

## News Briefs

### 2007 Good Neighboring Project:

**Micro Grants Available after January 1st** - \$100 Xcel Energy Foundation micro grants for block projects will be available in 2007.

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**Xcel Energy Free Seminars on Home Energy Efficiency** - through April 1, 2007. Call 303-294-2456 to schedule.

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**Aurora Neighborhood Roundtable:** Tuesday, January 23rd. The process to apply for the 2007 Neighborhood Xeriscape Grants through the Aurora Water Department will be explained. For more information, please call 303-739-7280.

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**InterNeighborhood Co-operation (INC) Meeting**— Saturday, December 9th. 8:45am at the Denver Police Headquarters, 1331 Cherokee Street.

## 2006 Good Neighboring Project Sponsors over 1,800 Block Parties!

This year's Good Neighboring Campaign was the most successful to date! NRC gave out over 1,800 "Party Paks," more than 8,000 of the new Resource Guides and 86 Micro grants for block projects.

National Night Out was bigger than ever! Several new communities, including Lone Tree and Commerce City, joined in the NNO festivities, and communities like Erie and Englewood continued encouraging their neighbors to participate.

Although the rain might have put a damper on the parties, from the notes we received and the picture below, it seems that people

braved the weather and garages became the place to be!

The micro grants were given out for many different activities. They helped with party costs, provided entertainment at block parties, helped make welcome baskets for new neighbors and bought supplies to help seniors on one block clean up their yards.

As always we are very grateful to our sponsors. Safeway for the party certificates, Xcel Energy Foundation for making the micro grants possible, and State Farm for being our sponsor for National Night Out. We would also like to thank Coldwell Banker, US Bank and the Forest City/Stapleton for their support.

## NRC's New Address

NRC

Neighborhood Resource Center  
899 Logan Street, Suite 311  
Denver, CO 80203

Phone number: 303-477-0023

Fax Number: 303-477-9986

Web site: [www.nrc-neighbor.org](http://www.nrc-neighbor.org)

Email address: [Infobox@nrc-neighbor.org](mailto:Infobox@nrc-neighbor.org)



National Night Out Party in Westminster



All across Colorado residents are working hard to improve and maintain a strong sense of community. NRC was founded in 1993 because people who were active in their neighborhoods were looking for help dealing with community issues.

Through the years NRC has been able to assist neighborhoods through a variety of activities including:

- \* Developing and distributing thousands of bilingual Good Neighboring Resource Guides as a road map for neighborhood enhancement.
- \* Awarding Block grants and helping fund and host thousands of "National Night Out" and "Neighborhood Block Parties

- to encourage neighborhood unity and togetherness.
- \* Hosting the Statewide Neighborhood Conference to help neighborhood leaders share their successes and gain new insights into community-building.
- \* Administering grants from the public and private sectors help neighborhoods garner much needed program funds.
- \* Coordinating problem-solving sessions to help deal with local problems
- \* Offering free technical assistance for neighborhoods that wanted to organize, develop their Boards or set goals for the future.

NRC is the primary organization in the state encouraging and building relationships among neighborhood residents. We help to strengthen

your neighborhood associations with written materials, hands-on assistance and our statewide neighborhoods conference.

We hope you will agree that the programs we offer are important for our neighborhoods. Our goal is to continue offering these programs to the communities we serve. Although 2006 has been one of our most successful years, we still need your assistance.

We would appreciate your returning the enclosed envelope with a check for whatever you feel is appropriate.

My heart felt thanks,

*Janey Hanly*

### Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Planning for Your Neighborhood

The CERT concept was developed and implemented by the City of Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985. Then in 2003, President Bush created the concept of Citizens Corps to train and coordinate community volunteer teams. These teams make communities safer and better prepared to respond to emergencies.

The city of Orlando, Florida created a program they call Neighborhood Emergency Response Plan (NERP). These neighborhood plans identify people within each neighborhood who have special needs and special skills (doctors, nurses, translators). They also identify neighborhood rallying points and/or meeting places and establish systems to share information and accountability in the case of an emergency.

This information would be very useful for our neighborhoods and

blocks to have in case of a blizzard, a tornado or a flu epidemic. Although the Citizen Corps requires special training, our blocks and neighborhoods could easily put together a plan for emergencies.

Houses with seniors or people with disabilities could be identified on a block map, along with those with special skills. Pets might be listed along with a safe place to take them. A phone tree could be established for the block and/or for the neighborhood to keep people informed and in touch.

While working on a plan, neighbors would develop stronger relationships. Each member of the community would be able to react proactively in an emergency. Having a NERP plan would make our neighborhoods safer, it would also improve our quality of life.

#### Neighborhood Resource Center of Colorado

*Working together for Stronger,  
Safer Communities*

NRC is a non-profit organization providing free assistance to neighborhood groups, individuals and other organizations.

**899 Logan Street,  
Suite 311  
Denver, CO 80203  
303-477-0023  
fax: 303-477-9986**

General e-mail address:  
infobox@nrc-neighbor.org  
web site: www.nrc-neighbor.org

## Street Lighting in Your Neighborhood

We know that good street lighting is an important part of your community. If you live in an incorporated city or town, your local government decides where and when to install lighting along public streets and alleys. Xcel Energy owns and maintains these streetlights, responding to outages and installing new lamps and poles when needed. If you live in an unincorporated area, your local government does not provide street lighting. Street lighting services are included in your monthly Xcel Energy bill, and we maintain these streetlights as well.

### Reporting outages

Our crews look for broken, burned out or flickering lights, but we don't find them all. Streetlight outages occur for a variety of reasons, including electrical storms, traffic accidents involving streetlights and vandalism. You can help us keep your neighborhood well lit by notifying us of malfunctioning lights. To report an outage, go to [xcelenergy.com/streetlighting](http://xcelenergy.com/streetlighting), or call **1-800-895-4999**. Please provide us with as much information as possible to locate the pole, such as the nearest street address, nearest cross street and directional position of the pole (e.g., northeast corner or south side of the alley). And if possible, please note the 13-digit facility tag number listed on the street light pole. This information is particularly helpful because our maintenance crews work mostly during daylight hours, when outages are not readily apparent.

### How to Lower Your Energy Bill and Be More Comfortable This Winter

Get your home buttoned-up for winter with useful, practical advice from certified energy efficiency experts. Xcel Energy, in partnership with home energy auditors from All About Saving Heat and Lightly Treading Inc., is offering free one-hour presentations on home energy efficiency now through April 1, 2007.

Topics covered include:

- Insulation
- Heating
- Water heaters
- Windows
- Lighting
- Appliances

Call Xcel Energy today to schedule a presentation for your neighborhood association or other community group at **303-294-2456**.

## Seventh Annual Statewide Neighborhoods Conference in Longmont a Success

More than 110 community representatives attended this year's Statewide Neighborhoods Conference held on Saturday, September 30th at the Longmont Senior Center. People came from 9 different counties and 14 municipalities along the front range.

Maryo Ewell joined us from Gunnison and shared some of her experiences as Community Programs Director for the Colorado Council on the Arts. She focused on art projects as a way to document the history and accomplishments of communities and as a way to communicate about the present and the future hopes of communities.

Then the attendees were off to breakout sessions dealing with HOA Management, the ABC's of Starting & Maintaining a

Neighborhood Group, Setting a Successful Course for Your Neighborhood or Neighborhood and Community Resources.

From the feedback we received attendees felt they shared a productive morning with their peers. They heard new ideas, met new folks and shared their insights on many neighborhood problems and opportunities.



Listening to Conference Keynote Address

We would like to thank our "Host" City, Longmont, for their generosity. Thanks also to our sponsors, Mile High United Way, Community Associations Institute (CAI), Orten, Cavanagh, Richmond & Holmes LLC, The Denver Foundation, the Gay and Lesbian Fund of Colorado and our sponsor cities and counties for making the conference possible.