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Wabash Bridge Summary

For the past several years, Arapahoe County has proposed the construction of a vehicular bridge crossing Cherry Creek and connecting S. Wabash Street and E. Yale Avenue. This location is entirely within the jurisdiction of Arapahoe County, however, in 2003, the City of Denver purchased from Denver Water a parcel of property squarely in the path of the bridge for the purpose of using the property for parks and open space.

Negotiations between Denver and Arapahoe County regarding the bridge returned to the front burner in 2007 and 2008, but they did not agree on terms for a voluntary transfer of city property to the county to allow the bridge to proceed.

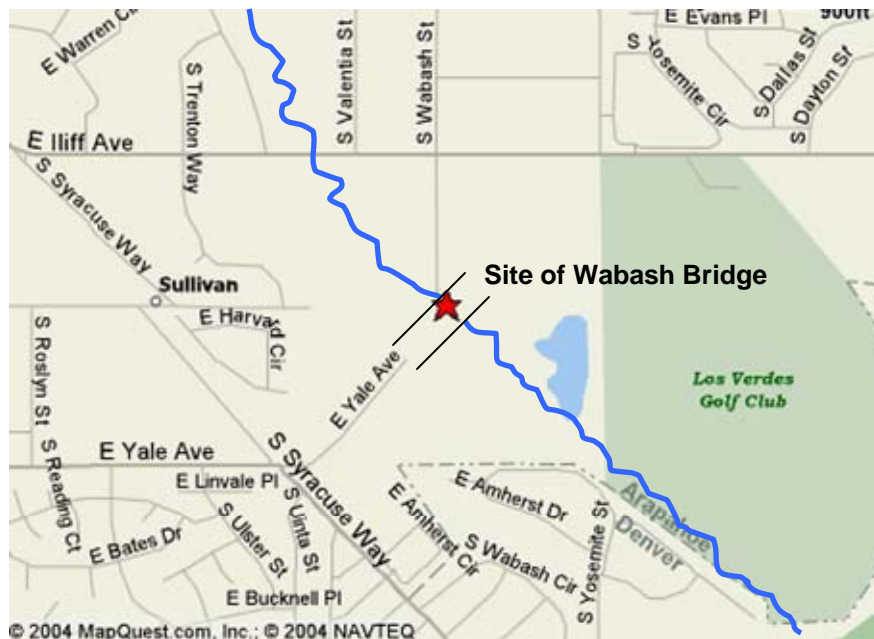
- On **August 4th, 2008**, Arapahoe County formally announced its intention to file an action in eminent domain to take the city-owned property.
- On **September 11th, 2008**, Denver proposed an alternative under which the city would agree to voluntarily transfer its land if the county would limit the bridge to emergency vehicle access only. Arapahoe County promptly rejected this proposal.
- On **September 23rd, 2008**, Arapahoe County sued Denver in Arapahoe County District Court to take the property necessary for the bridge, seeking "immediate possession" of the property, and offering to pay the appraised value of \$63,550 as "just compensation" for the property.
- Effective **December 18th, 2008**, Denver and Arapahoe County stipulated to a settlement of the case and the court awarded the disputed property to Arapahoe County.

The stipulated settlement by the parties was incorporated in the court's final order, and is binding on Denver and Arapahoe County from this point forward. The key elements of the final agreement between the parties are as follows:

- The bridge will be limited to one through-lane in each direction, with a center turn lane, and sidewalks on both sides of the structure.
- Arapahoe County will be entirely responsible for reconstructing the grade-separated Cherry Creek trail beneath the bridge and constructing a new trailhead
- Arapahoe County will contribute up to \$625,000 toward the reconstruction of the Yale/Syracuse intersection in a joint project with the city, which will include a traffic signal.

- Arapahoe County will also contribute up to **\$150,000** toward a joint traffic engineering study with Denver related to the Yale Avenue corridor between I-25 and Quebec.
- Arapahoe County will entertain a possible re-alignment of the Wabash right-of-way north of Cherry Creek (i.e. adjacent to the HERZL/RMHA School),
- At the time of the settlement, Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann obtained a commitment from Denver's Public Works Department to invest in additional traffic improvements on the portions of Yale and Syracuse that lie within Denver's jurisdiction.

Our office held a community meeting on January 29th where the Manager of Public Works, Bill Vidal, and Denver Traffic Engineer, Brian Mitchell, discussed traffic calming options with the neighbors. Feedback was solicited from the affected neighborhoods and will be taken into consideration before improvements are made.



3rd Annual Crime Summit

Denver Police District Three is pleased to announce the

3rd Annual District Three Crime Summit

February 7th

8:00am to 4:00 pm

District 3 Police Station- 1625 S. University Blvd.

The Crime Summit is a time for all of the community members and leaders to come together to get involved in a proactive approach against crime. The summit includes a day long conference to learn more about narcotics, pattern crimes, DNA, gang activity, nuisance abatement, and traffic enforcement. At the end of the day they will take some time to get together with individual neighborhoods and discuss specific issues and work towards formulating plans to solve the issues. **Please call Technician Cari Jimenez at 720-913-1175 to reserve your seat.**

The Future of Denver's Recreation System

The Denver Recreation Center Task Force, a group comprised of community leaders, neighborhood activists, Denver Parks & Recreation staff and citizens, recently announced their draft recommendations for the future of Denver's recreation system. The Task Force was formed in June 2008 and held 16 public meetings with more than 600 residents. The goal of the Recreation Task Force was to listen to the community and recommend the best service model that the City could provide throughout the recreation system, with a particular focus on youth, seniors and people with disabilities.

The DRAFT recommendations offer equitable solutions and prioritized options to recreation services throughout the City. They call for four types of recreation centers to meet needs identified by the community:

Regional Centers- to be open seven days a week, with broad programming and amenities, such as aquatics or fitness areas.

Local Centers- to be open five to six days per week, with more focused amenities and offerings specific to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.

Neighborhood Centers- to be open five days a week and focused specifically on youth programming.

Community Centers- to be City-owned buildings and facilities, but managed by outside partners.

These recommendations are based on a tiered system based on geography, amenities, programming and fees. The Task Force is **not** recommending any closures. It is essential to continue services during any management transition.

The Task Force will be holding 5 community forums to discuss the DRAFT recommendations. Input received at these meetings will be incorporated into their final recommendations before submitting them to the Manager of Parks and Recreation, Kevin Patterson, for internal review and feasibility studies. The five community meetings will be held from **7pm- 8:30pm** at the following locations:

February 3rd	MLK Recreation Center- 3880 Newport St.
February 4th	East High School (Lunchroom)- 1545 Detroit St.
February 5 th	Swansea Recreation Center- 2650 E. 49 th Ave.
February 10th	Harvard Gulch- 550 E. Iliff Ave.
February 11th	Barnum- 360 Hooker St.

For more information, please call 720-913-0689. Please visit this link to see all the recommendations:

<http://www.denvergov.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.denvergov.org/parksandrecreation>



Library Update

The Denver Public Library (DPL) is scheduled to temporarily close seven branch locations to upgrade technology, replace/improve building and life safety systems, and complete interior renovations. These improvements are funded by the Better Denver Bond infrastructure package approved by voters in November 2007. The tentative branch closure schedule is:

- *February 16th- June 14th -Decker, Hampden and Park Hill
- *June 15th- October 18th -Ross-Cherry Creek and Woodbury
- *October 19th- February 16th, 2010 - Bear Valley and Montbello

While the branch closing and staff redeployment is disruptive for both staff and customers, it is necessary to accelerate completion of much needed renovations and replacements or upgrades to building components and life safety systems. If you are interested in a specific list of current improvements at various DPL locations, you may visit www.denverlibrary.org/bond or for a complete list of bond improvement projects citywide visit www.denvergov.org/bondprojects.

Eloise May Library Grand Opening

Saturday, February 21st from 9am- 11am. 1471 S. Parker Rd. Eloise May is a part of the Arapahoe County Library system, but close to several Denver Council District 4 neighborhoods. Regional libraries can be used by all area residents. For additional information, please call 303-LIBRARY.

Fraud Alert- Emergency Scam

From the Office of Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey:

The past few months we have seen a dramatic increase in what has been referred to as the "Emergency Scam" or the "Grandparent Scam."

Seniors – for the most part – are contacted, usually late at night, via telephone. Typically the caller starts the conversation by saying in a panicked tone of voice, "It's Me." The caller waits for the person who answered the phone to identify someone he or she knows, who is often a grandchild. The caller pretends to be the person who the "grandparent" identifies and proceeds to claim that they need money for an emergency situation. Reasons range from bail money, emergency medical care, car trouble or accident. The caller desperately claims that he or she needs the money wired immediately, and begs their "grandparent" not to contact other relatives because he or she doesn't want to "get in trouble."

Once convinced, the victim is told to send the money via electronic transfer. Once money is transferred through a wire service the chances of getting it back are slim to none.

Ways to Protect Yourself

- Resist the pressure to "act now." Don't Panic.
- Anyone calling and asking for money in an "emergency" situation should be asked some questions to verify their identity – questions such as the name of their grade school, a pet's name, or the name of another relative.
- Be aware that this scam is happening and warn others as well.

Need help or have a question? Call the Denver District Attorney's Fraud Line: 720-913-9196.

Burglary Prevention Tips- Sliding Doors

Sliding glass doors are secured by latches not locks. They are vulnerable to being forced open from the outside because of these inherently defective latch mechanisms. This can be easily be prevented by inserting a wooden dowel or stick into the track thus preventing or limiting movement. Other blocking devices available are metal fold-down blocking devices called "charley bars" and various track-blockers that can be screwed down.

- Use a secondary blocking device on all sliding glass doors
- Keep the latch mechanism in good condition and properly adjusted
- Keep sliding door rollers in good condition and properly adjusted
- Use anti-lift devices such as through-the-door pins or upper track screws
- Use highly visible alarm decals, beware of dog decals or block watch decal

If you are interested in setting up Neighborhood Watch in your own neighborhood, please contact one of the Community Resource Officers at Denver Police Department- District 3; Technician Cari Jimenez, or Technician Tony Burkhardt 720-913-1300.

Excellence in the Arts Award

You are invited to join Mayor John Hickenlooper, the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs and Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs for the 2008 ***Mayor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts***. The 2008 honorees are Charles Burrell, Denver Young Artists Orchestra, Su Teatro and The Bloomsbury Review. In addition, the *Mayor's Cultural Legacy Award* will be presented to Noël Congdon. Since 1986, the *Mayor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts* annually recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant and lasting contributions to the arts in the City and County of Denver.

The 2008 *Mayor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts* reception will be held on **Wednesday, February 18th** from **6:30pm to 7:30pm** at the **Ellie Caulkins Opera House** in the Denver Performing Arts Complex, 14th St. & Curtis St. **This is a free community celebration** and seating will be first-come, first-served; no RSVP necessary.

Save Energy, Save Money

Cold weather is here and the high cost of heating our homes makes conservation a winter priority. There are many things that each of us can do to save energy (and money). Here are a few:

- Wear appropriate seasonal clothing – you won't need to raise the thermostat if you wear a sweater
- Open the blinds in the winter – the sun will help warm the occupied space
- Make sure all exterior doors and windows are completely closed to keep the cold air out
- Remember to turn off the lights in unoccupied rooms and at your desk when you leave
- Turn off your computer monitors each night

Everything we can do – both at home and at work – to conserve energy will result in a financial savings as well. If you have any other energy savings ideas, please email greenprint@denvergov.org.

Live Green Electronics Recycling Event

Do your part to help the environment by recycling your old television, computer monitor and other used electronic equipment at the “**Live Green Electronics Recycling Event**” on **Saturday, March 7th**. This event provides a rare opportunity for residents to responsibly recycle old electronic equipment for **FREE**, thanks to generous sponsorships from *LG Electronics, 9News, Comcast, Waste Management of Colorado, and the City and County of Denver*. Electronics recycling is expensive and normal recycling costs average about \$25 for a TV and \$12 for a computer monitor.

Responsible recycling of electronics helps to prevent lead and other chemicals from leaching into the groundwater and into our atmosphere. Televisions and computer monitors contain 4 to 8 pounds of lead each, as well as many other metals and toxic materials. Recycling old electronics also saves energy and valuable resources.

For more information and to find specific drop off locations visit www.9News.com and click on the Live Green section. For more information about recycling, visit www.denvergov.org/DenverRecycles.



Neighborhood Food Drive a Success

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Tamarac Hills Food Drive. It was a big success with over 300 lbs. of food donated. The food was donated to the *Weinberg Food Pantry*, located at 3201 S. Tamarac.

David Rabb, Manager of the food pantry said he expects 2009 to be a very challenging year with the increasing number of people needing assistance. Currently they are distributing 100,000 lbs. of food per month. There have been a couple of months where they have been have not been able to take any new people. The food pantry serves metropolitan Denver, but has had people from as far away as Boulder come.

Sponsoring a food drive is a good way to share with our neighbors who are currently experiencing difficulties. Anyone interested in sponsoring a drive in their neighborhood can call Ro Padzensky at 303-743-0357 for further information.

February Calendar of Events

University Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting

February 5th. Refreshments 6:45 pm; Meeting: **7:00-8:30 pm**. Schlessman YMCA - Senior Center - Basement Meeting Room (3901 East Yale Avenue).

Restaurant Week

February 21st – February 27th. A 7 day 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.

The Art of Henry: A Celebration of the Life and Work of Henry Lowenstein

January 21st - March 29th. Central Denver Library (10 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy) Gates Reading Room Gallery, Level Five

Denver Museum of Nature & Science FREE DAY

February 2nd. 2001 Colorado Blvd. 303-322-7009; www.dmns.org

Children's Museum of Denver FREE Night

February 3rd from **4 pm- 8 pm**. 2121 Children's Museum Dr. Target sponsors a free night for playtime with special story times and more! 303-433-7444; www.cmdenver.org.

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield FREE DAY

February 6th. 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Littleton. 303-973-3705; botanicgardens.org

Denver Art Museum FREE DAY

February 7th. 100 W. 14th Avenue Parkway. 720-865-5000; www.denverartmuseum.org

Denver Zoo FREE DAY

February 14th and February 24th. 2300 Steele St., Denver. 303-376-4800; www.denverzoo.org

Denver Botanic Gardens FREE DAY

February 16th. 1005 York St., Denver. 720-865-3500; www.botanicgardens.org

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