



WSSC  
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April - June, 2010

wwpna.org

## 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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**Join us at the WWPNA Annual Meeting on April 28th • 6:30 PM.**  
Lincoln Elementary School Cafeteria, 710 South Pennsylvania St.  
*The two topics will be Lincoln Elementary and How to Organize Your Own Block Party!*

## How can you "Touch the Future?"

by Diane Smith, Principal, Lincoln Elementary

Until recently, Lincoln Elementary was constantly on the neighborhood "watch" list for schools that might be slated to be cut. Things are improving, but the DPS budget problems continue to plague the schools. Lincoln Elementary School is one of the topics for the annual WWPNA meeting on April 28th. Come and see how you can help keep quality schools in our neighborhood.

*continued on page 3*

## WWPNA and Public Works implement traffic calming measures on Washington/Emerson;

*New two-way reversion study planned for 2014*

*Jim Jones, Chair of the WWPNA Land Use and Transportation Committee*

**!!Correction!! The article in the last newsletter was published in error.**

It should be apparent by driving the neighborhood that Washington & Emerson streets have not been converted to two-way. The article in the last newsletter headlining that Washington & Emerson streets would be converted to two-way was published incorrectly.

**Here's what's really happened.**

Public Works and WWPNA negotiated traffic calming along both streets, most of which have already been implemented. These include:

1. Replacing the traffic lights in the interior of the neighborhood with all-way stops,
2. Adding additional all-way stops at Bayaud and Mississippi for both Washington and Emerson so there is an all-way stop every two blocks through the interior of the neighborhood,
3. Reducing the speed limit on these streets to 25 miles per hour,
4. Designating Washington and Emerson as bike streets, and
5. After repaving this summer, striping dedicated bike lanes.
6. Parking will remain on both sides of the street.

*continued on page 2*

## Traffic calming measures *continued from page 1*

7. The streets will remain in their current one-way configuration for at least the next 5 years with the stop lights at Speer Blvd., Alameda, and N Buchtel remaining.

### Here's what happens next?

In five years (we have a hard date set for November 2014) Public Works will revisit the neighborhood's request to revert Washington and Emerson to two-way streets. At that time Public Works will make a final determination whether Washington and Emerson streets will be downgraded to their original two-way configuration. This will be based on neighborhood input, circumstances, and monitoring the results of the aforementioned traffic calming measures.

Though Councilman Nevitt and the neighborhood would have preferred a full conversion at once, we believe this implementation plan is workable and provides immediate benefit to the neighborhood without jeopardizing the goal of a full conversion. Please stay involved so all neighbors have input into this decision.

Please remember that safety is first. Make sure you always stop and look both ways at all intersections as drivers adjust to new traffic patterns.

These changes make significant progress on our traffic mitigation plan in this area as well as on Logan, along Lincoln and with pedestrian access to the surrounding light rail stations. These changes should calm traffic throughout the neighborhood, and make it safer for neighbors to walk (and bike) to the park, light rail, local businesses and other neighborhood amenities.

I want to personally thank Councilman Nevitt for his dedication to our neighborhood. And thank Brian Mitchell, Director - Traffic Engineering in Public Works for his dedication to this process and commitment to finding a workable solution. Neighborhoods and Public Works often disagree, but in this instance they were a very good partner in improving West Washington Park.

The original article is available at [www.wwpna.org](http://www.wwpna.org) for your review. WWPNA apologizes for any confusion our error may have caused.

### Other Land Use and Transportation updates:

Zoning Code Update: The final vote for the new zoning code has been delayed until June of this year. Councilman Nevitt and WWPNA have been quite successful in ensuring single family zoning in the down-zoning areas, plus appropriate zoning for those areas of the neighborhood with higher densities. Please look for a more detailed update in the next issue. If you have questions about your zoning, please contact Sherri Way (Chair of the Zoning Code Update Committee), you can also contact our zoning chair, or me.

I-25 Construction update: The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has secured stimulus money to replace the Alameda Bridge and complete the design work on the new Santa Fe Bridge. Construction will begin on the Alameda

Bridge in April and take two years to complete. CDOT plans to keep two lanes of through traffic open in each direction, but drivers should plan for some delays in this area. The design work on the Santa Fe Bridge will be completed between now and fall of this year. WWPNA will be involved to ensure our neighborhood goals are still met. Construction on the Santa Fe Bridge would begin as soon as CDOT can secure funds.

### Update on the neighborhood traffic mitigation plan:

The aforementioned traffic calming makes significant progress on our overall traffic mitigation plan. As has been reported, we currently have roughly 250,000 cars a day flowing in and around our neighborhood. As the Gates factory sites and Alameda Station are redeveloped, this number could exceed 300,000 and might even reach volumes approaching 350,000. Understanding the future traffic impacts, WWPNA adopted the following goals for traffic mitigation. I have added updates for each item.

1. Mitigation measures at the I-25 off-ramps so traffic cannot freely flow into the neighborhood.
  - a. Completed as part of T-REX and the Valley Highway, with either a stop sign or eventual stop light at the end of each off ramp.
2. Mitigation measures along Lincoln to prevent neighborhood cut-through traffic.
  - a. Completed as part of the Alameda Station planning, with a future stop light at every intersection south of Alameda.
3. Mitigation measures on Mississippi from Broadway east to Logan to ensure traffic from the Gates redevelopments primarily flows west to the traffic corridors better suited to accommodate the load.
  - a. Completed as part of the NEPA planning, with a stop light at Logan and Mississippi which allows only one turn lane to north Logan, and improvements to Mississippi to better regulate traffic flow.
4. Returning Washington and Emerson, where single family homes predominate both sides of the street, back to two-way streets to prevent their use as an alternate routes for the additional traffic load (without any loss of parking on either side of the street).
  - a. Significant progress has been made with a date for evaluating a final reversion to two-way in five years.
5. Improved pedestrian crossings to the light rail stations.
  - a. Completed as part of the T-REX, NEPA and the Alameda Station Plan. Wide multi-use sidewalks will be installed on Ohio between Lincoln St. and the Broadway Station, and stop lights will be eventually installed at Ohio & Logan, and Ohio & Lincoln (at the off ramp) to provide safer pedestrian access. Lastly, stop lights will eventually be installed at all intersection of Broadway and Lincoln south of Alameda which will provide safer pedestrian access to the Alameda Station.
6. Speed reductions on Logan and Downing. WWPNA will continue to pursue this goal.

## How to Organize your Own Block Party

Block parties are great fun and a terrific way of getting to know your neighbors. Find someone else on the block to share the work and just do it. It doesn't need to be elaborate; it just needs to include your neighbors.

Due to space limitations in this issue of our newsletter, we did not have the space to print the entire "How to Organize Your Own Block Party" article. This will be one of two topics at the WWPNA Annual Meeting on April 28th.

It will also be posted on the Home page of the website at [www.wwpna.org](http://www.wwpna.org).

**Join us at the WWPNA Annual Meeting on April 28th**, at Lincoln Elementary School cafeteria, 710 South Pennsylvania Street, starting at 6:30 PM. The two topics will be [Lincoln Elementary](#) and [How to Organize Your Own Block Party](#).

## How can you "Touch the Future?" *continued from page 1*

Lincoln Elementary School is a high achieving school located west of Washington Park. It is a unique Denver Public School because it houses both a Montessori and a Traditional program.

These programs offer a choice of instructional approaches to families. The content of the curriculum is very similar for both programs and students are required to take all of the standardized tests required by the State to measure progress towards the standards.

Back in 2002, Lincoln only had a traditional program with about 100 students. The school was in danger of closing. The staff and community decided to offer a Montessori program beginning in the 2003-2004 school year as a way to increase enrollment. The program began with one class of 3, 4 and 5 year old children. Since that time, both the Montessori and Traditional programs have grown to include a total of 330 students. About two thirds of the children come from outside of the Lincoln area, drawn by our strong academic program and family orientation. However, the neighborhood is changing and more young families live near the school. Therefore, the group of 3 year olds entering our Montessori program next year comes primarily from our neighborhood.

The biggest challenge facing Lincoln these days is the one common to most districts in Colorado, the budget crisis. We had planned to add another 4th/5th grade Montessori class next year, but are unable to afford the additional teacher. We also

have to cut 10 of our 18 paraprofessionals. These classroom assistants are invaluable as they directly support children and teachers. We will be looking for parent and community support to help us fill the gaps that this lack of personnel will create.

Lincoln has a real family feel. We provide regular family events such as our Ice Cream Social, Pot Luck Bingo Night and Family Movie Night. If you drive by the school at dismissal, 3:45 PM, you will see parents and children talking and playing. They enjoy being here and are not in a rush to get home. We welcome visitors and are proud of our historic building. Please stop by anytime to see us in action.

Interesting facts about Lincoln Elementary School:

- The original building was completed in March, 1891 at a cost of \$33,525.
- The first principal, J.H. Dodds, served for 25 years.
- An addition was added to the school in 1904.
- In 1917, Lincoln had eight grades.
- In 1929, the older part of the school was torn down and the auditorium and gymnasium wing was added.
- Lincoln had 725 students, 18 teachers and 535 families in 1938.
- The building was designated an historic site in 1998.
- Our mascot is the Lynx and the school colors are purple, gold and white.

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# Washington Street Community Center invites neighbors to “Share Our Future”!

By Anita Martin, WSCC Board Member

On a snowy Thursday evening in February, over 100 friends and neighbors of the Washington Street Community Center gathered to honor the past and present, and celebrate the future as WSCC moves into a new era. Guests were treated to a home-cooked Mexican meal at I Don't Wanna Cook Night and then headed upstairs for wine, munchies and a chance to bid on over 100 goods and services in a silent auction.

As mentioned in an article for this newsletter in July 2009, the city of Denver relinquished ownership of the building housing WSCC on January first of this year. This means the city will no longer maintain the building and WSCC is now an independent non-profit.

After 42 years of quietly serving the needs of surrounding neighborhoods, the Center is set to grab some attention by launching the Share Our Future campaign. The campaign is geared toward raising funds for building improvements and enhancements. First on the list is new landscaping and signage, next up is improvements to the front entryway and lobby area.

New classes and programs are in the works to attract new visitors to WSCC. A new Monday morning Zumba class has been

added to the existing Tae Kwon Do and yoga classes. Computer classes began in March and speakers from the Active Minds program are set to begin scheduling lectures in June or July. WSCC hopes to attach some of these events to existing activities like I Don't Wanna Cook Night and the Friday breakfasts and twice weekly lunches.

To get a taste of what goes on at WSCC, check out their website calendar. All events are listed there, with a full description when you click on the event. Upcoming events are also listed at the top of the homepage. The web address is [wsc-denver.org](http://wsc-denver.org).



Share Our Future invites residents and neighbors to do just that — share and be a part of the future of the Washington Street Community Center. Just a small contribution (of time or money) can make a big difference in helping WSCC better serve the needs of the diverse members of our community. WSCC is located at 809 South Washington Street, at the corner of Washington and Ohio. Phone: 303-733-4643.



## Washington Street Community Center

**Join us for some homemade meals and community fun!**

*Friday breakfasts* — First three Fridays of the month, 8:30-10 a.m.

*I Don't Wanna Cook Nites* — Every third Thursday of the month from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Meals are all you can eat, eat in or take out.  
*Just \$5 for adults, \$3 for children.*

**We look forward to seeing you!**

809 S. Washington St. 303.733.4643 [wsc-denver.org](http://wsc-denver.org)  
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# New Planning Process for The Park

By Gloria LaFree, Treasurer

WWPNA understands that our neighborhood's close proximity to Washington Park is often a significant reason why people choose to live here. The Park provides us with opportunities for outdoor exercise and recreation, and to enjoy wildlife in our urban setting. Because of the significance of the Park to quality of life in our community, you should know that Denver Parks & Recreation has initiated a comprehensive year-long planning process for Washington Park, which we'll refer to in this article as the "master plan". While these meetings have been publicized, to date participation by residents in our community has been minimal. The master plan's purpose is to determine a park vision, priorities for park rehabilitation and improvements, as well as park management strategies. We hope you will read this article, and get involved.

WWPNA was invited to attend the first Stakeholders meeting for the planning process, which also was attended by two representatives of Washington Park East and the park advocacy group, Friends and Neighbors of Washington Park (FANS). At that meeting, the City-hired primary consultants, Wenk Associates, explained the preliminary steps taken for the planning effort. A number of Parks & Recreation employees and other City employees attended, including a representative from the Washington Park recreation center, the tenants of the park building on the northwest corner, vendors that are permitted to use the park, and someone whose outside group uses the park. Needless to say, there were more City people than stakeholders by far.

Everyone at the meeting agreed that Washington Park is the pearl of the existing 'Regional' parks, and that its 'historical integrity' should be preserved. We also agreed that the park, as it exists today, basically works and meets the needs of its users. Given this backdrop, we expected the meeting to involve a discussion of present infrastructure improvements and rehabilitation plans for existing buildings and other amenities in Washington Park (things like replacing trees and incorporating drought-tolerant plantings). Instead, the consultants began by discussing traffic circulation and parking deficiencies at the park - quite a surprise!


During the most recent stakeholders meeting, we were provided with maps and a presentation depicting possible changes to Wash Park. Some proposed changes came out of previous meetings, but some were new and we think may be controversial. Most alarming was the potential for added parking within the Park and the opening of now-closed streets within the Park for better vehicle circulation. Some of you may remember the efforts it took to reduce vehicle traffic in the park years ago, partly to create a better experience for park users, and partly to reduce undesirable effects such as crime and cruising. The creation of venues in the Park intended to generate revenue for the City was also raised. Though none of these topics have been officially suggested, they were implied none the less.

Also of concern and somewhat perplexing were suggestions to create new uses for parts of the Park apparently considered by the City's consultants to be 'dead zones' - i.e., spots that few

people appear to be using (like the horseshoe pits and southwest corner of the Park). One particularly disturbing possibility raised by the consultants was the idea of building a bridge to the island in Grasmere Lake. Such a proposal could be devastating to the active bird nesting area that has been on that island for some time. Several new areas for picnic tables and grills also were suggested, as was opening the 'meadow' to sports other than volleyball, and creating major park entrances (e.g., arched entrances) from all side streets along Downing Street.

In addition to the above, many good suggestions were made and noted, but they were not controversial and actually improved or repaired present conditions. For example, the idea of promoting parking at the South High School parking lot and improving pedestrian access to the park from that access point was most welcomed. Some of the suggestions to revert lake embankments to their original condition and improve walking paths were also well accepted.

It is important to note that inviting stakeholders to be part of this planning process is not a condition of its process. Parks & Recreation is not required to have the blessing of Washington Park residents, nor do they need official approval from City Council or the Mayor. WWPNA is grateful that they include us in this process. The consultants encouraged us to voice our opinions on what is great about Wash Park, as well as noting what Wash Park needs in the way of improvements and/or enhancements, by going online at [washpark4thefuture.org](http://washpark4thefuture.org) and expressing our thoughts. Nothing this article mentions has yet been approved and/or implemented, but the need to be proactive about this process is great, and WWPNA wants you to know that we are vigilant about following its progress and making known our concerns about whatever changes might negatively affect this neighborhood. We hope you will join us in our efforts to protect this valuable public asset.



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# The 2010 Home Tour is Just Around the Corner and We Need Your Help

## SAVE THE DATE - September 11, 2010

The Home Tour is the main fundraiser for the West Washington Park Neighborhood Association ("WWPNA") plus contributes to Lincoln Elementary School and the Washington Street Community Center. These funds help us advocate for the neighborhood during the re-zoning, and help us accomplish traffic mitigation such as the removal of the stop lights on Washington and Emerson. We are looking for volunteers to help run this year's home tour.

**VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME:** The Home Tour is planned for September 11, 2010. We need volunteers to help with publicity, planning, home selection, finding sponsors and obtaining donations. The meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month. Every little bit helps. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please call Becky at 303-589-4681

**VOLUNTEERING YOUR HOME:** This year, the Home Tour is interested in focusing on the area of our neighborhood North of Alameda. There are many old homes in that area that are being restored back to their original glory. If you have a home that is interesting or historical or was an apartment and is now a single family home in that area, please call Charlotte at 303-880-5512

### MAKING A DONATION OR

**SPONSORING A HOME:** If you have a business and are interested in advertising, this is a great opportunity. There are sponsorships available and advertising space available in the tickets. Please call Jim at 303-744-9117

We are looking forward to a great Home Tour this year and really look forward to hearing from neighbors who can help us make this year a great success!



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# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

## Washington Park TREE GUIDE

### Debuts April 17th '10

Washington Park Tree Guide Proceeds from the book sale will go towards the reprinting and purchase of additional trees for the park. For more information and business locations where the booklet is available visit the Friends and Neighbors of Washington Park website:

[www.FANSWashingtonPark.org](http://www.FANSWashingtonPark.org) FANS is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization formed in 2006. The members are committed to being stewards of the park for the enjoyment of today's visitors and future generations. Contact: Cindy Johnstone, 303-733-6579, [cindy.johnstone@comcast.net](mailto:cindy.johnstone@comcast.net)

## Join us for JULY 4th Celebration!!

Join us for the 6th annual Independence Day Celebration, sponsored by the West Washington Park and the Washington Park East Neighborhood Associations and local businesses. The event will again take place at the Washington Park Boat House on Smith Lake. The celebration will take place on Sunday, July 4, 2010, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Activities include appearances by the DFD Fire Truck and DPD Mounted Patrol, performances by the Denver Municipal Brass Quintet, a children's bicycle arcade with prizes, children's face painting, and much more. Bring your own picnic lunch, blankets, and chairs. We will provide free beverages and ice cream! If you or your business is interested in helping to sponsor this event, please contact Merce Lea at 303-722-8919 or [meredithzml@aol.com](mailto:meredithzml@aol.com). We'd love your support. If you are interested in volunteering for a short shift on the day of the party, contact Merce at 303-722-8919.

## DOORS OPEN DENVER

The Eugene Field House, current home of The Park People, is included in the city's Doors Open Denver Redux Redo tour. This two-day event, April 17 & 18, features historic Denver buildings that have been given a second life.

"This small cottage with its rich history has been a wonderful home for The Park People for several decades, and we're thrilled to open our doors to the community," says Paige Heydon-McCrary, The Park People's executive director. Eugene Field was a well-known newspaperman and poet. His house, which was located on Colfax across from the U.S. Mint, was saved from demolition and moved to Washington Park by Colorado's own Molly Brown in the 1920s. The Eugene Field House also was once a children's library. Next to the house is a statue dedicated to one of Field's poems Wynken, Blynken and Nod. Mabel Landrum Torrey sculpted the statue in 1919.

For more information, visit [www.denvergov.org/doorsopen-denver](http://www.denvergov.org/doorsopen-denver).

# Our "Good Neighbor" Businesses

by Jim Winzeburg, WWPNA member

**IT'S SHEDDING SEASON**, and South Pearl has 2 businesses that will be glad to groom and remove shedding from your dogs and cats.

- **PET WASH PARK**, at 799 S. Pearl, has the latest in pet-sensitive "Hydro Surge" showering equipment, which "is designed to create a calmer bath with its slow and relaxing warm water massaging action". Kristin (a groomer with 19 years of experience) says that most dogs just love it. Do you prefer to groom your dog yourself, but without the mess of doing it in your tub? Then use their "self serve wash" which includes everything you need, just bring your dog. They also offer an assortment of premium pet foods from manufacturers that use high-quality ingredients.
- **GIDGET'S GROOMING**, at 1083 S. Pearl, bills itself as a "spa" for dogs and cats. So what does a pet spa do? Here's a quick list: grooming, hand bathing and drying, hand scissoring, nail and ear trimming, anal gland checks, flea and tick treatments, teeth brushing, and de-matting.

While we're on the subject of pets---don't miss the annual **FURRY SCURRY** which is coming soon (May 1) in

Washington Park. If you're asking "what is a **FURRY SCURRY**"? Picture an annual fund-raising tradition where pets and their owners walk a two-mile course to benefit over 25,000 homeless pets. With you in it, that's a warm and furry picture.

*ALSO ON SOUTH PEARL you'll find:*

- **VELOSOUL BICYCLES**, at 1109 S. Pearl, is a full-service bike shop "dedicated to saving you money on stuff cyclists need such as tires, tubes, chains" and more"! They also sell Storck Bicycles from Germany, and for those wanting to reduce dependency on a car, they have an electric bike (the E-Road) that runs 50 miles on 50 cents of electricity. Are you anxiously awaiting your first Spring ride in the Park? Hurry and get your bike tuned up---bike season is coming.
- **PEARL LAUNDROMAT**, 1081 S. Pearl, is under new ownership. Most importantly, washers and dryers have been added, along with fresh paint, and many nicely organized magazines to read while your clothes spin. Now, if the owner could get the landlord to do some streetscaping to add an inviting street appeal to their business.



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[www.washperk.com](http://www.washperk.com)

If you own or run a business in West Washington Park and would like more information about our association, please contact Sandi Segal at 303-257-0983

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- I'd like to join WWPNA.  I'd like to renew my membership.
- This is a contribution, or gift membership for \_\_\_\_\_.
- My address has changed and is corrected above.

I am interested in the following committees:

- Zoning  Land Use/Transportation  Communications
- House Tour/Fundraising  Green Team
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this coupon with checks payable to WWPNA, PO Box 9866 Denver, CO 80209.  
For more information, please contact Charlie Busch at 303 722-6220.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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### DPD District 4 Offices

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### Neighborhood Police Officers

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 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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