



Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

SPRING 2019

Food Truck Nights Return to Cory Merrill for 4th Summer!

By Marti Freeman, CMNA President his summer, on the second and fourth Tuesday from May through August, the CMNA will host the Hand to Mouth Food Truck Nights at the Kirk of Bonnie Brae United Church of Christ (1201 S. Steele Street). Please see schedule below and note that there will not be a food truck night during Memorial Day week. Food service will include multiple savory food trucks and a sweet food truck. Trucks will serve from 5:30 – 8:00 PM. This summer, we will have alternating community table nights (where the Kirk will set up long tables for everyone to eat and chat together) and movie nights. Music will be provided by Ground Cover, a bluegrass band, and DJ, Chuck Woodford. We encourage families to bring blankets, chairs, etc.. At each event, The Kirk will continue to sell wine and/or beer as part of their fundraising efforts.

A big thank you from the Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association to the Kirk of Bonnie Brae Church for opening their space, the Steele Street Preschool for allowing usage of their toys, and to everyone who donates their time or resources to make this event a success! May 14; June 11, 25; July 9, 23 August 13, 27

2nd Annual Cory Merrill Neighborhood Yard Sale

Hosted by the CMNA and Scott Rodgers at eXp Realty Saturday, May 18th and Sunday, May 19th Register your sale today at www.CoryMerrill.org

Spring cleaning time is here and the annual Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Yard Sale presents you with a great opportunity to clear out your stuff, keep you motivated to get it done, meet your neighbors, and generate extra cash! We're excited to announce that our Bonnie Brae neighbors are joining us for a joint Cory-Merrill & Bonnie Brae sale this year!

Here's how it works: Each home hosts their own yard sale at the time of their choosing (for a garage sale, place a sign in your front yard directing shoppers to your garage via the alley). Yard sales are typically active 8am to 3pm each day, but you control your schedule. Scott Rodgers with The Peak Home Team at eXp Realty is our organizing sponsor and, in addition to marketing online, will place dozens of signs around the neighborhood to promote our sales.

Last year, we had 77 homes register and we hope to have even more this year. Visit www.CoryMerrill.org to register and for more information. Scott Rodgers (303-242-8831) is available to answer any questions you may have. We hope to see you.

Neighborhood Meeting

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Kirk of Bonnie Brae UCC @1201 S. Steele Street

Speakers include: Candidates for Mayor; Yes and No speakers on Right to Survive 300; Paul Kashmann

FREE Babysitting available. Please RSVP for babysitting to CMNA@ CoryMerrill.org

Denver Bagged Compost Available at Ace Hardware Stores

Denver's Own EcoGroTM Compost made with material from Denver's green carts

losing the compost cycle just got easier in Denver! Denver Public Works is partnering with A1 Organics and Ace Hardware to help people put organic material collected through the Denver Composts program to a better use this spring, so their gardens can thrive. Starting today, bags of Denver's Own EcoGroTM Compost will be available at metro-area Ace Hardware stores for \$6.99 per bag.

Currently, over 18,000 Denver residents participate in the Denver Composts program, throwing organic material like yard debris, food scraps and non-recyclable paper in their green cart each week to be collected

and later turned into compost. Composting helps further the city's goal of increasing its recycling and composting rate from what is now 23 percent to 34 percent, the national average, as outlined in Mayor B. Hancock's 2020 Sustainability Goals.

Composting is nature's way of recycling and returning valuable organic matter and nutrients to soil to be used again. When added to soil, compost:

Improves soil structure and porosity, encouraging root growth

- Increases soil's holding capacity of water and moisture retention
- Enables soil to retain nutrients longer and make nutrients more avail-

able to plants

Provides beneficial microorganisms to the soil

In addition to this premium, certified, and locally produced compost being sold at Denver metro-area Ace Hardware stores, Denver's Own EcoGroTM Compost will also be available for purchase at Denver's one-day Mulch Giveaway and Compost Sale on Saturday, May 4.

To learn more about Denver Composts and to sign-up for service, go to denvergov.org/compost. For information on Denver's Own EcoGro Compost, please visit alorganics.com/ products.

presented for review and

consideration by the com-

Christina Sylvester, Prin-

cipal of Merrill Middle

Joan Wieser, Principal of

Julia Shepherd, Principal

Summer Work at C3/Mer-

Exciting school improve-

ments are coming. Key

work includes a secure,

single point of entry for

both programs, a new

of Creativity Challenge Community (C3)

Cory Elementary

more compelling picture by working together and present-

Once the Master Plan is developed and proposed, it will be

munity.

School

rill

ing with a unified voice.

Cory, Merrill and C3 are collaborating as one campus!

ory, C3 and Merrill leadership are very excited by the upcoming start to the Master Plan on April 11th. A common message and invitation to

participate was sent to each school community on March 21st.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to create a vision for the 3 schools by creating an integrated approach to develop the campus over the next 12 to 15 years (3 possible bond cycles based on past history).

Rather than developing plans in isolation, the 3 schools are encouraging active participation from the teachers, students and school community members. A series of open and inclusive sessions are planned in the coming months.

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Principals Shepherd (Left - C3), Sylvester (Middle -Merrill) and Weiser (Right - Cory) at their first ever campus wide luncheon hosted on March 4th!

Ultimately all 3 schools want to make the most of a fantastic campus and unite behind an integrated approach to future bond requests. We believe it will help establish a

ramp to the garden level, expanded spectator seating area in the gym and water bottle fillers.

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asphalt playground, refinished restrooms, an ADA

Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association Board

President –

Marti Freeman

Vice President –

Dennis Robinson

Treasurer – Lisa Reynolds

Secretary – Debbie Fimple

Communication – Jenine Mathias

Website – Scott Rodgers

Social -Krissa Murphy

Newsletter –

John Reynolds (Advertising)

Members At Large:

Christine and Frank Baier Christopher Olson James Jacobs Mallory Boyens

A Neighborhood Called Cory

Reprinted from the Denver Post By Sari Padorr | Special to The Denver Post PUBLISHED: June 22, 2007 | UPDATED: July 5, 2018

Some people call it South Bonnie Brae. Others refer to it as "Just east of East Wash Park."

But the Cory Merrill neighborhood doesn't need to hang onto its more noticeable neighbors.

The Denver neighborhood has its own identity, even if some residents say that identity has recently become "the scrape-off capital of Denver."

Wedged between areas

Cory Merrill, home to 1,950 houses, is bounded by South University Boulevard on the west, East Mississippi and East Tennessee avenues on the north, South Colorado Boulevard on the east and Interstate 25 on the south. It is wedged between the Bonnie Brae and University neighborhoods.

It's a mixture of 1940s and 1950s bungalows, brick shoe-box houses, and new McMansions.

"We don't have duplexes or one-way streets. It's quite quaint," says George Warejko-Todd, a Realtor who lives in the neighborhood.

Cory Merrill got its start between 1883 and 1886. The prairie land was divided into subdivisions: Electric Heights on the west side, Coronado and Coronado Heights on the east. Plots of land were sold for between \$100 and \$160, and the area grew rapidly.

By 1889, there were 100 homes.

In 1906, Vincentian priests paid \$15,218 for 59.5 acres of land in the middle of the area, where they built the St. Thomas Aquinas Theological Seminary. It was later sold to the Catholic Archdiocese and is now known as the John Paul II Center for the New Evangelization. Commonly referred to as the center of Catholicism in Colorado, it is home to the Archdiocese of Denver.

An educational background

The neighborhood came to be known as Cory Merrill in honor of two wellknown Denver educators: John Cory, the first principal of South High School and who remained there for 20 years; and Louise Merrill, a pioneer in juniorhigh education.

Brick homes and bungalows replaced the first wood homes in the 1940s and 1950s. Now the neighborhood is being born again.

"It's an inevitable change," says Kent Olson, who moved to the neighborhood in 1971. Nonetheless, he has mixed feelings about it.

"It's a good thing that younger families are moving in. It rejuvenates the neighborhood," he said. "The bad part is not so much the scrapes or new houses – it's the size of those new houses."

Jil Doughtie – whose home is 3,800 square feet, with another 1,700 unfinished in the basement – loves the size and location of her new residence. She and her husband, Andy, moved from Dallas in January. She didn't know Denver at all but found her Cory Merrill home on the second day of searching.

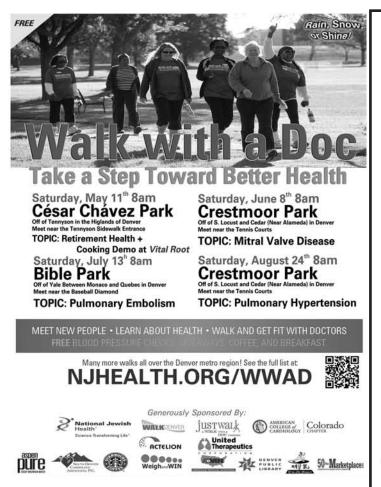
It had a lot of things she liked.

"It's convenient to downtown and the Cherry Creek mall," she said. "It just felt like a comfortable neighborhood." She also likes the mix of old and new homes as well as old and new neighbors.

While builders have found Cory Merrill, many Realtors still don't call it by its rightful name.

"Being under the radar is kind of how we like it," says Warejko-Todd, describing the neighborhood as the friendliest place he has ever lived.

"The kids all know each other," he said.





SAVE THE DATES! Food Truck Nights

Summer 2019

Kirk of Bonnie Brae UCC, 1201 S. Steele St. 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Tuesday of the Month

Food Trucks for each week announced on Facebook or Nextdoor the Sunday before each event. Beer and wine for sale (Please do not bring your own or remove alcohol from the church grounds.)

Event Schedule: Tuesday, May 14 (NO Food Trucks on May 28) Tuesday, June 11 and 25 Tuesday, July 9 and 23 Tuesday, August 13, 27

Community Table Nights (where the Kirk will set up long tables for everyone to eat and chat together) on the second Tuesday of the month and Kids Movie Nights on the fourth Tuesday of the month.





Scott Rodgers

www.CoryMerrill.com

CMNA Board Member Since 2013 Cory-Merrill Homeowner Since 2001 Cory-Merrill Yard Sale Organizing Sponsor Nextdoor.com Neighborhood Favorite Agent

Hello, I'm Scott Rodgers, your local Cory-Merrill Realtor. My hope is you love Cory-Merrill! Please keep me in mind should you, or someone you know, consider making a move or have real estate related questions. I am happy to come by your home or we can meet nearby at my office off Colorado Blvd & I-25.

> The Market is changing. Curious what your home is worth? Receive your complimentary home valuation at www.CoryMerrill.com

ARE YOU CONSIDERING SELLING YOUR HOUSE THIS YEAR? I am meeting with homeowners now to discuss the current market, your options, and how you can acheive your best result.



SOLD in Cory-Merrill: 1574 S Columbine St

"Scott provided more support than I have ever experienced in the real estate market; I have bought and sold 10+ properties. His ideas for advertising were way above the average. His recommendations were spot on throughout the process. He took the time to know my needs and expectations; he acted on them at every opportunity and checked for changes as time passed. Scott was absolutely great to work with and I sincerely appreciate and respect the work he does. Thanks."— Review by Laural T., seller.

Scott Rodgers, Broker Associate at The Peak Home Team 303-242-8831 Scott@ColoradoHomesHQ.com www.CoryMerrill.com 4155 E Jewell Ave, Denver 80222



Happy Springtime, District 6! Election time is upon us!

By Paul Kashmann

Election time is upon us!

ithin a week of this newsletter hitting your inbox or library shelf, ballots that need to be returned by 7p.m. on May 7, will begin appearing in mailboxes across our city.

This municipal election ballot will not be as jam-packed as the tax-heavy roster of candidates and issues we faced in Nov. 2018, but it is at least as important to the future of our city. Voters will make their choices for Mayor, Auditor, Clerk and Recorder, District City Council representative and two At-Large City Council Representatives (visit Denvervotes. org for information). In addition, a pair (possibly a trio) of initiatives will demand our attention. Initiative 300 (known as "Right To Survive") would overturn Denver's camping ban and allow camping on any public property accessible to the general public. Initiative 301, would decriminalize the possession and consumption of psilocybin, making the adult possession and use of psilocybin mushrooms ("magic mushrooms") the lowest law enforcement priority and prohibiting the city from spending resources on enforcing related penalties. Initiative 302 – which will be on either a June runoff ballot or November general election ballot - would force a vote of the people before city dollars could be spent on attracting a future Olympics game.

Initiative 300 – Right To Survive

I have advocated for programs that improve conditions in our shelters, increase the pace of construction of permanent supportive housing for the unsheltered and provide legal aid for residents faced with eviction, to keep them housed rather than slipping through the cracks to further inflate the ranks of our homeless.

Some 40% of homeless individuals work at least 32-hours each week, but

simply can't handle Denver's everincreasing cost of living. I believe all citizens have a right to not only survive, but to survive in safety and with dignity, and I believe that the right to survive implies not only the hope for a better future, but the tools to help make that happen as well.

Our current shelter system does not adequately accommodate couples, families, people with pets, people with belongings, people who work at night and need to sleep during the day, LGBTQ individuals and others. We are moving too slowly in building housing with the wrap around services needed to put those who have been traumatized by life on the streets back on a path toward self-sufficiency.

Advocates of 300 are firm that Denver isn't doing enough to ensure safe harbor for our homeless population, and the right to survive trumps the inconveniences and public health challenges that unregulated urban camping can entail. Opponents believe it will create public health issues even more severe than the ones we face right now. The initiative is vague in its construction, leaving questions that could take years for the courts to answer. Does 300 overturn park curfews? Does the absence of a definition of "harassment" prevent outreach workers and safety personnel from urging homeless residents toward needed services? Does the "public property" that will become open to camping include that portion of many residential front lawns that are actually city right-of-way? If public property is open to camping, it will be open not just to homeless Denverites, but to anyone who wants to come to Denver for a visit.

Proponents – denverrighttosurvive. com

Opponents - togetherdenver.com

Initiative 301 – Decriminalizing Possession and Use of Psilocybin Mushrooms

Advocates believe initial research indicates that decriminalizing psilocybin use for adults 21 and over is worthy of discussion. Studies show potential benefits from psilocybin use by those suffering with depression and other mental health issues. Opponents believe the research is not yet conclusive, and think it is wise to take time for more in-depth research, as well as more time to address our current landscape of mind- and mood-altering drugs before adding another to the list.

Proponents – decriminalized enver.org

Opponents – Colorado Christian University Centennial Summit

Initiative 302 – Let Denver Vote

The Let Denver Vote Initiative 302. will give Denver voters a say as to whether public resources should be used towards bidding on or hosting future Olympic games. The proposed ordinance will prohibit Denver from spending or issuing a fiscal guarantee without obtaining prior voter approval. It increases voter protection regarding where Denver spends taxpayer dollars and resources. The initiative gathered enough signatures to make the November ballot, but if there is a run-off required for Mayor, Auditor or Clerk and Recorder following the May 7 election, Initiative 302 will appear on the June 4 run-off ballot. Advocates express concerns over historic financial losses that Olympic cities have faced, while opponents of 302 point to changes in the financing methods the International Olympic Committee has put in place that maximize the chances for success, and the opportunity to use profits from an Olympic games for public good.

Proponents - letdenvervote.org

Opponents (kind of) – Denver.org/ explore-the-games/final-report/

PLEASE VOTE!



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Cory Elementary School History Reprinted from the Cory Website

The Building/The Architect

Step back and take a look. What you will see is the architecture of a man who was known as Denver's premiere Usonian architect. The Usonian style is the influence of one man: Frank Lloyd Wright. Victor Hornbein, a Denver native, is responsible for some 36 houses and 80 public projects, primarily in Colorado. One of Hornbein's most recognized projects is the Conservatory at the Denver Botanic Gardens. He designed the building during the time he worked with Ed White. He was also commissioned to design schools, one of which was Cory Elementary. However, the Ross-Broadway Library was Hornbein's favorite design. Hornbein's interest in architecture began when he was young. He had his first architectural job before graduating from East High School in 1930. Cory Elementary is listed as a historic landmark.

Our Namesake

According to the Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Association, in the late 1940s, a man named Mr. Armstrong (who lived on Steele Street) donated his farm land to Denver Public Schools to replace the aging Coronado School. The district then built Cory Elementary and Merrill Junior High. Both schools were named for influential educators in Denver Public Schools – John J. Cory and Louise A. Merrill. John Jerome Cory (1883-1945) was a native of Denver. He attended Edison and Alcott Elementary schools before graduating from North High School in 1901. Mr. Cory went on to graduate from Colorado School of Mines in 1905, and then he earned his M.A. degree in Education in 1925 from Teachers College, Columbia University.

In 1911, Mr. Cory became a teacher at West High School, and then went on military leave to serve in World War I. After the war, he was selected as principal of South High School, where he served for twenty years. In May of 1939, Mr. Cory was chosen to be Assistant Superintendent in charge of junior and senior high schools at the Emily Griffith Opportunity School. Mr. John Jerome Cory was one of Denver's most loved and respected educators.

The School Within

In 1970, the U.S. District Court ordered busing for racial balancing within schools, which meant students spent considerable time riding school busses. During this time, Cory was paired with Barrett Elementary. Students attended Barrett for their primary years and Cory for their intermediate years. Desegregation within the Denver Public Schools system was lifted in 1995. At this time, Cory became a neighborhood K-5 school.

Cory is a magnet site for highly gifted and talented (HGT) students. Every teacher at Cory has been trained in highly gifted education, and the HGT students are integrated into each classroom. Our approach is what makes Cory unique: each classroom contains a wonderful spectrum of learners, providing an enriched learning environment for all students. This approach is one factor that designates Cory Elementary as a "Distinguished" Denver Public School serving neighborhood, choice and highly gifted children.



LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE FOR 2019-2020!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL

*Rigorous Academics *Faith & Service *Vibrant Community *Outdoor Learning Lab *Outstanding 21st Century Learning Initiatives *Nurturing Pre-K-8 in the heart of Cory-Merrill



SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY: 303-777-3812 WWW.SVDPK8.COM * FOLLOW US ON FB @SVDPCATHOLIC AND INSTAGRAM @SVDPDENVER.



THE ROBERT AND JUDI NEWMAN CENTER

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Coming to Newman Center April 8, 2020

NEWMAN CENTER PRESENTS 2019–2020 SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW

With Dance, Jazz, *National Geographic Live*, and Director's Choice 5+9, there are more options than ever before. Packages start at only \$87. For details and online ordering, visit **newmancenter.du.edu**.

M Allan Frank Family Box Office 2344 East Iliff Avenue, Denver 303-871-7720 / newmancenter.du.edu 10 am-4 pm Monday-Friday 12-4 pm Saturdays (September-May)



Cory Merrill Real Estate Update - How's the Market?

Holly Carpenter, Broker Associate, LIV Sotheby's International Realty, www.CoryMerrillExpert.com

Hello Cory-Merrill!



t's peak selling season and we're inundated with

attention-grabbing headlines about the real estate market. While catchy headlines do the trick, it's important to look beyond the headline and read the entire story - as this will likely reveal more than the snippet that caught your attention. For example, currently real estate in Denver and most of the country continues to benefit from a nice, healthy housing market – despite what some headlines may say.

Below you'll find a recent article written by LIV Sotheby's Managing Broker, Steve Blank. Steve's detailed research and analysis always provides valuable insight. Thanks Steve!

Real estate is currently being fueled by strength in employment and mortgage rates dropping 0.6% since November, sitting lower than it was a year ago, at just over 4%. In Q4 of 2018, our real estate market slowed down from its strength that was building since 2012. Last year, Denver enjoyed 8.3% value appreciation with projections at 6-7% for 2019; still pretty great. Reports suggesting property values are going down should be understood as relative in context. Values are not rising at the same annual rate of +/-10%, however they are eclipsing inflation by a multiple of three. So, annual home appreciation has gone from "super strong" to "pretty darn good." Values are not decreasing but are just not increasing to levels that many sellers desire. Houses that are priced correctly and present well still sell quickly (sometimes with multiple offers). Typically, the higher the price range, the longer a home will take to sell.

On average, luxury homes are taking 85-100 days to sell. Any price range can take two to four weeks longer to sell in 2019. Nationally, prices increased 4.5-5% and took 45 to 65 days to sell. Core Logic recently predicted national home values to rise 4.4% in 2019.

LIV Sotheby's International Realty published its February 2019 year-to-date (YTD) Denver numbers comparing the market to February 2018. The amount of properties sold was up 1% (all price ranges), the average days on the market was 40 vs. 32 days last year, and there were 12% more listings, which is encouraging. The average sold price is nearly 7% higher over the prior 12 months. million) have experienced a healthy market, but in a different fashion. In the last 12 months, (year-over-year) reports show the number of properties sold rose 46%, average days on the market was 105 days, and prices rose slightly to 1% higher.

If you're considering a move and would like further insight and analysis, please feel free to connect with me. If you have a home to sell, I provide a complimentary home valuation. I look forward to hearing from you! ~ Holly Carpenter, Broker Associate, LIV Sotheby's Realty 303-589-7449, holly.carpenter@sothebysrealty.com. View my client testimonials at www. CoryMerrillExpert.com

Luxury homes (over \$1

CORY MERRILL REAL ESTATE					
2018 Year End					
Single Family	2017	2018	Percent Change		
Home Sales			_		
Avg Price Per Sq Ft	\$450	\$463	3%		
(Above Ground)					
Highest Price	\$1.675M	\$1.750M	4.5%		
Lowest Price	\$350K	\$323K	-8%		
% Sold to List Price	96%	97%	+1%		

2019 Q4 (Jan-Mar)				
Single Family	2018	2019	Percent Change	
Home Sales				
Avg Price Per Sq Ft	\$477	\$447	-6%	
(Above Ground)				
Highest Price	\$1.677M	\$1.599M	-4.5%	
Lowest Price	\$368K	\$370K	-0.5%	
% Sold to List Price	96%	96%	No Change	

This representation is based in whole or in part on data of closed homes supplied by REColorado (MLS). REColorado does not guarantee nor is responsible for its accuracy. The data maintained by REColorado may not reflect all real estate transactions in the market.

South High School - Spring 2019

outh High School is once again seeing a record amount of neighborhood families enrolling into South for the 2019-2020 school year. Our projections are very high and we are celebrating our families across the street, across Denver and around the world!

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

Saturday, May 18th & Sunday, May 19th

And get your stuff ready to sell... at the 2nd Annual <u>Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Yard Sale</u>!

Psst...pass it on...and follow updates at www.corymerrill.org

Brought to you by:

The Cory-Merrill Neighborhood Association

and



Scott Rodgers Broker Associate, REALTOR® 303-242-8831 · www.CoryMerrillRealtor.com





Our Art Department is hosting some major events in April and our community is invited to attend. Keep track of all the events and activities on our

website and our highlights on South's Facebook page.

Website: https://denversouth. dpsk12.org/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/denversouthhigh

We are adding a lot to the course offerings next year, too. We currently have an Engineering Program, Digital Arts, Computer Science, Audio/Visual Production, Journalism and we are adding Business and Medical! See the description below.

"Career Technical Education (CTE) provides students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. In total, about 12.5 million high school and college students are enrolled in CTE across the nation."

South also offers Honors, Concurrent Enrollment College Courses and Advanced Placement Courses. For students who need more support, we host tutoring times and our full time Psychologist and Social Worker consult with our School Counselors to provide academic, social and emotional supports.

We hope everyone has a great spring and summer. Support your local merchants and your local public schools! We are very excited about the growth in enrollment and course offerings at South High School!



Save The Dates Food Truck Nights - Summer 2019



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Action & Awareness Training

District 3 – Sector 1

Meeting April 24th, 2019

Time: 6 – 7 p.m. @ District 3 Station 1625 S. University Blvd

Meeting will take place in Conference Room RSVP to: <u>d3.sector1.crovolunteer@gmail.com</u>

