



FEATURING

- ★ PAUL'S PONDERINGS
- ★ SUSTAINABLE 6 TIP
- ★ CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE
- ★ DISTRICT 6 NEWS
- ★ CITY-WIDE NEWS
- ★ CITY RESOURCES

★ PAUL'S PONDERINGS ★

Happy Holidays, D6ers

I hope you had a fine Thanksgiving and got an extra bit of time off from whatever is day-to-day in your world. Try to breathe deeply as we head toward the end-of-the-year celebration season that can quickly move from “Isn’t this great?” to “Dear God, I NEED a minute to breathe.”

As we move toward 2025 - a full quarter of the way through the 21st century - we at the D6 office have a full plate of initiatives in front of us, some of our own making some coming from colleagues. And we await the new administration in D.C. that will shift the governmental landscape to some degree that we can all presuppose, but none of us can really predict.

What we know:

- **A new day is ahead for [Denver’s Registered Neighborhood Organizations](#).** RNO’s have been recognized as the voice of Denver residents since 1979, when an ordinance was written, and a structure created that had city agencies telling registered groups about things like rezonings, liquor (and later marijuana) license applications and more, with the understanding that the RNO’s would pass this info onto residents, and get back to the city with a recap of how the residents felt about these issues. Unfortunately, a failure to educate, fund and otherwise support these groups left many at loose ends, unable to serve the community as the ordinance intended.

After nearly 5 years of pushing the previous administration to no avail, Mayor Johnston has agreed to create a Division of Community Empowerment in the Office of Human Rights and Community Partnerships (HRCP) that will have among its prime directives to better support and strengthen the RNO system so that our 725,000+ residents have a better chance of actually having their voices heard and included in the formation of city policy. The 2025 budget includes funding to hire a director who will look at how to better use existing city staff to that end and look at what additions may be needed down the road in people and policy.

- **The D6 office has been working with Councilmembers Romero Campbell (D4) and Sawyer (D5) to create [new policy that better directs where future gas stations are sited](#).** After a rash of new stations sucked up a sizeable chunk of land along major near southeast Denver transportation corridors a few years back, we realized that most Denver residents had all the options they needed to fill their tanks, and we need to preserve our limited available land for true civic needs like housing and other community building options. On Dec. 18 we will go before the Denver Planning Board with a proposed ordinance that will prohibit new gas stations from being built within ¼ mile of a light-rail station, ¼ mile from an existing station, and 300 feet from residential property. We are also looking at requiring electric vehicle charging to be provided at new stations. This should come before a vote of Council early to mid-Q1.

- **We are also nearing policy recommendations that will allow city agencies to better control abandoned and derelict buildings and properties** before they become a drag on surrounding property values and quality of life. Cities like [Lakewood](#) and some others have ordinances that combine “carrots” and “sticks”, requiring property owners to submit plans detailing how they will maintain the structures and land while new tenants/development are in the works.

- **Denver has been behind other cities in disincentivizing the use of ornamental grasses** (bluegrass and the like) in new construction. We look forward to working with city agencies and relevant stakeholders to work towards a policy requiring the use of more water efficient plantings that will make better use of our dwindling watershed.

- **While violent crime is declining in Denver in numerous categories, we continue to hear from residents** in parts of our district about increases in reported gunshots and other disturbances. We will continue to work with Denver Police Department to address these neighborhood concerns as they arise. Safety on our streets and in our homes must always be a focus.

- **Prompted by a Cory-Merrill resident, I was pleased to bring the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative** to the attention of our Office of Children’s Affairs (OCA) a few years back. An offshoot of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of The Child, we are expecting OCA to do an official CFCI kickoff early in 2025. [Learn more on their website.](#)

• **Developments that will continue to garner neighborhood interest** are: the movement of King Soopers from Belcaro to E Louisiana Ave. and S Belaire St, sometime in the next year or so, as well as the potential redevelopment of the Belcaro shopping plaza from Exposition Ave to the south, once Kings relocates; the renovation of the former Embassy Suites hotel at E Mexico Ave and S Colorado Blvd (behind the gas station) into a Veterans Village under the management of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation; and construction of a planned 5-story rental apartment complex on the former La Quinta site on the northwest corner of Buchtel Blvd and S Colorado Blvd. We'll keep you posted if other items of interest crop up.

Well, we'll let that be that for now. Let us know if there's something on your mind to which we need to pay attention.

Regards,

Paul

★ SUSTAINABLE 6 TIP ★



Whether you celebrate a holiday this season or just get in the giving mood, we're supplying you with tips to make gifting more sustainable and less wasteful.

- We all know a good amount of us are relying on Amazon for our shopping needs. [Re-use the paper packing stuffed in the shipping boxes \(or newspaper\) to wrap presents.](#) The kids can even draw to design their own wrapping paper, or you can write a special note right on the package!
- Don't just buy a gift to buy a gift. We are trained to consume during this season but that often leaves us with well-meaning but unwanted stuff. To combat this, give with utility. High quality socks, a refillable water or hot beverage bottle, or reusable metal or glass straws.
- If you're buying for a friend who has everything, make an edible gift! Cake, cookies, chocolate bark is always welcome year-round!
- Looking for something for someone far away? Donate to a climate non-profit or local

organization in their name such as [The LoVVe Project](#), which is a local non-profit right here in District 6!

- Done with your holiday trees or wreaths? Give those plants a second life by Treecycling - drop sites will be available in 2025, [keep an eye on their website for more details.](#)

Wishing everyone a safe season, along with a happy new year!

★ DISTRICT 6 NEWS ★

IN-DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

*Councilman Kashmann will not be at his office hours December 11, but stop by to chat with a member of his staff.
Office hours will be cancelled December 26*

Stop by and have a cup of coffee or munch on some brunch with Councilman Kashmann to discuss concerns in the District, thoughts about the city, or just to say "Hello"!

In-District Office Hours are **every Thursday, 8a.m.-noon**, at **Pete's University Park Cafe** (2345 E Evans Ave, at the corner of University and Evans), with parking available in the back.



REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNO) are a great resource for information about events, news, and future projects happening in your neighborhood! Some meet more frequently than others. Below are the upcoming meetings in District 6!

[FIND YOUR RNO HERE](#)
[LIST OF ALL DISTRICT 6 RNO'S](#)



DECEMBER NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS:

University Neighbors Neighborhood Association (UNNA):

Thursday, 12/12, 6:30p.m.

Virtual only: Email masha.lior@denvergov.org for Zoom link

Cook Park Neighborhood

Organization (CPNA):

Thursday, 12/19, 6p.m.

It's time to renew your RNO!

The annual renewal period runs between **December 1 and January 31, 2025**. All RNOs are required to renew their registration with the city during this period to remain an RNO in good standing with the city. New organizations may also register during this period. [To submit your renewal, use this link!](#)

COLORADO GIVES DAY - DONATION MATCH OPPERTUNITY



We are excited to support The LoVVe Project this Colorado Gives Day! You can join the movement and make a big impact in our community. [Donate to The LoVVe Project](#) on or before **December 10** to double your impact, thanks to a matching gift from the D6 office. Every donation made to The LoVVe Project will be matched with a donation from our office (up to \$5000). Together, we can make sure families at McMeen and Ellis Elementary Schools get a special holiday meal this year and fresh food all year long.



[Learn more about The LoVVe Project on their website](#), and [donate this Colorado Gives Day!](#)

Eugene Field Branch Library



Winter Celebrations, Art & Community at Eugene Field Library

Calling all crafters! Have you joined us yet for our popular adult crafting program, [Create & Relate](#)? If not, now's your chance to take a tour of what we did in 2024 and try out your favorite. If you have, you'll get to revisit an old project or try something new, from votive holders to hand-painted cups. Stop by on **Friday, December 6, from 11a.m.-12:30p.m.** for our last craft get-together of 2024!

On **Saturday, 12/7**, our doors will open once again for holiday jazz! [Groove Machine](#) will return to entertain us with live music from **11a.m.-1p.m.** Our friends at the District 6 office are generously catering this popular neighborhood event. You won't want to miss it!

Have you ever wondered how and when to introduce your baby to art? [Join staff from the Clyfford Still Museum](#) on **Thursday, 12/12, 11a.m.-11:45a.m.** to experience art, build relationships, and learn together. Older children (ages 2 to 6) and their caregivers can enjoy a [Dance Party](#) on **Friday, 12/13, 10:30a.m.**, and we are offering our final [Tween Hangout](#) of 2024 on **Monday, 12/9, at 4:15p.m.**

Please note that our well-attended Crafts for Kids program, Lego(R) Club, toddler storytime, and baby storytimes will pause after December 13 and resume the week of January 13, as part of a system-wide programming break. Librarian Gina's [Discover Walks program](#), however, will still be held **Wednesday, 12/8, 9:30a.m.-10:30a.m.** and resume in April 2025.

January Preview: Book Buzz, Tech Programs & New Storytime Schedule

We are very excited to once again offer a [Winter Book Buzz](#) to our community on **Saturday, 1/11, at 11a.m.!** In under one hour - in our cozy community room with snacks, tea, and coffee - you will hear from our advisory experts who will help you pick your next read! (Psst... you'll walk away with a free book too!).

We'll also be offering fun, engaging tech workshops where you will learn how to access the library's collection of online videos, books, magazines, and music streaming services. On **Thursday, 1/23, at 2 p.m.** you can learn how to borrow ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and videos at our [50+ Tech: Meet Libby! Getting Started With eBooks & More](#) program. On **Friday, January 24, at 11 a.m.**, you can learn how to build your own [Book Soundtrack](#) playlist on a streaming service called Freelang Music+.



Parents and caregivers, please note that in 2025, we'll have a new storytime schedule! We have updated our offerings to address the needs of all ages within our community. On Tuesdays, we will offer [All Ages Storytime](#) at 10:30am, and we will continue to offer [Baby Storytime](#) on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. [Toddler Storytime](#) will move to Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. [Arts & Crafts for Kids](#), [Lego\(R\) Club](#), and [Tween Hangout](#) will continue with the same weekly or monthly schedules.

University Park Community Council Sing N' Sleigh Bells Holiday Celebration!



Join the University Park Community Council this Sunday, 12/8 from 3p.m.- 5p.m. at the Chamberlin Observatory (2930

E. Warren Ave) for some holiday cheer! The event will include Holiday Horse Drawn Carriage/Wagon Rides, a Cookie Potluck (bring treats to share - be sure to

label if they have nuts!), and a visit from Santa Claus! Observatory staff will also be on site to give tours of the Chamberlin Observatory.

Check out the [UPCC website](#) for more information and updates on our Holiday Celebration!

SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY IN DISTRICT 6 - South High Giving Grocery



The Denver South Giving Grocery has been serving the students of South High School for over ten years. Although its original mission was to provide food to students in South's Newcomer Program, the Giving Grocery has expanded its food pantry program to serve over 200 South students every week. The program focuses on local, nutritious, and culturally significant foods and encourages students to take home enough fresh produce, milk, eggs, meat, bread, and pantry staples for their whole family, completely free of charge. In addition, there is now a personal care section featuring laundry detergent, shampoo, toilet paper, and more.

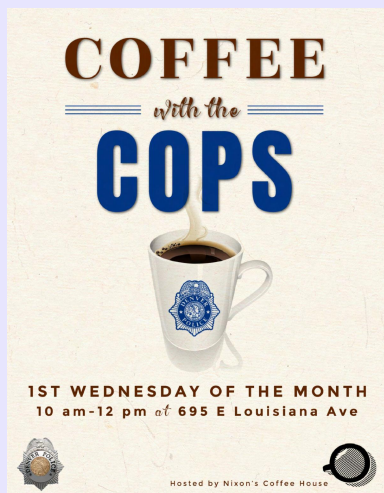
The need for the Giving Grocery is greater than ever due to expired COVID-era SNAP benefits, soaring food prices, and an influx of new refugee and immigrant students.

To learn more or make a tax deductible donation, visit [their website](#).

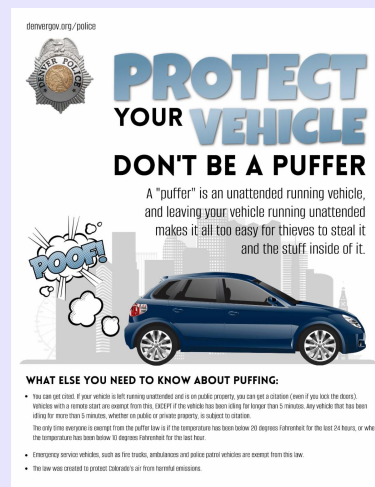
Denver Police Department - District 3

Coffee with the Cops - December 4, 10am

Protect Your Vehicle - Don't be a Puffer!



Stop by and say hello to your neighborhood police at their monthly Coffee with the Cops! The final coffee of 2024 will be December 4, 10a.m.-12p.m. at Nixon's Coffee House (695 E Louisiana Ave)



Leaving your unattended vehicle running is not only illegal, but makes it all too easy for thieves to steal it and the stuff inside of it. These cars are also emitting harmful fumes, contributing to our growing air quality problem in Denver. Avoid fines, protect your property, and help the environment this winter!

★ CITY-WIDE NEWS ★

DENVER SNOW ANGELS

The Denver Snow Angels Program is a Denver Human Rights and Community Partnerships (HRCP) initiative that connects Denver community members needing assistance shoveling their front sidewalks, including adjacent ADA ramps and bus



assistance shoveling their front sidewalks, including adjacent ADA ramps and bus stops, during the cold winter months with neighbors interested in helping. This volunteer service program brings City and County of Denver neighbors closer to one another while helping prevent fines for non-compliance with clearing pedestrian walkways in front of homes.



In response to feedback from Denver Snow Angels' volunteers and registered residents, the Denver Snow Angels Program was revamped in partnership with the Denver Technology Services Automation Center of Excellence team. Today, we ask all community members interested in joining Denver Snow Angels, including those previously registered, to apply or reapply using our new automated platform. [Visit the Snow Angels website](#) to learn more and register!

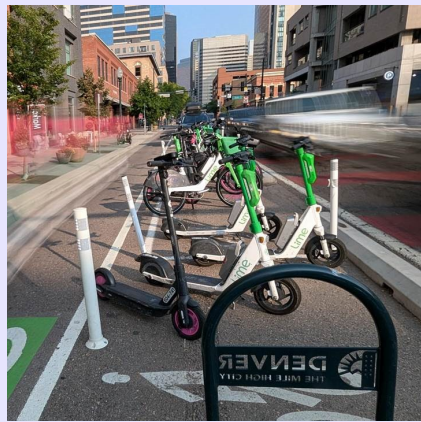
We Will Remember - Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil



Each December, the Denver community comes together on the shortest day of the year to honor those neighbors who passed away in the preceding year while experiencing homelessness. The 35th Annual We Will Remember: Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil will take place **Saturday, 12/21 from 4-6p.m.** outside the Denver City & County Building (1437 Bannock St). Please consider bringing a NEW, ADULT winter coat, as well as warm socks, gloves (waterproof), or other new winter wear to donate to unhoused neighbors.

For 35 years, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless has hosted this event in honor of those who have died in the previous year. For many, this will be the only service to mark their death. The reading of names will begin at 4:30pm. [Find more information here.](#)

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure [Scooter Survey!](#)



The City and County of Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) wants to hear about your experiences with the Scooter and Bike Share Program. Whether you're an avid Lyft or Lime scooter rider or don't use the scooter program at all, we want to hear about your experiences.

[Take the survey today!](#)

Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee Accepting Applications!

Love riding your bike in Denver? The Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee (MBAC) is currently recruiting for the 2025 cohort. The purpose of the MBAC is to advise the Mayor and City Council of the City and County of Denver, and all Departments of and consultants to the City, on all matters relating to the use of bicycles as a means of transportation and recreation. MBAC reviews and make recommendations on planning, design, and development of projects prepared by developers, City Departments, and consultants affecting the use of bicycles.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Grant Open House!



Are you a nonprofit, public school, or city agency interested in serving Denver youth through food access and food education? The Healthy Food for Denver's Kids program might be able to help! Healthy Food for Denver's Kids is a sales

tax initiative to fund healthy food and food-based education for Denver's youth ages 18 and under. Funds are distributed through competitive grants to agencies of local government, public schools in Denver and non-profit organizations, with an emphasis on serving low-income youth.

Denver Animal Shelter Launches Holiday Giving Campaign

The season of giving is upon us and the homeless, abused, and abandoned animals who find their way to [Denver Animal Shelter](#) (DAS) hope you'll think of them.



Your donations allow DAS to continue providing emergency medical services, foster care, and loving homes for Denver's most vulnerable animals. Through December, your generous gift will **DOUBLE**—thanks to a \$20,000 match! Think of how much good you'll do, with twice the nutritious food, twice the warm beds, and twice the lifesaving care for the animals.

DAS is Denver's only open-admission animal shelter, which means

Join Healthy Food for Denver's Kids Virtual Open House on Tuesday, December 10 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to:

- Learn more about our next funding opportunity.
- Walkthrough our Request for Proposal and scoring rubric.
- Discuss the application process and timeline.
- Workshop program ideas before the grant period opens (discussions of this sort will be prohibited once the grant period opens).

[Register online](#) today! This open house will be recorded and posted publicly for those who are not available to attend live.

Do you have questions ahead of the open house? Reach out to [Jessica Murison](#).

Stay Safe This Winter: Cold Weather Tips for Denver Residents

Brrrrr! During cold weather season, keep these tips from the Denver Department of

Public Health & Environment (DDPHE) in mind.

Key winter weather precautions include limiting outdoor time when it's freezing, [recognizing signs](#) of hypothermia and frostbite, preparing for potential power outages, and assembling an [emergency supply kit](#).

If you lose power or heat inside your home, avoid using gas stoves for heating, only run generators outdoors, and dress warmly while keeping blinds and doors closed to retain warmth.

If you rent your home and the heat goes out, contact your landlord or property manager. If the issue isn't promptly resolved, report it to DDPHE by calling 3-1-1 for assistance. A DDPHE Public Health Investigator will respond to help resolve the issue.

Additional resources, including a landlord notification letter template, are available on DDPHE's [Cold Weather Safety webpage](#).



they never see any animal away—its staff works 365 days a year to help them. Dogs and cats who have been cast aside want one thing this time of year...a loving family of their very own! Please, make their dreams come true and [donate online today!](#)

Be On the Good List with Timely Vaccines this Holiday Season



As we sled into the holiday season, it's important to keep the safety of yourself and your loved ones at the top of the "to-do" list. To keep the holidays merry and bright, stay up to date on recommended vaccines, like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), COVID-19 and the flu. [Follow these holiday-themed tips](#) for a safe and healthy holiday season! Head to the [DDPHE Immunization webpage](#) to find a location and get yourself vaccinated!

Denver's Do's and Don'ts of Open Burning



Spark curiosity with a new episode of the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment's (DDPHE) Environmental What If Podcast. Every month, DDPHE interviews local experts to identify the challenges and find solutions that empower Denver communities to live better, longer. In this episode, we answer your burning questions about [Denver's open burning rules](#), cover what types of fires are allowed, and the impact of

smoke on your health. Whether you're considering a festive backyard fire pit or seasonal leaf burning, learn how to stay compliant and keep the air clean this winter and beyond. Listen to the [full podcast online](#).

★ CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE ★

COMMITTEE MEETINGS, GENERAL MEETINGS, PUBLIC COMMENT

Note - City Council will not meet 12/30-1/1

Tune in to Channel 8, go [online](#), or come on up to the 4th floor of the City and County Building (1437 Bannock St) to watch your city's legislative branch in action!

MONDAY:

Budget & Policy Committee (meets every other week) – 1:30p.m.

[Watch Live](#) - [See agendas, minutes, and videos for this committee](#)

City Council Afternoon Session – 3:30p.m.

General Public Comment Session (see next paragraph for details) – 5-5:30p.m.

City Council Evening Session continues with unfinished business and public hearings at 5:30p.m.

[Watch Live](#) - [See agendas, minutes, and videos for City Council meetings](#)



Every Monday, starting at 5p.m., the Denver City Council hosts a 30 minute public comment session before the meeting of Council. Members of the public are invited to address the full Council on any topic that is not scheduled for a public hearing. Each speaker gets 3 minutes to speak on any topic of their choice. How and when do I sign up? **New sign up information!** Sign up for General Public Comment now opens Friday at 10:00 a.m. and closes Monday at 3p.m. You can sign up [at this link](#) or by calling 720-337-2000 during normal business hours. How to join the meeting after you sign up? Attend either in person in City Council Chambers, 1437 Bannock, 4th floor or via Zoom - everyone who signs up will receive a zoom link.

TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAY:

Mayor-Council Meeting – 9:30a.m.
Parr-Widener Community Room, Room 389, City and County Building

[See schedules, agendas, and archived videos for this meeting.](#)

NOTE: This meeting is scheduled, managed, and noticed by the mayor's office. Please contact the mayor's office for information and questions about this meeting.

Finance and Governance Committee – 10:30a.m.

[Watch Live - See agendas, minutes, and videos for this committee](#)

Land Use, Transportation, and Infrastructure Committee – 1:30p.m.

[Watch Live - See agendas, minutes, and videos for this committee](#)

WEDNESDAY:

Safety, Housing, Education & Homelessness Committee – 10:30a.m.

[Watch Live - See agendas, minutes, and videos for this committee](#)

Business, Arts, Workforce, Climate, and Aviation Services Committee – 1:30p.m.

[Watch Live - See agendas, minutes, and videos for this committee](#)

★ CITY RESOURCES ★

SLOW DOWN, DENVER!



[REQUEST A YARD SIGN](#)

Denver has updated the default speed limit from 25mph to 20mph. This change applies to Denver's local streets – primarily the roads with no stripes that go through residential blocks. Additionally, wherever speed limit signs are not posted, the default speed limit will be 20 mph, per [city ordinance](#).

Lowering the speed limit on local streets is part of a broader effort Denver is taking to address safety on our streets citywide. In 2017, the City and County of Denver set an ambitious goal of zero traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2030. By reducing the speed limit on our local streets, we can draw attention to the topic of vehicle speeds and help create a culture of safety within our neighborhoods where we are more likely to see people walking and biking.

911 Services for People with Disabilities



911 services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Residents with Speech Disabilities

Text: 303-513-6909, 720-723-8911
[Email HERE](#)

Be sure to text or email the location where help is needed, a summary of the situation, response to information requested by 911 such as injuries and suspect descriptions.

Registry for Residents with Disabilities - You may now submit information about yourself or other members of your household who have disabilities in order to help 911 respond appropriately during an emergency. Your information will remain confidential and will give officers advance warning about your circumstance prior to responding. Register [here](#).

Rent & Utility Assistance Open with New Online Application!



Denver's Temporary Rent and Utility Assistance (TRUA) program is open! TRUA can help with rent payments for up to six months per calendar year, as well as helping both renters and homeowners with utility assistance (Denver Water/Xcel Energy).

To qualify, you must live in the City and County of Denver or have been displaced from Denver in the past 90 days, have a household income at or below 80% of the [Area Median Income](#); and have experienced an unexpected financial hardship or other housing crisis. You do NOT have to disclose your immigration status, and landlord participation is NOT required. Visit [denvergov.org/RentHelp](#) and to learn more. The city also provides FREE tenant/landlord counseling and eviction legal assistance. Visit [denvergov.org/EvictionHelp](#) for more information about eviction legal clinics.

[Councilman Paul Kashmann](#) | District 6 | 720-337-6666 | paul.kashmann@denvergov.org



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