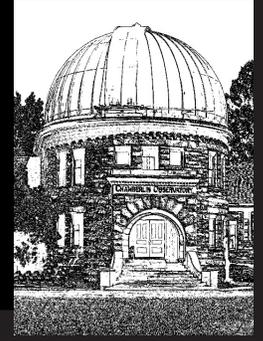


UPWORDS

UNIVERSITY PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL [UPCC] NEWSLETTER
The **VOICE** of the University Park Community Council



September 2012 • www.upcc.us

Update On The DU Presidential Debate

The University of Denver is hosting the first of the three 2012 presidential debates on Wednesday, October 3, in Magness Arena. Expect traffic closures prior to and on the day of the event. You can get the latest news about the debate, along with traffic updates, on DU's debate website at: <http://debate2012.du.edu/>.

As noted in the previous *UPWords* newsletter, DU will not be able to

provide tickets to the actual debate, as most tickets go to the media. However, for those wanting to get close to the debate action, a limited number of free tickets to the DU DEBATEFEST will be available for the local community and DU students and faculty. The DEBATEFEST will be held near the center of campus and include live music, activities, local vendors and more — followed by a live, outdoor

telecast of the debate. YOU MUST HAVE A TICKET TO ENTER THE EVENT. The UPCC has been given a limited number of tickets on a "first come, first served" basis. If you are interested in receiving tickets, please email debate@upcc.us with the number of tickets you would be interested in. If you do not have email, you may call Dana at 303-359-8858 to request tickets. The UPCC is distributing the tickets and you will need to pick up your tickets at a home here in the neighborhood, (we will let you know the location when you contact us about tickets). Deadline for requesting tickets is September 28.

University Park Community Council (UPCC) Fall General Meeting To Highlight 'Neighborhood Development' Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Meeting pushed out a week due to the Presidential Debate at DU on October 3.

Just a reminder that the next general UPCC meeting will be held at the University Park Elementary School auditorium on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, with a half hour of socializing starting at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting starting at 7 p.m. This is a week later than normal due to DU's hosting of the Presidential Debate. The theme of the meeting will be "**Neighborhood Development Updates**," with the following key topics covered:

- One Observatory Park
- YMCA Expansion
- Development at Cook & Evans
- University Park Playground
- Prairie Park Update

If you have ideas and contacts for other neighborhood updates, please email president@upcc.us or call Dana at 303-920-0193. It should be an interesting meeting and we hope to see you there.

Looking For Sponsors To Serve Refreshments At The UPCC General Meetings

We are looking for refreshment sponsors at the three general UPCC meetings. You can be a family, business or organization, and we will recognize your contribution at the meeting and in UPCC communications. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Schmidt at vp@upcc.us or call 303-715-3970.

Sidewalk Committee Looking For Volunteers

The UPCC Sidewalk Committee is looking for volunteers. The UPCC Bylaws describe the committee purpose as "*develop and maintain a sidewalk position as approved by the board of University Park Community Council. The committee will maintain liaison with other neighborhoods and work with local and city authorities to promote sidewalks and to assure safe and convenient pedestrian movement throughout the neighborhood, with particular emphasis on pedestrian access to schools and public transportation facilities.*" If championing sidewalks in our neighborhood is important to you, email sidewalks@UPCC.us to learn more. (See related article in this *UpWords* by 5th grade student participants involved in *Project Citizen* at University Park Elementary School.)

Spike In Burglaries Due To Open Garage Doors

by Steve Hick, UPCC Safety Chair

University Park has seen a large increase in residential burglaries this summer from open or unsecured homes. Approximately half of all residential burglaries occur because of

Help Solve A UPark Mystery

University Park has a small open space just west of South Jackson Street where Harvard Gulch intersects. This open space is on the southwest side and has three concrete picnic tables, a garbage can, a few trees, and a granite stone marker that has flowers etched on either side of the name **Mary McIntyre**, with the date 1973 inscribed on it. We have asked the Parks Department if they know the history of this marker and they have no record. Does anyone know the history behind this stone? If so, email parks@upcc.us or call Diana at 303-733-4902.

open garage doors. Most occur at night, but we also see some daytime occurrences. It takes only a matter of minutes for a criminal, driving down the street or alley, to stop, enter the garage and house and take whatever they can carry out.

You can significantly reduce your chances of becoming a victim by closing and securing all entry points to your house. Shut the garage door while mowing or doing other yard work, even if you're in the front yard. If you are not physically in your garage, make sure you close the door. Get into the habit of making sure your home is secure before going to bed every night. Most of these types of crimes can be prevented if we eliminate the opportunity.

If you are on the neighborhood email distribution list, you can receive a regular crime bulletin. (If you do not receive these email notifications, consider subscribing at <http://www.upcc.us/email.php>.)

Native Plant Educational Walk In Prairie Park & Other Highlights Of 'Parks' News

by Diana Helper,

UPCC Parks Committee Chair

Did you know that Native Americans and early pioneers made their way west toward the mountains, along the banks of what is now known as Prairie Park of the valley stream (now I-25)? Prairie Park is on the National Register of historic places, as is the Buchtel Trail, which runs along it.

The Historic Buchtel Project consists of trails, bikeways, traffic islands, and two parks, and is the sum accomplishment of hundreds of UP folks, city staff, and Denver council members over the years. We have successfully preserved 14 acres of original historic prairie through these efforts!

We now want to continue this work by improving the health of the prairie and by adding native plants along an educational walk, which would include signage to illustrate the types of native plants that could even grow in your own yard.

This nature walk has long been part of the plan. We are gathering a neighborhood group to help make it and perhaps other improvements happen. All interested in getting involved are

welcome to contact Diana Helper, 303-733-4902 or parks@upcc.us to offer their ideas and support. Please let us know your interest! **We'll have a meeting this fall** to get this off the ground.

Art in this Park is another expressed wish. The DU Art Department, in collaboration with the Parks Department and the city's Public Art Director, Michael Chavez, have responded with great interest. Do you have ideas about this? Let us know! We'll keep you informed.

Buchtel Centennial Park's new prairie is full grown, and staff is coming to weed it.

We're looking into the idea of a community garden in University Park for next spring.

Another highlight of "Park" news is the progress on the new **bridge for McWilliams Park**, which should be done by mid-September. Denver Parks ran out of money for a temporary bridge, so be very careful if you try to cross the gulch. Gulch improvements throughout University Park are needed and we have asked for a city update. Neighbors have offered to help — Thank You!

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Only One Thing Is Certain — School Zones Need Sidewalks!

Note From The Editor: The following are excerpts of a thoughtful, intelligently collaborated Citizens' Project proposal and call to action by a group of 5th graders from University Park Elementary. Led by 5th grade teacher Anna Kwan, the unanimous consensus of these highly outspoken young citizen students is: Only one thing is certain ... School zones need sidewalks!

— Paula Smith

Problem: There Are Not Enough Sidewalks In The School Zone

by Rebecca Atayde and Gretchen Carpenter

This story can change the way you look at sidewalks, the pieces of concrete at the edge of the road, and by the time you are through reading it, you might have a feeling for them. Since you probably aren't sure of what we are talking about, we are talking about the streets that don't have sidewalks. The result, there are pedestrian accidents. We chose sidewalks as our Project Citizen problem because we see it in our community and we think this is a problem that needs to be solved. Without sidewalks, the neighborhood can't be safe. With sidewalks, you can feel more relaxed when walking on them, instead of always looking over your shoulder. Now that you have read this, we hope you understand why sidewalks are such a problem in Denver, Colorado.

Alternative Policies

by Galen Metzger and Ely Toledo

We didn't want a policy that lets the government choose where to put sidewalks. We choose these alternative policies but we need to know who is responsible for sidewalk construction and maintenance because of the right to protection of our property. This is a sacred American right, and to make a person pay for a public space on their own, is a violation of this right in some people's ideas. The question remains: who pays for sidewalks? The city? The property owner? The developer? The organizations? The federal government? Only one thing is certain. School zones need sidewalks.

Class Policy

by Katie Maloney and Dasha Petlenko

Have you ever walked down a street with no sidewalk and ended up walking with the cars? We have, and we do not feel safe when that happens. Having sidewalks will make our neighborhood a safer place to live and a safer place to walk. To begin, people can get hurt because they were walking on the streets with no sidewalk. They can get hit by a car and that would not be fun. This is not all the drivers' fault though. What we are doing is trying to get the government to enforce the law on the sidewalks. We believe that this public policy is constitutional because while each homeowner might have to pay for their sidewalks, we believe that this is a case where individual rights are trumped by the need for common good. Also, since this was a law passed by our local government, we need to either support it or suggest a way to amend it.



CAUTION

Our Action Plan

by Pippi Thompson

Our action plan is to go to the government and ask them to enforce the law that everyone needs a sidewalk but especially those in school zones. Since this part of Denver was originally not part of Denver, when it was incorporated, homes that didn't have sidewalks were grandfathered in. Community groups have worked to get bonds to pay for sidewalks and were able to put in some more sidewalks.

We have learned through our research that homeowners can get waivers and not put in sidewalks if they don't have one. All they have to do is go and talk to members of the Department of Public Works. We, the Project Citizen group at University Park, will help spread the message that we need sidewalks and appeal to their goodwill.

First, we will identify all the homes that don't have sidewalks in the University Park School Zone. Then, we will send a letter and flyer that will give encourage them to pick one of the three options:

- Have experts do it for them (very expensive)
- Work with a community group, UPCC or Walk Denver
- Do it yourself "DIY"



Chinese Prodigy Pianist To Perform At Accelerated Schools On September 29

On September 29, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., Accelerated Schools will host an afternoon tea featuring their own Chinese prodigy pianist, a 15-year old student who will play a selection of solo piano pieces. The afternoon tea will be held in the school's 2nd floor Grand Room. This is a school fundraiser to benefit the Student Scholarship Fund. Enjoy teas from Ceylon Pearl Tea Company serving premium teas from the Isle of Ceylon. Teas will also be for sale at this event. If you haven't heard him yet, be sure to RSVP to buy your tickets early. Space is limited and tickets will sell fast. Please call Marianna or Jane @ 303-758-2003 to reserve your tickets now!

A cool shopping experience right here in the neighborhood!

University Park Mother's Club Presents The Sixth Annual 'MOM'PRENEUR MARKETPLACE'

Mark your calendar for the 6th Annual Mompreneur Marketplace, to be held **Sunday, October 14, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.** (please note this is a new day and date) at University Park Elementary School.

This is a unique marketplace of all "Mom-owned" vendors. Shop homemade and cool things for yourself, your family and your home. Buy raffle tickets to win nifty prizes and enjoy lunch and mingle with friends. The first 300 shoppers will get goodie bags!

Last year we had 52 vendors, and we were able to raise close to \$5,000 for the school.

Bring the family as the school has its **Annual Apple Fun Run** and **Carnival** at the same time with games, food, bouncy house and more. For information on how to become a vendor or take advantage of our low cost advertising go to mompreneur@uparkmoms.org or contact Danielle Southwell at 303-809-5347. Space is limited. To learn more, visit our website at <http://www.uparkmoms.org/moms>.



So Thank You!! Recent Dues Payers!

The following residents paid UPCC dues in June and July of 2012.

Mitch & Abby Allen	Drew & Amy Homburger	David & Ellen Seymour
Janet Bardwell	Gary & Jessica Jamell	Don & Betty Shaw
Betsy Temkin & Greg Boecker	Elizabeth Kester	George & Linda Southwell
Denny & LuAnn Dahl	Judson McDonald & Walker Knight	Muffy & David Steinhoff
Christopher Dolson	Mark & Candace Kristensson	Jonathan Stites
Henk & Pamela Dykhous	Paul & Laura Lhevine	Darcy Taylor
Sandy Elliott	Jeanie & Randal Martines	Jim & Jodi Tompkins
Josh Gould & Melody Feldman	Carol & Richard McMahan	Kathy Kennedy & Ben Vernon
Tom & Alison Finley	Dwight Newton	Joan Wells
Chris & Petra Frazier	Linda & Russell Olson	Mark Westland & Deborah Harrington
Pam Gates	Greg & Regina Pron	Greg & Dorothy Wilson
Lisa Glauser	Clair Purcell	Bill & Kathryn Winn
Wes & Katie Hays	Lee & Pam Reichert	David & Bronwyn York
Steve & Launa Hick	Roger & Robin Rountree	

Highlights From The Observatory

Public viewings of the night sky through the Chamberlin Observatory's 20-inch aperture classic refractor telescope are available **by reservation only** on Tuesdays and Thursday nights. To make reservations, visit: www.thedas.org, or www.du.edu/physastron, or call 303-871-5172. The centerpiece of our neighborhood, the historic Chamberlin Observatory was built in 1890, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a Denver city landmark. Chamberlin Observatory is also on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/Chamberlin_Obs.

Mark Your Calendars For The 2012 Schedule Of UPCC Events And Meetings

- Sept. 15 — Neighborhood Conference with Mayor, 9 a.m. at the Webb Building
- Oct. 3 — Presidential Debate at DU
- Oct. 10 — UPCC Fall Neighborhood Meeting
- Oct. 14 — Mom'preneur Marketplace & Apple Fun Run and Carnival at UPark Elementary
- Oct. 17 — Buchtel Boulevard/Parkway Coalition, 7 p.m. at Heritage Club
- Nov. 6 — UPCC Board meeting
- Nov. 14 — DU Good Neighbors quarterly meeting
- Dec. 2 — Sing and Sleigh at Observatory Park

UPCC Voluntary Dues 2012

Please fill out the following form and send it with your check for UPCC dues (\$20, \$15 seniors) to UPCC co-treasurers June Morgan and Ryan Zorn, 2100 S. Monroe St., Denver, CO 80210. Another payment option: Use PayPal to pay your dues online by visiting www.upcc.us/support. To sign up for the UPCC e-mail list, go to: www.upcc.us/email. During the current economic downturn, the UPCC has received fewer contributions. We encourage those who are able to increase their donations to help us compensate for this shortfall.

Thank you!

Date _____

Name _____

Phone # _____

E-mail Address _____

Street Address _____

Amount enclosed _____

Neighborhood interests or concerns _____