Hi Neighbors,

Jeff Baker, CPN President

With the first half of 2020 behind us, the world as we know it has significantly changed. It is my hope that the lessons learned in 2020 will be permanently applied to end racism and make the world equitable for all. That means that each and every one of us need to actively add this element of humanity into our daily practice of life.

I will be the first to admit that Curtis Park Neighbors has struggled to meet the goal to diversify our representation and participation throughout the neighborhood. We would like that to change and welcome and encourage those conversations to take place. Curtis Park has a diverse history throughout its 150-years and that continues today. We would love to better represent this diversity and have that become a permanent asset to Denver’s Oldest Neighborhood. If you have suggestions, comments, or can help make this a reality, please contact me at 970-759-4023.

Your Curtis Park Neighbors Board and various committees have continued to do their work throughout the neighborhood.

NO GENERAL MEETING IN JULY, due to the Holiday weekend. We will be hosting our August 6th General Meeting through video conference, so mark your calendars and see the upcoming August 2020 newsletter for meeting information. Happy Fourth of July Curtis Park!

Liberati changing to Left Hand Curtis Park

Jeff Baker

It was sad to see Liberati go, but we will be welcoming in a new neighbor to the building at 2403 Champa Street. Left Hand Brewing, an original Craft Brewer to Colorado’s large and ever-expanding brewery scene is taking over the space with plans of opening late summer. Left Hand is a twenty-six-year-old, well-established brewe that has been looking for a location in Denver and they fell in love with Curtis Park. Being highly experienced in building community in Longmont, we anticipate that Left Hand will become a valued member of our neighborhood. I envision that this will be a neighborhood hub and meeting place will bring all Curtis Park neighbors together. We are currently in discussions and development of a Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA), to establish guidelines and protections to ensure a positive working relationship within the residential neighborhood of Curtis Park.
Our Unhoused Neighbors

Gerald Horner

Hey neighbors! The Homelessness Solutions Committee is a group of neighborhood volunteers working to mitigate the challenges presented by the homeless encampments in our neighborhood.

We’ve learned the most by talking directly with our unhoused neighbors. Additionally, we’re working closely with service providers, city agencies, the Mayor’s office, City Council and others necessary for real, long-term solutions.

You should have received an insert in this issue of the Curtis Park Times providing a deeper dive on this subject. If you are interested in volunteering with our group or other ways you can help, please contact Ryan Cox by email at ryancurtispark@gmail.com.

Silence is No Longer an Option

Black American West Museum & Heritage Center

The Black American West Museum & Heritage Center acknowledges the long history of injustice, immorality, and police brutality that has taken place in this nation for over 400 years. From George Floyd to Breonna Taylor to Ahmaud Arbury and a litany of others. We have seen the eroding of civil respect toward Black lives. Throughout our bloody history, there has been a desire to be recognized as first class citizens in this country. This recognition is not a dream but a right that all citizens of the United States of America are entitled. Freedom from oppression is the ability to say “I can breathe, I can live my life as I want it to be, I am not afraid when I am stopped by police that my life is in danger.”

The Black American West Museum & Heritage Center stands in support with the protesters and the community to fight against racial injustice, which goes against the core values held by the Black American West Museum. Racial inequality, social injustice, and the lack of equity, access, and inclusion for African Americans has been the norm for America for centuries. This is not political but a cultural disease that must be addressed in all aspects of our society.

From the outcries heard from the protesters, silence is no longer an option. Our voices must be heard as we march toward the eradication of racism in these United States of America.

The Black American West Museum & Heritage Center’s volunteers, board members and advisory board stand in support of the movement, and are committed to social justice initiatives through its “story-telling” of the contributions made by African Americans, leveraging the power of African Americans history and culture for action and change. We support all the individuals who are fighting for the rights of African Americans in the United States and around the World.

Looking for Sunday Mornings Beautification Volunteers

Gerald Horner

We're a group of neighbors planning to start a Sunday morning beautification team. We have a volunteer team that currently meets each Wednesday morning at 10:30 to tidy up Sonny Lawson Park, Stout Street Children’s Park, and surrounding blocks - tending the planters, picking up trash, planting flowers, and generally enjoying the time outdoors.

Having a second group, Sunday mornings, would allow us to expand the beautification to other areas of the neighborhood. If you are interested in either Wednesdays or Sundays, please email Gerald Horner at geraldhorner@gmail.com. It's a fun group and a great way to enjoy the neighborhood!

Flagstone to Repair Sidewalks

Jeff Baker

Curtis Park Neighbors still has flagstone available for purchase at 25% of retail cost. These are being sold first come first serve to replace broken sidewalks in front of your home. There are many contractors available to do the work, and I encourage you to take action before the city sidewalk inspector notifies you to do so. Please contact me directly, at 970-759-4023.
**Kid’s Korner**

*Clayton Early Learning*

Beech lives in Curtis Park. The Tri-Color Beech tree can grow to 40 feet tall, but it can take more than 20 years to reach that height. The Tri-Color Beech has low branches and smooth gray bark.

Take a walk in our neighborhood to see if you can find it. Here are some clues to help you:

1. The tree was planted by Bill West about 10 years ago.
2. The tree is in front of a home that is the same color as the sun.
3. The Tri-Color Beech lives on a street that has the same name as our neighborhood.

**Cleaner Alleys**

*Hugh Brown*

With new trash, recycling and compost bins, this is a reminder of city regulations concerning their placement for clean and clear alleys. The city has recently received complaints from area residents about bins not being moved. The city code (Section 49-246) requires that all bins be put away between collections, such as to backyards, garages or other storage locations. Any questions may be addressed to Gary Glasser, one of the city inspectors within Solid Waste Management. He may be reached at Gary.Glasser@DenverGov.org or 720-337-1163. Information is also available at Denvergov.org/DenverRecycles.

**Tree Lovers**

*Lynne Brown*

Denver is continuing to take on-line applications for street trees, which will be planted in the fall. Go to beasmartash.org and click on the blue box that says “Submit your tree request.”

The Tree Committee has counted nineteen trees in Curtis Park planted by Denver this spring adding to the four they planted last fall. Great work neighbors! Keep up those applications!

**Always Looking for Volunteers!**

*Jeff Baker*

We are always looking for volunteers and if you would like to get involved in the neighborhood, please let us know. There is a lot taking place in our neighborhood, and there is likely some aspect that would be of interest to you. Do you have an idea you’ve wanted to pursue to make the neighborhood better? You can contact the board, or directly reach out to me to express your interest. All contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

**A Quick Suggestion from the Curtis Park Tree Committee:**

Take a Mindful Walk with Trees-and without

We’ve written a lot about the many benefits of having an abundance of trees in our neighborhood. But words can only convey so much. Sometimes you just have to get out and feel the difference trees make in how you experience the world. So, here’s our suggestion:

Take a leisurely walk on a hot, sunny day, when the sun is high in the sky. Walk down one of the many Curtis Park streets with dense tree canopy. And notice. Then do the same on a street with sparse tree canopy. And notice. If you have time, do it again. And notice.

**Curtis Park Homelessness Solutions Committee:**

*Jeff Baker*

We would like to expand this group to do more work and better cover the neighborhood. This group actively works on outreach to the unhoused throughout the neighborhood and helps connect them to services. We do beautification and cleanup in the parks and on the streets. We are working with the different city agencies and city council members to provide solutions to this crisis. We need more help! If you are interested, please reach out to Ryan Cox at, ryancurtispark@gmail.com.

Ticker of what Curtis Park Neighbors are working on:

- Wednesday morning park stewardship-Sonny Lawson Park-10:30 am every Wednesday
- Homelessness solutions
- Tree Committee
- Good Neighbor Agreement with Left Hand Brewery
- Curtis Park Historic Sign placements
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 July 22nd for ads, and July 25th for articles.

Special Thanks To
Robbie Hobien, Gerald Horner, Hugh & Lynn Brownn and Jeff Baker 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.

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