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News from District 5

APRIL 2010

April 1, 2010

Dear District 5 Neighbor,

It's that time of year again. City Agencies and City Council are prioritizing projects for inclusion in Denver's upcoming budget cycle as well as continuing to look for cost-saving measures. New ideas stream in from constituents, and special issue task forces are formed. Here are just a few of the topics being discussed that you are sure to hear more about soon:

- ◆ Denver's new zoning code will be adopted this year. Are you Urban, Suburban, Edgy, Mixed Use, Mixed Up, Confused or Unsure of your character? Find all the answers here: www.newcodedenver.org.
- ◆ Urban farming and agriculture could be the wave of the future. Denver currently has a process for approving backyard chickens and is evaluating the ordinance to include goats and swine. Billy G. and Porky P. have formed a special task force to evaluate this issue; they will meet every other Friday at the Molkery.
- ◆ Parks and Recreation Proposes to save the City of Denver \$26

million a year by discontinuing the maintenance of Parks and Parkways until city sales and property tax collections return to 2009 levels. If you have a mower and could help out this season, please email me listing the days/times you would be available and we'll assign you a portion of a park or a parkway to maintain.

- ◆ In an effort to alleviate congestion, Traffic Engineering Services is evaluating new traffic restrictions. All commercial truck traffic - including semis, trash pick-up, and commercial deliveries - on Denver's streets will be limited to operation between 3 and 6:30 a.m. Passenger vehicles will be restricted to 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays, with hours extended to 2:30 a.m. on weekends. Light Rail will continue to operate without restriction as will all RTD Buses. [RTD monthly passes](#) are a good value with prices starting at \$35 for seniors 65 +.
- ◆ A new report from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has discovered that "road rage"

is actually aggravated by the colors red, yellow, and green. In response, Public Works will be experimenting with a new color palette in blue and pink tones along Leetsdale Drive in District 5, where **fuchsia** means STOP, **violet** means SLOW, and **cerulean** means GO.

- ◆ Last summer, we saw some dramatic flooding throughout the City as the result of a series powerful microburst storms. If it happens again next year, please be sure your boat is no larger than 22 feet long. You might want to paddle over to the great basin of Crestmoor Park during the next storm. But please don't forget - in Denver public parks, only catch & release fishing is allowed.

I hope you're as excited as I am about all we have to look forward to this year!

~ Marcia

Did I getcha?? Happy April Fool's Day! Keep reading for the REAL news in District 5...

Council Bans New LED Billboards in Denver

On March 8, 2010, the Denver City Council held a public hearing and unanimously voted to prohibit all new LED billboards in the City.

Earlier in the year, when the Planning Department presented a zoning language amendment to the Blueprint Committee, to clarify portions of the sign code regarding billboards, the discussion turned to LED signs.

Previously, the code did not specifically address LED signs, so 3 have already been issued permits within the City and these will be allowed to continue as "nonconforming uses."

The lights on these 3 permitted billboards may not flash, blink or fluctuate, or change in any manner more frequently than once per hour, must be dimmed at dusk, and



may not be lit between the hours of 1 and 6 a.m.

What Do You Think About the New Zoning Code? Let Us Know!



While the 4th and "final" draft of the New Denver Zoning Code was posted earlier this year, a revised Version 4.1 is now available at www.newcodedenver.org.

The Denver Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday,

April 21st if you would like to attend and comment on Version 4.1 of the new code.

After the Planning Board public hearing, City Council will begin the process of adopting the code. We are looking at the final public hearing and vote by City Council to take place on Monday, June 21st.

For more information on the next steps in the new code adoption schedule, please visit the [New Code webpage](#).

Denver Planning Board
Public Hearing on the New
Zoning Code
Wednesday, April 21st
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Webb Building
201 W. Colfax Avenue
4th Floor Conference Room

I-70 & Central Park Boulevard Interchange Project Underway

The Central Park Boulevard/I-70 Interchange project has begun! The City selected SEMA Construction to design and build the project, and a "Notice to Proceed" was issued on January 29, 2010.

Located within the Stapleton redevelopment area, the proposed Central Park Boulevard interchange will provide additional I-70 access and a connection to Central Park Boulevard, which becomes Yosemite Street further south. The project will be a gateway to Denver, address the projected traffic volumes,

and will link the Stapleton development to the Northfield shopping center.

The construction phase is expected to begin this June. The \$50.6 million interchange project is funded by federal stimulus dollars, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and Better Denver bonds. The interchange is anticipated to be operational by October 2011. For more information, please visit the [CPB Interchange project website](#).



Mile High Mile Scholarship Fund

From Jeff Shoemaker, *The Greenway Foundation*



Last year, over 300 children (triple the number from the first year!) from across Denver par-

ticipated in the 2nd annual Mile High Mile. For many of them, it was the first time they had ever run in an organized race. This was made possible through the Mile High Mile Scholarship Fund.

The money raised last year through this fund ensured that every child who wanted to participate in the race could, no matter what their socioeconomic status.

This year, we expect a bigger turnout than ever at the **April 18th** race, and we want to be able to tell each child who applies for a scholarship, YES!

Please join me in supporting this great cause, this great program, and these great kids by supporting the Mile High Mile Scholarship Fund this year. For more information, please visit www.milehighmile.com.

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Highline Canal Improvements

From Denver Parks & Recreation

Did you know that Denver Parks & Recreation's trail system was named #1 in the United States for 2009, by *Parks and Recreation* magazine?

The City is beginning work on a series of trail upgrades to update Denver's renowned multi-use trail system. This trail revitalization project, funded by the [Better Denver Bond Program](#), will greatly improve the trail users experience throughout the City. Improvements will be done at Bear Creek Trail, Harvard Gulch Trail, Sanderson Gulch Trail, Clear Creek Trail, and here in District 5 on the Highline Canal Trail.

The Highline Canal regional trail project will replace 1-¼ miles of dilapidated trail with a new, 8-foot sections of paved asphalt trail. The Highline Canal Trail improvements will occur between Quebec Street and Yosemite Street. The focus for this project is to improve safety, accessibility and mitigate existing drainage and erosion concerns. Trail amenities, such as new picnic



tables, trash receptacles and park benches will also be added.

During this work, trail users should be aware that detours may direct them to local streets, sidewalks or bike lanes, and they should exercise appropriate safety precautions for those routes. Although there will be temporary trail closures and detours between March and August of 2010 due to construction activities, the ultimate benefits that the trail users will gain through this revitalization program should vastly outweigh these minor inconveniences.

Energy Blitz! *Volunteers Needed*

Neighborhood Energy Blitz

Saturday, April 24, 2010
8:30 a.m. - Noon

City Park West, City Park South, Bellevue-Hale, Mayfair & Hilltop neighborhoods

On April 24, 2010, 5 neighborhoods - City Park West, City Park South, Bellevue-Hale, Mayfair and Hilltop - will partner with Greenprint Denver to bring energy efficiency services and weatherization upgrades to their community. Volunteers will go door-to-door to offer residents a free CFL porch light bulb, free curbside recycling registration, junk mail reduction, income-qualifying weatherization services, and sign-up for Xcel's Windsorce program or subsidized home energy audits.

If you'd like to volunteer, send your name and email address to greenprint@denvergov.org. We'll send you all the information you need including training location.

Doors Open Denver - April 17th & 18th

Celebrate Denver's unique architectural landscape by taking part in Doors Open Denver 2010! The theme for this year's Doors Open Denver is adaptive reuse and will feature sites that represent outstanding examples of buildings with a second life.

"Denver Redux/Redo" will give residents and visitors the opportunity to experience Denver's built environ-

ment in a special way - from inside many buildings that are not ordinarily open to the public.

Doors Open Denver is a FREE event. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, April 17 & 18, 2010. For complete information on Doors Open Denver 2010, please visit www.DenverGov.org/DoorsOpenDenver.

Park Hill Art Club Spring Art Show & Sale

April 30th - 4:30 to 8 p.m.
May 1st - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
May 2nd - 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
@ Park Hill United Methodist
Church, at Montview &
Glencoe

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Things a Burglar Won't Tell You

- ◆ Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
- ◆ Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what kind of gaming system they have.
- ◆ Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
- ◆ If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
- ◆ A good security company will alarm the windows over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom - and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
- ◆ I'm not complaining, but why would you pay for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
- ◆ Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet. HELPFUL HINT: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
- ◆ You're right. I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
- ◆ A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a time and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at www.faketv.com)
- ◆ The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
- ◆ I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes noise. If your neighbor hears a loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
- ◆ I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.



Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California & Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey who runs www.crimedoctor.com; and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book, *Burglars on the Job*.

Good & Green[®] Electronics Recycling Event

Sponsored By







Saturday, April 10th 2010
9:00AM – 1:00PM

East Montclair Community Center
Mile High Youth Corps
6740 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80220



One day only special event fees:

TV's.....\$1 per diagonal inch	DVD/VCR/DVR/Video game equip/ Stereo components.....\$3
Computer Monitors.....\$10	All other small electronics.....\$2
Microwaves, fax machines, scanners, copiers.....\$10	Specialized items, very large items - Price quoted at time of drop-off
Laptops/notebooks, Towers/CPU's, printers.....\$5	

(Cash, Checks, VISA and MC accepted)

GOOD

Proceeds from this event will benefit MHYC. They engage youth in jobs that help the planet and provide pathways to a promising future.



GREEN

Electronics collected will be responsibly and securely recycled by a BAN Qualified recycler.



Contact: Erin Sinnott, Mile High Youth Corps at 303.433.1206 Option 2, x233 erins@mhyc.net www.milehighyouthcorps.org or Jackie Winger, Metech Recycling at 720.377.7700 jwinger@metechrecycling.com www.metechrecycling.com

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS!

We need your help for the first annual...





A cool place to shop, dine, and have fun
A cool way to help disadvantaged kids
A cool way to connect communities

Saturday, April 17, 2010
(Rain date: Sunday, April 18, 2010)

9:00am—Welcome and Check-In
East High School lunchroom

9:30-11:00am—Clean-up along Colfax Avenue
Monaco—Lincoln

11:00am-12:00pm—Post Service Celebration
East High School lunchroom

Join Denver Children's Home as we celebrate Earth Day and help make our community better by picking up trash and sweeping the sidewalk along Colfax Avenue. Support Denver Children's Home's kids and families by participating in this event.

For more information and to register for this great event visit our website at www.denverchildrenshome.org and go to the NEWS & EVENTS tab or [click here](#).

All participants will have the chance to win a 60 minute Mile High City Helicopter Tour for three people courtesy of Colorado HelioPs!





Spring Snows = Tree Damage!

The wet, heavy spring snows that we get here in Denver tend to be “branch-breakers.” Denver Forestry offers the following advice:

- ◆ DO use a long-handled broom to know snow from the limbs of small trees.
- ◆ DO consider having trees professionally pruned. Properly pruned trees will have strongly-attached limbs and will be less prone to failure. Visit www.denvergov.org/forestry for a list of licensed tree contractors.
- ◆ DO check for downed utility wires before cleaning up snow and tree debris.
- ◆ DO tie limbs into bundles less than 4 feet long and 40 pounds for Denver Solid Waste to pickup. For more information, visit www.denvergov.org/trash.
- ◆ DO NOT clean up around or work under trees that are dropping branches because of snow load. When one branch has failed, there is an elevated risk that additional failures could take place.
- ◆ DO NOT attempt to climb the tree or use a ladder to reach high limbs; call a contractor.

If a tree limb is broken or a tree is down on the public right-of-way, citizens are asked to contact Denver Forestry to assess damage and tree safety, by calling 3-1-1. For trees on private property, citizens can visit www.denvergov.org/forestry for a list of licensed and insured tree care contractors.



Save the Date!
**5th Annual Colfax
Marathon**

Sunday, May 16, 2010
www.coloradocolfaxmarathon.org

GWHS Community Service Day

Join the George Washington High School community for a day of planting trees and community service. You can stop by and help for an hour or more, and bring your work gloves and gardening tools if you have them. Please register in the north lobby of the GWHS building on April 10th if you'd like to contribute.

**George Washington High
School's Tree Planting and
Community Service Day**

Saturday, April 10, 2010
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Registration in the north lobby
at GWHS

Denver School of the Arts Fundraiser

The Denver School of the Arts will hold a "Spring Swing Dance" on **Saturday, April 10, 2010**, at the Highlands Masonic Temple, 3550 North Federal Boulevard. All proceeds will benefit the DSA Band Program.



Tickets for the 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. event are \$30 per person. A special afternoon performance for senior citizens will be held from 3-5 p.m. and tickets are \$10 each.

Music will be provided by the DSA Band Department, Jazz Links, Jazz Workshop Orchestra and various DSA

Band Ensembles. FREE dance instruction and demonstrations by professional dancers Tom and Margaret Krushensky will be offered.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.DSABandBenefit.com or through the DSA Box Office at (720) 424-1713.

With many schools facing limited arts-focused programming, Denver is fortunate to have a school dedicated to a variety of genres within the arts. The DSA Band program needs to raise funds to continue to bring in world-class talent, fund practicing artists for instruction, and offset costs of trips outside of Denver and specialized retreats.

Self Protection for Teenage Girls

The Denver Police Department, in partnership with the Rape Assistance and Awareness Program (RAAP), is offering a 3-hour self protection class for teenage girls. The class can host up to 14 students, and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. It will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on **Saturday, April 10, 2010** at the District One station, 1311 W. 46th Avenue.

Please contact Lt. Vince Porter to register - vince.porter@denvergov.org or (720) 913-6995. When registering, please provide the student's full name and age. You will be sent a waiver form which must be returned prior to attending the class. Participants under age 16 must be accompanied by a female adult.

April's Green Tip: Mile High Million

In an effort to reduce residential energy costs and provide job training for military veterans, [The Mile High Million](http://www.milehighmillion.com) has teamed up with Veterans Green Jobs to plant trees across Denver. Funded as part a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, the City's Greenprint Denver programs will strategically plant 4,600 trees. The 2-3 year program will target 35 neighborhoods with less than 18% canopy coverage, including the **Washington Virginia Vale, Windsor, and Lowry neighborhoods** in District 5.

Trees will be strategically planted in front yards on the west side of homes to provide optimal shade for cooling homes in the summer. Residents in eligible neighborhoods will receive information about the program by mail and via door-to-door canvassing. Trees will be planted only with prior approval from the homeowner, which includes a commitment to provide ongoing care.

For more details about this program, please contact The Mile High Million at (720) 913-0620, or at million.trees@denvergov.org.

Upcoming SCFD Free Days

[Denver Zoo](#)

No scheduled Free Days until
October 2010

[Denver Museum of Nature & Science](#)

Sunday, April 18th

[Denver Art Museum](#)

Saturday, April 3rd
Saturday, May 1st

[Denver Center for the Performing](#)

[Arts](#) - Program operates as a ticket
drawing. [Apply for free tickets.](#)

[Denver Botanic Gardens](#)

Thursday, April 22nd
@ 1005 York Street location only

Friday, April 2nd

Friday, May 7th
@ Chatfield location only



Citizens of the
Scientific & Cultural
Facilities District

Making It Possible.

Visit www.scfcd.org for more
information about upcoming
FREE DAYS.

Denver Trivia Question for April

Courtesy of Rich Delaney

Tourism is the main industry in our fair state. From what other state do most of our summer and winter visitors come from?

- A) Texas B) Nebraska
C) California D) Kansas
E) New York

Answers to the monthly Denver trivia question can be found on [my webpage](#).

Can't get enough City
news? You don't need to
wait for my newsletter...
You can stay up-to-date by
visiting my website:

[www.denvergov.org/
councildistrict5](http://www.denvergov.org/councildistrict5)

Please encourage your
friends and neighbors to
sign up!

Stay Connected...

The City & County of Denver provides streaming video of Denver 8 TV programming. You can view [LIVE](#) as it is scheduled, or you can watch a variety of videos on demand, including archived coverage of City Council meetings and City-produced local shows. For direct access, [visit www.denvergov.org/Denver8online](#) anytime!

Related links:
Denver City Council Weekly
Agendas, Minutes, and In-
formation -
denvergov.org/CityCouncil

Receive Council Agendas
and Updates by E-mail -
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