

JULY 2009



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Dear District 5 Neighbor,

For a year now, I have been telling you about the Phoenix on The FAX proposal, for the old Pillar of Fire site on Colfax at Poplar. I am happy to report that Sherman Associates has been notified that the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) has approved their project for [Low Income Housing Tax Credits](#).

What does this mean for our stretch of East Colfax? It means that development is coming! The aptly named "Phoenix" is a catalyst for the resurrection of this area, with 50 units of low to medium income housing on top of work/live space and a restaurant. I will continue to keep you informed about the plans and timeline for development.

More exciting news - LoDo's popular Snooze A.M. Eatery is expanding to include a location right here in District 5. Located in the old Boston Market on 7th & Colorado, owner Jon Schlegel is bringing his brainchild over to our 'hood and we're thrilled to have them! The "[7-CO](#)" Snooze is expected to open around August 1st... and be sure to try my favorite, the pineapple upside-down pancakes!

Mayor Hickenlooper is asking citizens for input on the City's 2010 budget. Please complete this [on-line survey](#).

The City has taken a number of steps already to cut costs and find efficiencies including: reducing the size of the City's fleet; consolidating the City's payroll function; reducing the number of positions hired; scheduling furlough days; reducing pay increases for City workers; and centralizing finance functions. The City must trim an additional \$120 million (12.6%) over the next 18 months to balance the budget.

The 2010 city budget will be submitted to City Council for review and approval in the Fall of 2009.

-Marcia

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The draft of the New Zoning Code and the Zoning map for District 5 is now available on the website for review and comment at www.newcodedenver.org.

On June 23rd, the Planning Department held a meeting on the new Zoning Code in District 5. We had a great turn-out with over 75 people in attendance, representing every neighborhood in the District. Residents got a chance to pore over the new maps, ask questions, and

make suggestions to the Planning staff. We'll be meeting again on August 18th.

Thank you to our neighborhood liaisons, for putting in extra hours to help our office and the Planning Department make sure the Zoning map accurately reflects what exists in their respective neighborhoods. Their work enabled attendees at our last meeting to focus on important details of the new code, such as accessory dwelling units, setbacks, solar access, etc., instead of the easy-to-fix corrections that had to take place.

*(Please note that **Lowry will not be rezoned** at this time. There are many waivers & conditions built into the existing zoning, so it will remain the same for the time being.)*

Save the Date!

**Council District 5 Meeting
on the New Zoning Code (Round 3)**

**Tuesday, August 18, 2009 from 6-9 p.m.
Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape Street**

Neighborhood Conference - August 1st

Mayor Hickenlooper and other City leaders will host neighborhood and community organizations in a day of networking and leadership training on **Saturday, August 1, 2009** at Coors Field.

The conference will begin at **8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m.**, and will include a lunch-time keynote address by Mayor Hickenlooper. This conference is for anyone interested in:

- Learning about the exciting things neighborhood associations and other organizations are doing to improve the quality of life in Denver's neighborhoods.
- Finding out how the City is working to engage residents in projects and plans intended to build community relations.
- Gaining practical tools for addressing a wide range of community and neighborhood issues.
- Networking with neighbors, groups and City officials.

To accommodate participants appropriately, please register by July 24th. To register or for more information, please call (720) 865-9103 or email [Heather Barry](mailto:Heather.Barry@denvergov.org).

Denver Parks Get Recycled Water

article courtesy of [Stacy Chesney](#), Denver Water



Several parks in District 5 will convert to recycled water this summer, as part of Denver Water's growing effort to free up more drinking water by using recycled water for irrigation needs. Parks will remain open during construction, although portions may be closed at times. Traffic near these parks may

be restricted as workers install pipes under streets.

Denver Water's estimated timeline:

McNichols Park (17th & Syracuse) - completed in June

Crescent Park (8th & Roslyn) - July 10 - 20

Verbena Park (11th & Verbena) - June 29 - July 13

Denison Park (11th & Quebec) - July 13 - 20

Recycled water is wastewater treated to Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment standards, and can be used for irrigation and industrial purposes. By reusing treated water for irrigation in areas such as parks, Denver Water keeps enough water in its reservoirs to serve 40,000 households.

Lawns, parks and golf courses that use recycled water are clearly marked with signs. In addition, valve boxes and some sprinkler heads are purple, which is the same color as the pipes used to transport recycled water. Though recycled water is highly treated, it should not be consumed because it does not meet drinking water standards.

The conversion is part of Denver Parks and Recreation's ongoing commitment to conserving water and being responsible stewards of the environment. These four parks will add to the 13 parks already being irrigated with recycled water, making a total of 552 acres of parks on recycled water. In addition to recycled water conversions, Denver Parks and Recreation is improving irrigation systems at 37 parks through the Better Denver Bond Project, an infrastructure bond program. Through these irrigation improvements and upgrades to recycled water in these 17 parks, more than 450 million gallons of drinking water will be saved annually. For more information, visit www.denverwater.org or call (303) 628-7071.

WARNING: Phony Water Department Employee Reported July 7

Denver Water does not conduct random water pressure or quality checks

Denver Water is issuing a warning to customers not to allow persons claiming to be Water Department employees to enter their homes without proper identification. An incident was reported of a man posing as a Denver Water employee with water quality who said he needed to enter the home. The customer did not let him in.

In the past, persons claiming to be Denver Water employees have gained access to customers' homes on the pretext of checking for water pressure or water quality, for example. Then, they go through the homes looking for cash or valuables. Some have asked for money from customers. Denver Water does not conduct random water pressure or quality checks. The utility also wants customers to know that employees do not collect money on site.

All Denver Water employees carry photo-identification cards. Service personnel wear shirts, jackets or caps, and drive vehicles clearly marked with Denver Water's logo.

Customers who are approached by con artists should call the police and Denver Water Customer Care at (303) 893-2444.

Kids Swim Free, Thanks to Kaiser Permanente!

Article courtesy of Denver Parks & Recreation

Denver youth ages 17 and younger may use City recreation centers, including swimming pools, for free this summer. The City waived fees last year and was unable to do so again this year, until Kaiser Permanente offered a generous \$150,000 donation to help support the program.

Free admission will run through Saturday, Aug. 15. Standard fees will continue to apply for programs and activities that typically are offered at an additional charge.

Area recreation centers offer a variety of summer activities, including open swim, basketball, game room and a Food Bank of the Rockies program that offers free food for families. Programs available for a nominal fee include Hoopin' with Hick-looper, baseball, t-ball, volleyball and swim lessons.

Denver residents can locate their nearest [recreation center](#) online.



Stop Sign Clearance Pruning

It's the time of year for stop sign clearance pruning. This year's cool spring and ample rains have produced a vigorous flush of new growth and the view of many stop signs is now obstructed.

Denver Forestry wants to remind you that such **pruning is the property owner's responsibility**. Look out for your neighbors and prune tree growth to make stop signs visible and our streets safer. For tree care advice or for help finding a licensed tree contractor, please call (720) 913-0651 or visit www.denvergov.org/forestry.

Upcoming SCFD Free Days

Visit the [SCFD website](#) for more information about the 2009 SCFD Free Days

Denver Zoo

Next Free Day is Wednesday, October 7th

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Wednesday, August 12th

Sunday, September 13th

Denver Center for the Performing Arts

No upcoming dates scheduled

Denver Botanic Gardens

Monday, July 20th

Friday, August 7th (at Chatfield)

Thursday, August 20th

Saturday, September 19th

Denver Art Museum

Saturday, August 1st

Saturday, September 5th



Recently, many of the smaller SCFD organizations (Tier IIIs), created a website that lists events they are doing on a weekly basis. The goal of the website is to create a place where the public can find fun, often free, unique entertainment, and enriching experiences for adults, singles, teens and the whole family. Check out www.thescen3.org to find an event.



Free Concerts Every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. at City Park, rain or shine!

Upcoming Shows

7.19.09	The Wendy Fopeano Group
7.26.09	Chris Daniels & the Kings
8.02.09	The Otone Brass Band
8.09.09	Funkiphino

Park Hill Bike Depot needs your old bike

There are few better ways to get around town and get a little exercise than to ride a bike. Unfortunately not everyone can afford a bike of their own, which is why the Park Hill Bike Depot, a nonprofit organization established with the help of LiveWell Colorado, was established.

The Park Hill Bike Depot takes donated bikes of all shapes and sizes, repairs and refurbishes them, then donates them to community members. Since opening in 2008, more than 500 bikes have been distributed. If you'd like to donate your time, or your old bike to the Bike Depot, visit <http://thebikedepot.org/> or call (303) 393-1963.



Free Magazine: Award-Winning Smart Energy Living

article courtesy of [Theresa Donahue](#), Smart Energy Living Alliance



The award-winning magazine Smart Energy Living®, which provides Colorado consumers with valuable information on saving energy and money, is now available in digital format. Consumers can register for a free subscription at www.SmartEnergyLiving.org.

The latest issue, the first available digitally, provides information on energy saving products and actions, recycling, solar rebates, zero energy homes, transit options and the premiere of the Smart Energy Living Pyramid. It also includes lively stories in an attractive format on how people are using new technologies to trim their energy bills and how the health care industry is going green.

Thousand Cankers Disease a Threat to Denver's Black Walnuts

Black walnut trees in Denver are facing a very serious new threat called “thousand cankers disease.” This recently recognized problem has already devastated black walnut trees in Colorado Springs and Boulder, and is believed to have been active in Denver for at least three years.

Thousand cankers disease is caused by a newly discovered fungus that is carried to trees by a tiny twig beetle. “The fungus then colonizes and kills a small area of the bark surrounding beetle galleries,” said Ned Tisserat, a plant pathologist at Colorado State University, who first identified the fungus last summer. “The number of beetle galleries and associated dead bark, called cankers, in a tree is enormous. Cankers eventually fuse and girdle limbs and the trunk so that nutrients can no longer move in the tree.”

Trees typically die within a couple of years after they first show symptoms of leaf yellowing and branch dieback.

The walnut twig beetle, a native insect of the Southwest, is usually associated with the Arizona walnut tree, to which it is not harmful. The beetle is, however, harmful to the black walnut tree which is highly valued as an ornamental tree. Although the black walnut tree is native to the East, it has been planted extensively throughout the West.

Jude O'Connor, City Forester for Denver, states, “The most immediate concern in Denver is the loss of this valued tree from our community forest canopy, although the bigger concern nationwide is, if thousand cankers disease moves east where black walnut is a common forest species, this tree may be lost entirely.”

“I think thousand cankers disease has the potential to devastate black walnut just as Dutch elm disease nearly wiped out American elm and chestnut blight eliminated American chestnut,” said Whitney Cranshaw, an entomologist at Colorado State. “Right now, the disease is contained in the West but all it would take is one careless individual moving a walnut log with the beetles, and we could have an outbreak that could quickly spiral out of control.”

O'Connor reminds residents, “Early detection and prompt sanitation are keys to slowing the spread of this disease. Denver residents with black walnut trees should call the City Forester's Office at (720) 913-0651 to schedule a free inspection of their tree.” No walnut logs with bark intact should be allowed to move further east than where the disease is currently known to prevent this disease's spread. As many as 30,000 adult beetles can be contained in a log as small as 6” in diameter and 18” long – an astounding 90 beetles per square inch.

For more information, please visit the [City Forester's Office](#) and Colorado State University Extension Office's [article on thousand cankers disease](#).



A black walnut in Boulder showing typical patterns of decline.

Coyotes in the City

Coyotes have always been found in the Front Range area of Colorado. Due to their intelligence and adaptability, they can expand their range, even as natural areas and other species decline. Now, these urban animals have had multiple generations of offspring born in cities, and people, houses, pets and cars have become a normal part of their lives.

When people feed wildlife, it turns humans into a source for food and will increase ANY wild animals' boldness, increasing the instances of coyotes entering yards and attacking pets (for both a food source and to defend territory).

Killing coyotes is a short term solution with long term problems. When there is new empty territory, coyote litters will increase in size to fill it. Removing pack leaders can lead to multiple packs forming, with more females able to breed, which increases the size of the local population. Relocation has also proven to be completely unsuccessful. They are notoriously difficult to catch, and will travel huge distances to return to an area. It is illegal in Colorado to relocate coyotes.

Exclusion techniques to remove attractants to coyotes and to discourage coyotes from entering unsuitable locations is the most successful tool to reduce urban coyote problems and populations. It must be conducted on a community-wide level to see large improvements, but even individual efforts can "teach" local coyotes which yards, parks, and people to avoid.

Exclusion Techniques: This is not a quick, short term process, much like saying "no" to a child. The first time they hear it, they won't understand or believe it. Consistency over time is the most effective means to establish appropriate human/coyote interactions.

1. Individuals and groups of people responding (hazing) whenever they see a coyote. Yelling, waving arms, acting aggressively, spraying with hoses, using noisemakers, and using vinegar & water squirt guns will all make a coyote uncomfortable around people.
2. Never ignore, just watch, or turn your back on a coyote.
3. Never allow a coyote between you and a pet or child. A coyote will not want to get involved with a person.
4. Remove all human sources of food. Keep trash and compost inaccessible. Pick up fallen fruit in yards. Clean out under bird feeders.
5. Do not let cats run freely in neighborhoods. Keep small dogs in close proximity when outside. Keep all pets inside at night (or in a completely enclosed kennel) when coyotes are most active.
6. Maintain fences so coyotes cannot slip underneath. Add deterrents to the tops of fences that reduce a coyote's ability to grab on and pull themselves up and over. Coyote rollers and wire extensions can discourage animals attempting to breach fences.
7. Install motion activated lights in your back yard. Keep lights on when dogs are outside.
8. Visually inspect yard before allowing any pet outside.
9. Communicate with local officials. Report the following on the [Coyote Encounter Survey](#).
 - A. Coyote biting, attacking, or killing dogs or cats.
 - B. Coyote biting a person.
 - C. Person feeding coyote, either accidentally or purposefully.
 - D. Open trash cans and dumpsters at local businesses.

To report coyote activity or for further information, contact [Ashley DeLaup](#) with Denver Parks & Recreation.

Microchip Your Cat for FREE

Offer good every Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. through September 24, 2009, at the [Denver Municipal Animal Shelter](#) or any participating shelter or veterinarian. No appointment necessary. Cats must be in a box or carrier. You must live in one of the six county metro districts of Adams County, Arapahoe County, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas County and Jefferson County. Additional chipping locations can be found by visiting <http://chipyourcat.com/locations.html>

Denver Trivia Question

In the 1950s, Lowry Field became Lowry Air Force Base and was eventually closed in 1993. Which of the following is **not true** about Lowry?

- A. It was originally located at the site of today's Park Hill golf course.
- B. It is named for Manual High School graduate Francis B. Lowry.
- C. It served as the summer White House for President Dwight Eisenhower.
- D. The first Air Force Academy football collegiate game was played there.

(question courtesy of Rich Delaney)

You can find the answer on my [website](#).

Stay Connected...

You can get a weekly review of issues and events in the City & County of Denver, [online](#). Denver Update is a weekly news program produced by Denver 8 TV available on-demand on www.denvergov.org and on Comcast cable. The program also includes details about events and meetings that can help you participate in local civic affairs.

Turn to this weekly summary for recaps of the main actions of the Mayor and the City Council, as well as a preview of the meeting schedule for the week ahead. You can also [subscribe](#) to receive notices of weekly updates.

Related links:

Denver City Council Weekly Agendas, Minutes, and Information

denvergov.org/CityCouncil

Receive Council Agendas and Updates by E-mail

denvergov.org/d2mmain.asp



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