Inside District 8

Councilman Christopher Herndon | Denver City Council | December 2017

A message from Councilman Herndon

First and foremost, thank you to the voters for supporting the Denver General Obligation (GO) Bond. Thanks to your approval, Denver will be able to invest in our infrastructure and add some much needed improvements in many areas across the city.

The District 8 office is once again collecting toys for Marine Corps Toys for Tots. It is my hope that every child can experience the joy of opening a present this holiday season and as always, we appreciate your support. We are collecting toys in several locations across the district and drop-offs are listed on the flyer on page 2 of the newsletter.

In November we celebrated the opening of Punch Bowl Social Stapleton in the old air traffic control tower. I want to thank Punch Bowl Social CEO Robert Thompson and his team for making this a reality. My appreciation also goes out to all the community members who reached out to my office and participated in meetings as far back as 2012, when I first convened a group to help find a reuse for the iconic building.

Solid waste isn't always the most thrilling topic, but I'm truly excited to announce that every neighborhood in the city can now participate in Denver's residential composting program. There are still issues to work out around educating residents on its importance and costs, but I am glad it is available to all.

Happy Holidays to each and every one of those who celebrate during this holiday season. It's an honor to serve you in this capacity and I look forward to 2018.

Councilman Chris Herndon shakes hands with Denver District Attorney Beth McCann (L) and Auditor Tim O'Brien (R) at the City of Denver's Employee Veterans Reception.

Adoptable pet of the month

Sweet Suzi is a 5-year-old cat that has been looking for a new home for more than five months. Suzi spends much of her day being adorable and getting plenty of beauty rest next to her foster mom. Her favorite activity is getting her super soft white coat brushed. While this queen bee loves being the center of attention, her foster mom says she's low maintenance. Suzi's only request is to be the only pet in the home. Come meet Suzi at Denver Animal Shelter, 1241 W. Bayaud Ave.

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

Connect with us on Twitter
twitter.com/ChrisJHerndon

TOY DRIVE

Donate new toys and games at one of the drop-off locations by Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Please join
Councilman
Chris Herndon
in collecting toys for
Denver's children in need.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

Central Park Rec Center
9651 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.

Councilman Chris Herndon's Office
4685 Peoria St. Ste. 245

Park Hill Library
4705 Montview Blvd.

East Colfax
Neighborhood Association
Accepting toys at its Dec. 19 potluck
7935 E. 14th Ave., 6:30 p.m.

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TOYS FOR TOTS℠

Know your neighbors: Lisa Ford

What neighborhood do you live in and how long have you lived there?
I have lived in the Montbello area since 1972. When my parents came here, they were in the military. When we moved out to Montbello there were a lot of military families living here. In 1999 I moved to the Green Valley area with my husband because our family expanded.

Lisa Ford

What do you like most about your neighborhood?
It's a safe place and a wonderful place to raise a family.

How are you involved in the community?
Since I have lived in this community, I've been involved in New Life Christian Center for over 40 years. I'm involved in the Denver Broncos Boys & Girls Club and a lot of the schools in the area. I go to assisted-living facilities and help there. I also go to various meetings in the Montbello area.

What's something you've done in the community that you're proud of?
I'm very proud to have stayed connected in the lives of so many families from Kiddie Kat daycare and the Boys & Girls Club. To see the kids that come back and how they have grown, and that they know me and say, "Hi Ms. Ford, how are you doing?" They say, "thank you for being a part of my life."

What's something about your community that you wish more people knew?
It's a wonderful community that has grown and molded a lot of strong, powerful people. And to see them come back to their community to visit or help out, it's wonderful. Montbello has many powerful, intelligent and bright people that have come out of this area. Montbello has a lot of opportunities for people.

How do you like to spend your free time?
I spend my free time having a lot of conversations with the Lord. I spend it with my family. I also enjoy arts and crafts and just helping other people and having a listening ear, which people need sometimes.

What is one of your favorite businesses/restaurants in the community?
The Boys & Girls Club is one of my favorite places in the community because of the connections I make with the kids, families and staff. Silverman Park holds a lot of memories for me. I was out in Montbello when it was dirt roads, not a lot of houses, a couple of churches and no Green Valley Ranch. I used to go to school in the warehouses across Peoria. I have different spots I really like in Montbello – it has really grown.

LEAP heating assistance program

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is available to assist Denver residents with home heating costs.

LEAP helps qualifying individuals and families stay warm, save money on heating costs and use their remaining cash to pay for other necessities during the winter months.

Both families and individuals with incomes of up to 165 percent of the federal poverty index may qualify for LEAP.

The annual LEAP program will take applications through Monday, April 30, 2018.

Request an application by calling 1-866-HEAT-HELP (432-8435), or print an application from www.denvergov.org/LEAP.

Tips on other ways to save energy and money this winter:

- Replace your furnace filter every two months during winter.
- Keep curtains, shutters and blinds closed at night and when it is cloudy.
- Turn down your heat; each degree you turn it down will save about 3 percent on your heating bill.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Set water heater temperatures at 120 degrees or lower.

Volunteers of America Snow Buddies program offers snow removal services

Need assistance shoveling the snow in your driveway or on your sidewalk this season? The Volunteers of America Snow Buddies program matches those who request assistance with a volunteer who will help with snow removal.

This program is available to seniors and those with disabilities. Contact the Volunteers of America (VOA) Snow Buddies program at 303-297-0408 or visit voacolorado.org/volunteer-opportunities/snow-buddies for more information.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR- DENVER COMPOSTS

Meet Richard Trinidad

Richard Trinidad

What does your job entail?
I am the Operations Supervisor for the Denver Composts program. I oversee the collection crew, ensuring they complete daily pickups and supporting them with any issues that arise throughout the day. I also work closely with our customers. The compost program is constantly growing so I must adjust regularly to ensure we meet the growing demand and the quality of our service is not compromised by the growth. It's important for me to work closely with my team to help keep them motivated and for us to work as a team to accomplish our goals.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I enjoy working with my employees and engaging with residents who participate in our program. I take pride in the service we provide and the difference that composting makes for the environment. Many residents don't realize that compostable organic material makes up almost 50 percent of what Denver residents throw away. When someone composts, it truly makes a difference. It's rewarding to know we are helping eliminate waste from the landfill and repurposing these materials into valuable new products that help improve our local soils.

What kind of impact do you hope to have in the community?
I hope to raise awareness about the compost program and encourage participation by educating residents about the benefits. A lot of my day is spent talking to residents along our routes, so I have a firsthand opportunity to convince residents it's a good thing.

What do you do for fun outside of work?
I enjoy the outdoors and taking my family camping. We especially like the peace and quiet of the wilderness. I also like fishing, riding ATV's and roasting marshmallows by the campfire with my kids. I also enjoy working on our new home, making improvements to make it our own.

What is something the community might not know about you?
I've worked at Solid Waste Management for almost 12 years. I have been married to my wife Monique for 22 years and we have two children, David who is 12 and Destiny who is 20. Destiny is a student at CU-Boulder enrolled in the pre-med program. My wife is a Denver native and I'm originally from California.

Denver Police Department honors Top Cops

District 5

Officers Derek Solano (left) and Matthew VanPelt (right) were dispatched to a hotel on a call of a suspicious occurrence. Upon arrival, the officers were directed to a young couple with an infant daughter sitting outside the hotel. Solano and VanPelt discovered that the family had booked and charged a hotel stay online using a gift card. The gift card did not process correctly, so the room wasn't paid for. The family was turned away and directed outside where they began panhandling, thus the call for police. Solano and VanPelt went back inside the hotel to talk with the staff about how they could help. Ultimately, the hotel offered a special discount rate to the family for the rest of the holiday weekend and Solano and VanPelt pooled their money to pay the cost.

DPD District 5 welcomes new recruits

Congratulations and welcome to the seven new officers on the District 5 team! Thank you for your commitment to serve the people of Denver.

From L to R: Officers Ivan Salazar-Reyes, Andrew Duarte, Sierra Kenoyer, Commander Ron Thomas, Timasha Haliburton, Carlos Torres-Jacobo, William Rider and Carson Stolper.

Red Sauce: nostalgic Italian-American food

Park Hill native Jon Robbins and his business partners Megan Silvertooth and Noel Martin opened Red Sauce in November in the Oneida Park shopping center. The New York/New Jersey-style Italian eatery's goal is to reinvigorate the movement of old-school 'red sauce' spaghetti and meatballs restaurants in Denver. Robbins and Silvertooth are also behind another Park Hill spot, Bistro Barbés.

Chef Jon Robbins (middle) and business partner Noel Martin (right) prepare customers' orders on the line.

"We are trying to play off a cliché," said Robbins. "We're unique in the fact that the 'red sauce' places in Denver are dying out."

Robbins said he wanted to open Red Sauce as a response to the increase of regional Italian restaurants in Denver, in hopes of a return to family-owned, neighborhood spots.

The name Red Sauce name pays homage to what Robbins refers to as unapologetically Italian-American food. Robbins, Silvertooth and Martin wanted to open a neighborhood restaurant that was nostalgic of old East Coast, Italian-American places.

Red Sauce offers a variety of classic Italian-American dishes in a family-friendly atmosphere featuring decorations that are a tribute to the bygone era of red checkered tablecloths and chianti bottles on every table. Exposed brick and a cozy fireplace greet customers when they walk through the door.

The menu features classic dishes including Spaghetti Bolognese, Sausage and Peppers, Linguine and Clams, Penne Puttanesca, Fried Mozzarella and Fried Calamari. Portion sizes are larger and are designed for customers to take home leftovers.

The Sausage and Peppers (left) and the Zuppa di Mussels (right).

Robbins and his team hired their staff from Park Hill to help young people in the community establish their first job.

"It was very exciting for us to hire from the neighborhood and really help train and put inexperienced people in a position to learn and grow and hopefully move on from this restaurant to bigger and better things," said Robbins.

Robbins is excited to have another restaurant concept in Park Hill and looks forward to bringing back the nostalgia of a family-friendly, classic Italian-American restaurant.

"I want people to know that we are here for the neighborhood. We want this to be the type of place where you feel comfortable coming in with last-minute notice and not having to worry about breaking your bank, for some very good, simple food," said Robbins.

Red Sauce is located at 2230 Oneida St. It is open Monday through Sunday, 5 – 9 p.m. For more information on the menu, visit redsaucedenver.com, or call 303-974-5304.

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
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Charley Oldaker
charles.oldaker@denvergov.org

Council District 8 website
denvergov.org/councildistrict8

Councilman Chris Herndon looks up at the new Punch Bowl Social in Stapleton.

What's happening in December

Registered Neighborhood Organization Meetings

Stapleton United Neighbors
Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.
Central Park Recreation Center
9651 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.

Montbello 2020
Dec. 7, 6 p.m.
Arie P. Taylor Building
4685 Peoria St.

Greater Park Hill Community
Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.
2823 Fairfax St.

Northeast Park Hill Coalition Holiday Party
Dec. 14, 6 p.m.
Denver Rescue Mission
6100 Smith Rd.

East Colfax Neighborhood Association Membership Potluck
Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Counterpath Press
7935 E. 14th Ave.

Community Events

Community Discussion Regarding Stapleton Name Change
Dec. 11, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
MCA Cube
8371 E. Northfield Blvd.

Hanukkah
Dec. 12 - 20

Hiawatha Davis Senior Luncheon
Dec. 20, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
DoubleTree Hotel
3203 Quebec St.

Christmas
Dec. 25
City offices closed

Kwanzaa
Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

Kwanzaa Celebration
Dec. 29, all day
Pauline Robinson Library
5575 E. 33rd Ave.

New Year's Day
Jan. 1
City offices closed

Public input needed on East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Do you take transit, ride a bike, walk, or drive along East Colfax? Do you live near the corridor or frequent the businesses there? Denver Public Works, in partnership with RTD, would like your input on the city's preliminary recommendation for a center-running BRT on East Colfax to improve travel along the corridor from I-25 to I-225.

A more detailed design for BRT and project implementation schedule will be developed in 2018. Construction is anticipated to begin as early as 2020.

Visit colfaxcorridorconnections.com to provide feedback through the end of 2017. Denver will announce a final decision on a BRT concept for Colfax by early 2018.