

Dear Rosedale Harvard Gulch Friends and Neighbors!

In December a small group of committed Rosedale neighbors got together to look carefully at crime in our neighborhood. We've met 3 times and group members include Anna Florey, Warren Bridges, Wendy Girnt, Kirsten Armbruster and Ellen Winiarczyk.

Our goals are to:

1. Educate neighbors about crime statistics in the Rosedale neighborhood
2. Learn about what is happening now (snapshot)
3. Change the current crime situation and prevent crime in our neighborhood

To get a snapshot of neighborhood crimes committed over the past few years, we identified the crime types (e.g., larceny, burglary, criminal mischief, auto theft and theft from vehicles). Then we determined that the last 4 years of data would be both relevant and interesting. While the neighborhood has experienced an overall increase in some crimes since 2008, we are examining what trends have developed, to present at the RHGNA February 15 General Meeting.

We also sorted the crimes reported through the Rosedale-Harvard Gulch email Crime Alerts and found 67 crimes since the beginning of these emails (October 2010). Most crimes were "crimes against property", from criminal mischief to burglary. We also examined location of these crimes within our boundaries.

Join us at the February 15th RHGNA General Neighborhood Meeting and Elections to see the crime maps! There are some surprises, to be sure! For more details and some helpful Crime Prevention Tips, see pages 4 and 6.

At the February 15 meeting we'll hold our annual board elections – a great chance for you to step forward and become more involved! Contact either of us about board business, your ideas, and to find out what kind of fun the board is having!

Best wishes to you all,

Ellen Winiarczyk Bill Bloch
Co-President, RHGNA Co-President, RHGNA

FEBRUARY 15 AGENDA

- Community Police Officers
- Board Elections
- Report on Neighborhood Crime Data

NEXT RHGNA

MEETING:

Wednesday, Feb 15

6:30 to 8:45 pm

Harvard Gulch
Golf Course Club House

Our Neighborhood

RHGNA boundaries extend between South Downing, East Evans, South Broadway, and East Yale surrounding Harvard Gulch and Kunming parks in south central Denver, CO.

Membership Donations of \$15 may be mailed to **RHGNA**

P.O. Box 101512
Denver, CO 80250-1512
or visit www.rhgna.org

WHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD??



Photo: Cathy Wise

Harvard Gulch Recreation Center NEW HOURS

January 1 to May 31, 2012

Mon, Wed and Fri: 9am-8pm

Tues and Thurs: 9am-9pm

Sat: 9am-1pm

Sun: Closed

Thanks for reading the RHGNA newsletter. We hope you enjoy it.

YOU ARE A MEMBER - If you live, work or own property within our boundaries, you are automatically a member of the Association. **CONNECT VIA EMAIL** - If you choose to receive an electronic newsletter, you'd help RHGNA save paper, printing costs and delivery time! You'll also receive timely information such as special events, CRIME REPORTS and WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS. Please send your email address to Catherine_Wise@dpsk12.org. Include your full name and physical address and we'll get you on the e-list. **PARTICIPATE** - In February 2012 we will hold elections for new Board Members! To learn more about how you could be involved, please contact our Co-Presidents, Ellen and Bill. **CONTRIBUTE** - Please consider contributing \$15 per year. We rely on these donations to cover operating costs such as creating signs and flyers to promote meetings and events, hosting the annual picnic, and maintaining the RHGNA website. You can donate at www.rhgna.org, by mail at RHGNA, P.O. Box 101512, Denver, CO 80250-1512, or in person at a general meeting.

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR Our dynamic RHGNA email network includes the Neighbor-to-Neighbor feature, which allows anyone who lives, works or owns property within Rosedale Harvard Gulch to promote their business or other items of interest to the community. The cost is \$10 for a short blurb to be included in five emails distributed to our ever-growing list of residents. Email Catherine_wise@dpsk12.org for promotion guidelines and to join the email list!

CONTACT US!

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RHGNA Address

P.O. Box 101512
Denver, CO 80250-1512
or visit www.rhgna.org

A Busy Day for Our Neighborhood Police Officers

By Terrie Peay, RHGNA Safety/Schools Liaison

At the District 4 Police Community meeting January 4 officer Ian Wallace reported the following: On January 3rd, our neighborhood officers Wallace and Evans received a report of a person lying in Harvard Gulch partly in the water. They responded to the scene and rescued the man. He was despondent about recent events including a drinking binge after ten years of sobriety. They took him across the street to the psychiatric intake at Porter Hospital and he thanked the officers profusely for saving his life!

Immediately following this event they received a call that the TCF Bank at the corner of South Broadway and East Evans had just been robbed. A description of the robber stated he was wearing a red hooded sweatshirt and had driven north on Broadway. They took off in that direction and pulled up next to the car at the Mississippi intersection. Recognizing the red sweatshirt they pulled the car over. The suspect had cash all over his lap and the front seat of the car. He was arrested and taken into custody. Later that same afternoon they arrested two suspects on the west side of District 4 who were wanted in a felony crime.

RHGNA Board Member is a STAR! By Ellen Winiarczyk

RHGNA's Board Communications Chair Cathy Wise is the recipient of the NEIGHBORHOOD STAR award from INC - the Inter-Neighborhood Council of Denver. At their annual dinner on January 19 Cathy received the award in front of 500 of her neighborhood colleagues. Cathy singlehandedly upgraded all RHGNA communications by editing and producing the RHGNA newsletter, and creating the lovely-looking Email Newsflashes. The emails include Crime Alerts in our neighborhood and small ads called Neighbor-to-Neighbor; for a mere \$10 a neighbor can publish their cottage industry work. As an RHGNA Block Captain, Cathy also helps distribute the newsletter to every household. As the INC nomination stated:

"Without Cathy's great commitment to our organization we truly do not think we would have the active involvement that we do have in the Rosedale-Harvard Gulch area."

Cathy is a worthy recipient of the INC Neighborhood Star award and we are proud to have her in our 'hood!



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Coyotes in the Neighborhood

By Merrill Kingsbury, CSU Extension

Seeing more coyotes in the neighborhood lately? You are not alone. **From mid-December through March, coyotes are frequently out during the day and in groups as they are marking their territory with the arrival of breeding season and eventually their new pups.** At this time, interactions between pets and coyotes increase.

Small dogs and cats (under 15 pounds) are at the highest risk to hunting coyotes. Larger dogs are also at risk as coyotes think of them as competition in their territory. Coyotes do not want interactions with humans, the best way to keep your animals safe is to keep them close to you at all times when outdoors. Before you let your pet outdoors, inspect your yard for any coyotes. Keep cats indoors, particularly at night.

If you see a coyote, chase it away aggressively. Raise and wave your arms, yell, blow a whistle or use another noise maker. Making a coyote know that humans are dominant and that we are defending our territory will help them avoid people.

For more information on urban coyotes, please visit the CSU Denver Extension office at 888 E. Iliff Ave. (SE corner of Harvard Gulch park) or call us at 720-913-5270.



Photo by Lynne Scholfield

CSU Denver Extension Partners with Native Plant Master® Program

By Merrill Kingsbury, CSU Extension Office

CSU Denver Extension has partnered with the Native Plant Master® Program to provide a newly expanded 2012 schedule of offerings. Learn more about sustainable landscaping in the outdoor classroom by taking an award-winning Native Plant Master course where you will learn plant identification, study living examples of sustainable landscaping plant materials and explore threats to natives from noxious weeds. The program also offers exciting new indoor classes taught by CSU faculty and other experts. Topics include basic botany, native plant landscaping, native lawns, invasive weeds, poisonous plants and more.



Most of these classes will soon have waiting lists, so register early to ensure you get the class you want. See <http://2012npm.eventbrite.com/> for more details and to register.

For NPM offerings in other locations in the metro area, see www.conativeplantmaster.org.

Browse the Colorado Plant Database at <http://coloradoplants.jeffco.us> for research-based information on more than 1,000 Colorado plants.

To contact NPM directly, email yhuang@jeffco.us or call (303) 271-6620.

CSU Extension provides information and education and encourages the application of research-based knowledge in response to local, state and national issues. Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. For more information on CSU Extension in Denver, visit <http://www.denverext.colostate.edu/>.

CSU Extension Plant-a-Palooza - Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 8-3pm.

TRASH TALK: There's No Such Thing As "Away"

By Pamela Quigley

Let's stop and think about trash for a minute. Out of sight, out of mind, right? That may be true, but our trash goes SOMEWHERE. I think of this 'somewhere' as a place that is now permanently polluted. Our discards can be categorized into five bins: recyclables, compostables, hazardous waste, GOOD USABLE STUFF, and the smallest component . . . trash. **Most of what we send to landfills should be handled differently, and with minimal effort it can be!**

The City of Denver makes it easy for us to manage our discards in a sound, environmentally responsible way. Our great city provides these programs: bi-weekly **single stream recycling** (all plastics labeled 1 through 7 now accepted!), subsidized **hazardous waste removal**, subsidized **electronic equipment recycling**, **Treecycle**, **Leaf Drop**, free **Learn-to-Compost classes**, and free **appliance pick up**.

Don't know what to do with those compact fluorescent lights, cell phones, styrofoam, expired medications, old shoes, scrap metal, batteries? The Denver Recycles website has an **extensive, easy-to-use directory** where you can learn where to recycle or properly dispose of just about anything: www.denvergov.org/RecyclingDirectory.

Why not add one more resolution to your list this year: Commit to reducing the amount of stuff that you send to landfills. Start by recycling this newsletter, or better yet, send your email address to catherine_wise@dpsk12.org to receive it electronically! **Bring your clean styrofoam (no food containers or packing peanuts) to our next RHGNA General Meeting on February 15 and it will be recycled for you!**



Porter Adventist Hospital, where we care for the Health and Wellness of our Community

We offer FREE classes in the Porter Conference Center - to register please call Ask-A-Nurse 303-777-6877. Ask-A-Nurse is also a fabulous resource for free health information and physician referrals. For more information about all of Porter Hospital events please visit porterhospital.org/events.

Cool Solutions to Hot Health Topics - *Follow Your Heart, Feel the Love*

Our cardiovascular awareness class is filled with healthy heart tips and pampering techniques to support your physical and emotional well-being. Love yourself and you'll nurture both a strong, healthy heart and warm, enduring relationships.

Presented by Toni Standley, RN, ANP, MSN.

Tuesday, February 7, 6 p.m.

Porter Conference Center

Light refreshments served.

Back on Track: Back Pain Class Learn how to take care of your spine and get past the pain and on with your life. Class covers diagnosing back pain, the anatomy of the spine, common ailments, exercises and helpful resources.

Presented by David LaValley, MSPT, Porter Adventist Hospital.

Tuesday, February 14, 1 p.m.

Porter Conference Center

Know Your Heart: Getting to the Heart of the Matter Do you know how to identify your risk factors for heart disease? Learn about the signs and symptoms of a heart attack, early diagnosis and other heart related information.

Presented by Toni Standley, RN, ANP, MSN. Sponsored by Porter Adventist Hospital and Park Place.

Thursday, February 23, 12:30 p.m.

Park Place, 111 Emerson St., Denver

Light refreshments served.

Bladder Control Issues: Any and All! A relaxed and informal discussion on how the bladder works. Get the latest information on stress incontinence, overactive bladder, urge incontinence and interstitial cystitis and treatment options.

Presented by Ken Petri, MD.

Thursday, March 15, 1:30 p.m.

Porter Place Retirement Living, 1001 E. Yale Ave., Denver

Osteoporosis Overview

Don't miss this general discussion on osteoporosis. You'll learn what it is, who's at risk, how to tell if you have it before something breaks, how to prevent it, and how to correct it.

Presented by Terri Dunn, MD. Sponsored by Porter Adventist Hospital and Heritage Club Denver.

Wednesday, March 21, 12:30 p.m.

Heritage Club Denver, 2020 S. Monroe St.

Light refreshments served.

Updates on Osteoarthritis! *Arthritis Patient Education Day*

Meet the experts and discover the latest treatment options, learn how to manage your symptoms and get proven exercise tips.

Sponsored by Porter Adventist Hospital and the Arthritis Foundation. Call 303-756-8622 x 251 to register.

Saturday, March 31, Noon – 4:30 p.m.

Porter Conference Center

Light refreshments served.



Using Light to Reduce Crime in our Neighborhood

By Wendy Girnt, Neighborhood Crime Team Volunteer

Light has always been used as an effective crime reduction device. The cave people used fire to keep the "eaten by the saber tooth tiger" crime rate down for the local clan.

Your friendly neighborhood crime committee has requested a survey of lighting effectiveness from the City of Denver. Apparently, many of our street lamps are dim, having reached the twilight of their life span. Xcel Energy will complete the survey, replacing any bulbs with a low output. This should take up to 90 days to accomplish.

We have learned that some streets and alleys do not have "midblock" lights. We have a list! We invite you to join us at the February 15 meeting to learn if this affects you. We also have a step by step process to correct the situation!

For more on the work of our Neighborhood Crime Team, see pages 1 and 6.

Harvard Gulch Golf Course Improvements and New Recreation Center Hours

By Gregg Batchelder-Adams, RHGNA Board, Parks Liaison

Harvard Gulch Golf Course is in the conceptual phase of two improvements. The first is associated with irrigation of the golf course. The existing pond (located on the east end of the course, adjacent to Holes 2 and 3) has had very little water in it and has accumulated sediment, decreasing its capacity. The water source for the pond is mainly surface runoff. Denver Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with Denver Water, is planning an approximately \$1.2M project that would include dredging the pond and constructing a diversion from Harvard Gulch to the pond. The project would fill the pond with water more frequently and enable the golf course to use non-potable water instead of potable water for irrigation. More water in the pond also means that all of us will enjoy the ducklings a bit longer!! The second improvement involves the construction of a 40-person, open-sided pavilion near the club house, which may include facilities for outdoor bar-be-ques. At this time, there is no schedule for either of these projects.



Photo by Gregg Batchelder-Adams

Harvard Gulch Recreation Center Implementing New Hours

January 1 to May 31, 2012

Mon, Wed and Fri: 9am-8pm

Tues and Thurs: 9am-9pm

Sat: 9am-1pm

Sun: Closed

Summer Hours

Mon through Fri: 9am-7pm

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CRIME ALERTS SUMMARY

By Kirsten Armbruster, Neighborhood Crime Team Volunteer

In an attempt to sort the crimes reported through the Rosedale-Harvard Gulch email newsflash Crime Alerts, we have found 67 crimes since the beginning of these emails (October 2010). Most of them were "crimes against property", with offenses from criminal mischief to burglary. **From October 2010 through December 2011, there occurred 17 cases of criminal mischief, 20 Thefts from Motor Vehicles, 5 Auto Thefts, 7 Larcenies and 13 Burglaries.** When compared with the crime statistics from the Denver Police Department (DPD) over the same time period, more crimes were reported to the DPD than reported on the email newsflash. This is not surprising, since not everyone in the neighborhood is on the email list.

Continuing our investigation of recent crime statistics in our neighborhood, we also looked into where these crimes were occurring within the boundaries of Rosedale. **Statistics from the DPD from the last four years (2008 through 2011) were sorted into the five different crimes against property, and located on a map of the neighborhood for each year.** While the total number of crimes have increased over these four years, and in general the crimes were concentrated around the main thoroughfares of our neighborhood, there wasn't a discernible pattern when comparing year-to-year. A few of the blocks did stand out as higher crime areas, mainly because they are related to public spaces. **Please join us at our February 15th neighborhood meeting to see the crime maps for yourself.**

HANDY TIPS ON REDUCING CRIME

What steps can we take to reduce the likelihood that we will be victims of future crimes? How can we prevent becoming a target? Of course there is no failsafe way to prevent all crime. But there are things that we and our neighbors can do to make ourselves less attractive to criminals. *(See page 4 about Neighborhood Crime Team efforts to light up the night!)*

If you must park on the street, below are the top 5 ways to make your auto safer: *

1. Completely empty your car of anything and everything - small electronics and their accessories, loose change, envelopes with your name and address, jackets (and don't leave stuff "hidden" underneath a jacket). If you must leave anything in your car put it in the trunk or in the hatch area covered with a dark blanket.
2. Get a car alarm - these do deter criminals, especially if there's a blinking light and a decal on the window.
3. Always lock the doors and roll the windows all the way up (and close the sun/moon roof).
4. If the area is not well lit, bright lighting is helpful, especially lights that have motion sensors.
5. Suggest to your neighbors that they leave their lights on, keep a lookout and listen for noises outside.

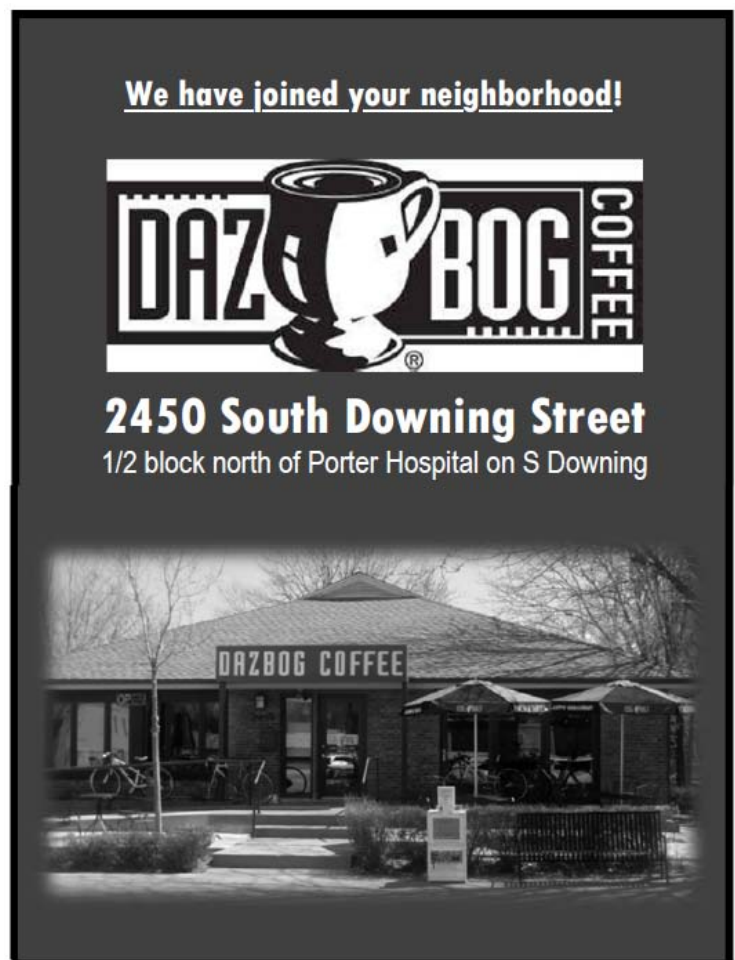
To keep your dwelling or property from being a target: **

1. Lock and secure all doors and windows, especially at night and when no one is home.
2. Crime-proof outdoors (install lighting with timers and motion sensors, trim trees, shrubs and bushes near the house)
3. Get to know your neighbors and talk about ways to prevent crime and help each other out. Establish trust.
4. Consider an alarm. Alarm signs and decals make your house very unattractive to burglars.
5. Don't hide a key - give one to a trusted neighbor instead. Use deadbolt locks.

There are many more actions that can be added to these lists. Layering defenses (doing lots of different things) is more effective than doing 1 or 2, but do what you can! For more information on preventing crime against your dwelling, visit www.ncpc.org. More comprehensive ideas to prevent auto crime are posted on the RHGNA website: www.rhgna.org.

* Compiled from about 30 different websites nationwide, including police departments, HOA's, neighborhood associations, crime prevention websites, and others.

** Information gathered primarily from ncpc.org



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