

cory merrill neighborhood

Cory Merrill Neighborhood Newsletter

SPRING 2011

General Meeting: Wednesday May 18th

Get the latest Cory Merrill news at our 2011 general meeting on Wednesday May 18th. This is your chance to make your voice heard and even run for the board of the Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association. As always, Councilman Charlie Brown will be there with his free tomato plants. Bring a small container if you want to take a plant home.

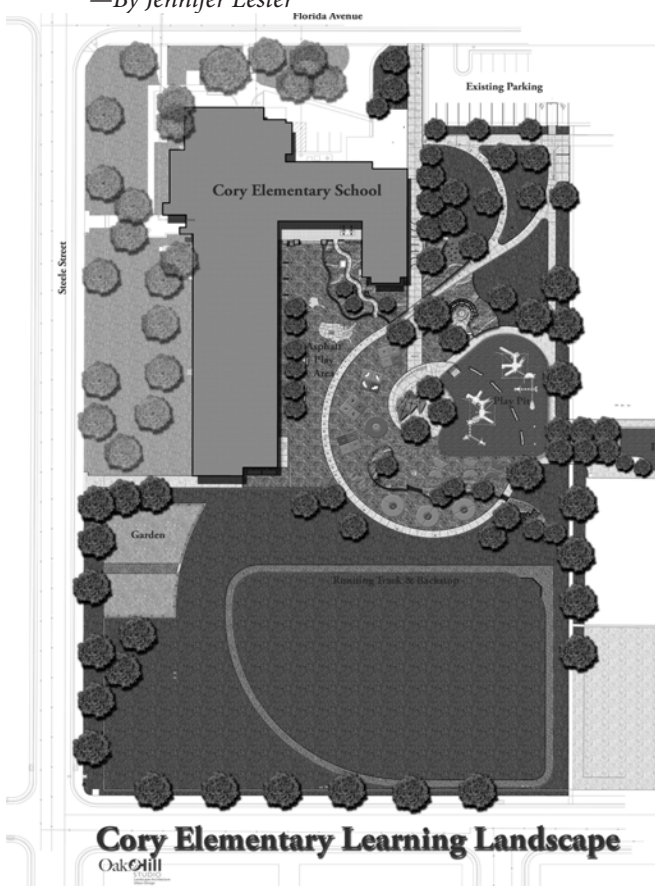
WHO: Open to all Cory Merrill residents

WHEN: Wednesday May 18th at 7pm

WHERE: Kirk of Bonnie Brae Church,
1201 South Steele Street (Steele and
Arizona)

Cory Elementary Playground Renovation

—By Jennifer Lester



The Cory Elementary playground will close on Thursday, May 5th for renovation. Officials hope to complete the construction phase by the start of the school year on Thursday August 18th. Crews will place a construction fence around the playground during the renovation.

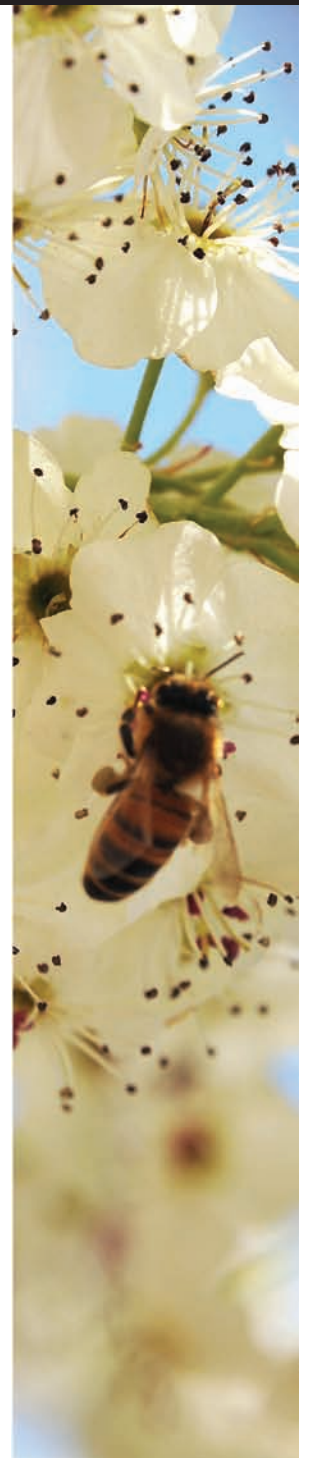
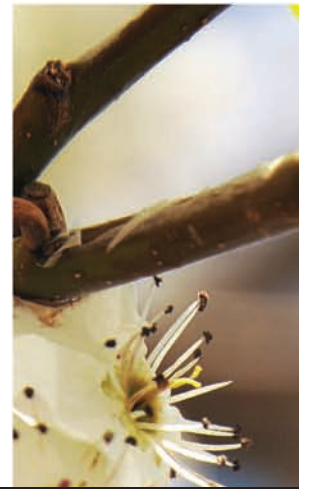
"I know this will put a damper on a lot of summer play, however it's going to be worth the wait," said Cory Elementary Principal Julia Shepherd. "The new playground we are building is going to be very special. And the soccer fields and tennis courts will still be open."

Join the Celebration!

Cory Groundbreaking: May 3rd at 2:30pm
includes children's performance

CCE Groundbreaking: May 4th at 9:30am

>> continued on page 2



>> Cory Playground continued

The construction is part of a Denver Public School General Obligation Bond to build a "Learning Landscape" playground at every elementary school. These playgrounds are unique because they serve the school and the surrounding neighborhoods.

"The program does that by designing a multi-purpose playground that combines elements of a public park, an outdoor academic setting, and a social gathering place," said program executive director Lois A. Brink, MLA. "Over the years, it's been very rewarding to see how these playgrounds have helped reconnect communities with neighborhood schools."



To date, the program has transformed 81 elementary school playgrounds. Cory's playground is one of 11 that will be built throughout Denver this summer.

The theme for the Cory landscape is "Learning and Laughter" – Cory's Creed. It will include:

- The addition of natural and sculptural elements.
- Artwork from Cory students.
- The addition of interactive play areas to encourage learning through creative play.



Oak Hill STUDIO
Landscape Architecture
Urban Design

Primary Play Area Equipment

Neighborhood Briefs

—By Jennifer Lester and Jo Martin

Cory Elementary Ranked a Top 10 School

Cory Elementary was rated "distinguished" in the recent Denver Public Schools School performance Framework (SPF) ratings and was also in the top 10 schools in the entire district for the academic growth of its students. Cory also posted its highest set of scores ever. "I am so proud of our entire team at Cory Elementary for their dedication to effective teaching in our classrooms," said Julia Shepherd, Cory Principal.

'Show Your Pride, Move Your Ride'



Quick reminder...seasonal Cory Merrill street sweeping started in April and will run through November. Residential streets are swept once a month during these eight months (where posted), and it is important to heed the no-parking signs to avoid a \$50 parking citation.

To help remember these days:

- Request 'No Parking' sticker reminders to place on your calendar by calling 3-1-1.
- Sign up to receive a free email reminder of your street sweeping day. Visit www.KeepItCleanDenver.org and click on the "Show Your Pride, Move Your Ride" sweeper icon (at the bottom of the page) to sign up.

Last year, Denver street sweeping crews swept 113,700 lane miles of Denver streets and collected 41,335 cubic yards of dirt and debris. Street sweeping plays a critical role in keeping Denver's streets, air and water clean.

Book Babies

The Eugene Field Branch of the Denver Public Library continues its popular "Book Babies" program through the spring. It consists of stories, songs and rhymes for babies and toddlers (4-24 months) and their parents or caregivers. Playtime and socialization follow the program.

No registration is required. Every Monday and Tuesday from 11:15-11:45am. For more information, call 720-865-0240. The library is at 810 South University in Denver.

The 3-1-1 service is designed to provide one number to call for all Denver NON-EMERGENCY questions, problems and concerns. (Continue to use 9-1-1 for emergencies.)



- barking dogs?
- annoying potholes?
- unsightly graffiti?
- questions about a city service?

3-1-1 service is staffed by city employees who are trained to assist you with your issue. You can also send an e-mail to: 311@ci.denver.co.us with a summary of your issue in the subject line.



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Q During World War II, what regularly flew over Cory Merrill?

A Bombers on training runs from Lowry Air Force Base.

Cory Merrill during WWII

—By Scott Takeda

"I was a little girl during World War II, and our house was on a training run for bombers," said long time Cory Merrill resident JoAnne Kelly. "I guess the training target was DU, but they used to come in low and fly right over our house. They were so low, you could see the pilots, and we'd have to stop everything because you couldn't hear anything."

She even remembers riding her bike on Steele Street, when a plane came in so low that she had to jump off. "It scared me," said Kelly.

"We were just used to it after a while, however it would surprise visitors," laughed Kelly. "My uncle was visiting one night, and when the planes came over he asked, 'Are you sure they're going to stay up there?'"

Bombing runs were just one of the changes residents faced. "During the night time, we had blackout curtains that would cover the entire window and keep all light from getting out," said Kelly. "People rarely drove at night, and the city would just go dark."

Kelly's father helped out the war effort by starting a victory garden along the 1800 block of South St. Paul. "My dad was quite the gardener, and he bought two open lots between St. Paul and Steele for \$200. We planted beans, corn, carrots, lettuce, strawberries, and had chickens and rabbits by the house. My dad's garden used to keep us and quite a few family members supplied with food, and my mother canned quite a bit. After the war, he sold the lots for \$400. He thought he did quite well."



DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES Should You Answer The Door?

- By Scott Takeda

With the warmer weather, Cory Merrill residents can expect to see more salespeople knocking on doors and ringing doorbells. All of them must be licensed with the City and County of Denver and visibly display a photo-ID card (issued by Denver) and have a license for inspection and review.

The photo ID card must be worn on the outside of clothing and be visible at all times. It is made of plastic and will show their name, photo, license number, and a holographic image that is visible when tilting it back and forth.

The license is an additional piece of paper that shows the seal of the City and County of Denver at the top as well in the watermark. It will have their name, address and an expiration date. Only licensed peddlers are allowed to sell to homeowners; and they must carry all their goods and products on themselves.

Denver District 3 police officer Cari Jimenez said Cory Merrill homeowners should keep their door shut if they have doubts about the salesperson.

"It's always better to be safe," said Jimenez, "If you're concerned, keep the door closed and yell outside for them to show their license. If they have one, then you can decide if you want to buy their product. Remember to trust your instincts. If something feels off, it probably is."

Jimenez asks that concerned residents contact the police non-emergency line at 720-913-2000 to report salespeople without licenses. The dispatcher will send an officer who can identify the person walking through your neighborhood.

"One of our big concerns in District 3 are burglary rings who use fake door-to-door techniques as a way to find out if people are home," said Jimenez. "They'll knock on the door pretending to be a salesperson. If no one answers, they assume no one is home, so they'll try to break in from the back. Asking to see a license and a photo ID is a good way to separate the good people from the bad because it rewards the salespeople who registered with the city, and it tells potential burglars that you are home so they stay away."



If you have any historical facts or stories concerning Cory Merrill and surrounding areas around it, please email historian@corymerrill.org

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For appointment/information contact:
Carolyn Tabor • 720-201-2957



DO COMPUTERS MAKE YOU CRAZY??

Yeah, me too sometimes, and I work on them for a living: Windows, Internet, Home Networking. 21 years experience. \$50/hr for evening and weekend housecalls. I'm a Cory Merrill neighbor.

Jim Esten:
303-355-3932
jcesten@gmail.com



Recycling News

Recycle your plastic flowerpots

Garden Centers of Colorado will be collecting plastic garden pots for recycling as part of the May 7th mulch and compost event. Plastic garden pots of any size or color, hanging baskets (with wires removed), carrying trays and flower pack holders will be accepted. Plastic garden pots are also accepted for recycling anytime at local participating garden stores. For a list of participating stores visit online at GardenCentersofColorado.org

visit us online at DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles

Cory Merrill Business News

Pilates Reformation Studio is now under new management at the northeast corner of Florida and Colorado. The studio is owned and operated by Bruce and Sherri Wolin, instructors with more than 35 years. They teach Pilates, gyrokinesis (moving yoga), and gyrotonics. For more information and a class schedule: www.pilatesreformation.com

Across the street, in the Boulevard Center, **Farrell's Extreme Bodyshaping** opened its doors. The fitness studio is the fourth to open in Colorado and focuses on results-based fitness program for participants of any age, lifestyle, gender of athletic ability. For more information, www.joinfxb.com

And in the shops at Louisiana and Clayton, **Ben's Bonnie Brae Drugstore** has opened its doors. Ben (the pharmacist) is committed to keeping Cory Merrill in the best possible health by providing the most hands-on, personal pharmaceutical care possible – even with free delivery in the neighborhood. His place includes a coffee shop that offers a free coffee/tea drink to all chemotherapy patients when they pick up their prescription. For more information 303-722-7892.

06

Crime Stats	2011 Q1	2010 Q4
Burglaries	4	3
Auto Theft	4	1
Theft from Motor Vehicle	12	18
Public Disorder (vandalism, graffiti, etc.)	8	6
Larceny (bicycle thefts, purse snatching, etc.)	8	6
Hit and Run Traffic Accident	1	4
White Collar Crime (ID theft)	1	0
Assault	1	0
Drugs	1	0

Register for Denver's Best Sports Camp P.A.S.S. CAMP

Offering 12 weeks of camp beginning May 31. Registration is now open and available online at: recreation.du.edu/passcamp.



07

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Barnyard vs. Backyard

PRO

by Markus Thamm - CMNA Treasurer

The current code that regulates your right to raise chickens on your private property needs to be changed; not only is it difficult and expensive, but it is also unfair.

FPA's are no different than household pets – especially when it concerns noise or smell. Laying hens make virtually no noise and provide something far more beneficial besides noise and poop. However Denver residents are allowed to have up to three dogs and/or five cats without asking permission from the City or their neighbors. When many of them go to work, dogs can bark all day long. Some pet owners are not good about cleaning their yards, and you can smell the rich aroma of dog poop. Plus pets don't always stay in their yards, so you get to clean up dog droppings yourself. As far as cats are concerned, catfights often wake me up late at night. How is that better than a quiet hen?

If Denver residents can impact the lives of all their neighbors by owning up to three dogs and five cats, without asking permission, why do others have to endure a difficult, expensive, time-consuming permitting process for FPA's, when neighbors can veto the request?

A lot of the concerns are unwarranted. Denver has changed the code to allow residents to have up to two honeybee hives. To my knowledge there has been no problems. As a matter of fact, I took advantage of the change myself and put a honeybee hive in my yard. I can tell you they have never bothered any of my neighbors, and most of my neighbors have asked for honey when it becomes available, and for tours of the hive.

The advantages of having chickens in your yard are numerous. Chickens enjoy eating every kind of bug that crosses their path and most leftovers from your table like vegetables (raw or cooked), rice or other grains. This helps to reduce landfill waste and cuts cost because they don't require processed chicken food.

Chickens also produce food, which has advantages for our health and the environment. Their eggs are healthy, have less cholesterol and saturated fat, more vitamin A, omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin E and beta carotene. This is done without driving to the grocery store. (Resource: Mother Earth News at <http://www.motheearthnews.com/eggs.aspx>).

People across the nation are in favor of the right to have chickens in urban areas. They blend in to the urban environment quite well, have minimal to no impact on neighbors, and provide us with good things. For more information: <http://www.denverbackyardfarms.org/> and <http://www.growlocalcolorado.org/>.

The City and County of Denver is considering changing an ordinance that requires residents to obtain a permit before raising food-producing animals (FPA) on their property. These include chickens that produce eggs and dwarf goats that produce milk. The bill has ruffled a lot of feathers throughout Denver with proponents on both sides – including on the Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association Board.



CON

by George Mayl (CMNA Board Member)

For me, it's simple: you deserve a right to have a voice in what goes in the backyard next to your house.

At the present time, you have that right. Any Denver resident who wants to raise chickens (up to 8) and dwarf goats (up to 2) in their backyard must submit an application to the city for a Zoning Permit with Informational Notice (ZPIN). The process includes providing a written notice to registered neighborhood organizations (such as Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association) as well as posting a sign on the property. This informs everyone about the filed permit and invites comment. In addition, residents must notify neighbors living next door and get letters of support. The Zoning Administrator will take all of this into consideration and issue one of three rulings: approve, deny, or approve with considerations.

The new change eliminates input from neighborhood organizations, abutting neighbors, and other interested parties. In short, YOU LOSE YOUR VOICE.

I understand that those wanting to keep FPA's have to "jump through hoops," but our current guidelines don't stop the process. It just makes things fair for everyone who may be impacted. Besides, in the new proposed code, residents who want to raise more than the allowed animals will still have to go through the ZPIN process, so why not make everyone go through it?

As far as enforcing the proposed zoning code goes, there will be no change; so again why change anything? Neighborhood Inspection Services will still inspect a yard after complaints, work with the owner to correct violations, issue notice of violations orders, and if necessary, follow-up with more formal court-ordered remedies.

If this bill is passed, why would the City listen to your complaints afterwards, but not listen to your concerns before the FPA's were put in?

Keep your voice Cory Merrill. Don't support this change.

If you want more information on the current law, consult Denver Zoning Code, Section 12.4.2 (ZPIN process) and Section 11.8.6.1 (Animal Keeping Exemptions).



Meet Your Cory Merrill Neighborhood Board

By Dan Chapman



PHOTO: Front row: Dan Chapman, Mark VerHoeve, Lisa Straffon, Holly Dexter, George Mayl. Back row: Scott Takeda, Jo Martin, Janice VerHoeve, Charlotte Morris, Don Tressler, Brad Cunningham, Jay Reed. (Photo by James Esten)

The Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association has been your voice in city and state issues for the past 30 years. As a registered neighborhood association, we are a non-profit and non-partisan group that handles issues and interests that affect our neighborhood. These can be complex issues such as the vacation rental problem we had last year or immediate concerns like crime or coyotes.

Our hope is to make our neighborhood safer, more livable, and vibrant for everyone who calls this home. Here are the people who make up your volunteer board:

Dan Chapman (President) – Dan is retired after 30 years of service with the Colorado Legislative Council, the non-partisan research and staff agency that serves the state legislature. He is a 22-year resident of Cory Merrill who lives on South St. Paul Street with his wife Fran and two very friendly house cats.

Brad Cunningham is a DU grad (bachelors and MBA) who is the transportation manager at Leprino Foods Co. He is a former Marine who served in the first Gulf War. He moved into the neighborhood with wife Stephanie and dog Scout in Fall 2006.

Holly Dexter is our newest board member. She was born and raised in Indiana and received a degree in Insurance from Ball State University. That has led to a 17-year career in the commercial insurance business specializing in construction. Her claim to fame is that she is often mistaken for 9News' Susie Wargin. "I've even been mistaken for her during a trip to Mexico." Outside of work and having a doppelganger experiences, Holly spends time with daughter Campbell.

Jo Martin (Director of Communications) – Jo works in the marketing department of Qwest. She has lived in Cory Merrill since 1999 and is an avid cook. She says that people who walk by her house can smell the savory aromas wafting from her kitchen. When she's not cheering on the Volunteers of the University of Tennessee, she is a volunteer for the Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies.

George Mayl (INC delegate) – George is a decorated helicopter pilot for his service in Vietnam. He moved into Cory Merrill from New Orleans, three months before Katrina hit. He is the only American to win the prestigious "Kavalier der Strasse" award (Gentleman of the Street) given by German government after he landed his helicopter on an Autobahn bridge, rescued some people, and flew them to a hospital. "They had a parade for me," said Mayl.

Charlotte Morris is a veteran board member who is an executive administrator for CEO's. She loves traveling, sailing, gardening, riding her scooter and reading to kids at Children's Hospital. "It's so much fun," said Morris. "The other day, one of the kids was under the bed because he was so scared, so I climbed under and read to him."

Jay Reed (Newsletter distribution) – Jay and his wife are new parents and have lived on Jackson Street since 2000. Jay is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and owner of a residential real estate company focused on low voltage wiring.

Lisa Straffon is Kansas University grad and a basketball fan. "Go Jayhawks!" laughed Straffon. She married into the neighborhood in 2006 when she moved into the house her husband had owned since the early 2000s. She is now is a new mom with son Chase. When she's not volunteering, cooking, skiing, or playing tennis, she works as a corporate event planner.

Scott Takeda (Secretary) -- Scott is a five time regional Emmy-winning director who shot his first film last summer. He's also a TV/Film actor. In April, he had his Disney Channel debut in the hit film "Lemonade Mouth." This May he co-stars opposite Will Ferrell in a film titled "Everything Must Go."

Markus Thamm (Treasurer / Webmaster) – Markus and his wife moved to Cory Merrill during Christmas 2006 – the winter of the five blizzards. He is an engineer at Hewlett Packard and married to Manuela – a one-time designer of newsletter. Originally from Neu-Ulm, Germany, Markus is a huge soccer fan and helped organize Denver's German get-together for the last World Cup.

Don Tressler (Vice President / Zoning) – Don has lived in Cory Merrill for nine years and has been a Colorado real estate agent for more than a quarter century; and before that was a City/County Planner in Wyoming. Originally from a small town Pennsylvania, Don's two loves are hiking and photography, which he often combines by going on long scenic hikes with his camera. At one point, he owned 55 cameras in his collection.

Mark and Janice VerHoeve moved to Cory Merrill four years ago from Houston. Janice has her undergraduate degree from Duke, a Masters of Geology from University of Texas, and an MBA from Rice. Mark is an oil and gas geologist for Cimarex. Both have two grown daughters and are Texas Longhorn fans, serving on the alumni board.

* * *

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SPRING FREE DAYS



The SCFD (Scientific & Cultural Facilities District) in Denver sponsors free days at museums, zoos and botanic gardens across the Mile High City. The SCFD sales and use tax of 0.1% provides the funding for free admission to all Colorado residents. A Colorado driver's license or ID may be required for admission. Below is a list of the free days this spring!

Denver Art Museum
100 West 14th Avenue Parkway
Denver, CO
720-865-5000

Children's Museum of Denver
2121 Children's Museum Drive
Denver, CO
303-433-7444

Saturday, May 7
Saturday, June 4
Saturday, July 2

Families play free from 4-8pm
Tuesday, June 7
Tuesday, July 5

**Denver Botanic Gardens
at Chatfield**
8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road
Littleton, CO
303-973-3705

Denver Botanic Gardens
1007 York Street
Denver, CO
720-865-3500

Friday, June 3
Friday, July 1

Friday, April 22
Tuesday, July 19

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2011 match fixtures



date	match	venue	time
4/9	csu v air force	stadium	4:00pm
	metro selects v raptor men		6:00pm
4/23	atlanta v raptor women	stadium	2:00pm
	university of arizona v cu		4:00pm
	ombac v raptor men		6:00pm
4/30	university of arizona v air force	stadium	4:00pm
	barbarians (rs) v raptor men		6:00pm
5/7	raptor men usa round of 32	park	2:00pm
5/11	boys high school championships	stadium	5:00pm
5/14	college premier division semis	stadium	tba
5/31	glasgow, scotland v raptor men	stadium	6:00pm
6/4	usa men's club championships	stadium/park	9:00am
6/5	usa men's club championships	stadium/park	10:30am
6/9	national collegiate all-stars	stadium/park	10:00am
6/11	national collegiate all-stars	stadium/park	12:00pm
6/25	try league jamboree state finals	stadium	tba
8/13	canada v usa eagles	stadium	tba

schedule subject to change, for a complete schedule, visit: glendalerugby.com
303.692.5799 | 950 south birch street | glendale, co 80246



From the Editor's Desk

By the time you see this column, I hope you will have noticed a big change in your neighborhood newsletter: we've expanded it to sixteen pages, up from twelve. This is based on your feedback that you wanted more neighborhood news stories that affect you and your family.

We've also added some new faces to the team. Greta Burandt is our new designer and is responsible for making this newsletter look so great. She takes over for Manuela Tar who has been our designer for the past year. (Thank you Manuela for your hard work and dedication.) We also added James Esten as one of our staff photographers. You see some of his terrific images in this issue. And finally, Jo Martin joins as the new newsletter editor. She and I co-edited this issue, and she'll take over for the August/Summer issue. All of them are your Cory Merrill neighbors.

I hope you like the changes. And thank you for sharing your ideas on how to improve what we do. Happy reading.

Scott Takeda
Editor

FREE MULCH & COMPOST SALE

Landscaping your yard just got cheaper.

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011, 8 AM - 3 PM
Or While Supplies Last

Main Free MULCH & COMPOST Sale:

**Northeast:
Havana Nursery**
10450 Smith Rd., just south of I-70 on Havana St.

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South of Dartmouth Ave. on Raleigh St.

**Northwest:
Sloan's Lake Park**
Sheridan Blvd. & 17th Ave.

**Northeast:
Fred Thomas Park**
Quebec St. & 26th Ave.

For more details call 720.865.6810 or visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles



Who is Cory Merrill's Tree Fairy?

by Jen Lester



November 2009

Do you believe in Fairies? If not, you might reconsider. Two years ago trees mysteriously showed up in front of people's yards. The trees anonymously arrived planted or ready-to-be-planted with a note signed by the "Tree Fairy." It seems most of the trees were planted on the 1200 block of South Jackson Street, but we have received reports from other blocks that have been touched by the "Tree Fairy's" magical wand as well.

During the months of September to November neighbors said they have innocently gone to bed only to awake to the new trees. It is believed that the trees show up after the nurseries have their fall sales. The trees are on the little side and may have been overlooked as a popular pick from shoppers. However, the "Tree Fairy" must feel otherwise and desires to give these saplings a permanent home.

Don Tressler, Cory-Merrill resident from the 1100 South block of Jackson, was one such recipient from the "Tree Fairy." Don mentioned that the "Tree Fairy" always leaves a note with his trees signing off as the "Tree Fairy." Don has received two such notes from the "Tree Fairy."

One of the "Tree Fairy's" notes stated, "These trees are a gift from the Tree Fairy.

I hope you decide to plant them here or somewhere else in your yard. Water them once a week in summer and once a month in winter. Enjoy their shelter. Signed the "Tree Fairy."

Recently, Cory-Merrill resident Greta Burandt saw a new Japanese Cherry tree planted in her front yard. "It's a cute little tree," said Burandt. "It's fun to have a surprise like that."

Some neighbors say if you look down Jackson Street, you can see a lot newly planted trees – many of them signs of the neighborhood "Tree Fairy."

"It's a nice gesture," said Tressler. "Fifteen years from now, Jackson is going to have a lot of nice grown trees."

We spoke with several neighbors to identify who the "Tree Fairy" might be and no one has been able to catch the "Tree Fairy" in the act. Perhaps, no one will know who the "Tree Fairy" might be. Regardless, it's nice to know there is some fairy magic working in Cory-Merrill.

Bonnie Brae Flowers

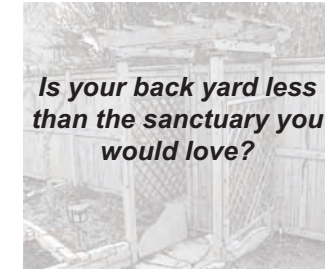
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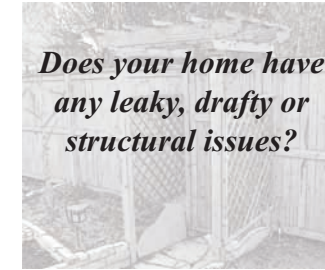
Do you have small repairs to do around the home?



Would you like to upgrade your Cory Merrill castle?



Is your back yard less than the sanctuary you would love?



Does your home have any leaky, drafty or structural issues?



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If you have a specific topic or question, you may e-mail: _____

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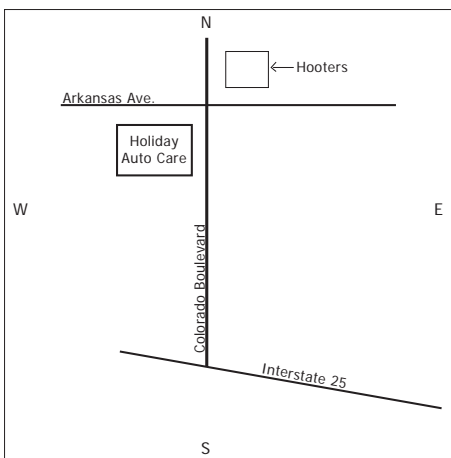


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