

High Points

Council District 2 has the highest natural point in the City and County of Denver



News from Councilman Kevin Flynn | Denver City Council | October 2018

Symphony event shows theater's promise

The Colorado Symphony played to a near-capacity crowd inside the May Bonfils Stanton Theater at Loretto Heights on Oct. 11 in a concert put together by Councilman Kevin Flynn to demonstrate the theater's potential to serve the community.

"The outpouring of support was a tremendous boost to showcasing this facility," said the councilman. "All of us who worked on putting it on were blown away by the crowd. It exceeded our expectations."

The councilman worked with Westside Investment Partners, which bought the 72-acre campus in July, the Colorado Symphony staff and Denver Arts and Venues to stage the free performance. All of the tickets were distributed in less than three days after they



The Colorado Symphony brought the May Bonfils Stanton Theater back to life in a free concert on Oct. 11

were made available.

Denver's planning department is kicking off a small-area plan for the campus area on Oct. 30 with an initial meeting of the community-based steering committee. The plan will help to guide an anticipated rezoning request later next year. The historic Loretto

Academy building and adjoining chapel are being preserved, but the future of the other campus buildings including the theater is uncertain.

"Imagine what a special place this would be to have this kind of community gathering here at the theater year-round," Flynn said.

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Open house features RTD, Denver

Council District 2 residents got the opportunity for two-way communication on transit and mobility issues in the Southwest Denver Transit Open House on Oct. 10.

Councilman Flynn put the open house together in response to concerns that southwest Denver has been underserved by transit and other alternative mobility choices. Held in All Saints Parish Hall, it brought leaders of the Regional Transportation District and Denver Public Works together with residents to answer their questions and listen to their suggestions.



RTD and Denver mobility staff meet the public at the Southwest Denver Transit Open House on Oct. 10

RTD's top leadership attended, including Director Jeff Walker, your elected representative from southwest Denver on the RTD Board, and RTD General Manager Dave Genova. Kristina Evanoff, Denver Public Works' leader of the Denver Moves: Transit plan, headed the city's team.

You can view the presentations that were given at the open house by following these links: For RTD's update, go to tinyurl.com/RTD-CD2; for Public Works' projects in Council

District 2, go to tinyurl.com/Public-Works-CD2; for the Denver Moves: Transit and Pedestrian/Trails plan, go to: tinyurl.com/Transit-CD2

Real estate class looks at South Sheridan

A class led by the Urban Land Institute's Colorado Chapter wrapped up 14 weeks of work on the South Sheridan Commercial Area with three different approaches to revitalizing the underutilized strip of South Sheridan Boulevard between Jewell and Warren avenues.

The class is called ULI's Real Estate Diversity Initiative. Annually, it recruits women and people of color, who are underrepresented in the real estate sector, and mentors them in the principles of real estate and land use. This is the ninth year ULI has conducted the class, at the University of Denver.

The class consisted of three teams of 10 people each, including a member of Councilman Flynn's South Sheridan Steering Committee, Fran Coleman, and

others familiar with southwest Denver. They came up with different concepts to revitalize the diverse collection of businesses, vacant lots and closed buildings, where there once was a much more thriving activity center including a Target store, Safeway, movie theater, bowling alley and other amenities.

The concepts all are classroom exercises, meaning there is no actual redevelopment proposal at this time. But they help to set a community vision for how the 64 acres can better serve the neighborhood. All three concepts included housing mixed with "experiential" retail and public gathering places, but approached them differently. If you would like more information on them, contact Councilman Flynn's office at 720-337-2222, or kevin.flynn@denvergov.org.

Each issue of High Points is hand-delivered in selected neighborhoods. But the easiest way to keep up on city and southwest Denver news is to sign up by email and have the newsletter sent to your inbox.

Get on our list by contacting dana.montano@denvergov.org or 720-337-2222

HIGHLIGHTS

YALE LEFT-TURN ARROWS AT SHERIDAN TO CHANGE

The prohibited-left turn red arrows on Yale Avenue at Sheridan Boulevard, which went up with the new signals during the Colorado Department of Transportation's repaving of Sheridan last summer, will be changed back to permissive left turns, allowing drivers to make left turns onto Sheridan when oncoming traffic is clear.

The red arrows had resulted in long lines of traffic waiting through several signal cycles to turn left onto Sheridan. Denver traffic engineers worked with CDOT to gradually increase the green arrow timing to its maximum allowable. But the problem persisted during peak traffic periods, so the city will make the change. The new signal heads are scheduled to be installed in November. There will be a protected left turn on a green arrow followed by a permissive left on a flashing yellow arrow. As always, make left turns only when safe to do so.

RALEIGH STREET PAVING EXPANDS BIKE LANES

Denver Public Works crews have widened the bike lanes on Raleigh Street between Yale and Dartmouth avenues upon completing the repaving project this month, in a move that increases safety for cyclists. The new striping narrows the curbside parking lane from 8 to 7 feet in width and widens the adjacent bike lanes from 5 to 6 feet.

The project is also enhancing pedestrian safety by installing striped crosswalks in all directions at Raleigh's intersections with Dartmouth, Bates, Amherst and Yale avenues. Crews also are adding vehicle stop bars – those wide white street markings behind the crosswalks – at Yale and Bates.



Raleigh Street's repaving in October included widened bike lanes and new crosswalks

LEAF-DROP SITE CHANGING TO SABIN

Denver's LeafDrop program, allowing residents to bring their fallen leaves to a central location for the city to compost rather than hauling them to a landfill, will be held at Sabin Elementary School on Dartmouth Avenue at Vrain Street this year. It will be open for three weekends, on Saturdays and Sundays between Nov. 3 and 19, from 11 a.m to 3 p.m. The drop-off will no longer be at Kennedy High School.

To discourage the use of plastic bags for the leaf drop, the city and Ace Hardware have combined to offer free 5-packs of 30-gallon paper leaf bags to Denver residents. You must have a coupon to get the bags, and you can obtain one online at: tinyurl.com/Ace-Leafdrop.

Winter is coming

It's a good time to remind you that

Denver requires property owners to clear snow and ice from their sidewalks, including adjacent ADA ramps, within 24 hours after snow stops falling. It ensures that everyone has safe access – senior citizens, people with disabilities, parents with strollers, mail carriers just to name a few.

The rule is tighter for business owners. They have four hours after a snowfall to clear their sidewalks. City inspectors go out the day after a storm to check business areas, and they check residential areas on a complaint basis.

As for streets, city crews work on major streets – typically those with yellow stripes – in any snowstorm, but they also make single passes on residential streets during storms that result in full deployment of all plows. This year, the city has an online app that allows you to see streets that have been plowed. To sign up for Plow Tracker, go to tinyurl.com/Denver-Plow-Tracker.

Southwest Denver's night at the symphony

