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**April 2019**

**Upcoming municipal election**

## Upcoming municipal election

The next election for Denver's leaders will happen Tuesday, May 7. You can find a lot of [detailed information about the election](#) at the Denver Elections Division. As a quick reference, here are important dates:

- April 15: Ballots begin mailing to active voters
- April 15: 22-day residency deadline
- April 15: Drop-boxes open across the City
- April 29: Vote Centers open
- May 7: Election Day
  - Vote Centers open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
  - Ballots must be received by 7 p.m.
- June 4: Run-Off Election
  - Vote Centers open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
  - Ballots must be received by 7 p.m.

Please visit Denver Elections to see all the candidates on the ballot as well as information on approved ballot measures. (*Thanks to City Auditor Timothy O'Brien's newsletter for this information.*)

Denver Decides, a consortium composed of the League of Women Voters of Denver, Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC), Historic Denver, and Denver 8 TV, is holding candidate and ballot issue forums for the upcoming election. The forums are held in the community and also taped for later viewing on Denver 8 TV or streamed through the Denver Decides website ([denverdecides.org](http://denverdecides.org)).

One will be held Tuesday, April 2, for District 10 (Central) and At-Large (city-wide) City Council candidates; the event, co-sponsored by Uptown on the Hill, begins at 6 p.m. at the Sharp Auditorium at the Denver Art Museum; find street parking or park in the Cultural Center Garage via 12th Ave. between Broadway and Bannock; enter building and proceed to Lower Level via stairs or elevator to Sharp Auditorium.

And the other forum will take place Saturday, April 13, for mayoral candidates and District 3 (West-central), beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Sandos Hall of SWIC, 1000 S Lowell Blvd.; this event coincides with Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation's monthly meeting.

Also, on March 9 INC sponsored a forum concerning Initiative 300, "The Right To Rest," which will appear on the ballot. The forum can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpqEsKD4Yvk&feature=youtu.be>.

Check out "What Candidates Have to Do to Win Denver's May 2019 Race for Mayor" and other election articles on [Denverite.com](http://Denverite.com).

## Uptown on the Hill news

## Candidate forums

In addition to the one scheduled for April 2, mentioned above, Uptown on the Hill RNO has been involved in planning other candidate forums. The March 14 event for District 9 and At-large City Council candidates, which was co-sponsored by us and other neighborhood organizations, had to be cancelled due to the snowstorm. The March 20 mayoral forum we co-sponsored went very well, with about 100 people, including 7 candidates, present and 68 additional people tuned in to Facebook Live, courtesy of Brother Jeff; that recording should be available soon on YouTube.

## Initiative 300

Uptown on the Hill thanks representatives of organizations for and against the issue for presenting their viewpoints on Initiative 300 at our recent board meeting.

The measure would allow any individual to engage in activities, such as resting and sheltering oneself in a non-obstructive manner, in outdoor public places. It is designed to overturn Denver's camping ban on sidewalks and in public places.

After discussion and consideration, the board decided that Uptown on the Hill would remain neutral on the initiative. Some comments were these:

- Staying outside, especially in the winter, is not something humans should have to do.
- Where are individuals without a roof over their heads to stay?
- Having many people camping out can lead to public health problems, such as the spreading of contagious diseases.
- We need a better solution to homelessness.
- There is a proven track record of failure in places when camping is allowed.
- We need to be compassionate to those without a home, and they deserve the right to sleep somewhere.
- Letting people sleep outdoors will keep the problem of homelessness more visible, forcing us to do something about it.
- Set aside little parks for them, such as the ones on Park Avenue; there is physical space for them that could be designated and managed.
- The amount of money being spent to defeat this measure could have made a dent in Denver's homelessness situation.
- Denver could do what Seattle does in The BLOCK Project, where they are placing a small housing unit in the backyards of single-family homes, or follow Utah's lead, successful until funding ended, of a "Housing First" policy, which focused on getting people into housing, then treating mental

illness or substance abuse problems after accommodation was secured.

## **Committee activity**

**New committee is being organized!** - Jodie Brownlee has agreed to chair Uptown On the Hill's new **Sustainability Committee**. Her aims for the committee are to:

- Increase renewable energy use by businesses and residents
- Reduce water use through an increase in waterwise gardens and a reduction in lawns
- Explore and prioritize other sustainability projects
- Explore existing sustainability initiatives in our region with whom we might join forces
- Set targets for each sustainability project
- Devise a neighborhood outreach plan
- Explore the possibility of making our neighborhood a certified 'sustainable neighborhood'

Anyone wishing to be part of this exciting initiative is welcome to contact Jodie on [jodiebrownlee@gmail.com](mailto:jodiebrownlee@gmail.com).

**Events** - In place of the Uptown Sampler, this year we are planning to hold an online auction. We will pay 10 percent of the net profits to someone for organizing this event. If you have experience coordinating an online auction, please write to [board@uptowndenver.org](mailto:board@uptowndenver.org).

**Land Use and Zoning** - Uptown on the Hill, CHUN, and Historic Denver are continuing to hold discussions with the owners of the properties on the northeast end of the 1500 block of Pearl.

**Greater Paths** - The Greater Paths Committee met Tuesday, March 26, and discussed plans to collaborate with Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) in their efforts to get an engineer to examine some of the unsafe pedestrian areas in Uptown. The first area that will be looked at is the intersection at 19th Ave. and Logan. The group then discussed other intersections that they would like to bring attention to, including many of the four-way stops that resulted from making 19th and 20th Avenues two-way streets.

Since its last meeting, the Committee has participated in urban planning meetings to provide guidance on issues and concerns related to accessibility and pedestrian safety.

Monday, April 7, the chair of the Greater Paths Committee, Mallory Cyr, will be

meeting with the founder of [Walk2Connect](#) and owner of the Instagram account [Pedestrian Dignity](#) to walk the streets of Uptown and discuss ways to improve the area for safety and accessibility for those using mobility devices.

The committee also wants newsletter readers to take action! Two Senate Bills are up to be voted on related to distracted driving and pedestrian safety. Walk Denver released the following information and provides a direct link to contact your Senator regarding these bills.

Senate Bill 19-175 will protect vulnerable road users by increasing penalties for careless driving causing serious bodily injury. It will protect vulnerable road users – including bicyclists, pedestrians, maintenance workers, those providing emergency services and more – by making careless driving causing serious bodily injury a class 1 traffic misdemeanor. It will be heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 18.

Senate Bill 19-012 is aimed at decreasing distracted driving throughout Colorado. Current law prohibits the use of cellular phones while driving only for individuals who are under 18. Senate bill 19-012 would:

- Extend the prohibition to drivers of all ages;
- Extend the existing prohibition of the use of wireless telephones to include all mobile electronic devices; and
- Establish the penalties as \$50 and 2 points for a first violation, \$150 and 4 points for a second violation, and \$300 and 4 points for a third or subsequent violation
- Create an exception to the prohibition of the use of mobile electronic devices for drivers who use a mobile electronic device while a hands-free accessory is engaged; and
- Repeal a sentence enhancement for a violation that causes bodily injury or death.

[Learn more about these two bills and TAKE ACTION!](#)

**Parks and Beautification** - Efforts continue to get all of the period lighting along 17th Ave. in good repair, and there has been much success!

The Greenverein at the Denver Turnverein awaits an answer from The Park People about trees. If the project is given three trees, as requested, a planting party will take place on April 27. Contact Judy Hopper at [JUDYAHOP@gmail.com](mailto:JUDYAHOP@gmail.com) if you'd like to help with the planting that day.

We will be joining other neighborhood groups this summer to regularly pick up trash and will also be encouraging businesses and homeowners along 17th Ave. to place more flower pots out in front of their places, as a way to brighten up the street and neighborhood this summer.

**Communication and Technology** - We are creating a one-third page flyer with information about Uptown on the Hill. Once finalized and printed, these will be placed at locations in the neighborhood. Thanks to Mallory Cyr for getting this project underway.

**Newsletter circulation** - While more than 1,000 households in the Uptown neighborhood receive this newsletter each month, we'd like to see more people sign up for it — and thus build the strength of this organization. If you are reading this and like what you see, please forward a copy to your friends, neighbors, and family members.

**Next meeting of the board of directors** - We'll meet from 6:30-8 pm Tuesday, April 9, at Fluid Coffee Bar 19th and Pennsylvania. From 6:30-7 p.m. Frank Locantore and Heather O'Neil will speak about the Neighborhood Planning Initiative. All neighborhood residents are encouraged to attend.

## City news

**Street-sweeping season** - Residential street sweeping begins Tuesday, April 2, and runs through November. Denver's street sweepers have removed phosphorous, copper, lead, zinc, chloride, and mercury off our streets, keeping that stuff out of Denver's waterways. When residents move their vehicles, crews can sweep all the way to the curb line and provide the best service possible.

Pay attention to the red-and-white signs posted on the block to see which days parking restrictions are in effect, and avoid getting a \$50 ticket. Even if it appears a sweeper has cleaned the street, it's still important to not park during the restricted times posted, as the sweeper may need to return to the area to make another pass.

For those who need help remembering street sweeping day, there are some tools out there. Denver residents can sign-up for text and email reminders online at [www.pocketgov.com](http://www.pocketgov.com) or call 311 to request "no parking" calendar stickers. For more information on Denver's street sweeping program, visit [www.denvergov.org/streetsweeping](http://www.denvergov.org/streetsweeping).

**Green Roofs** - The Green Buildings Rules and Regulations final hearing was postponed until April 11. Draft rules for implementing the Green Buildings Ordinance remain in effect and are expected to be approved at the April 11

meeting of the Board of Public Health & Environment.

**Safety and access around construction zones** - Denver Public Works has updated procedures that aim to lessen construction impacts to people as they move about the city and also to improve access to adjacent homes and businesses. The department worked in conjunction with City Council members Wayne New, Paul Kashmann, Albus Brooks, Jolon Clark, and Raphael Espinoza and community and business leaders to implement new requirements on contractors when closing the public right of way (vehicle travel lanes, parking lanes, alleys, and sidewalks) for construction activities:

### **Traffic Management Plan for All Modes**

- A contractor's traffic control plan will be required to show how *all* modes will be provided safe and convenient access around a project site, including pedestrians, people on bikes and scooters, transit riders, and drivers. The traffic control plan will be required to have a strong focus on pedestrian safety and must be included in a contractor's street occupancy permit application.
- Denver Public Works will also require additional barricades, signs and provisions for pedestrians in the traffic control plan.

### **Pedestrian Canopies**

- Pedestrian canopies will be required, with limited exceptions, on new projects where vertical construction (ex: multi-story building) is occurring directly adjacent to a pedestrian pathway.
- Existing large projects will be reviewed to determine if any mobility improvements can be made.

### **Construction Worker Parking Plan**

- Large projects (greater than \$100,000 and lasting longer than a week) will be required to submit a parking plan for their workers and subcontractors' workers who will access the construction site.
- The parking plan must aim to minimize impacts to surrounding businesses and residences.
  - Workers will be allowed to use the front of the project site for parking, but otherwise must utilize off-site parking that the contractor will be required to provide.

Additionally, beginning April 1, Denver Public Works will require the posting of information signs for all private projects in the public right of way lasting longer than seven days. The signs will list the contractor, their contact information along with details of the permit including permit number, location, duration, and description of the project. Denver Public Works will work to standardize the placement of similar information signage as part of existing building permit requirements so this contact and description information is accessible to the public.

**New online sign-up to speak at City Council meetings** - Speakers can now sign up online to speak at Denver City Council's General Public Comment Session. Visit [denvergov.org/councilpublicinput](https://denvergov.org/councilpublicinput); click on "General Public Comment Sessions," then "Sign Up Here." Sign-up times remain the same, starting at noon the Friday before the session and closing at 4 pm the day of the session. Speakers may still call 720-337-2000 or come in to the office to sign up as well.

**LED lights to replace traditional bulbs** - Mayor Michael Hancock, Denver Public Works Executive Director Eulois Cleckley and Alice Jackson, President of Xcel Energy—Colorado, have announced that 44,000 of the city's streetlights will be converted to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), considered one of today's most energy-efficient and durable lighting technologies.

"This conversion to LED streets lights is the next big step in Denver's commitment to energy conservation and work to address climate change at the local level," Mayor Hancock said. "At the same time, by more effectively illuminating Denver's sidewalks and roadways, we're also helping people who drive, walk and bike feel safer as they move about town.

In addition to enhanced quality of lighting and reducing nighttime light pollution, the efficiency of LED lights provides a cost savings of 4-7% and sustainability benefits begin immediately with a 50% reduction in energy use, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and no carbon footprint.

Conversion of the street lights will begin immediately, with Phase 1 focusing on Federal Boulevard and Colfax Avenue, two stretches on the city's High Injury Network (HIN). Work to convert the street lights will be completed over a one-year period, moving west to east across the city. Residents can learn more and see the progress of this conversion work on the city's website at [www.denvergov.org/visionzero](https://www.denvergov.org/visionzero). Progress on the city's climate change efforts can be viewed on the [2020 Sustainability Program](#) page.

**City compost for sale at Ace** - Denver Public Works is partnering with A1 Organics and Ace Hardware to help people put organic material collected through the Denver Composts program to a better use this spring. *Denver's Own EcoGro™ Compost* will be available at metro-area Ace Hardware stores for \$6.99 per bag.

Currently, more than 18,000 Denver residents participate in the Denver Composts program, throwing organic material like yard debris, food scraps, and non-recyclable paper into their green cart each week to be collected and later turned into compost. Composting helps further the city's goal of increasing its recycling and composting rate from what is now 23 percent to 34 percent, the national average.

Composting is nature's way of recycling and returning valuable organic matter and nutrients to soil to be used again. When added to soil, compost:

- Improves soil structure and porosity, encouraging root growth
- Increases soil's holding capacity of water and moisture retention



- Increases soil's holding capacity of water and moisture retention.
- Enables soil to retain nutrients longer and make nutrients more available to plants
- Provides beneficial microorganisms to the soil

In addition to this premium, certified, and locally-produced compost being sold at Denver metro-area Ace Hardware stores, *Denver's Own EcoGro™ Compost* will also be available for purchase at the one-day [Mulch Giveaway and Compost Sale](#) on Saturday, May 4.

To learn more about Denver Composts and to sign-up for service, go to [denvergov.org/compost](http://denvergov.org/compost).

**Game Plan for a Healthy City** - A copy of the "Game Plan for a Healthy City" is accessible through the [City of Denver's Denveright website](#). Review the plan [directly via this link](#). [The 3-Year Action Plan](#) is also now available for review online. The public hearing for "Game Plan for a Healthy City," originally scheduled for March 13, has been rescheduled to 5:30 pm Wednesday, April 10, at the Wellington Webb Municipal Building, located at 201 W. Colfax Ave., Room 4.F.6. E-mail [parksandrecreation@denvergov.org](mailto:parksandrecreation@denvergov.org) with questions.

**Mayor Hancock's Cabinet in the Community-** This event will take place at the Carla Madison Recreation Center, 2401 E. Colfax, from 9-11 a.m Saturday, April 27. Featured activities include an interactive city fair, town hall, job fair, pet adoption, and free continental breakfast. Contact [penny.marez@denvergov.org](mailto:penny.marez@denvergov.org).

## And other news

**9Health Fair** - Saturday, April 6, The Bank of Denver will be holding a 9Health Fair at the 17th Ave. and Clarkson location. Volunteer help is solicited; they will not be helping with any of the medical tests being administered that day but instead will be asked to help at different stations and also in making sure the people coming in for screening are being directed to the correct stations. Anyone interested in volunteering should call Lidia Hassell at 303-606-6172.

**Donations sought for mural** - Colfax Ave. BID alerted us to the following: Urban Land Conservancy acquired the Mountain View Nonprofit Tower at 16th Ave. and Downing in 2014, in order to preserve affordable office space for nonprofits. To reflect the important work that takes place inside the building, they have partnered with Denver Arts and Skills Center to create a mural highlighting the refugee community. They are seeking donations to complete this public art piece. Sponsorship opportunities are available; contact Alana Romans at [aromans@urbanlandc.org](mailto:aromans@urbanlandc.org).

**Informative maps** - These maps show intersection of socio-economic status and highways: <https://denverite.com/2018/12/21/denver-socioeconomic-map-shape/>

**Post office jobs** - There are openings at the United States Post Office in Denver. Check out [usps.com/careers](https://usps.com/careers) and USPS Hiring Packet 2019.pdf.

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**Colfax Marathon** - Sign up to run one of the seven races at Kaiser Permanente's Colfax Marathon on May 18 and 19. [Read more](#)

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## Newsletter deadline

Monday, April 29

## Uptown boundaries

Colfax to 20th (west of Washington) and 23rd (east of Washington),  
Broadway to York

## Contact us

Sign up for our newsletter:

[uptowndenver.org](http://uptowndenver.org)

Write to the Uptown Board:

[board@uptowndenver.org](mailto:board@uptowndenver.org)



Uptown on the Hill is a community supported non-profit. Your donations help fund our parks and neighborhood beautification efforts, events, and building a better Uptown.

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