



January 2018

## Hi, Neighbors!

*John Hayden, CPN President*

Happy 2018 Curtis Park! This year marks the 150th birthday of our neighborhood. One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1868 the land for the original Curtis Park was given to the City of Denver, just 10 years old itself, by developers Francis Case and Frederick Ebert in hopes that the young city would grow in the direction of the land they had plotted for development around the park.

The original park was bordered by Curtis, Arapahoe, 31st and 32nd streets. The larger portion of the park between Champa and Curtis streets was added at a later date. It would take more than a decade before homes would start to sprout up in the Curtis Park area. Most of Curtis Park's original houses date from the 1880s. From 1883 to 1890 the park

was used as the site of a nursery business that supplied bedding plants and fresh cut flowers to the residents of Denver.

In 1913 the famous landscape firm of Frederick Law Olmsted created a master plan for the park that was never implemented. Over the years the park would see the addition of several playgrounds and a municipal swimming pool where A.A.U champion diver Viola Salazar would learn to swim.

The park has been the site of countless celebrations and protests including marches organized by Chicano activist Corky Gonzales, Author of the epic poem "I am Joaquin". Other great figures in history would play and swim

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### **Curtis Park Neighbors Meet Thursday, January 4th**

United Way, 711 Park Ave. West  
(Enter from parking lot at "CoBank" sign)

**6:30 p.m.** Police Update & Snacks

**7:00-8:30 p.m.** Main Agenda

1. Neighborhood Market
2. Rossonian Block Redevelopment
3. Liquor License for Denver Eagle
4. 2137 Glenarm development and zoning request.

### **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](http://squareup.com/store/CurtisParkNeighbors).

Also you can mail or drop off a check to our treasurer Todd McGuire at 3162 Champa St.

### **Next CPN General Meeting February 1st, 2018**

### **CPN Board Meeting**

**Monday, Jan. 19th, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**2543 California St, Open to all**

## **Businesses that Support Our Neighborhood**

Our Annual Holiday Potluck Party last month was a huge success. New and old neighbors alike mingled in the spirit of the holiday. The Board and the entire neighborhood would like to give a big "thank you" to all the local businesses that donated goods and services in our fund-raising drawing that took place at the party.

Local businesses who donated include - B-Cycle, The Barkway, Billy's Hot Dogs, Birdcall, Botanic Gardens, Cart+Driver,

Coffee at the Points, Crema, Crossfit 720, Culture Meat+Cheese, Dog Days of Denver, Dunbars, Fast Frame, FishNBeer, The Haven, High Point Creamery, Mangan Massage, Matchbox, Meadowlark Kitchen, Novo Coffee, Parisi's, Park Burger, Portside, Persevere, Pressery, Purple Door Coffee, Randy's Recycled Bikes, Rolling Pin, Rosenberg's 715 /club, Snooze, Starlet, Wood Boss Brewing, Work&Class, Yazoo Barbecue, Yoga/DAwn Gordon, Yoga/Satya/Whole Yoga.

## Hi Neighbors (cont.)

and learn in the park from Neil Cassady, the subject of Jack Keroac's *On the Road* to Hattie McDaniel, the first African American to win an Oscar for her role in *Gone with The Wind*.

Around 1990 the name of the park was officially changed to Mestizo-Curtis Park to honor the diversity of the residents who live here. The meaning of Mestizo is of mixed blood. Today Mestizo-Curtis Park sits at the center of our thriving, diverse community. A community that has changed and grown a great deal over the past 150 years and will continue to change and grow for the next 150 years. To the degree that we can influence that change to ensure the park and our community continues to be a welcoming place to diverse people we will honor the long and beautiful history of our neighborhood and the park that sits at its center.

Join us this summer to celebrate the park and the people who have made it a wonderful place in Denver's history.

Our January Curtis Park Neighbors meeting will feature new businesses and proposed developments for the neighborhood. We will hear from the owners of a new Neighborhood Market opening up in March at Park Avenue and Champa Street as well as a proposed new bar that would like to take part of the space now occupied by The Wrangler. We also will hear about two new developments proposed for the neighborhood, the Rossonian Block redevelopment and a new project at 21st and Glenarm streets.

I hope to see you all there.

### Save-The-Date

**Valentine's Day Tea**  
**Sunday, February 11, 2018**  
2:00-5:00 pm  
at Hugh and Lynne Brown's  
2903 Champa Street

## New Neighborhood Recreation Center Opens

It's time to celebrate! After many years of determination and hard work, we are excited to celebrate the opening of Denver Parks and Recreation's newest state-of-the-art recreational facility. Please join us on January 8th at 3:00 pm for the grand opening of the Carla Madison Recreation Center located on the corner of Colfax Ave. & Josephine St.

WHEN: Monday, January 8th, 2018  
@ 3:00pm

WHERE: 2401 W. Colfax Ave, Denver  
CO 80206

The recreation center will open for full operation at 5:30 pm on January 8th, 2018.



## Apply for Free or Low-Cost Trees

The trees that shade our yards and sidewalks are a vital part of what makes a community sustainable. While most people may enjoy the shade or view of a tree few understand just how powerful the impact of our green leafy friends can be on our community. Trees help cool cities, reduce crime, increase business activity, prevent skin cancer, increase property values, provide clean air, and shield people from fast moving traffic on busy streets. The benefits of a good tree canopy are impressive and Denver has been working hard to increase the size and health of our urban forest. You can help by planting a

free or low cost street tree in the tree lawn between your sidewalk and the street this Spring. Each year The Park People provide thousands of trees to area residents. While these trees are small to start patience and care over time will pay off as the mighty Oak trees at 27th and Stout demonstrate. These were once



Denver Digs Trees saplings and now they provide shade and beauty for our neighborhood. Applications for free trees are released in January and trees are distributed in April for planting. For More information visit [www.theparkpeople.org](http://www.theparkpeople.org).

# The Future of the Former Gilpin School - An Ongoing Process

*Maggie Miller*



Many of our neighbors attended meetings about the future of the former Gilpin school, and even more of us participated in online surveys. Thank you!

While you were doing that, the Gilpin Facility Placement Committee met five times in two and one-half weeks, and decided that, from among the seven options presented by DPS, we would recommend placing grades 4-8 of Denver Language School (DLS) at Gilpin beginning in the 2018-19 school year.

In the survey mentioned above, the priorities that were most important to people were: “serve a socioeconomically, ethnically and racially diverse student population,” “have plans to engage with the community on an ongoing basis,” and “have plans to maintain property features that benefit the community.” In addition, neighbors made comments about their desire for a middle school (or comments about not wanting a high school), and expressed concerns about parking and traffic. Many neighbors also had comments about the process, DPS “choice” strategy, and concerns about undercutting enrollment of nearby schools.

The Gilpin Facility Placement Committee consisted of five DPS staff members and four community members (Evelyn Barnes, John Hayden, Maggie Miller, and Katherine Murphy). During our meetings, we evaluated the seven schools using a rubric that DPS had created. The rubric included three criteria in addition to neighborhood priorities. These were academic performance (which was weighted most heavily), how badly the candidate schools need the facility, and “enrollment demand, including overall demand and an enrollment that is spread across Denver not drawing students disproportionately from the surrounding neighborhood.”

The Committee looked at a LOT of materials: the written applications, the Denver Public School Facility Allocation Policy, presentations at the community meetings, surveys from community members who attended the presentations, the survey mentioned above, as well as interviews conducted by DPS staff, and supplemental data from DPS about enrollment and test scores, etc. In addition, we looked at letters that people had sent in and conversations that various people have had with us along the way.

In our recommendation, we communicated our strong hope that DLS will engage with the community in a meaningful way, making efforts to become an authentic part of the community, taking steps to link its Spanish language and cultural programs to the cultural history of the community and to the Spanish-speaking families in the community, welcoming new students from the community who are able to meet their Spanish-language entrance requirements, and more.

In the next couple of months, we plan to meet with leadership at DLS and start the conversation about how to make these things happen. If you have any ideas about this, or if you want more information, please contact John Hayden (through CPN), Katherine Murphy (through Facebook), or Maggie Miller (through Facebook)!

## SCFD Free Days

Clyfford Still Museum  
• Fridays 5-8 p.m.

Molly Brown House  
• Sat. Jan. 27th

Denver Art Museum  
• Sat. Jan. 6th

Denver Zoo  
• Fri. Jan. 18th  
• Sat. Jan. 20th

Denver Museum of Nature & Science  
• Mon. Jan. 8th  
• Sun. Jan. 28th

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



## Resources

**Denver City Government**  
www.DenverGov.org, or call 3-1-1  
Alternately: (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

**Police**  
Emergencies: Dial 911  
Non-Emergency: (720) 913-2000  
Dist. 2 (above 25th Street) RSO:  
Adriel Torres (720) 913-1089,  
adriel.torres@denvergov.org  
Reyes Trujillo (720) 913-1094,  
reyes.trujillo@denvergov.org  
Dist. 6 (below 25th Street) RSO:  
Snow White (720) 641-1280,  
snow.white@denvergov.org

**RTD**  
(303) 299-6000  
www.RTD-Denver.com

**Elected Representative**  
Barbara Deadwyler, (720) 273-9520  
Barbara.Deadwyler@rtd-denver.com

**Trash Pickup - Overflow Pickup**  
The next Large Item pickup is  
One Day! Thurs., Jan. 4th  
For free appliance collection, call  
(303) 430-7142.

**Xcel Energy**  
Electric Emergency/Power Outage  
(800) 895-1999  
Gas Emergency / Gas Odor  
(800) 895-2999

## Would you like to advertise in the newsletter?

**Business card is \$50.00/issue;  
Double business card is \$100.00/issue; and  
Back Quarter Page is \$150.00/issue.**

**Contact: Todd McGuire (Treasurer)  
tmcguire@me.com**

## Neighborhood Internet Resources

**Curtis Park Neighbors on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/curtisparke/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/curtisparke/)

**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](mailto:Curtis-Park-Neighbors-Announce+subscribe@googlegroups.com)

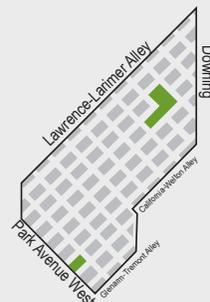
**Curtis Park Neighbors "Notices" Group**  
Super-detailed! Receive all of the notices that the City and other organizations send to Curtis Park Neighbors. The CPN Board receives this e-mail, and invites you to participate as well!  
Write to: [CurtisParkNeighbors+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:CurtisParkNeighbors+subscribe@googlegroups.com)  
also: [Groups.google.com/forum/m/#forum/cpn-parks-group](https://groups.google.com/forum/m/#forum/cpn-parks-group)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cpn-security+subscribe@googlegroups.com)



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 Jan. 17th for ads, and Jan. 20th for articles.

**Special Thanks To**  
Sue Glassmaker, and John Hayden for newsletter content. Thanks to Hope Communities and Mile High United Way 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**  
Paul Davidson, John Hayden (President), Robbie Hobein (Secretary), Rob Price, Todd McGuire (Treasurer), Jeff Baker, (Vice President), Andrew Spinks, Conor Farley, Liz Oertle, Patti Smith, and Joshua Becker. Contact the CPN President by writing to [haydenpryor@msn.com](mailto:haydenpryor@msn.com) or calling (303) 297-3994. Write the CPN Board at [curtis-park-neighbors-board@googlegroups.com](mailto:curtis-park-neighbors-board@googlegroups.com).