Hi, Neighbors!

John Hayden, CPN President

October has arrived and it’s time to enjoy the changing of leaves, the coming of a chill in the air and the arrival of The Great Pumpkin. Please join neighbors and invite friends and family to this, our 8th annual Curtis Park Great Pumpkin! The event will occur on the Sunday before Halloween, October 28th from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the Stout Street Children’s Park, 2501 Stout Street.

Once again, we will welcome a giant pumpkin weighing over 800 pounds from champion vegetable grower Chad New. Artist Jesse Parish will carve the pumpkin during the event. Free pumpkins will be provided for neighbors to carve and the best pumpkin carver will walk away with a prize. Live music, Halloween treats from the Rolling Pin, bobbing for apples, apple cider and a costume parade will round out the event.

This year the event will occur only on Sunday the 28th so that neighbors can stay home on Halloween night and hand out candy to trick-or-treaters in the neighborhood. The event will occur no matter the weather so if it snows maybe come as Frosty the Snowman:-). Weather will not stop a party!

This month’s Curtis Park Neighbors meeting will feature healthy treats provided by board member Josh Becker and Healthy Food for Denver Kids, an initiative on the November ballot. Come learn about this initiative at the meeting. We also will get an update on Denveright. This is a planning process that will update to the cities land use and transportation master plan as well as plans for transit, parks and walking in Denver.

What’s Up with All That Concrete?

Neighbors may have noticed that the tree lawn at 24th and California was recently paved in concrete. This area between the tree sidewalk and the street is owned by the city (public right of way), however it’s required, like our sidewalks, to be maintained by the adjacent property owner. Eric Ross and Rob Price brought the paving of the tree lawn to the attention of the board in September just after it was completed. Eric has been working on a study of impermeable surfaces and how they contribute to the heat island effect in our city.

The short answer is that paving more and more surfaces helps contribute to flooding during rain storms and increased heat that can become dangerous to vulnerable populations, particularly the elderly. So paving of what
Neighbors (cont.)

After this there will be an update on the Neighborhood Transportation and Mobility Plan and an opportunity for neighbors to hear from and share concerns with the Denver DA’s office. So lots on the agenda. Remember the police security update starts at 6:30 pm before the meeting so if you have security related concerns please show up to speak with our neighborhood police officers. The general meeting starts at 7:00 pm and is located at Mile High United Way at 711 Park Ave West, at Stout Street. Enter from parking lot side of the building.

City Working to Update Group Living and Shelter Zoning Rules

Did you know only two unrelated adults can live in a house in Denver? Or that Denver’s zoning code currently limits shelter beds by City Council District which change boundaries every two years? These are just a couple of the seemingly outdated rules that Denver is currently reconsidering as part of an effort to update the section of the zoning code that governs group living and shelters.

Starting last May Denver convened a working group made up of service providers, city officials, neighborhood representatives and zoning professionals to look how Denver might update it’s zoning code to better accommodate for changes in living patterns. Far more people now live alone or with roommates than did when the current zoning code was created and new types of housing such as ADU’s, tiny homes and artist cooperatives don’t fit nicely into the current code. Other problems with the current code include rules around where shelters can be located and how they are defined. This has partially contributed to concentrations of shelters in industrial parts of town far away from services.

Over the next several months the working group will be identifying best practices in other cities and seeing how those practices might be applied to Denver. There will be additional public meetings and opportunities for input. More information can be found at www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/community-planning-and-development/zoning/text-amendments/Group_Living.html

Concrete (cont.)

would otherwise be landscaped surfaces is discouraged to help protect our city and residents.

After some research we discovered that Excel energy paved the tree lawn as part of their new infrastructure project for Downtown Denver. You may recall in the spring many streets being closed as new cables were laid by Excel. Those cables lead to a vault that is buried in the tree lawn at 24th and California. Excel claims they tried to grow grass on the site after installing the vault and because that did not work they asked and were granted permission from public works to pour concrete on the surface. This came as quite a surprise to the adjacent property owners who were never asked or notified and who now are stuck with the maintenance of a big ugly slab of concrete.

Curtis Park Neighbors raised the concern that this is not in keeping with Denver’s commitment to sustainability and should not have been approved without ever consulting the adjacent property owner or community about possible solutions. Other solutions that provide permeable surface and don’t require grass are available. The city forester has indicated that the area must be maintained in a way that will allow trees to grow and the property owner has asked the city to correct the situation.

On September 21st we received notice from Councilman Brooks that the city will ensure the tree lawn is restored as part of the new development being undertaken on the lot. The parcel will have a set of new town-homes built on it over the next year and as part of the development process Public Works has said they will ensure the concrete is removed and a more attractive and sustainable treatment will be installed. Thanks to all the neighbors who have worked on this and thanks to Councilman Brooks for getting answers from Public Works on the topic.
Conscientious Recycling - Do Your Part to Save the Planet

Recycling efforts need to be streamlined in order to make it sustainable and economical. Nine times out of ten I can look into someones recycle bin and find items that will have to be sifted and sorted out. Please help make our recycling program successful abiding by the following:

NO Garbage
NO Plastic Bags
NO Styrofoam* of any kind
NO Foil “Yogurt” Lids
NO Pizza Boxes
NO Microwave Popcorn Bags
NO Waxed Cardboard
NO Toys
NO Cassettes, DVD’s, CD’s or Plastic Cases
NO Garden Hoses or Plastic Tubes
NO Plastic Shrink Wrap
NO Plastic Tubes, such as toothpaste or hair gel tubes
NO Paper Cups or Plates
NO Paperback or hardcover books
NO Bubble Wrap or Envelopes with Bubble Wrap inside
NO Ceramics
NO Candy or Food Wrappers
NO Potato Chip Bags
NO Plastic containers marked as “Compostable” or “PLA”
NO Scrap Metal
NO Plastic Flower Pots
NO Glassware or Window Glass
NO Yard Waste

33rd Street Outfall Storm Sewer Project

Please join us for a Curtis Park / Whittier neighborhood information meeting for the upcoming Phase 4 of the 33rd Street Outfall Project. Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Mile High United Way, PCL Conference Center, 711 Park Avenue West, Denver

We invite you all to come learn about this next phase, and also have the opportunity to talk with members of the Public Works project team. The 33rd Street Outfall project is installing a storm sewer system to service the neighborhoods of Five Points, Whittier, and City Park West.

SCFD Free Days

Clyfford Still Museum
• Fridays 5-8 p.m.
Denver Art Museum
• Sat. Oct. 6th
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
• Sun. Oct. 14th
•
Colorado Railroad Museum
• Thurs. Oct. 11th

Find out more at www.scfd.org
The Five Points Food Wine Film and Jazz event has been rescheduled to a new date and location.

The event will be Wednesday, October 24th at The Lydian, 2590 Welton St., Denver, CO 80205.

For more information call: Five Points Business District 303-832-5000.

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 Oct. 17th for ads, and Oct. 20th for articles.

Special Thanks To
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, John Hayden (President), Robbie Hobein (Secretary), Rob Price, Todd McGuire, Ben Mendenhall (Treasurer), Jeff Baker, (Vice President), Andrew Spinks, Conor Farley, Liz Oertle, Patri Smith, and Joshua Becker. 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.