact Vicki Gritters at 720-283-3169 or at gritters12@wcox.com.

# INC Zoning & Planning Meeting Minutes

By Diana Helper ZAP Committee Member

A large group attended the INC ZAP (Zoning And Planning) Committee meeting on October 23 to hear law professor George "Rock" Pring speak on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) in Government. These are suits threatened against people or organizations who have exercised their right to express opinions. Pring said we should not be intimidated by threats from developers for expressing opposition to their plans under our First Amendment rights (see related article on page 9).

Reports from ZAP members included: At the Planning Board's (PB) discussion to approve the proposed Gates (East) site rezoning to Mixed Use, the PB included no public comment time. The reason given was that the proposal had been approved by Community Planning and Development (CPD) Department and thus did not come to PB as an "action item" which requires public comment. ZAP members voted to write a letter requesting that such items be "action items" with public comment at PB. Theresa Lucero and Charlie Meredith of the Zoning Office spoke about simplifying the Zoning Code. Dennis Swain of CPD also attended this ZAP meeting.

There was brief discussion of General Development Plans which deal with issues related to infrastructure (roads, water, open space requirements in Mixed-Use zones). This topic will be discussed further at the November 13 ZAP meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next ZAP meetings will be November 13, 2004 and January 22, 2005.

# Dollar Dictionary Report



By Cathee Fisher INC Dollar Dictionary Co-Chair

Thank you to everyone who has donated money or given support to this wonderful program this year and since it's beginning in April, 1996. In that long ago time

we had an idea and \$200 of seed money. Since then, with \$100,000 of community donations, we have provided 68,000 students with a dictionary and thesaurus of their own. This gift from the community of these valuable learning tools will last a lifetime for each student.

Thank you to all our 2004 donors & supporters.

Alamo Placita Neighborhood Association Auditor Dennis Gallagher Auditor's Office Employees Baker Historic Neighborhood Association Bear Valley Improvement Association Capitol Hill United Neighbors Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Association Cherry Point Homeowners Association Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann Crestmoor Park Homes Association Denver Public Schools Distribution Staff East Montclair Neighborhood Association Forest City-Stapleton Godsman Community Neighborhood Association Greater Park Hill Community **Green Star Community Donations** Hampden Heights Civic Association Historic Montclair Community Association Hutchinson Hills Willow Point Neighborhood Assoc. Kiwanis Club of Denver Koins for Kids League of Women Voters Education Fund Lowry Neighbors Mayfair Neighbors Inc.

Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award North City Park Civic Association Optimist Club of Monaco South Park Forest HOA Platt Park People's Neighborhood Association **Red Star Community Donations** Rocky Mountain SER Community Center Safeway Public Relations Sheri S. Tepper, Author's Grant University Park Neighborhood Association Virginia Vale Community Association Virginia Village/Ellis Community Association Washington Park East Neighborhood Association West University Community Association Whittier Neighborhood Association

This year there are third grade students attending 98 Denver elementary schools who were the recipients of this gift from members of the community. The cost for these books for each student is \$2.50, for a dictionary and a thesaurus. Each student has been thrilled with this gift of two books for his or her personal library. Those who were able to see the students receive their books know how heart-felt the thank yous are from the students and from all who have seen the excitement learning brings to each of us every day. Your efforts helped to make this program a success!

One student's words express the thoughts of many:

"Dear Friends,

Thank you for the great dictionary and thesaurus. I'm using my thesaurus to find more grown-up words to find what words mean the same but are different. And I'm using my dictionary to find all my spelling mistakes by looking up words to find the meaning of words when I'm reading or just thinking. You were very smart to understand that third graders are mature enough to use them. I'm using my thesaurus right now. I looked up realize and found understand. I can't thank you enough for the books. I'll use them any time I can. I also am promising again to you that I will always take care of them. Thank you."

Tax deductible contributions can be sent to:

INC Dollar Dictionary Drive PO Box 18347 Denver, CO 80218

## INC Awards Nomination Form

Each year, INC sponsors three awards which are given during the annual Presidents' Dinner in the fall. Review the criteria for each award and, if you know someone who qualifies, use this form to nominate that person for one of the awards. **Nominations are due by January 8, 2005,** and should be mailed to INC at P.O. Box 181009, Denver, 80218 or e-mailed to INC Chair Elizabeth Hamilton at elizabeth. hamilton@ci.denver.co.us.

## The Virginia Oredson Award

Criteria:

- 1. The nominee should have encouraged Denver neighborhoods to work together in a common effort to solve community problems and in particular has supported INC.
- 2. The nominee should have established a record of selfless community service in a number of different causes.
- 3. The nominee should have encouraged and motivated others to volunteer their services to engage in community improvement efforts.

## The Bill Gross Award

Criteria:

- 1. The nominee should work in the public safety sector in the City and County of Denver.
- 2. The nominee should have a strong record of working with neighborhoods to better public safety in the community.
- 3. The nominee should have made Denver a safer place in which to live.

## The Walt Kembel Award

Criteria:

- 1. The winner must be an INC delegate or member.
- 2. The award winner should have contributed to INC during the past year over and above normal expectations to develop and promote the organization or
- 3. The winner should have moved INC forward or in new directions in creative or unexpected ways.

## Award nominated for (circle one)

Virginia Oredson Award	<b>Bill Gross Award</b>	Walt Kembel Award
Name of Nominee:		
Nominee's Day Phone:	Night Phone:	E-mail:
Nominating Organization:	Contact Perso	n:
Contact Person's Day Phone:	Night Phone:	E-mail:

## **INC Zoning & Planning Writes to City Officials**

On November 13, the INC Zoning and Planning Committee sent the following letter to Barbara Kelley, the chair of the Denver Planning Board, and to Peter Park, the Manager of the Denver Department of Community Planning and Development:

The Zoning and Planning Committee of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation wishes to express our concern to you about the apparent refusal by the Denver Planning Board to allow public testimony at a recent meeting concerning a re-zoning application. If true, this refusal is a great disappointment to citizens who, in the past, have felt that the Planning Board genuinely desired to have comments and participation by the public.

Apparently, the Planning Board has decided that, unless an agenda matter is technically designated and conducted as a "public hearing," no comments from members of the public will be allowed. We strongly encourage you to re-think that decision and to engage citizens in that process. At the very least, citizens need to be clearly informed about when the Planning Board welcomes public comments and when it does not wish to hear from citizens.

In his response to a questionnaire from Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation during the 2003 campaign, (now) Mayor Hickenlooper said:

I will protect the integrity and unique neighborhoods. character of Denver's delegating vital resources and decisionmaking power to the neighborhoods themselves. Active neighborhood involvement can be the most powerful determinant of school quality, economic development and effective transportation planning. I will encourage neighborhood participation in the important issues facing Denver and will explore the use of new mechanisms for citizen involvement beyond just the traditional public meeting model.

Residents of neighborhoods, as you know, are vitally interested in planning and zoning issues and want to be involved with their representatives in decisions about such issues. Of course, citizens can testify before City Council at public hearings on re-zonings, zoning language amendments and neighborhood and City-wide plans. Those opportunities, however, are at the very end of a lengthy process and are sometimes too late to make a meaningful difference.

We hope that you will be willing to find ways to encourage, rather than discourage, public awareness of and participation in the many important planning decisions that you make.

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation would be happy to work with you on this issue. Thank you for your consideration.

\*\*\*\*\*

On November 13, members of the INC Zoning and Planning Committee sent the following letter to Bill Vidal, the Manager of the Denver Department of Public Works:

The Zoning and Planning Committee of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation supports your intention to develop a Strategic Transportation Plan for the City. Such a plan was needed many years ago.

Our committee agreed today upon the following recommendations to you regarding the plan:

- The plan must be multi-modal, incorporating not only automobile transportation and transit, but also pedestrian and bicycle transportation;
- The plan must address safety;
- The plan must address environmental issues, including air and noise pollution;
- The plan must balance the quality of life in Denver neighborhoods with the need for traffic flow;
- The development of the Strategic Transportation Plan should not delay resolving or implementing solutions to specific urgent traffic problems in neighborhoods;

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## **INC Letters to City Officials**

Continued from page 7

- The plan should include consideration of effective enforcement against dangerous traffic violators;
- The plan must not be just a plan, but must include implementation and funding strategies.

Most importantly, our committee strongly urges you to involve representatives of neighborhood groups and other citizens in the scoping, design and oversight of the study and to keep all citizens regularly informed about the progress of the study. In his response to a questionnaire from Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation during the 2003 campaign, (now) Mayor Hickenlooper said:

I will protect the integrity and unique character of Denver's neighborhoods, delegating vital resources and decisionmaking power neighborhoods to the themselves. Active neighborhood involvement can be the most powerful determinant of school quality, economic development and effective transportation planning. I will encourage neighborhood participation in the important issues facing Denver and will explore the use of new mechanisms for citizen involvement beyond just the traditional public meeting model.

Thank you for your consideration.

## **Non-Profit Resource Information**

The following resource information, which may be useful to neighborhood groups, is from the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships, a new City office. One of its purposes is to provide assistance to small non-profit organizations in Denver.

## **Fundraising Resources**

Association of Fundraising Professionals: www.afpnet. org

Colorado Grants Guide: www.crcamerica.org

Colorado Grants Home Page: www.coloradogrants.org

Foundation Center: www.fdncenter.org

Giving USA: www.aafrc.com Grants.gov: www.grants.gov

Grant Station: www.grantstation.com

Grant Writing USA: www.grantwritingusa.com

Grassroots Fundraising Journal: www.

grassrootsfundraising.org

Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training: www. grassrootsinstitute.org

Independent Sector: www.independentsector.org

Thompson Publishing: www.thompson.com

JVA Consulting (through its Colorado Compassion Initiative, strives to build the capacity of small faith- and community-based organizations): www.jvaconsulting. com

Grant Writing USA (presents grant writing workshops): www.grantwritingusa.com

## Non-Profit Resources

Colorado Association of Funders: www. coloradofunders.org

Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations: www.canpo.org

Colorado Nonprofit Development Center: www.

startnonprofit.org

Community Health Charities: www.healthcharitiesco.

Community Resource Center: www.crcamerica.org

Community Shares: www.cshares.org Denver DOVIA: www.denverdovia.org

Independent Sector: www.independentsector.org

Metro Volunteers: www.metrovolunteers.org

Mile High United Way: www.unitedwaydenver.org

Young Nonprofit Professional Network: www.ynpn.

org/denver

## SLAPP Suits And Resources to Fight Them Explained

By Lori Potter

Active citizens often harbor a concern that their statements before governmental bodies (such as in Planning Board or City Council meetings) may come back to haunt them. Most community leaders have heard of lawsuits being filed against citizens who have filed a complaint form with their local zoning authority, circulated a petition or testified against a special use permit. More than a decade ago, two DU professors, George Pring and Penelope Canan, studied this phenomenon and named it "SLAPPs." Their book, "SLAPPS: Getting Sued for Speaking Out," remains the gold standard for those seeking to understand this issue.

In Colorado, the law protecting citizens against liability for comments (written or oral) to governmental bodies is quite strong. In 1984, the Colorado Supreme Court decided the "POME" case, Protect Our Mountain Environment v. District Court, 677 P.2d 1361 (Colo. 1984), POME came about

when a developer who obtained rezoning of property in Jefferson County sued the citizens who had opposed rezoning. The citizens had testified and submitted letters to the county commission, raising density, traffic, wildlife, water and other impacts. After they were unsuccessful, the citizens group filed suit, which they lost. The developer then charged the group with abuse of process and conspiracy. In a landmark decision, the Colorado Supreme Court outlined the protections owed to citizens under the circumstances. Since then, dozens of courts in Colorado and many other states have followed the *POME* case.

POME puts the burden on the filing party to prove three things near the outset of the case: (1) that the citizen's statements had no factual support and no legal basis; (2) that the citizen's primary purpose was to harass the filer, or had some other improper objective; and (3) that the citizen's statements had the potential to adversely affect the filer's legal interest. This is a

difficult burden, and the failure to meet it results in dismissal of the suit. *POME* gives real meaning to the petition clause of the First Amendment (the right to petition the government for redress of grievances shall not be denied).

In May, 2004, two decades after *POME*, the Colorado Supreme Court revisited and reaffirmed its holding in the case of *Brisben v. Krystkowiak*, 90 P.3d 859 (Colo. 2004). This case involved a \$16 million claim for damages by a housing developer against an Air Force captain, Eric Krystkowiak, who testified before the Colorado Springs City Council against a zoning change for the development. The Supreme Court affirmed the dismissal of the case against the captain, but not until he had spent years and prevailed in three different courts.

The *Brisben* case illustrates two of most troubling aspects of SLAPP suits. First, they are almost always legal "losers," in the sense that the citizen ultimately wins and the court finds the case meritless. That is

exactly the point, say Pring and Canan: These cases are filed not to win but to intimidate once-active citizens into silence, and to prevent others from ever speaking out at all. They have a chilling effect on citizen participation in government. Many citizens accept settlements of these cases, make apologies and disappear from

public life. So, while *POME* may provide a strong defense and the case ultimately fails in a legal sense, the suit filer may win in a political sense.

Second, even citizens with the stamina and nerves to endure, like Krystkowiak, face the question of how to obtain a lawyer to represent them. The *Brisben* case made a rare exception to the rule that the successful defendant does not win its attorneys' fees from the other side. This is one of the flaws in the system that *POME* couldn't cure. The legislatures in many states have passed laws shifting the attorney's fees from citizen to filer upon dismissal of a SLAPP suit, but Colorado has no such statute.

There are many resources available to citizens who have been sued or who want to take steps to avoid it, starting with Pring and Canan's book (Temple University Press, 1996) and including:

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# **Denver Digs Trees Distribution Scheduled**

The Park People, through its *Denver Digs Trees* program, will be distributing low-cost and free shade trees to Denver residents next spring for planting along the street in the public right-of-way. *Denver Digs Trees* distribution day is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2005, at six locations across Denver. Tree request forms will be mailed this fall. Public trees are available only to residents of the City & County of Denver.

Denver Digs Trees involves hundreds of volunteers and reaches every corner of the City. Since its beginning, The Park People's Denver Digs Trees program has helped distribute more than 25,000 trees in and around Denver. The organization has made a commitment to providing tree species that are best suited to Denver's dry climate. Among the species that will be available are: Shademaster Honeylocust, Autumn Purple Ash, Northern Red Oak, White Oak, Patriot Elm, and Ohio Buckeye. A broader selection of species will be available through the sale, including flowering trees such as Japanese Tree Lilac and Aristocrat Pear.

Because Denver is located on the high arid plains, trees play a critical role in the City's health and livability. As few deciduous trees grow naturally in our climate, the planting of trees over the course of Denver's history has been vital to the City's livability.

## Free Trees

This year the Park People are offering free street trees to the following neighborhoods:

Auraria/Lincoln Park

Baker

Cole

Elyria/Swansea

**Five Points** 

Globeville

Jefferson Park

**NE Park Hill** 

Valverde

## Westwood

By promoting the many environmental, social and civic benefits of urban trees, The Park People engages citizens in initiatives to close equity gaps in underserved neighborhoods and to make trees a community priority across Denver. Along with the well-known environmental benefits of trees (energy savings, cleaner air, etc.), studies have also shown that trees help increase property values, reduce crime, and can even lead to children's improved school performance.

Street tree request forms are available now. Denver

residents wishing to receive a form should call The Park People's office at 303-722-6262, or send an e-mail to info@theparkpeople.org. Trees for private property cannot be preordered, but will be available for sale to the general public on April 16. The Park People's *Denver Digs Trees* program is sponsored in part by Denver Water, Colorado State Bank and Trust, The Home Depot Foundation, Colorado Garden Show, Xcel Energy Foundation, Boeing, and the City & County of Denver.



## **SLAPP Suits**

Continued from page 9

www.slapps.org ("SLAPPs and Petition Clause Immunity")

www.casp.net ("Guarding Against the Chill: A SLAPP Victim's Guide")

www.thefirstamendment.org/slapp

Each of the above sites also provides referrals to lawyers with SLAPP defense experience. The American Civil Liberties Union is another good source of advice and referrals.

Lori Potter is a lawyer with Kaplan Kirsch Rockwell LLP in Denver with experience in SLAPP defense.

## Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) 2005 Membership Application

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

Please visit www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc for more information.

NOTE: Only delegates of Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) may vote on INC issues.

Dues must be paid by March 12, 2005 for delegates to vote in the March election.

Associate Patron (non-voting individual)	vidual/group plus contribution: \$75. Patron names in <b>Bold</b> in our newsletter.)
Organization name:	Email address:
Organization boundaries (if applicable):	:
North:	South:
East:	West:
Organization address:	Zip:
The President of Organization President:	a delegate
The President of Organization President:  Mailing address:	of the organization is NOT automatically a delegate.  Check here if President is also a delegate  Zip:
The President of Organization President:  Mailing address:  Email address:	of the organization is NOT automatically a delegate.  Check here if President is also a delegate  Zip:
The President of Organization President:  Mailing address:  Email address:	Check here if President is also a delegate  Zip: Phone:
The President of Organization President:  Mailing address:  Email address:  INC Delegate #1:	Check here if President is also a delegate  Zip:  Phone:  NOTE: If President is a delegate then he or she is delegate #1. Proceed to Delegate #
The President of Organization President:  Mailing address:  Email address:  INC Delegate #1:  Mailing address:	of the organization is NOT automatically a delegate.  Check here if President is also a delegate  Zip: Phone:
The President of Organization President:  Mailing address:  Email address:  INC Delegate #1:  Mailing address:  Email address:	Check here if President is also a delegate  Zip: Phone: NOTE: If President is a delegate then he or she is delegate #1. Proceed to Delegate # Zip: Phone:
The President of Organization President:  Mailing address:  Email address:  INC Delegate #1:  Mailing address:  Email address:	Check here if President is also a delegate  Zip: Phone: NOTE: If President is a delegate then he or she is delegate #1. Proceed to Delegate #
The President of Organization President:  Mailing address:  Email address:  INC Delegate #1:  Mailing address:  Email address:  INC Delegate #2:	Check here if President is also a delegate  Zip: Phone: NOTE: If President is a delegate then he or she is delegate #1. Proceed to Delegate # Zip: Phone:

lease enclose your dues with this form and bring to an INC meeting or mail to: Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, P.O. Box 181009, Denver, CO 80218 Next Meeting Saturday December 11 2004

8:30 a.m.

District 3 Police
Station
1625 S. University
Blvd.

(Just north of I-25 on the west side of University)



INC Annual Presidents' Dinner

January 26, 2005
Colorado
Convention
Center

## Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

P.O. Box 181009 Denver, CO 80218

## INC Officers and Executive Committee

### Elizabeth Hamilton

Chair

303-290-1916

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