Hi, Neighbor!
Joel Noble, CPN President

It’s a great end to the year! Last month, our Mestizo-Curtis Park Playground and a historic home restored by Keith Pryor and John Hayden were both recognized with Mayor’s Design Awards. This year, just as we’re going to press, we learned that Red-Line at 24th and Arapahoe has won an “Imagine 2020” Mayor’s Award for Excellence in Arts & Culture! Congratulations! This is quite a year for recognition of the great things our residents and businesses do!

Help us celebrate the year at our annual holiday party and potluck – everyone in the neighborhood is welcome! Details are in the sidebar.

Looking Forward
As the year draws to a close, so does my term as CPN President. It’s been an honor to serve in this role, representing all the dedicated work our neighbors are doing. Curtis Park has long been recognized as having one of the most active neighborhood organizations in the city, engaging on topics as varied as planning, zoning, licensing, homelessness, transportation, safety, schools and parks. When elected officials at city, state, and other levels visit our meetings, they regularly remark on the great turnout we get at our meetings, the wide range of subjects we cover each time, and the tradition of events our neighbors have created. Thank you all for participating in the topics and in the ways that interest you — our diversity, dedication and support for each other make us strong.

Have you noticed that we’ve been packing our meeting space at Hope Communities the past several months? We’re regularly running out of chairs, which is remarkable. In 2016, we’re looking to move our meeting to a larger space, still comfortably within the neighborhood. Look for more information on that soon!

I’d like to take this space to look forward on several topics that the neighborhood will be working on in the coming years,

CPN Holiday Party and Potluck December 7

Join us December 7th at the Posner Center for International Development (the historic Horse Barn) at 33rd and Arapahoe starting at 6 p.m. to celebrate all things great about Curtis Park.

Free childcare will be provided.

A highlight of the evening will be a drawing of goods and services donated by awesome businesses and organizations like Rosenberg’s, RedLine, Work & Class, Haven nail salon, Wonderbound, Denver Botanic Gardens, Whole Yoga and many, many more! Craft beer will be provided this year by our friends at Spangalang Brewery (2736 Welton St).

For the Potluck, bring a dish to share according to your last name (see sidebar at the left).

We look forward to seeing all your smiling faces on December 7th!

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Hi, Neighbor! (continued) with new officers and boardmembers organizing and coordinating the neighborhood’s participation.

Development, Zoning & Design
It’s remarkable how many of our long-vacant parcels have been filling in over the past few years. Unlike so many other neighborhoods where development is a concern or even a battle, the work of neighbors over many years in Curtis Park has resulted in a very good balance where the right things happen in the right places. Zoning allows compatible development in our historic interior with Landmark protection of historic structures (thanks to years of effort by Bill West) and design review for new ones with input by our Design Review committee led by Sue Glassmacher. Our neighborhood plan and zoning also support increased possibilities on the corridors and areas surrounding the core historic neighborhood.

There are still a few areas left where the zoning should be dialed in better, which neighbors are discussing, and at least one important gap in Landmark protection (the Temple at 24th and Curtis), both of which I trust will see movement in 2016.

The largest infill area in Curtis Park is the Denver Housing Authority land between Arapahoe and Lawrence from 25th to 27th. With DHA’s continuing partnership and participation by their selected developer Treehouse, the neighborhood community advisory committee is helping shape a series of three-story rowhouse and apartment buildings that transition up from the historic neighborhood, inviting many more neighbors in with units for a variety of family sizes, and the return of urban farming plus a new greenhouse.

Affordability remains a pressing problem in the city as Denver is “discovered” by more and more people, and it threatens the mixed-income tradition of our neighborhood. In the coming years, I hope we will look at areas on the periphery of the neighborhood for opportunities to provide homes for many more neighbors at attainable prices for people with a variety of incomes, and continue to be vocal in supporting mixed-income developments.

Homelessness
Curtis Park and Arapahoe Square feel the impact of homelessness more than most parts of the city, with so many service providers and developments for those in poverty concentrated here. While CPN will continue to push the city, CHFA, and other agencies to distribute new services more evenly, I’m proud that Curtis Park residents are able to separate these important policy topics from the real and immediate needs of those without homes.

In the coming year, I am optimistic that Councilman Brooks and his peers will make real progress on embracing a “housing first” model of distributed, permanent supportive housing, rather than the old shelter model and the related mindset that those in poverty need to be segregated into this area because it seems convenient. Neighbors including Julie Rubsam and Lynne Brown are highly influential in this.

Neighborhood Parks
Our parks are ever-improving. Work by the Friends of Mestizo-Curtis Park and investment by Trust for Public Land has made a huge difference. Irrigation upgrades, fitness zones and other improvements will be coming soon. The Stout Street Children’s Park is in great shape, thanks to the stewardship of a group led by John Hayden and Keith Pryor. And Sonny Lawson Park with its new playground reserved for children is doing better and will continue to improve as hundreds of new neighbors to use the park move in across the street on Welton.

Transportation
Champa and Stout are about to get important safety upgrades, as discussed in the last newsletter, with revised plans coming to the January meeting. In the coming year, our Transportation committee led by Hugh Brown will continue to work with Public Works on intersection and signal improvements. We’re all eager to find out when the Central Corridor extension along Downing will be scheduled, connecting Welton to the 38th/Blake station.

Thank you for your work, support and confidence. I’ll see you on December 7th!

— Joel Noble

December 2015

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Curtis Park Times
Neighborhood News, Events and Information

Spangalang Brewery to Pour Beer at December 7 CPN Holiday Party
Spangalang Brewery is one of the newest additions to the vibrant craft beer scene here in Denver. Located at 2736 Welton St. in the Five Points Plaza, Spangalang focuses on providing the neighborhood with some of the best beer in Colorado. With over 20 years of combined industry experience, the brewers of Spangalang constantly push the boundaries of craft beer, while still faithfully executing classic styles.

Spangalang is proud to support Curtis Park Neighbors’ holiday party by pouring beer on December 7, 6 p.m. at the Posner Center for International Development (the Horse Barn) at 33rd and Arapahoe. Please come by and say hello!

6th Annual Curtis Park Ice Festival
Join us for a wonderful Curtis Park tradition on Sunday, January 31st from 2-4 p.m. at the Stout Street Children’s Park for an afternoon of ice, games and refreshments.

Watch artists as they carve amazing ice sculptures, enjoy ice winter themed games and treats with neighbors and friends. For more details contact John Hayden at 303-297-3994.

Little Shop of Physics
Last month several professors and interns from CSU drove from Fort Collins to set up for a day learning about physics at Gilpin Montessori. They are part of an organization known as the Little Shop of Physics. The Little Shop of Physics is a hands-on program, something that sets it apart from other science outreach programs. Students are the scientists in the Little Shop of Physics. They teach that science is something anyone can do. They believe—and demonstrate—that any one, of any age, can understand science at some level.

Each class had an opportunity to work on physics experiments and experience first hand how physics work. As a matter of fact the auditorium was converted into a classroom and the work was done in the dark (black light). We were thrilled to host them and we look forward to having them again in the near future.

Colorado Gives Day: Dec. 8th
One day a year we have the opportunity to maximize donations to non-profits. On Colorado Gives Day, you can donate easily online with your credit card. No processing fees are charged. The non-profit receives 100% of the donation and your donation is increased from bonus grants! Even modest “Thank You” donations will be maximized.

Throughout the year non-profit organizations in Curtis Park have participated and helped our community. Hope Communities has generously given us meeting space. Everyday the St. Francis Center serves over 700 homeless people, providing basic human services like clean clothes, showers, mailboxes as well as a place to get off the streets during the day. In addition, a representative from St. Francis sits on the CPN board and provides invaluable input. Cleo Parker Robinson Dance provided music every month in the summer at Sonny Lawson Park and a wonderful Dia de Muertos program there also. Mile High United Way sponsored meetings and provided meeting space. Volunteers of America provides space and lunch for Seniors Bingo. RedLine Gallery brings to Curtis Park programs, exhibits, leadership in the arts that inspire inquiry and catalyze change in our social thinking. Wonderbound dance company has embraced and enriched the community with its fresh, innovative dance style, preformed free at events and invited us to rehearsals at no cost.

Please give thanks with a donation on Colorado Gives Day, Dec. 8th, to these organizations which support the Curtis Park Neighbors as well as the many nonprofits throughout the neighborhood, Denver and Colorado. You can schedule your donation by going to the website www.ColoradoGives.org and click “Colorado Gives Day”. Your donation will be charged automatically on Dec. 8th.

Gilibn Prospective Parents Tours
We would like to invite everyone interested in learning about our wonderful Montessori program to tour our school. Please give us the opportunity to tell you why we are the best choice for your child(ren). Please note that this tours are for parents with kids that are, or will be, be 3 years old before October 1st 2016. Your child(ren) may accompany you during the tour.

Our next school tour will be December 10th, 2015.

Go to our Facebook page “Gilpin Montessori Public School” and look for the tour that corresponds to your child — Primary or Elementary — and sign up for the event.

Thanks and Farewell from Elaine Granata
The farmers at the Sustainability Park bid the neighborhood a fond farewell. Cody Meinhardt with GreenLeaf, Nick Gruber and Eric Buety with Produce Denver and Elaine Granata with Granata Farms appreciate the time we could farm in the neighborhood, will miss our farms, and are grateful for the support the community has shown us these 5 years.

GreenLeaf is moving to the Smiley campus where they will re-construct their farm. Nick is moving to Moon Dog Farm, at 22nd and Tremont, for a year, and Elaine is taking a year off.

We hope the plans to build a greenhouse and a production garden on the 2500 block come to full fruition and that the farms will bloom again!
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 (303) 332–8640. The next newsletter deadlines are Dec. 16th for ads, and Dec. 16th for articles.

Special Thanks To
Rocco Cantelli, Sue Glassmacher, Elaine Granata, John Hayden, and Rob Price for newsletter content. Thanks to Hope Communities 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
Hugh Brown (Vice President), Eileen Felman, Sue Glassmacher, Scott Gordon (Secretary), John Hayden, Deb Jacobson, Marco Martinez, Todd McGuire (Treasurer), Joel Noble (President), Rob Price (Electronic Communications Director), Therese Rasmussen, Eric Ross, Julie Rubsam (Fundraising Chair), and Andrew Spinks. Contact the CPN President by writing to jcoble@frii.net or calling (303) 332-8640. Write the CPN Board at curtis-park-neighbors-board@googlegroups.com.