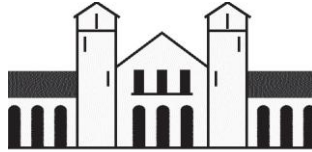


SCPNA NEWSLETTER

July 2011



SOUTH CITY PARK
Neighborhood Association

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southcitypark@gmail.com

President: Bonita Lahey – 303.321.8533 | Vice President: Karen Newman – 303.399.6825 | Secretary: Claudia Christian – 720.663.9339 | Treasurer: Doña Dodson -- 303.333.2983

Please come to the SCPNA meeting
Wednesday, July 20, 2011
7:00pm - 8:30pm
Montview Manor Penthouse
1663 Steele Street

Denver Country Fair: <http://www.denvercountyfair.org/> July 28 - 31 at the National Western Complex.

Interesting things about South City Park

History: SCP originally included City Park itself – the dividing line between NCP and SCP was 23rd. Denver was founded in 1858 and by the 1870s however, Denver had a substantial permanent population clamoring for parks. In 1878, the Colorado state legislature passed a bill to allow Denver to acquire 1,280 acres of state land to build parks. City Park became the largest tract turned into a park. The park was irrigated with water from the city ditch. By the turn of the century, Ferrill Lake, the Denver Zoo, and the landmark boat pavilion, with a Spanish-style design by were all developed in the park. Reinhard Schuetze, a German immigrant who was the head landscaper for Denver, formalized the design of the park through the planting of formal gardens, the East High School Esplanade onto the park, and graceful carriage-ways. In 1908, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science was built on the eastern edge of the park on the highest elevation in the park. Competing trolley companies took park-goers (from Denver) along the undeveloped roads into the park. The neighborhood developed around the park, starting with farmers and squatters who used the city ditch to irrigate their crops. It wasn't until the turn of the century with better trolley connections that housing development began en force. The original buildings in South City Park were built at the turn-of-the century. The neighborhood also contains many historic brick residential buildings, including many Denver square style homes and several historic brick commercial structures, especially along Colfax Avenue.

East High School, Denver's first, opened in 1875 at 1731 Arapahoe Street downtown. The school featured a gracious flight of stairs leading to the entrance, which was notable for its sculpture of the face of a young girl, depicted as an Angel. The statue was so lovely that East High school's mascot has since been the East Angels. When "Old East" was demolished

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in 1925, this keystone was removed and placed in a rock garden at the current location of East, 1600 City Park Esplanade. The architect for the current facility, George Hebard Williamson, won national recognition for his design of the "new" East, which has a 162-foot high clock tower modeled after Independence Hall in Philadelphia. In early 1991, the East High building was declared an official Denver Historic Landmark by the Denver Landmark Commission and the Denver City Council. In July 2005, a music video for the song "Over my head" by The Fray was filmed in East High.

Trees: One of our neighbors has **Colorado's official Champion Apple Tree** (largest recorded in the state!) designated by the Colorado Tree Coalition and CSU. It is likely the same age (or older) as the house, built in 1906 – 1589 Steele St. The tree officially measures 102.5 feet in circumference and 45 feet high with a 50 feet crown spread.

There is beautiful mature Hawthorn tree (70 yrs) at 3905 E. 16th Avenue. An arborist has noted only other mature Hawthorn (in Denver?) is in the Botanic Gardens

Other: The duplexes on the east side of 1500 block of Jackson Street were all built by the railroad to house railroad employees. The first resident of 1598 Jackson was a clerk for the railroad who later became a financial officer and then moved down to the Country Club area

The Auto Entrance Sign from the old Mercy Hospital is at 1569 Madison. The sign used to be *above* the auto entrance. Our neighbor did her residency at Mercy and was on the staff there for a number of years. When the hospital closed, the nuns gave it to her.

Congress Park Historic Speaker Series: July 27, 2011. Care of Your Mature Trees. Mature trees can add significant dollars to the value of your home.

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- Odelay Tacos
- Tommy's Thai
- Bastien's
- The Über Sausage

TUES, JULY 26TH 5:30PM - 8:30PM more info & tix at MYCOLFAX.ORG

The Tax Place

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