



A Publication of Jefferson Park United Neighbors

# JEFFERSON PARK NEWS

www.jpun.org



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER  
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
SERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## JPUN

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### NEXT JPUN MEETING

JPUN General Membership Meeting  
Tues., December 10th  
6:30 - 7:30pm  
Riverside Baptist Church  
2401 Alcott Street  
Rear Chapel

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

JPUN Land Use Committee  
Contact David @  
davidrsolo@yahoo.com

### JPUN GROUPS

Get neighborhood updates at NextDoor.com and JPUN.org

### SUPPORT JPUN

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, your contribution to JPUN is tax deductible. Send your contribution to: JPUN, 2240 Clay St #200, Denver, CO 80211



Jefferson Park United Neighbors is on Facebook!



www.jeffersonparkco.nextdoor.com



### Next Home Game

December 8  
Broncos vs. Tennessee | 2:05 pm MST

## Celebrate at the Annual JPUN Holiday Party *Feliz Navidad*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH  
FROM 5:30 - 8:30PM AT  
HOTEL VQ ON THE TOP FLOOR

Light hors d'oeuvres and drink specials will be offered

**Santa will be visiting!** Kids... get photos taken with Santa.

## Celebra la Fiesta Navidenda Annual de JPUN *Feliz Navidad*

Jueves 19 de Diciembre de 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
en el Hotel VQ en el piso de arriba

Habra luces y bebidas especiales

**Santa estara visitandonos!!!!** Los ninos podran tomarse fotos con "Santa"



## Snow on Sidewalks

Denver requires property owners to clear their walkways so that everyone has safe access throughout the City. Senior citizens, people with disabilities, parents with strollers, and mail carriers depend on clear walkways.

- **Homeowners:** Once snow has stopped falling, residences have twenty-four (24) hours to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property.
- **Businesses:** Once snow has stopped falling, businesses have four (4) hours to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property.
- **Report A Problem:** Please contact Denver 3-1-1 to provide the address of un-shoveled sidewalks.
- **Enforcement:** Denver performs proactive inspections in business districts, and we rely on citizen complaints to help us identify those property owners who need to be educated about sidewalk safety requirements.

The vast majority of people comply with the first sidewalk safety notice issued by the City. In the rare instances where a property owner refuses to comply, Denver takes escalating legal action, which can include issuing an Administrative Citation that carries a \$150 penalty. Denver manages 3,000 sidewalk safety cases a year.

**Snow from Plowing** While pushing snow onto sidewalks by our plows doesn't happen very often, we are truly sorry when it does. We all know how critical it is that our streets are cleared of snow for safety and accessibility purposes, and that is the top priority of Denver's heavy snow plows. Pushing snow onto sidewalks and driveways is an unfortunate consequence of plowing any street. We don't have a policy addressing plows pushing snow onto sidewalks because it wouldn't be realistic to expect that of our operators. We do, however, expect them to be conscientious in their work while recognizing their goal of clearing the street of snow. Please know that we are constantly providing our drivers with feedback on their performance and ways to minimize the occurrence of snow on sidewalks.

Jeff Archambeau, President  
archambeau.jeff@gmail.com

Michael Guiietz, Vice President  
zoid4@comcast.net

Doris Blyth, Treasurer  
blythspirit@q.com

Maureen Parina, Secretary  
maureen.parina@gmail.com

#### Communications Committee

Tom Blyth | blythspirit@q.com

#### Land-Use Committee

David Soloman  
davidsolo@yahoo.com

#### Social Committee

Kim Collie  
colliek@ccl.org  
Brooke Bailey  
kromer2036@yahoo.com

#### Membership Committee

Dave Strano johnbrown@riseup.net

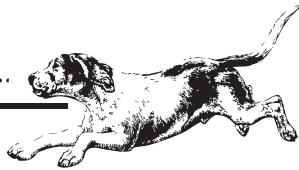
#### Central Valley Improvements

Jerry Olson  
jerryolson@comcast.net

#### JPUN Community Garden

Joan Bondy  
joan.bondy@hotmail.com

Open Positions are available  
to serve on the JPUN Board,  
come volunteer.



## Jefferson Park Pet of the Month



Phani

Phani (or "small bear" as some neighbors have dubbed her) lives at RiverClay with Kathy and Kelly Bailey. Last Christmas Eve, Phani blew her knee out running through the snow and had two knee surgeries in 2013. She's just like new now, and walks the park daily with her Dad. She missed being a show dog because the coloring on her face is not symmetrical with a patch over one eye. It's that patch that led to her name "Phantom Of The Opera", or Phani for short. If you see Phani out with her Mom or Dad, stop and give her a pat... Phani loves meeting new friends.

#### Would you like to see your pet featured?

Please send a photo and a few tidbits about your favorite pet to Tom at blythspirit@q.com or Kym at kymandpat@comcast.net.

### JEFFERSON PARK UNITED NEIGHBORS

## From the JPUN President

Hello Jefferson Park Friends,

I'd like to talk to you this month about zoning and graffiti. I know, tough to stay awake through such exciting topics. But as our neighborhood changes, these topics (and others) are key to having input into what our neighborhood will look like, and how we can keep it a great, livable neighborhood. Things like minimum parking requirements for new developments, how close or tall a new building can be relative to those surrounding it or to the street, what kinds of activities a property can be used for - all these things are in the Denver Zoning Code (DZC).

The city rewrote the entire zoning code in 2010 - a massive undertaking. Most feel the new DZC was overall an improvement, but there were some flaws and gaps so the city is now proposing a large number of amendments to the code. Throughout the month of December, there will be a series of hearings about these changes. Yes, zoning can be a complicated issue to understand, but it is very important to us in Jefferson Park. Our Land Use Committee has some experts on it who can answer your questions if you want to attend one of the monthly meetings that are posted in the newsletter each month. You can find out more about the text amendments at:

[www.denvergov.org/cpd/CommunityPlanningandDevelopment/Zoning/TextAmendments/tabid/438089](http://www.denvergov.org/cpd/CommunityPlanningandDevelopment/Zoning/TextAmendments/tabid/438089)

Regarding graffiti, did you know the city has roving crews who respond to reports of graffiti on public or private property? You can report any new graffiti you spot to 311@denvergov.org or by calling 3-1-1. It's important to report this as soon as possible to help prevent repeat tagging. The city will even remove it from your property if you authorize them to do so. Information about how to do this can be found at [www.denvergov.org/GraffitiPreventionandRemoval/GraffitiRemoval/ReportGraffitiForRemoval/tabid/438510](http://www.denvergov.org/GraffitiPreventionandRemoval/GraffitiRemoval/ReportGraffitiForRemoval/tabid/438510)

Lastly, JPUN's annual Holiday Party is on Thursday December 19 from 5-8pm at the Hotel VQ at 20th & Bryant. We'll have plenty of food, Santa will be there for the kids, and lots of neighbors to meet and mingle with. It's a great time and a chance to meet or reconnect with friends from Jefferson Park. We hope to see you there!

Happy Holidays to everyone from the  
Jefferson Park Board of Directors!

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## SAFETY FOR PETS

# ASPCA: Pet Safety Tips for the Holiday Season



## Many Holiday Traditions Pose Danger to Four-legged Family Members

It may be the “most wonderful time of the year,” but traditionally joyous holiday customs can pre-sent special dangers for pets, cautions the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®), “We associate the holidays with happiness and joy, but pet owners need to be aware of customs that could pose dangers to their animals,” said Dr. Tina Wismer, medical director at the ASPCA’s Animal Poison Control Center. “At the start of the celebrating season, take special care to pet-proof your home to avoid emergencies and tragedies”.

### The ASPCA spotlights three holiday customs that pose particular dangers to pets:

**FESTIVE FOODS** | On Thanksgiving, feeding your pet a bit of turkey is okay, as long as it has been fully cooked and is bone-free. Undercooked turkey may contain salmonella bacteria and bones could splinter and get lodged in your pet’s digestive tract. Dr. Wismer urges pet owners to also be extremely careful with alcoholic beverages. “Pets that ingest alcohol can become very sick and may fall into a coma, leading to an untimely death,” she says. Chocolate too should be kept far away from pets, as it can cause symptoms including vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rate and seizures.

**DANGEROUS DECORATIONS** | Decorations are a fun way to celebrate the season, but they also introduce some danger. Candles are popular, but keep them out of reach of curious cats (and dogs) that might swat at flames, burn themselves or even knock candles over. “It’s also important to keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws’ reach,” adds Dr. Wismer. “A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock, and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus. Shards of breakable ornaments are very sharp and could also be dangerous.” Tinsel is very appealing to cats, but a curious nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible emergency surgery.

**PESKY PLANTS** | Certain festive plants can also cause some serious damage if pets ingest them. “Lilies are popular holiday flowers, but they can cause kidney failure in cats,” notes Wismer. “And festive plants like holly and mistletoe also can be dangerous and cause gastrointestinal upset or, in rare cases with mistletoe, cardiovascular problems. It’s best to use non-toxic decorations such as wood, fabric or even pinecones.” Some believe the popular poinsettia is highly toxic to pets, but that’s mostly a myth. Poinsettias cause only mild to moderate gastrointestinal irritation. Keeping it out of pets’ reach is still a good idea, but there’s no need to banish it altogether. Christmas trees are not particularly toxic, but precautions should be taken to ensure the tree is securely anchored so it doesn’t tip or fall. Tree water—which may contain fertilizers and bacteria that can cause stomach upset, nausea or diarrhea if ingested—should be covered to protect pets from drinking it.

If your dog or cat accidentally ingests a potentially toxic substance this holiday season, contact your local veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 for immediate assistance.

# Eliot Street Café

CEC Middle College of Denver | 2650 Eliot Street

Welcome to an exceptional dining experience at the Eliot Street Café, located at the CEC Middle College of Denver (a magnet high school within the Denver Public Schools). At CEC our school motto is Do Something Real and each day we live up to this goal, as our students combine academics with career courses to help create their future paths and prepare for the “real world.”

The Eliot Street Café is a perfect example of our students putting learning into practice and sharing their culinary passion with the community. On any day of the week you will find CEC students hard at work learning the ins and outs of the restaurant business from front of the house, waiter/waitress to marketing and management. In the kitchen, students learn production skills, including; prep, pantry, baking, line cooking and scullery skills, all while operating a full-service restaurant that is open to the public for lunch Tuesdays through Fridays.

The Café also offers breakfast, food service, space for meetings, and event catering by reservation. For a high-quality meal at reasonable prices, join us at The Eliot Street Café for your next lunch or special event. We look forward to serving you.

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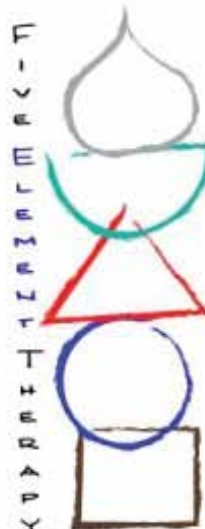
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# Hud Awards Nearly \$4 Million

## To Spur Next Generation of Housing, Neighborhood Transformation

Jefferson Park's neighbors to the north, Sun Valley, is the recipient a \$500,000 grant as a portion of the \$4.37 million awarded.

(See Sun Valley sidebar for details.)

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan announced on November 22nd that nine communities across the U.S. will receive Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants. The \$4.37 million awarded provides these communities the resources they need to craft comprehensive, community-driven plans to revitalize and transform public or other HUD-assisted housing and distressed neighborhoods.

*"Through this investment, HUD is providing the resources for local leaders to transform neighborhoods into thriving communities where families will choose to live," said Donovan. "The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative represents the next generation in a movement toward revitalizing entire neighborhoods by providing critically needed funding to support locally-driven economic development solutions in these areas. I look forward to working with these cities and communities as they work to build stronger neighborhoods for all."*

HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Initiative promotes a comprehensive approach to transforming distressed areas of concentrated poverty into viable and sustainable mixed-income neighborhoods. Building on the successes of HUD's HOPE VI Program, Choice Neighborhoods links housing improvements with necessary services for the people who live there – including schools, public transit and employment opportunities.

The awardees announced today were selected from among 52 applications. Successful applicants demonstrated their intent to plan for the transformation of neighborhoods by revitalizing severely distressed public and/or assisted housing while leveraging investments to create high-quality public schools, outstanding education and early learning programs, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs and well-functioning services.

### HUD focused on directing re-sources to address three core goals:

- **Housing:** Transform distressed public and assisted housing into energy efficient, mixed-income housing that is physically and financially viable over the long-term;
- **People:** Support positive outcomes for families who live in the target development(s) and the surrounding neighborhood, particularly outcomes related to residents' health, safety, employment, mobility, and education; and
- **Neighborhood:** Transform neighborhoods of poverty into viable, mixed-income neighborhoods with access to well-functioning services, high quality public schools and education programs, high quality early learning programs and services, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs.

The grantees will use the funding to work with local stakeholders – public and/or assisted housing residents, community members, businesses, institutions and local government officials – to undertake a successful neighborhood transformation to create a "choice neighborhood." The awardees will use the funding to create a comprehensive Transformation Plan, or road map, to transforming distressed public and/or assisted housing within a distressed community.

**Choice Neighborhoods** is one of the signature programs of the **White House Promise Zones** Initiative where the federal government will partner with and invest in communities to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and improve public safety.

Working with local leadership—and bringing to bear the resources of a number of the President's signature revitalization initiatives from the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Agriculture—federal programs and resources will support local efforts to turn around 20 of the highest poverty urban, rural and tribal communities across the country.

## Target Neighborhood: Sun Valley Choice Neighborhoods Grant Amount: \$500,000

**Key Partners:** Design Workshop (Planning Coordinator), City and County of Denver-Community Planning and Development (CPD), Office of Economic Development (OED), Mercy Housing, Denver Public Schools (DPS), Enterprise Community Partners, Mile High Connects, Denver Police Department, Denver Health, Xcel Energy, Denver Stadium District, Denver Broncos, UCD, Metro State University, Platte River Foundation, Rude Recreation Center, and the Community College of Denver

### Project Summary

Built in the 1950s, the 30-acre, 333-unit Sun Valley Homes site is the most isolated and distressed public housing asset in the portfolio of the Housing Authority of the City and County of Denver (DHA).

The residents of Sun Valley Homes and the neighboring federally subsidized housing, Decatur Place, earn the lowest incomes in Denver. Further, 85 percent of residents in the target neighborhood live below the poverty line. This neighborhood is also challenged by disproportionately high crime rates and limited access to surrounding communities as it is landlocked by the local professional football stadium, light industrial parks, interstate highways, and the South Platte River. Sun Valley Homes and its surrounding community hold enormous potential for redevelopment. Of note, the neighborhood will be the first stop on the proposed Denver FasTracks West Corridor light rail line, linking Denver and its western suburbs with the downtown urban core.

City departments are including funding for several Sun Valley initiatives in their respective capital improvement plans, including the design of the a new thoroughfare in the heart of the neighborhood, public infrastructure design for a neighborhood based regional water quality and retention approach, and a public riverfront park. This potential is strengthened by committed partnerships with a neighborhood school and youth center, a neighborhood health clinic, and a regional recreation center. Partnerships have also been established with the local professional stadium.

The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant will allow the DHA and its key partners to build on this potential and collaborate in a planning and decision-making process with both residents and stakeholders. Throughout the transformation planning process, stakeholders and established working groups will work to ensure that the substantial investment in the Denver FasTracks West Corridor is paired with the development practices necessary to transform the Sun Valley neighborhood into a vibrant, successful model of sustainability, providing access and choice for high quality education, training and employment opportunities, healthy living initiatives, and quality housing to better benefit the existing residents while providing a spectrum of housing options.

# JPUN: A Year in Review

A look back at some of the successful changes, developments and community building JPUN has accomplished in 2013.

- Three **Music in Jefferson Park** Concerts showcased local food and musical talent that provided a great family activity and a tremendous way to meet your neighbors.
- **JPUN Clean Up Day** gathered the community for picking up trash throughout Jefferson Park and rewarding volunteers with a picnic.
- **Jefferson Park Community Garden** Another great year for our local green thumbs. Thanks go out to Joan & Karen, the garden team leaders.
- **New Developments:** Over 16 residential and 5 commercial projects slated for development and the opening of CrossFit Jefferson Park and Federal Bar & Grill.
- This year, the **Federal Boulevard Improvement District, BID**, formally began work on behalf of the district, hiring, Nicole Bopp, a part-time executive director. Submitting an application for a \$267,000 grant for physical streetscape improvements in the district, vetting and hiring a marketing firm, Propaganda Labs, to help brand and create a marketing campaign, holding community visioning meetings to help shape the branding and marketing, and finally taking over full responsibility for the vintage street lamps in a portion of the district.
- **Fun on Federal**, sponsored by the **BID**, showcasing new and existing businesses both on Federal and 25th Ave. in Jefferson Park.
- Additionally JPUN helps foster development that promotes smart growth, and continuously provides service to residents (newsletter in particular) that improves quality of life for those in Jefferson Park.

We have new and exciting things planned for 2014 including a new playground equipment in the park slated for 2014.



Please consider helping through volunteering your time or contributing financially.

**As the end of the year approaches we ask that you consider giving back to your community.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to JPUN c/o Doris Blyth, Treasurer and mail to 2240 Clay St #200, Denver, CO 80211  
Jefferson Park United Neighbors is a 501c3 nonprofit tax deductible organization.

## Preventing Child Abductions

### The Bigger The Village, The Safer The Kids

The **Lassy Project** is all about protecting kids from kidnappings. **WE** are a very important part - **WE** can help make a difference in our neighborhoods.

The **Lassy Project** was inspired by what happened to Jessica Ridgeway and is designed to help in the prevention of child abductions by utilizing GPS, SMS (text messaging) and Crowd Sourcing (us).

Parents set approved locations and routes their children are allowed to travel. If their child leaves that route, the parents will get an immediate text message notifying them. The parents can view their child's location and "call" "close" or "escalate" the situation. Should they escalate the alert, a text message goes out to all opted in cell phones in their area (the Lassy Village). This message includes their child's picture, location and other vital information.

The Lassy Project helps make the process that usually takes hours after a child goes missing down to seconds, getting the word out to prevent children from being abducted. If a child was missing in your neighborhood, would you help look for them? We thought so.

Join the Lassy Village today at [www.TheLassyProject.com](http://www.TheLassyProject.com) - it is **FREE** and takes 30 seconds! Thank you!



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Contact us at 720-515-5746 or [info@crossfitjeffersonpark.com](mailto:info@crossfitjeffersonpark.com) for how you can join today!

2441 Eliot Street  
Denver, CO 80211  
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### CLOSE TO HOME

# You Can WALK There From Here

Tom Blyth

## The Children's Museum of Denver

### Noon Year's Eve

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, December 31



Count down to 2014 with the greatest celebration in town! Noon Year's Eve at the Children's Museum is a party full of glittery glitzy ball drops, a plaza full of bubble wrap fireworks, rainbows of confetti, sparkly art projects, laughter and FUN!

Event activities are included with the price of Museum admission.

\*Vern's Mini Train is \$2 per ride.

Parking is \$5 for non-members and free for members, space allowing. The Museum is closed on New Year's Day.

## New Year's Eve In Denver

Get ready for a great New Year's Eve in Denver, with spectacular fireworks, live music, rockin' parties, family friendly events and more.



Ring in the New Year with Denver's annual New Year's Eve Fireworks with viewpoints along the 16th Street Mall in downtown Denver.

The **two spectacular fireworks shows** will occur at 9 p.m. and Midnight, taking place simultaneously at two undisclosed sites along the 16th Street Mall. It is recommended that viewers stand along the 16th Street Mall for optimal viewing.

## Too Hot To Handel Colorado Symphony

December 28th - 29th | 7:30 pm

Boettcher Concert Hall

1000 14th St. Denver, CO 80202

720-865-4202

The joyful holiday favorite returns for its 16th year of bringing audiences to their feet This exuberant jazz, gospel and R&B-infused concert brilliantly reinvents Handel's Mes-siah. Featuring guest soloists and the Colorado Symphony Chorus, this truly exhilarat-ing night of music will have you rejoicing in the aisles.



## 2013 DENVER BRONCO SCHEDULE

### Home Games in Orange

Parking restrictions including Zoning Enforcement and Right of Way Enforcement will likely be scheduled for this event. Illegally parked vehicles in the neighborhoods surrounding Sports Authority Field at Mile High may be ticketed and towed.

### REGULAR SEASON

December 8	Denver Broncos vs. Tennessee	2:05 pm MST
December 12	Denver Broncos vs. San Diego	6:25 pm MST
December 22	Denver Broncos vs. Houston	12 pm CST
December 29	Denver Broncos vs. Oakland	1:25 pm PST

For all Denver Bronco ticket information, including both season tickets and individual game sales, please call the Broncos Ticket Office at 720-258-3333

# Another Statistic

*This timely letter was sent to the editor and, in the interest of sparing my neighbors similar grief, I am passing it on to you.*

All,  
I write you this letter, not for sympathy, but in hopes that it might bring to your attention a very important safety topic, especially during the holiday season. Instead of giving a safety "lecture" with a bunch of statistics, I wanted to share my family's story.

Last year, I sat through a safety meeting right before the holidays and, as expected, the topics were on things like blowing out candles, turning Christmas lights off, Christmas tree safety, and drinking and driving. I heard several jokes regarding drinking and driving that led me to write a letter similar to this one reiterating the importance of that safety meeting, because it was clear to me that the message was not received.

I have had the same passive behavior regarding this topic years past. But I have started to think that maybe it's because we are fed the same message, only changing numbers and statistics, every year before the holidays. "Drinking and driving kills this many people every year on this weekend", "car accidents are at their peak during these travel periods" and blah blah blah. We know.

But the problem is that we don't really know. We don't know the effects of those decisions we may have carelessly made in our pasts. Think about the degrees of separation between the average person and those statistics and those statements. Because, as I am guilty of, we can't fathom that it would ever happen to us...but it did.

My little brother, Taylor, was one of the numbered statistics referred to in last year's safety meeting. Taylor was 20 years old, attending college, and he was killed in a single car accident in 2012 because he was drinking and driving. Our family was attending a family wedding, staying at a hotel only a few miles from his apartment. For whatever reason after the celebration was over, Taylor felt he needed to leave the safety of the hotel to go to his apartment. Later, when we asked the valet if he had seen Taylor, he said yes, and Taylor had told him he "would be right back."

Taylor never came back, and it is his family and friends who are left with the consequences of his actions. Before my family's tragedy, I never would have thought anything like this could have happened to me or my family. Taylor was a smart, witty, and tremendously loving kid with a contagious smile. This was not something to be "expected" and you never would have imagined him being the one to commit this act.

We have all made stupid mistakes in our lives, and we've been lucky for the most part. I hope and I pray that this holiday season you will take responsibility for yours and your loved ones' actions and commit to not drinking and driving, nor allow anyone else around you to do so either. We can't control everything, but we can control the decisions we make.

I felt the need to write this letter to you all because sometimes putting a name to a number or statistic helps it to sink in and make it real. My hopes are that this message reaches the right people or person. If you plan on drinking at a holiday party, I encourage you to think ahead and use a designated driver, a taxi, or make arrangements to stay in a hotel if you have to do so.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider it in your celebratory moments.  
Wishing you a warm and happy holiday season.

*PS – please share this message if you feel inclined to do so. If it can save one person, it has fulfilled its purpose.*

# Treecycle 2014

The 2014 Treecycle collection period runs from January 6 - January 17.

## Recycling Your Holiday Tree Is As Easy As 1,2,3!

1. Remove all decorations and the tree stand. **NO artificial or flocked trees.** Real evergreen trees only!

2. Set your tree out for collection during the first two weeks of January. Your tree will get picked up by a special tree collection truck for recycling.

### Set-out day and location depends on your trash service type.

- Manual & Barrel customers should set trees out near your normal set-out location by 7 a.m. on one of your trash collection days during the two-week collection period.
- Dumpster customers should set trees out by 7 a.m. on either Monday, January 6th OR Monday, January 13th for collection sometime during that week.

### Please do not place trees in dumpsters.

Trees should be placed at least 4 feet away from dumpsters and other obstacles for collection

3. Reclaim free mulch made from your tree at the annual Mulch Giveaway in the spring!



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# FIRE SAFE HOLIDAYS:

## TIPS FROM THE DENVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

This is a shortened version of Safety Tips; for the whole story go to [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org)

As the holidays approach, the Denver Fire Department is urging citizens to look for and eliminate potential dangers that could lead to fires and injuries.

- Each year, emergency rooms nationally treat about 10,800 people for injuries
- 11,000 candle-related fires each year resulting in 150 deaths / 1,200 injuries annu.
- Christmas trees are involved in about 600 fires annually, resulting in 50 deaths, 180 injuries and an average of more than \$15 million in property loss and damage

The traditions of this season are beautiful, but candles, matches and lighters must be kept away from children. Make sure your holiday lights bear the name of an independent testing laboratory and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance. We of the Denver Fire Department want to prevent wonderful traditions from becoming holiday tragedies.

### Following are tips to keep your holidays safer.

**GENERAL** • Always call 911 for help if there is an emergency.

#### HOLIDAY TREES AND DECORATIVE LIGHTS / Selecting the tree:

- Do not purchase your live tree too early or leave it up longer than two weeks.
- In selecting the tree, freshness is the best safety precaution. Color may not be a good indicator, since some trees are sprayed green. Instead, check for freshness by testing the needles: they should bend, not break.
- Lift the tree and then tap tree on a firm surface. If needles fall off, the tree is too dry.

#### Before placing the tree:

- Cut two inches off the trunk.
- Use a sturdy, water-holding stand.
- If your stand is old and encrusted with mineral deposits, you can improve the tree's water intake by cleaning the stand using one capful of bleach to a cup of water. Scrub, then rinse thoroughly before adding the water for your tree to stand in.
- Place the tree outside in the stand filled with fresh water until ready to decorate.
- Place the tree away from fireplaces, kerosene heaters, wall furnaces and other heat sources. Heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Don't block stairs or doorways.
- If necessary, secure the tree with wire to keep it from tipping.

#### Maintenance:

- A six-foot tree will use one gallon of water every two days!
- Keep watering your tree and check the water level every day.
- Mixing a commercial preservative with the water can further extend the life of the tree. (Don't try this if you have pets that like to drink from the stand!).

#### Decoration:

- Use only U.L.-approved lights. Never use more than 3 strands linked
- Inspect electric lights for broken or cracked sockets and frayed wires, and replace if necessary. Do not use indoor lights outdoors or vice versa.
- Avoid the use of extension cords. Never run an electrical cord under carpeting.
- Never use lighted candles on or near a tree or other decorations.
- All lights should be securely fastened to the tree.
- No bulbs should come into contact with needles or branches.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave home.
- Use miniature lights, which have cool-burning bulbs.
- Never use candles, even on artificial trees.
- Avoid placing small or breakable ornaments on lower branches where children or pets can reach them and knock them off. Every year many children are treated for cuts from broken ornaments, or from swallowing broken pieces and small parts.

#### Clean-up:

- Keep your tree for no longer than two weeks. Dispose of the tree as soon as needles become brittle and begin to fall off.
- Dispose of the tree properly with Denver Recycles: [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org)
- Never burn your tree in the fireplace.

#### Artificial trees:

- Consider an artificial tree. They are much safer and cleaner. Make sure your artificial tree bears the U.L. label.
- Never use electric lights on metal trees like the old silver trees that are now becoming popular. Avoid electric shock on metal trees, use colored spotlights securely mounted above or below the tree, never fastened directly on it.

#### Outdoor lights:

- Follow all precautions, above, for indoor tree lights.
- In addition, outdoor lights should be weatherproof and clearly identified as designed for outdoor use.
- Remove outdoor lighting as soon as the season is over. Even outside lights are not designed to withstand prolonged exposure to winter weather.

#### Candles

- Use candles only on protected, heat-resistant surfaces, away from anything flammable and out of the reach of children and pets.
- Never leave candles unattended, and never leave children or pets unattended in a room with lit candles.

#### Holiday Entertaining

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.
- If you allow cigarette smoking in your home, provide plenty of large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. Cigarette butts can smolder in the trash and cause a fire, so completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding.
- Even if you ask guests to smoke outside, provide large, deep ashtrays outside for cigarette butts. The bushes are very dry this time of year, and Denver Fire has responded to several fires started by careless smokers outside.
- After a party, always check on, between and under upholstery and cushions and inside trashcans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of sight and reach of children. When smokers visit your home, ask them to keep their smoking materials with them so young children can't touch them.

#### Space Heaters:

Please use extra precaution whenever using portable space heaters. According to the National Fire Protection Association, there have been over 60,000 fires caused by space heaters since 1998.

- Keep kerosene and electric heaters away from drapes and wall coverings.
- Keep children away from all heaters.
- Never use gasoline in your kerosene heater.
- Make sure your heater is clean and it carries an F.M. or U.L. listing.
- Always consult the owner's manual before using any portable heaters.
- Never leave heaters unattended.

#### Smoke Alarms

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times.

## Denver City Council Representatives

**Susan K. Shepherd, Council District 1**

720-337-7701 | [Susan.Shepherd@denvergov.org](mailto:Susan.Shepherd@denvergov.org)

**Robin Kniech, Council-at-Large**

720-337-7712 | [kniechatlarge@denvergov.org](mailto:kniechatlarge@denvergov.org)

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Photography by: Jerry Olson | [jerryolson@comcast.net](mailto:jerryolson@comcast.net)

## BECOME A PART OF THE STORY

Send your stories, comments or ideas to Cristin Couzens or Jerry Olson  
[ckcouzens@gmail.com](mailto:ckcouzens@gmail.com) | [jerryolson@comcast.net](mailto:jerryolson@comcast.net)

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Full Page Ad: \$100

1/2 Page Ad: \$50

1/4 Page Ad: \$25

1/8 Page Ad: \$15

## COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Police, Fire or Medical - EMERGENCY

Dial 9-1-1

Gas Leak or Electrical Emergency - Xcel

800-895-4999 select # 1

City of Denver 311 Help Center

3-1-1 or 720-913-1311

Police - City Non-Emergency Information

720--913-2000

Police - District 1 Station Information only

720-913-0400

Denver Public Library

720-865-1111

Regional Transportation District

303-299-6000