



## Hi Neighbors,

*Stephen Bennett, President*

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the plethora of activities we hosted around the neighborhood this summer. Did you enjoy the tunes and dance in Cousins' Plaza during First Friday Jazz? A special thanks to Randy Vetter for curating the musical lineup and bringing fresh beats to Five Points. And a big shout goes out to Keith, John and the other Park Stewards for maintaining the pollinator gardens in Sonny Lawson Park and making the plaza such a welcoming space.

August wrapped up our 2nd summer series of "Movies in the Park", thanks to Rhianon Schuman. We look forward to screening more movies in Mes-tizo Curtis Park in 2025. speaking of the park, CPN also held the 1st annual Curtis Park Garden Fair. Our neighbor, Matt Hastings, organized this event featuring a floral bouquet & pie making contest. Neighbors were encouraged to show off their home-grown vegetables. The pie competition was fierce, featuring one made with local Curtis Park cherries, and our guest judges from Scratch Bakery on Welton had a tough decision to make in choosing the winner. We look forward to a bigger fair next summer with more vegetable submissions from neighbors.

Thanks to Darrell Watson and his continued advocacy for Five Points, Parks and Rec. has closed SLP for 30 days for respite. Cousins' Plaza will still be open for permitted events like FF Jazz and Mo Betta Green's Saturday Farmer's Market. And the playground is open for kids and their parents.

Let's welcome Duets Tap & Grill to the neighborhood. They're reopening the Mobcraft/Liberati space on 24th & Champa, hopefully in October. In the meantime, if you'd like to meet our new neighbors and sample menu items, Duets is hosting a neighborhood meet & greet on the 3rd from 5-7pm.

After a summer break Curtis Park Connects returns on the 5th with a packed agenda. John Deffenbaugh from Historic Denver will discuss the important work it's doing to preserve Denver's rich architectural history. Councilman Watson will discuss initiatives his office is working on in Curtis Park and D9. And finally, representatives from Parks & Rec. will talk about the MCP pool.

## First Friday in the Park



Join us in welcoming Tony Exum Jr. for First Friday Jazz in the Park, 5:30-7:00 pm,

Friday September 6th in Cousins Plaza - Sonny Lawson Park, 2401 Welton Street. Tony Exum Jr. is a talented contemporary jazz, R&B, and funk saxophonist, songwriter, and performer with a smooth and soulful sound. "Rhythm N Smooth," is a tag that highlights his flawless execution of the smooth saxophone with R&B influenced grooves and melodies. We will have a food truck and there will be a face painter for the kids in the children's play area. Brought to you by Curtis Park Neighbors, The Five Points BID & Visit Denver.

### September Curtis Park Events

#### Duets Tap & Grill Meet & Greet

3rd from 5-7  
2403 Champa St

#### Curtis Park Connects

5th from 7-8:30  
The Armory  
2565 Curtis St

#### First Friday Jazz in SLP

Tony Exum Jr  
6th from 5:30-7

#### CPN Board Meeting

16th from 6-7:30  
Redline Gallery

#### Block Party

21st 4pm~  
2700 block Curtis

#### 60th Anniversary Party

27th from 2pm~  
La Fiesta

## MAC Events

Independent School Fair, Sunday, 9/22 between 10 am-12 pm

The Montessori Academy of Colorado, an independent Curtis Park neighborhood school serving students 8 weeks to 8th grade, is hosting more than 20 Colorado schools at this Association of Independent Schools (ACIS) school fair on Sunday, September 22nd from 10 am -12 pm. This event is free and open to the public and intended to help families learn more about nursery-12th grade independent school options in the state. Children may attend with their adults & families. Please RSVP to [marissat@tmaoc.com](mailto:marissat@tmaoc.com), this is required to attend. We hope to see you there!

## Montessori Academy of Colorado K-8 Open House, Wednesday, October 9 at 4:30 pm

We invite the Curtis Park neighborhood to come to our K-8 Open House event on Wednesday, October 9th at 4:30 pm to see what our school is all about. You may also reach out to our Admission Manager at any time to schedule a personal tour. Please RSVP to [marissat@tmaoc.com](mailto:marissat@tmaoc.com), this is required to attend. We hope to see you there!



### SCFD Free Days

Molly Brown House Museum  
• Thurs. September 5th

Denver Art Museum  
• Sat. September 7th  
• Tues. September 10th

Denver Museum of Nature & Science  
• Tues. September 10th  
• Mon. September 30th

## Support Our Community's Future: Internships at RiseUp Community School

Ryan Plantz

Our community thrives when we work together to create opportunities for all, especially those who need them most. RiseUp Community School is a small-by-design alternative high school dedicated to uplifting and engaging students through individualized support and real-world learning experiences. Our new program, RiseUp Connect ([riseupconnect.org](http://riseupconnect.org)), offers students a chance to gain valuable exposure to work environments, build crucial networks, connect with community mentors, and develop skills that will shape their futures through informational interviews, job shadows, and internships.

We invite you, our neighbors and community leaders, to consider joining this transformative initiative. By offering your time, expertise, or connections, you can profoundly impact a young person's life. Whether you're a business owner, a professional, or someone passionate about education and equity, your involvement can help guide these students toward post-secondary success and beyond.

If you're interested in contributing to this vital work, please reach out to your neighbor and our Director of Postsecondary Readiness, Ryan Plantz, at [rplantz@riseupcommunityschool.net](mailto:rplantz@riseupcommunityschool.net) or 303-345-0450.

Links for use:

<https://riseupcommunityschool.net>  
<http://riseupconnect.org/>



**ADU4U**  
YOUR MODERN CARRIAGE HOUSE BUILDER

Thinking of building an ADU?  
Contact us to discuss your dream project.

[youradu.com](http://youradu.com)  
970-759-4023

## All Hands on Deck!

Maggie & Lynne

We need your help the mornings of Saturday, September 14th and Saturday, September 21st to plant new trees and mulch existing ones. YOU can help make our neighborhood shadier and more walker-friendly; plus it's a fun activity, and a chance to meet new neighbors. Join us! Here are the details:

Saturday, Sept 14th, 8:30-12 noon,

29th & Stout: mulching

Saturday, Sept 21st, 8:30-12 noon, U Prep, 24th & Arapahoe: tree planting

We'll start with coffee and donuts at 8:30 a.m. on both days. [signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45A4A728A64-50905357-tree#/](https://signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45A4A728A64-50905357-tree#/) Would you like to have your tree mulched or do you have tree questions? Contact Lynne Brown, [lynnebrown001@gmail.com](mailto:lynnebrown001@gmail.com) or text 303-845-2496. And help yourself to free mulch for your trees and gardens at our community mulch pile, off the alley on 29th Street between Stout & Champa.

*Put a Tree in your Treelawn!* Fall is a great time to plant. You can still request street trees from the City Forester's office at Be A Smart Ash <https://beasmartash.org/>. The city will select the trees, plant them, and give you care instructions.

*A Note from Your Tree:* If you have a young tree, don't be surprised to find a note on it from your neighbors on the Tree Committee. Our climate can be challenging for your little tree, and the note will include friendly reminders about how to care for it.



Six new trees and pollinating, perennial flowers just planted at the Xcel station, 24 & California—a long time in coming

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF CURTIS PARK

## Part Three of Five: Curtis Park in the 20th Century

Bill West

I ended my last article with a reference to the Silver Crash of 1893, which resulted in bank failures and financial ruin for many individuals and businesses; but that was nothing compared to what the country endured beginning in 1929 with what has come to be known as the Great Depression. One of the reactions to that disaster was the creation of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) in 1934 which sought to aid hard hit banks by standardizing the criteria to be used in making loans so they could avoid undue risks. To that end, real estate maps were created of all American cities, including Denver, showing the best and worst areas of a city for making loans. Areas shown in green were the safest. They also happened to be occupied by white people who had the means to pay back bank loans. The most dangerous were shown in red, and were known as having been red-lined. Such areas also just happened to be primarily occupied by African Americans and Mexican Americans, the terms in use at the time.

Though Ghetto is an Italian word and was originally used to designate those parts of European cities in which Jews were required to live, the word was appropriated to designate those parts of American cities in which minorities were also confined. Virtually all of that part of Denver known as Five Points, which includes Curtis Park, was red-lined. The long range results were bad. Many of the neighborhood's houses were showing their age and needed repair. Since

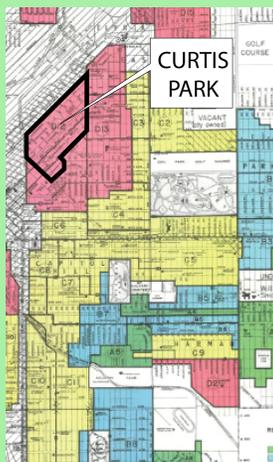
none of their owners, many of whom had low incomes, could get a home-improvement loan, they had to make do as best they could. Red-lining was finally legally ended in 1968, but in the 34 years of its existence, much of the housing stock of Curtis Park was in a sad condition.

Another development caused problems for Curtis Park as well: the considerable growth in its population. More and more of Denver's low-income people who couldn't find affordable housing elsewhere moved into the neighborhood. The impact on many of Curtis Park's homes was most unfortunate. Large, originally single-family dwellings, left behind by owners who'd moved to Capitol Hill or were ruined by the Silver Crash of 1893, were frequently purchased by less well-to-do owners who transformed them into multi-units in which to house numerous renters in fairly primitive conditions. Even much smaller homes were divided into two or three units. Many of the neighborhood's houses were showing more and more signs of wear and tear, increasing signs of serious deterioration.

There was also, at the same time, a change in the nature of the neighborhood's population. For the first part of the 20th Century,

it had continued primarily to be home to persons of European descent; but in 1942, The Denver Householders Directory showed that Curtis Park was by then home to a large number of Chicanos; and in due time, it became primarily a Latino community.

Despite the disadvantages of ghetto living, Curtis Park was, nonetheless, a vibrant, close-knit neighborhood in the 20th Century, where people shared their pleasures and concerns, looked after each other, and managed to have a relatively good life.



*Residential Security Maps were used by the Federal Housing Administration to decide which homes got mortgages. Neighborhoods with white people were favored; neighborhoods of color were not.*

*The colors on the map represent a spectrum, with green being the most desirable, followed by blue, yellow and then red. Homebuyers could not get a mortgage in the red areas.*

### EVENTS AT THE SAVOY 2700 Arapahoe



MAS Presents: Tesla Quartet  
September 12, cocktails  
at 7:00 PM, music at 8:00 PM

The Tesla Quartet, known for their "superb capacity to find the inner heart of everything they play," performs cutting-edge contemporary works as well as established masterpieces for audiences around the world. Once the Graduate String Quartet-in-Residence at CU Boulder, the quartet now leverages its music to promote social justice, amplify underrepresented voices, and champion equality and a sustainable future. For more information and tickets, visit [www.maspresents.org](http://www.maspresents.org).

## SINGLETRACK PAINTING

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL CABINETS

Mention this ad to receive a neighbor discount on your next project

singletrackpainting.com

(303) 941-0191



## Resources

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

Blair-Caldwell Library  
2401 Welton Street, (720) 865-2401

Denver City Council D9  
Darrell Watson, (720) 337-7709  
district9@denvergov.org

At-Large  
Councilwoman Sarah Parady  
ParadyAtLarge@denvergov.org  
(720) 337-7712  
Councilwoman Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez  
[GonzalesGutierrezAtLarge@denvergov.org](mailto:GonzalesGutierrezAtLarge@denvergov.org)  
(720) 337-7713

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

Community Advisory Board Mtgs.  
District 2 Community Advisory Board  
1st Wed. of the month 6pm  
3921 N Holly Street

D6 Community Advisory Board  
3rd Thursday of the month @ Noon  
1566 N Washington Street

DOTI ROW  
(720) 913-1720

Abandoned Vehicles  
(720) 865-0471

Police Non-Emergency:  
(720) 913-2000

Dist. 2 (north 25th Street) CRO:  
Hana Ruiz (720) 913-1089  
hana.ruiz@denvergov.org  
Dist. 6 (south 25th Street) CRO:  
Kayla Knabe (720) 913-2908  
kayla.knabe@denvergov.org

Park Ranger 303-331-4050  
Elected RTD Representative  
Michael Guzman, (720) 252-4961  
michael.guzman@rtd-denver.com

Trash Pickup - Overflow Pickup  
The next Large Item Pickup is  
September 12th

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@den-  
ver.gov or call (720) 865-2908

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

## Urban Bike Tour Sunday Sept 15th 2pm.

*John Hayden*

Join your neighbors for a fun and informative afternoon of city bicycling. This tour will explore urban bike infrastructure and development happening in Curtis Park, Five Points and Central Denver. Topics will include the proposed 5280 Trail, new and recent projects coming to the neighborhood and how urban design impacts peoples mental and physical health. The tour Horner at 303-653-5664. The ride will be designed for cyclists of all levels.

Thinking of Buying or Selling? Call John, Your Curtis Park  
Real Estate Expert. Broker Assoc. Kentwood City Properties



**JOHN HAYDEN**  
303-297-3994 / [curtisparkhomes.com](http://curtisparkhomes.com)

## Neighborhood 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/](http://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 announcements. To join, send an email to: [Curtis-Park-Neighbors-Announce+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:Curtis-Park-Neighbors-Announce+subscribe@googlegroups.com)

**Curtis Park Neighbors “Notices” Group**  
Super detailed! Receive all of the notices that City and other organizations send to Curtis Park Neighbors. Zoning notices, liquor license applications and Landmark Preservation Commission meetings come through here. To join, send an email to: [CurtisParkNeighbors+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:CurtisParkNeighbors+subscribe@googlegroups.com)

**Curtis Park Design Review Committee**  
Thinking about building an ADU? Does your home need new windows or are you considering exterior modifications? Most buildings within Curtis Park are subject to Design Review. Please email: [cpn-design-review@google-groups.com](mailto:cpn-design-review@google-groups.com) with questions about the design review process.

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](mailto:cpn-newsletter@googlegroups.com) or (720)273-0623. The next newsletter deadlines are September 21st for ads, and articles.

### Special Thanks To

Bill West, Ryan Planz, John Hayden,, Stephen Bennett, and for newsletter content. Thanks to Therese Rasmussen for coordinating newsletter distribution, and many thanks to neighbors assisting with newsletter deliveries.

### CPN Board of Directors

Stephen Bennett (President), Gerald Horner (Vice President), Guy Yandel (Treasurer), Rhianon Schuman (Secretary), Anne Barkis, Lynne Brown, Sarah Carpenter, Brad Dalton, John Hayden, Ryan Hutten, Joel Noble, Keith Pryor, Randy Vetter.

Contact the CPN President by writing to: [stephen@curtispark.org](mailto:stephen@curtispark.org) or Write the CPN Board at [curtis-park-neighbors-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:curtis-park-neighbors-board@googlegroups.com).