

SCPNA NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2010

Thanks in abundance to Propaganda Labs and myColfax.org for converting our articles into a beautiful Newsletter! Please come to the March 17th Meeting!



SOUTH CITY PARK
Neighborhood Association

PO Box 18375
Denver, CO 80218
www.scpna.org

Email for Officers
southcitypark@gmail.com

President

Jim Slotta -- 303.388.3388

Co-Vice President

Alicia Thorne -- 720.323.0449
Karen Newman -- 303.399.6825
Bonita Lahey -- 303.321.8533

Treasurer

Doña Dodson -- 303.333.2983

Secretary

(Position Vacant-please inquire)

City Council Representatives:

Carla Madison (District 8), 303-298-7641
Carol Boigon (At Large), 720-865-8100
Doug Linkhart (At Large), 720-865-8000

Police Community Resource Officers:

Reyes Trujillo, 720-913-1094
Amy Esten, 720-913-1095

City Park Maintenance Contact:

Juan Marsh (Field Superintendent)
720-865-0871 (Office)(non-emergency)
303-916-4525 (Cell)(emergency/safety)

Next General Meeting:

Wed., March 17 @ 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Montview Manor Penthouse
1663 Steele Street

Meeting Agenda:

- CO House Bill 1201 (Consensual Searches)
- Vote-Five Goals/Actions for 2010
- Update-New Denver Zoning Code
- Report-Museum of Nature & Science
- New, Old Business Topics

Dear South City Park Residents,

Articles included within: A Teller School Report by its Principal; updates about the New Denver Zoning Code and about the Electric Fountain in Ferril Lake; a list of suggested 2010 SCPNA Goals; breaking news at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science; and more.

Also, read about how your help is needed in the place where you live! Help perform an "Energy Blitz" in South City Park; serve as the association Secretary in 2010; serve as a Block Captain for your Block. Decide how many hours you can give each month, and let us know you are available.

Jim Slotta
SCPNA President

TELLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

On the corner of 12th and Garfield sits Teller Elementary School—a powerful entity within the neighborhood that, at immediate glance, offers a feel of nostalgia and a wonder of its history. Many lives have passed through the doors of this school, dating all the way back to its opening in 1920. In its beginning, it sat as a two story building with open space all around, but eventually welcomed additional classrooms, an Auditorium, lunchroom and gym in anticipation of more students. For a period of time, this space was under-utilized and classrooms sat empty, due to many extenuating circumstances.

This is the case no longer for Teller Elementary. About 10 years ago a group of families decided to invest its energy and faith into this neighborhood school. Through parent involvement, recruitment of a strong staff, implementation of programs to support all students, marketing and fundraising, Teller has morphed into not only a neighborhood school, but a school that pulls in students from across our diverse city. Enrollment has grown from a floundering 200 to this year's enrollment of 393 students. We are anticipating, at least, 25 more students for the 2010-2011 school year.

"Teller has transformed over the past 9-years that I have been here. For several years when my own children attended Teller, none of us even knew what the 3rd floor looked like. All the students thought the ghost of Mr. Teller lived up there," remembered Teller Teacher and one-time Teller Parent Michelle Lang. "Now the third floor is a daily part of our lives."

While our numbers grow, students demonstrate academic, social and emotional success, and parent involvement balloons, our school budget will not experience a parallel growth and success. Due to the economic climate of our country, Denver Public Schools anticipates that money per student will stay flat, yet average salaries will rise. This will reduce schools' purchasing power.

This scary and uncertain time does not overtake our community with the feel of "doom and gloom", but fine-tunes our awareness that our charge as adults is to create the best educational and healthy environment for our students, despite the barriers we face.

"Our parents are doing everything in their power to continually fundraise for the school. "Unfortunately, school budgets cannot always support the extras for students. PTA strives to raise money to support those educational perks outside of the regular classroom, such as the Arts, classroom assistants, fieldtrips, and after school programs," said PTA President Brian Koenigberg.

Over the years, the Teller PTA has come up with some very creative and thoughtful fundraising events that all look forward to and enjoy. Tellerpalooza brings in area bands to play for an event at the Mercury Café. The Taste of Teller is a wine tasting and silent auc-

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(Teller - Cont.)

tion event. One of our newest fundraising efforts is Simply Giving. "Fundraising often comes as candy or trinket sales four to five times throughout the school year and families feel pressured to participate in all of them," said Koenigberg. Simply Giving offers parents, grandparents and other friends of Teller an opportunity to have a committed amount of money pulled out of their accounts each month. All the money raised goes directly to the school."

Next time you happen to drive by Teller Elementary and notice how handsome the building, also know there are a lot of little stories transpiring within. Students are learning, problem solving, playing and laughing. Staff is working hard to balance learning with exploration. Parents and Community are working on ways to help make Teller the best place possible for blossoming young minds.

For more information on the many wonderful things going on at Teller or to learn more about our volunteer and fundraising opportunities you can visit our web page at www.teller.dpsk12.org.

- Submitted by Teller Principal Jennifer Barton

NEW ZONING CODE WILL IMPACT SCP

DENVER'S ZONING CODE IS CHANGING AND DRAFT MAP 4 IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW. As most of you have certainly heard, Denver is in the process of adopting a new zoning code. The city has an excellent website at HYPERLINK "<http://www.newcodedenver.org/>" "<http://www.newcodedenver.org/>". At this website you can view the latest draft of the new code and maps showing the proposed zoning for your property. You can submit your feedback directly to the city on both the draft language and the maps.

Several South City Park residents have expressed concerns about some of the current zoning proposals. Some of the concerns are:

1500 Block of Garfield: The parking lot on the West side of the street is currently zoned P-1. The current draft is changing that zoning to U-MS-3 and U-MS-5. This would move Main Street zoning and density further into the neighborhood.

1600 Block of Cook: Much of the west side of the street is shown as G-MU-3. Included in that area are two detached older homes located at 1641 Cook and 1651 Cook.

G-MU-3 areas next to Main Street areas: Much of the west area in South City Park including the 1500 blocks of Saint Paul, Milwaukee, Fillmore and Detroit are designated in the proposed zoning as G-MU-3. The "step back" provisions that lower the building heights allowed along Colfax in areas immediately adjacent to residential areas under current zoning would not protect areas that are zoned G-MU-3.

1600 Block of Fillmore: Part of the west side of the street is designated as C-MX-5. This would allow storefronts into the neighborhood.

These concerns have been brought to the city's attention and the city is considering them. If anyone has additional concerns, time is running out to raise them. Please check the proposed zoning code and map, and give the city your feedback by going to

the website and submitting comments and suggestions. Zoning will be discussed at the March SCPNA meeting.

- Submitted by 1500 Steele Street Block Captain Rich Kadinger

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE TO EXPAND

The DMNS has announced plans for a new 100,000-square-foot facility for science programs and collections storage. The Education and Collections Facility Project will be funded in part through the City and County of Denver's \$550 million dollar Better Denver Bond Program passed by voters in 2007. Groundbreaking is scheduled for late next year.

The new facility will be built on the south side of the Museum building and will be divided into two parts. Above ground will be a 40,000-square-foot, three-story Science Engagement Center, featuring two floors of innovative, high-tech science activity areas designed for preschool through 8th grade children, and their teachers, parents, and caregivers, including a science play area for preschoolers. The third floor of the Science Engagement Center will include a new exhibition gallery.

Below ground will be a two-level, 60,000-square-foot collections processing and storage area called the Rocky Mountain Science Collections Center. The Collections Center will rehouse the 1.4 million irreplaceable artifacts the Museum holds in its collections. Currently, these objects are scattered among 49 different storage spaces throughout the Museum building, many of which are overcrowded, lack proper temperature and humidity controls, and are inadequate to ensure the long-term preservation of artifacts.

(See a complete listing of the March 3, 2010 Press Release at the web site, and in the longer version of the newsletter, also available at the web site.)

- Submitted by Jim Slotta

PLANNED FOR SOUTH CITY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD! (EARTH DAY GREEN BLITZ)

GreenPrint Denver is Mayor Hickenlooper's award-winning initiative to promote sustainable development and ecologically friendly practices. On Saturday, April 24, there will be a multi-neighborhood campaign to go house to house signing homeowners and renters alike for wind-turbine energy, recycling, and energy audits. Thanks to new funds from the Federal Economic Stimulation Act, many households will qualify for free or subsidized energy audits and wall and door insulating packages.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for the day to canvas the neighborhood, and party with KBCO at the volunteer's appreciation event. If you have interest in helping the city reduce its carbon footprint, and want to party with KBCO for a good cause, contact Mardi Mathers at 720-207-1980 or at mardi48@gmail.com. Check out GreenPrint Denver online! www.greenprintdenver.org

- Submitted by 1500 Cook Street Block Captain Mardi Mathers

REPAIR OF FOUNTAIN UNDERWAY

A response from the City to resident David Scarbearly (Thanks,

David!):

David's Inquiry: When will the fountain be repaired in City Park? We understand that a lightning strike damaged the equipment last year. How soon can it be repaired and back in service as a Denver showpiece?

*CITY PARK 'S ELECTRIC FOUNTAIN RETURNS
AS A DENVER SHOWPIECE
Cooperation and collaboration key to
resurrecting a Denver treasure*

On Tuesday, August 19, 2008 Mayor John Hickenlooper joined City Officials unveiled the newly re-constructed, fully-functional City Park Electric Fountain. The Electric Fountain is now capable of producing the incredible light and water shows that made it a Denver destination years ago.

City's Response: Mr. Scarbeary, Thanks for your interest in the Electric Fountain at City Park. The fountain was repaired last fall and will be operational again for Memorial Day, which is the day we traditionally turn on our outdoor water features in parks. Please let me know if you have any further questions. Thanks, Britta Herwig, City Park Planner

- Submitted by Jim Slotta

SCPNA VACANCIES MUST BE FILLED

SCPNA Secretary - The association is in great need of a Secretary. The duties are being covered by other elected officers, mostly by the President, and the situation must change now. In lieu of no person being elected to the position for 2010, (the President) wants to appoint someone for the rest of the calendar year. Duties will be flexible according to appointee's needs. Please consider 'stepping up' to help avoid possible cutbacks in services.

SCPNA Block Captains -1500 Harrison, 1600 Detroit - The association is respected city-wide for its Block Captain structure. Like the other positions of responsibility within the organization, duties are flexible according to the appointee's needs. These openings, now covered by others, need people to take them on.

- Submitted by Jim Slotta

SUMMARY OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY SCPNA MEETINGS

January 20

About 35 attended at the Montview Manor Penthouse from 7-8:30 PM. Police District 2 Sergeant Eric Knutsen and Community Resource Officer Amy Esten were in attendance. Two issues were discussed and voted on: (1) Medical Marijuana Dispensaries; and (2) Parks and Recreation Private Event Policy. Results as follows:

(1) Resolution: Passed (21 Yes, 8 No, 4 Abstain)
The South City Park Neighborhood Association is opposed to allowing medical marijuana dispensaries to be located in the neighborhood. SCPNA asks that local and state elected officials adopt new laws and regulations that will prevent medical marijuana dispensaries from operat-

ing within its boundaries.

(2) Resolution: Passed (23 Yes, 1 No, 8 Abstain)The South City Park Neighborhood Association hereby urges the Mayor, the Manager of Parks and Recreation and the Denver City Council to reject proposals to fence off use of City Park by Denver citizens for the benefit of any non-governmental enterprise.

February 10

About 26 attended at the Montview Manor Penthouse from 7-8:30 PM. Two issues were discussed and voted on: (1) Parks and Recreation Off-Leash Dog Park Master Plan; (2) Signage Variance request by Lovely Confections Bakery (1489 Steele). Results as follows:

(1) Resolution: Passed (21 Yes, 2 No, 1 Abstain)
City Park is an inappropriate location for a non-fenced dog park. Should City Park be designated as a location for a dog park, the dog park must be a dedicated area, in an appropriate location, fenced to allow the multiple and varied uses of City Park to not be in conflict with off-leash dogs.

(2) Resolution: Passed (24 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)
The South City Park Neighborhood Association supports the signage variance request by Lovely Confections Bakery (Board of Adjustments for Zoning Appeals Case #3-10).

- Submitted by Jim Slotta

MISCELLANEOUS TIDBITS

Political Caucus Meetings - Attend your political caucus on Tuesday, March 16th at 7 PM and support the candidates of your choice. The Democratic caucuses for District 8 Precincts will meet at East High School. The Republican caucuses for District 8 Precincts will meet at Park Hill United Methodist Church, 5209 Montview Blvd. (Information obtained from party websites.)

Committee Forming, SCPNA offered two positions - A Central Denver Recreation Center Site Transition Group will discuss the possible interim opportunities at the central Denver recreation site at Colfax and Josephine. The Group will meet twice--once in March and once in April. Please let an SCPNA Officer know if you have interest in being one of our two reps, or in being a back-up rep.

Dumpster Paint Availability - A message from resident David Scarbeary (Thanks, David!):

I took advantage of the sunny day last Saturday and hopped back on the scooter to paint dumpsters in SCP. Tags had really grown more than I'd thought, and I used all of my last quart in one day. I think that was the most I've covered in a single day so far. I've been cruising the alleys since mid summer last year. The free paint from Denver is very handy. I used the last of my paint on Saturday, so Denver public works will have more for me to pick up on Friday. Perhaps we could start an outreach program with Congress Park neighbors to further discourage the taggers. Paint is free for the willing by calling 311 or 720-913-1311.

I noticed some neighbors using dark brown and other non-standard paints to cover dumpster tags. Sometimes these can look almost as bad as a graffiti tag. If any neighbors are willing

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(Tidbits - Cont.)

to keep their area graffiti free and use the same color paint as the dumpsters, I can spare a quart for them from the city. Have them call me at 303-332-3857 or email me at david@scarbeary.com.

FIVE SCPNA GOALS/ACTIONS FOR 2010 (PROPOSED)

(Goals will be discussed/voted on at the March 17 Meeting)

SCPNA GOAL	ACTION(S) TO ACHIEVE
1) 300+ Members Achieved	Campaign; Flexible Dues
2) Delegates to Other Orgs. * Appointed	Survey; Member Outreach
3) Parking/Traffic Resolved	Resolutions Accomplished
4) Quality of Life Maintained	Enforced Agreements **
5) Eventfulness Experienced	July Social Month; Block Parties

* Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN)
Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC)
Project Angel Pride (PAP)
City Park Alliance (CPA)

** Denver Parks & Recreation
Colfax Businesses

- Submitted by SCPNA President Jim Slotta

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES AT WEB SITE

- LETTER TO EDITOR RE. DRAFT DENVER DOG PARK MASTER PLAN, BY CHUN BOARD DELEGATE KATHLEEN WELLS

(Ms. Wells lists untenable assumptions in the proposal, differentiates between dog parks and dog sites, and concludes that the proposal needs major revision.)

- CITY PARK TRAFFIC MAP AS PROPOSED IN 2009 (MORE CHANGES ARE BEING PROPOSED IN 2010)

(See 2009 proposed plan for vehicle/bike routes, multi-use paths, Sunday closures, etc.)

- DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE PRESS RELEASE (3-3-10)

(Read about the plans for a new 100,000-square-foot facility for science programs and collections storage. The project will be funded in part through voter-approved Better Denver bonds from the City of Denver.)

Read these articles and expanded articles from this newsletter at www.scpna.org.

Those unable to visit the web site may obtain the longer version by asking either an officer or their block captain for a printed copy.

WANT A STREET CAR ON COLFAX?

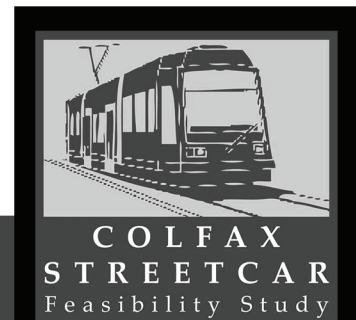
DON'T MISS THIS MEETING!

When: Thursday, March 18, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Molly Blank Conference Room at National Jewish Hospital
(3800 East Colfax Avenue, parking is just west of Colorado Boulevard on the south side of Colfax)

Who: All interested members of the community

What: Come and participate in the continued discussion to explore the potential of streetcar and learn about progress made toward the feasibility analysis. The City and County of Denver is working to assess the technical and economic feasibility of developing a streetcar line along the Colfax Corridor.



Putting the "Medical" in Medical Marijuana.



Join Harvard-educated M.D. and researcher on March 17 for an informational session.

With all of the politics surrounding Colorado's medical marijuana dispensaries, it's no wonder that many people are confused about medical marijuana. What are the legitimate medical uses of marijuana? What does the current medical and scientific research have to say about cannabis?

Amarimed's Dr. Alan Shackelford, a Harvard trained physician and researcher, will be the keynote speaker at an informative session to answer these questions and more.

When:

Wednesday, March 17th at 6:00pm

Where:

The Bluebird Theater, 3317 E Colfax

Beverages and snacks provided. Stay and celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the BlueBird District after the talk.

Sponsored by:

Amarimed, The CG Network and myColfax.org