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Old Houses
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May 2010 Edition

Denver's Old House Society is a new nonprofit dedicated to educating owners of old (50+ years) houses and helping them protect their neighborhoods.

Dear Old-House Lover,

What a deal we have for you this beautiful month of May -- You can "meet" some of Denver's "newest" old houses and help save a special old house from demolition!

Tons of fun will be had by all as we tour the mid-century neighborhood of Crestmoor Park, which is near Sixth Avenue and Monaco. We'll be remembering all the fun things from the 1950s, including the special connection Denver had with First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, who grew up in our city. (Because Mamie loved pink, we are honoring her with a little pink trim in this e-newsletter.) After the tour, we will have a garden party at one of the homes and enjoy "goodies" from the 1950s. Do you suppose the "Purple People Eater" will be there?

One of northwest Denver's historic homes may be demolished. The hearing is June 1. If you would like to save this lovely old home, read below.

Next month, we are having an open house and brunch at the home of Bill West, "Mr. Curtis Park." You won't want to miss this lovely event.

Finally, our Country Club walking tour and garden party was a huge success. Over 150 people attended. So, our new mantra is "Get your tickets early before they are sold out."

Remember you can find us on Facebook and Twitter!

Spring Housecleaning - Grandma's Way Still Works

If you live in a home of "Grandma's era," then it's time to get out those cleaning supplies Grandma probably used. Here are a few helpful hints for cleaning for those who never had the pleasure of spring housecleaning with Grandma.

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Join Our Mailing List!

Denver's Old House Society Presents a Guided Walking Tour and Garden Party in the Bustling, Up-And-Coming Mid-Century Crestmoor Park Neighborhood on Saturday, May 22

Meet Some Of Denver's "Newest" Old Houses



Photo by Susan Bradley

Spend part of a lovely Saturday afternoon, May 22, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on a guided walking tour in the Crestmoor Park mid-century neighborhood. The outdoor tour focuses on the history and architecture of this area, the home then of up-and-coming professional and businessmen in this religious tolerant community. Afterwards, enjoy light refreshments in the garden of one of the homes. Several drawings will be held, including one for pink petunias -- the favored flower in the 1950s because First Lady Mamie Doud Eisenhower loved **pink** - donated by City Floral, vintage glasses from Mod Livin' and coupons from Deluxe Burger (Mamie got her hair done in this building.)

Participants are limited to the first 100 ticket holders. The \$10 ticket can be purchased via credit card [DenversOldHouseSociety.org](https://denversoldhousesociety.org), by mailing a check to P. O. Box 11514, Denver, CO 80211, or at select locations listed on our Web site.

When this part of Crestmoor Park was being developed, I25, "The Valley Highway," was under construction. The hottest item on the grocer's shelf was a brand new baking wonder, the cake mix. The grocer had recently added a freezer to the store, where customers could buy frozen strawberries, orange juice and ice cream in a box. Many of the Crestmoor Park housewives watched "Queen for a Day" on daytime television. They shopped in Denver's more prestigious department stores such as Gano-Downs and Neustetters, after all their husbands were making a name for themselves. Susan Bradley, of the Bradley Real Estate Group, LLC and [Mod Livin'](https://modlivin.com) and DeLuxe Burger are the event sponsors.

Cleaning Kitchen Cabinets

Kitchen cabinets, inside and out, of course, need to be cleaned now that the busy baking season is over. Inside the cabinets, remove all the contents and then wash with a solution of water and that wonderful substance, sudsy ammonia. Wipe dry with cloth rags and consider putting down new shelf paper. Outside, wash the cabinets with a solution of Murphy's Oil Soap and water. Dry thoroughly with cloth rags.

Denver's Old House Society Invites You to an Open House and Brunch at "Mr. Curtis Park's" Saturday, June 19



Photo courtesy of Bill West

Denver's Old House Society hosts an open house and light brunch in Curtis Park at the home of "Mr. Curtis Park, himself," Bill West. The open house is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 19. The tickets cost \$35 each and are limited to the first 100 people. To purchase, send a check to the Society at P. O. Box 11514, Denver, CO 80211, purchase with a credit card at DenversOldHouseSociety.org, or at select locations listed on our Web site.

Bill has a beautiful and authentic Victorian home and is an accomplished gardener. His gardens reflect the Victorian era with showy and specimen plants. This year he received the Society's "Exceptional Old House Educator Award," for his investigation of Curtis Park's rich history and successful applications for numerous historic designation throughout this area, one of Denver's oldest neighborhoods.

Cleaning Wood Floors and Woodwork

Hardwood floors can easily be cleaned with a solution of white vinegar and water. Either mop or wash by hand. Be sure to thoroughly dry with cloth rags. If your floors are not varnished, like Grandma, you will probably then wax or oil them. Woodwork and trim can be dusted thoroughly and cleaned with a vinegar water solution, too.

Help Save Another Highlands Historic Home From Demolition!



Photo by Elizabeth Wheeler

Residents in the Highland Park neighborhood, near Thirty-Second Avenue and Federal Boulevard, wondered what happened when the roof of the historic Bosler House, was opened and then not protected from rain and snow for months on end. Located at 3209 W. Fairview Place, across from Highland Park, neighbors had watched the owner carefully work on the home for years; but, then it seemed the owner no longer cared about this stately old house when sheeting was not placed over the openings in the roof.

They were shocked to learn that the owner applied for a demolition permit and had gone before Denver's Landmark Preservation Committee to explain the extensive water damage caused because he had not protected the home from water damage. The demolition hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1.

Denver's Old House Society is sending a letter to the City, requesting that the application be denied, that the owner be held accountable for the damage, and that the Landmark Preservation Commission draft an ordinance for Denver City Council that would protect historically designated houses from damage caused by neglect or wanton damage.

If you would like to support us in our efforts, send a letter via e-mail to Jeremy.Wells@denvergov.org or mail a letter to Landmark Preservation Commission, Community Planning and Development, City and County of Denver, 201 W. Colfax Ave., Dept. 205, Denver, CO 80202.

Two homes, both contributing structures, have been recently demolished in the Highlands newest historic district, Wolff Place. Both could have been saved if this ordinance was in place. Most of the almost 50 historic are on the east side of Denver.

Thought You Would Like To Know ---

The ninth season of Congress Park Neighbors Historic Speakers series is presented by the CPN Historic Preservation and Education Committee.

Lectures run May through October, with a lecture given the last Wednesday of each month. The lectures are held at Heitler Hall, National Jewish Hospital, at 7 PM, unless otherwise stated. Note the change of day, location, and time for the October research session at the public library. Lectures are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the lot on Jackson Street. This schedule is also posted on the Congress Park web site at www.congressparkneighbors.org.

Denver's Old House Society strives to leave a legacy of charming Denver neighborhoods of well-preserved old houses, sensitively maintained, jewels of the "Queen City of the Plains."

Sincerely,

Denver's Old House Society