

CORY-MERRILL

— NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION —



FALL 2023

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“ We can all agree that it was definitely a HOT summer, but a cool fall is almost here. Food Truck nights at the Kirk of Bonnie Brae were very successful. A big thank you to all who attended. Although an agenda has yet to be determined, the next General Meeting of the CMNA is set for November 8th , 6-7:30pm at the Kirk. Hope to see you then.

- CHRIS OLSON

Upcoming Neighborhood Events



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING!

WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 8, 2023
6:00PM

MAIN SANCTUARY
KIRK OF BONNIE BRAE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1201 S. STEELE



Fall Dues Drive

Once a year, we reach out to neighbors and ask for your support by donating to the Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Association. These dues enable the administrative functioning of the CMNA, including printing of the quarterly newsletters, Post Office box rental, room rental at the Kirk of Bonnie Brae Church for quarterly meetings, annual dues for the association itself, events (including signage), annual insurance, office supplies, and website/social media expenses. With your help, we hold several events a year, as well as host the Summer Food Truck Nights. We also believe in giving back to our community, and all CMNA Board Members are volunteers. To support our continued efforts,

please consider a donation of \$25 / household.



Dues donations can be **made by check** and mailed to the address below,

paid online via PayPal. Scan the QR code at right, or go to

www.corymerrillneighborhood.com

[/donate-1](#)



BONNIE BRAE, CORY MERRILL

Neighborhood Pumpkin Patch



Saturday,
October 14th,
2023
11 a.m -
2 p.m.

Maria's house —
2511 E. Kentucky
Avenue

benefits

Denver South High Giving Grocery

Formerly the South High Food Pantry



Stay Informed!

Newsletter Sign up on the District 6 [website](#)

Visit In-District Office Hours every Thursday from 8am-12pm, Pete's University Park Cafe, University & Evans

There is no time of year that makes it a great option to live life unhoused, either under a tarp or in a tent along a creek or sidewalk, or in a vehicle on the side of the road. As morning temps begin to drop quickly into a more autumnal range, with winter just over the horizon, those choices become less and less palatable. I applaud Mayor Johnston's decision to declare a State of Emergency to marshal the city's resources to get 1,000 people off the streets and into housing by December 31. To give some context to that declaration of emergency, since I took office in 2015, over 600 people have lost their lives through traffic accidents. During that same time another 1,000 folks have died in Denver from gun violence. Topping the list, over the last eight years, approximately 1910 individuals have died on our streets from the direct or indirect effects of homelessness.

The Mayor has proposed a combination of three levels of managed facilities be employed to meet his housing goal of getting 1,000 people, currently living on the street into housing by December 31. First up, the city will move people into apartments the city has leased, as well as hotels/motels the city has purchased, providing immediate shelter for hundreds of unhoused residents. Next in line are micro-communities of tiny homes or pallet shelters to be established in all 11 Council districts, and finally, if needed, we will expand our inventory of Safe Outdoor Spaces using heavy duty tents on wooden platforms. All tiny home/pallet home/tent sites will provide bathroom facilities, community rooms and some will have kitchens. All will be staffed 24hours a day, seven days a week. All will present a variety of critical wrap-around services on site.

An abandoned parking lot at 1380 S Birch St. has been offered up as one of the potential temporary sites, immediately across the street from the affordable housing component of the revitalization of the old Colorado Department of Transportation headquarters property. I am cautiously supportive of the Mayor's plan. Preparing the site for use, and constructing the housing will be the easy part. More challenging will be finding the skilled staff needed to provide case management, mental health and addiction services, and security on site. With those in place, I believe the Mayor's plan can be a success, without them, the chance for success drops precipitously.

What we do know for sure is what the city has done in the past has not lessened the number of people on our streets. As I mentioned early in this piece, this is a life and death matter. Left unhoused and unhealed, many of those living unsheltered will continue to spiral downward. Given secure housing and the needed support, a large number can return to an independent productive lifestyle. Those needing long-term care can be directed toward options for safe haven.

I believe we all want a safe Denver where everyone is housed and our neighborhoods feel safe. The discussion, and the process, will be challenging, but we must find a better way forward.

- Paul

News from NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS!



As a shared campus, we are so excited to share some great news! The state uses the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) data to inform families of the academic performance across the state.

We are so excited to share that Cory and C3 were ranked in the top 5% of all elementary/K-8/middle schools in Colorado out of 1,335 schools.

Merrill was the 3rd best performing stand alone middle school in DPS and in the top 12% of all elementary/K-8/middle schools.

We are thrilled to have rigorous academics be highlighted with our shared campus. We look forward to the continued partnership to ensure each student has a learning environment in which they thrive and grow. All three schools feel incredibly lucky to learn and grow together!



Tuesday,
November 7,
2023

General Election

On the ballot: two statewide ballot measures,
three seats on the DPS School Board

Important Dates

- **October 16**
Ballots mailed out this week
24-hour ballot drop-off boxes open
22-day Colorado residency deadline
- **October 23**
Webb Building vote center opens
- **October 30**
All vote centers open
- **October 31**
Last day to send your ballot back by mail
Last day to register to vote and receive a ballot by mail
All other vote centers open
- **November 7**
☆ **Election Day** ☆
Mail ballots must be returned by 7 p.m., or
Voters must be in line by 7 p.m. to cast a ballot in person

Proposition HH, Property Tax Changes and Revenue Change Measure
Would reduce the property tax rate and allow the state to retain and spend revenues that it would otherwise be required to refund to residents under the Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR), to give local governments to make up lost tax revenues from the property tax rate reduction.

Proposition II, Tobacco and Nicotine Product Tax Revenue Measure
Asks voters to either (1) allow the state to retain and spend revenue the state received above the estimated revenue generated from increased taxes on cigarettes and tobacco and nicotine products and dedicate the retained revenue to fund preschool programs or (2) refund \$23.65 million to distributors and wholesalers and reduce the tobacco tax rate by 11.53%.



Of the three DPS Board of Education seats up for election, two will be on the ballot for Cory Merrill residents: Director District 1 and the At Large seat. Current holders of these seats are **Scott Baldermann** (District 1, elected in 2019) and Auon'tai Anderson (At-large member, current board vice president, elected in 2019). Baldermann, a DPS parent who runs a small software company, has one challenger: parent and former charter school network CEO **Kimberlee Sia**. The at-large race is crowded with four candidates: parent and security consultant **Paul Ballenger**, parent and doctoral student **Brittini Johnson**, DPS graduate and bookstore owner **Kwame Spearman**, and parent and former East High principal **John Youngquist**.

Register to vote and update voter registration at [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://www.GoVoteColorado.gov)

COLORADO GIVES DAY

Over the years, Colorado Gives Day has evolved into the biggest 24-hour giving movement in the state, bringing in over \$415 million since its inception in 2010. Each year, the people of Colorado unite with a shared common purpose: to elevate their community and neighbors by fueling the efforts of nonprofits that make a meaningful change.

- Colorado Gives Day is December 5, 2023
- Early Giving Opens Nov 1
- All donations made between Nov 1 - Dec 5 qualify for prizes and incentives through the 2023 Incentive Fund





COLD WEATHER & FUEL EFFICIENCY

As we opt for more car travel in the coming months, keep these tips in mind to save fuel ... and money

1 Don't be an aggressive driver

Drivers who accelerate quickly and brake hard can lower their gas mileage by 33%.



Fuel-saving tip: Give yourself plenty of travel time to avoid aggressive behavior.

2 Don't put the pedal to the metal

Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds over 50 mph. For every 5 mph over 50 mph, a driver will spend on average, an additional 16 cents per gallon of gas.

Fuel-saving tip: When driving in town, safely coasting down hills and to stop signs can improve gas mileage.

3 Avoid hauling cargo

Rooftop cargo boxes can reduce gas mileage on the highway by 10% to 25%.



4 Use cruise control

Drivers who set their cruise control for 65 mph on the highway and accelerate and brake gradually can see a 35% increase in gas mileage.



Fuel-saving tip: Cruise control doesn't help gas mileage on hilly terrain.

5 Tire pressure

Keeping tires at the correct pressure can increase gas mileage by 3.3%.



Meet Our Neighborhood Pets!

We are always excited to meet new pets and feature them in our communications! If your pet would welcome a little celebrity status, please email us with a pic and a bit about your furry, feathered or other friend!

Tank & Otie

Tank has been a part of our family since 2014. He was a rescue from the Colorado Correctional Industries (CCi), Prison Trained K-9 Companion Program (PTKCP). He's an interesting mix of Yorkshire Terrier, Dachshund, and Chihuahua. His most notable feature is one brown eye, and one blue eye! Tank LOVES people, and enjoys belly rubs, playing chase with flattened stuffed animals, and licking people's faces.

Otie was a "foster fail" during COVID, joining us in 2021. He's also a rescue, and a poodle mix. While Tank serves as "elder statesman in the house, Otie is the precocious little brother. He loves walks, chasing rabbits & squirrels, sitting in our laps or on the couch next to us, and playfully terrorizing Tank.

You'll see both dogs walking the neighborhood most days, and they've both been amazing additions to our family.

- the Rimland family

