

# UPWORDS

UNIVERSITY PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
(UPCC) NEWSLETTER

*Your Neighborhood Voice*

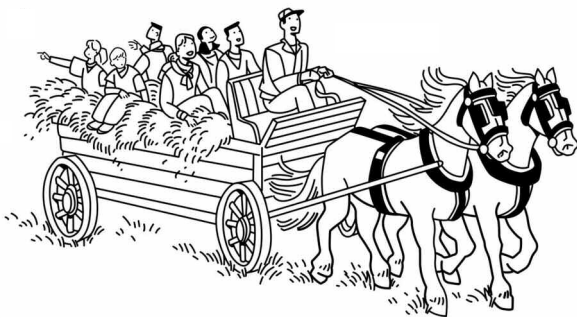


November 2015 • [www.upcc.us](http://www.upcc.us)

Join Us For  
The UPCC's Annual  
Family Holiday Event

## *Sing And Sleigh Bells*

At Observatory Park  
Sunday, December 6, 2015  
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.



Celebrate the season with your neighbors and friends at this fun and festive holiday event. There will be hayrides on a horse-drawn sleigh, lively carolers, delicious hot beverages, star gazing at the Chamberlin Observatory, and even a special appearance by Santa. All are welcome, and please bring holiday treats to share!

# Letter From The President

by Traci Samaras

Our October General Meeting drew an impressive crowd to the University Park Elementary School.

- The Schlessmann YMCAs Aquatics Director, Dana Wedlick, provided an update on the nearly completed renovation, and Virginia Berkeley of the South Jackson Street Association shared concerns being worked on by neighbors in the immediate vicinity of the Y.
- Tim Klemmerson of Shaw Construction, assistant project manager of the five-story, two-building, 275-unit apartment complex now under construction in the 1900 block of S. Josephine, presented plans and answered questions about the project, whose target completion date is March 2017. The strictly residential project, which will feature a delivery area in

front of one building, will include underground parking (one space for each bedroom in a unit) and will have an on-site manager. The developers expect primarily young professional tenants, with no more than 15% students.

- Newly elected City Councilman Paul Kashmann presented issues currently being addressed by the Council and answered questions from the audience.

One last item: we have several open board positions. These include: Events Chair, Email Chair, INC Delegate, Purple Pages Chair, and DU Liaison (one meeting per quarter). If you would like to become involved in any of these roles, we'd love to have you. Please contact me at [president@upcc.us](mailto:president@upcc.us), 303-282-7281.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Sing and Sleigh Bells!

## UPWords Block Captains Needed

Our biggest need is an Area E coordinator, which runs roughly from Harvard to Yale and from Madison to Clayton. This means delivering newsletters to 18 different block captains in that area, who take it from there. We bring the newsletters to you all ready to go.

Even though they are covered for now, the newest temporary blocks are:

- 1900 S. Monroe
- 2000 S. Monroe (west side)
- 2100 S. Madison (east side)
- 2100 S. St. Paul
- 2400 S. Garfield
- 2500 S. Garfield

If you live on or near these blocks and can cover them, please contact Phyllis Ward, [phyllis\\_wrd@yahoo.com](mailto:phyllis_wrd@yahoo.com), 303-756-6146. THANK YOU!

### UPCC EMAIL NOTIFICATION LIST

Stay connected and informed by signing up for the UPCC email notification list. We send monthly emails as well as emails when there is something time sensitive that needs to be communicated to our residents. To learn more about our list and read recent emails visit [www.upcc.us/email](http://www.upcc.us/email).

### Newsletter Information

UPWords is published five times a year and is funded by the University Park Community Council. Articles, story ideas, and suggestions from readers are always welcome. Please contact Liz Netzel, editor, at [com@upcc.us](mailto:com@upcc.us)

## Calling Neighborhood Architects

There has been much recent discussion about the lack of design quality in many of Denver's newest buildings. University Park still offers the architectural diversity lacking in other parts of the city, with many fine examples, both old and new, of notable design. We would like some of those buildings pointed out to our residents.

We are looking for architects living in University Park to select one of their favorite buildings in our neighborhood — old, new, or in-between — and briefly explain why they think it is designed well. Please send your picks to Rosemary Stoffel at [rosemary.stoffel@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.stoffel@gmail.com), or call her at 303-692-9197. We'll feature notable homes in future issues of *UPWords*.

### UPCC EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### President:

Traci Samaras, 303-282-7281  
[president@upcc.us](mailto:president@upcc.us)

#### Vice President:

Debbie Harrington, 303-507-2652  
[vp@upcc.us](mailto:vp@upcc.us)

#### Secretary:

Megan Bettinger, 303-842-0687  
[secretary@upcc.us](mailto:secretary@upcc.us)

#### Co-Treasurers:

Ryan Zorn & June Morgan,  
[trs@upcc.us](mailto:trs@upcc.us)

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Advisory:

Bill Winn, 303-691-8703  
[advisory@upcc.us](mailto:advisory@upcc.us)

#### Communications:

Liz Netzel,  
[com@upcc.us](mailto:com@upcc.us)

#### Legacy & Historic Preservation:

Rosemary Stoffel, 303-692-9197  
[hist@upcc.us](mailto:hist@upcc.us)

#### Membership:

John Rogala, [membership@upcc.us](mailto:membership@upcc.us)

#### Neighborhood Safety:

Steven Hick, [safety@upcc.us](mailto:safety@upcc.us)

#### Open Space & Parks/Buchtel:

Diana Helper, 303-733-4902  
[parks@upcc.us](mailto:parks@upcc.us)

#### Purple Pages: OPEN

#### Co-Chairs Transportation,

#### Traffic & Sidewalks:

Vaughan Kendall, 303-910-6590  
& Jeanne Tubb,  
[traffic@upcc.us](mailto:traffic@upcc.us)

#### Zoning Chair:

Pat Cashen, [zone@upcc.us](mailto:zone@upcc.us)

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

(no vote on board)

#### Area Coordinator:

Phyllis Ward, 303-756-6146  
[areacoord@upcc.us](mailto:areacoord@upcc.us)

#### Archives: OPEN

#### Email Communication: OPEN

#### Events: OPEN

#### Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation: OPEN

#### Nominations: OPEN

#### School Liaison: OPEN

[president@upcc.us](mailto:president@upcc.us)

#### Web Master:

David Schutt,  
[webmaster@upcc.us](mailto:webmaster@upcc.us)

UPWORDS is published five times a year, prior to the fall, winter and spring general meetings, the special Holiday issue for the Sing and Sleigh, and the summer issue for the 4th of July Parade.

# Interview With Denver City Councilman Paul Kashmann, District 6

by Liz Netzel, Editor

I met with Paul Kashmann at Pete's Café, where he holds "office hours" every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. for anyone who wishes to drop by to chat. He told me he's also planning to initiate weekly Thursday evening office hours at the Virginia Village Library soon.

**LN:** You've been on the job since July. What are the biggest issues you're hearing about?

**PK:** Without a doubt, it's traffic control and speed control, which have become big safety concerns for the neighborhood. As the main arteries of University, Colorado, even Downing have become clogged, drivers are cutting through neighborhoods. Because they're annoyed at the delays, they are speeding. It's not just UP — congestion is a growing problem throughout the city.

**LN:** Speaking of traffic, is there any effort to find a solution for the future residents of the new apartment complex at 2400 S. University who need to be able to turn east into the complex when they are heading south?

**PK:** Right now, the plan is for southbound residents to use the light at Iliff and go two blocks south on Josephine. I'm in conversation with the deputy director of planning about this issue. Merely sending drivers into surrounding neighborhood streets is not an acceptable solution. I'm trying to

get clarity on how traffic studies accurately predict increased usage, and how infrastructure is created to accommodate it and prevent it from completely changing the character of neighborhoods.

**LN:** Lately, there seems to be an upsurge in crime in our community. Is there any effort to put more officers on the street?

**PK:** Council has asked for more police, to cover the existing need and to prepare for the hole created by officers retiring from the force. There's a proposed budget amendment to boost recruit class size from 44 to 50, but we're getting pushback from the mayor, who wants to do a study to see if it's necessary. We are respectfully disagreeing with that plan. People want more traffic cops and neighborhood patrols, as well as shorter response times. We also need more detectives to work on rooting out organized crime rings.

**LN:** What can residents do in the meantime?

**PK:** Don't make it easy for criminals by leaving homes or cars unlocked, or valuables within easy view.

**LN:** Land values are high here. What can be done to create more affordable housing in our neighborhood?

**PK:** No one has the answer, because prices are market-driven, and in the past, the onus was on developers, who didn't have any incentives to create

lower-cost housing. The mayor has passed several initiatives to increase the stock of affordable housing, but there would have to be a change in state law in order for municipalities to legislate affordability in rental projects.

**LN:** Lastly, parking is a growing concern in UP, especially with DU students and construction workers parking on side streets. Any ideas there?

**PK:** The space in front of private residences is a public right-of-way, but it shouldn't become a *de facto* parking lot. The construction projects going up now are going to last 1-1/2 to 2 years, so we need a policy to deal with this ongoing problem. One idea would be to require developers who are going to be in an area for a certain amount of time to negotiate using parking space at local churches or other establishments that have lots available during the daytime, for example.

**LN:** Overall, do you feel like the city has a plan to mitigate the effects of growth?

**PK:** There is momentum on all these issues — parking, traffic safety, policing. But people have to realize we're in a boom time of historic proportions. For the first time ever, Denver will permit projects in excess of \$3 billion. The growth will slow down eventually, but right now we're just trying to survive the tsunami.

## OPEN SPACE & PARKS/BUCHTEL COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Diana Helper, Chair

### PRAIRIE PARK SIGN DEDICATED

— On October 28, some 30 UP residents gathered to dedicate Prairie Park's beautiful new interpretive sign and to thank a number of people who were instrumental in getting this project accomplished, including *Charlie Brown*, who paid half the cost of the sign and has been super-supportive for many years; the UP Mothers Club, which donated \$1,000; the UPCC, which also contributed to the cost; graphic artist *Betsy Johnson Welty*, who put our words together with perfect pictures in a wonderful design and did dozens of other helpful things; *Jennifer Engleby*, who insisted we go for a large sign; *Ray Ehrenstein*, who took the

*Continued on page 4*



*Diana Helper and Charlie Brown at the dedication.*

## OPEN SPACE & PARKS/BUCHTEL UPDATE

*Continued from page 3*

prairie photograph on the sign; DU's Steve Fisher, Kate Crowe, and Jill Rittersbacher for historic pictures; Amie Cavarra for proofreading; and Darlene Dueck of the American Museum of Western Art – The Anschutz Collection, for permission to reproduce the Whitteredge painting “Encampment on the Platte River”; Cincere Eades of Denver Parks, who kept after Artcraft where the sign was slowly but surely completed; the Parks crew; Traci Samaras, who has been a huge help all along the way; and, far from least, my husband, John Helper, who has been with this Buchtel project since the very

beginning in 1976.

Also, to those who assisted with last November's fundraiser, “Western Songs and Poems”: Janet Bardwell, whose photograph graced the flier she designed and who, along with Debbie Harrington, took tickets; Eileen Abbattista, Vern Beebe and John Helper; who performed; Jeri Maier and Charlie Brown, who donated items for auction; George Mayl, auctioneer; Jane Queen and Bryon Gentry, who made it possible to use Accelerated Schools' carriage house; and everyone who bought tickets and participated.

The dedication happened to be on longtime resident Mary Aline

O'Donnell's 101st birthday, so we honored her as well with a rousing “Happy Birthday” chorus, with ukelele accompaniment by Jim Tracy. Next spring, we will start the planned educational garden at the site.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE** — City Councilman Paul Kashmann has waded right into the sea of construction going on in UP and has been extremely effective. At the 1900 S. Josephine sites (right behind our house) our alley is open at both ends, and a large mirror has been placed at a totally blind corner, where removal of several feet of alley space has made a tight turn. He is also working on our UP area traffic concerns. Thank you!

## Thanks To Recent UPCC Dues Payers!

The following residents paid voluntary UPCC dues from August through October 2015.

Maureen & Michael Allen  
Greg & Beth Anderson  
John & Bethany Bostedt  
Theresa Pena & Matt Chavkin  
Cynthia Daniels  
Mike & Rosemary Devlin  
Sandy Elliott  
William Ferguson

Peyton & Holly Garnsey  
Pam Gates  
Timothy & Susie Hall  
William & Sally Harvey  
Ed & Gretchen Hawley  
Enno Henze  
Drew & Amy Homburger  
Mark & Candace Kristensson

Paul Linton  
Kathryn Mueller & Rex Logemann  
Barry & Anne Mahoney  
David Peck  
Todd & Sue Smith  
Anita Sanborn & Bob Thomson  
Rob & Courtney Toomey  
Gary & Kathleen Wussow

## UPCC Voluntary Dues 2015

All residents of University Park are members of the UPCC.

Voluntary dues are integral to the operation of the UPCC, neighborhood events and publications.

You are invited to pay your UPCC Voluntary Dues for 2015.

The suggested amount is \$25 or \$15 for seniors.

**Mail to:** UPCC, 2100 S. Monroe St., Denver, CO 80210    **Online:** Use PayPal at [www.upcc.us/support](http://www.upcc.us/support)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

I am interested in volunteering; my area of interest is \_\_\_\_\_