On New Year’s Day I visited the grave of my mother who passed away a year ago from cancer. New Year’s Day would have been her 82nd Birthday and I feel as though her spirit had a lesson for me to learn that day.

As I wandered past the gravestones of Mt. Olivet Cemetery beneath the steep slopes of Table Mountain near Golden I was surprised to see an elaborate well weathered head stone bearing the name of William Gilpin, the man for whom our neighborhood public school was named. Gilpin had been the first territorial Governor of Colorado, and when he died in the 1890s our neighborhood would have been a young, diverse and bustling place. Gilpin School was an integrated school on the day it opened in 1882 and by the early 20th century it housed 900 students from all walks of life in all 12 grades.

Gilpin, however, was not the first school on the block. It replaced a smaller Victorian era building called The Stout Street School at the corner of 28th and Stout. That school opened in 1874 and burned down in 1881.

Rising from the ashes of the Stout Street School, Gilpin was the largest and perhaps most beautiful school house in the state. The original Gilpin would again be replaced in 1951 with a modern larger building designed to hold over 1000 students. This is the building we now know today.

Through its history Gilpin has taught many famous people including Neil Cassady who would become the subject of Jack Kerouac’s "On the Road","n
Continued on Page 2

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**8th Annual Curtis Park Ice Festival**

*John Hayden*

Join neighbors of all ages on Sunday, February 26th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Stout Street Children’s Park, 25th and Stout Street, as we celebrate the winter season with ice sculptures, artists, games and winter treats from The Rolling Pin and Coffee at the Points.

Join neighbors and enjoy art, cookies and hot chocolate on a winter afternoon.

Want to volunteer to help with this year’s party? Contact John Hayden at haydenpryor@msn.com.
Hi Neighbors (continued)

U.S. Senator Edward Costigan and Poet Arthur Flynn who wrote "Where the Columbine's Grow" our state Song.

I write this article the night after the Denver Public School Board meeting at which several hundred neighbors protested the decision by DPS to close Gilpin Elementary. It was with great pride that I watched as parents, students, community leaders, and members of the NAACP pressed DPS to explain their decision, clearly stating the flaws in the reasoning DPS used to close the school. The board remarked that they had not been challenged with such hard evidence on a school closing before.

Thanks to the hard work of parents like Alison Wadle, the flaws in the district’s reasoning were laid out and while it has not yet changed the fate of the current Gilpin school I have no doubt that like the schools that have preceded it for the past 150 years, Gilpin will again rise from the ashes through the hard work and determination of community members who care deeply about the importance of providing quality, accessible education to all children in our neighborhood.

This is not the end of Gilpin but rather another page in its long and beautiful history and this is the chapter our generation will write for the next.

Join me at the February CPN meeting to hear from and question DPS representatives about the future of Gilpin and to demand quality educational institutions for the children in our neighborhood.

Hi Neighbors (continued)

Platte Valley Homes Redevelopment

Mick Barnhardt

The Denver Housing Authority (DHA) is in the process of designing the redevelopment for the 66-unit Platte Valley Homes (built in 1943 between Stout & Champa and 30th and 31st Street).

DHA is committed to improving or replacing all 66-units of public housing “like-for-like” while also expanding livable areas and accessibility for residents. A primary goal is to not displace the existing residents. Construction will be phased so that no one will have to find other means of housing.

DHA is working closely with Denver architectural firm, Humphreys Poli. The DHA and Humphreys Poli have met with our local historic landmark neighborhood committee to review design from concept to ensure that it “fits” in the design and spirit of the neighborhood.

The current design involves rehabilitating three pairs of building located at the corners of 30th/Stout, 31st/Champa, and 31st/Stout. The existing structures will be transformed into something tenants and our neighborhood can be proud of. Sidewalk set-backs will be increased by slicing off a considerable piece of the existing structures that front Stout and Champa streets so that a proper sidewalk with landscaped parkway can be provided that follows the rest of Curtis Park and improves the pedestrian experience.

The central portion of the development which includes the community center and large parking lot will be razed and released for development of market-rate single family homes or row houses. The sales of these single lots will help finance this development.

Annual Valentine’s Tea

Hugh and Lynn Brown

All neighbors are invited to the 23rd annual St. Valentine’s Tea, an informal neighborhood gathering, at the home of Hugh and Lynne Brown. Sunday, February 12th, 2:00-5:00 PM at 2903 Champa Street. Children are especially welcome.

Come to the Curtis Park Neighbors monthly meeting Thursday, February 2nd at United Way, 711 Park Ave. West at 7:00 p.m. to see the latest design presentation from Chris Spelke of the Denver Housing Authority.

Kate Delaney | Owner/Dog Walker
kate@dogdaysofdenver.com
970.903.6433
Neighborhood Parking Plan Update

Keith Pryor

Please plan to attend the upcoming February CPN meeting to review and make comments to the proposed draft of the Curtis Park Northwest Sub Area Parking Management Plan. The Sub Area grew a bit in discussion with the neighborhood task-force and now goes from Broadway to 28th, Larimer to Champa streets. The draft tries to capture the needs and demands of the different conditions that exist in the sub area today and tries to remain flexible for what future development will occur in the area.

We look forward to presenting the Draft and receiving feedback to incorporate into the final Parking Management Plan for the Sub Area. Depending on the feedback from the February meeting we anticipate a final management plan later this spring with implementation to follow shortly thereafter. We will then turn our focus to the rest of the neighborhood and will be doing outreach and studying existing conditions to come up with a draft plan. We will then review and take comments and make corrections by late summer to early fall. If you want to be more involved please contact Keith Pryor, Eric Ross or Paul Davidson and we will get you involved.

Pre-Existing Small Zone Lots Parking Exemption Amendment Hearing

Mick Barnhardt

Late last year, City County granted a moratorium for the zoning amendment that provided parking exemption for small lots. This moratorium was due largely to a grassroots efforts emerging from our neighborhood and Humboldt Street experiencing first-hand the exploitation of this exemption to develop ultra-high density micro-housing in both our neighborhoods.

A task-force assembled by Albus Brooks was developed to study the impact that these micro-units would have on residential neighborhoods. As a result of this task-force a proposed text amendment was drafted. The proposed text amendment would revise the current vehicle parking exemption for Pre-Existing Small Zone Lots, which are defined as zone lots less than or equal to 6,250 square feet and zoned Mixed Use Commercial that existed on June 25, 2010. The current Pre-Existing Small Lot provisions allow a full exemption from vehicle parking on all these lots.

The proposed text amendment would exempt the first three stories of development from required vehicle parking when within proximity to high-frequency bus or rail transit. For zone lots not within proximity to high-frequency bus or rail transit, the first two stories of development would be exempt from required vehicle parking. Under the proposal, all other stories in these buildings would be required to provide vehicle parking with the possibility to utilize vehicle parking reductions and alternative ratios available in the DZC. Additionally, existing buildings on Small Zone Lots would be exempt from providing vehicle parking.

This proposal will be presented at the Planning Board Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 1st at the City & County Building, 1437 Bannock Street, Room 389. Contact Jeff Hirt, Senior City Planner at 720-865-3264 or at Jeffrey.Hirt@DenverGov.org

SCFD Free Days

Clyfford Still Museum
• Fridays 5-8 p.m.

Denver Art Museum
• Sat. Feb. 4th

Denver Botanic Gardens
• Tues. Feb. 7th
• Mon. Feb. 20th

Denver Museum Nature & Science
• Mon. Feb. 27th

Denver Zoo
• Sun Feb. 12th
• Mon. Feb. 13th

Find out more at www.scfd.org

Denver Moves Survey
Denver Moves Pedestrians and Trails

A current study being undertaken by the city, is asking Denverites to fill out a brief outreach survey to help them learn more about walking and trails in Denver. The information will be compiled by the consultants and used to make recommendations to the city. The survey is being conducted in both English and Spanish. www.bit.ly/DenverMovesSurvey or www.bit.ly/DenverMovesEspanol
Earthlinks Events for February

Eat Pizza and Help End Homelessness

Join us at the Denver Proto’s Pizza, 2401 15th Street on January 19th between 11:00 am and 9:00 p.m. to help end homelessness! Proto’s is partnering with EarthLinks to donate 15% of their sales that day to EarthLinks. Plus, both Bristol Brewing Company and Boulevard Brewing Company are donating a keg to help the cause!

Pints for a Cause

Every Monday at The Brew on Broadway at 3445 S. Broadway, is Pints for A Cause!! $1 of every beer and $.50 of every cup of coffee sold will be donated to a local non-profit organization.

Neighborhood Internet Resources

Curtis Park Neighbors on Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/curtispark/

Curtis Park Neighbors “Announce” Group
Just the basics! We encourage everyone to join this e-mail group. Receive the Curtis Park Times & special announcements. Write to: Curtis-Park-Neighbors-Announce+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Neighbors “Notices” Group
Super-detailed! Receive all of the notices that the City and other organizations send to Curtis Park Neighbors. The CPN Board receives this e-mail, and invites you to participate as well! Write to: CurtisParkNeighbors+subscribe@googlegroups.com also: Groups.google.com/forum/m/#/forum/cpn-parks-group

Curtis Park Design Review Committee
Provide assistance to new development and building modifications in Curtis Park, to help with Denver Landmark Commission review. Write to: cpn-designreview+subscribe@googlegroups.com

DHA / Curtis Park Community Advisory Committee
Provide feedback and guide the Denver Housing Authority’s plans for their property holdings in the Curtis Park area. Write to: CPN-DHA-CAC+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Transportation Committee
Improve mobility and safety for people getting around by all modes Write to: cpn-transportation+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Safety and Security Group
Collaborate on finding solutions to current and long-term safety and security topics in the neighborhood. Write to: cpn-security+subscribe@googlegroups.com

EarthLinks exist for people experiencing homelessness and low income participate in a social enterprise workshop program.

Participants create earth-centered crafts, engage in organic gardening, wood working, and beekeeping while forming a supportive community, leading to positive changes. Primary focus is find and maintain stable housing for participants.

Earthlinks is located at 2746 W 13th Ave, Denver, CO 80204 Phone: (303) 389-0085. For more information go to www.earthlinks-colorado.org/

Curtis Park Neighbors is an officially incorporated non-profit neighborhood organization bringing our neighborhood together to share in preserving the past and future of Curtis Park. We welcome all neighbors in Curtis Park and encourage participation in Curtis Park Neighbors and in the life of the community. Please pass along this newsletter and bring a neighbor to the meetings!

The spirit of the Curtis Park Times is to communicate information about topics and concerns of our neighborhood. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Curtis Park Neighbors. To provide newsletter articles or place advertising, contact us at cpn-newsletter@googlegroups.com or (720) 273-0623. The next newsletter deadlines are February 15th for ads, and February 18th for articles.

Special Thanks To
Hugh Brown, Keith Pryor, and John Hayden for newsletter content. Thanks to Hope Communities and Mile High United Way for donating our meeting space, to Therese Rasmussen for coordinating newsletter distribution, and many thanks to neighbors assisting with newsletter deliveries.

CPN Board of Directors
Paul Davidson, Conor Farley, Scott Gordon (Vice President), John Hayden (President), Robbie Hobein, Deb Jacobson (Secretary), J.R. Lapiere, Marco Martinez, Todd McGuire (Treasurer), Rob Price (Electronic Communications Director), Therese Rasmussen, Wendy Reischl, Eric Ross, and Andrew Spinks. Contact the CPN President by writing to haydenpryor@msn.com or calling (303) 297-3994. Write the CPN Board at curtis-park-neighbors-board@googlegroups.com.