

# Inside District 8

Councilman Christopher Herndon | Denver City Council | November 2016

## A message from Councilman Herndon

There are only a few days left until Election Day and I encourage all eligible voters to be informed about the issues and cast your vote. There are a number of questions on the ballot this year beyond the elected offices that will shape our city and state.

City Council is wrapping up the annual budget process. Every September the mayor submits the budget to Council for its review and approval. During the process, Council has the opportunity to offer amendments. If a majority of council members support the amendment, the Council president delivers the amendments to the mayor for consideration.

The 2017 budget totals \$1.32 billion. With such a large budget, there are new funds going to projects such as transportation and infrastructure, safety, mobility and Solid Waste to name a few. While I do feel this budget addresses many issues affecting our city and District 8, I felt it missed the mark when it came to Solid Waste, specifically in dealing with composting.

My amendment this year asked for two additional composting routes that if approved, would mean all of Denver would be eligible for composting services. Nearly every member of Council supported my amendment and Mayor Hancock agreed to add the routes in the 2017 budget. If the schedule holds, the new routes should be implemented by this time next year. An amendment sponsored by Councilwoman Susman, which I supported,



*Councilman Chris Herndon prepares to send in his ballot for the 2016 election.*

requested additional funds to support our Business Improvement District (BID) along Colfax. Mayor Hancock also agreed to this and \$500,000 will be going to support development and improvements along the Colfax Corridor.

In this season where we take time to reflect on what we are grateful for, I want to thank you all again for the opportunity to serve you on the Denver City Council. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones!

*Christopher Herndon*

### Contact the District 8 Office

4685 Peoria St., Suite 245

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

720-337-8888



Find us on Facebook

[facebook.com/ChrisJHerndon](https://www.facebook.com/ChrisJHerndon)



Connect with us on Twitter

[twitter.com/ChrisJHerndon](https://twitter.com/ChrisJHerndon)

### Volunteers Needed for Free Tax Prep Clinics

With tax season just around the corner, the Denver Asset Building Coalition (DABC) is recruiting volunteers to serve low-income families with free tax preparation services. Volunteers are needed January 28 - April 17, 2017. DABC's free one-day trainings for new and returning volunteers is offered at the Mi Casa Resource Center every Saturday November 19 - January 21. No accounting experience is necessary and volunteers are able to build their resumes while helping people reach financial self-sufficiency.

For more information, call 303-388-7030, email [marissa@denverabc.org](mailto:marissa@denverabc.org) or visit [www.denverabc.org/volunteer.htm](http://www.denverabc.org/volunteer.htm).

## Know your neighbors: Kimberly Varilek

### Tell me about yourself:

I'm a Denver native. I'm Native American (enrolled Eastern Shoshone from Wyoming and Oglala from South Dakota). I'm an attorney and while I grew up throughout the Rockies, I came back after college and graduated Law School from DU Sturm College of Law.



### What neighborhood do you live in and what do you like most about your neighborhood?

I live in the East Colfax neighborhood and I've owned my home here for 8 years. I like the diversity and feeling that we can make it our own living space while respecting each other and feeling that we have a stable neighborhood that can thrive with all the surrounding growth.

### How are you involved in the community?

I serve as a commissioner on the Denver American Indian Commission and I'm interested in bringing the native community together with the greater Denver community.

### What's something you've done in the community that you're proud of?

I am proud of my home and the hard work we've put into it as a family because I think it's important to our neighborhood. I'm also proud of the work I've done in my short time as a commissioner and committing time to native issues, like supporting Denver City Council's decision to establish Indigenous Peoples' Day permanently for Denver!

### What's something about your community that you wish more people knew?

I wish more people knew more that Denver is a centerpiece to Indian country and that there are so many exciting and interesting people from not only Denver, but across the U.S. who are tremendous resources to the nation. I also wish more people knew how convenient, adventurous and yet reliable public transportation is - both the train and the bus.

### How do you like to spend your free time?

I like to spend time at home, spend time exploring some of the new and changing neighborhoods all over the city, trying new restaurants and frequenting favorites. I love the live music venues as well. I enjoy spending time with my old and new friends and enjoying the Denver weather and seasons!

### What is one of your favorite businesses in the community?

Taco Mex - they have some of the best carne asada tacos and horchata that I've had in the city!



## 2016 Election

With Election Day (November 8) quickly approaching, Denver Elections offers many resources to voters, including location information and hours of operation for voter service centers, 24-hour ballot drop-off locations and Ballot TRACE. Ballot TRACE allows voters to track their mail ballot envelope from the time it's printed through each phase of processing. Voters can receive messages through the Denver Elections Division website, automatic updates via email and tracking updates via text message.

All voters should have received their ballot through the mail, beginning the week of October 17.

District 8 24-hour ballot drop-off locations are:

- Hiawatha Davis Jr. Recreation Center, 3334 N. Holly St.
- Montbello Recreation Center, 15555 E. 53rd Ave.
- Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

For more information on voter service center hours of operation, 24-hour ballot drop-off locations or to sign up for Ballot TRACE, visit [denvervotes.org](http://denvervotes.org)

## Join the Denver Building Code Board of Appeals (BOA)

Denver's Building Code Board of Appeals (BOA) is looking for new members to serve on the board. The BOA, which oversees appeals of building code-related decisions, is required to include two members and one alternate who have no job-related association with the building industry. If you are not an architect, contractor, engineer or other building-related job holder, but you have an interest in Denver's built environment, we invite you to apply for a board/commission appointment by following the instructions on the Mayor's Boards & Commissions page: <http://bit.ly/203MCd7>

Board members are paid \$70 per meeting. The meetings are generally held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Email questions about board membership to [cpdcommunications@denvergov.org](mailto:cpdcommunications@denvergov.org).

## DENVER CITY AUDITOR

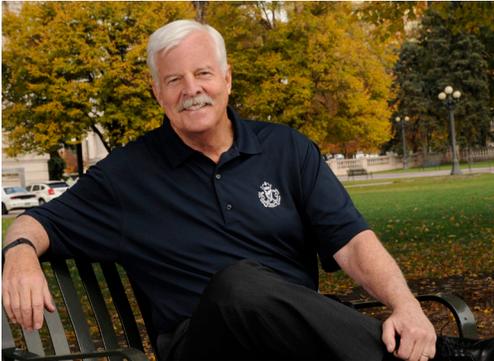
### Meet Timothy O'Brien

Timothy M. O'Brien, CPA, was elected to a four-year term as Denver's 24th Auditor in 2015.

#### What does your job entail?

The Denver Charter charges the Auditor with conducting financial and performance audits of the City and County and its departments and agencies in accordance with generally accepted governmental auditing standards. I'm very familiar

with those standards, having served as the Colorado State Auditor for 11 years. I've expanded our audit plan to include financial, contract compliance and information technology audits so that our efforts are more closely aligned with areas where the City has the greatest risk.



#### What kind of impact do you hope to have in the community?

I ran for Auditor because I believed it was time to elect a qualified, experienced and independent auditor to the position. Denver voters agreed with me. Thanks to excellent staff, we've adhered to a practice of making recommendations that are relevant, feasible and worthwhile. In the dozens of audits we've done since I was elected, almost all of the recommendations we've made have been agreed to by the relevant department or agency. Now, funds dedicated to serving intellectually and developmentally disabled Denver residents are no longer being diverted for inappropriate purposes and their families have access to information. Now, police collect demographic data from officer-initiated stops to measure compliance with Denver's Biased-Policing Policy. Now, there is better enforcement of Denver's disabled parking program. These are all examples of direct impacts from audits that my office has done.

#### Is there anything else you want to share?

While campaigning, I was repeatedly asked, "What does the Auditor do?" I've paid a lot of attention to sharing the work of my office with Denver residents. In addition to publishing a monthly e-newsletter, I distribute copies of our annual audit plan and an annual report on what we've accomplished. To sign up for our distribution list, please go to [www.denvergov.org/auditor](http://www.denvergov.org/auditor).

## DPD Honors Top Cops



Officer Mike Oestmann

### District 2

During a traffic stop, Officers Mike Oestmann and Timothy Luke (not pictured) discovered the driver had a warrant for a hit and run. A young child was also in the vehicle. Oestmann and Luke told the driver he was going to be arrested for his Denver warrant and that he could have someone pick up the child. A family member arrived and transferred the child to her car. Once the child was safe, Oestmann and Luke searched the car, discovering illegal drugs, two stolen firearms, a semi-automatic handgun and ammunition. The weapons were hidden behind the child's car seat. The items were collected and the suspect was taken into custody.



Officers Jimmy Sheppard and Marika Putnam

### District 5

Officers Jimmy Sheppard and Marika Putnam stopped a suspicious car Detective Scott Armstrong (not pictured) had been observing. When Sheppard and Putnam stopped the car, they noticed the three occupants were visibly nervous. While Sheppard spoke to the driver, Putnam questioned the front passenger, who was rocking back and forth in the seat, sweating profusely.

As Sheppard and Putnam opened the car door, the front passenger reached for his pants pocket. Sheppard saw the butt end of a pistol protruding from the pocket and quickly grabbed the gun. Sheppard and Putnam secured possession of the weapon before the suspect had a chance to fire. An inventory search of the car found six loaded weapons, three pounds of methamphetamine, a half-pound of heroin and nearly \$4,000 in cash. All three suspects were taken into custody.

# Denver Recycles' LeafDrop Program composts leaves and pumpkins for free

Denver Recycles can turn your leaves into compost through their free LeafDrop program. Leaves brought in must be secured in bags; paper bags are preferred because they are compostable.

Weekday drop-off sites are open through December 2, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. The weekday drop-off site in District 8 is the Havana Nursery at 10450 Smith Rd. Weekday sites will be closed on Thursday, November 24 for Thanksgiving.

Weekend drop-off sites are open November 5 – 20, Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Locations include Cranmer Park at 3rd Ave. and Claremont St., and Bruce Randolph High School at E. 40th Ave. and Steele St.



Pumpkins also will be accepted for composting at drop sites. Please make sure leaves do not contain branches or other materials.

Denver residents can pick up a free five-pack of paper lawn and leaf bags at participating Denver area Ace Hardware stores. Visit [denvergov.org/leafdrop](http://denvergov.org/leafdrop) to print a coupon and see the list of participating Ace Hardware stores.

On average, about 400 to 500 tons of leaves are collected through this program each year.

For more information about Denver Recycles' programs, call 311, or visit their website at [denvergov.org/denverrecycles](http://denvergov.org/denverrecycles)

## Denver Building and Fire Code Rehabilitation Committee

The mayor and Community Planning and Development are seeking volunteers to serve on the Denver Building and Fire Code Rehabilitation Committee, whose intent is to review requested variances to the building code concerning the repair, rehabilitation or change of use or occupancy of any building, structure or utility. Committee members are needed with experience in these areas:

1. Architect with broad-based experience in the field of architecture
2. Contractor possessing a Building Contractor Class A or Class B license for the City and County of Denver
3. Fire Protection engineer or degreed code consultant
4. Preservationist, a person with expertise in historic preservation of buildings and structures
5. Person with real estate, real estate development or real estate financing experience
6. Person with expertise in accessible design or construction to represent the Commission for People with Disabilities of the City and County of Denver
7. Person with expertise in the field of Mechanical, Electrical or Plumbing (MEP)
8. A registered professional engineer with expertise in lateral stability of structures and expertise in unreinforced masonry buildings

Applications and resumes are due by Friday, November 11 to Anthony Aragon, [anthony.aragon@denvergov.org](mailto:anthony.aragon@denvergov.org). For the application, visit <http://bit.ly/203MCd7>.

## Applications for Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

Denver Environmental Health is seeking applications from residents and neighborhood organizations to join Denver's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program. Up to two neighborhoods will be selected and will join the East Montclair/East Colfax, Green Valley Ranch, West Colfax, North City Park, Chaffee Park-Regis, Barnum, Villa Park, Baker, Congress Park, and Highland neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods receive in-kind support from the City in the form of printing, venue and catering fees, and staff time to assist with outreach and program development.

Participating Sustainable Neighborhoods earn credits for achieving sustainability goals by completing projects such as: hosting workshops at the local community garden, making energy efficiency upgrades at home, cleaning up alleyways and parks, and encouraging neighbors to sign up for the city's free recycling service. Depending on the number of credits earned in a given year, neighborhoods receive designation as a "Participating Sustainable Neighborhood" or an "Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood."

To learn more about the program and apply, visit [www.SustainableNeighborhoodNetwork.org/Denver](http://www.SustainableNeighborhoodNetwork.org/Denver). Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7. For more information contact Taylor Moellers at [taylor.moellers@denvergov.org](mailto:taylor.moellers@denvergov.org) or 720-865-5477.

# Food Bank of the Rockies combats hunger one meal at a time

Food Bank of the Rockies has been a vital part of the Northeast Denver and larger Colorado community since 1978. Originally founded as the Colorado Food Clearing House, it operated out of a school in Northwest Denver, collected food from nearby Safeway stores, and distributed it to one agency. Today, Food Bank of the Rockies provides food to more than 500 hunger-relief programs and directly to clients through internal programs.

This 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization plays a crucial role in feeding our state's hungry. Food Bank of the Rockies' main warehouse is a 108,000 facility in Montbello. With 100 employees and over 20,000 active volunteers in Metro Denver, Food Bank of the Rockies has the capacity to distribute more than 131,000 meals for hungry children, seniors and families every day.

Food Bank of the Rockies receives more than half its product through donations from commercial companies such as local grocery stores. Remaining donations come from Feeding America, the USDA and local food drives. The organization has tremendous purchasing power and encourages the community to give via monetary donation or through volunteering. A \$5 gift may only buy two to three items at the grocery store can provide 25 pounds of nutritious food for a family in need. Of every dollar donated, 96 cents goes directly toward Food Bank of the Rockies programs and food distribution; every dollar can purchase four meals or five pounds of food.

"Hunger isn't a food issue, it's a distribution issue," said Janie Gianotsos, Director of Marketing and Community Relations for Food Bank of the Rockies. "It's so important we make sure we are able to get nutritious food so it doesn't go to waste and then get it out where it needs to be, so that people can access it. That's why we really need that network of partner agencies. It takes a whole community to make it happen; we need volunteers and donations."

Hundreds of partner agencies collaborate with Food Bank of the Rockies to ensure they are able to secure the best food products available, allowing them to



Volunteers from United Airlines work in Food Bank of the Rockies' distribution warehouse to pull food orders for the organization's partner agencies.

## HOW TO HELP

- Give funds
- Volunteer
- Give food
- Advocate
- Become a community partner



stretch their funds and provide more food to their clients. The organization provides partner agencies with free education and support resources, including food safety training and civil rights training.

Food Bank of the Rockies' children's programs work to ensure kids have access to nutritious meals during the school year and at home. In Colorado, nearly 1 in 4 children lives in a food-insecure household, meaning they might not know where their next meal is coming from. The Kids Cafe Program provides

free hot meals for kids in after-school and summer programs. Totes of Hope® gives children 8 – 9 pounds of nutritious food to sustain them over the weekend when school is not in session. For many of these kids, the food in the tote is their main source of food on Saturday and Sunday.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a USDA program aimed at improving the health of low-income people at least 60 years of age. Eligible seniors receive a monthly food box filled with nutritious foods. Food Bank of the Rockies also utilizes the help of partner agencies to act as host sites to help ensure no senior goes hungry.

Gianotsos is thankful for the community support behind Food Bank of the Rockies. "We are so grateful that we have such a generous community and that we are able to distribute as much as we do because everyone is kind and helps when they can. We want to make sure nobody goes hungry and make sure people go to our website if they need help and we will make sure they find food."

Food Bank of the Rockies is located at 10700 E. 45th Ave. For information, including ways to donate and volunteer sign-up, visit [foodbankrockies.org](http://foodbankrockies.org) or call 303-371-9250.

## Resources

Denver Human Services  
Montbello Office  
720-944-3666

District 2 Police Department  
720-913-1000  
Michael.Calo@denvergov.org

District 5 Police Department  
720-913-1400  
dist5@denvergov.org

Department of Motor Vehicles  
720-865-4600

Denver Public Schools  
720-423-3200

Denver Workforce Center at  
Montbello  
720-865-4600

City of Denver Services  
311

### District 8 Council Aides

Amanda Schoultz  
amanda.schoultz@denvergov.org

Bonnie Guillen  
bonnie.guillen@denvergov.org

Charley Oldaker  
charles.oldaker@denvergov.org

**Council District 8 website**  
[denvergov.org/councildistrict8](http://denvergov.org/councildistrict8)



*Councilman Chris Herndon at the announcement of the new Samaritan House Women's Shelter in District 8.*

## What's Happening in November

### Registered Neighborhood Organization Meetings

**Greater Park Hill Community**  
Nov. 3, 6:30 p.m.  
2823 Fairfax St.

**Northeast Park Hill Coalition**  
Nov. 10, 6 p.m.  
3921 Holly St.

**East Montclair Neighborhood Association**  
Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.  
CounterPath Press  
7934 E. 14th Ave.

**Stapleton United Neighbors**  
Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.  
Central Park Recreation Center  
9651 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.

### Community Events

**Dia de los Muertos Celebration**  
Nov. 1, 6 - 7 p.m.  
Montbello Branch Library  
12955 Albrook Dr.

**26th Annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down**  
Nov. 3, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

## State Attorney's Office Scam Alert

The Denver District Attorney's Office has received numerous inquiries from people who have gotten calls from someone claiming to be the State Attorney's Office or the Attorney General's Office. The caller threatens to have the person arrested if they don't immediately pay for an old bad check. The scammer insists on payment through wire transfer or pre-paid cards. These scammers are so convincing that even when the victim calls the DA's Office afterward, they have a hard time believing it isn't true. The scammers are very persistent, calling victims multiple times and are verbally abusive. Often the telephone numbers show as Texas or Florida area codes.

If you receive a similar phone call, the best tactic is to hang up, then report the issue to the Federal Trade Commission

Colorado National Guard Armory  
5275 Franklin St.

**Daylight Saving Time**  
Nov. 6, 2 a.m.

**Election Day**  
Nov. 8

**Veterans Day**  
Nov. 11  
City offices closed

**General Obligation Bond Community Meeting**  
Nov. 15, 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Montbello Campus  
5000 Crown Blvd.

**Police District 5 Community Meeting**  
Nov. 17, 6 p.m.  
Montbello Recreation Center  
15555 E. 53rd Ave.

**Winter Welcome**  
Nov. 18, 6 - 8 p.m.  
29th Ave. Town Center

**Thanksgiving**  
Nov. 24  
City offices closed

(FTC). An important thing to note is that many law enforcement agencies, including the Denver District Attorney's Office, cannot take action on an attempted scam. They are only able to take action if the person is a victim of the scam.

The Federal Trade Commission allows people to report attempted scams through their website. Additional agencies to call include the Denver Sheriff's Office: 720-865-0470 or the US Marshal Denver Office: 303-355-3400.

If you suspect you've been scammed or exploited, call the Denver District Attorney's Fraud Hotline at 720-913-9179.