

# UPWORDS

UNIVERSITY PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL [UPCC] NEWSLETTER  
The **VOICE** of the University Park Community Council



June 2010 • [www.upcc.us](http://www.upcc.us)

## Invitation To Meet Your Neighbors At The Annual July Fourth Holiday Parade

**Sunday, July 4 at 10 a.m.**  
**Observatory Park**  
(in front of Chamberlin Observatory  
on Warren Avenue)

Residents of all ages are invited to the annual Fourth of July celebration in Observatory Park. The holiday parade, which has evolved over the years, includes kids, parents, bikes, tricycles, strollers, wagons — and even dogs — decked out in streamers and flags.

The VFW will provide rousing music and Fire Station #24 will bring a pumper truck to douse anyone who wants to get drenched — a welcome option on a hot summer day. The University Park Moms Group will provide free popsicles and sell soft drinks. Proceeds will be used for the new “free” toy bin in Observatory Park.

This event, sponsored by the University Park Community Council (UPCC), and funded by voluntary dues payers, consistently draws hundreds of residents. **We need volunteers to help us prepare for the festivities. If you can help, please e-mail [events@upcc.us](mailto:events@upcc.us), or call Dana O'Connor at 303-920-0193.**



## Meet The UPCC 2010-11 Executive Board

UPCC executive board elections were held on May 5 at the General Meeting, and we would like to introduce you to our 2010-11 Board:

**President, Tom Gonnella:** Tom and his wife, Jane, have lived in University Park for five years. They have two sons — Will (8) and Josh (4). Tom's involvement with UPCC began four years ago as the Traffic and Transportation chair. He served in that capacity for two years and has spent the past two years as vice president.



Tom is a senior vice president, shareholder and on the board of directors at Lincoln Trust Company, which services retirement plans for corporations and individuals through IRAs and 401(k)s. Tom also has an ownership in an investment management company in Denver, which manages money for high-net-worth individuals.

Tom graduated from Miami University, Ohio, with a finance degree and holds an MBA and MS in finance from the University of Colorado. Tom is passionate about helping people retire with dignity. Outside of his businesses and UPCC, Tom loves cycling and traveling, and spends much of his free time with family, friends, and volunteering for various non-profit organizations.

**Vice President, Dana Strand O'Connor:** Dana moved



to UP in the spring of 2004. She and her husband, Rob, bought a 1950s ranch that needed a lot of TLC. They purchased the home because they loved the neighborhood and the backyard. Since 2004, they have had two sons, Quinn (4), who is enrolled in the UP Early Childhood Education program, and

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Sidney (1). Dana works full-time in the eMarketing space (which means Web sites, electronic newsletters, social media) and is also a certified personal trainer and yoga instructor. But, between work, family, and volunteering in the neighborhood, not much time gets devoted to yoga.

Dana was a charter member of the University Park Moms Club and part of her role in the Moms group was to be the UPCC liaison. Over the past four years, she has chaired the 4th of July and Sing and Sleigh events, redesigned the Web site, initiated the e-mail list, managed the dues payer database, set UPCC up on PayPal, and she distributes graffiti supplies to all. Most recently, she has worked on the Ribbon Cutting Event for the reopening of Observatory Park playground. Dana got involved with the UPCC because she wanted to be part of the community, and she believes the UPCC can help foster community for her family and neighborhood.

**Secretary, Traci Samaras:** Traci and



husband Andy have lived in UP since 2003, and they have two girls Addison (4) and Jillian (1), as well as two boxer girl dogs.

(Traci feels bad for her husband being so outnumbered.) Traci is a full-time stay-at-home mom, but prior to this role in life, she was a hotel general manager.

Traci first became aware of the UPCC when she was notified by a neighbor that a dry cleaner directly behind her house was vacating, and a bar was moving in. Traci worked with former president Pat Cashen to create a good neighbor agreement. Next Traci became a block captain (the person who delivers the *UpWords* to your door), then she became her block's party planner, and last year, when she noticed

there was an open board position for secretary, she thought she would help out and fill-in for a few months. Traci was great at her new position from the start, and the board asked her to stay on. Luckily, she agreed. Traci's interests outside of home and community include travel, crafts/painting, cooking, comedy shows, and bargain hunting (aka shopping).

**Co-Treasurer, June Morgan:** Longer ago than she can remember, June Morgan was elected Co-Treasurer of UPCC with her late husband Joe, owner of Morgan's Pharmacy at Evans and South Downing. June had moved to Denver in 1958. She and her then-husband, and children lived on South St. Paul Street, next door to Joe and his family. After both June and Joe lost their spouses, Joe asked June out for ice cream. They were married in 1972 and moved their large family to South Monroe Street.

June is a watercolorist, gardener, and frequent hostess, opening her home to her monthly art groups, as well as the regular UPCC Board meetings. She has 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and weekly family dinners, cooked by June, will include two to 10 people around the table.

After Joe's death, June carried on as UPCC Treasurer, occasionally assisted by UP volunteer David Seymour, who eventually joined her as a new Co-Treasurer.

**Co-Treasurer, David Seymour:** David Seymour is semi-retired after a career in the corporate world, where he was Human Resources Officer for one of Chrysler Corporation's financial companies.

He moved to Denver in 1986 and to University Park in 1988, after his marriage to Ellen Van Ness. He and Ellen were born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and grew up a few blocks apart.

David enjoys travel, hiking, cycling, walking the dog, cooking, and following the daily business news. He has three grown children (one in Philadelphia and two in the Twin Cities, with their families), as well as two stepsons, Steve and Tom Van Ness, and their spouses.

## UPCC Board Of Directors

### President:

Tom Gonnella, 303-658-3777,  
president@upcc.us

### Vice President:

Dana O'Connor, 303-920-0193,  
vp@upcc.us

### Secretary:

Traci Samaras, 303-282-7281,  
secretary@upcc.us

### Co-treasurers:

June Morgan, 303-757-2563,  
treasurer@upcc.us  
David Seymour, 303-757-8291,  
treasurer@upcc.us

### Advisory Committee Chair:

Bill Winn, 303-691-8703,  
advisory@upcc.us

### Historic Preservation Chair

#### and Legacy Chair:

Rosemary Stoffel, 303-692-9197,  
hist@upcc.us

### Open Space and Parks Chair:

Diana Helper, 303-733-4902,  
parks@upcc.us

### Sidewalk Committee Chair:

Mary Myers, 303-733-1786,  
sidewalks@upcc.us

### Transportation and Traffic Chair:

open

### Zoning Chair:

Pat Cashen, 303-759-0650,  
303-759-5969, zone@upcc.us

### Communications Chair:

Kathy Poppen, 303-771-9194,  
kpoppen@comcast.net

### Membership Chair:

Dana Strand O'Connor,  
303-920-0193,  
membership@upcc.us

**UPWORDS** is published five times each year, prior to the fall, winter and spring general meetings, the Holiday Sing, and the Fourth of July Parade.

### Newsletter editor:

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Kathi Jensen, 303-777-4905  
block captain coordinators,  
areacord@upcc.us

# A 'Grand' Reopening!

Over a year ago, the neighborhood began working with Denver City Parks and Recreation to renovate the Observatory Park playground. It had been over 20 years since the last playground was installed. Today, there is a new, much loved playground. To celebrate, the University Park neighborhood held a Grand Reopening potluck and party at the park.

Over 250 neighbors were in attendance. Tiny infants, toddlers, teens, pregnant moms, empty nesters, and seniors — some who grew up in University Park and saw the original playground constructed — all reveled in the sights and sounds of kids playing

on the new playground.

The event included a neighborhood potluck, a generous donation from Anthony's Pizza, a pumper truck and firemen from Fire Station 24, representatives from Denver Police District 3, and bubble play by The Bubble Project. The new Community Toy Bin was unveiled.

At one point, over 50 children ran through a 25-foot banner that said "Thank you for our playground." Members of University Park Mothers Club, University Park Community Council, and the office of our City Councilman, Charlie Brown, made the event possible.

*Submitted by Jennifer Engleby*

## City Councilman Charlie Brown Makes An Offer University Park Won't Refuse

If the neighborhood raises \$1,000 for additional playground improvements, Charlie Brown will match it.

The neighborhood raised \$173 dollars during the Playground Grand Reopening Party. "The progress toward the \$1,000 match is fantastic. We are confident the neighborhood won't let a penny of Charlie's generous offer go unmatched," said University Park Mothers Club President, Jennifer Engleby. Please send donations in the form of a check made out to UPCC, and designate it for Playground Renovations. Checks should be mailed to Jennifer Engleby, 3401 East Asbury Avenue, Denver, CO 80210. For more information, e-mail [park@uparkmoms.org](mailto:park@uparkmoms.org).

*Submitted by Jennifer Engleby*

## PARKS NEWS

**Prairie Park** is being well tended thanks to Jill Coffman of the Parks Department and her crew. Plans are

### Graffiti Help Available

UPCC Vice President Dana O'Connor, 2219 South Harrison Street, continues to offer help with eradicating neighborhood graffiti. She has worked with Denver Solid Waste Management to provide graffiti wipes, dumpster paint, and green paint at no cost. If you have a graffiti problem, you may contact Dana at 303-920-0193.

being finalized for the **Buchtel Centennial Park** area — sidewalks and redo of **Buchtel Parkway/South Columbine** intersection. The historic drinking fountain, by the playing field backstop, is in great shape thanks to the Parks Department's Harry Hill and crew.

Star-Gazing is June 19, July 17, and August 14, or call 303-871-2238.

**McWilliams Park** is busy. **Gulch Trail** clean-up was done on May 8, thanks to Mary Beth Twining. Everyone should help keep parks cleaned up and fill dog-bag dispensers.

*Submitted by Diana Helper*

## HAPPENINGS AT UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We thank our entire community for support of this year's Home Tour on May 2. We raised \$29,000 to hire extra teachers and to purchase books and computer software, among other items for the school.

On April 21, in observance of Earth Day, Sara Davis of the Mile High Million Tree Initiative helped both of our fifth grade classes plant a tree on the school grounds. Our tree is number 182,444 toward the City of Denver's goal to plant one million new trees.

This is also the third year UP Elementary will tend the Friendship Garden. Our students have tilled the soil and planted. We will be serving samples of our harvest in the school cafeteria and hosting a Youth Farmers Market this fall. Donations of neighborhood garden produce and flowers for the market would be most appreciated.

UPark Elementary has launched its new Web site: [www.uparkelementary.com](http://www.uparkelementary.com). It has a comprehensive, up-to date calendar; faculty and staff contact info; weekly bulletins and notices; lunch menus; a discussion forum; and, information about fundraising, year-round enrichment programs, PTA, CSC, and much more. It also contains links to other Web sites, such as Denver Public Schools, University Park Community Council, University Park Mothers Club, etc. Please contact Anne Wall at 303-753-6572 for more information.

*Submitted by Anne Wall*

## What's Recyclable And Where?

Earth911.com is a database with more than 110,000 recycling locations across the country. Simply type in a description of the material to be recycled, along with your Zip code. Earth911 will generate the closest recycling location. (Tip: ask Target, Best Buy, and Home Depot if they recycle "one use" batteries).

Submitted by Pam Adams

## UPCC Newsletter Editor Volunteer Needed

Kathy Poppen, who has been UPCC's newsletter editor for the past two years, has taken on several large freelance writing assignments recently. With so many competing priorities, she no longer has time to edit our neighborhood newsletter.

We therefore need a volunteer to compile and edit articles, and work with the graphic designer who formats our newsletter. As Communications Chair, the newsletter editor also participates in board meetings.

Volunteering for this position is a great way to meet your neighbors and become involved in community activities.

Submitted by Kathy Poppen

## Thanks, Recent UPCC Dues Payers!

UPCC's treasury depends on voluntary dues paid by University Park residents. We couldn't fund the Fourth of July Parade, the annual Holiday Sing, or many other community projects without your continuing support. Thanks to the following who submitted their voluntary dues since the last issue of *UpWords*. If your name is spelled incorrectly or missing, please call Ellen VanNess-Seymour at 303-759-2488.

Letty and Bill Bass  
Pam Gates Belanger  
Kara Birkedahl and  
Michelle M. Tanner  
Barbara Boucher  
Marc and Vicki Carpenter  
Ginny and Matt Depetro  
Dean and Darcy DiGiulio  
Lee and Arthur Feldman  
Greg and Helen Fulton  
Tim and Susie Hall

Dennett and Karen Hutchinson  
Jay and Joyce Jacobsmeyer  
Dorothy E. Lagger  
Marion Lewis  
Jim and Kathy MacDonnell  
Jeanie and Randal Martines  
Bill and Virginia McGehee  
Libby McWilliams  
The Moorheads  
Rob and Mary Murray  
John Newcomb and Nina

Clair Purcell  
Adam Reeves and Julie  
Jane and Bill Russell  
Virginia Shanks  
John Simi  
Cici Smith  
Laura Stanger  
Paul Sumner  
Erik and Frances Taylor  
Charles and Jennifer Thornton-Kolbe



## UPCC Voluntary Dues 2010

Please fill out the following form and send it with your check for UPCC dues (\$20, \$15 seniors) to UPCC co-treasurers June Morgan, 2100 S. Monroe St., Denver, CO 80210 or David Seymour, at 2140 S. Clayton Street, Denver CO, 80210. Another payment option: Use PayPal to pay your dues online by visiting [www.upcc.us/support](http://www.upcc.us/support). During the current economic downturn, the UPCC has received fewer contributions. We encourage those who are able to increase their donations to help us compensate for this shortfall. **Thank you!**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood interests or concerns \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_