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Subject: Uptown on the Hill Newsletter - July 2019
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July 2019

In last month's newsletter we asked, "What do you want your neighborhood organization to focus on? Is Uptown on the Hill addressing the issues that matter the most to you?" These responses were received; our action plans follow.

1) Sidewalk safety ("With all the bikes, scooters and skateboards using pedestrian right of way, I am waiting for some laws to be enacted because the people using these vehicles

drive fast and don't always seem to be in control. They seem to expect walkers to scoot out of their way which is difficult when so many of them are using the sidewalk. I've almost been hit by riders coming fast from behind!")

We will do the following:

- Put an article in newsletter about what the rules for scooters are. (See under City Departments — Public Works below)
- Write to District 6 police to ask them to enforce laws regarding scooters.
- Write letter asking the three companies how they are communicating the rules to users.

2) New buildings going up without on-site parking ("With growing street congestion, large apartments need to have on-site parking.")

We will do the following:

- Land Use and Zoning Committee will stay abreast of developer meetings with neighborhoods to ensure neighborhood concerns are part of discussion.

3) Congestion caused by street parking for Ogden and Fillmore theaters ("It is almost impossible to find parking within five or six blocks of those theaters on event nights.")

We will do the following:

- Ask Ogden and Fillmore Theaters to post on their website the following:
 1. Where to park to not get towed and,
 2. Encourage attendees to take public transport.

4) Cars on residential streets ("Specifically Emerson; they drive far too fast, and I'm sure this is true of other Uptown north-south streets. Any ideas? Speed bumps, speed signs, what else? I, for one among many, advocate speed bumps!")

We will do the following:

- Invite police to speak at one of our regular meetings, in order to respond to questions such as this.

5) Tom's Diner ("I'm sitting in a meeting about the Tom's Diner historic designation. Do you have this as an item on your next meeting's agenda?")

We will do the following:

- Discuss this topic at our next Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting.

More Uptown on the Hill activity

Greenverein

Trees were planted in late April, and the shrubs, grasses, and flowers planted in early June. Volunteers from the Turnverein who participated were Christine Gust, Tricia Huth, Wayne Hall, Ron Blewitt, and Judy Hopper. Volunteering from Uptown on the Hill were Marilyn Bernier, Susan Hand, and Larry and Judy Trompeter. Donations of expertise, plants, money, and other materials were given by the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society, Diane Travis, Judy and Dan Gordon, Matt Collins, Peggy LaTourrette, Cathe Mitchell, Arlin Raedeke, and Nate Roney. Many thanks to all!

The Turnverein is responsible for watering the plants regularly, and Uptown's Parks and Beautification Committee weeds, deadheads, and cultivates once a week. The final step of this cooperative project is raising the final amount of money for fencing; your donation of whatever size will be welcome at [gofundme/greenverein.com](https://gofundme.com/greenverein).

The gardens are doing well and already adding to the beauty of the neighborhood.

Wanted!

Can you give a couple of hours each month to improve Uptown and get to know your neighbors? Additional people on Uptown on the Hill's five committees (Communication and Technology, Events, Greater Paths, Land Use and Zoning, and Parks and Beautification) will increase our effectiveness. For instance, we are seeking an individual to write a brief newsletter feature story each month to inform readers about a person or place in Uptown.

Or, you could help us make the neighborhood cleaner and greener by networking with other neighborhood groups to achieve the goals of reducing our landfill through increased recycling and composting and reducing our carbon emissions through energy efficiency and renewable energy. Or, with others, take care of the Turnverein or Carla Madison gardens one Sunday evening per month. Lastly, we hope to find someone who will help update our website. All of these commitments can be easily managed alongside job and family duties. Let us know if you need more information or want to volunteer; send an email to board@uptowndenver.org.

We have created one-third page flyers to remind residents in the neighborhood of our existence and to encourage their participation. If you would like to distribute some at your event, contact board@uptowndenver.org.

Response to healthcare facility

Uptown on the Hill was approached by a business in the area, asking for our endorsement of their plan to obtain resident parking for use by their employees.

Our response: "Uptown on the Hill's board of directors met on June 11 and discussed your concerns about the lack of adequate employee parking at the healthcare facility. The consensus was that manipulating the residential parking permit system to benefit your

employees would set a bad precedent, and therefore we cannot support it. Our ideas for alternatives to employees driving to work were the same as those you have looked into and we discussed when we met, such as bus passes, contracting for parking spaces with the hospital, and so forth; additionally, we might suggest carpooling. We encourage you to continue to seek solutions which would limit the number of employee vehicles to the number of spaces in your parking lot. Thank you for contacting Uptown on the Hill RNO discuss this issue. Sorry we were not able to support your proposed solution."

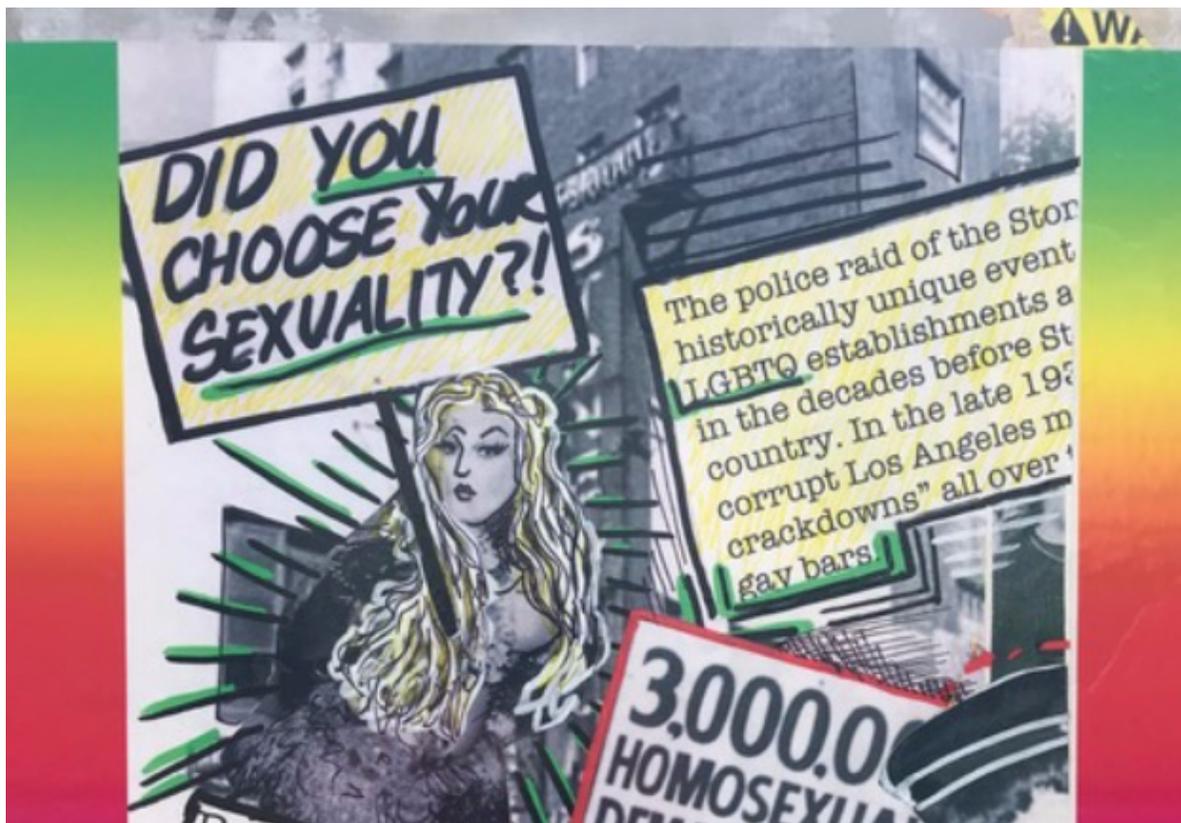
City Council elections

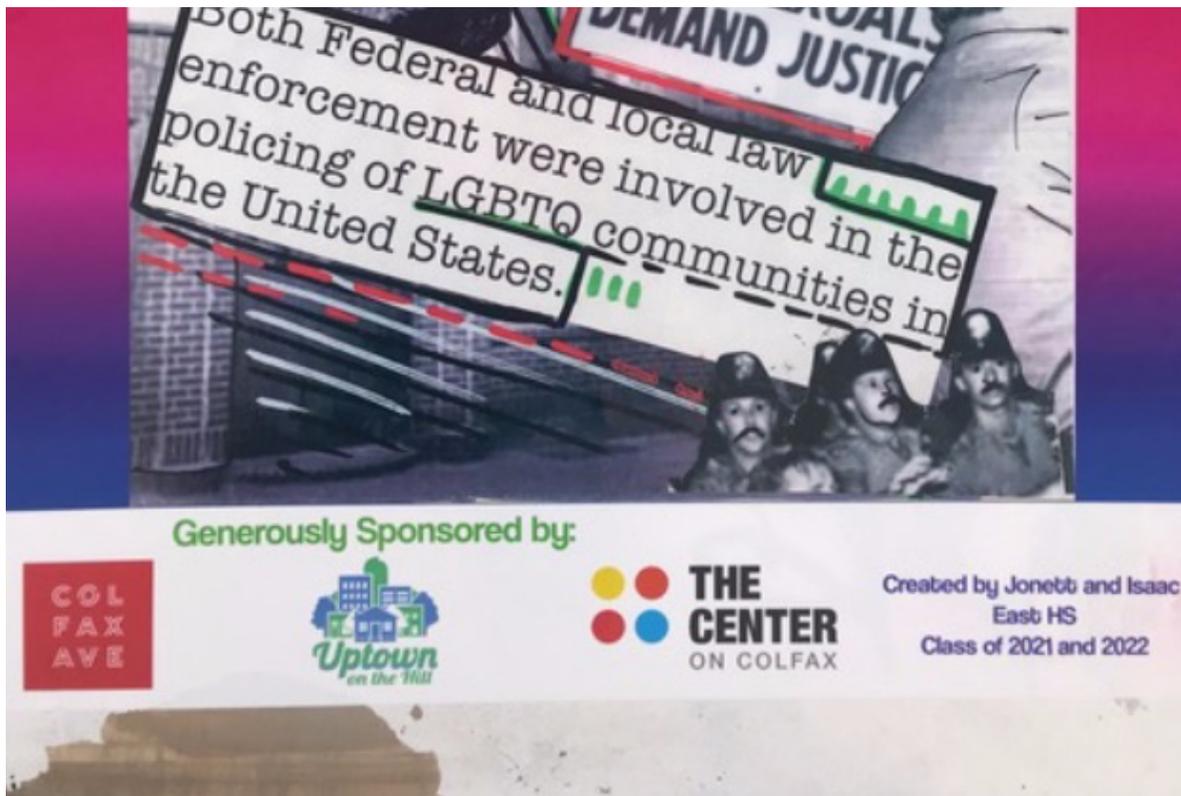
Our neighborhood has new City Council representatives in both of our districts, Candi CdeBaca in District 9 and Chris Hinds in District 10. Uptown on the Hill sent letters of congratulation to them and to re-elected At-Large members Robin Kniech and Debbie Ortega. We also sent letters of appreciation to Wayne New and Albus Brooks for their pa work.

Several of the registered neighborhood organizations in and near Uptown are planning to hold a meeting in early fall with the new representatives from Districts 9 and 10. Those details, once finalized, will be included in future newsletters.

Stonewall commemoration

Uptown on the Hill was one of several organizations and businesses which sponsored a design on the power boxes on Colfax. This activity was coordinated by The Center and the Colfax Ave. BID in commemoration of Stonewall. Ours is located in front of Taco Bell; here's a photo:





Essex Apartments

Uptown on the Hill has received several inquiries about the status of the recently renovated former hostel on E. 16th Ave. at Washington. Here is a summary of key point in our communication with the City's Dept. of Excise and Licenses:

- They originally were going to get a bed and breakfast license. They paid the fees for it, however that application was withdrawn. The company ended up only applying for a lodging facility license. The Bed & Breakfast permits fall under the lodging facility code. The difference between the two are that they are zoned differently.
- The Essex Apartments are licensed as a lodging facility in our system. They are not licensed as a bed & breakfast.
- The City does not know if they are renting on VRBO or similar sites. Googling the address doesn't show anything, but that doesn't mean that they are not on there.
- To advertise as a short-term rental, the property must be the all or part of the owner's primary residence.
- Since they (the Essex) are licensed as a lodging facility, they are operating like a hotel would operate. They can have guests stay one night, 10 nights, or however long they pay for the room. A lodging facility does not need to be a person's primary residence.
- Bed & breakfasts operate under lodging facility permits and ordinances, so they wouldn't also operate under the Short Term Rental ordinances.

For details, check out Short Term Rental Ordinances --

https://library.municode.com/co/denver/codes/code_of_ordinances?

Next Uptown board meeting

All interested neighbors are invited to sit in on the board meeting July 9, 6:30-8 p.m. at Fluid Coffee Bar, 19th Avenue at Pennsylvania.

City departments

Parks and Recreation

A newly streamlined law allows visitors 21 and older to legally consume full-strength beer, wine, and champagne in Denver's parks. The rule change took effect last December and will probably be modified after seeing how it works this summer. Park signage will need to be updated. Wine has to be in a box, and kegs require a permit. (from *Denver Post* article June 14, 2019)

The Department of Parks and Recreation is modifying the 180-day Rule Directive that allows electric vehicles (e-vehicles) on Denver trails and park facilities. This modification reflects that e-devices are allowed on soft surface trails in city parks, except where posted, and that e-devices are not allowed on soft surface trails in DPR Mountain Parks, except where other bicycles are allowed. This rule is now valid May 17 through Nov. 17, 2019 and will be evaluated at the end of the period. A copy of the rule is on file with the Manager of Parks and Recreation and accessible through the Denver Parks and Recreation website.

Police

Denver Police compiled a list of the top 10 worst intersections in Denver for the first five months of 2019, and one is in Uptown. The police report is based on crashes reported in those intersections and also includes the number of crashes recorded in those same intersections for all of 2018.

Top 10 Intersections with the Most Motor Vehicle Crashes:

Intersection	Total in 2018	Jan. 1-June 1, 2019
W. Alameda & S. Santa Fe	34	22
N. Downing & E. Colfax	17	16
W. Colfax & N. Speer	37	15
N. Quebec & E. 36th	29	15
S. Colorado & E. Alameda	21	15
N. Speer & Auraria	30	14
N. Central Park & E. MLK	20	14
W. Alameda & S. Federal	33	14
W. Colfax & N. Kalamath	24	14
W. Evans & S. Federal	34	13

(**Additional notes:** Denver Public Works says auto-pedestrian accidents have spiked in 2019, and the biggest factor in those accidents is distracted driving. Streetsblog is resuming reporting on the number of car crashes; that number runs over 500 most weeks.)

Public Works

Sidewalks — Channel 9 had an update on weather delays affecting the city's sidewalk program. The story didn't mention the stone sidewalks and even showed several with a huge white "x". Check out this clip: <https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/weather-delayed-denver-neighborhood-sidewalk-repairs/73-93113271-ed59-42da-9adf-3a3673b55cef>.

Street maintenance and road closures — Summer construction season is in high gear with Public Works projects. Road closures, construction and other major projects are underway. Public Works shares current closure information on its website in the hope that it helps everyone plan alternate routes when necessary. View the list of closures at https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/streets-and-sidewalks/street-maintenance-improvement/road-closures.html?utm_source=Auditor+O%27Brien%27s+Newsletter&utm_campaign=7b34e6c562-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_06_17_06_27&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5561a71da7b34e6c562-78624357.

Scooters — Denver launched its one-year pilot program for permitting dockless scooter and bikes in August after operators Lime and Bird launched their services in ambush fashion last summer.

The program runs through July 31, by which point public works officials will decide if they want the program to continue.

According to numbers released by public works officials on June 20, the vehicles have not traveled more than 2.78 million miles. People have unlocked them more than 1.95 million times. That's an average of more than 6,000 times per day since Aug. 1.

There has been a sharp increase in miles ridden since the start of February over the six months prior. That spike coincides with significantly larger fleets of vehicles on the streets. In total, there are 2,850 dockless vehicles approved for Denver's streets.

On July 1, the city was to consider whether or not operators can grow their fleets by another 25 percent. Specific numbers around accidents and injuries related to scooter and e-bike use aren't yet available, but a detailed look at the issue is coming, city official Heather Burke-Bellile said. City regulations dictate scooters traveling on the sidewalk cannot exceed 6 mph. Riders are supposed to stick to bike lanes and low-speed roads whenever possible, where they are allowed to travel up to 30 mph. (Condensed from a *Denver Post* article, June 24, 2019)

Bicycling in Denver

Check out the 2019 edition of Denver's bike map. Find citywide bike infrastructure, regional trail connections, transit stop locations, bike share and bike repair stations to help plan your next ride. <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/bicycling-in-denver/resources/bike-maps.html>

Other organizations

Bike Streets

To get more people riding regularly, a group of bike advocates created a “low-stress bike map.” The idea, which the city and some bike advocates have mixed feelings about, is to help people find more comfortable routes to ride today, often on quiet side streets, instead of waiting several years for the city to build out a more complete network of protected bike lanes.

“Why is this one day (Bicycle to Work Day) so wildly successful? And the next day, it’s like crickets out there?” asked Avi Stopper, the founder of the all-volunteer Bike Streets project, which is behind the map. “What we’re attempting to do is create a real change in people’s mentality and behavior.”

The map suggests biking on more than 350 miles of trails and low-speed neighborhood streets. Potential cyclists can view the map online, or an easier-to-read printed version is now available for free at nearly 40 locations, including at bike shops, breweries, restaurants and public institutions. Similar to a ski map, the routes are named and people of all ages and abilities should feel comfortable biking on them today. (From *Streetsblog* 6/25/19)

Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods

CHUN will be hosting its 50th Anniversary Celebration and Wine Tasting on September 1 at the Denver Botanic Gardens. The organization is seeking items to include in a silent auction; to donate, contact Sarah Wells at (303) 830-1651 or fundraising@chundenver.org.

The Center

The Center on Colfax (lgbtqcolorado.org) recently announced that Debra Pollock will be leaving after serving the LGBT community for the past 15 years. In her 10 years as the Director of Development and the last 5 as the CEO, The Center has seen tremendous growth in programming, outreach, and impact. A celebration of her tenure will take place on Thursday, July 25, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at 1301 E. Colfax Ave.

Colorado Classic

From August 22-25 Colorado will be hosting Colorado Classic, the only women’s stand-alone pro road race in the Western hemisphere. Nearly 100 of the world’s best racers will compete in the four-stage race over challenging Colorado mountain and urban terrain, starting in Steamboat Springs, moving to Avon, then Golden, and finishing in Denver. Fans will have multiple chances to cheer for riders in Stage 4 as they streak by iconic spots, such as LoDo, 17th Avenue, City Park, and Coors Field. Spectators can celebrate the race before, during and after at special events and at a dynamic expo with food, culture, exhibitors and family-focused programs. For more information, including road closures, check out coloradoclassic.com or contact the organizers at neighborhood@rpmeventsgroup.com or (720) 518-8011.

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Colorado HOA Forum

Residents of condos with homeowners associations will be interested in receiving notices from an advocacy organization called Colorado HOA Forum. Sign up at coloradohoaforum.com.

Historic Denver

Meet fellow historic district residents, learn what's happening in historic preservation policy, dive into hot-topics, and share your ideas and interests with the Historic Denver team at a Historic District Roundup Wednesday, July 10. The evening will include light refreshments, an opening presentation, and break-out sessions, whose topics include: historic places at risk, what Blueprint Denver says about historic preservation, the future of historic districts, Design Review 101, sustaining Denver's parks and parkways, and accessory dwelling units in historic districts.

The event will take place from 5:30-8 p.m. at Johnson & Wales University, Centennial Hall, 7150 Montview Blvd#1. RSVP to info@historicdenver.org. Questions about transportation/parking should be directed to (303) 534-5288 ext. 7.

Leon Gallery

Leon fulfills its mission to support artists and build community by giving 80% of all art sales directly to exhibiting artists, bestowing a \$2,500 stipend to each solo exhibiting artist, offering weekly yoga flow and yoga nidra classes, presenting art exhibitions from other non-profit institutions (e.g., the Gathering Place), hosting student exhibitions from K-5 elementary schools to the University of Denver, and producing the Live at Leon music concert series and yearly performance art series.

You are invited to join others in supporting Leon's philanthropic mission by making a financial contribution. By donating \$20 per month, you will become a Leonite and enjoy discounts at a variety of Colorado businesses, including FM Clothing, Link Coffee, Babylic Floral, and JDP Art Services. Leonites also receive exclusive invitations to artist studio tours and advance tickets to all house concerts or partner organization events. Contact Eric Dallimore at ifoundleon@gmail.com for more details.

Magic Show

The Magic Show has relocated and expanded their programming. Beginning in July they can be found every Monday at the Patterson Inn, 420 E. 11th Ave. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show runs from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30-\$40 and includes a drink. Contact William Rader at william@denvermagicshow.com.

RTD

Party like it's 1969 at RTD's 50th Anniversary Celebration! Friday, July 12, is the date, 1 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. the time, and Union Station Plaza, 17th and Wynkoop is the place. The program will begin at 2 p.m.

Community members are invited to enjoy food, family fun, and entertainment with a throwback twist. There'll be food trucks, a band, giveaways, interactive displays, a commemorative photo booth, and more. Coming in costumes from 1969 is encouraged!

Tammen Hall

Tammen Hall, the historic former nurses' quarters at 1010 E. 19th Ave., is now pre-leasing units to seniors 62+ years of age. Income limits apply. To inquire, call (303) 83. 8181.

Newsletter deadline

Monday, July 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

Write to the Uptown Board:

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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