

Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Winter 2016

THANK YOU ALL FOR A GREAT HOLIDAY EVENT!

Cory Merrill residents showed up in a BIG way to celebrate the holiday season together and to support No Kid Hungry, Colorado. On December 8th, neighbors gathered at Louisiana and Clayton for CMNA's annual holiday event. Hot Chocolate, tree trimming and holiday treats were provided by CMNA. Cory's 2nd Annual Lights of Love luminary was also held the same night this year. The luminary fundraiser, coordinated by Holly Carpenter ~ LIV Sotheby's Realty, raised enough money to fund 600 meals for hunger-challenged families in Denver! Participants made donations and lined their front walks with luminary bags at sunset. A hayride was also enjoyed this year in support of No Kid Hungry! If you didn't participate this year, don't miss out in 2016!



Next Neighborhood Quarterly Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016
6:00PM - 7:30PM**

**Kirk of Bonnie Brae Church
1201 S. Steele Street**

Topics TBD: Look for an association email and posts on Nextdoor and Facebook for an update.

Onsite Babysitting Available - Reserve at CMNA@CoryMerrill.org

Caroling All the Way!

By: Neighbor, Erlen Marsh

I have been in many theatrical productions and choral groups and while exhilarating and entertaining, nothing has proved to be as inspirational as gathering a caroling group together for the holidays this year.

I wanted to carol in the neighborhood for some time and nothing prepared me for such an outpouring of interest! Over 25 people responded to the request for carolers through Nextdoor.com! With never having organized something like this before, it was great discovering people were as enthusiastic as I was!

We caroled Dec. 21st and 23rd, for 2 hours each night, stopping at around 15 houses each evening! People were so surprised to see us on their front porch belting out a familiar holiday tune! We even took requests. Too bad we didn't have more time (and that it wasn't a little bit warmer) to stop at a few more homes.

One neighbor was moved to tears with Silent Night! Another family had their fire pit all aglow with a Southern homemade feast to warm us up! We ended that evening singing carols in their living room and everybody joined in! What a memorable event! Maybe a yearly tradition? Care to join in on the fun?



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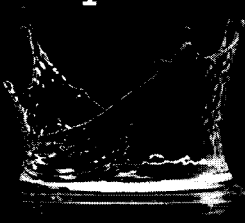
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CORY MERRILL HOME SURVEY BY: NEIGHBOR, SCOTT TAKEDA

I've conducted another annual survey of Cory Merrill to count the existing two-story houses along with the scrapes and pops. This has been an ongoing project since 2007. Back then, I was on the board and wanted to provide some metrics so the board could discuss the changes the neighborhood was experiencing. Since then, I've continued my survey just to track the changes.

Here are the 2015 highlights:

- As of December 11th 2015, 641 out of 2042 Cory Merrill houses are either pre-existing two-story houses, pops or scrapes.
- That's an increase of 27 since my last survey in December 2014. The previous four years averaged 22.5 homes/year.
- 31.39% of Cory Merrill homes are now pre-existing two-story houses, pops or scrapes.
- In 2007, 21.7 homes fit this description.

Other observations:

- All-in-all, redevelopment in 2015 was a consistent with previous years since 2010, with a slight increase in homes over the average.
- In the the 2007-2010 surveys, the greatest areas of change were the 1200-1400 blocks of Milwaukee, Fillmore, and Clayton. In 2015, that area was stable, with no changes.
- In 2015, redevelopment on the west side of Cory Merrill (west of Steele) was concentrated in the 1500-1700 blocks.
- On the east side, 2015 redevelopment remained consistent with previous years, with the concentration redeveloped homes on Garfield, Monroe, and Madison.
- Cory Merrill is approaching the 1/3 mark of houses that are pre-existing two-story, pops, or scrapes. The neighborhood will reach that mark with 33 additional pops or scrapes. If trends stay the same, that will happen in 2017.
- In the upcoming year or two, the east side of the neighborhood will reach the 1/5 mark with 4 additional scrapes and pops.

Supporting data can be found on CMNA's website-
corymerrill.org

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A big Thank You to Jessica and Daniel Hillman who have been serving as co-vice presidents on the Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association Board for the last two and half years. They have helped us with newsletter delivery coordination, newsletter deliveries, neighborhood events, and building our sense of community in this neighborhood. We will miss them (and their sweet son, Porter!) in our neighborhood and on our association board.

The Vice President position on the Cory Merrill board is now vacant. If you are interested in joining our team, please email CMNA@CoryMerrill.org.

Greetings Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association,



We wanted to share a bit of good news. We have experienced a significant reduction in property crimes over the last 28 days, specifically Auto Theft and Theft from Motor Vehicles. This is due to our successful partnership with our neighbors and cohorts in the community especially when you folks notify police dispatch of suspicious individuals or activity. This strategy along with our thorough review of crime patterns has allowed us to effectively focus our police officers in certain areas providing the reduction. Although we are pleased with this success, we continue to review, revise, and think outside the box for long term solutions such as the latest video "Tips from Thief" <https://www.facebook.com/denverpolice/?fref=photo> developed by CRO Mike Borquez.

The Denver Police Department would like to remind everyone of the basic crime prevention tips:
Lighting and Electronic Timers

- Use electric timers inside your home to turn on lights, T.V. or radios during your absence.
- Motion detector lights are very effective in deterring crime.
- Dusk to dawn lighting is a strong deterrent against criminal activity, and it constantly lights up your entry doors and possible obstacles that would otherwise be unseen.
- Landscape lighting is low voltage lighting that can highlight your property line
- Interior lighting using light timers makes a home look occupied.

Vehicle safety and security

- Keep your vehicle locked up (even when parked in front of your home).
- Don't leave anything of value in the vehicle; take them with you or lock in the trunk. Keep your house key and vehicle key separate.
- Remove your garage door opener from your vehicle when parked in your driveway or street.
- Always keep a copy of your vehicle registration, license number and VIN on you.
- Do not warm up your vehicle in the morning without you being in it.
- Park your vehicle in areas that are highly visible and well lit.
- Never hide a second set of keys inside your vehicle.

Going out of town or on vacation

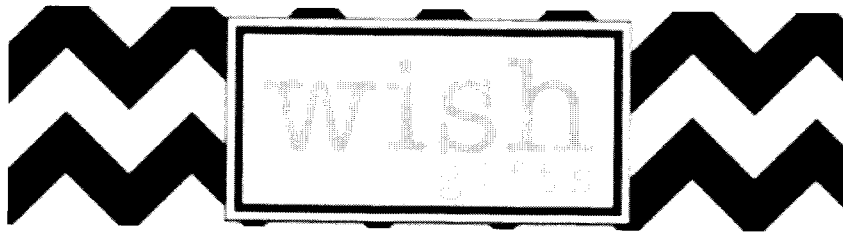
- Do not leave messages indicating that you are out of town on your mailbox or phone.
- Suspend paper and mail deliveries when going out of town; or have a friend or neighbor pick up newspapers, mail, and flyers from your yard or door.
- Call your District Police Station to place your house on vacation watch.
- Notify your neighbors of your absence so they can lend a watchful eye.

Package Delivery

- Have your packages delivered to a UPS / FED EX drop off location and pick it up later.
- Ask a neighbor to secure your package until you can retrieve it.

Witnessing any Suspicious Individuals or Activity call 720-913-2000 or 911.

On behalf of the Denver Police Department, we wish you a safe and Happy New Year.



wish gifts is an independent, well-traveled gift shop owned by Denver (Bonnie Brae) native Lisa Figlino, who continues to reside in the neighborhood. On October 1st, 2012, wish gifts officially opened its doors on Old South Gaylord Street, just a few steps away from our sister store, wish boutique (formerly Pine Creek Clothing CO). After almost three years, we realized wish gifts needed a bigger home and we found the perfect one a few blocks away at 750 S. University Blvd. Lisa grew up on the pizza, ice cream & library books that surround this new location! **wish gifts** offers gifts that get noticed. Ones you will feel good about giving. Thoughtful, funny and chic gifts for your best girlfriends throughout all stages of life. Unique collections for your home, beautiful accessories and handbags - even a few gifts for the guys in your life. Lisa hand-selects every piece of wish gifts with the hope that your gifts will be cherished and remembered. **wish gifts** is for our young friends too. Lisa's younger sister Angie, mother to three young children, helped cultivate a kid-welcoming atmosphere and designed the baby/kid section from a truly kid-tested, mom-recommended and Mother Earth-approved approach. **wish gifts** has gifts for expecting parents and for sweet newborns to keep them cozy and feeling loved. Gifts that spark creativity and curiosity for young kids and even fashionable attire. Good for the Earth and community-minded, wish gifts are filled with heart, humor and originality. Our new home on University offers a few extra amenities. Just off our parking lot, on the east side, our wish room is open for wishes. The sole purpose of this adorable space is to share wishes on our "I wish" wall. From sweet kids' wishes for ponies to some of the more hilarious and heartfelt adult wishes, we love this personal addition to wish gifts.

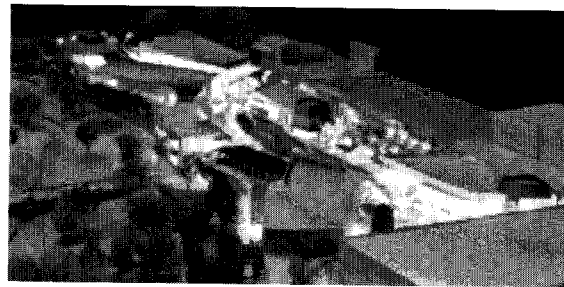
wish gifts

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Glendale advances 18-acre entertainment hub despite excessive nuisances

The City of Glendale is moving forward on the development of an 18-acre dining and entertainment district situated along the historic Cherry Creek. Glendale 180 is poised to be a sought-out social hub offering something for everyone.

Amid widespread enthusiasm, one loud dissenting voice remains. You've no doubt read about the dramatized woes of the controversial Kholghy family, who have resorted to litigation and a massive PR campaign based mostly on erroneous information. Here are the facts: the City made a fair-market offer of \$11 million to acquire the Kholghy's blighted land, for which the Kholghys originally paid \$6.5 million in 2006. The Kholghys unreasonably demanded \$20 million and so rejected the offer. The City then honored the Kholghys request to redraw plans for Glendale 180, thereby removing their property from the project. Although the Kholghys are now free to redevelop or sell their land, they continue to try to extort more money from the City and thwart the project by filing frivolous lawsuits. Two of the three suits have been dismissed in court and we anticipate the same outcome for the subsequent claims. As a fiscally-responsible Mayor, it troubles me that Glendale tax payers are forced to subsidize legal battles that have no grounds. We work tirelessly to run an efficient government, maximizing taxpayer dollars and saving them money. In fact, this month we refinanced our bonds for Infinity Park, which will save the tax payers \$2 million over the next 10 years. Despite these unjustified legal onslaughts by the Kholghys we're charging ahead on Glendale 180 because we know it will be good for the City, and even better for our local businesses, residents and surrounding neighbors. Thank you for your continued support. I'd like to invite you to participate in a short survey to share your thoughts.



Share your thoughts: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2FH55P3>

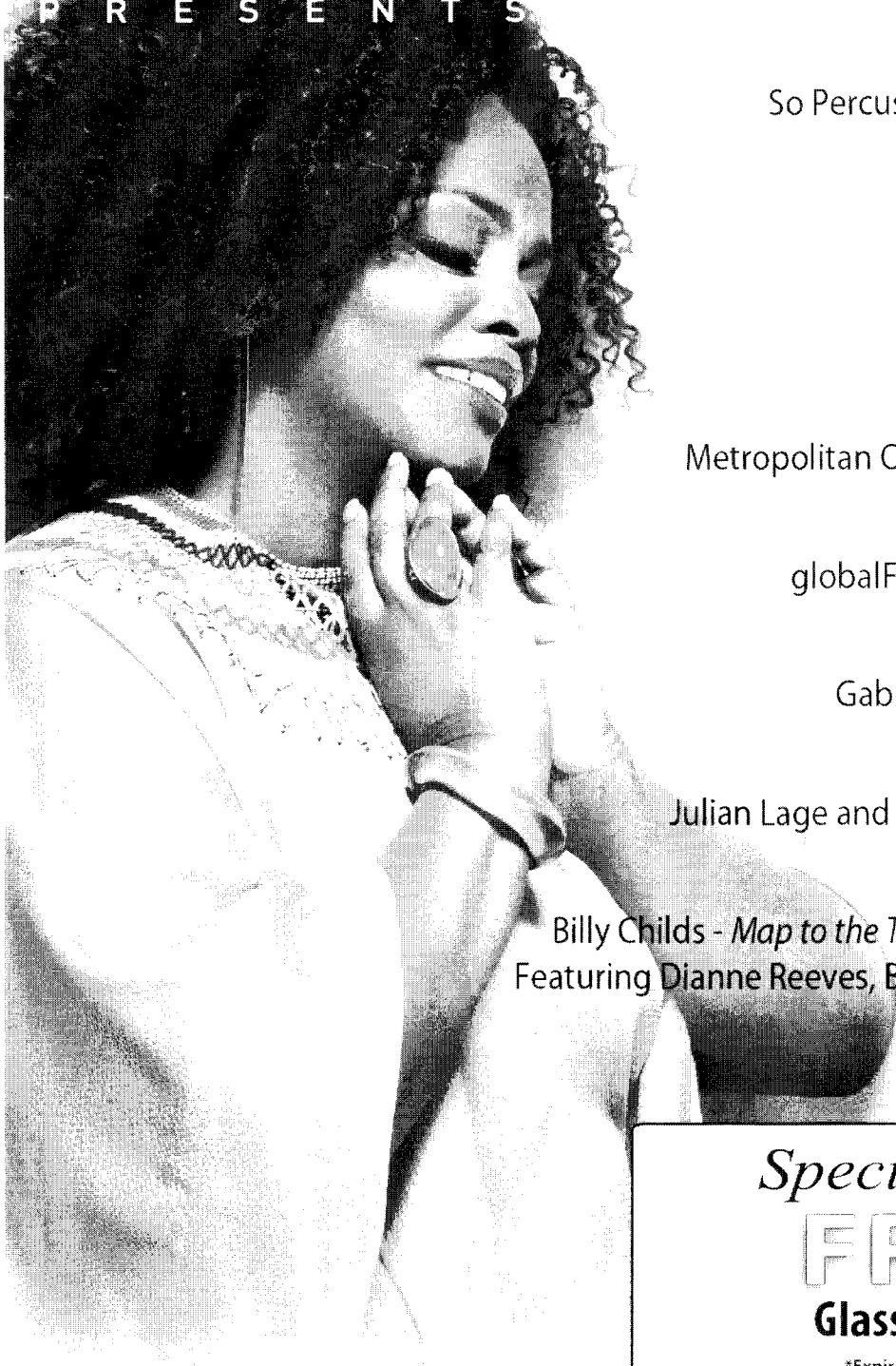
Follow the progress: [Facebook.com/Glendale180](https://www.facebook.com/Glendale180)

Learn about the project: Glendale180.com

- Mike Dunafon, Mayor, City of Glendale

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FEB 20/21

Colorado Symphony
FEB 25

Metropolitan Opera Rising Stars Concert Series
MAR 5

globalFEST On the Road *Creole Carnival*
MAR 29

Gabriel Kahane and Timothy Andres
APR 2/3

Julian Lage and Chris Eldridge, Guitarists *Avalon*
APR 21

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Greetings from City Council by Paul Kashmann, City Councilman - District 6

Greetings, and Happy New Year to all the good denizens of the Cory Merrill community.

Please be on the lookout for information regarding an historic confluence of planning initiatives that will unfold in the coming months.

- **Blueprint Denver.** Crafted in 2002, Blueprint Denver is our leading land use and transportation document that divides the city into Areas of Stability and Areas of Change. Blueprint suggests that future development be guided to Areas of Change with real attention be paid to preserving the quality of life in Areas of Stability. The rewrite of this plan will have major influence on guiding Denver's future development.
- **Denver Moves – Pedestrian and Trails Plan:** this is a joint effort between Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR) and Denver Public Works (DPW) to update the 2004 Pedestrian Master Plan which also had a trails component. The goal will be to assess overall pedestrian policy and infrastructure needs and develop a plan that moves us towards an implementation approach similar to the existing Denver Moves Bikes plan with phases, priorities, estimated funding needs etc.
- **Denver Moves – Transit Plan:** The goal will be to assess overall transportation demand and economic development potential on city corridors and the role that transit could play as well as how we might prioritize corridors for additional analysis and implementation.
- **Denver Parks and Recreation** will update its primary guiding document – The Game Plan – that serves as the master plan for the future of our parks and recreation programming.

All of the above efforts will have opportunity for public input. My office will pass on any information sent our way, but be sure to keep in touch with your neighborhood association, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation and your local newspapers for the latest on what's happening in these regards.

In addition to these major planning efforts, Denver's Department of Community Planning and Development is in the process of prioritizing Denver's statistical neighborhoods to establish a timeline for creating small area plans that are essential to maintaining the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

City Council continues to pay ongoing attention to the need for more affordable housing at all price levels in Denver. As we assess new developments, we are looking to maximize the number of reasonably priced units that can be added to Denver's real estate options. Council is also taking a renewed look at how we can move the needle forward on efforts to raise up our homeless residents. An ever-increasing percentage of our homeless are employed, but not making enough to make ends meet. About 2,500 students in

Denver Public Schools are living in disruptive situations from bunking with relatives to living in cars, shelters, etc. Last year over 125 people died on the streets in Denver. We can and must do better.

I continue to hold office hours every Thursday, 8-10a.m., at Pete' University Café, 2345 E. Evans Ave., at S. University Blvd. Stop by and say "Hi!" if you get the time.

Please contact my office with any concerns or questions at any time: 720-337-6666 or paul.kashmann@denvergov.org.

DON'T FORGET DENVER RESTAURANT WEEK!



**FEBRUARY 26TH
- MARCH 6TH**

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CORY MERRILL REAL ESTATE - 2015 Year-end

By Holly Carpenter, Broker Associate
LIV Sotheby's International Realty

Hello neighbors!

A few notes about the data below. The average price of Cory Merrill homes sold in 2015 jumped 49.3% year over year. Wow! (Mostly due to the large, new construction homes sold.) Average days on market was 42. That number was also impacted by new construction homes that sold for \$1 million and above. Cory Merrill homes priced under \$1 million sold in 35 days on average and 37% of those homes sold within 5 days!

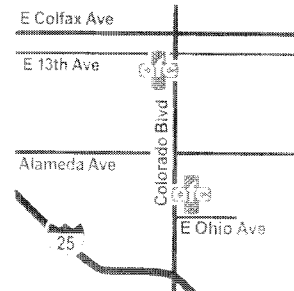
According to REcolorado, Colorado's largest MLS, the housing market in the Denver metro and surrounding area experienced typical fourth quarter softening. Inventory levels remained up as compared to last year, with average sales prices remaining steady. Additionally, Freddie Mac's mortgage rate report at the end of December said the the Fed's 0.25% Funds Rate hike is having a limited impact on mortgage interest rates thus far.

If you're considering a move and are curious about your home's worth and/or buying power, please don't hesitate to contact me with questions. 303-589-7449, holly.carpenter@sothebysrealty.com

CORY MERRILL MARKET REPORT ~ January through December 2015

Jan - Dec	2014	2015	% Change
Average Price	\$653,304	\$974,431	49.3%
Average Price per Square Foot	\$349	\$385	10.3%
Average Days on Market	45	42	-6.7%
Properties Sold	123	126	2.4%
% Sold Price to List Price	96.5%	95.4%	-1.1%

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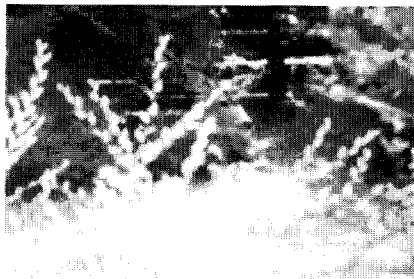
DEER FRIEND

BY James Jacob

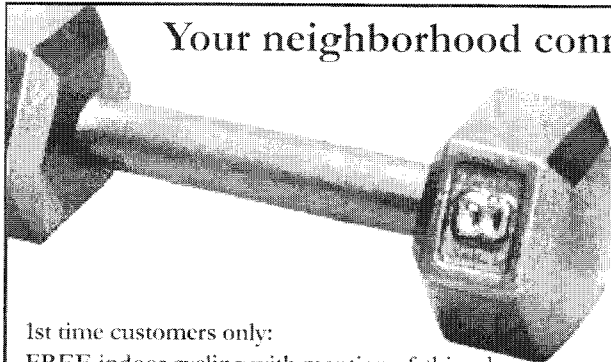
A deer showed up in the back yard after lunch on November 6th. I live on a large lot on South Fillmore and East Mexico and the deer was able to get in a back section of the yard easily. I was able to take many pictures of the deer from inside the house as he sat between various spruce trees in the yard. I went out the next day to look for him but could not find him.

On Nextdoor Cory-Merrill, I noticed an item referencing a deer seen on South Fillmore. My neighbors had seen him on the street. I went back to the yard and discovered him between two trees. He stayed there all afternoon and I brought him some water in a large bucket. He ate leaves from some of the trees. I didn't know how long he would stay in the now "Deer Hotel," as it was relatively secluded and safe. However, later that second evening, I noticed on another Nextdoor Cory-Merrill email that someone had spotted him heading east on Mexico at Madison. So off to the Ellis or Cook Park neighborhood?

This is the second time we have seen a deer in the back yard in the past decade. As deer are not protected, it is hoped that they are able to find a way back to the mountains or plains, via Cherry Creek or the Platte or west to the foothills. At any rate, it was terrific to have a "deer friend" spend part of a weekend in south Denver enjoying an urban respite and a lesson that we are all part of this wonderful natural world.



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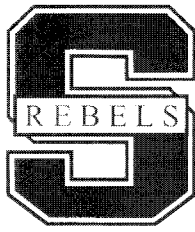
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God is still speaking.

Never place a period where God has placed a comma



South High News

With the departure of Dr. Kristin Waters at the end of first semester, South staff and students keep marching forward with the anticipation of a new leader in the fall of 2016-2017. We will have an interim principal to help support our current South administrative staff in carrying forward the great South tradition of academic excellence and inclusion! Our South staff and students keep shining! Our Math Department continues to excel as they build creative avenues for students incredible knowledge and ideas. One group of students has been working to create their own roller coasters from a minimum of five functions that are continuous and differentiable. Our Student Senate won first place in the Challenge 5280. Our JROTC students were selected to march in the Veteran's parade on November 8th and several of our students were selected to participate in the 84th annual City Wide Honor Choir. If you would like to see and hear more of our South students' talents, please visit our art shows/performances in December.

Our staff also excels! Our faculty and staff continue to receive outstanding recognition for their achievements. This year's TEACHER LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD went to our own Annick Chen (Chinese & French Teacher). Because of her high level of involvement from the school to the nation, we are very excited that she will represent Colorado with this honor. Another French teacher, Nicole Weaver, is an award-winning children's picture author. Our Science and English courses infuse technology into the classroom. Our students use ipads for course instruction and our video production program has been noted as one of the best in Denver Public Schools!

South also loves community. We have over 30 community partnerships that come along South in supporting our staff and students. One of our community partners, Whole Foods Wash Park, is helping to support South through their bag donation program. Bring your reusable bag to Whole Foods/Wash Park and mention South when you check out. In return, Whole Foods will donate ten cents back to South for each reusable bag you bring in (or purchase one at Whole Foods). Thanks for supporting South High School and our community partner, Whole Foods/Wash Park. All proceeds will go to support our food bank for friends and families at South. If you or your organization would like to consider a partnership, please contact Karen Duell, Community Liaison, at South. It's a great way to make a difference in the lives of students while supporting our staff and engaging with Wash Park neighborhood schools!

To find out more about the great Rebel happenings, log onto our Facebook and Twitter accounts. It's a great way to stay connected to the neighborhood and your school! Do you want to know more about South? Give us a call and we can set up a visit. We'd love to meet you.



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Divest DU is a student group at the University of Denver committed to combating climate change and fighting for climate

justice. It was formed in January of 2014 by a group of passionate students concerned about the future of the world's climate system, and has since grown into a movement across campus and the community. In short, we believe that climate change is real, it is caused by the combustion of fossil fuels, and that it is unethical for the University of Denver to profit from climate destruction by investing in the fossil fuel industry. As such, Divest DU is committed to urging the University of Denver to reconcile its investment practices with a socially responsible endowment, and live up to its vision of being a "Great private University dedicated to the public good." Divest DU has two asks from the University: First, we ask that that DU immediately freeze any new investment in fossil-fuel companies. Second, we ask that the University of Denver divest from direct and indirect ownership of fossil fuel stocks, public equities, and corporate bonds over five years and encourage the University to reinvest in renewable energies.

Divest DU needs your support to show the administration that the community cares about the role DU plays in facilitating and promulgating climate change. We hope to gather hundreds of signatures from our community on our petition to demonstrate to the administration that our community cares about the environment and wants to hold DU accountable for being a socially responsible institution and divest from fossil fuels. Please take 30 seconds to fill out the quick petition: <https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/university-of-denver>. If you have further questions, please visit us at divestDU.org - we'd love to hear from you!

Thank you for supporting the rights of future generations to live on a safe and hospitable planet, and adding your voice to urge the University of Denver to do its part in combatting climate change! Together, We Will Make A Difference.

-Divest DU

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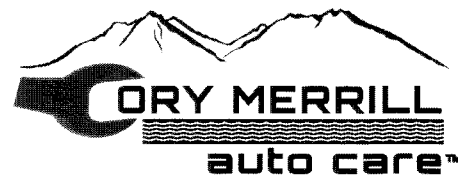
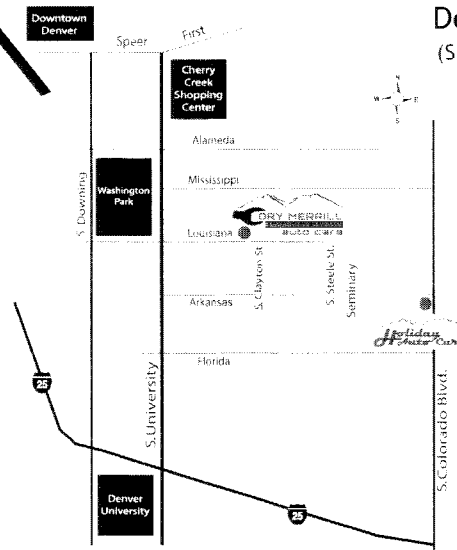
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