November 11 Meeting
Around the City
By Meredith Anderson
Secretary

The INC Delegates’ meeting was held at the Lowry Redevelopment Authority building, 555 Unita Way. Southmoor Park is still negotiating with Gart Bros. over the Continental/Alpine property. Cook Park may get assistance from Keep Denver Beautiful in obtaining a permanent trash container on Evans between Holly and Monaco. They have a grant but need help with the ‘red tape’. Downtown Denver Residents Organization reports a post-season shutdown of some of the businesses in lower downtown.

Mayfair Neighbors held their annual meeting on Nov. 9 and they now have 23 board members. Pat Kreutz of the Neighborhood Health Board described the mission of the new health center in the Lowry neighborhood. Among their goals is to develop a student health program to serve the newly arriving students. Access to center from 6th and Dayton and follow sign. Cherry Creek is watchful of the proposed new development at the Sears site. Their neighborhood plan is undergoing a revision.

Abandoned Properties
Whittier reports 38 abandoned properties within its boundaries and continues to be frustrated by a lack of response to this problem on the part of the Mayor’s office and the Office of Citizen Response. The Nuisance Ordinance provides for a director but the position is unfilled. Paul Waithard of the Mayor’s office invited input at 640-3404. Washington Park sponsored a successful house tour and reports continued opposition to the proposed McDonald’s on Lincoln. County Club reports concern about the Sears development and is participating in a traffic study.

Opposition to PUD Revision
Denver Councilwoman Polly Flobeck briefly spoke about Council Bill L900 which would change the current law that a PUD application turned down could not be reapplied for within a year. In L900 provisions for certain changes would allow the applicant to reapply within the year. A show of hands revealed a majority of the delegates to be in opposition to L900. Delegates were urged to attend the AireBeach Festival of Trees but some felt that their signs were too abundant and illegally placed. Stan McIntyre asked everyone to remember the Vesl this Veteran’s Day. He urged each neighborhood to contact the school board and give input as to the operation of their neighborhood schools. INC will sponsor a meeting with Beth McCann of 'Excellence and License on Nov. 15 at the office of the Board of Realtors, 4300 E. Warren Avenue.

 Cory Merritt is working with Bonnie Brue and Belcaro on the zoning and use of the St. Thomas Scenary site. Some downtowning is being considered. Make a (continued on page 3)
Chairwoman's Column

By Janey Hanley

I have several very special thank yous to start this column. First to AT&T Wireless Services and Dick Abele for once again showing their support of neighborhoods by underwriting the Neighborhood Presidents’ Dinner. Thanks also to Harold Brewer and his son-in-law for taping the dinner, and to Bernie Jones for being our speaker. I wish him the best in Victoria, we will miss him very much.

A good time was had by all. Congratulations to Mike Henry who won the Annual Virginia Oredson Award, and to Captain Allison who won the Bill Gross Memorial Award.

I also want to thank the Governor’s Office of Local Affairs, the Governor’s Office of Community Partnerships and the Mayor’s Office for including neighborhoods in the Smart Growth Process. We need to pay attention to what happens to the recommendations from the Summit as they begin the implementation process.

As was evident in “Around the City” last month, this is a busy time for Denver neighborhoods, especially in the area of zoning. That makes it important that we have position statements so we can back our neighborhoods. Please make it a point to come to the January meeting and help work on position statements.

Stan McIntyre is heading up a committee to revise INC’s by-laws. If you are interested in helping him, please call him at 757-0035.

Included in this edition of the Connection is your membership form for 1996. Please return it to us as soon as possible.

I wish you all Happy Holidays, and look forward to seeing you in 1996!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I want to express my deepest thanks to the INC board, the INC membership and the Oredson family for giving me the annual Virginia Oredson Award on November 7. The award was completely unexpected and very rewarding for me.

As many of you know, Virginia Oredson was a very active member of the Historic Montclair Neighborhood Association, had many of the attributes which are important for neighborhood leaders. She was hardworking and tough-minded, but also soft-spoken, civil and respectful of others, combined with a wonderful sense of humor.

My hope is that all neighborhood leaders can use Virginia as a model. During the last twenty years, neighborhood groups in Denver have become increasingly influential in decision-making in Denver. We have earned that influence by hard work, sharing knowledge and skills with each other and being cooperative and respectful with public officials and our adversaries. We need to focus on building communities, not dividing them.

Thanks again for the award.

Michael Henry

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Neighborhood Connection Articles

Articles for Denver Neighborhood Connection must be submitted by the 20th of the month prior to publication to the Editor, Craig Eley, 3800 S. Peach Way, Denver, CO 80237. 758-9499 (hang); 757-5000 (w/h); 689-9627 (fax).

INC Members

(Patrons in Bold)

Agency for Human Rights & Community Relations • Alamo Placita NA • Atwater Park NA • Balmer Park NA • Beaumont Place HOA • Bexar Park HOA • Bexarville HOA • Berkeley NA • Bonnie Brae NA • Broadmoor at Eastmoor Park • Coral Hill United Neighborhoods • Cherry Creek North NA • Clayton NA • Colfax on the Hill • College View Civic Assn • Congress Park Associates • Cook Park NA • Cory-Merrill NA • Country Club Improvement Assn • Cranmer Park/Hilltop Civic Assn • Creemore Park Homeowners • Curtis Park Block Council • Desano Market Neighbors Coalition • Denver East Central Civic Assn • Downtown Denver Residents’ Org • East Montclair NA • Eastmoor Park Condominium Assn • Enterprise RIB HOA • Far Northeast Neighborhoods • George Washington HOA • Golden Triangle NA • Greater Bible Park Civic Assn • Greater Hill Park Community • Hampden Heights Civic Assn • Harkness Heights NA • Harman NA • Highland United Neighborhoods • Historic Denver • Historic Montclair Comm. Assn • Hunt Club HOA • Hutchinson Hills Homeowners • Indian Creek NA • Inspiration Point NA • Jefferson Park NA • Lower Downtown Denver • Marion Street Coalition • Mayfair Neighbors • Mayfair Park NA • Metro Denver Local Development Company • Morgan’s Subdivision Historic District HOA • North City Park Civic Assn • Organized Baker Residents • Overland NA • Park Forest HOA • Paso Valley HOA • Pinecrest Village Improvement Assn • The Promontory • Stone Lake Citizens Group • South Hilltop NA • South Jackson Street NA • South Boston/Emerald Action Team • South West Improvement Council • Southern Park East HOA • St. Charles Neighborhood Group • St. Nicholas/Green Banners HOA • Sunnyvale United Neighborhoods • University Park Community Coalition • University Place • Upper Downtown Development Org • Upper Lamar NA • Uptown on the Hill • Valverde Civic Neighborhood • Virginia Village/Ellis Community Assn • Warren Park’s University HOA • Washington Park East NA • West Highlands NA • West University Community Assn • West Washington Park NA • Whittier NA • Woodsdale Village II Condominium Assn • Yale Avenue Safety Comm •

Associate Members

Keep Denver Beautiful • Denver Board Of Realtors • Downtown Denver Partnership • Governor’s Community Partnership Office • King & Associates • Mary DeGroot • Dan Ondek • Tim Sandos • RTD • League of Women Voters

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

1996 Membership Form

Please complete the information and send to:

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation
P.O. Box 300116
Denver, CO 80218

We would like to register as a: 
Member (enclose $30) Patron (enclose $60)

We would like to contribute __________ to the good work of INC

Name of Group: ______________________

President: ______________________ Address: __________ Zip: __________ Phone (H): __________ (W): __________

Delegate to INC (1): Newsletter (Y/N) __________

Address: __________ Zip: __________ Phone (H): __________ (W): __________

Delegate to INC (2): Newsletter (Y/N) __________

Address: __________ Zip: __________ Phone (H): __________ (W): __________

Note: This membership entitles each group to a monthly newsletter for each of the above individuals if they choose. There is a maximum of three newsletters per registered organization.

I would like to order a newsletter subscription (enclose $15)

I would like to contribute $__________ to the good work of INC.

Name: ______________________

Address: ______________________

Let’s Reach an all-time record Membership!!
Around the City

Difference Day was so successful that they are thinking of a quarterly effort. Virginia McIlroy reported on behalf of Keep Denver Beautiful about an effort to eliminate illegal signs on utility and telephone poles. Ellis had 45 volunteers participate in Make a Difference Day. BJ Baumgartner is the new Public Works Director.

University Park reported that the Buchtel Trail construction would start in the spring. A consultant has been hired for the Colorado Blvd. traffic study. Pine Valley Homeowners is also involved with traffic issues. Bellevue-Hiale reported that the Lindsey Park extension would soon be getting trees. Their annual meeting was Nov. 9.

School Use Policy

Marilyn Vaughn of Inspiration Point urged caution against the tide of holiday burglaries. DPS enrollment is up; the Citywide Marching Band is going to the Rose Bowl. This program may be cut if budget constraints are not resolved. Latest version of DPS Community Use proposals: fees for all "high risk" public meetings would be waived. Still a $25 application fee per year. Whittier reported that neighbors initiated police intervention resulting in one of three crack houses being abandoned. It also reported on the proposed community-built playground at City Park. Contact person at Parks is Carolyn Poissant.

Hutchinson Hills-Willow Point asked for volunteer tutors for their Samuel's Elementary School tutoring program. Mayfair Park reported on a certain portion of the Lowry redevelopment, Sunset Village, which has a big impact on them. Reported cooperation from City Council but would like more voice on the redevelopment. North City Park urged safety when out shopping. Berkeley is involved with zoning issues and the filling of Baker Reservoir.

People's Fair Grant

Congress Park won a People's Fair grant to publish a crime prevention handbook. Pat Pascoe is assisting in drafting a law to prevent a failed zoning or license applicant from simply reapplying next door. Leonard Fox, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association, urged neighborhood-school involvement. Barnum procured a grant for new playground equipment at Barnum Elementary. Kaki Woods, Greater Park Hill asked for an INC volunteer to serve on the community housing resource board. Harriet Hogue of Denver Planning (ph. 460-4768) said that a copy of the Planning Office brochure would be mailed to all neighborhoods. Congress Park adopted a neighborhood plan - thanks to Harriet for her help. E. Montclair-Lowry is changing monthly with new activity there. Quebeck-Collins streetscaping banners are planned. They give support to the Neighborhood Wood 'n Seed program. W. Highlands is concerned about security at the site of the old Elych Gardens. They have a grant for tree removal and replacement from the Governor's Community Partnership office. Sunnyvale is having trouble with DHA over a proposed 200 unit development. DHA has skipped 2 public meetings. ACLU, Colo. Common Cause assisting neighbors. Harkness Heights - The developer involved with the old Elych site is no longer involved. Harkness had a successful Make a Difference Day.

Letters to the Editor

Placida Placita

Alamo Placita is quiet. There followed a presentation from the Archdiocese on the proposed redevelopment of the St. Thomas Seminary site. For information call 388-4411, ex. 438. Representatives from Colorado Ocean Journey gave a presentation including site plan, design, content and projected use. Phil Anderson and Edie Bryan of the RTD Board gave a comprehensive look at possible applications of rail transportation in the metro area and surrounding connections. Contact Phil at 733-4366 or Dave Ruble, CDOT, at 757-9819 for information.

Dear Editor:

I wish to express the appreciation of the staff and students of the Denver Public Schools for the planning and coordination of Make a Difference Day activities by your organization. I was pleased to see how much of our community participated in the event, and look forward to its continuance in future years.

A strong community necessitates partnerships between entities with similar goals. We are very pleased to join forces with the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation groups for this and other beneficial endeavors. Thanks to everyone who lent a hand.

Irv Moskowitz
Superintendent
Denver Public Schools
Education Committee Report

By Marilyn Vaughn
Chair, Education Committee

A brief lesson in school finance: Under the Public School Finance Act of 1994, as amended, school funding begins with a statewide base per pupil. This base is multiplied by various factors with the minimum statewide per pupil funding being $4200. For DPS, the base funding is estimated to be $4,526 per pupil, or $254 million. Additional funding is provided to school districts for at-risk youth based on those who are eligible for the federal free lunch program. For DPS, this is estimated to approximate $25.9 million for the current year. Thus, total school finance act funding for DPS is projected to be $279.9 million, or $4,768 per pupil.

Children in kindergarten in Early Childhood Education (if funded by the Colorado At-Risk Preschool Program) and special ed preschoolers are counted as ¾ pupil or full-time equivalent.

The state has set a statewide mill levy of 40.080, which cannot be raised under the TABOR amendment. Additional local revenue is generated from specific ownership taxes. The difference in the per pupil funding is then made up, or equalized, with state funds. Additional tax-generating property, such as may happen in the future at Lowry and Stapleton, will only serve to reduce the state’s share.

In the current budget, local property and specific ownership taxes generate $186.6 million of the $279.9 million act funding. The state is scheduled to provide $93.3 million. These numbers are based on the projected pupil count and will be adjusted according to the actual, certified count and at-risk funding. (Note, for comparison purposes, Jefferson County property generates approximately $154.4 million plus $20 million being state equalization.)

The finance act does permit mill levy overrides, subject to percentage limitations, which the district sought Nov. 7. Denver voters did approve a $12.1 million mill levy override in 1988 which generates approximately $11.7-12.0 million for the district each year depending on assessed evaluation and collection rate.

There are additional funds from state categorical funding such as special education, $7.7 million, and other state and federal sources.

The adopted 95-96 budget is $338.3 million, an increase of $12.4 million over actual revenues of the previous year. In addition to a $10 million increase in state finance act funds, there was a $2.8 million increase in the beginning balance, primarily attributable to a $3 million increase in the emergency reserve carried over from the previous fiscal year.

So, where did this additional money go? $6.3 million went to salary increases; $6.1 million to purchased services, supplies and materials, capital reserve, and to the emergency reserve required by TABOR. The TABOR reserve is now fully funded at the 3% level although additional funds will need to be added as the budget increases. This year’s contribution was an additional $3.1 million, a cumulative total of $9.3 million. ( Aren’t you glad you may need to pay additional taxes just to fund this emergency reserve which is, in effect, untouchable? It cannot be used for financial emergencies.)

The contingency reserve, however, is funded at only $3.4 million, an amount that must horrify New York financial rating companies.

Bond elections and mill levy elections are often confused. Bonds are issued for capital expenditures and are to be repaid over a time certain, usually 20 years. A mill levy election is almost always forever. Both increase your property taxes.

Currently, an interim committee of the state legislature is recommending a 2% increase in funding for next year. Now, you’re set to join the Budget Steering Committee which meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month in the 4th floor luncheon room at 900 Grant. Call Erin Sullivan, 892-4000, or Shari Eastlund, 764-3887, for further information.

Watch for the Citywide Marching Band in the Rose Bowl Parade Jan. 1 (of the 26 bands in the parade, only 13 are from outside California). The band has students from each of Denver’s ten high schools.

School Pride Day

(from page 1)

School Pride Day projects will be spearheaded by individuals throughout the community.

The school community do look better -- a visible and tangible result of the time and energy spent by thousands.

Thank you to the neighborhood associations who included their members and planned the event at individual schools.

Knowing all of you in the community made this event possible. Thank you to Tina Scardina, Nedra Ingram, Christine Smith and Dale Burnette for their hard work in coordinating the details and providing support services and to Mayor Webb, Superintendent Moskowitz and Channel 7 for their support.

A special thank you to all the planners and participants that insured the project's success.

The first coordinating meeting for the 1996 Make A Difference Neighborhood-School Pride Day is scheduled for April 8, 1996.

Look for the Good Neighbor Award application in the January edition. Start thinking now -- who in your neighborhood deserves an award?