

**SPEHA Spring 2018, April 1, 2018 Supplement
By Councilwoman Kendra Black**

Happy Spring, Southmoor East Neighbors!

Thank you for coming out to our Southmoor Visioning community meetings on Tuesday evening, April 3, 2018. The turnout from the neighborhood was incredible. Here is what we learned:

- Change is inevitable, and today the Hampden corridor is deteriorating. With a community vision, we may be able to influence future changes.
- The neighborhood desires urban amenities with a neighborhood feel (family-friendly, local, not chains, comfortable and relaxed.) A park, plaza or main street, neighborhood shops, housing choices, events like a farmers' market and walkable/bikeable areas were favored choices.
- Residents do not want high density apartments, parking overflow in the neighborhood, or big box stores.
- Planners laid out "what-if" scenarios derived from the community desires. Scenarios are the beginning of a Framework Plan, part of a very long-term planning effort. Themes include turning Locust St. into an entry point and main street, concentrated parking, low-density residential housing (like townhomes) on Monaco, redeveloping King Soopers, and developing a core area with local retail and green space.
- Next steps including finalizing this vision, working with city planners on a Neighborhood Plan (which will commence in 2.5-3 years), and continue the conversation with businesses, property owners, residents, etc.

As a reminder, this vision is not a plan for development or specific proposals to eliminate parking, tear down buildings or rezone the area. It is aspirational and a first step in a very long process to get ahead of any changes that may (or may not) be coming. It enables you to have a voice and possible influence over changes and new development. In the short term, the vision will be shared with business and property owners and city planners to hopefully influence changes that may happen in the near term.

Thank you for caring about southeast Denver. For updates, visit denvergov.org/district4.

We are excited to introduce our new series, *Coffee Talks* (formerly known as the Senior Series). Join other curious minds right here in southeast Denver to engage with community members, experts, resources and your Council District 4 team. Our next two *Coffee Talks* will be:

- Wed., May 2, 1:30-3 pm, *Coffee Talks: Not Your Grandma's Library!* Cool things you didn't know you could get with your library card, information about library tech classes, help with your smart phone and how to borrow eBooks and audiobooks and more. @ Ross-University Hills Library
- Wed., June 6, 10:30-noon, *Coffee Talks: Cannabis*. Learn about this legal industry and options available to you. Discussion led by Councilwoman Kendra Black, Dr. Dorothy "Dot" Colagiovanni and Tiffany Goldman, owner of The Health Center. @ Eisenhower Rec Center

Good Neighbor Program: Active and connected neighborhoods increase security, improve communication, and bring neighbors together. From introducing yourself to neighbors to reporting suspicious activity or starting a Neighborhood Watch with the Police, the District 4 Good Neighbor program is customizable, so neighborhoods can enhance safety and improve everyday lives in a way that suits their specific needs. Are you a Good Neighbor? Join us for our annual meeting on April 17, 5:30 pm at District 3 Police Station. **We will introduce the Pups on Patrol program.** RSVP is required to tate.carpenter@denvergov.org. Learn more at denvergov.org/district4.

Project Updates:

- **Bible Park:** The south bridge officially re-opened to the public on March 21. The new 12-foot wide bridge better suits the needs as a regional trail connector. A contractor has been selected for the east and west bridges, which will be fabricated, installed and open to park users in fall 2018.
- **UMB** is constructing a new bank closer to Oneida. The other half of their property sold, and the plan is to build a free-standing emergency room facility. Councilwoman Black has told the owner that this use is not desired by the community. It's a long shot, but perhaps we can get another outcome.
- The **former Jim & Nick's BBQ** at Hampden and I-25 will become [Southside Social House](#), a bar-restaurant featuring American comfort food. The new restaurant will open later this year.

Communications: Find information on construction projects, legislative work, upcoming meetings, senior resources, sign up for our monthly e-newsletter and more on our new user-friendly and improved website: denvergov.org/district4. Communication with residents is a top priority.

'Drive 25' Yard Signs: Remind drivers to slow down! Pick up a yard sign free of charge (if your street's speed limit is 25 mph) at our office (3540 S. Poplar St. Suite 100). *Signs can only be placed on your private property, not in the public right-of-way.*

Friday AM Office Hours: Do you have a concern, idea, comment or just want to meet your Councilwoman? Every Friday from 9-11 am, we will hold office hours at 3540 S. Poplar St. Suite 100. Kendra will meet with people by appointment only from 9-10 am and host drop-in discussions from 10-11 am. Contact 720-337-4444 or tate.carpenter@denvergov.org to make an appointment.

Hampden Safety Study: Community meetings were held in November and January to discuss Hampden safety improvements. The Hampden Corridor Study has concluded and will recommend improvements for 2019 and beyond. For more updates, visit denvergov.org/hampdenave.

Later this year:

- South by Southeast – Aug. 18, 2018, Bible Park
Bringing together the entire southeast community, we are excited to host the second annual SxSE community festival! Musical entertainment, kids' activities, pop-up dog park, a beer garden and more will be back this summer. Contact kathy.gile@denvergov.org to volunteer.

As always, feel free to reach out to me or my staff with your questions, comments or ideas. Thank you for being Good Neighbors and caring about our neighborhood!

Kendra Black