

**CONTACTING  
WWPNA**

*Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Washington Street Community Center, 809 South Washington Street*

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**Urban Backyard Farming**

*A good thing, or should you cry "fowl" ~ you decide*

*By Sherri Way, WWPNA Board Member*

Urban or "backyard" farming is becoming popular throughout the U.S. Portland and Seattle led the way, and Fort Collins and Longmont recently adopted ordinances permitting such activities. Council is considering an ordinance (the "Ordinance") to allow Denver residents to maintain up to 8 hens and 2 dwarf goats without obtaining permits from animal control or zoning.



The proposed ordinance contains requirements for minimal square footage of permeable surface per animal, fencing, adequate shelter and location of the shelter. See [www.wwpna.org](http://www.wwpna.org) for a copy of the Ordinance.

There are many arguments for and against urban backyard farming. We'll highlight both sides of the issue in this article.

**The Pros**

Those supporting the Ordinance believe there are compelling reasons for urban backyard farms. Among these, they cite:

1. Healthy food source. Home-grown and home-raised foods are generally more nutritious than foods conventionally raised. Supporters also believe it is easier to verify there have been no antibiotics and/or growth hormones given to the animals.
2. Reduced environmental impacts. Food grown, and eggs and milk harvested from animals maintained by individuals in their backyards means less food must be transported, and therefore less vehicle pollution and fossil fuel use. Additionally, supporters believe there will be less impact from animal waste with animals raised in urban backyards than is sustained from large animal feed operations.
3. Less reliance on Agribusiness; Better animal treatment. Greater reliance on locally grown and home-raised foods will reduce reliance on large agribusiness. Supporters believe this will result in kinder treatment of food-producing animals. Many urban backyard farmers grow attached to

**Our panel will be  
discussing Urban  
Backyard Farming**

**at the**

**Annual Meeting  
on April 20, 7PM**

**being held at the  
Christian Indian Center  
501 S. Pearl Street**

*Continued on Page 2*

# Urban Backyard Farming *Continued from Page 1*

their animals, intending to keep them as pets even after their food-producing capacity has ended. While animals are maintained in urban backyard farms, they will be required to be provided with adequate shelter and adequate room to move around.

4. Secure food source. Locally grown and raised foods are less susceptible to threats of food-borne contaminants.

5. Favorable economics. Home-grown and home-raised foods will be more economical, particularly when compared to prices for organic, chemical-free foods. Supporters believe this will benefit all Denver residents, but particularly low-income families with less financial resources to allocate to such high-quality food products.

For more information about the benefits of urban backyard farming, go to [www.sustainablefooddenver.org](http://www.sustainablefooddenver.org).

## The Cons

Detractors of the urban backyard farm movement cite, among other things, the following concerns:

1. Noxious uses. Denver residents frequently live on small lots. Encouraging residents to keep farm animals in their backyards has great potential for intrusion of noxious odors and noise. The Ordinance doesn't require any notice to neighbors, nor would registered neighborhood organizations be notified.

2. Animal welfare; increase in rescue population. Detractors fear that notwithstanding the best intentions of the urban backyard farmers, a large population of animals will be turned over to rescue groups, abandoned, or tendered for off-site slaughter if people determine the burden of animal care exceeds what they can or will provide. Urban backyard farming is relatively new, but one rescue group in Minnesota says it has documented a significant increase in chickens turned over for rescue since 2009.

3. Increased demands for code enforcement. The current process requires permitting from the City and payment of annual fees. The Ordinance would eliminate this. While hens and dwarf goats may be no nosier or troublesome than dogs and cats, encouraging urban backyard farming potentially increases demands on Denver's already over-taxed code enforcement department. Because there will be no permit fees available to potentially offset additional costs, it seems unlikely given budgetary constraints that Denver will be able to provide more funding for additional enforcement.

4. Increase in predator and rodent population. Animals will be sheltered at night, but detractors fear they still will be vulnerable to predators. Denver is experiencing an increase in the population of fox and coyote, and this population likely will be further encouraged by a fresh, available food source. Chickens also tend to attract rodents and other pests.

For more information about concerns related to urban backyard farming, go to [www.brittonclouse.com](http://www.brittonclouse.com).

## Conclusion

Please join WVNPA the evening of April 20 at the Christian Indian Center, 501 S. Pearl Street, to hear our panel discussion. Representatives of the sustainable food and animal welfare communities will participate, as will representatives of Denver's planning and code enforcement departments. You'll be able to ask and have your questions answered by the experts!



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 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# Annual July 4th Neighborhood Picnic at the Dos Chappell Bath House

*We need you! Every year, volunteers are essential to making this event a success!*

We need volunteers to help plan for our Washington Park July 4th, and we need you the day of our July 4th Celebration! We are looking for volunteers for one hour or more with the following activities:

- decorate the boat house,
- outline the parade route with American flags,
- set-up and staff the food/beverage,
- toy and decoration stations, and
- remove decorations and clean up after the event.

In addition, parade route monitors are needed to assist with bicycle safety and to help clap for our parade participants.

Are you a Veteran of the U.S. Military? If so, or if you have a family member currently serving, please let us know! At this year's W.P. July 4th Celebration we will be honoring retired and active U.S. Military.

Are you a local Business or know of a business who would like to sponsor the event? This is a great way to get your name out to the Wash Park community, while helping with a worthy cause.

The July 4th picnic has truly become a neighborhood tradition, enjoyed by neighbors of and visitors to the park alike. Please contact Lori Poole at pooleLL@hotmail.com or 303-9903-5892 for more details and to offer your help or if you would be interested in sponsoring a table at the event.

## Block Parties are NOT College Keggers!

Last April, WWPNA published an article on How to Throw a Block Party. There have been many successful Block Parties in West Washington Park over the past decade, such as the multi-block parties on Emerson and Sherman Street. However, a large party was held on Washington shortly after the article was published which requiring repeated police presence, and WWPNA was criticized for promoting college-style keggers!

The party on Washington was not a "Block Party", just a large party held in the street. It had been growing for a number of years, and neighbors felt powerless to stop it. The permit from that party is being investigated by near neighbors. Be aware that

75% of all residents/property owners on a block must sign a consent form for any block party to receive a permit.

We have re-posted our Block Party article on the home page of wwpna.org, and we hope that residents will use this information to hold 'picnics on the block' and get to know your neighbors!

## DSST to Byers

DPS is making important decisions about solutions to school issues in south Denver -- including new school placement in June. It's crucial they continue to hear from you. This is our opportunity to make sure that bringing the nationally famous DSST to Byers Jr. High is part of any solution.

*Please make your voice heard by participating in the following DPS "Community Conversations":*

**April 25, 2011-** South High School - To Be Confirmed  
5:30PM - 6:00PM Dinner • 6:00PM - 8:30PM Meeting

**May 23, 2011-** South High School - To Be Confirmed  
5:30PM - 6:00PM Dinner • 6:00PM - 8:30PM Meeting

If you can't make the meetings you can still make your voice heard:

- Sign the DSST-to-Byers online petition if you haven't already: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/dsstobyers](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/dsstobyers)
- Collect petition signatures from your neighbors
- Send an email to DPS board members at Board@dpsk12.org
- Email BringDSSTtoByers@gmail.com for more information on how you can help build support for this effort.
- Find DSST-to-Byers on Facebook for a list of upcoming School Board meetings and other events you can attend to show your support.

Thanks again for your commitment and continued participation!

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### Have some fun with the Home Tour Committee

We are planning another Home Tour for this September and seeking volunteers to help organize. We have a lot of fun planning this! There are lots of ways you can contribute based on your interests; help organize the homes for tours, raise sponsorships with local businesses, coordinate the Silent Auction.

**We need you!** WWPNA regularly contributes to local schools and non-profits and uses our Treasury to support our mission of maintaining the residential character of West Washington Park. Please contact Charlie Busch at 303-722-6220 or [charlie\\_busch@yahoo.com](mailto:charlie_busch@yahoo.com).

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# Good Neighbor Agreements for New Liquor Licenses

By Charlotte Winzenburg, Chair WWPNA Zoning Committee

In recent years, Good Neighbor Agreements have become a tool that neighborhoods can use to minimize the potential for problems when businesses and homes are in close proximity. The key to the usefulness of an agreement is that it be specific enough to be enforceable and tied to the liquor license so that it will be transferred with the license to future owners of the liquor license because when a liquor license is transferred, the only reason the transfer can be denied is problems with the character and reputation of the new owner. It is up to the neighborhood association signing the document to enforce the provisions.

Good Neighbor Agreements typically address such issues as hours of operation inside the business and on patios, exterior noise from audio speakers, trash handling, hours when dumpsters may be emptied, and exterior lighting. The Zoning Committee has begun a policy of endeavoring to acquire Good Neighbor Agreements with all applicants for liquor licenses in our neighborhood. This is especially important where commercial zoning abuts residential zoning and a business with a liquor license has the potential to impact nearby homeowners.

We have had applications for 3 hotel and restaurant licenses and one beer and wine license for restaurants since last September. Thanks to the good work of committee member, Gertie Grant, we have agreements with all four owners. Three of these restaurants have patios. The owners have all been very willing to enter into these Good Neighbor Agreements and we hope you will thank them for that when you visit them. At the time this newsletter goes to press; only one of the three has opened.

- Bittersweet** - Fine dining 500 E. Alameda  
Open for business -
- Larkburger** - Gourmet burgers 340 E. Alameda  
(not open as of 3/15/11)
- Tikiwood & Grass Skirt Lounge** - 218 S. Broadway  
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- La Scala Trattoria** -Italian cuisine 280 S. Logan St.  
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**Rick Kulwicki- Gone too soon**  
 West Wash Park resident, recording Artist and single father of twin 15 yr. old boys, died suddenly Feb. 15 of an undetected heart condition. Ricks' band, **The Fluid** was nationally known in the late '80's & '90's. A benefit Rock-n-Roll Show was held at the Bluebird Theater Mar. 25th & 26th where his sons' band, the **Purple Fluid** preformed. Rick was a truly inspirational father, musician, friend & neighbor.

**\*\*\*A Memorial Fund has been set up for Ricks' sons at any Wells Fargo Bank in Richard Kulwicki's name.\*\*\***

Look for the Purple Fluid to be playing at Local Venues this Spring & Summer!

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

## **WSCC No Cook Nights and Friday Breakfast!**

Don't forget the regular No Cook Nights and Friday Breakfasts at WSCC, 809 S. Washington St. No cook night is always the third Thursday of each month and runs from 4:40-6:30PM. Cost is only \$5 per person. Most Fridays they serve all-you-can-eat breakfast from 8:30-10:00AM. Cost is \$5 for non-members and \$4 for members. Check the WSCC calendar at [www.wsc-denver.org](http://www.wsc-denver.org).

## **FANS needs to hear from West Wash Park!**

FANS (Friends and Neighbors of Washington Park) FANS is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization organized in 2006. The members are committed to being stewards of the park for the enjoyment of today's visitors and future generations. Representatives are needed from West Washington Park. If you are interested, please contact Charlie Busch at 303-722-6220 or [charlie\\_busch@yahoo.com](mailto:charlie_busch@yahoo.com).

## **Happy Pathways Laughter Club**

Weekly Laughter Yoga class at Washington St. Community Center (WSCC), 809 S. Washington St.

### **Thursdays from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.**

There will be a special program celebrating World Laughter Day on Sunday, May 1, 2011 from noon until 2:00 p.m. at WSCC, with laughter exercises and a drawing for door prizes. Admission is free, and all ages are welcome.

The Laughter Yoga™ movement is a global initiative to unite all humanity through unconditional love and laughter. It is a non-religious, non-racial and non-profit organization committed to generating good health, joy and world peace through laughter. Info: call 720-917-4890, email [happypathways@gmail.com](mailto:happypathways@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.wsc-denver.org/>.

## **Celebrate Earth Day at The Park People's Annual DENVER DIGS TREES Sale** **Trees available Saturday, April 16**

Celebrate Earth Day in style by adding a tree or two to Denver's urban forest. The sale takes place on Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.-noon at three convenient locations, Washington Park, City Park and Sloan's Lake.

"We are excited to, once again, help Denver kick-off the spring planting season with our yard tree sale," says The Park People's Kim Yuan-Farrell. "What a wonderful way to honor our planet on Earth Day," she adds.

Trees are \$45 for bare-root and \$65 for balled and burlap-

wrapped varieties. Available species include:

Pacific Sunset Maple, Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac, Eastern Redbud, Snow Fountains Weeping Cherry, Bloodgood London Planetree, English Oak, Shademaster Honey locust. Distribution for pre-ordered street trees also will take place on April 16. Trees not claimed at the sale will be sold at the sale extension on Sunday, April 17, at City Park. Washington Park (S. Franklin St. & Kentucky Ave.) City Park (E. 23rd Ave. & York St.) Sloan's Lake Park (Sheridan & 17th)

Visit [www.theparkpeople.org](http://www.theparkpeople.org), or call 303-722-6262, for more information.

## **Book Signing Event at Broadway Book Mall** **200 S. Broadway (at Cedar) 303-744-BOOK**

Saturday, April 9, 3:30 p.m. - Beth Groundwater will discuss and sign *Deadly Currents*, her latest mystery

Saturday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. - Todd Neff will discuss and sign *From Jars to the Stars: How Ball Came to Build a Comet-Hunting Machine*.

Saturday, April 23, 3:00 p.m. - A trio of urban fantasy writers: Theresa Crater, Robin D. Owens and Thea Hutcheson will all discuss and sign their latest books and stories.

Sunday, May 1, 6:30 p.m. - Colorado Homegrown Tales presents actors reading stories by Colorado authors P D Cacek, Kent Nelson, and James Van Pelt. \$10 admission; 720-233-0811

Saturday, May 14, 3:00 p.m. - Carrie Vaughn will discuss and sign her latest TWO books: *Steel*, a young adult novel; and *After the Golden Age*, a loving homage to classic superheroes.

Saturday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. - Steve and Melanie Tem will discuss their writing careers. Alone and together, they have written suspense, horror, mystery and screenplays.

Saturday, June 18, 1-4 p.m. - The Vitamin Band LIVE with Olena Burda-Lassen, Ph.D. The Vitamin Band is an eco friendly book for the whole family.

## **ZUMBA® Classes at Washington Street Community Center (WSCC)**

### **Tuesday Zumba at 4:30 pm**

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# That Horrible Sound

by Charlie Busch, WWPNA Board President

I almost hit him. Driving up Ohio at night, I barely glimpsed the reflection from the shoes of the jogger in the middle of the road. He was wearing black clothes and a black hat. If it weren't for the reflection from the back of his shoes, I wouldn't have seen him until I hit him. I sat there in my car shaking for a while, knowing my occasional nightmare would repeat that night.

*th-thump, th-thump, cushhhhhh*

I consider myself an average driver. While I manage the occasional speeding ticket, I've never been in a serious accident. Then came that awful evening three years ago. Sitting at a light, I waited for a large SUV to cross Broadway and then turned my car left onto Broadway.

*th-thump, th-thump, cushhhhhh*

Sometimes I wonder if Hollywood sound effects reflect the real thing. The sound of a bicyclist hitting your car, rolling up your hood and smacking against the windshield is horribly accurate.

Luckily, the bicyclist I hit suffered only bumps and bruises. He was dressed in dark colors and while he had a light on his bike, he wasn't sure it was on. All I know is **I just didn't see him**. Surprisingly, he was a bit sheepish; he was mostly concerned about his wife's reaction to the accident. She had been insisting for a while that he wear more reflective, visible clothing. He had been dismissing her fears as unnecessary worrying. I paid to fix his bike, then added another \$75 and asked him to invest in some highly reflective clothing and bigger lights.

We are a very active neighborhood. The park offers many forms of recreation. Our streets are narrow, and our propensity to rush around while behind the wheel is a dangerous mix. While cars bear the primary responsibility for avoiding pedestrians and bi-

cyclists, we can all work towards avoiding the accidents.

## Go over the top to be safe

1) When you're the driver: **Slow Down!** Speeding only saves a few seconds and greatly reduces your reaction distance.

2) When you're the pedestrian/cyclist: **Dress to be seen.** Tiny reflectors on clothes or shoes can be easily missed or covered. Yellow/orange construction safety vests will fit over clothes and coats. The Army Surplus store on Broadway and Hampden has them for \$7 - \$20. Reflective tape can be added to most clothes. Make yourself as visible as a car.

3) **Put lights on your bike both front AND back**, and as many lights/reflectors on the sides as possible. My favorite bike light is the Down Low Glow for night riding and visibility from the side. The product is in the process of being upgraded. <http://rockthebike.com/lights/downlowglow>.

Working together, pedestrians, bicyclists and car drivers can make the neighborhood a much safer place while enjoying all the amenities the neighborhood and park has to offer. Take the steps needed to keep you and your loved ones safe.

*th-thump, th-thump, cushhhhhh*



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- This is a contribution, or gift membership for \_\_\_\_\_.
- My address has changed and is corrected above.

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For more information, please contact Charlie Busch at 303 722-6220.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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- Emergency 911
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- DPD District 4 Offices
  - 2100 S. Clay St., Denver 80219
  - Main Office (non-emergency) 720 913-0200
- Neighborhood Police Officers
  - Ian Wallace 720 641-1401
  - Chris Evans 720 641-1403
- Gang Unit 303 331-4081
- Graffiti Hotline 720 865-7867
- Broadway Cop Shop 720 865-2206

### Chris Nevitt City Council District 7

- Phone: 720 865-8900
  - Fax: 720 865-8903
  - Email: [chris.nevitt@denvergov.org](mailto:chris.nevitt@denvergov.org)
- Councilman Nevitt holds office hours for our neighborhood every second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at Michelangelo's Coffee Shop, at One Broadway.*

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