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Are You Ready for the US Census?



In March of 2010, the Census Bureau will count each United States resident. The Census has been mandated by the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 2) since 1790 and occurs every 10 years. It is used to count people of all ages, race, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens and determines how the community is changing and what its needs are.

Starting in March, Census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, all you have to do is answer the 10 short questions and mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope that is provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form.

Why is the 2010 Census Important?

Census data is used to allocate \$400 billion in federal funds each year. The Census sets State and Federal revenue sharing and helps communities by bringing in better infrastructure and more services such as hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects, emergency services, and unemployment insurance. The Census also determines the number of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives, representatives in the Colorado state legislature and on the Denver City Council.

It is estimated that for every Denver resident not counted in 2010, Denver could lose a minimum of \$826 per person each year in federal funds. In Denver in the 2000 Census, it is estimated that there were 9,000 undercounted residents, which translates to an estimated loss of \$74 million in federal dollars over 10 years. For these reasons, it is critical to Denver's continued economic success that it achieves the most accurate count possible.

The constitution protects Census information from being shared. Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information and violating this law is a crime. In addition, other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act reinforce these protections. The information is used to produce statistics. **The census DOES NOT ask about the legal status of respondents or their Social Security numbers.**

For more information or help please call 3-1-1 or visit www.denvergov.org/census2010 or <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

Fraud Alert: U.S. Census Workers

Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will gather information about every person living at each address in the United States. Information for the 2010 Census includes name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. Most people in the Denver Metro area will receive a Census form by U.S. Mail in March 2010. A few remote locations and harder to contact households will be contacted in person beginning in January 2010. It is important to know how to tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist.

- U.S. Census workers will have a badge (no photo), a notebook, a black Census Bureau canvas bag with white lettering, and a confidentiality notice.
- Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. If you ask, the worker should provide you with a phone number to call to verify their employment with the Census.
- Never invite anyone you don't know into your home - no matter who they say they are!
- There are only 10 questions on the official Census form.
- The Census Bureau will not ask for any financial information, such as a salary range, and will NOT ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.
- Census workers will never ask for payment or contributions of any kind.
- Census workers may contact you at your home in person or by telephone only if you are in a hard to access situation or you did not return your mail-in form. **They will NOT contact you by email.**

For assistance or questions related to fraud, call the Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179.

4th Annual Crime Summit

Learn more about narcotics, pattern crimes, DNA, gang activity, nuisance abatement, and traffic enforcement at the 4th Annual Crime Summit.

**Saturday, February 6th
9am to 3pm
District 3 Police Station
1625 S. University Blvd., Community Room**

Please contact the Dist. 3 Community Resource Officer to reserve your space today: Tech. Jimenez or Tech. Burkhardt at 720-913-1300. **Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be Served**

New Code Denver is Now on the Web

The fourth and **Final Review Draft** of the **New Zoning Code** can now be accessed at www.NewCodeDenver.org. The Denver Planning Board's formal public hearing on Draft #4 will be held on February 17th. The location and time of the hearing will be posted on NewCodeDenver.org once they are determined.

Two more sessions of "New Code Office Hours" will be held in February to answer questions about Draft #4 of the proposed new code and to offer the opportunity for one-on-one meetings tailored to specific questions from residents and property owners.

**Tuesday, February 9, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., &
Thursday, February 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
Webb Municipal Building, 201 W. Colfax Ave.,
4th floor room 4.I.4.

If you plan to attend the New Code Office Hours, please register at the following link so that we may schedule adequate staffing: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MXCCQLN>.

The remainder of the New Zoning Code process is as follows:

Feb. 17, 2010	Planning Board public hearing, after which the Board will forward a recommendation to City Council
Mar. 10, 2010	Denver City Council Blueprint Denver Committee will consider the new code and whether to approve filing a bill for adoption by the full City Council
Mar. 16, 2010	Mayor and Council review and discuss Blueprint recommendation
Mar. 18, 2010	Community Planning and Development files a bill for an ordinance adopting the new code to be considered by City Council
Mar. 22, 2010	City Council – first reading of new code ordinance proposal
April 19, 2010	City Council – public hearing and final consideration of proposed ordinance adopting the new code.



THE NEW ZONING CODE
PUTTING BLUEPRINT DENVER TO WORK

Four Points Sheraton Demolition Update

Demolition of the Four Points Sheraton Hotel is planned to begin in February (one building at a time). However, the timeline will depend on when the necessary state and city permits are approved. Up-to-date information will be posted on their website: www.hphampden.com

Rap It Up

Denver County Court is offering a one day program, "RAP it Up (Restorative Accountability Program)", for persons of all ages who have an outstanding warrant for a ticket for Denver County Juvenile Court to clear their warrant. This opportunity will allow persons with outstanding warrants that were issued from Courtroom 191-J, and are more than a year old, to come to court and take care of their warrant without arrest. Members of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar have volunteered to provide attorney counsel free of charge to all who want to take advantage of this opportunity and they will be present on site.

Tuesday, February 16th
8:30 am to 1: 30 pm
Denver County Court
Juvenile Division – Courtroom 191J
1450 Cherokee Street

Persons taking advantage of the program should be prepared to pay a minimum fee of \$30 for the Outstanding Judgment Warrant and court costs of \$46. In some cases the court may impose restitution and/or community service.

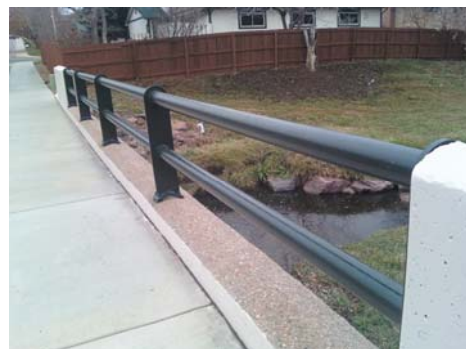
For more information please call 720-865-8099

Neighborhood Beautification Project

Our office would like to thank the volunteers who last October put on their painting clothes and grabbed their paint brushes to help beautify their community.

The neighbors of Park Vista and Pine Ridge (behind Tiffany Plaza) came together to give the two bridges crossing the Goldsmith Gulch along Tamarac Street and leading into the neighborhood on Rosemary and Princeton, a long overdue face lift with new paint on the rails and concrete walls. Everyday volunteers came out to answer the call of the newly revitalized Hampden South Neighborhood Association (HSNA). Thanks to the HSNA Board, City Engineers Bill Cusack and Jim Barwick and all the great volunteer help from our neighbors!

Dan Mahoney led the efforts of the bridge project while Nicole Wartell created and published a new neighborhood website: <http://www.hampdensouth.com/>. If you live in the neighborhood, be sure to get on their e-mail list for upcoming events. They can always use help as they create a greater sense of community in our neighborhood.



Coyote Corner: Keep Your Pets Safe

This is the season that our resident coyotes are preparing for pups in the spring. During coyote breeding season, January into early March, coyotes become more territorial, and are on the look out for potential competition as well as for food. This can lead to increased conflicts between coyotes and your pets.

Large dogs can be targeted by coyotes this time of year. Our local coyotes are formidable hunters, and several animals working together can potentially overcome even a very large dog. Unattended dogs are more likely victims, as close proximity of people (less than 6 feet) is one of the best coyote deterrents. Small unattended dogs and cats can be easy targets as potential prey. Our pets are often not as aware of their surroundings as wild animals are, and a small pet used to other dogs is often much easier prey than local squirrels, rabbits and rodents.

Backyards are no guarantee of safety. Wild animals can easily jump 4-6 foot fences, and are usually well aware of pets in their territories.

To keep your pets safe:

1. Never allow your dog to run off leash in areas not designated for this activity.
2. Use a 6 foot leash to increase the likelihood that the coyote will associate your dog with you.
3. Be aware of your surroundings. Coyotes are ambush predators so when hunting they try to avoid detection. Conversely, a coyote openly seen is usually feeling comfortable and is less of a threat.
4. Keep pets indoors after dark when coyotes are more active. Close dog doors and accompany pets outdoors.
5. Always check your yard before letting a pet outside. If a coyote is present, aggressively chase it out of the yard, **DO NOT IGNORE**. Spray with a hose, vinegar water in a water gun, throw things at it, bang pots, continue to harass until it leaves. It will remember your yard was not hospitable.
6. Always keep cats indoors (and safe from disease, dogs, coyotes, foxes, owls, etc.)
7. Remove attractants from your yard. Coyotes eat birdseed and pet food.
8. Never ignore a coyote or multiple coyotes. **ALWAYS** aggressively haze or harass them. Coyotes have learned to ignore or disregard people because we let them. But they instinctively do not want to tangle with a person, of any size.
9. **NEVER INTENTIONALLY OR ACCIDENTALLY FEED A COYOTE**. Feeding other wild animals and stray cats **FEEDS COYOTES TOO**. Feeding them reduces their natural fear and increases aggression directed towards people.

Find out more about living with coyotes and other urban wildlife at www.denvergov.org/wildlife.



Fraud Alert: Haitian Earthquake Relief

From the Office of Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey:

The situation in Haiti is tragic and will require tremendous resources from the Federal government as well as individuals. This is a good time to remind ourselves of important safety measures related to disaster relief donations. Internet users who receive appeals to donate money in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti or other disasters should be cautious and use due diligence before responding to requests.

- Do not respond to unsolicited incoming e-mails, and NEVER click links contained within those messages;
- Make contributions directly to disaster response organizations rather than to individuals representing themselves as victims or public officials asking for donations via e-mail or social networking sites;
- To make a contribution contact disaster relief organizations directly using information found via an independent source, such as a phone book or 411, rather than following a purported link to the site;
- Verify the legitimacy of nonprofit organizations by utilizing various Internet-based resources, such as www.give.org and www.charitynavigator.org;
- Make contributions directly to recognizable organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf to ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes;
- Be cautious of e-mails that claim to show pictures of the disaster areas in attached files - these files may contain viruses;
- Never give your personal or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions. Providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179. Follow us on Twitter [@DenverScamAlert](https://twitter.com/DenverScamAlert)

Denver Boards and Commissions News

I would like to congratulate and thank the following Council District 4's residents for their appointments to Denver Boards and Commissions. They are giving their own time to help make Denver a better place to live.

Joyce Butler for her recent appointment to The Denver Commission on Aging.

Loren Ginsburg on his reappointment to the Denver Parking Commission.

Wendy Alexander on her reappointment to the Denver Workforce Investment Board

Community Corner: Metro CareRing Needs Donations

Metro CareRing is a non-profit emergency food pantry providing individuals and families with food, bus tokens, toiletries and funds for utility assistance, work tools, and identification documentation. They work with families and individuals to meet basic needs and help advocate for solutions to hunger and poverty. They assist people through times of crisis and provide resources for self-reliance.

Those served do not always have the means to purchase toiletry items and food stamps only cover the cost of food. Metro CareRing are in desperate need of toiletry items (diapers, toilet paper, etc.) and would appreciate your support.

Donations are accepted Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm at the door marked "Deliveries" behind the Metro CareRing building at 18th & Downing (1100 E. 18th Ave.). For more information, please contact Martha, Pantry Manager, @ 303-350-3663. [Learn more about Metro CareRing.](#)

February Calendar of Events

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield FREE DAY

February 5th. 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Littleton. 303-973-3705; www.botanicgardens.org

Denver Art Museum FREE DAY

February 6th. 100 West 14th Avenue Parkway. 720-865-5000; www.denverartmuseum.org

Denver Zoo FREE DAY

February 7th. 2300 Steele St., Denver. 303-376-4800; www.denverzoo.org

Denver Botanic Gardens FREE DAY

February 15th. 1005 York St., Denver. 720-865-3500; www.botanicgardens.org

Denver Zoo FREE DAY

February 16th. 2300 Steele St., Denver. 303-376-4800; www.denverzoo.org

Restaurant Week

February 20th – March 5th. Restaurant week is a two-week celebration of the culinary scene in Denver where participating restaurants will offer a multi-course dinner for the fixed price of \$52.80 for two, or \$26.40 for one (not including tax or gratuity). For a list of participating restaurants or for more information please visit www.denverrestaurantweek.com.

Denver Museum of Nature & Science FREE DAY

February 21st. 2001 Colorado Blvd. 303-322-7009; www.dmns.org.

Find out what's happening throughout the Denver Metro Area for theater, arts, culture, sports and special events! Visit www.Denver365.com, the online comprehensive event calendar or www.thescen3.org for SCFD Tier III events

Stay up-to-date on your elected officials by
visiting their websites:

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