

“Communication is the key to a strong community”
February 2005, volume 3, issue 1

Let's get ready to Spiff!
By Bob Meyer

You can almost feel it in your bones. Though we've still got a bit of old man winter to contend with, a string of nice days recently has brought more than a few of us out to do some yard work and general “spiffing” up around our properties. This happens every year when we get itching for spring, but this year keep in mind that the 1st Annual Great Andover Glen Spiff is starting up. Those properties that show pride of ownership, real improvements, and just plain look good will be receiving some great prizes later in the summer at our Neighborhood Picnic. The whole purpose of this program is to encourage pride of ownership, general upkeep of the neighborhood, and even reduce the likelihood of crime in our area. Not only does spiffing up the area keep all of our property values higher, but statistics show that better kept neighborhoods actually discourage crime by telling would be criminals that we care and are watching out!

Your Andover Glen board has been working hard to get prizes donated from vendors for this beautification program and it also has dedicated a small amount from the treasury for this purpose. The board also decided that many smaller prizes will be awarded as opposed to just a few large prizes. Some of the prizes already donated include a gift certificate donated by Carmine Leonardo's Deli, a complete makeover and gift certificate for Mary Kay donated by Anne Stellman, and a two-month family membership donated by the Heartwood Athletic Club. We appreciate these contributions and know that more are on the way! Some things that you could be doing right now to begin spiffing up your property:

- * Trim away dead and overgrown trees and brush
- * Beginning planning your flowerbeds by drawing out simple diagrams
- * Clear away dead plants from last season and remove dead leaves from around shrubs and gardens.

We hope you get as excited as your AG Board is in this Great Andover Glen Spiff program. We'll keep you posted each month on some of the prizes that we have, a few tips to spiff up your property and maybe feature a house or two that is looking “spiff-tastic”.

Finally, remember that any major outdoor landscaping changes require you to fill out a Property Improvement request form and submit it to Ron Adams. If you have any questions about the Andover Glen Spiff program, please feel free to call me, Bob Meyers, at 303-690-6927. ~

Can the urge to “spiff” go beyond our Mini-grant work day?
AG Holiday Neighborhood Party was relaxing and social
By Randy Simpson

Our annual AG Holiday Party, held once more this year at the Melton's household was nicely attended and was a very relaxing and social event. There was lots of great food and drink, interesting conversation, and my favorite part of the evening, John Melton played a long list of favorite holiday classics on the piano. So good is his playing in fact, that even I sang along, and my mistuned singing voice was barely noticeable under the outstanding musicianship of John.

Everyone brought one of their favorite snack dishes to munch on and it turned out that the food was so good that my Holiday diet plans were doomed to go by the wayside from the very start. Just too much temptingly good food!

John Melton struck the right notes to bring some Holiday Cheer to Andover Glen!

A special “Thank You!” is certainly in order to the Melton's for opening up their home and hosting this year's party as well as the Wagner's for hosting the Children's party at their home.

To anyone not attending this year, sorry you missed it. Take a chance, get out of your rut, and join us next year. You'll be glad you did, I promise! ~

AG Board exploring possibilities of power-washing and staining of perimeter fencing
By Randy Simpson

At a recent board meeting, the your Andover Glen Board voted unanimously to begin exploring the possibilities of having the some of the perimeter fencing in our neighborhood power-washed and stained. The board will be exploring options and costs related to this possibility during the next few months and will make a decision in the spring. As with all decisions your AG board makes, it very much welcomes any thoughts or comments that you might have related to this issue. Contact phone numbers are on the last page of the Gazette, so please feel free to contact any board member with your comments. ~

Andover Glen Neighborhood Watch
By Bob Meyer

While December was a very quiet month for our neighborhood in terms of criminal activity, we did have one incident in January that broke this period of quiet. One of our neighbors was surprised by a “lurker” who was near their opened garage as they were getting ready to leave. The garage door was only open a few minutes and the “lurker” appears to have been attracted by open door. This person was dressed in black and ran quickly away when spotted.

This incident brings up some important safety tips regarding open garages. Don't leave your garage door open, unless you are right there in the garage working and needing to have the door open. Open garage doors are one of the favorite entry points for thieves. So leave them closed when you're not around, even for 5 minutes! Some other helpful tips include:

- * Trim oversized bushes from around your home. These offer great hiding places for the burglar.
- * Consider adding more outside lighting to your house, including motion detector lighting. The bad guys thrive on the cover of darkness!

Our Neighborhood Watch, person of the month goes to Fred Adams, the loyal canine companion of Ron and Linda Adams. Twice Fred barked a loud GRRRUUUFFFF! And warned them of strangers near the house. Ron and Linda then quickly followed up on these warnings. This is exactly the kind of alertness and attention to the neighborhood that we all need to employ. Fred earned an extra ration of doggie treats for his efforts. If we follow Fred's lead, we'll all earn an extra safe neighborhood! Congrats to Fred!
As the Neighborhood Watch coordinator, I want to help the neighborhood stay safe and secure, but I can't do it alone. It will take all of us looking out for each other to keep our neighborhood safe and secure, and NOT a place criminals want to be. I am always looking for those who want to get involved, or have some other safety information they'd like to share. I can be reached at 303-690-6927. ~.

Some Helpful City of Aurora Phone Numbers & Contact Info

General Information 303-739-7000
Police Emergency 1-911 or 303-739-6000
Police Non-Emergency 303-365-2844
Animal Control 303-326-8280
Ask Aurora (24 hour) 303-739-7500
Aurora Web Site www.auroragov.org

Saving the Environment by Freecycling

By Cathy Hoganson

Did you know there is a worldwide Freecycle Network (www.freecycle.org) made up of many individual groups across the globe. It's a grassroots movement of people who are giving (& getting) stuff for free in their own towns. Membership is absolutely free. To sign up, all you have to do go to their web page and follow the instructions to find our city. After you have located our area, an automatic e-mail will be generated which, when sent, will sign you up for your local group and send you a response with further instructions on how the program works.

The end result is that you can swap, give, or get stuff from other people right here in the Aurora and Denver Area. Ever have an old item you didn't know what to do with and thought it would be shame to put it into a landfill? Well, now you can Freecycle it! ~

Know of a good contractor? Share it with others!

By Randy Simpson

There are often times when you're looking for a good and honest contractor to do work in or around your home but you're just not sure where to turn for someone you can trust. In an effort to help everyone in Andover Glen find good contractors, we're going to begin posting names on our neighborhood website. It will take a few months to get this set up, but by early spring we should have a page up and running that will give you the contact names of contractors that your neighbors here in Andover Glen have had a positive experience with. We'll let you know when this service is up and running.

If you have had a positive experience with a contractor and would like to recommend them to your neighbors here in Andover Glen, please forward them to me at rgatess@yahoo.com. Once the Contractor Recommendation page is set up on our website, I will add that contractor to the list. In your email, please indicate the contractor company name, a contact name, business phone number, and the nature of the contract work they did for you. By sharing information, we can all stay informed and get the best value for our home improvement dollar! ~

"The only thing worse than being dissatisfied with a job someone does for you, is being dissatisfied with a job you do for someone else." - Max Reed

Next Meeting reminder:

The next AG board meeting is open to all AG Association members will be held at Shalom Park on Wednesday, February 23rd at 7 p.m.

Neighbor to Neighbor

Services and stuff for sale, cheap!

Baby Sitting: Red Cross Certified Babysitter!

Great rates. Responsible 9th Grader living right here in Andover Glen. Call Elizabeth Melton 303-693-5183.

Baby Sitting: Red Cross Certified, 14 yr. Old

Morgan McCoy, 303-248-6213.

Baby Sitting: Experienced. Loves Kids, Very fair rates. Brandy Helfer, 303-248-6213.

Baby Sitting: Experienced neighborhood Baby-sitter. Kristin Guerra, 303-766-0464.

Baby Sitting: Red Cross Certified, thoughtful and loves kids. Call Sophia, 303-693-9356.

Dog Walking: If you need your dog walked or bathed, or just played with, I am an excellent pet handler. I have worked in a veterinary clinic and love pets! Anjali Melton, 303-693-5183.

House Cleaning: Brandy and Morgan will do housework & odd jobs. 303-248-6213.

Firewood Removal: If you've got some old firewood that you can't use or don't want around anymore, call Norm Arlt at 303-766-7344, and he'll haul it away for free

To place an add in this section, contact Randy Simpson at 303-693-0546, or rgatess@yahoo.com

Andover Glen website: www.neighborhoodlink.com/aurora/andoverglen

Homeowners Association Board Members

President: Barbara Harrington 693-0868

Vice President: Dave Kline 720-870-6697

Secretary: Randy Simpson 693-0546

Treasurer: Jan Guerra 766-0464

Preservation: Ron Adams 248-6213

Grounds: Norm Arlt 766-7344

Social: Curt Krall 400-9652

Welcoming: Cindy Wagner 693-8729

Neighborhood Watch: Bob Meyer 690-6927