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Denver's Sister City Devastated by Tsunami

As the death toll in South Asia continues to rise from last week's deadly earthquake and tsunami, the City of Denver's thoughts are with our Sister City of Chennai, India – where over 6,000 people have been killed.

Located near the tip of India on the Bay of Bengal, Chennai (formerly known as Madras) became Denver's seventh sister city in 1984. Commemorating this relationship, Denver's "City of Chennai Park" is located on the northeast side of South Quebec Street and Cherry Creek Drive. In Chennai, the "Denver House" provides a place where people from Denver can visit and stay.

Denver Sister Cities International (DSCI) is collecting monetary donations to send to Chennai, a city with whom we have had a 20-year relationship. Those interested in contributing can mail checks made out to the **"DSCI Chennai Tsunami Relief Fund" to DSCI, 2480 West 26th Avenue #20B; Denver, CO 80211.**

For more information, please contact Denver Sister Cities International at 303-832-1336 or visit www.denversistercities.org.

All nations affected by the massive earthquakes and tsunamis that struck South Asia on December 26 are in desperate need of assistance. The death toll has exceeded 100,000 to date and is still climbing, while survivors cope with the loss of their homes, lack of food and water, and disease (continued).

Tsunami Relief (cont.)

You can also send donations to one of the following reputable organizations:

American Red Cross International Response Fund

BY INTERNET: Secure online contributions can be made by visiting www.redcross.org.

BY CHECK: Mail to American Red Cross International Response Fund; P.O. Box 37243; Washington, DC 20013.

BY PHONE: Call 1-800-HELP NOW or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

BY INTERNET: www.unicef.org

BY CHECK: Mail to U.S. Fund for UNICEF; 333 East 38th Street; New York, NY 10016

Tragedy Hits Home

Two days before Christmas several families lost everything in their townhouses to a fire at their **Stone Creek Village** complex near Hampden and Havana. The complex is located in District 4 and we are asking anyone who is able to help to donate useful items for these displaced families.

The most needed items include:

Woman's clothing

Furniture

Household and Kitchen Items: dishes, pots and pans, silverware, towels and sheets and any other useful items.

Donations are being accepted at the Stone Creek Village leasing office from 9am-6pm, Monday through Friday. The address is **9825 E. Girard Ave.** The location is 2 blocks east of Yosemite. Anything that you can donate would be much appreciated.

Mayor Awards the Arts

SAVE THE DATE and come celebrate the arts! Mayor John Hickenlooper and the Mayor's Commission on Art, Culture and Film continue the annual tradition of the **Mayor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts** recognizing individuals and organizations that have made a significant and lasting contribution to the arts in the City and County of Denver. The 2004 awards will take place on **February 9, 2005, at 5:30 p.m. in Boettcher Concert Hall** at the Denver Performing Arts Complex. This is a free event and all are welcome to attend.

T-REX Testing

"I see the train a comin'..." Light rail vehicles will soon be operating on part of the T-REX Project, but riders can't hop aboard just yet. The first segment of the T-REX light rail corridor between Broadway and Steele is now ready for the required integrated testing. For the next three months, empty light rail vehicles will run intermittently on the tracks from Broadway to Steele, to test the various elements of the new light rail system. The track, signals, sub-stations, and Overhead Contact System (OCS) are among the systems that the design-build contractor, Southeast Corridor Constructors, will test in an operating environment to ensure that the elements are all working together properly and safely.

In March 2005, after the integrated testing is scheduled to be complete, RTD will begin using this same rail segment to test the 34 new light rail cars being provided through T-REX. Each new vehicle must operate successfully for 1,500 miles before being put into service. So, periodically for the next two years, empty light rail vehicles will be running in the segment from Broadway to Steele. The start of light rail testing is an opportunity to revisit some key light rail safety messages: Do not trespass in the light rail right of way, and contact with live overhead electrical wires is dangerous. T-REX construction is on schedule to be complete in September 2006. The Southeast Corridor Light Rail is on track to open to the public in December 2006. Visit www.trexproject.com for more information about the T-REX Project.

Bradley International Open House



Bradley International is the first Denver Public School to implement the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP), a globally recognized program for all students Pre-K through 5th grade. The PYP is a comprehensive program that sets high expectations for students and offers them an academically challenging education which includes foreign language instruction and encompasses all Colorado State Standards.

If you are interested in learning more about Bradley International, please attend one of the school's two upcoming Open Houses:

Tuesday, January 11
School Tours 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Evening Presentation
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 15
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Presentation

Bradley International is located at 3051 S. Elm St. Denver, near Yale and I-25.

Denver Urban Gardens Gives Back



Don't miss out on your chance to order FREE vegetable seeds and transplants. Applications are now available to Denver residents who meet low to moderate-income guidelines. Applications can be picked up at over 50 distribution centers (recreation centers, churches and senior centers) throughout Denver. The application deadline is Monday, January 31, 2005. Some of the seed and plant varieties include: tomato, pepper, onion, broccoli, squash, lettuce, corn, carrots, herbs and much more! Seeds are delivered to centers in March and transplants in May. To locate the distribution center nearest you, call Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) at 303-292-9900.

Garden plots are also available in more than 60 community gardens throughout the Denver area. Garden space is limited and early sign-up is encouraged. For more information, call DUG at 303-292-9900.

The Free Seeds and Transplants Program is funded by a grant from the City of Denver Housing and Neighborhood Development Services, and is operated by DUG, a nonprofit organization. DUG was formed over 18 years ago to help urban neighborhoods create community gardens and neighborhood-scale parks. To date, DUG has helped build and support over 70 community gardens and open space parks throughout the Denver-metro area. DUG sites provide gardeners with space to grow pesticide-free produce, improve neighborhood aesthetics and provide residents with visible examples of neighborhood achievement.

Phone Book Recycling

Area Safeway stores will no longer serve as drop-off sites for telephone book recycling. Denver residents are encouraged to take phone books to one of the dedicated roll-off container locations listed below:

**Now through January 15th
1235 East Evans Avenue**

*In the parking lot at Evans and Downing. Parking lot is fenced off for construction.
Recycling container is located along Evans.*

**Now until through February 29th
200 W. 14th Avenue**

*In the alley, West of the building between Cherokee and Bannock and 13th and 14th Avenue,
just South of the City and County Building.*

**Year Round:
Recycle America: 303-941-1432
Tri-R Recycling: 303-399-6351**

Goldsmith Gulch Public Meeting

Please join Pat Schuler, Denver Parks and Recreation Planner to discuss issues related to Goldsmith Gulch at Calvary Baptist Church on Tuesday, January 25, 2005, 7pm till 9pm. The Church is located at 6500 E. Girard Avenue at the Northeast corner of Hampden and Monaco.

The meeting will cover Goldsmith Gulch issues including drainage, storm water debris, maintenance of the gulch, and potential improvements to Bible Park and to the gulch. Pat welcomes questions and input from concerned residents. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Contact my office:

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Visit us on the web at:
www.denvergov.org/CouncilDistrict4