Inside District 8

Councilman Christopher Herndon | Denver City Council | March 2017

A message from Councilman Herndon

It's full steam ahead for Northeast Denver Leadership Week (NDLW) planning. The District 8 team is working tirelessly to ensure the 2017 participants have a week-long experience that will be truly impactful for them. If you're not familiar with NDLW, please visit NortheastDenverLeadershipWeek.org to learn more about our free leadership program for high school students. Current freshmen, sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply. We're also looking for volunteer chaperones so if you're willing to spend the entire week with us, please reach out to our office.

Our office is regularly notified of opportunities for community members to volunteer on various boards and commissions. At times, there seems to be more open spots than volunteers. If there are certain areas you are passionate about and are willing to share your time and expertise with the community, please let our office know and we can reach out when those opportunities become available.

With all the tension and apprehension in our country right now, I find it more important than ever to point out the positive things happening in our community. While there are too many to list them all here, I do want to highlight a group of District 8 residents who came together to help their neighbors. Residents at the Northfield Apartments recently experienced several tire slashing incidents. A group of neighbors heard about the vandalism and created a GoFundMe page to help those impacted by the crime. To all those who supported this effort in any way, thank you. It made a difference for the folks who were impacted and I'm proud of how our residents step in to support one another.

Councilman Chris Herndon films a Denver8 TV segment celebrating Black History Month and the Juanita Gray Service Awards at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library.

Christopher J. Herndon

Transit Alliance Citizens' Academy

Transit Alliance is now accepting applications for its Spring Citizens' Academy. The Citizens' Academy is a unique program focused on the latest mobility issues, such as neighborhood development near transit, innovations in shared-use mobility (car2go & Lyft), pedestrian and cycling connections, and how changing demographics in the region affect transportation choices and needs.

Classes meet from 6 – 9 p.m. every Wednesday from April 5 to May 17 at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce (1445 Market St.) and include dinner. Candidates may apply through March 17: transitalliance.org/citizens-academy.

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

Students currently in grades 9, 10 or 11 who live or go to school in Denver are eligible to apply. This year's free event will be held June 12-16. For more information, call Councilman Chris Herndon's office at 720-337-8888.

- Free Career Exploration
- Leadership Training
- Financial Literacy

Application deadline is March 24

Northeast Denver Leadership Week offers high school students from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to connect with civic and industry leaders throughout Denver. The program's goal is to grow the next generation of leaders by educating students about careers in leadership and inspiring and motivating them to pursue such roles in their own careers.

To apply, visit
www.NortheastDenverLeadershipWeek.org

District 5 Neighborhood Tip Line

720-913-TIPS (8477)

WHEN DO I USE THE TIP LINE?

The District 5 Neighborhood Tip Line is available for District 5 citizens to provide information regarding issues that impact public safety and quality of life, yet do not require an immediate police response

Examples include traffic or speeding issues and ongoing suspicious activity
The line will be monitored regularly and if desired we will contact you as soon as practical with follow-up information

District 5 serves the Stapleton, Montbello, Gateway, Parkfield and Green Valley Ranch Neighborhoods

The Tip Line *should not* be used to report an emergency or in-progress crime

Know your neighbors: Jamie Perkins

What neighborhood do you live in and how long have you lived there?
I live in the East Colfax (also called East Montclair) neighborhood. My husband and I were extremely fortunate to have bought a house here in April 2014.

What do you like most about your neighborhood?
I love the diversity and the history. Some of my neighbors on my street have lived here since Stapleton was an airport and Lowry was a base. They have stories about how the community has changed, or hasn't changed, around them.

How are you involved in the community?
I'm a member of the East Montclair Neighborhood Association and I serve as our Transportation Chair. I also volunteer weekly with the Spring Institute, assisting with English lessons for members of our neighborhood's refugee population. That has been an amazing and humbling experience because I don't speak their languages but we still connect over laughter and a drive to learn.

What's something you've done in the community that you're proud of?
I'm proud I know so many of my neighbors. I have found community on my street that is unlike any place I've lived in my adult life. I walk and bike often in the neighborhood and have gotten to know more people that way too.

What's something about your community that you wish more people knew?
It's more than just Colfax Avenue. My neighborhood has a huge diversity of people living in it, from people who have been here for decades to young families just moving in. You can hear multiple languages in one day just walking from the bus stop to home. We're also a very safe neighborhood, with a low crime rate on the streets north and south of Colfax.

How do you like to spend your free time?
I spend a lot of time putting work into my house. One of the best parts of East Colfax is that the lots are a little bit bigger, which gives us room for raised garden beds, two chickens (named Tender and Nugget) and a duck (Pate Benatar).

What is one of your favorite businesses/restaurants in the community?
Quince Essential is hands-down the best coffee house in Denver and is owned by one of our neighbors! Tacos Acapulco has wonderful pupusas and I also recommend 7 Leguas Mexican restaurant.

Become a mentor with Denver Kids, Inc.

If you've ever considered mentoring, become a volunteer with Denver Kids, Inc. Denver Kids builds long-term relationships and life skills that play a vital role in the holistic development of youth within the Denver Public School system who are at-risk of dropping out through one-on-one educational counseling, mentorship and guidance.

The organization's professional educational counselors work closely with volunteer mentors to address each student's unique needs, challenges, and goals. As a mentor, you'll help provide a K-12 student in the program with support, guidance, and exposure to new experiences. On average, volunteer mentors meet with their mentees twice a month over a period of at least one year. The average match length is four years. There are many ways to engage with your mentee. Activities may include movies, concerts, plays, ball games, and museums. Or it might just involve hanging out and talking.

Mentors have access to ongoing resources and training to help ensure their student relationships are successful and rewarding. For more information, visit denverkidsinc.org or call 720-423-2483.

Denver kids Inc.

New RTD route serving Northfield High School on the Paul Sandoval Campus

RTD's bus route 62 now serves Northfield High School and Commerce City, offering another connection for Stapleton area residents at RTD's Central Park Station. The bus service runs every 30 minutes Monday through Friday 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. and on Saturdays hourly 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. RTD will also add service on certain dates to coincide with events at Dick's Sporting Goods Park.

The new route is funded by a special three-year 'trial service' grant awarded via the City of Commerce City. The one-way cash fare is $2.60 ($1.30 for eligible students/seniors/riders with disabilities). Full details can be found on the Route #62 timetable at www.rtd-denver.com.

DENVER POLICE DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

Meet Mike Calo

What does your job entail?
The Commander of District 2 is responsible for 17 very eclectic neighborhoods located in North Central/ East Denver. We have approximately 150 personnel assigned to Police District 2. I oversee the day-to-day police activities that take place within the district. The primary goal is to prevent and reduce crime. The emphasis is solidly grounded in all aspects of community policing.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I enjoy seeing crime reduction through prevention and successful applications of modern policing technologies. I have an outstanding staff and enjoy seeing them do their jobs in a most professional manner. I also enjoy the relationships that we have made throughout the district, city and beyond.

What kind of impact do you hope to have in the community?
My primary goal is to continue to see violent crime reduced through our crime prevention strategies. District 2 achieved the largest reduction percentage in violent crime per the Uniformed Crime Report as reported to the FBI for 2016. My team is very proud of that statistic, but there is much more work to do. I want to continue to strengthen my relationships with the community and do so in a very transparent manner.

What do you do for fun outside of work?
I have very little time off because of my job requirements. I balance that with extensive travel when I am away from my duties. I like to work out, read, and enjoy my family and friends. My second career choice was marine biologist. I enjoy snorkeling, skin-diving, and scuba. I have visited many places in the Central and South Pacific oceans. My time in the ocean allows me to put things in perspective.

What is something the community might not know about you?
I am an avid New England Patriots fan. I grew up in Massachusetts and will forever be loyal to the Patriots, Bruins, and Red Sox Nation. I attended the FBI National Academy (FBI NA 262) during the fall of 2015. I was recognized as a “distinguished graduate” among 229 colleagues from around the globe.

Denver Police District 5 Honors Top Cop

District 5

While responding to a welfare check, Officer Matthew VanPelt encountered a woman suffering from cardiac or respiratory arrest. VanPelt determined there was an imminent need for medical assistance and entered the home before other first responders arrived. He found the woman’s husband attempting to perform CPR while also talking on the phone to the 911 operator. VanPelt immediately took over the task of performing CPR and after several minutes he was successful in getting the woman to breathe on her own. The woman was taken to the hospital where she was given a good prognosis.

Officer VanPelt is commended for his actions, which likely saved the life of a woman suffering a severe medical episode.

Pet Retention Program through Denver Animal Protection

Do you know someone who is struggling to keep his or her pet because of financial hardship? Denver Animal Protection may be able to help.

The program provides funding for essential medical care services, pet supplies, training resources, and shelter fees.

Interested residents should visit the Denver Animal Shelter at 1241 W. Bayaud Ave. to meet with staff and discuss possible services. For more information about Denver Animal Protection, call 720-913-1311 or visit www.denveranimalshelter.org.

denver animal shelter
ADOPTION CENTER • ANIMAL SERVICES

The Burro King offers made-from-scratch Mexican plates in Northeast Park Hill

The Burro King restaurant in Northeast Park Hill offers a variety of Mexican dishes in a comfortable, cozy atmosphere. The menu features breakfast and lunch burritos, tortas (Mexican sandwiches), chiles rellenos, tamales, chimichangas and a Mexican hamburger (a beef patty with beans, wrapped in a tortilla and smothered in chile sauce). All the dishes are made from scratch.

From left to right: Owner Javier Canales, Ruth Pilar, Adrian Canales, Judy Varajas and Sergio Canales.

"My favorite dishes are the relleno plate and the Burro King Burrito, with shredded beef, cheese and avocado," said owner Javier Canales.

When Canales opened The Burro King in 2009, he did so with very little help. "In the beginning, I worked from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.," said Canales. "I only had three customers the first day I opened."

"The hardest part of starting my own business was deciding to do it. I didn't have anyone to help me run the restaurant initially." Today, the business is thriving.

The restaurant's popularity and steady flow of customers is a result of word-of-mouth rather than traditional advertising and marketing.

The location, at the southeast corner of Monaco Parkway and Smith Road, draws a diverse customer base. "I picked this location because there is a lot of traffic and not a lot of competition," Canales said.

The Burro King's chile relleno plate.

Canales and his staff are active in giving back to the community through a nonprofit, the Elite Warrior Youth League Fund, which teaches children karate. The Burro King sells burritos to the nonprofit at a lower price so the youth can fundraise for the program through burrito sales.

Despite the challenges of entrepreneurship, Canales looks forward to expanding The Burro King. "It's hard sometimes to run my own business, but I like being my own boss." He has plans to open a second location in the Denver Tech Center in late 2017.

The Burro King is located at 6500 Smith Rd. It's open Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and is closed on Sundays.

For more information on the menu or to place a to-go order, call 303-339-0783.

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
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Bonnie Guillen
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Charley Oldaker
charles.oldaker@denvergov.org

Council District 8 website
denvergov.org/councildistrict8

Councilman Chris Herndon talks with students at DSST Stapleton about Northeast Denver Leadership Week.

What's Happening in March

Registered Neighborhood Organization Meetings

Greater Park Hill Community
March 2, 6:30 p.m.
2823 Fairfax St.

Northeast Park Hill Coalition
March 9, 6 p.m.
3921 Holly St.

East Montclair Neighborhood Association
March 21, 6:30 p.m.
CounterPath Press
7935 E. 14th Ave.

Stapleton United Neighbors
March 21, 6:30 p.m.
Central Park Recreation Center
9651 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.

Community Events

Women's Self Defense Class
March 4, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
RSVP to marika.putnam@denvergov.org
The Community Hub at Northfield
8230 Northfield Blvd. #1350

Park Hill Golf Course Community Meeting
March 15, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
3801 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd
futureofparkhillgolfcourse.com

Police District 5 Community Meeting
March 16, 6 p.m.
The Community Hub at Northfield
8230 Northfield Blvd. #1350

Police District 2 Community Meeting
March 29, 6 p.m.
3921 Holly St.

A message from Charlotte Brantley, Clayton Early Learning President

Clayton Early Learning (Clayton) has been serving children in the Northeast Denver community for more than 100 years. Clayton's mission is to ensure optimal development during the birth-to-5 period, for all children, especially those of limited opportunities. Clayton currently serves approximately 800 children and their families per year, most who live in Northeast Denver. The funding to provide these services comes in large part from a trust left by Mr. Clayton upon his death in 1899. While many members of the community know our historic campus at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Colorado Boulevard, many are unaware that the Park Hill Golf Course is also one of the largest assets of the Clayton Trust.

Clayton Early Learning leases the operations of the golf course to a golf management company through a 20-year lease. The lease will expire in December of 2018. The golf course currently operates at a significant financial loss, making it unlikely that it can continue as is while also providing the necessary funds to support Clayton's important role for the children and families of Northeast Denver.

As your neighbors and community partners, The Clayton Board of Trustees and I are launching a public dialogue regarding the future of this site with two goals in mind. First, to ensure the property can provide a sustainable funding source for Clayton's early childhood education mission, which serves the children of Northeast Denver. Second, to consider the future use of the land as something both the community and Clayton can be proud of well into the future.

Please join the conversation in one of the following ways:

• Attend our first Community Forum to learn more about the issue and provide input: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Main Auditorium of the Administration Building on the Clayton Early Learning Campus, 3801 Martin Luther King Boulevard.

• Visit futureofparkhillgolfcourse.com

• Call 303-355-2945 to leave us a comment or ask to be added to our email distribution list for future updates.

We thank you for your willingness to embark on this journey with us, and we look forward to hearing from you.