



Bringing the neighborhood together.

Southmoor Park East Newsletter August 2013

President's Message

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) contacted me this week to inform me of a study they have commissioned on the SPEHA Concert Band Weather Effect. They have noted that every time we hold a concert in the park, we attract a severe weather disturbance. Coincidence? They think not. Because this severe weather has happened so regularly on the day we select to hold the concert in the Park, they believe the Board has a supernatural power to effectuate weather change, which could possibly end drought for all time. So if you observe agents in white suits with fancy instruments in and around the neighborhood don't worry it is only our government at work. The Board will try and reschedule this event.

Denver Days

The City is sponsoring a "community gathering" event during the week of August 3 - 10, 2013. The Board is already holding the annual picnic on August 25th, but if you are interested in holding a block party with our other neighbors you can contact the City through the Denver Days website (www.denvergov.org/denverdays) to sign up for and register your block/neighborhood celebration, service activity or event.

- **Throw a Block Party!**

Prepare your block party with the help of our handy [block party toolkit](#). It will give you tips on organizing, creating committees, managing budgets, creative activity ideas and more.

- **Organize a Service Project**

Service projects are a great way to help improve your neighborhood while at the same time building a sense of community.

- **Host a Social Activity**

Hosting a neighborhood social event is a great way to come together year round.

For more ideas visit Denver Days at:

<http://www.denvergov.org/mayor/MayorsOffice/Programs/Initiatives/DenverDays/tabid/444458/Default.aspx>

Southmoor Park East Annual Picnic: August 25



Make sure you reserve Sunday, August 25th for the Annual Picnic, starting at 11:30 a.m. and the Denver Concert Band, with a *Concert in the Trees*, starting at 1:00 p.m. For the kids we will have the Denver Fire Station 22 fire truck-providing water to run under, a Denver Police car to crawl in, a bouncy slid and face painting.

E-waste Banned from Colorado Landfills

As of July 1, 2013, in accordance with Colorado's Electronic Recycling Jobs Act (SB 12-133, 4/20/12), which bans the disposal of electronic waste in Colorado landfills, the City can no longer accept electronic devices in the trash.

Electronic Recycling Collection Event: August 10

SPEHA and Rocky Mountain E-Waste are holding an electronic recycling event on August 10, 2013 at the Microcenter parking lot (S. Syracuse St and E. Quincy Ave) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Computers, Laptops, Cell Phones, Printers, Copiers, Battery Back Up Units, All Batteries, Ink Jets, Ink Toners, Cables, Cords, Computer Mice, Keyboards, All Monitors, All TV's*, Routers, Modems, Servers, All Computer Parts, Washers, Dryers, Stoves, Fridges, Auto Batteries, Small Kitchen Appliances, Electric Motors, All Plastics, All Metals, DVD VCR, Players, Apple Products, Speakers, Networking Equipment, Telephone Equipment, All Computer and Phone Accessories, Video Games and Equipment, Stereo Equipment. Electronics contain contaminants such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and other metals, forming oxides. Please recycle and prevent damage to our environment, our drinking water, and our health.

Hard drives wiped onsite in 60 seconds upon request- \$5 donation welcomed.

FREE recycling of electronics with exception of TV's. *To recycle TV's the cost is: \$10 - up to 24 inch, \$20 - up to 32 inch, \$30 - up to 42 inch, \$40 - over 42.

SPEHA Board member Patrick Morgan will be there to pass out free car wash passes to the first 40 homeowner who recycle something.

Mile High Electronics Recycling Event: August 11

Recycle Your Old Electronics on August 11 at Sports Authority Field at Mile High. An appointment is required. See Denver Trash and Recycling at:

<http://www.denvergov.org/trashrecycling/TrashandRecycling/Recycling/ElectronicsRecycling/EcorallyCollectionEvent/tabid/440780/Default.aspx>

Southmoor School Update: August 22

Southmoor Elementary will be welcoming new and returning students and families at its "Back To School Night Family Picnic and Ice Cream Social" on Thursday, August 22, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Families are encouraged to come with a picnic dinner to say hello to old and new friends, meet their teachers and enjoy ice cream sundaes provided by the PTO. The first day of school is Monday, August 26th, but as a reminder, families must come to the school during one of two registration days to

fill out important paperwork prior to any student attending—August 16th (8 a.m. - 2 p.m.) or August 19th (12 Noon – 6 p.m.). Looking forward to a great new school year!

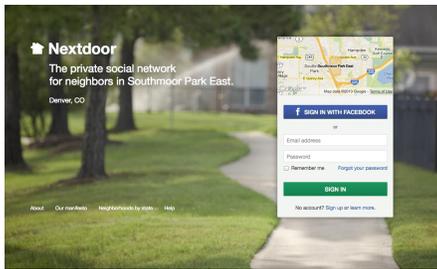
Regards, Maureen Bennett



Nextdoor Southmoor Park East Homeowners

Southmoor Park East NEXTDOOR membership has grown to over 160 Southmoor Park East neighbors who are using this site to:

- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Find out who does the best paint job
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost pet
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike
- Seek assistance in finding a used piano, car, etc.



Nextdoor's mission is to bring back a sense of community to the neighborhood. Although not the official SPEHA website you can become a member

of SPEHA NEXTDOOR Community by going to <https://spehahomeowners.nextdoor.com/login/> and sign in by establishing a new account.

Additionally, everything you love about Nextdoor is now available in the palm of your hand with Nextdoor for iPhone. The Android app will be out soon.

Visit SPEHA's Official Home Page @ <http://speha.org/> to join the email distribution, or to change your email address, for newsletters and special announcements.

Welcome: Target Store in Tamarac Square

The new Target Store opened Sunday, July 28th. The new Tamarac Square location will offer guests the everyday essentials and exclusive brands they have come to expect from Target. In addition, the store will feature an expanded food selection including an assortment of fresh produce, fresh packaged meat and pre-packaged baked goods, as well as a Starbucks and pharmacy, to further enhance guests' shopping experience.

Back to School Tech Advice!

By Scott Henke

Home computers are critical to giving students an edge when it comes to communication, research, writing papers, multimedia presentation, and of course keeping in touch with social media. Here's a quick guide to helping you buy a new computer.

Comcast actually has a program for Internet service as low as \$9.95/month and a (pretty slow) new laptop for \$150. Families must not currently have Comcast, and families must qualify for the free lunch program at their local school. For more details, go to www.internetessentials.com.

Teachers, Denver Public School students, and many non-profit employees can get the \$500 version of Microsoft Office for FREE or a very low price. See if you

are eligible at studentoffice.dpsk12.org or <http://www.microsofthup.com/>.

There are about 12 deciding factors on buying a new computer. The top 4 are:

1. Budget: Decide your budget for the next 5 years. Don't buy the lowest or highest price computer, but budget about \$450 to \$550. Then, budget a few hundred in accessories, software, transferring data and setup of it as well.
2. Operating System: Mac or PC? Mac's are virtually virus free but twice the cost. Windows 7 is still available at Microcenter, which has been a very reliable and stable system. However, you can also download a free program for Windows 8 computers to make it appear like the easy-to-understand Windows 7.
3. Style: Laptop or Desktop or Tablet? Previously, laptops were twice the cost, but now both are about the same price.
4. Speed: You can't upgrade a processor after you buy a computer. Processors (or Brains) of the computers have gone from Pentium 4, to Dual Core, to Core2Duo, to QuadCore, to i3, to i5 to i7. Just a few dollars more can considerably increase your speed. Each move up this processor ladder increases your speed by about 40%. We recommend getting at least an i3 processor, which is only about \$400. You will save a few dollars with slower processors, but for only a few dollars more you could be going much faster for the next 5 to 7 years.

Even if you don't have students at home, now might be a good time to consider a new computer. Windows XP is going to stop having updates in April 2014. This means your computer will still work, but will no longer receive new updates protecting it from viruses and glitches. Plus, if you have XP, then your computer is at least 7 years old, and the average life of a computer is 5 to 7 years. It's better to be pre-emptive rather than reactive when getting a new PC. (i.e., Barking Less, Wagging More).

For our complete list of 12 decisions to make when buying a computer, call, email or drop by our consulting office at the King Soopers Center, Hampden & Monaco.

Scott Henke has been consulting since 1982, and offers free and low-cost classes across Denver. Onsite Consulting won the Business of the Year Award as well as featured on Haystack Help, 560 KLZ Talk radio, and Fox 31. Their phone is 720-482-8383 or you can email him questions directly atscott@henke.com

Goldsmith Gulch Improvement Supporters

By Mark Kelley, 303-888-6660

Yes, with your help and support, we are still pursuing the idea of a multi-use path in Goldsmith Gulch between Eastman and Hampden. And it will be a huge improvement in the neighborhood! Before I ask you to please send Councilwomen Lehmann emails and letters showing your support for the Gulch path, I'll fill you in on what has happened recently.

I have received Letters of Intent from the Gulch contiguous property owners, Tamarac Plaza, the office complex, and Tiffany Plaza, showing their support for putting a path in the Gulch between Hampden and Eastman. They have said they are willing to work with the City to make it happen. FYI, one of Tamarac Plaza's

tenants was recently hit by a car crossing Hampden. If anyone wants to see those letters, let me know and I'll email them to you.

As I mentioned in an earlier email, I am on the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee (MBAC). MBAC will soon be sending a letter to Councilwomen Lehman's office, and additionally to Denver Parks and Public Works, supporting construction of the path. Parks and Public Works attend our meetings and we have a very close working relationship with them. Councilwomen Lehmann needs a lot of encouragement! I'll send that letter out to you as soon as it is sent out to Councilwomen Lehmann and you can follow up with your own supportive emails and letters at that time, also.

Recently, there was a blog by Council Members Debbie Ortega and Susan Shepard posted in the online version of *The Denver Post* about City Council and their vote to encourage pedestrian and bike infrastructure.

Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director of The Greenway Foundation, recently met with Councilwomen Lehmann to voice support for the path in the Gulch. He has worked tirelessly promoting the recreational the aspects and beneficial commercial opportunities that improved greenways provide.

If you want to improve your neighborhood, please send an email to Councilwomen Lehmann. Tell her in your own words you want her to support a path in the Gulch – that the neighborhood needs this type of improvement when commercial interests like Target and Chick fil-A ignore our neighborhood's best asset. Ask her to help make our neighborhood walkable and to help connect our waterways and parks with greenways!

Help Out TJHS Clean Up Day, August 3 & 10

Thomas Jefferson (TJ) is our neighborhood high school and a hidden gem within this community. TJ enjoys a smaller student body than most Denver High Schools, plus, it boasts a truly unique Communications & Technology Magnet, which gives our students real world experience for college and beyond. Not only is it a wonderful place to learn, but we have a dynamic new principal, so we'd like the outside of the building to match the exciting things that are happening within.

TJ Partners (the TJ Parent Organization) will be hosting two Community Clean Up days on August 3rd and August 10th from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day. We would love to have any interested community members come out and join in the fun!

We are in need of some garden supplies in order to help us improve the landscaping of the building. If you would be interested in contributing to your neighborhood high school, please consider donating any of the items listed below or consider a cash donation and we will put the funds toward this beautification process. Please refer to our list below. Please do not hesitate to contact Susan Sundeen at 303-757-8550 or ssundeen@comcast.net to coordinate drop-off or pickup of any donations. Thank you for your consideration and support of Thomas Jefferson High School.

- Potting soil or mulch, 12 large bags
- Flower seeds
- 3 Large (24" or larger) pots for flowers
- 3 spray nozzles

- 1 garden reel with wheels
- 5 pairs of sturdy garden gloves
- 5 hand spades
- 12 decorative potted grasses
- 12 low-growing perennial plants
- Several varieties of annual plants for pots (approximately 2 dozen)

Thank you again for considering a donation to our school. We are very appreciative of our area neighbors and businesses who make a commitment to the community. TJ Partners is a 501(3)c entity so any donations you make will be considered tax deductible and a receipt will be provided upon request.

Sincerely, Lisa Allen, TJ Partners President; Susan Sundeen, TJ Partners Vice President; Kelly Scarborough, TJ Partners Secretary; Janet Willson, TJ Partners Treasurer; and Karen Lutz, TJ Partners Board Member at Large

Selected Covenant Reminders

Sheds are considered a structure or out-building under our covenants that require Board approval. The covenants give the Board broad discretion to pass judgment whether the structure or out-building is in "harmony with the surroundings." The Board will take into consideration the suitability of the proposed structure, the materials, and the site where it is proposed to be built. We value the opinions of your neighbors whether the structure is in harmony with the surroundings. So when you request approval, make sure you have run your plans by your neighbors to ascertain whether there may be objections.

Monthly SPEHA Board Meetings

All SPEHA homeowners have an open invitation to attend monthly Board meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Floor Board Room of Citywide Bank Building at Hampden & Monaco. Enter from parking lot, far East door, across from Fire Station.

Watch Out for Situations Like This

A resident on S. Newport Way, was on her patio July 24th around 3:30 p.m. when a male in his 30s came into her backyard claiming to be a tree trimmer. He told her he needed to trim the trees in the backyard of house behind hers and that needed to get access by going through her backyard. He also told her that neighbor recently sold his home. The man was talking on a cell phone to another male who he claimed was helping.

The resident told the man to leave her property and went inside. She then discovered her home had been ransacked in the 5-10 minutes she was talking with the purported tree trimmer. She called her back neighbor and found out he had not sold his home.

The police surmise that the men are operating a scam where they sneak into the garage when the homeowner pulled-in a few minutes before the man appeared in her backyard. The individuals then wait behind the vehicle until the garage door closes. One person distracts the homeowner (the male in the backyard) while the other man is inside robbing the home. We suspect that the refusal to engage with the male who came into her backyard, ordering him to leave, and then going inside her home interrupted the heist.

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For free estimates call John Mayanja at: 720-364-8100

Email at: sales@prohousecleaners.com

References available upon request

Bonded and Insured



Patrick Morgan, CRS

Realtor with over 17 years experience

Southmoor Park Home Owner since 1999

I can help you, your friends or family members just call me.

Or for a free evaluation of your home, Call.

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**** FREE Notary Service to Southmoor Park residents****