

# WHITTIER NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

A PUBLICATION FROM THE WHITTIER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 8.09

## Whittier neighbors favor single family zoning, granny flats

A straw poll at the July 15 WNA meeting revealed that many who attended want Whittier to be kept stable with only single family homes allowed for new construction while allowing existing duplexes and multi-family housing to remain. However, there were a significant number of people who expressed a comfort level or even a desire to increase density in the neighborhood.

The meeting was held to give residents a chance to learn what City planners have in mind for zoning in Whittier and to express their feelings on the matter. There will be one more opportunity to learn more and to provide input at a neighborhood level on **Wed., Aug. 19, 6:30 P.M.** at the Whittier Community Center, 2900 Downing.

City planners will host a meeting **Sat., Aug. 22, 9 A.M.–NOON** at Church in the City at 1560 Gaylord St. to hear from the WNA, Whittier residents and others living in District 8. The City wishes to have new zoning in place by the end of the year. For details of proposed zoning for Whittier and upcoming meeting information, visit [www.newcodedenver.org](http://www.newcodedenver.org).

The current draft zoning from City planners would allow more multi-family units to be built in the west and south portions of the neighborhood, while preserving single family units in the northeast quadrant. A majority of participants at the July 15 WNA meeting agreed that Whittier should not be divided into two different zoning areas.

But with a unified zoning, how much density should be allowed?

One option to add density while preserving single family homes is to allow Accessory

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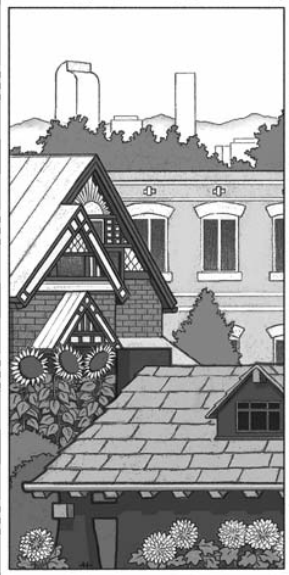
**A majority of participants at the July 15 WNA meeting agreed that Whittier should not be divided into two different zoning areas.**

**But with a unified zoning, how much density should be allowed?**

Dwelling Units (ADUs) or Granny Flats. These are apartments on top of a garage or carriage house or in the basement of a single-family home. Most at the WNA meeting favored this solution, but a few warned of shadows cast across neighboring yards and lack of privacy.

Another matter of consideration is allowing for small businesses throughout the neighborhood. Current zoning forces any building that housed a business that is vacant for a year to become a residence. There was strong support at the WNA meeting to allow any building with an existing business, or a history of once housing a business, to retain the ability to house another business in the future. One thing neighbors will need to ponder, however, is any restrictions they may want to have on impacts of parking, lighting, signage, noise or other factors emanating from the business.

For an easy to understand summary of the zoning changes, find future meeting information and to see plan updates, visit [www.newcodedenver.org](http://www.newcodedenver.org).



WHITTIER  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
DENVER, COLORADO

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### FREE DAYS

Denver Museum of  
Nature & Science  
Wed., Aug. 12

#### M.O.M.S BABY GOODS SALE

Sat., Aug. 15 • 10:30 A.M.–2 P.M.  
Quality items at bargain prices  
Douglas county Events Center  
I-25 at Exit 181 • \$1 admission  
[www.mothersofmultiples.com](http://www.mothersofmultiples.com)

#### WHITTIER SEWING CLUB

Sun., Aug. 16 • NOON–5 P.M.  
Whittier Community Center,  
2900 Downing St.  
Bring your own equipment  
(machines, pins, scissors, etc.)  
and meet other neighborhood  
sewing enthusiasts.  
[solemnraven@gmail.com](mailto:solemnraven@gmail.com)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WNA  
MEETING  
**WED., AUGUST 19**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
2900 DOWNING STREET  
SUITE 1B



**BICYCLE ADVENTURE  
SCAVENGER HUNT  
USING GPS  
SAT., AUG. 15**

Come join your neighbors for a group scavenger hunt around City Park. You will learn how to use a GPS and follow clues around City Park. It might surprise you what you will find and learn. This is a great activity for all ages! Cost \$10 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.



**ANNUAL  
DOGAPOOLOOZA:  
SWIMMING WITH  
THE DOGS  
SUN., AUG. 16**

Help your pooch escape the dog days of summer by taking them for a swim the day after pools close for the summer to human swimmers. Berkeley Park, 5031 W. 46th Ave. (46th and Sheridan) Cook Park, 7100 Cherry Creek S. Dr. Two sessions: 9-10:30 A.M. 11 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Cost \$5 per dog per session. Pool capacity 100 dogs First come, first served. Dogs must be vaccinated and licensed.

For additional information about these events, call 3-1-1.

**FREE Fall  
Trees for  
Whittier  
residents**

**Application**

**Deadline:**

**Tues., Sept 1.**

**Tree pick up:**

**Sat., Oct. 3.**

If you missed the Spring free tree program, this is your chance to get a free shade tree for fall planting. This fall, thanks to EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., a Shade Tree distribution program will provide residents with large shade trees for their yards. A strategically planted shade tree can help you save money and fight global warming! The shade of a large tree can reduce the amount of energy needed to cool your home, which results in lower energy bills and less carbon released into the atmosphere. These trees also enhance property values, buffer noise, and provide shelter for birds and other wildlife.

This fall's shade trees are intended for planting in your yard. Determine if you have enough space for a large shade tree and plan for the best placement. Residents who apply and are approved for yard trees are responsible for having utility lines checked prior to planting.

Availability is limited, so apply today! To get an application, visit [www.theparkpeople.com](http://www.theparkpeople.com) or call 303.722.6262.

**Zoning, Dog Poop pit neighborhoods against Parks and Rec**

Two decision-making issues involving Denver's Parks and Recreation Dept. and its Board have residents of Whittier and other Denver neighborhoods crying "foul."

The issues are (1) putting dog poop dispensers with advertising in City parks, including Whittier's Fuller Park, and (2) removing zoning from the Parks and allowing all decisions to be at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Board.

The neighborhoods, represented by the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC), are protesting both.

**ADVERTISING IN PARKS**

Early outcries began when the Parks and Recreation Department sanctioned a contract with Bill Airy and his business, Poo Free Parks, to place dog poop bag dispensers with advertising and logos in many of the City's parks. Airy and the Parks and Recreation board say the plan is a good money-saving idea for the City that will standardize and replace the random bags that residents leave voluntarily in various kinds of homemade containers. The vendor also proposes to use biodegradable bags and provide upkeep with workers using energy-efficient cars. Information about the dispenser and the company is on [www.poofreeparks.org](http://www.poofreeparks.org).

The INC neighborhoods say advertising violates past Parks and Recreation Policy and Procedures on Corporate Sponsorship. They

argue that allowing advertising in public parks will become an eyesore and open the door to other advertising ventures. The INC has formally requested that the Parks and Recreation Department cancel the contract, adding that it does not solve the problem of dog poop in the parks, only the dog owners taking responsibility for picking up the poop will do that.

**PARK ZONING**

Another outcry was added when the new zoning code indicated that zoning will no longer apply to the City's main parks. The code allows the manager of Parks and Recreation to determine all design and development standards in those parks. Information about the new zoning codes is available at [www.newcodedenver.org](http://www.newcodedenver.org). The INC neighborhoods officially protested, saying this will remove the checks and balances on land use in the parks as well as any kind of public process. The only recourse for citizens who do not agree with decisions made about the parks would be to file a court case, according to the INC.

**Denver Parks and Recreation has selected 15 people to serve on its External Stakeholder Committee regarding the Dog Park Master Plan and Policy recommendations. People interested in staying abreast of the master plan process can submit their email to [DenverDog@Denvergov.org](mailto:DenverDog@Denvergov.org). For more details, visit the WNA web site.**

Issues affecting our neighborhood and how you can take action.

# What's Up Whittier



## RECAP OF JUNE 17 WHITTIER NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN MEETING

Over 20 residents attended the June 17 WNA meeting and participated in a discussion about issues addressed in the Whittier Neighborhood Plan (created in 2000) and what priority those issues should receive now. The What's Up column will address each issue and give residents information and opportunities to get involved.

### Education

Whittier is home to two schools: Manual High School and Whittier K-8. Both are traditional neighborhood schools and benefit the community by their presence.

The Neighborhood Plan encouraged:

- the creation of a learning center at Manual plus the addition of Community College of Denver at the school
- currently Manual houses Colorado Youth at Risk and Volunteers of America and they are open to other partnerships

- All Whittier residents participate in school activities, events and issues; and establish mentorship programs
- Both Manual and Whittier offer a number of ways parents and non-parents can volunteer (see below)

### Whittier K-8 CSAP news:

- 2009 Third Grade Reading Scores:
  - 73% 3rd graders tested Proficient or Advanced in reading
  - #3 out of 50 DPS schools with higher than 75% students of color and free/reduced lunch rate
- 2009 8rd Grade DPS Adv. Placemt Algebra:
  - 53% of Whittier students passed
- 2008 CSAP scores – Entire School
  - #1 in all of DPS for improvement in reading scores

### TAKE ACTION

- Come to **Wed., Aug. 19** WNA meeting to meet Rob Stein, principal, and Tanesha Bell, VOA Community Connect Program, Manual H.S.
- Contact Rob Stein: rob\_stein@dpsk12.org
- Contact VOA Community Connect Program: communityconnect@voacolorado.org
- Contact Whittier K- 8 PTA: 303.910.6698 or gkmortimer@comcast.net
- Contact Northeast Community Congress for Education: 303.294.1141
- Contact your DPS board representative: Kevin Patterson, Theresa Peña and Jill Conrad: board@dpsk12.org



## CAMPAIGN AGAINST BULLYING

If you have kids or friends with kids, you may be interested in this short online movie that is a part of a nationwide effort to end the epidemic of bullying. [www.GettingBullied.net/](http://www.GettingBullied.net/) movie

### DID YOU KNOW?

Whittier has a variety of ways for its residents to communicate online.

Facebook page  
Search "Whittier Community Center"

Whittier Yahoo group — for discussion of issues  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Whittier\\_Denver/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Whittier_Denver/)

as a mini-"Craigslist"  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/whittierpennypinchers/>

Whittier blog  
[whatsupwhittier.blogspot.com](http://whatsupwhittier.blogspot.com)

And please feel free to contact any WNA board member about any neighborhood issue. See back page for contact information.



## PLEASE TRIM TREE LIMBS AND BUSHES

Denver ordinance requires trees to be trimmed "8 feet over the surface of the public sidewalk or pedestrian way." Please make walking through Whittier safer and easier by trimming your trees over and bushes growing into sidewalk areas.



Cole Arts and Science Academy and Catholic Charities are hosting the free Cole Community Back to School Fair at the school (3240 Humboldt St.) on **Sat., Aug. 15**, from 11 A.M.-3:30 P.M. There will be food, music, resource booths, sports physicals, carnival games, a bike safety course, and much more. Please bring the family and spend the day at our great neighborhood school and community center.



## WNA Board seeking new board members

The WNA Board has four positions open: Vice President, Treasurer, Economic Development and Membership Chairs. Serving on the WNA Board is a great way to meet neighbors and affect positive change for Whittier.

WNA board members must be WNA members and attend monthly WNA board and general meetings. Visit the WNA web site for a full list of the duties of each position (don't let them scare you). If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Calder at [chc@blondedesign.com](mailto:chc@blondedesign.com) or 303.296.1680.

### WEB SITE WONDER

This is a little shout-out to **Resa Baker** who is the whiz behind the WNA web site. She updates information, keeps track of community center rentals, and is an all-round wonderful person to work with. Thanks, Resa!

**WNA BOARD**

2900 Downing St., 1B  
Denver, Colorado 80205

**PRESIDENT**

Linda Dowlen • 303.282.6672  
WNAPresident@gmail.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Position open

**TREASURER**

Position open

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Jeff Neuman-Lee • 303.589.3882  
jeffwna@gmail.com

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Gary Kleiner • 303.282.6672  
GKVideoguy@aol.com

**AT-LARGE MEMBER**

Scott Rittinger • 303.297.0777  
sgrittinger@msn.com

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHAIRPERSON**

Position open

**COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRPERSON**

Cathy Calder • 303.296.1680  
chc@BlondeDesign.com

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON**

Position open

**Beautification Committee**

Volunteers needed

**House Tour Committee**

Gary Kleiner and Linda Dowlen, Co-chairs  
303.282.6672 • WhittierTour@aol.com

**Community Services**

**& Health Committee**  
Jim Considine, Chair • 303.837.1164  
WhittierCSHC@gmail.com  
Volunteers needed

**Education Committee**

Nancee Braan, Chair • 303.296.1793  
braandn@earthlink.net  
Volunteers needed

**Public Safety Committee**

Dave McGuinness, Chair • 303.963.5665  
dmacaudio@comcast.net  
Volunteers needed

Newsletter editors: Cathy and James Calder Newsletter design: Blonde Ambition • Please submit articles for the Whittier Spotlight to chc@BlondeDesign.com. Only digital files accepted. Due to space constraints, your submission may be edited. Spotlight Advertising Opportunities: Please contact Cathy Calder at 303.296.1680 or chc@BlondeDesign.com • Newsletter funding: Thanks to a generous grant from The Denver Foundation

**COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS**—Both a current schedule of use and a reservation request form can be found at **WhittierNeighborhood.org**. Find them on the Community Center page. All reservation requests are now handled on the web site, so please don't call—you'll just be redirected to the web site.

**BANYAN TREE/WHITTIER DRUM PROJECT**

303.322.4418

**BO MATTHEWS CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE**

303.295.0376 • matthewscenters.org

**COLORADO GOVT.** • colorado.gov

Senator: Peter Groff • 303.866.3342  
peter.groff.senate@state.co.us  
Representative: Beth McCann  
303.866.2959  
ehmccann@comcast.net

**THE DENVER FOUNDATION**

303.300.1790 • denverfoundation.org

**DENVER CITY COUNCIL**

**District 8 Office, 2713 Welton**  
Councilwoman Carla Madison  
carla.madison@ci.denver.co.us  
303.587.6543

**At Large**

Councilman Doug Linkhart  
doug.linkhart@ci.denver.co.us  
720.865.8000  
Councilwoman Carol Boigon  
carol.boigon@ci.denver.co.us  
720.865.8100

**DENVER CITY GOVT. INFO**

Just dial 311 • Denvergov.org

**DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

**Blair Caldwell branch**  
720.865.2401  
Hours: Mon., Tues 12–8 P.M.  
Wes & Fri. 12–6 P.M. • Sat. 9 A.M.–5 P.M.

**Ford Warren branch**

720.865.0920 • Tues. & Wed. 12–8 P.M.  
Thurs. & Fri. 10 A.M.–6 P.M.  
Sat. 9 A.M.–5 P.M.

**DENVER POLICE DEPT. – DISTRICT 2**

Neigh. Police Officers Choice Johnson & Andrew Richmond 720.641.1596 • Officers Tyson Worrell & Jake Robb 720.641.1592  
Spanish language hotline 720.913.1089  
Dispatch 720.913.2000

**DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

dpsk12.org

**GRAFFITI CLEAN-UP**

720.865.7867 • Denvergov.org/graffiti  
Supplies: Cop Shop, Park Ave. & Champa St.  
303.295.4007 • WhittierCSHC@gmail.com

**HOPE COMMUNITIES**

2543 California St.  
303.860.774 • hopecommunities.org

**LEAD SAFE DENVER**

303.377.3334 • leadsafedenver.org  
hud.gov/offices/lead/outreach/remodel.pdf

**MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL**

720.423.6300 • rob\_stein@dpsk12.org

**MILE HIGH YOUTH CORPS**

303.433.1206 • www.milehighyouthcorps.org

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CONGRESS FOR EDUCATION (NCCE)**

Meets every Tuesday • 6:30 P.M.  
Blair Caldwell Library, 2401 Welton St.  
303.294.1141

**RTD REPRESENTATIVE**

Chris Martinez • 303.317.7218  
chris.martinez@RTD-Denver.com

**RADIO READING SERVICE OF THE ROCKIES**

For the blind, visually impaired and handicapped • 303.786.7777 • rrsr.org

**RIDE ARRANGERS (Alternate transportation)**

303.458.7665 • drcog.org

**SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD CENTER**

2901 High Street • 303.295.2107

**TRASH PICKUP**

Large item pickup: Aug. 31–Sept. 4  
Unwanted appliance pickup: 303.430.7142  
Recycling service start-up: call 3-1-1

**UNITED WAY COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SERVICE**

Just dial 211

**VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA COMMUNITY CONNECT PROGRAM at Manual High School**

720.423.6322  
communityconnect@voacolorado.org

**WHITTIER K-8 PTA**

2nd Tues. 5:30–6 P.M., dinner 6–7:15 P.M.  
303.910.6698 • gkmortimer@comcast.net  
Does not meet June, July or August.

Do you have a great old house that reflects its past? For the ultimate pride-of-ownership experience, have your home on the Tour this year!



**2009 Historic Whittier House Tour Sunday, October 18**

Volunteers are also needed for planning, preparation, and to help out during the event.

Please contact Tour director Gary Kleiner at 303.282.6672 or WhittierTour@aol.com.

**Become a member of the Whittier Neighborhood Association—or renew your membership—and start making a difference today!**

**Membership cards are available at monthly WNA meetings.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Names of others in household \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Interests \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$20/household (\$12/Senior household) as new member(s) \_\_\_\_\_ as renewing member(s) \_\_\_\_\_ plus an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Whittier Neighborhood Association.

Your membership is fully tax deductible and will be used to support the Whittier Community Center at 29th Ave. and Downing St. Please enclose check made payable to Whittier Neighborhood Association and mail to 2900 Downing Street, 1B • Denver, CO 80205