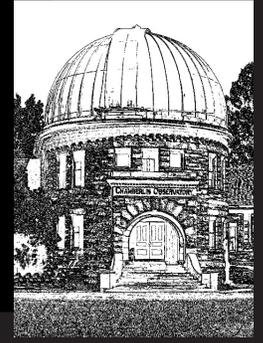


# UPWORDS

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



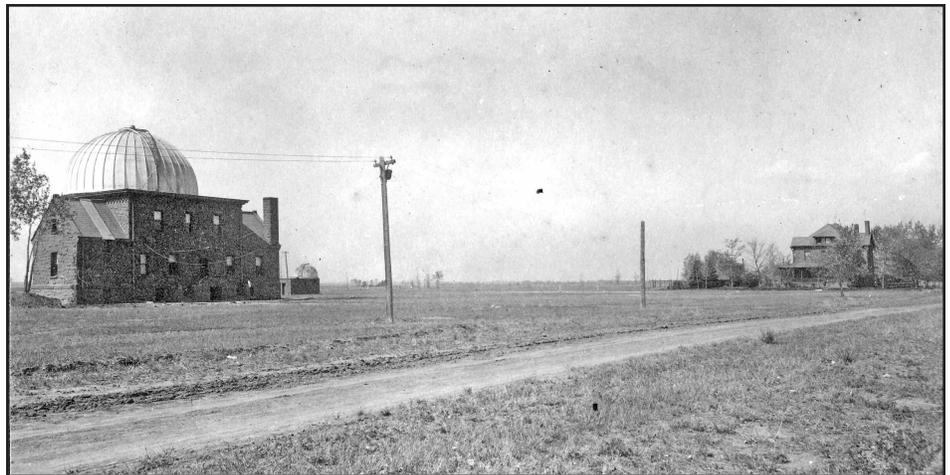
January 2013 • [www.upcc.us](http://www.upcc.us)

## Chamberlin Observatory Has Long History As Neighborhood Landmark

by Rosemary Stoffel,  
UPCC Historic Preservation  
and Legacy Chair

Chamberlin Observatory, the historic symbol of the University Park neighborhood, opened its doors to nearly 500 residents last month for the annual Holiday Sing and Sleigh celebration. Earlier this year, more than 400 residents gathered at the 123-year-old structure for the Fourth of July parade, and the previous year neighbors met at the Observatory to celebrate at the "Then and Now" 125th anniversary of University Park. All events were sponsored by University Park Community Council (UPCC).

The Observatory is noteworthy beyond its long tradition as a neighborhood gathering place. It was one of the earliest buildings erected in University Park; the location was chosen because it was far from the lights and dust of bustling, dirty downtown Denver. The land around the building



Photograph provided by University of Denver Historian Steve Fisher, Penrose Library  
*Chamberlin Observatory viewed from Warren Ave. in the early years, with astronomer Herbert Howe's residence (which still remains) to the right.*

was even re-platted to avoid traffic vibration from horse drawn wagons.

In 1888, Humphrey Barker Chamberlin, a realtor and amateur astronomer, donated \$56,000 to construct the building. University of Denver (DU) Dean Herbert A. Howe

served as the first director of the Observatory until his death in 1926, and was passionate about the project. He selected the telescope, which cost \$11,000 and was of such scientific interest that it was exhibited at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago prior to be installed in the Observatory. Howe accompanied the telescope on its journey by train to Denver, renting a Pullman berth just for the lens. The 20-inch aperture, 28 foot-long refractor telescope was installed in 1894, and is still used for public night sky viewing. Today it is considered priceless.

Designed by Denver's first and highly respected architect Robert Roeschlaub, the building was constructed from 1889-1894 of local Colorado materials. It was designed with thick walls to maintain a constant temperature for accurate viewing, and with independent

### UPCC's Winter General Meeting February 6, 2013 *Development Updates*

Please join the UPCC at the next General Meeting scheduled Wednesday, February 6. We will have updates on neighborhood development sites including One Observatory Place, the Office Depot/Vitamin Cottage complex, new restaurants near King Soopers, review of Kent Place at University and Hampden, Colorado Center updates, Schlessman Family YMCA expansion plans and others.

We always schedule a half hour of socializing at 6:30 p.m. (thank you to Accelerated School for providing refreshments), and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. There will be time for community comments at the end of the meeting.

For final agenda, please visit our website closer to the 6th or sign up for our email list at [www.upcc.us/email](http://www.upcc.us/email).

*Continued on back page*

# A Letter From Our President Of The UPCC, Dana Strand O'Connor

Happy New Year to all University Park Residents and I hope everyone is coming off a great Holiday Season. My family and I spent time here in University Park but we also squeezed in a trip to Minnesota to see family and began our new year with a trip to Mexico. As much as traveling is wonderful, it is great to come home.

I am now a third of the way through my tenure as UPCC President. During these first few months, I have been working on transitioning many of the responsibilities I had prior to becoming President. I will continue to write and send the UPCC monthly emails, (sign up at [www.upcc.us/email](http://www.upcc.us/email)), however, my thanks goes out to John Ragola who is taking over the coordination and delivery of the Welcome Packages to new neighbors, Ryan Zorn who has taken over logging dues payees, Michael Lockwitz who now manages the website, and Jennifer Schmidt and Janet Bardwell who helped organize the Sing and Sleigh this past December.

I think one of the greatest way the UPCC gives back to the neighborhood is our annual events; "The July 4th Bike Parade and Pumper Truck Spray" and "The Sing and Sleigh Bells" December event. In 2012 we saw the largest crowds we have ever seen at these

events and they are so much fun for the neighborhood. Your dues help cover the costs of these event but they don't happen without a little planning and a little leg work. We need coordinators for both these events. I have coordinated them during pregnancy and with babies attached to me in Bjorns, and we now have a system which can easily be handed off to someone, but we need a person to take on this role. I am hoping someone reading this newsletter might want to get involved a bit further in the University Park neighborhood. I promise you will have fun planning and coordinating these events and it is a great way to meet new friends in the neighborhood and give a little back to the place we all call home.

In addition to the fun events, the UPCC Board is a great resource for all our neighbors with regard to zoning concerns, park issues, inquiries about historical preservation, and other City related questions. Please feel free to contact us at any time. We are here to help.

I hope for all University Park residents, 2013 is a year of health, joy, and prosperity and I look forward to seeing you all in 2013. If you are interested in taking an active role in preserving the legacy of this neighborhood, please contact me at [president@upcc.us](mailto:president@upcc.us).

*Dana Strand O'Connor*

## UPCC Hosts I.N.C. Saturday, February 9

University Park neighbors are all invited to the INC (Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation) meeting hosted by UPCC on Saturday, February 9, at the Heritage Club, 2020 S. Monroe. We are so fortunate that the Heritage Club helps us by providing a beautiful room and great refreshments — please show your appreciation by attending this event and greeting INC delegates from all over Denver. There are always interesting speakers from the City on topics of current interest to neighborhoods. We gather at 8:45 a.m. and the meeting begins shortly after 9 a.m., concluding by noon.

*Mary Myers and Diana Helper,  
UPCC INC delegates*

## Looking For Purple Pages Volunteers

The Purple Pages, University Park's neighborhood directory, is published each year. We are looking for volunteers interested in being on the Purple Pages committee. The committee identifies and solicits advertising, reviews the directory contents, coordinates all aspects of publication, and other details of producing the directory. The committee will start meeting in May and the work concludes in August. If you are interested, please call or email Janet Bardwell at 303-756-4212 or [pp@upcc.us](mailto:pp@upcc.us).

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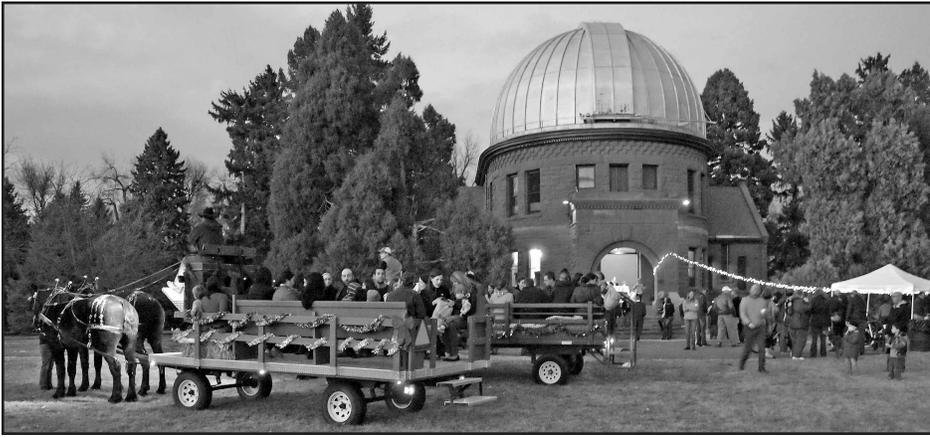
**UPWORDS** is published five times a year, prior to the fall, winter and spring general meetings, the special Holiday issue for the Sing and Sleigh, and the summer issue for the 4th of July Parade.

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**Newsletter Distribution/  
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OPEN



*Sharing a Christmas list with Santa at the 2012 Sing & Sleigh.*

## **2012 Sing And Sleigh.... Warm Temps & Earlier Start Draws A Big Crowd**

Balmy warm weather and an earlier start of 4:30 p.m. drew a packed crowd at this year's annual holiday Sing and Sleigh. Over 450 neighbors congregated around the Observatory to sip hot cider, enjoy home-baked cookies and treats, and share holiday cheer with our University Park friends. Though there was plenty to do, the lines grew quickly for the horse-drawn sleigh ride and a viewing of the star-studded night sky through



*Loading up the sleigh wagons in front of the Observatory.*

the great telescope. Santa was busy too, taking in all the hopes and dreams of the little children for the coming holiday. Carolers sang songs of the season, and the clippity clop and jingling bells rang through the night air, as the great Clydesdales circled the wagons around the park. Thank you to La Belle Rosette Coffee Shop on 2423 South University Boulevard for providing the cider, treats and some volunteers at the event. It was a night to remember for all who came...



*Carolers sang songs of the season.*

## **University Park Says Goodbye To Longtime Resident And Friend**

Longtime resident and friend Moras Shubert passed away on December 10, 2012. Moras was 100 years old and lived on South Columbine for over 65 years. Moras was instrumental in founding the Botanical Gardens where he served as one of the original trustees and was secretary of the board until 1998. He also served on the UPCC board in many different capacities, helped greatly with the Prairie project, and was a major contributor to the creation of the Xeriscaped traffic islands at Buchtel and South University — Denver's first in 1976. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Erne in April 2011, who was also an active University Park neighbor. He asked that there be no memorial service, but we will always remember him. There was a wonderful article about Moras in the January 2012 issue of the *UPWORDS*. You can read the article online at <http://upcc.us/upwords-january-2012/>.

### **Looking For Sponsors To Serve Refreshments At The UPCC General Meetings**

We are looking for refreshment sponsors at the general UPCC meetings. You can be a family, business, or organization, and we will recognize your contribution at the meeting and in other UPCC communications. If you are interested, please call Jennifer Schmidt at [vp@upcc.us](mailto:vp@upcc.us).

### **UPCC Email Notification List**

Stay connected and informed by signing up for the UPCC email notification list. We send monthly emails as well as emails when there is something time sensitive that needs to be communicated to our residents. To learn more about our list and read recent emails visit [www.upcc.us/email](http://www.upcc.us/email).

# PARKS & TRAIL NEWS

## Coyote Alert

Numerous emails have circulated through University Park recently reporting sightings of coyotes roaming the neighborhood. One account was of a pack of five coyotes hunting the neighborhood for small animals or pets. Another email reported a small dog that was snatched with the owner in

## DU Good Neighbors Meetings

These meetings are held quarterly for University Park residents to bring their DU-related concerns to DU and to hear the latest news from DU about development plans and other matters that may affect University Park. The winter meeting is Wednesday, February 27, 7 p.m. at Sturm Hall, Room 286, (across from the tennis courts), with free parking in the lot just west of the classroom building. Note your parking space number, enter it at the entry kiosk, with a two hour time estimate, say you "Do have a coupon" and enter the number 14651. You don't need to put the receipt on your car. Please attend these meetings. It's always interesting, and refreshments are always served. For details, contact Allan Wilson at DU at 303-871-2039 or [www.du.edu/communityvisitors/neighbors](http://www.du.edu/communityvisitors/neighbors), or <http://www.du.edu/communityvisitors/neighbors>.

proximity. Neighbors should be vigilant, especially at dawn or during the night, keeping your pets inside, and when out, ensuring they are in a safe environment. Diana Helper, UPCC Open Space and Parks Chair, also highly recommends keeping garbage in the alley dumpsters, away from your yard.

## Stolen!

The sundial gnomon (upper part) from Buchtel Centennial Park was recently stolen and we need it back! Without the gnomon, you can't tell the time. Bill Berg made this nice gnomon as a replacement for the original one, which also was taken long ago. We will leave it alone for the winter, and I'm not sure Bill wants to try again, so we need to think about what to do. Any leads, please contact us!

## McWilliams Park

Does anyone know when McWilliams Park was founded? Let us know. UPCC Board will discuss a proposed informational/historic sign for Prairie Park and future ideas such as a garden of native plants, at its January 2nd meeting, with details at the February 6th UPCC general meeting. If you have concerns or questions about any University Park, including Observatory, Harvard Gulch East, and Buchtel Centennial, or Buchtel or Harvard Gulch Trail, please contact me.

*Diana Helper,*

*Open Space/Parks chairman*

# Chamberlin

*Continued from front page*

piers which prevent vibrations. A 12-ton iron dome houses the telescope. The elegant structure is considered a superlative example of the Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style, and is a significant contribution to Denver's architectural history. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and designated a Denver Historic Landmark in 1994.

Owned by DU and sitting on land owned by the city, the building showed signs of very serious deterioration in the 1990s. University Park residents formed a committee in 1994 to help fund initial restoration efforts, and through a series of fundraisers in 1994 and 1998, the group raised nearly \$20,000. In addition to raising funds, the events which ranged from "Heavenly Garden Parties" to tee-shirt and notecard sales, provided ways for new and longtime neighbors to work together on a compelling community project.

In 2006, a \$200,000 State Historical Grant was awarded to DU to help fund extensive repairs. Matching funds to make the grant possible were provided by DU, UPCC's Chamberlin Observatory Restoration Committee, and by the Denver Astronomical Society. Restoration work was completed in 2008. University of Denver performed an optics cleanup of the telescope during 2010, and a full mechanical restoration during 2011.

Today, DU continues to use the Observatory for astronomy classes, and public star viewing is offered by the Denver Astronomical Society. For more information about the Observatory and the schedule for public night sky viewing, go to Observatory Director Dr. Robert Stencel's website at <http://www.du.edu/~rstencel/Chamberlin>, or to [www.denverastrosociety.org/](http://www.denverastrosociety.org/) (see link to Chamberlin Observatory). Chamberlin Observatory is also on Twitter at: [www.twitter.com/Chamberlin\\_Obs](http://www.twitter.com/Chamberlin_Obs).

University Park's two other locally designated landmarks, Fitzroy Place (also known as the Iliff Mansion), and the 1932 Holland House, will be featured in future *UPWORDS* newsletters.

## Mark Your Calendars For The 2013 Schedule Of UPCC Events And Meetings

Mark your calendars for 2013's UPCC general meetings and events schedule. General meetings are always the first Wednesday starting at 6:30 p.m. (February 6, May 1, and October 2). The July the 4th Parade is Thursday, July 4, and the Holiday Sing and Sleigh is Sunday, December 1.

### Event in 2013

Board Meeting  
General Meeting  
Board Meeting  
Board Meeting  
General Meeting  
Board Meeting  
Band in the Park  
4th of July Parade  
Board Meeting  
Board Meeting  
General Meeting  
Board Meeting  
Sing and Sleigh Bells

### Dates in 2013

Wednesday, January 2, 2013  
Wednesday, February 6, 2013  
Tuesday, March 5, 2013  
Tuesday, April 2, 2013  
Wednesday, May 1, 2013  
Tuesday, June 4, 2013  
none scheduled at this time  
Thursday, July 4, 2013  
Tuesday, August 6, 2013  
Tuesday, September 3, 2013  
Wednesday, October 2, 2013  
Tuesday, November 5, 2013  
Sunday, December 1, 2013