



Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association

Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Spring 2014

Do you have time or know someone in our neighborhood who might have the time and desire to get more involved with our City and our neighborhood?

As many of you know, the City has a wide variety of departments and services that interface with our neighborhood and we are looking for individuals who want to work with the City and be our liaison to provide information and assist our neighbors when questions need answers or clarification.

Here are just a few of the areas where you can be of assistance:

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS NEEDED

- Zoning & Building Code enforcement
- Tree Preservation
- Neighborhood inspections & enforcement
- Police and Fire Coordinator
- Parking and Road Issues
- Trash & Recycling Waste Management

We'll put you in touch with all the right people at the City in each of these departments and we'll ask you to help us provide updates to our neighbors and assist when questions or concerns are raised in the neighborhood.

If you are interested, please drop us a comment at www.corymerrill.org. or reach out to us on www.nextdoor.com.

Neighborhood PARTY & PICNIC

Mark your calendars for a summer gathering on the school grounds of Cory & Merrill!

SATURDAY, MAY 31 from 4pm - 7pm.

We've coordinated the use of the grass, parking area, and playgrounds for our neighborhood's use.



Our long-time supporters, PJ Magin & Karen Staggs from Keller-Williams, are bringing a bouncy castle. Bring your own picnic, blanket, games, sports equipment and your next door neighbor.

If you are talking about our event and hear about any bands, entertainment or other sponsors who want to donate their services and be involved, please send them to our website contact form.

We are looking forward to continuing this annual neighborhood tradition and making it a stronger and better event than ever!

We can't wait to see you, your families, and your neighbors there!

Your contributions are always appreciated. Keep our newsletter alive.
Send your checks payable to Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association PO Box 101713, Denver, CO 80210-1713

A message from George Mayl (our current Zoning and INC representative).

You will see another story from George with his new project, working with members of the City of Denver Events.

As he moves into this new challenge, he wants all of our neighbors to know more about organizations for your interest and participation...here is more information from George: "I am sure many of you are aware that Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association is a member of the umbrella organization, called the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC). This group consists of 100 Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNO's) that represent over 50,000 Denver Citizens. Cory Merrill has nearly 2,200 homes within its boundaries. The mission statement of the INC is as follows: INTER-NEIGHBORHOOD COOPERATION'S MISSION IS TO ADVOCATE FOR DENVER CITIZENS BY BRINGING TOGETHER, INFORMING AND EMPOWERING DENVER NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN ADDRESSING CITY ISSUES. I encourage you and your neighbors to look into the INC and get involved in this worthwhile cause for our community."



Upcoming
Quarterly
Neighborhood
Meetings
To Be Held
at Kirk of
Bonnie Brae,
Corner of
Arizona &
Steele

**ALL
NEIGHBORS
INVITED**

**2014 Meetings
Wednesday
Evenings
6:00 p.m.**

**April 16
July 16
October 15**

KIDS EAT FREE

...or close to free

There are many Denver- area restaurants that offer "KIDS EAT FREE" or for a discount nights! Here is a list of some of the restaurants nearby that offer these deals! We strongly encourage that you call the restaurant ahead of time to confirm that they are still offering the deal!

BeauJo's – Denver
2710 South Colorado Blvd
Phone: 303.758.1519
Day of the week: Monday nights
Details: kids 12 and under eat free;
2 free kids' meals per adult meal purchase.

The Garlic Knot – Denver
2553 S. Colorado Blvd
(720) 542-3528
Day of the week: Mondays
Details: kids 12 and under eat free;
3 kids' meals per 1 adult.

Larkburger – Denver
2730 South Colorado Blvd
Unit 20
Day of the week: Mondays
Details: kids 12 and under eat free;
1 free kids' meal per adult meal purchase.

Mici Handcrafted Italian
Cherry Creek North
3030 E. 2nd Avenue
Phone: 303.322.6424
Day of the week:
Monday nights after 4 PM
Details: 1 free kids' meal
per adult entrée purchase.

Wahoo's Fish Taco – Denver
1233 S. Colorado Blvd
720.974.7470
Day of the week: Thursday nights
Details: kids 12 and under eat free;
2 free kids meals per
adult meal purchase.

Information obtained from
www.denverbargains.com
and personal research.



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22 years experience. \$65/hour . If I can't fix it, you
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Jim Esten:

303-355-3932 - jcesten@gmail.com



TRASH TALK

THE FUTURE OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT is coming to our neighborhood sooner than expected!

Get ready. Our dumpsters are going away! This fall, our neighborhood's trash service will be transitioned from shared dumpsters to individual black trash carts. In an effort to improve trash services across the city, make services equitable, limit trash abuse and increase recycling, each individual household will receive a black trash cart for their personal use. Cory Merrill is part of the first phase in 2014 where about 20,000 homes citywide will be changed to trash cart service.

Some new rules will come with these new trash carts, including an assigned pick-up day, a requirement to keep the trash cart on your property, and an every-three-week overflow service for extra trash that does not fit in the cart.

We will have more details about the change in our next newsletter. The City will be mailing information to homes as the time for transition gets closer, and there will be a series of meetings. The first informational meeting close to our neighborhood will be on April 17, 2014 at the District 3 Police Station, where neighbors can come to learn more and ask questions.



Say "Goodbye" to our Dumpsters!

Take a look at the Solid Waste Master Plan and get regular updates about the transition at www.DenverGov.org/SolidWastePlan or call 311 with questions.



PJ Magin
Karen Staggs
Keller Williams Denver Central
1777 S. Harrison Street #1100
Denver, CO 80210
(303) 921-7944 PJ
(303) 999-9642 Karen



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In past 14 months the 80210 zip code saw 128 sales at \$700,000+; Cory Merrill saw 34 of those sales. Seize the 2014 Denver Seller's Market and buy with still historic low rates!

www.DenverGolfandLuxuryHomes.com

If your home is currently listed with another agency, this invitation is not meant for solicitation. Buyer to verify measurements. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. All offices independently owned and operated.



good FOR 1

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See SOMETHING....

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from Officer Sharon Avendano Denver Police District 3

Cory Merrill Neighborhood Board Members 2013

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Daniel Hillman

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Zoning
George Mayl

Communications
Marti Freeman

Website
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Social Committee
Lisa Straffon

**Neighborhood
Branding**
Mike DiFranco

Newsletter
Mikki Wilder

To reach any of
these individuals,
visit our website
www.corymerrill.org

Mailing address:
CMNA
PO Box 101713
Denver, CO 80210-1713

The safety of our communities is a priority to us. We don't want anyone getting hurt or feeling unsafe or uncomfortable. Please pass this information on to everyone you know, not just our neighborhood associations:

If you see anyone, anything or any vehicle that looks out of place or looks like they're up to no good, call in immediately to the Denver Police non-emergency number, **720-913-2000**.

Trust your instincts. If something doesn't look right or feel right, never hesitate to call for a Police Officer to respond. By waiting, it gives more time for the person or vehicle to leave the area. If you don't call, we don't come.

If you see a crime in progress, **call 911**.

Always try to be a good witness by providing a description of the person, vehicle or object that is suspicious. Clothing type/color, hair type/color, vehicle color/make/model and license plate number, if possible, and direction of travel. Above all, be safe and don't put yourself in harm's way.



How much will you need to retire? Let's talk.



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SPRING PLANTING PARTY AT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING PLACE



SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014

As Cory and Merrill schools break for summer, come visit the wonderful little COURTYARD at Timberleaf Construction, just east of the Louisiana and Clayton intersection. Owner Kevin Molick has offered his courtyard again for a wonderful SPRING planting party...you bring the plants and your shovels, we'll bring iced tea and lemonade. Before then, feel free to sit down and enjoy! Throughout the year we will continue to try and line up a wide variety of "GATHERINGS" to take place at this wonderful spot.

REAL ESTATE UPDATE: DENVER IN SELLER'S MARKET; LUXURY SALES UP

On February 11th Denver MetroList, Inc. reported that Metro Denver home prices were steady, signaling a strong 2014 for area real estate. The average sold home price for new and existing homes in January was \$302,251, which is down 3% compared to December 2013 but up 10% over the past 12 months. Active listings increased 5% month over month and 7% over the past year, but available inventory remains tight. Megan Aller of LandTitle said that, due to low inventory, sellers have a 65% greater chance of selling their home for asking price and selling it more quickly than has been the case in previous years.

The number of single-family detached homes is equally strong. The average price of the 1,901 homes sold in January was \$331,198. Kirby Slunaker, the CEO and President of MetroList, Inc. has said "We'd advise any consumers who are planning on entering the market for a new home later this year to start looking early". In the six months since September of last year, Cory Merrill has seen 58 houses sold, averaging 9 houses sold every month. The average net and median sold price is \$505,000. In both averages, sellers are getting 97.1% of their asking price. The average price per square foot is \$247.

As of February 27th, there were 16 active Cory Merrill properties on the market, with an average list price of \$566,800 and the median list price is \$565,000. The price is \$241 per square foot. Home prices up to \$450k have an average of 28 days on market, and those over \$450k have an average of 81 days on market. As of this article, there are currently 12 homes under contract in Cory Merrill.

Low inventory is also driving up the Denver luxury market. Cory Merrill has seen exceptional activity in this area with 5 homes with a price tag of \$1,000,000 and higher currently on the market, 2 homes under contract at \$935k+, and 5 homes sold in the past 6 months at \$1,000,000+, with the highest at \$1,320,000. Given that it still costs more to build a luxury home than to buy an existing one, luxury owners who are considering selling are primed to make a nice margin on their property during the impending spring/summer selling season.

Due to the low inventory in Denver, the market is weighted toward sellers, and due to interest rates remaining below 5% it remains cheaper for buyers to purchase a home than to rent.

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With Trader Joe's opening recently, a Denver Post writer compiled the attached "shopping snapshot". They visited four local grocers and the bustling Trader Joe's at their opening to compare prices on kitchen staples. They chose store brands in seven categories for a snapshot of how much a consumer would spend in each store.

No matter where you do your shopping, you'll find our neighborhood, right here in the heart of Denver, has the BEST selection!

The following are candid comments from neighbors...and everyone seems to agree, we're fortunate to have all of these great grocery, market and organic options available.

"I think that we are lucky to live around so many different stores that offer such different products and offer so many choices. If you are looking for organic, hormone-free meat, then Whole Foods is a great choice. If you are looking for organic fruits or vegetables, Whole Foods, Sprouts, and Natural Grocers are a good choice. If you want pasta, sauces, soups, then King Soopers or Safeway are a great choice. I think that most of these stores try to focus on buying more products from the US, and from Colorado.

Personally, I shop for most of my meat at Whole Foods, but pretty much everything else I shop at King Soopers because I know many of the clerks and because I know exactly where to find everything I need. They have at least a small section of organic produce and so most of what I need I find there. I like knowing the clerks; it makes my shopping experience more enjoyable."

A shopping snapshot

PRODUCT	King Soopers	Safeway	Sprouts	Whole Foods	Trader Joe's
Eggs Free range, dozen large	\$2.99	\$3.99	\$3.69	\$2.99	\$2.99
Milk 1%, 1 gallon	3.49	3.39	3.29	3.49	3.19
Ground beef 1 pound	3.99	3.99	4.69	4.99	3.99
Bananas 1 pound	.59	.59	.59	.59	.76
Pizza Frozen, cheese	3.49	3.99	4.99	3.99	3.99
Bread Whole wheat, 1 loaf	2.49	2.39	3.79	3.99	1.99
Sliced turkey, 1/2 pound	2.67	3.28	6.84	4.56	3.42
TOTAL	\$19.71	\$21.62	\$27.88	\$24.60	\$20.33

Kate Gibbons: 303-954-1016, kgibbons@denverpost.com or twitter/ByKateGibbons

STREET SWEEPING STARTS IN APRIL

Learn which days on your block and avoid parking tickets!!!



No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

9:00 Contemporary Celebration
10:45 Traditional Worship

(Church of the Beautiful Hill)



1699 S. Colorado Blvd. 720.420.0535
Monday-Saturday 11am - 9pm | Sunday 10am - 3pm

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XERISCAPE - WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING

REMODEL YOUR YARD

It could be a lot more interesting than grass alone. It could have decks, walkways and colorful drought-resistant flowers. And it could use less water.

Xeriscape, or water-wise landscaping, uses low-water-use plants to create a landscape that's sustainable in Colorado's semi-arid climate. Denver Water coined the word in 1981 to help make low-water-use landscaping an easily recognized concept. Xeriscape is a combination of the word "landscape" and the Greek word "xeros," which means dry.

If designed properly, Xeriscape can be lush, colorful and easy to care for. The Xeriscape concept is based on seven principles: planning and designing, limiting turf areas, selecting and zoning plants appropriately, improving the soil, using mulch, irrigating efficiently and maintaining the landscape.

View Denver Water's Xeriscape demonstration garden at Denver Water's administration building, 1600 West 12th Ave. The gardens are open 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Denver Water also has a Xeriscape demonstration garden at Stapleton's Central Park. Parking is available next to the garden at 33rd Avenue and Alton Court.

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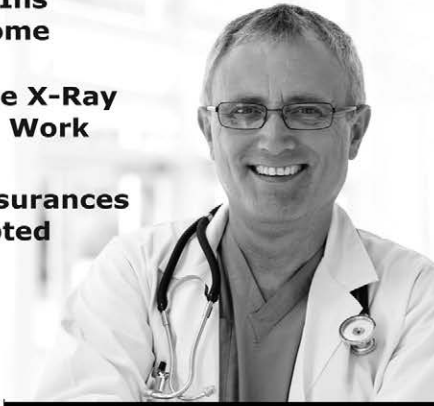
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*Help support our neighborhood. A donation can be made payable to the Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association PO Box 101713, Denver, CO 80210-1713
Your dues will assist us in continuing to print this newsletter four times a year to distribute to every Cory Merrill home, maintain our website,
continue helping us to promote neighborhood events and keep all neighbors informed. Thank you in advance for your support!*

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MERRILL TO OFFER LONGBOARDING CLASSES

9

The Spring launch of Merrill's Longboarding Class will run 5 days a week, for 45 minutes a day, for 12 weeks. The class will be limited to 25 students who were selected based on a lottery. This is a fundraiser for the school. The course will incorporate the following elements:

- *Longboarding for Peace messages developed by Michael Brooke with Concrete Wave Magazine (Balance on the longboard = Balance in life). Literacy-driven personal reflection and problem-solving lessons led by one of our language arts teachers.*
- *Longboarding as a fun, recreational fitness (developing core strength) option and mode of transportation;*
- *Safety, safe riding instruction, board building, components and maintenance, balance and core exercises, etc.;*
- *Board Design, Engineering behind how boards are made, field trip to KOTA Longboards to see boards made.*
- *The class will be taught by a Merrill Middle School teacher with longboarding experience.*



For info visit <http://merrill.dpsk12.org/custom-merrill-longboards>

PROTECTING YOUR HOME FROM THEFT

An excerpt from Quizzlewire, September 2010, Ann-Marie Murphy

It's not just about the money for many families. Thieves often take sentimental items and other things that can't be replaced. And with identity theft now the fastest growing crime in the United States, burglars are now after your personal information and financial records as well as other items.

There are measures you can take to protect your home and family, many of which are easy and free. Secure your home by means of these 8 simple tips:

- 1. Look into getting a home security system.**
- 2. Secure your windows & garage door access.**
- 3. Shed some light on entry and access ways.**
- 4. Maintain your yard...avoid hiding places.**
- 5. Protect your valuables (get a floor safe).**
- 6. Make your home look "lived in."**
- 7. Keep a detailed inventory of valuables in your home.**
- 8. Pretend to be a burglar...see what they see!**

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL...

The Denver South PTSA kicked off their "I Am Denver South" direct donation campaign on January 13th by motivating students, parents, and their principal, Dr. Kristin Waters, to give back to the neighboring community by cleaning up Washington Park.

The goal of the I Am Denver South campaign is to raise \$10,000 by mid-March. These funds will be put directly back into the school system through a variety of programs.

Should the Denver South PTSA achieve its goal, not only will the school benefit directly but **Dr. Waters, the principal of Denver South High School, will run the track in her infamous high heels under the watchful eye of her students.**

What a way to show your students that a goal achieved is not only something to be shared but something to be celebrated!

Carolyn Howard, PTSA parent says, "Ultimately our goal with this campaign is to enhance the enrichment opportunities offered at Denver South High School. Whether we show kids that cleaning up the park can build community partnership, giving money to South can encourage program and student creativity, or that the school leader is willing to put her "heels" behind her students and their growth, the overall message is clear: investment in our community is important. Our kids are learning that to build opportunity, you have to be willing to roll up your sleeves and take care of what is around you."

By considering community first in this campaign, The Denver South PTSA hopes that the community will in turn consider the importance of investing in our kids. Be a part of it. Ask what we're doing next!



Dr. Waters, Principal

Holy Trinity Center under construction

Last month, the Archdiocese of Denver commenced work on the Holy Trinity Center on the John Paul II Center for the New Evangelization campus, located at the intersection of Louisiana and South Steele streets.



The Center combines the archbishop's current residence with an addition that will feature a meeting room with a separate entrance, reception space for up to 150 guests on the main level, including a kitchen, library, chapel and terrace. The lower level will include storage space, as well as electrical and mechanical rooms.

The upper level will include an apartment for the archbishop, as well as two other apartments for priests, and two guest rooms for visitors to the seminary and archdiocese.

Adam Hermanson, of the Henderson-based Integration Design Group, is providing architectural design and oversight services for the Holy Trinity Center, while Haselden Construction is serving as the general contractor.

The architectural plans reveal a design symbolizing the Holy Trinity, said Hermanson. "This motif of Trinity logic appears in all the center details."

Three arches above the main center entrance facing southward reflect the Trinity. The windows and doors to the chapel also have a three-part scheme, he said. The aesthetics will also echo other buildings on campus made with brick and red-tiled roofs.

Construction is anticipated to be finished by early 2015.

Thanks George... and GOOD LUCK!

George Mayl has been a long-time supporter of CMNA and has assisted many neighbors with their zoning questions and concerns. He is stepping away from zoning to address an increasing problem in Denver, the over-utilization of our parks and streets for ever-increasing events. He offers the following information: "For the past three months I have been on the City's Special Events and Permit-ting (SEAP) committee. The committee is made up of department heads of the Parks and Recs, event coordinators and appointed Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) members. The city has gone from a few hundred events per year to well over 600 in 2013. This causes a huge strain on city resources (which your tax dollars support). There was no clear vision or track record to determine if the city was recouping these expenses. Huge events not only cost the city dollars but put a burden on the populace, i.e., noise, parking, trash and traffic to name just a few.

Here in Cory Merrill we are insulated somewhat from the problems of a City Park or Washington Park, but none-the-less, it is still our problem. How many times has your travel around the city been delayed/waylaid by a road closure for a race? How many times have you wanted to use a park only to find an outside event has taken over? Think of the people who live around parks that constantly have outside venues and how the quality of their lives is impacted.

Our mayor has come under a lot of scrutiny due to his stance on Hentzell Park. There are rumblings that Veterans Park may be in the crosshairs also. I believe that, first and foremost, the parks belong to us, the citizens. We are entrusted with their wellbeing for our generation and those that follow. Some say that you cannot put a price on our parks. I say you can: \$48,000,000, give or take, from a recent survey.

We have a voice. If any of you experience any problems concerning your parks, contact: www.denvergov.org/parksandrecreation and Charlie.brown@denvergov.org and let your concerns be known. Let's keep our parks fresh and vibrant for our citizenry for decades to come. It is a legacy that we just can't have taken away from us. There are some very worthy events that take place in our parks, but just like people who use them, parks need rest to restore them. Scheduling ever-increasing events just to make money at the expense of the parks and citizens is just not right."

It's been a pleasure assisting all of you with your zoning & neighborhood needs.

George



DOORS
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Doors Open Denver
April 12 & 13, 2014

Doors Open Denver is a
**FREE 2-day event celebrating
architecture and design.**

Doors Open Denver is an annual celebration of Denver's built environment and design.

The two-day event allows residents and visitors to tour the spectacular buildings they see every day but may never have entered. It allows the public to truly experience and develop a new appreciation for their home town and the facilities that comprise Denver's rich architectural landscape. It also helps build a sense of community by opening up the doors of Denver to everyone. This year's theme is "**Celebrating Neighborhood Architecture.**"

<http://www.doorsopendenver.com>



Daylilies are rugged, adaptable, vigorous perennials that endure in a garden for many years with little or no care. Daylilies adapt to a wide range of soil and light conditions. They establish quickly, grow vigorously, and survive winters with little or no injury.

Plant strawberries as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring, usually in March or April. This will allow the plants to become well established before the hot weather arrives. Do not work the soil if it is wet. Wait a few days until it dries.





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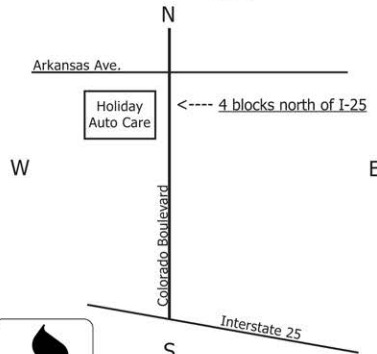
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