Hi Neighbors!

Ryan Cox - President

Happy March! It’s that time of year when the days begin to lengthen out, the sunshine feels just a little warmer and the late winter snow holds a bit more moisture. All of that adds up to crocuses, daffodils and tulips in our near future, the first signs of nature reawakening and the emergence of spring. With so many beautiful gardens and trees in the neighborhood, we are fortunate to experience the quickly changing landscape right from our doorsteps.

We have a couple of events in March that we hope will coax neighbors to re-emerge along with the flowers. First Friday Jazz continues this month in Sonny Lawson Park on March 5th from 5:00-7:00 pm. The February installation was a huge success as the community turned out despite the chilly weather. Bookending the first weekend in March is the 11th annual Ice Festival on Sunday, March 7th from 3:00-5:00 pm. It will be held at the Stout Street Children’s Park and will feature ice sculptures and fun for the whole family.

Speaking of parks and flowers, Curtis Park Neighbors has collaborated with Denver Parks & Rec to create a Pollinator Garden at the California St entrance to Sonny Lawson Park. What has been an eroded and trampled section of the park will become a water sensitive haven for plants and insects, but we need your help to make it a reality. Please see the insert or curtispark.org/sonnylawsonparkproject/ and consider a donation.

Lastly, join us for the CPN general meeting on Thursday, March 4th. Police will provide information and be available for questions at 6:30 pm. We will have an update on the status of the request for a Certificate of Demolition Eligibility pertaining to the corner building of the Greyhound maintenance facility, among other presentations. Hope to see you there!

Hidden in Plain Site Walking Tour

Gerald Horner

Join Gerald Horner and John Hayden on a walking tour of Five Points / Curtis Park and RiNo. The tour will be on Sunday, March 28th, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The tour will start at the Five Points Plaza at 27th and Welton in front of Coffee at the Points and wind through Curtis Park to RiNo. Along the way learn about the hidden history of the neighborhood. Hear stories about buildings you might pass every day but had no idea about the stories they have to tell. Space is limited to 10 people and social distancing and masks are required. The February tour filled up quickly so please RSVP soon to Gerald Horner at geraldhorner@gmail.com
Unassimilated

We are spotlighting local businesses throughout the rest of the year. This month we are featuring Unassimilated owned by Michael Ritchie.

Unassimilated is an architectural salvage company located at the corner of 26th Street and California Street. The actual address is 2550 California Street. The property is identifiable by a large statue of a person bringing an amorphous mass into re-creation.

Since 2005 we have provided assorted building elements. Some examples include: wrought iron balconies, window guards, staircases, gates, brackets, shutters, and much more. Additionally, we have an extensive collection of doors, selections of fireplaces, lighting, windows, and hardware for windows and doors. When we do not have what you need, we are happy to refer a source; if we know of such.

Access to Unassimilated is by appointment. To make an appointment leave a voice message of inquiry. Our telephone number is: (720) 214-4869. Business operation is Monday through Friday, starts at 10:00 am and generally concludes around 5:00 pm. Weekend appointments are also possible.

Feel free to call us.

11th Annual Curtis Park Ice Festival

John Hayden

Join neighbors and friends to celebrate winter at the 11th Annual Curtis Park Ice Festival. This year the festivities will feature artists carving ice sculptures, pony rides and music at the Stout Street Children’s Park, 2501 Stout Street, on Sunday March 7th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Everyone over 3 years of age must wear a mask and please remember to stay at least 6ft apart from people not in your household. For more information or to volunteer please contact John Hayden at haydenpryor@msn.com.

Please Support CPN

Please consider a donation to support the Curtis Park Neighbors and this newsletter. You can make your tax deductible contribution online by visiting squareup.com/store/CurtisParkNeighbors.

More Trees Please!

Lynne Brown

The Curtis Park Neighbors Tree Committee is distributing door hangers to alert neighbors to apply for trees for this spring. Denver Digs Trees will be distributing trees at the end of April but you must apply now to reserve one. The deadline for applications is March 1st. https://theparkpeople.org/What-We-Do/Denver-Digs-Trees/Apply-for-Trees

Trees are for yards only: front, back or side yards. They have several varieties of trees, some will be large, some will be small when they reach maturity. Denver Digs will be distributing just 500 this year so apply early if you want a tree.

If you want a tree for your tree lawn/ the public right-of-way (the area between the sidewalk and the street) go to Be A Smart Ash as the city is taking applications for those trees. https://beasmartash.org/
Graffiti Strikes Conversation

Mick Barnhardt

Reuben Zacharakis-Jutz and his wife Jess Ralston bought the old Champa Store two years ago. They’ve been working on the store and living space in the rear where they plan to reside. Their entrepreneurial dream is centered in the heart of the Curtis Park neighborhood. The goal is to provide a cafe and small grocery/floral shop. They commissioned a mural from three artists, Kirsty York, Destiny Humrich, and Christa Valdez from Blackbird Ink Tattoo Shop and Art Gallery, to paint a mural that both advertises the cafe and provides public art.

The paint from the mural was hardly dry when, in the middle of the night, someone painted four large black stripes across the mural obliterating the artwork completely. Later it was discovered via an Instagram post that the person who destroyed the mural took credit for it in a stance to oppose gentrification.

The owners were jolted and humbled by this act and posted an invitation to the neighborhood on the mural’s black stripes asking neighbors to come and discuss what had happened. Zacharakis-Jutz and Ralston wanted to apologize and give the neighborhood and anyone else interested, a chance to discuss the issues and the anger that they felt the mural represented.

The meeting, led by local artists, born and raised in and near Curtis Park, James Roy and Anthony Grimes, began in front of the cafe on Sunday, February 21st at 2:00 pm. Many nearby neighbors lamented the closing and sale of the old Champa Store that had been there for years and catered to the local neighborhood to purchase food and household goods. To some, the new business eradicates the ethnic diversity that this neighborhood has always stood for. The new owners were not aware that what seemed to be a simple mural could spark such controversy.

Zacharakis-Jutz and Ralston want to provide a space for all the neighbors. They want to provide art programs for kids and provide a safe place for everyone to come to and feel welcomed. They encourage and appreciate feedback from the neighborhood. If you have any ideas that can help, they ask that you email them to 2960Champa@gmail.com.

The cafe slated to be open this summer will be featured in a future edition highlighting it as a new business in Curtis Park.

JOIN THE LOCALS

BEFORE

AFTER

BREATHE CLEAN AIR AGAIN

303-618-1073

info@premiumductcleaners.com
premiumductcleaners.com

We take pride in being the best value in home services. Our baseline is a TOTAL SYSTEM CLEANING!
Resources

Denver City Government
www.DenverGov.org, or call 3-1-1

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
Candi CdeBaca, (720) 337-7709
candi.cdebaca@denvergov.org
Elbra M. Wedgeworth Municipal Building
2855 Tremont Place, Suite 201

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
Shawn Johnson, (720) 913-1311

Police
Emergencies: Dial 911
Non-Emergency: (720) 913-2000

Dist. 2 (north 25th Street) RSO:
Hana Ruiz (720) 913-1089
hana.ruiz@denvergov.org

Dist. 6 (south 25th Street) RSO:
Teresa Gillian (720) 913-2908
teresa.gillian@denvergov.org

Austen Munson (720) 913-2906
austen.munson@denvergov.org

Elected RTD Representative
Shontel Lewis, (720) 935-8284
shontel.lewis@rtd-denver.com

Trash Pickup - Overflow Pickup
The next Large Item pickup is
March 22nd-26th
For free appliance collection, call
800-479-4159.

Xcel Energy
Electric Emergency/Power Outage
(800) 895-1999

Gas Emergency / Gas Odor
(800) 895-2999

To report non-permitted exterior work
to Landmark email: abigail.christman@denver.gov or call
(720) 865-2908.

Short Term Rental Enforcement
Brian Snow (720) 865-2750

Curtis Park Times
March 2021

Neighborhood Internet Resources

CurtisPark.org
Provides a wealth of information: History of CP, info in
Curtis Park Neighbors, info for ALL homeowners in the
historic district, home alterations, ADUs, home styles, tax
credits, and a very comprehensive resource list of special
products, services, links, and so much more!

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 an-
nouncements. To join, send an email 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. Zoning
notices, liquor license applications, etc. all come through
here. To join, send an email to: CurtisParkNeighbors+
subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Design Review Committee
Receive updates on new development and building modi-
fications under review by the Denver Landmarks Com-
mission. To join, send an email to: cpn-drc-announcements+
subscribe@googlegroups.com. Questions about projects,
email Keith Pryor: KPryor13@gmail.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 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

Curtis Park Neighbors is an officially incorpo-
rated 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 Neigh-
borhoods 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 com-
municate information about topics and con-
cerns of our neighborhood. The opinions ex-
pressed 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 March 17th for ads, and March 20th for articles.

Special Thanks To
Lynne Brown, Gerald Horner, John Hayden, and
Ryan Cox for newsletter content. Thanks to Hope
Communities and Mile High United Way for do-
ating our meeting space, to Therese Rasmussen for
coordinating newsletter distribution, and many
thanks to neighbors assisting with newsletter deliv-
eries.

CPN Board of Directors
Ryan Cox (President), Beth Bianchi (V-President),
Patti Smith, Ben Mendenhall (Treasurer), Paul
Davidson, Robbie Hobin
(Secretary), Andrew Spinks,
Julie Rubsam, Ellie Benjamin,
Beth Bianchi, Lindsay Schnei-
der, Guy Yandel and Randy
Vetter.

Contact the CPN President by writing to: ryan.cox@cur-
tispark.org or call 303-517-6185. Write the CPN
Board at curtis-park-neighbors-board@goog-
le-groups.com.