Happy New Year!

Jeff Baker, CPN President

2020 is upon us as we welcome in a new decade in Curtis Park, whose roots date back 150 years. This Park's roots date back 150 years. It was in 1871 when Denver's first streetcar line was laid down, extending from downtown up Champa Street to 27th. This line guided the direction of development for Denver's first neighborhood, and by 1879 many brick residences had been built in Curtis Park. Thanks to the neighbors who saw the value of our historic neighborhood and created a landmark district to protect the historic homes that make up our unique neighborhood.

On December 9th we had our annual Holiday Potluck and member meeting. What a spectacular evening with neighbors along with delicious food and drink. Thanks to Liberati for the Oenobeer! We had a great turnout this year and held our annual board of director's election, in which Randy Vetter was voted in unanimously. Randy is a longtime resident of Curtis Park, living in the neighborhood since 1982. I am excited to have Randy join the board to help us accomplish big goals for Curtis Park in 2020.

At this month's General Meeting on January 2nd, we will get a fresh update about the site-specific art installation, going in Mestizo-Curtis Park in the summer of 2020 as part of the Swim Club, a project which aims to challenge notions of what public art is and where it is located, engage the public in new and exciting ways, and make art more accessible in everyday environments. The project is funded by a P.S. You Are Here grant from Denver Arts & Venues and curated by Hey Hue and Castle Productions. There is an online survey here, [digital link to survey], and paper copies will be available at the meeting.

We will have a presentation from John Parvensky from Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, on the proposed 75 bed Assisted Living Facility adjacent to the Stout Street Health Center to provide medical respite and recuperative care for homeless and low-income individuals. The facility will also include 64 affordable housing apartments on the upper floors.

Our RTD representative, Shontel Lewis will give us an update on RTD regarding the current state, upcoming projects and anything new relating to our public transit.

January will also be the first month that we will be starting our monthly giveaway. All you have to do is attend the meeting for a chance to win!
William West Award

This year’s recipient of the William West Award went to longtime neighbor, Nancy Welch. This award may be given annually to a neighbor who has made significant contributions to the neighborhood. Nancy has lived in this giving way ever since she moved into Curtis Park. Thanks to Bill West for presenting his namesake award to Nancy for all she has done for our neighborhood.

Spirit of Mestizo Award

This is the second year that we have given this award. This award was created last year and is awarded to a community member who has worked on building community in the Spirit of Mestizo. This year, we chose to give this award to a group of individuals who have been working directly with neighbors to help improve our community. They have been integral on numerous levels, from boots on the ground, listening to neighbors, and taking additional measures to increase the safety of our neighborhood. The awards went to the following local police officers, Commander of District 2, Kathleen Bancroft, Community Resource Officer District 2, Hana Ruiz, Community Resource Officer District 6, Teresa Gillian, Community Resource Officer District 6, Austen Munson, Lieutenant of District 6, Kenneth Chavez, Commander of District 6, Aaron Sanchez.

Curtis Park’s January Tree of the Month!

Maggie Miller

Greetings from the Curtis Park Tree Committee! Every few months we feature a Tree of the Month. You may recall that November’s tree was a beautiful redbud. This month, our Tree of the Month is the Herrons’ State Street Maple.

The Herrons utilized the opportunity to plant a tree for free, going through the City of Denver’s Parks and Recreation department, specifically the Forestry department. Ms. Herron named the little tree Charlie Brown. Right now it looks like a little stick, but that’s how new trees look in the winter. It will be so exciting to watch it grow over the years!

In the future:

You too can utilize Denver’s Forestry department to get a tree planted for free in your tree lawn! Just go to www.beasmartash.org/what-can-i-do/apply-for-a-tree/. You can do that now, and the City can plant your tree this Spring!

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Join Curtis Park Stewards!

John Hayden

Curtis Park is lucky to have a group of devoted volunteers who work to keep our parks clean, safe, programmed and fun. The Curtis Park Stewards work on planning, programming and events for Mestizo-Curtis Park, the Stout Street Children’s Park and Sonny Lawson Park. All three parks are unique and important public spaces in our neighborhood.

Coming up neighbors can expect to see updates to the infrastructure of all three parks. The Mestizo-Curtis Park master plan will begin implementation in the Fall of 2020, funding has been identified to finish the plans for the Stout Street gardens, lighting and other Children’s Park and Mestizo Curtis Park will see improved restroom facilities, Sonny Lawson Park.

The Park Stewards will also be busy in 2020 working on the Ice Festival, Great Pumpkin, programs and events in Sonny Lawson and possibly a big event in Mestizo-Curtis Park. To make these events possible we need more volunteers. If you would be interested in helping in our parks please email John Hayden at haydenpyor@msn.com or show up any Wednesday morning at 9:30 am at Sonny Lawson Park for the Stewards regular Park Clean Up hour. Come Spring we will need lots of volunteers to help with all the gardens in the parks.

Christmas Tree Recycle

Remove all decorations, lights and tree stands. Only natural (real) trees are collected for recycling during Treecycle. No artificial or flocked trees are accepted. Set your tree out for collection no later than 7:00 a.m. on one of your scheduled trash collection days between January 6 and 17.

10th Annual Curtis Park Ice Festival

John Hayden

Mark your calendars for the 10th annual Curtis Park Ice Festival, Sunday February 16th, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This small local event takes place each year at the Stout Street Children’s Park and features artists carving ice sculptures, treats and hot chocolate from local neighborhood businesses, winter themed games and activities.

Come out and enjoy a winter afternoon with friends family and neighbors. All are welcome and the event is free. This event is made possible each year by Curtis Park Neighbors, donations from individual neighbors and businesses and lots of wonderful volunteers. Since it’s an ice festival snow and cold temperatures are welcome! It’s usually 60 degrees but if it’s not we will bundle up and enjoy the snow and the ice together. Interested in helping out/volunteering? Contact John Hayden at haydenpyor@msn.com.

Denver Digs Trees

Watch for your Denver Digs Trees door hanger. This is a reminder that you can now apply for street trees (for the tree lawn) and yard trees. Denver Digs is especially encouraging all of us to plant trees in our yards. In 2018 all trees were spoken for in 2 weeks’ time so act fast!!
Thanks to All Who Helped in our Annual Holiday Potluck

Thank you to Rob Price, Gerald Horner, Eileen Feltman, Sue Glassmaker, Jeff Baker and Julie Rubsam for collecting prizes.

Thank you to the Posner Center for the space for our annual event. Thanks to the following local businesses for your contributions to our annual Holiday Party. Beth Bianchi, Billy’s Hot Dogs, Denver Botanic Gardens, Cart Driver, Coffee at the Point, Colorado Symphony, Crema, Culture, Dio Mio, Dog Days of Denver, Dunbar, Famous J’s, Haven Manicure, Il Posto, Infinite Monkey Theorem, Kirkland Museum, Levan Deli, Liberati, Los Chigones, Lou’s Italian, Matchbox, Meadowlark Kitchen, Mister Oso, Mercury Café, Nano, Novo Coffee, Owl Bear, Parisi’s, Park Burger, Portside, Preservery, Pressery, Redline, Rino Nail Bar, Rosenberg’s, Rye Society, 715 Club, Snooze, Spangalang, Steve Basch, Uchi, Unassimilated, Veedevks Amelia, Voicebox, Woods Boss, Work and Class, Yazoo BBQ, Yoga from Dawn Gordon, Yoga from Whole Yoga.

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 Jan. 22nd for ads, and Jan. 25th for articles.

Special Thanks To
Lynn Brown, Maggie Miller, John John Hayden, Jeff Baker 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
Jeff Baker (President), Patti Smith, Ben Mendenhall (Treasurer), Paul Davidson, Robbie Hobein (Secretary), Andrew Spinks, Ryan Cox, Beth Bianchi, Lindsay Schneider, Lindsey Sullivan and Randy Vetter. Contact the CPN President by writing to: jeffbakercurtisparkdenver@gmail.com or call (970) 759-4023. Write the CPN Board at curtis-park-neighbors-board@googlegroups.com.