2016 is upon us and Curtis Park is off to a great start in the new year. This is my first column as President of Curtis Park Neighbors and I’d like to thank Joel Noble for all the work he has done over the past three years as President. He has set a very high bar and I will do my best to keep up the good work.

December Holiday Party
Thanks again to all who helped organize a wonderful 2015 Curtis Park Neighbors Holiday party and potluck. Sue Glassmacher and Julie Rubsam for organizing the raffle. Gerald Horner, Rob Price and Stephan Graham for planning the party and helping set up and clean up after the event. Josh and Todd for selling raffle tickets. We raised over $1,200 for the neighborhood which helps ensure the newsletter and neighborhood events will continue to happen for another year. Finally, a big thank you to all the local businesses and sponsors who donated items to the raffle — see the full list below.

Congratulations to the 2015 William A. West Award Winner
This year’s winner, Matina Soutsos, has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to quality and care in the renovation of many of the smaller homes in Curtis Park. Matina’s work over the past decade has saved many row homes and small houses in Curtis Park, ensuring that the housing diversity that makes our neighborhood special will continue well into the future. Matina’s attention to quality of both the buildings and the landscaping makes our neighborhood a wonderful place to walk for all of our neighbors. Keep on planting those flowers and trees Matina, no matter what Amadeo says!

January 7th CPN Meeting
As we start 2016 the two biggest challenges I see facing our community are housing and transportation. The Metro Denver Economic Development Corp. is predicting another 33,500 people will move to Metro Denver in 2016.

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Hi, Neighbors!
John Hayden, CPN President

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Thanks to Holiday Fundraiser Drawing Donors!
Please thank these generous neighborhood businesses!

- Americatus
- Andy Smith Pedicab
- B-Cycle
- Barkway
- Billy’s Hot Dogs
- Brew ‘n Q Beermaking
- Cart + Driver
- Coffee at the Point
- Crema
- Curtis Park Creamery
- Curtis Park Deli
- Denver Botanic Gardens
- Dunbar’s
- Flex Yoga
- Haven
- Hutch & Spoon
- Infinite Monkey Theorem
- Jake’s
- Jay Thomas
- Kirkland Museum
- Matchbox
- Meadowlark Kitchen
- Parisi’s
- Pressery
- Redline
- Rosenberg’s
- Spangalang
- Sugarmill
- Topo Designs
- Whole Yoga
- Winter Session
- Wonderbound
- Work & Class
- Yazoo B.B.Q.
- Yours Truly Cupcakes
New Boardmembers
At the December holiday party and annual meeting, we welcomed two new board members along with our new slate of officers. Conor Farley and J.R. Lapierre are great additions to the Board for 2016!

Conor Farley and his wife Bridget (and dog Rufus) have lived in Curtis Park for six years and they are now raising their two young children in the neighborhood. Conor is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He is an Assistant City Attorney for the City and County of Denver.

J.R. Lapierre has lived in Curtis Park since 2003. He is married to Diane Lapierre and they have two sons, Luc (age 12) and Marco (age 9). He is the Managing Director of Lincoln Hills Cares which provides opportunities for outdoor education to under served youth and fly fishing outings to military veterans. J.R. is rugby enthusiast who enjoys the outdoors and giving back to the community.

January Events
Winter in Colorado is a special time. It can be snowy and Sunny all in the same day. This January we have two chances for neighbors to get out and enjoy the neighborhood and meet neighbors:

The 5th Annual Curtis Park Ice Festival will take place on Sunday, January 31st from 2-4 p.m. at the Stout Street Children’s Park, 25th & Stout. This fun low-key local event features artists carving ice sculptures, winter themed games and treats from local bakers.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Day, the Five Points Civil Rights Walking Tour will focus on the battle for civil rights in Five Points / Curtis Park. Five Points has a long and wonderful history of Civil Rights leaders and events. Come learn about a history we can all be proud to carry on.

The walk will start from the Stout Street Children’s Park (25th and Stout) at 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 17th and last about 2 hours. Please RSVP to John Hayden at haydenpryor@msn.com by Sunday morning the 17th at 10 a.m.

Hi, Neighbors! (continued)
This influx of people without adequate housing supply has led to increasing prices that are straining the budgets of many of our neighbors. The median price of a home in Five Points rose 17% in just the last year to $399,900 according to MLS data, and Zillow reports that Five Points market rate Five Points rentals are in the $1,500/month range. So where people will live and how they will get around are key questions on the minds of many people in Curtis Park and throughout Denver.

Our January agenda will have two speakers with innovative ideas on the subject. Steve Chester, project lead for the City and County of Denver, will share plans for converting 21st Street from Benedict Fountain Park to Coors Field into a primarily pedestrian and bicycle corridor. 21st Street is the only quiet numbered street through Downtown and plans are underway to ensure it becomes a special, safe and easy way to travel through the Downtown end of our neighborhood on foot and bike.

The January meeting will also feature Nicholas Allan from Davis Partnership who will present plans for a 55 unit residential building featuring micro-apartments on light rail at 32nd and Stout. The building will be built without additional parking so how the developer and the neighborhood can encourage new residents to use transit, bike and walk rather than drive individual cars will be key if this development is to integrate into our existing neighborhood.

Ben Melius from Jake’s Sports and Spirits will present on Jake’s new menu and provide some free drink cards. Dee Iraca will present on her new business Eat Well Chef, which aims to provide healthy delicious meals to busy people. Sounds Yummy to me!

So come out to the January meeting and learn what happening in the neighborhood and get involved to make it better in 2016!

— John Hayden

Why Montessori?
Rocio Canteli,
Gilpin School Parent & Community Liaison

A child has a natural inclination to learn. Fostering that inclination in a thoughtfully prepared learning environment is the basis of the Montessori method of teaching. It is focused on the whole child developing their physical, social, emotional and cognitive potential. Gilpin Montessori prepares students to step out into the world as engaged, competent, responsible and respectful citizens who will appreciate that they can learn all of their lives.

The Montessori Method was developed by Dr. Maria Montessori. It has been time-tested with over 100 years of success in diverse cultures worldwide.

The tenets of Montessori education are:

• Each child is valued as a unique individual.
• Beginning at an early age, Montessori students develop order, coordination, concentration and independence.

For more information about our school or to schedule a tour, visit our web page http://gilpin.dpsk12.org or email us at GilpinMontessori@gmail.com

Tours will be given on several upcoming Thursdays: Jan. 14th, Jan. 21st, and Feb. 11th. Spaces are limited.
**Free Seeds and Transplants**

Through the Free Seeds and Transplants program, Denver Urban Gardens provides free vegetable seeds and transplants to more than 8,500 in-need residents throughout Metro Denver. The Free Seeds and Transplants Program is intended to provide all eligible applicants with free seeds and transplants for use in their garden, whether it’s a backyard garden at their home or a community garden in their neighborhood.

Applications may apply to receive up to (7) seed packets and (4) two-packs of transplants, totaling (8) transplants.

Applications can be picked up beginning January 4th. All completed applications are due to the same distribution center by the application deadline, Friday, January 29th.

Our closest application sites are the 20th Street Gym at 1011 20th Street, and Denver Urban Gardens at 1031 33rd Street.

In mid-March, seeds are available for pickup from distribution centers. Transplants are available for pickup from distribution centers in mid-May.

More information at: [www.dug.org/free-seeds-transplants-program](http://www.dug.org/free-seeds-transplants-program)

**Snow Buddies**

Snow Buddies is a partnership between the City and County of Denver and Volunteers of America. The Snow Buddies program connects healthy volunteers with anyone 60+ in the metro area who cannot shovel their own walk. Volunteers are paired with seniors within a 2 mile radius of one another.

The Snow Buddy program was initiated to keep seniors safe from falls on snow or ice during the winter. The program also keeps seniors from accruing city fines for not being able to shovel their snow from the sidewalks. When you sign up to be a Denver Snow Buddy, you are strengthening our community, improving someone else’s life and transforming your own life through service.

Volunteers apply and undergo a background check before being matched with a senior. Once the match is made, the expectation is that the volunteer will show up at their buddy’s home after two or more inches of snow has fallen to clear their walkways. Visit [www.voacolorado.org/Volunteer/Snow-Buddies](http://www.voacolorado.org/Volunteer/Snow-Buddies) to request information to volunteer. There is a one-time fee of $20 for the background check.

Are you 60+, need help shoveling your walk, and want to request a Snow Buddy? Call (720) 264-3379 to be paired up!

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**Neighborhood News, Events and Information**

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**Curtis Park Times**

**Thinking of Buying or Selling?**

**Contact John Hayden!**

21 years experience in Curtis Park
Because the health of our community is the life of my business

Five Points 2015 median home price increased 17% from $341,500 to $399,000. source: MLS data

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Your Curtis Park / Five Points Real Estate Expert.

John Hayden
303.297.3994
jhayden@kentwoodcity.com


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**SCFD Free Days**

- **Denver Museum of Nature and Science**
  - Mon. January 25th
- **Denver Art Museum**
  - Sat. January 2nd
- **Denver Zoo**
  - Fri. January 8th
  - Sat. January 9th
  - Sun. January 31st
- **Denver Botanic Gardens**
  - Mon. January 18th
- **Denver Botanic Gardens - Chatfield**
  - Tues. January 5th

Find out more at [www.scfd.org](http://www.scfd.org)

**38th/Blake Area Plan Amendment**

Working with stakeholders and members of the community, this effort will refine the vision for building heights in support of transit oriented development (TOD). The planning process will incorporate thinking from previously-adopted plans that converge within the ½ mile area surrounding the station. These plans show detailed planning efforts around the station since 2003, however there is a lack of clarity and some inconsistency between plan building height recommendations. The goal is to clarify and resolve height recommendations through an urban design-based planning approach and highly inclusive public engagement.

The first meeting will focus on a review of current neighborhood plans that intersect with the station area, and begin exploration of a new vision that could provide more consistent building height guidance.

Visit the project website for periodic updates and additional project information: [www.denvergov.org/38blake](http://www.denvergov.org/38blake)

- **Date:** Tuesday, February 2nd
- **Time:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Location:** EXDO Event Center (1399 35th St.)

**Please Pick Up After Your Dog!**

Several neighbors have asked us to remind everyone that they must pick up after their dogs, even when it’s cold out. Bring gloves with your bags, and do the right thing.
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

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

Resources
Denver City Government
www.DenverGov.org, or call 3-1-1
Alternatively: (720) 913-1311
Blair-Caldwell Library
2401 Welton Street, (720) 865-2401
Mon./Wed.: Noon – 8 p.m.
Tue./Thu./Fri.: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat.: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Denver City Council
District 9
Albus Brooks, (720) 337-7709
Albus.Brooks@denvergov.org
www.denvergov.org/albusbrooks
facebook.com/CouncilmanAlbusBrooks

At-Large
Councilwoman Robin Kniech
Robin.Kniech@denvergov.org
(720) 337-7712

Councilwoman Debbie Ortega
Deborah.Ortega@denvergov.org
(720) 337-7713

Denver Public Schools
(720) 423-3200, www.DPSK12.org

Homeless Outreach
Police non-emergency: (720) 913-2000

Mayor’s Neighborhood Liaison
Michael Sapp, Jr., (720) 865-9024

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 Jan. 20th for ads, and Jan. 23rd for articles.

Special Thanks To
Rocco Cantelli, Sue Glassmacher, John Hayden, Phyllis Lucas, Rob Price and Julie Rubsam 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.

Curtis Park Board of Directors
Conor Farley, Eileen Feldman, Sue Glassmacher, Scott Gordon (Vice President), John Hayden (President), Deb Jacobson (Secretary), J.R. Lapierre, Marco Martinez, Todd McGuire (Treasurer), Joel Noble, Rob Price (Electronic Communications Director), Therese Rasmussen, Eric Ross, and Andrew Spinks. Contact the CPN President by writing to haydenpyror@msn.com or calling (303) 297-3994. Write the CPN Board at curtis-park-neighbors-board@googlegroups.com.