

Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Do you love our neighborhood and are you interested in helping it stay the wonderful place that it is? Do you have concerns about our neighborhood that you want addressed? If so, we would love your passion and desire on next year's CMNA board, either in an elected position or as a member.

Voting for the CMNA board will take place at our quarterly meeting on August 5 at 6PM at the Kirk of **Bonnie Brae.**

President - Marti Freeman (candidate) Vice President - Jessica Hillman (candidate) Secretary - Debbie Fimple (candidate) Treasurer - Lisa Reynolds (candidate) Communications - Open Newsletter Advertising - John Reynolds (candidate) Website - Scott Rodgers (candidate) Zoning - Bart Blanchard (candidate)

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please e-mail <u>CMNA@corymerrill.org</u>.

Next Neighborhood Quarterly Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Kirk of Bonnie Brae Church 1201 S. Steele Street

(corner of Louisiana and Steele)

Join us and vote for your CMNA board!

Your voluntary contributions to our neighborhood association are always appreciated. Please send your checks payable to Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association PO Box 101713, Denver, CO 80210-1713



Spring 2015



NEIGHBORHOOD **PARTY & PICNIC!**

Join us for our annual picnic!

Saturday, May 30th ~ 4pm-7pm **Cory Elementary Grounds**



We'll have use of the grassy areas, play ground, basketball courts and ball fields. We plan to have a bounce house, balloons, ice cream and live music. Feel free to bring a picnic dinner, blankets and lawn chairs.

Although we love our furry friends, please leave them at home for this event. The school doesn't allow animals on the grounds.

If you know of anyone who would like to sponsor the event and donate their products or services, please e-mail CMNA@corymerrill.org

Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association Board Members 2014/2015

President - Marti Freeman Vice Presidents - Jessica & Daniel Hillman Treasurer - Lisa Reynolds Secretary - Debbie Fimple Zoning - Bart Blanchard Website - Scott Rodgers Social Committee - Lisa Stratton Newsletter Advertising - John Reynolds Police, Fire, Safety (CAB Reps) - Jill Easley & Chris Olsen

Visit www.corymerrill.org for contact information or write to CMNA: PO Box 101713, Denver, CO 80210 - 1713

us055.alphagraphics.com

us055@alphagraphics.com



Fall Dues Drive Report

This past Fall, the CMNA had our annual dues drive. Once again, we had great support from our wonderful neighbors! Donations were made by 71 households (exactly the same number as in 2013) for a total of \$2170 which is an average of \$30.50 per donation. The donations fund the CMNA holiday events, the annual picnic, the dictionary drive, as well as cover business expenses including our post office box, membership dues, postage, and website fees.

Thank you to all of the neighbors who made contributions!



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Bio

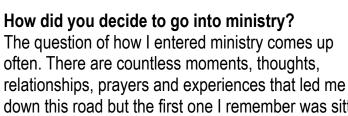
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I grew up in Grand Junction. I went to Chapman

University in Orange, California and received a

Bachelors in Religious Studies and a Minor in

Sociology. I then moved back to Colorado for a few

years, got married and worked as a youth minister for

10 churches throughout the Denver area. I then went

a Masters of Divinity. I graduated and was ordained

into Ministry in 2008 (I also had my first child and

to Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, TN to receive

began full time ministry in Fort Morgan, CO that year!).

brief introduction!

down this road but the first one I remember was sitting at church camp when I was in 7th grade and wondering..."how do I get paid to go to camp for the rest of my life?!" Church Camp was a place I experienced true community for the first time, a place where all were welcome, diverse people and gifts were celebrated and God's presence was palpable. It was the church at its best. I remain active in outdoor ministries but also love bringing the dynamics that impacted me all those years ago - of God's radical love - into people's everyday life through the ministries of the church.

What do you like most about being the new minister?

I am so thankful to be serving at the Kirk! It is a community that is doing more than talking their faith, they are living it. We are committed to caring for God's creation so we installed solar panels, people bike to worship, we compost and educate folks on greening their lives. Likewise we are an open and affirming church (meaning we celebrate diversity in all its facets

MEET THE NEW PASTOR AT THE KIRK OF BONNIE BRAE

An interview with Selena Wright

spectrum.)

Where did you grow up? Go to school? Etc. Just a

Who has influenced you most in your life and whv?

from sexual orientation and gender identity to

those across the political and theological

I'd have to say my college professor, Dr. Ron Farmer. He taught me, really made me ask questions of my faith, my assumptions, of scripture, tradition, systems and society. I have found questioning to be the greatest gift of life and faith.

What are you looking forward to most this summer?

This seems to be a theme, but camping. The Kirk is participating in a family camp in July and I can't wait to share my love for camp with the church and my own kiddos.

If you were asked to name a new brew beer, what would you name it? Potent Prophecy Pilsner

What has been the biggest challenge for vou at the Kirk?

My biggest challenge so far has been finding the best way to get the word out about who the Kirk is today. The church has been through a lot of transitions in its 60 years and we are not the same church we were 20 years ago or even 2. There is great energy here, we are growing and evolving but you don't always see that from the outside. So we are trying to get to know our neighbors and finding ways for our neighbors to know us.

Kirk of Bonnie Brae

A progressive faith community of word & action Worship: Sunday at 10am 1201 S. Steele Street - 303-777-0343



Never place a period where God has placed a comma

WALK/BIKE SAFETY INITIATIVE

By Samantha Powell

Back in the 1940's, when Cory-Merrill began it's growth as a neighborhood, almost every kid walked or rode their bike to school. Now, more than 90% of our neighborhood children get driven to school or ride the bus. There may



be several factors involved in this change, but a huge impact on this shift is that it is simply not safe for children to walk on our streets to and from school. There are huge gaps in sidewalk consistency, which forces children and their families to walk on the streets or not walk at all. The commuter traffic through our neighborhood is increasing and cars are speeding on our streets, which all but one are posted as 25MPH. Our family lives less than 2 blocks from school and I have my 4-year old ride in our wagon rather than walk. It has been proven that children who get physical activity do better in school. With decreasing time for recess and PE at our schools, walking/biking/scooting to and from school is an important time for kids to exercise and get the fresh air they need outside of the classroom. We live in beautiful Colorado and the Cory-Merrill neighborhood is less than 1 square mile. It is the ideal setting for our children to walk to our 5 wonderful schools.

So, here is what we have done as a community to remedy this and what we plan to do in the near future— In the beginning of April, three of our schools held the first Walk Safely to School Day. We invited the Denver Police Department and also sold "Drive Like Your Kids" Live Here" yard signs. Each school provided safety tips for the children while the uniformed police officers guided them safely across the street and answered all kinds of questions. The events were considered a real success and we look forward to holding more in the fall when school gets back in session.

The City of Denver Traffic and Safety division, as part of the safety task force for DPS, has been extremely involved and concerned with our pedestrian issues. As a result, there has been new signage placed around our schools, including a new stop sign at Iowa & S Cook St. In addition, they have approved the reprogramming of the traffic signal at Florida & S Steele (@ Cory Elementary) to be a 4-way red during pedestrian activity. This means that when a pedestrian hits the signal button, the light will go red in all directions. There will be no cars in the intersection at this time so that our children and families can safely cross. Expect this to be completed late summer/early fall 2015.

Finally, we are working hard to come up with some solutions concerning our sidewalk issues. As you all know, there are many large gaps in our neighborhood sidewalks forcing children, families, & walkers to move onto the street and into the danger of speeding cars or those drivers not paying attention. I would love for my children to bike, scoot & walk on the sidewalks. They simply can't do this safely. This week I testified at a hearing for House Bill 1003 – funding for the Safe Routes to School program. For more information on this program, please go to www.saferoutestoschool.org. This program would allocate funds for infrastructure grants and non-infrastructure education regarding walking and biking safety in Colorado. This program was an integral piece to the success of the Walk Safely to School days held last week in Cory-Merrill. In addition, this program could award grant money for the building of sidewalks. There are also new budgets being considered for pedestrian safety through the City of Denver. Both of these options could potentially take months, if not years, before completing major changes. The aujckest change would be homeowners' willingness to allow sidewalks to be built. This is one of the next major steps in making our neighborhood safer and ultimately healthier for all our Cory-Merrill families.

If you have any interest in being part of our Walk/Bike Safely initiative, please contact Samantha Powell - samcampowell@me.com

Summer Health Hazards

With more people heading outdoors to take advantage of warm weather, don't let hidden health hazards put a damper on your summer fun. Doctors at AFC/Doctors Express urgent care centers treat patients suffering from heat and sun-related illnesses each year. If you prepare for problems caused by heat and sun you can avoid health issues and enjoy the summer season.

Here are a few heat related concerns to look out for:

Sunburn

With that warm summer sun comes another common seasonal problem – sunburn. Long-sleeved, loose fitting shirts, widebrimmed hats and sunscreen that protects against UVA and UVB rays are musts these days. If you miss a spot, cool cloths, aloe vera creams and gels, and over-the-counter pain relievers can help soothe the burn. If itching is an issue, antihistamines like Benadryl can also help.

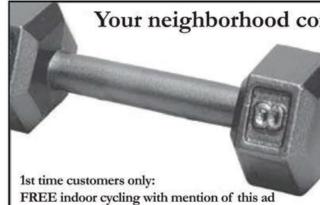
Dehydration

The most common summer complaint is dehydration. Elevated temperatures and the hot sun can sap the body's moisture quickly. Water and shade breaks are vital to staying hydrated. Also, try to schedule outdoor activities when the sun's rays aren't so intense - typically before 10 a.m. and after 2 p.m.

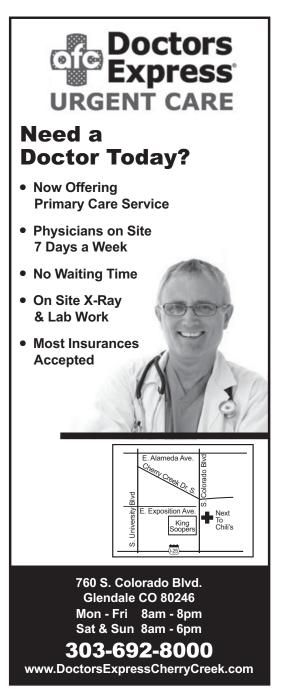
Heat Stroke and Heat Exhaustion

If dehydration is severe, heat exhaustion and heat stroke can occur. People suffering from heat exhaustion may have cool, moist skin, headaches and dizziness. Nausea and vomiting may also occur. If possible, stop all activity, move to a cool, shaded place and drink water or sports drinks. If heat exhaustion is left untreated, heat stroke can occur. Symptoms of heat stroke include dry, hot skin, fever, seizures and unconsciousness. As with heat exhaustion, move to a cool, shaded place, drink water or and call 911.

For more information contact Doctors Express-303-692-8000.

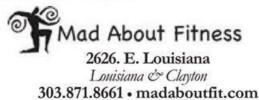






Your neighborhood connection to health and wellness! We offer:

- · personal fitness training · senior fitness
- pre/post natal fitness cancer exercise rehab
- · yoga and indoor cycling



Cory Merrill Real Estate Update

By Holly Carpenter, LIV Sotheby's International Realty

Denver Metro inventory is flying off the market! The surging national economy combined with Colorado's growing popularity is causing a severe lack of inventory in our metro area. At the start of this year, there were roughly 3,800 active listings for attached and detached homes in the 7 metro Denver counties, just shy of the historical *record* for the least amount of homes for sale. The highest number of listings for attached and detached units on the market was in June of 2006 with just under 32,000. To meet today's demand, Denver needs over 20,000 additional listings. In many cases, seller's are receiving multiple offers on their homes and the average number of days a home is on the market for sale is down significantly.

The Cory Merrill Market Report below compares 2015 first quarter statistics to those of 2014 for single family homes. The average price of Cory Merrill homes increased 27.3% compared to a 14% increase in all Denver Metro neighborhoods combined. Cory's average days on market fell 38.5% compared to 27.5% for all of Denver. The good news— Whether you plan to buy, sell or just hang tight, there's an upside to your scenario. Homes are selling quickly, buyer's are enjoying (still) historically low interest rates and homeowner's are experiencing a healthy increase in equity.

CORY MERRIL MARKET REPORT ~ Q1 2015			
January - March	2014	2015	% Change
Average Price	\$474,619	\$604,065	27.3%
Average Price per Square Foot	\$337	\$358	6.2%
Average Days on Market	91	56	-38.5
Highest Price	\$1,300,000	\$1,250,000	-3.8%
Lowest Price	\$244,000	\$259,000	6.1%
Properties Sold	21	28	33.3%



HOLLY CARPENTER Broker Associate & Cory Merrill Resident 303.589.7449 holly.carpenter@sothebysrealty.com livsothebysrealty.com



CORY MERRILL HOME SURVEY By Scott Takeda



A long time Cory Merrill

resident, and a former board member of the neighborhood association, Scott Takeda, has conducted another survey of the neighborhood focusing on scrapes and pop-tops. He joined the board in 2007 and made it a goal of his to study the newer homes in the neighborhood and deliver hard facts. In November of 2007, he conducted his first survey of the neighborhood and discovered that more than 1 in 5 homes in Cory Merrill (442 of 2039) were either original twostory homes, scrapes or pop-tops.

Since that time, he's conducted an annual Fall survey of Cory Merrill, recounting each home to see how the neighborhood had changed over the past 12 months. For example, in 2008, he discovered 31 new houses were built. He conducted additional surveys in 2009 and 2010, and he completed this most recent one in December 2014.

Here's the summary of the data he found. The excel spreadsheet with details can be found on our website at: corymerrill.org

- Now more than 3 in 10 houses in Cory Merrill are existing 2-story, scrapes, or pops. That's 614 out of 2042 homes.
- The total number of homes increased by 3 since his last survey 4 years ago. The increase is due to 8 new homes on the 1700 block of Jackson. Some have chosen to scrape 2 lots and build 1 home.

- In the past 4 years, the number of new scrapes or poptops increased by 90 homesan average of 22.5 houses a vear.
- The area west of Steele still leads the scrapes/pops. More than 40-percent of the homes west of Steele are scrapes, pops, or original 2 story. This is up from 5-percentage points from 2010.
- The area east of Steele is slower, but up as well. Now 18.8-percent of the homes east of Steele are scrapes, pops, or original two story. Up from 15.3 in 2010.
 - Cory Merrill now only has 10 blocks (out of 97) without a single modification. In the past four years, 3 blocks have seen their first scrape or pop-top.

The Great Denver Cleanup! Saturday, May 9, 2015

The Keep Denver Beautiful a program of the City of Denver will provide stationary trash trucks at various sites to collect discarded household items, yard waste & Goodwill donations. This event is FREE for Denver residents! It's a great opportunity to plan your cleanup, share information with your neighbors and make plans to clean out your garages & yards.

Visit the denvergov.org/KDB for more information.

2015-16 SEASON

Twyla Tharp Dance - 50th Anniversary in Dance SEPT 24/25

NEWMAN CENTER

RESEN

Colorado Symphony OCT 6

Vertigo Dance Company Reshimo Co-presented with Mizel Arts and Culture Center at the JCC Kyle Abraham Dance/Abraham.In.Motion **OCT 17**

Michael Feinstein The Great American Songbook Co-presented with Mizel Arts and Culture Center at the JCC OCT 22

Anonymous 4 - Final Season Tour-1865 - Songs of Hope and Home from the American Civil War with Bruce Molsky, fiddl **NOV 14**

Boston Brass and Brass All-Stars Big Band Christmas Bells are Swingin'! DEC 2

Brooklyn Rider Almanac **JAN 14**

When the Wolves Came In **JAN 20**

So Percussion with Shara Worden, vocals FEB 6

Paul Taylor Dance Company 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

Billy Childs - Map to the Treasure: Reimagining Laura Nyro Featuring Dianne Reeves, Becca Stevens, and Alicia Olatuja MAY 5

> Season subscriptions NOW on sale starting at \$89

Single Tickets on sale JULY 13

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Save our trees from EAB!

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a newly identified invasive beetle that is highly destructive to ash trees. Responsible for the destruction of millions of trees in the Midwest U.S. since it was first identified in 2002, EAB is a green beetle native to Asia and Eastern Russia that was accidentally brought to the U.S. In 2013 EAB was found in Boulder, and has destroyed thousands of ash trees in and around Boulder in less than two years. The pest is commonly moved on firewood, shipping materials and plants. Quarantine boundaries have been established in an effort to contain the pest, and state and local officials are urging people to stop the spread of EAB by not moving firewood.

How do I know if my ash is infected?

Female EAB lay eggs in the bark that develop into worm-like larvae that feed on the inner bark of ash trees and disrupt the transportation of water and nutrients in the tree (similar to the pine beetle). This tunneling and feeding on the bard eventually kills impacted trees. When the larvae mature into adults, they emerge from the bark, leaving a Dshaped exit hole. EAB adults are approximately ¹/₂inch long (less than a diameter of a penny), with a metallic, emerald-green head and back and reddish abdomen. EAB adults can fly up to a half-mile to infest new trees.

Denver is preparing for EAB

The good news is that ash trees can be well protected through proper preventative pesticide treatments. Denver alone has an estimated 330,000 ash trees at risk, nearly 15% of Denver's trees. At this time, Denver Forestry is working to identify significant ash trees within parks and public rightsof-way, and developing an official EAB response plan for Denver.

If you have specific questions about park ash trees, or the right-of-way ash trees adjacent to your private property, send a message to forestry@denvergov.org or visit Denver Forestry online at http://bit.ly/1PFs19T.



Forestry Facts

- Cory Merrill has a 31% tree canopy cover (the Denver average is 20%)
- Denver's 2.2 million trees have saved more than \$6.7 million in energy costs
- Denver was voted among the Top 10 Best Cities for Urban Forests

Right-of-way trees are your responsibility!

Follow these Denver Forestry guidelines to avoid a fine:

- Anyone you hire to work on these trees (including trimming, treating, etc) must have a license on file with the city
- During home construction or renovation, these trees must be protected or a permit must be issued prior to removal
- Removing a right-of-way tree without a permit may result in a fine up to three times the assessed value of the tree



South High News

The 2014-15 school year is rapidly coming to an end, and your neighborhood high school as usual, has a lot going on. Spring sports are in full gear, and with the addition of 2 new sports to South, Girls Lacrosse and Boys Swimming, even more student athletes are participating in athletics this year. The Knowledge Bowl Team is

headed to the State Championships, and the Model UN Team has held their last competition of the year, after a successful showing at the world championships in DC earlier this year. In April, Culture Fest, celebrated the diversity of the school in an evening of multicultural performances that highlighted the many countries represented by our student body. Always a fun and interesting event.

You may have seen South High in the news in the recent past. Our Cheerleading Squad was recognized for their inclusion and support of fellow students with special needs. Please watch the following video that shows what a special group of young women we have supporting South. <u>https://youtu.be/y2coFVupG6A</u>

Senior Dominic Ellerbee was also recently profiled in the news and on the Ellen Show regarding his original production of *So Many Fish in the Sea*, the South High Spring musical in March. Dom wrote the script, arranged the music, wrote the lyrics, choreographed the dancing, directed the play, all while playing bass in the orchestra. It was an amazing undertaking that took 3 years and showed what a talented student he is. He, and the South High Drama Department have a lot to be proud of, <u>https://youtu.be/tkZ218J-RIM</u>

Finally, the Class of 2015 is on a roll, and for a class of less than 300 students, South Seniors have been recognized with 2 students receiving Daniel Fund Scholarships, which are 4 year, full-ride scholarships to any university in the country, and 2 students receiving Boettcher Scholarships, a 4 year, full-ride to any Colorado University. We have students who have also received a prestigious National Merit Scholarship, the Coca Cola Scholarship, the DPS Retired Teachers Scholarship, and numerous other scholarships, totaling over \$5 million, and the amount is still growing at this time. Students have been accepted at universities from coast to coast, public and private. Art/ theater schools, the US Naval Academy, all major universities in CO, and even universities out of the USA. Now, the hard part, figuring out which ones to accept! A record amount of families requested South as their first choice during the application process this year, so a big welcome to the South High Class of 2019. Fall will be here before you know it!



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Windows, Macintosh, Internet, Home Networking. 22 years experience. \$65/hour . If I can't fix it, you don't pay. I'm a Cory Merrill neighbor.

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

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In Memory o Austin Strasser

During the week of March 9th Bonnie Brae Businesses participated in the Dine Out Event in memory of Austin Strasser. The 3 year old was the victim of a tragic car accident at Ohio and University resulting in his death in February. Austin attended the Sewall Child Development Center at Stephen Knight Center for Early Education. From the Dine Out event, a percentage off sales was donated to the Sewall Center in his memory. On March 24th , Sewell was presented with a check for nearly \$4,000 in honor of Austin. The money was collected through the SKCEE (Stephen Knight Center for Early Education elementary school) PTA and organized by parent and PTA volunteer, Erlen Marsh.

"We are humbled and overwhelmed with the outpouring of support that flooded in from the community. So many individuals were at a loss for what they could do for the family. We overheard people wanting to be able to do something and this provided a perfect opportunity to do just that! While it was an unfortunate event that brought us together, our unity and dedication during this crisis demonstrated our compassion and concern that we all have for our neighbors and for each other. What an incredible experience!" Said Erlen Marsh.

Thank you to all you planned, attended, and donated. SKCEE is so grateful for the support and that of everyone in the community. The money donated to Sewall will provide scholarships for students of all abilities. It is because of the attentiveness and participation of businesses, friends, and neighbors in such an event that together we can make a difference. Thank you to all of you who participated!



LUXURY HOMES

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If your home is currently listed with another agency, this is not meant for solicitation. All offices independently owned and operated.



