

SEPTEMBER 2008



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Dear District 5 Neighbor,

Inside this issue:

<i>Focus on District 5</i>	2
<i>What's new at Philips Elementary?</i>	3
<i>Poll Workers Needed on Election Day</i>	3
<i>Contract for Clean Up Costs at Lowry</i>	4
<i>Bee Hives in Backyards</i>	5
<i>New Composting Program</i>	5
<i>ONE BOOK, ONE DENVER</i>	6
<i>INC Dollar Dictionary Drive</i>	6

As late August 2008 drew near, you could feel the intensity of Denver's anticipation increase exponentially. City employees and residents alike worked tirelessly to ensure that the Democratic National Convention would go off without a hitch. And every day of the Convention, we saw that the work paid off. The thousands of visitors who traveled to Denver seemed delighted to be here, and many told me they will be back for a vacation. If those "Welcome to Denver" buttons clog the drainage system it's because they kept popping off the proud chests of locals!



In bringing the DNC to Denver, we wanted this to be "the greenest convention in history." I was impressed that 1,000 bikes were ridden 5,552 times for 26,416 miles - avoiding 9.2 metric tons of carbon emissions and burning 818,899 calories! 537 trees were planted throughout Denver during the Convention, primarily by delegates giving back to their host city!



Please visit my web site to read the [journal](#) I kept during DNC week. My experience needs to be woven with yours to see the "big picture." I am collecting stories, so please [email me](#) yours.

I have an enriched appreciation for the people who lead and implement the work of Denver. Our government has a culture of collaboration and cooperation that won't show up on any organization chart. I'm grateful because this is part and parcel of the daily work we do for you, here in my office.

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I've enjoyed visiting with you at neighborhood picnics and block parties this summer, and I regret missing the ones I could not attend. (This is a hint that I would like to continue to be invited in the future!) I never come back to the office on Monday without some homework on the issues that are on people's minds.

Looking forward to next month, we hope to have news about the Urban Drainage study of Westerly Creek and new developments on East Colfax.

-Marcia

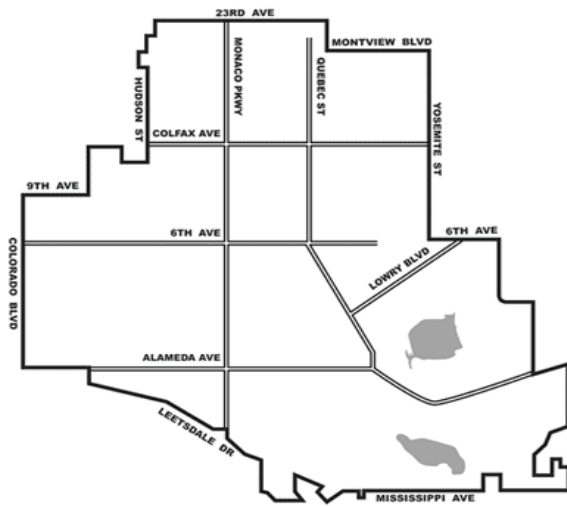
Focus on District 5

The redevelopment of the **Hospital District at 9th & Colorado** in the **Bellevue-Hale** neighborhood is progressing. [Shea Development](#) has submitted their [General Development Plan & Rezoning Application](#) to the City, and is now awaiting comments from City agencies. Once comments are received and modifications made, the rezoning applications will proceed through the City Council process.

The [Hotel proposal](#) in **Cranmer-Hilltop**, at the southeast corner of 8th & Colorado, was heard by the Planning Board on September 3, 2008. The board will make a recommendation to the City Council, who will discuss the proposal over the next couple of months before a City Council public hearing and final vote by the full City Council.

Also in Cranmer-Hilltop, residents were pleased to learn that the deadline for the **7th & Albion Townhomes** comple-

tion remains **January 31, 2009**, and was not extended at the last hearing. The developers had recently experienced a delay due to utility permitting however, the original completion date required by the City remains firm. The attorney for the developer assured the hearing officer that “they would only ask for any extension of the deadlines set forth in the remedial plan if there were delays caused by issues outside the control of the property owner.”



[Crestmoor Park](#) is a wonderful amenity enjoyed by many, especially now, during the soccer season. If you drive to the park, please be respectful of the homeowners in the area by not blocking their driveways or parking illegally. Look for increased parking enforcement in the area. Illegally parked cars will be ticketed.

City Council is currently discussing a proposal from [Councilwoman Carla Madison](#) to downzone properties within the **South Park Hill** neighborhood generally bounded by Albion/Dahlia/

Batavia/16th. If the application is approved, the zoning will change from R-2 to R-1 to preserve the character of this primarily single family neighborhood, consistent with adopted land use plans.

If you live in the **East Montclair** neighborhood, you may have noticed that the 18 units near 11th & Willow have been foreclosed. Unfortunately, the eviction of these tenants caused an eyesore when a great deal of trash accumulated on the banks of the Westerly Creek. Thanks goes out to Director of Public Works Operations Reza Kazemian and the Wastewater Management crews for quickly cleaning up the potentially hazardous mess.

Rangeview and **Park Forest** residents have noticed an increase in household belongings being placed on Dayton Street, as evictions occur at the Breakers. My office will continue to work with the Breakers to insure that the property is removed after the 24 hours it must be available for the owner to retrieve.

Philips Elementary - A Responsive Neighborhood School

As a member of the Denver City Council, neighborhood schools are very important to me, and nothing could be more rewarding than to bring Philips Elementary back to a neighborhood walk-in school. Neighborhood schools promote community for children and their families, and vital schools can contribute significantly to the overall well-being of the neighborhood. Parents also make fewer vehicle trips when their children can walk or ride their bike to school, reducing traffic congestion, air pollution, stress and time pressures.

Did you know that Philips has a new principal? This is Margaret Clinkscales' second year at Philips. Her style of leadership means every student and every parent is invited and welcome. Principal Clinkscales is very interested in meeting members of the neighborhood and hearing your dreams for the school. Please join her on **Tuesday, November 11, 2008, from 7 - 8:30 p.m.** in the East Montclair Community Center adjacent to my office, at 6740 E. Colfax Avenue.

I am excited to announce that Philips Elementary School will begin offering all day preschool and kindergarten in 2009, regardless of family income. After school activities will also be provided for all ages, every day until 6 p.m.

Both of my daughters went to DPS schools - Philips, Smiley and Manual, and then onto good colleges. Their peers went to colleges all over the country, including many Ivy League schools. I sincerely believe that a solid foundation for your child's future can be had right in your own backyard.

Volunteer at the Polls this Election Day!

Be an important part of the electoral process and volunteer to work at the polls this November. In addition to earning some pocket money, you'll have the satisfaction of participating in one of our fundamental democratic rights.



The Elections Division needs to recruit about 2,000 Election Day (November 4th) poll workers to help with an anticipated record voter turnout this year. They are particularly in need of Spanish bi-lingual and Republican poll workers.

Poll workers check in voters, verify voter identification, and generally assist voters in casting their ballots. Election Day poll workers are paid \$120. If you are selected to be a supervisor the pay is up to \$210. You must be a registered voter in the City & County of Denver and available to work from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

For more information or to download a Poll Worker application, visit www.denvervotes.org. Fill it out and fax it to (720) 913-8600 or scan and email it to poll.worker@denvergov.org. Or call the Elections Division office at (720) 913-VOTE (8683). Additional opportunities are available in the Elections Division at \$11.12/hr you may apply at www.denvergov.org/jobs.

Lowry Assumption pays \$1 Million to the City for Environmental Cleanup Protection

On December 27, 2005, the City & County of Denver entered into an Oversight Agreement with Lowry Assumption LLC (LAC). LAC is an arm of International Risk Group (IRG).

The Lowry Redevelopment Authority (LRA) hired LAC to handle the remediation of any contaminated soil at the former Lowry Air Force Base for a period of 10 years. As the LRA sunsets, right-of-ways will be dedicated to the City. To protect itself, the City required LAC to pay it \$1 million to handle any contamination that may arise after LAC's contract expires in 2015.



The payment of this \$1 million was structured in such a way as to accommodate LAC's (and by extension, IRG's) anticipated cash flow, after the zoning of properties within Lowry that are owned by IRG. One of those properties is the landfill now being called Lowry Vista. Even if these properties never get zoned, LAC will owe the City \$1 million total by 2015.

Right-of-way within the landfill redevelopment, however, will not be turned over to the City, so the City will not be responsible for any remediation on this property. The Lowry Vista Metropolitan District and/or the Air Force hold the liability for any potential future remediation of the landfill. This contract is available for viewing on my [website](#), along with some FAQs provided by the City Attorney's office.

This past month, the Denver City Council was engaged in discussion regarding the formation of a Metropolitan District for the proposed Lowry Vista development. With experts present to answer questions, the Council came to understand why the former landfill cannot remain open space as a part of the City system. Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz expressed appreciation that there was a capable entity willing to assume responsibility for the property. For more, visit [Lowry Assumption LLC's website](#), dedicated to cleanup efforts around Lowry.



Proposed Allowance for Bee Hives in Backyards

Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann is sponsoring a language amendment based on constituent interest to allow up to two bee hives (apiaries) in residential and main street zone districts. The amendment would allow hives in the rear 1/3 of the zone lot with a 5-foot setback from side and rear lot lines. Hives must be screened so bees have to fly over a 6-foot barrier before leaving the property.



The proposal is being made to allow domestic honey beekeeping, with reasonable requirements in consideration of neighbors. Honey bees are an important but fragile part of our ecosystem. Bees are critical pollinators of urban gardens and agriculture (1/3 of our food supply is pollinated by bees). Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a mysterious and potentially catastrophic ecological phenomenon, is reducing the bee population to dangerous levels.

This [language amendment](#) will first be heard by the Denver Planning Board on Wednesday, September 17, 2008, at 3 p.m. in the Wellington Webb Building at 201 W. Colfax Avenue. The Board will make a recommendation to City Council for either approval, denial, or approval with modifications. Following the Board's action, the proposal will be scheduled before Blueprint Committee of the Denver City Council. A public hearing at City Council is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2008. Council meetings start at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers on the 4th floor of the City and County Building at 1437 Bannock Street.

You may also send an [email](#) to Councilmember's and the Planning Board, with your comments on the proposal.

Sign Up for the New “Denver Recycles” Compost Program

Methane is a major greenhouse gas that comes from organic waste in landfills. To address this problem, as well as reduce our landfill-bound waste stream generally, Denver has received a state grant to pilot a composting collection program. 3,000 households will have the opportunity to receive a free 65-gallon green cart for collecting organic materials such as food, food-soiled paper and yard debris.

The residential pilot program will run from October 2008 through June 2009, and will serve as an opportunity to evaluate the benefits of residential composting collection with the possibility of providing a city-wide service.

I've signed up!

Visit the [Denver Recycles](#) website for to find out if you live in an eligible neighborhood and sign up!

ONE BOOK, ONE DENVER

The Thin Man by the great American author Dashiell Hammett is the 2008 *One Book, One Denver* selection. This is the 5th year of *One Book, One Denver*, Mayor Hickenlooper's citywide book club, building community through the shared experience of reading the same book. Denver citizens, young and old, are encouraged to participate in the program by checking out or purchasing the book and attending related events through October 31st.

Set in 1930s New York City, *The Thin Man* is a hard-boiled detective story from a master of the genre. With sparse dialogue, lively characters and the intrigue of a whodunit, this year's *One Book, One Denver* selection is fun on every page.

Copies of *The Thin Man* are available at all Denver Public Library branches, as well as local booksellers. A resource guide and glossary of terms are available at www.denvergov.org/onebook. A special insert with a list of key events will appear in the Friday, September 12 editions of *The Denver Post* and *Rocky Mountain News*.

INC Dollar Dictionary Drive Needs Your Help

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, a volunteer network of Denver neighborhood organizations, needs financial help for its 13th Annual Dollar Dictionary Drive, which furnishes a free dictionary and thesaurus to every third grader in Denver Public Schools. Many of the students who receive the books comment that the dictionary and thesaurus are the only books that they personally own.

Due to the downturn in the general economy and a reduced contribution from a long-term very generous donor, **this year – 2008 – is the first time since the Drive began in 1995 that INC is facing a serious financial shortfall for this project.** Any financial contribution that you might be able to give to the Dollar Dictionary Drive would be greatly appreciated by INC and the thousands of third graders it serves

Please may checks payable to "INC Dollar Dictionary Drive" and send to PO Box 18347, Denver, CO 80218. Donations may also be made online at www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc; click on "Dollar Dictionary Committee" to be linked to a secure website.

Stay Connected...

You can get a weekly review of issues and events in the City & County of Denver, [online](http://www.denvergov.org) Denver Update is a weekly news program produced by Denver 8 TV available on-demand on www.denvergov.org and on Comcast cable. The program also includes details about events and meetings that can help you participate in local civic affairs.

Turn to this weekly summary for recaps of the main actions of the Mayor and the City Council, as well as a preview of the meeting schedule for the week ahead. You can also [subscribe](#) to receive notices of weekly updates.

Related links:

Denver City Council Weekly Agendas, Minutes, and Information

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Receive Council Agendas and Updates by E-mail

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Please encourage your friends and neighbors to sign up!