



Hi Neighbors,

Stephen Bennett, President

Autumn has arrived, bringing with it crisp weather, vibrant colors, and a host of community events. I'm excited to see all the costumes at The Great Pumpkin and admire one of the largest gourds in the state.

Whether you can commit to a board term or simply want to help sporadically, CPN is always looking for volunteers. We need help with events, delivering the Times, and fundraising. We are also seeking an editor to assist with the history column. Duties include sourcing topics, like people or homes, writing articles, or recruiting neighbors to research and write articles. Are you skilled in grant writing? We are seeking volunteers to help us secure additional funds so we can host more events in Sonny Lawson Park next summer.

Are you new to the neighborhood? Join us on 3 October. The October Curtis Park Connects will be geared towards new residents as well as established residents who have not yet engaged with the neighborhood. Knowledgeable neighbors will be on hand to share information on a variety of topics that improve Curtis Park's livability.

Movies in the Park, the Garden Fair in August and the St Patty's Day Pet Parade were ideas generated, and implemented, by neighbors. We welcome ideas and a willingness to run events that make Curtis Park a unique neighborhood. I am looking forward to celebrating Halloween with friends and neighbors at The Savoy and at the Stout Street Children's Park. Hope to see you there.

- ☀ Learn about upcoming events, park activations, and plans for 2025.
- ☀ What does it mean to live in a Landmark protected Historic District? Are you planning a remodel, repairs, or building an ADU? We'll share resources to help guide you.
- ☀ What is the RNO doing about crime, traffic/speeding and mobility issues?

Curtis Park Neighbors is an RNO (Registered Neighborhood Organization) with a variety of tools & resources available to everyone in the community.

Get Involved

CPN is gearing up for board elections in January. For more info., please see Gerald Horner's column on page 2.

First Friday in the Park

Please welcome Linda Theus-Lee and Friends for First Friday Jazz in Cousins Plaza-Sonny Lawson Park, October 4th from 5:30-7:00pm, 2401 Welton Street. She is a versatile & soulful vocalist, known for blending gospel, jazz & R&B with a powerful emotive style. We are so excited to have her perform! There will be food trucks and entertainment for the kids, sponsored by *Curtis Park Neighbors* and *Visit Denver*.



Curtis Park Events

Curtis Park Connects

3rd from 7-8:30

El Sistema

30th and Curtis St

Denver Clerk and Recorder

Ballot Initiatives

Resources for new residents

First Friday Jazz in SLP

Linda Theus-Lee and Friends

4th from 530-700

CPN Board Meeting

21st from 6-730

Redline Gallery

Halloween Movies

27th from 5-10

The Savoy

27th & Arapahoe

The Great Pumpkin

31st from 430-?

Stout Street Children's Park

Dia De Los Muertos

2nd Nov from 530-7

Sonny Lawson Park

15th Annual Curtis Park Great Pumpkin Party!

Join us on Halloween Thursday, October 31st, 4:00 to 7:00pm, at the Stout Street Children's Park, 2501 Stout Street for the 15th Annual Curtis Park Great Pumpkin Party!



This year's party will feature hayrides, a Trick-or-Treat Street along Stout Street from 24th to 27th streets, pizza and other Halloween refreshments, Halloween games, a fortune teller, pet costume contest at 5:30pm, scavenger hunt and of course the Great Pumpkin! The Great Pumpkin is free and ghosts and children from 0-1 million years old are welcome. If you'd like to volunteer or donate this year please contact John Hayden via text at 303-297-3994 or haydenpryor@msn.com. You can also donate online at curtisark.org under the parks and events tab. Happy Halloween!

From Your Editor

Mick Barnhardt

This is a holler out to all neighbors. I am looking for help with producing the monthly neighborhood newsletter. My back-up editor has moved out of the neighborhood and I need someone who can cover for me when I'm not available. The newsletter is created using *Pages* which is a free desktop publishing program for *Windows* or *Mac*. The job involves taking in all the articles from the neighbors and our President, Stephen Bennett and making it all fit in a four-page monthly newsletter. I can assist in mentoring. If you are interested, please contact me at mickbarnhardt@gmail.com

Get Involved

Are you possibly interested in serving on the Curtis Park Neighbors (CPN) Board of Directors?

CPN works to promote and protect the historic nature of the neighborhood and improve the livability for residents by programming activities in our parks, expanding green-spaces and the tree canopy; advocating for increased mobility, transit options, and safer street designs; and implementing community-building initiatives.

Board members are asked to attend at least 2/3 of monthly board meetings (third Monday eve of each month), attend 1/2 of the monthly General meetings (1st Thursday evening of each month), and participate in one CPN event or committee activity per quarter. Terms are for three years.

The Nominating Committee of the CPN Board will review all applications and create a slate of candidates to be voted on at the CPN annual meeting planned for January 2025. If interested, please email or call Gerald Horner at 303-653-5664 or geraldhorner@gmail.com

Neighborhood Tree-Volunteers

Made it Happen in September!

Ninety trees are now ready for fall and winter, thanks to the 13 terrific volunteers who finished the mulching in record time on a sunny Saturday in September. A week later, over 20 volunteers planted 19 new trees at University Prep Elementary School. Check out these new trees: they are at 24th & Arapahoe Streets. While you're out walking and admiring trees, stop by the Montessori Academy of Colorado (MAC) at 25th & Curtis Streets and revel in the 13 new trees planted last year in the "tree lawns." (MAC also added beautiful pollinator gardens this spring.) Thanks to all who participated in these events! We couldn't do it without you.

Do you want to be part of the team, ensuring that our urban forest thrives? Contact Lynne Brown: lynnebrown001@gmail.com or 303-845-2496.

Join Us for an October Walk Among the Trees

Keith Pryor and John Hayden will lead a tree walk on Saturday, October 12, 1:30-3:00 pm. We will learn about our different species of trees growing in Curtis Park and how best to take care of them. It is a beautiful time of the year to enjoy our trees. Meet at the large American elm in Mestizo Curtis Park, located by the flower gardens between Champa & Curtis, at 31st Street. To register contact Keith, kpryor13@gmail.com.

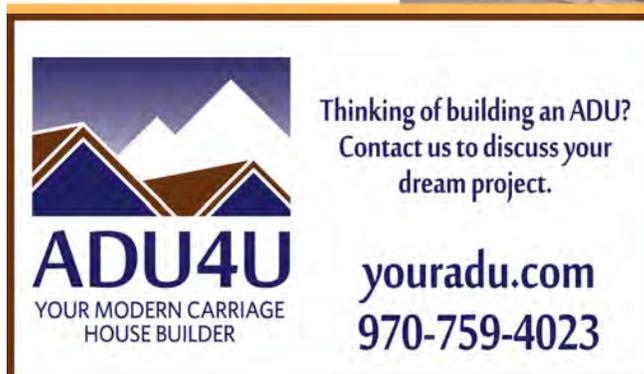
Drumroll, please: Denver's brand new, first-ever Urban Forestry Strategic Plan has been published! Check out this link to peruse the plan: https://www.denvergov.org/files/assets/public/v/3/parks-and-recreation/documents/forestry/final-ufsp-20240814-web_ada.pdf (Soon, you will be able to find the this link on curtisark.org; just click on the Committee tab and the Tree Committee option to get there.)



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF CURTIS PARK

Part Four of Five: Doomsday

Bill West

The fate of America's old inner-city neighborhoods was in part determined by an act of Congress passed in 1933 as part of Roosevelt's New Deal that called for a program of slum clearance and the construction of federally-funded housing on the cleared land. Where to look for the slums to be cleared was clarified by the real estate maps made for all American cities by the Federal Housing Administration in 1934 which showed in red where low-income, minority populations lived. (See my last essay for more about this issue.) The first such program in Denver, authorized in 1941 just before the outbreak of WWII, created 77 units of low-income housing in ten buildings on one block, one side of which faced Curtis Park. That block recently received a wonderful transformation and now contains some of the original structures from 1941 mixed with a number of new homes.

Several years later, after WWII, Curtis Park was again chosen for a significant, much larger, slum clearance project. Eight full blocks, between Arapahoe and Lawrence, from 25th to 34th Streets, were demolished. Where there had been 200 living units, mostly in Victorian-era houses, there were now 450 units.

Just three years later, in 1956, Denver's City Council passed a new city-wide zoning ordinance which divided Curtis Park into two zone districts, a B-8 (the B stands for business) and an R-3 (the R stands for residential). The B-8 zone came into the neighborhood as far as 27th Street, the R-3 went from 27th to Downing.

The vision for the B-8 zone was that it would be an area for businesses serving downtown Denver. Its impact on Curtis Park was disastrous, leading, in the roughly 25 years after the zone was created, to the demolition of 88 late 19th century houses, just in the blocks between 23rd (now Park Avenue West) and

27th streets. The new R-3 Zone was intended for high-density apartment buildings. Only one such building was built, the California Park East at 2770 California. Built in 1964, it is six stories high and contains 53 units. Fortunately it was built at the very edge of the current historic district. Had it been built in the middle of it, its impact would have been most unfortunate. Neither of the new zone districts showed the slightest interest in the neighborhood's past or current land usage. Instead, they seemed to predict, even to encourage, the end of the Curtis Park we know today.

Worse was yet to come.

In 1954, the US Congress passed the Urban Renewal Act which provided huge funds to purchase and clear "blighted" urban neighborhoods, almost all of them occupied by low-income minority populations. In 1959, the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) was created. But it wasn't until 1967, when the Skyline Urban Renewal project was announced, that it flexed its muscle and showed what it could do. Instead of taking aim at blighted neighborhoods, it proposed to tear down 14 city blocks in the very heart of downtown Denver. When the demolitions began in 1969, an article in the Denver Post made DURA's intention clear. A spokesman for DURA said that "The demolition will clear old buildings to make way for new construction." There were then those who began to realize that what DURA really stood for wasn't Urban Renewal but more accurately Urban Removal.



California Park East at 2770 California

EVENTS

AT THE

SAVOY

2700 Arapahoe



MAS Presents: Adam Swanson feat.

Wende Harston

October 24th, cocktails

at 7:00 PM, music at 8:00 PM

Adam Swanson will be performing alongside Denver's own Wende Harston, vocalist for Queen City Jazz Band.

From ragtime, to American popular music, early jazz, and more, Adam plays it all. "I can think of no better reason" he says, "for doing what I do than making people happy".

Harston, whose powerful voice has taken her across the country, was recognized in 2018 by Five Points Jazz Festival for her significant contributions to jazz and culture in the neighborhood and beyond. For more information and tickets, visit www.maspresents.org.

BETC Presented: *Enemy of the People*. A Play by Henry Ibsen/Adapted by Mark Ragan

Sept. 25th-October 13th, cocktails 7:30-10:30 Doors open at 6:30

Henrik Ibsen's classic play may have been staged in 1882 but the story could have been ripped from last week's headlines. A doctor discovers a health-care emergency and is vilified by politicians, libeled by a corrupt news media and shunned by a gullible citizenry.

Will he stand up for the truth and fight his neighbors and the leaders of his town? Or will he recant his scientific discovery to protect his family and his reputation?

BETC opens the season with Ibsen's searing take on human nature, majority rule and one man's lonely war against a corrupted and hoodwinked society.

More info. at betc.vbotickets.com

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
(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
October 17th

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.org or call (720) 865-2908

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

Donations: Support Your Neighborhood

Curtis Park Neighbors is funded by donations from foundations, grants, and the generous support of neighbors. If you enjoy all the wonderful activities in the neighborhood like First Friday Jazz, The Great Pumpkin, and the Winter Festival your support is greatly appreciated. CPN has a new mailing address, checks can be sent to:

757 E 20th Ave Suite 370
PMB 231
Denver, CO 80205

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

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/

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

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

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@googlegroups.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 or (720) 273-0623. The next newsletter deadlines are October 19th 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), Ryan Hutten (Treasurer), Rhianon Schuman (Secretary), Anne Barkis, Lynne Brown, Sarah Carpenter, John Hayden, Ryan Hutten, Joel Noble, Keith Pryor, Randy Vetter.

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