

News Briefs

Plant 7000 trees in Seven Days. From Longmont to Castle Rock and Bennett to Golden, the million-tree initiative will kick off the last week of April. Call **720.913.1311** for info on community events. Before planting, be sure to call the Utility Notification Center of CO at **800.922.1987**.

Xcel micro-grants for up to \$100 available for block by block activities or projects, including block parties.

For applications, go to: www.nrc-neighbor.org

Broomfield Emergency Preparedness Fair

Saturday 19 May 2007
from 9:00AM to 3:00PM.
To be held at the LDS
Church, 1250 Main St.,
Broomfield. Open to the
public. For questions
Email: [enquiries@
nrc-neighbor.org](mailto:enquiries@nrc-neighbor.org)

Apply now for *Good
Neighboring* Party Paks.
Safeway certificates will
be available after May 15.
For applications go to
www.nrc-neighbor.org

Hanley Retires

After 14 years at the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC), it is time for someone with new ideas and energy to fulfill NRC's potential. What I enjoyed the most was getting to know and work with the people from the neighborhoods, those who worked for cities as liaisons and our funders. My most lasting memories are of the relationships I formed while I was there. Thank you all for being such an important part of my NRC experience!

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such an important part
of my NRC experience!"*

I had been very involved with my own neighborhood and Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (an umbrella group of Denver neighborhoods) for many years. I was always envious of people whose jobs grew from something they were passionate about. So when Doug Linkhart asked if I was interested in helping start an organization whose mission was to help neighborhoods, I jumped at the opportunity.

In the beginning, we worked out of our houses and put on fairs and workshops. Then in 1995 NRC became the community-building leg of the Colorado Regional Community Policing Institute. We had our offices at Mile High United Way and were able to offer our services free to any Colorado community.

We held workshops, printed journals and tip sheets and were able to provide technical assistance. We started new programs, like the Good Neighboring project and the statewide Neighborhoods Conference, which have become core elements of NRC. These programs have been very successful and will help NRC's growth in the future.

NRC is in good hands with Sarah McCarthy, the new Executive Director. She, like you, is a "neighborhood" person. She has much experience working with and for neighborhoods and other non-profits and is well qualified to answer your questions and help you with your projects. I hope that you will support her and work with her and continue to think of NRC as a resource for your neighborhoods.



NRC is looking for a few good volunteers! As we head into our busiest season getting ready for block parties and other neighborly activities, we are in the need of help in the office. **One hour a week, or even a month, will make a difference.**
Email sarah@nrc-neighbor.org if you can volunteer your time.

Board Hires new Executive Director

December 2006 saw the culmination of the NRC Board of Director's 6-month effort to implement a planned transition of the organization's executive director. Co-founder and long-time NRC staff member and Executive Director Janey Hanley's decision to retire at the end of 2006 prompted a search for a new director. Local neighborhood activist Sarah McCarthy was hired to replace Ms. Hanley as NRC's third executive director over the 13-year life of the organization. Board members expressed their deep appreciation for Janey Hanley's dedicated service to neighborhoods and their residents at a farewell luncheon in February.

HOW TO BUILD COMMUNITY

- Turn off the TV.
- Greet People.
- Plant flowers.
- Fix it even if you didn't break it.
- Pick up litter.
- Talk to the mail carrier.
- Put up a swing.
- Listen to the birds.
- Mediate a conflict.
- Ask for help when you need it.

Excerpted from Poster #P470CW, © 1998
by SCWSyracuse Cultural Workers
P.O. Box 6367 • Syracuse, NY 13217 • (315) 474-1132

*If you had one wish,
what would you ask NRC to do?
Tell us at enquiries@nrc-neighbor.org*

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RESOURCE CENTER
of Colorado**

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Harriet Hogue

Monique Lovato

Executive Director

Sarah McCarthy

Neighborhood
Resource Center
of Colorado (NRC)
is a non-profit
501(c)(3) created
in 1993 to build
stronger, safer
communities
by assisting
Colorado's
neighborhoods
block by block.

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HELLO from the new Executive Director

As a long-time neighborhood activist I'd heard about the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) and its many years of solid accomplishments to build stronger, safer communities. Consequently, it was an easy decision to accept the NRC Board offer to be its third Executive Director. On learning my news, a number of friends commented that I'd found the perfect job!

Since its inception, NRC has involved more than 410,000 Coloradans in getting to know their neighbors better. This *Good Neighboring* project provides tools that help neighbors to know their neighbors thereby creating a safer and more comfortable environment. Social science research has shown that community groups have the power to improve community health. NRC couldn't do this important work without sponsorships. We have been fortunate to receive support over the years from a variety of businesses, foundations, cities, and counties; most recently Xcel Energy, Safeway, The Denver Foundation, and the City of Denver. It is exciting to be part of a group that shares my value of the significance of caring about one's neighbors.

Over NRC's 13 years, the basic need to belong to a community and the satisfaction gained from helping one another has not changed. The ways and means of creating friendlier, safer communities, however, is changing. Several natural and catastrophic events over the last five years have shown clearly that government cannot be there all the time nor fast enough. It is up to us, individually and collectively, to ensure we all are as safe as possible all the time.

As NRC's new Executive Director, my goal is to join with others to provide a sustainable future for Colorado's neighborhoods. This can be achieved with the assistance of local governments, state and regional agencies, foundations and other non-profit entities in addition to neighborhood groups, homeowners associations and individuals. My hope is to find ways for NRC to continue helping neighborhood activists while finding the path that encourages involvement by those neighbors who are not as yet involved, either because they don't feel safe or because they don't have a sense of belonging to their community.

Success will take perseverance. Consider joining me as NRC begins this new chapter – to continue to make Coloradans healthier from their connections to their neighbors. I invite your suggestions, comments, and help to achieve this goal. I look forward to working along side of you to maintain the privilege of living in Colorado.

Are you ready for the next one?

What is being done in Colorado about Emergency Preparedness?

In the last edition of Resource News, we introduced the topic of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and described how the City of Orlando Florida has taken this concept to the grassroots neighborhood level. Since then Colorado has experienced an 8-week series of snowstorms including multiple blizzards and deadly tornados.

In late February, the Neighborhood Liaison Forum (a group of 50 Front Range local government neighborhood liaisons) met to swap stories of responding to the snowstorms: what worked and what could have been done better? [Folks in Holly are still clearing the debris.] As to the snowstorms, the "Shovel Fairies" were most appreciated. People spoke in gratitude of those with snow-blowers who would clear whole blocks (buy that neighbor a tank of gas as thanks). Also discussed was the importance of prioritizing the clearing of streets and sidewalks, particularly keeping sidewalks to public buildings accessible and ambulance routes open.

What could have been done better wouldn't be news to neighborhood activists: use neighborhood organization newsletters to get out needed information and create resource trees (like telephone trees) to backfill job slots for those out shoveling or plowing.

Each county in Colorado is required to develop and maintain an Emergency Operations Plan. Are you familiar with your county's plan? Colorado, like most states, also has a Citizens Corp – a community volunteer effort expanding the network of local and national volunteers prepared to help communities prevent and respond to threats of terrorism, crime, or other types of disasters. Governor Owens established a commission within the Lt. Governor's office to organize this volunteer effort. Being prepared in an emergency is a good and neighborly thing to do.

Over the next few months, NRC will publish more detailed information about county emergency operations plans and about how our neighborhoods can be better prepared to respond to disasters of all kinds, block-by-block. In the meantime, thank those "Shovel Fairies" and, your postal carrier, for all their hard work this past winter.

Energy-Saving Landscaping Tips

from Xcel Energy

Plant trees for shade*. Deciduous trees — those that produce leaves in the spring and lose them in the fall — shade your house from the sun during summer and let the sun warm your house in winter. Shading your home could save up to 8 percent on cooling costs.

Use climbing vines and trailing plants — to screen the sun without blocking summer breezes. Plant vines and shrubs next to your home to create a blanket of air space that insulates your home in winter and summer. A trellis with climbing vines or a planter box with trailing plants can form screens that block the sun, yet allow cooling breezes to flow through.

Watch our website as it transforms...
www.nrc-neighbor.org

Fort Collins Landlord Education Series

In 2006, Fort Collins Neighborhood Services offered a landlord education series. Popular demand for repeat sessions has resulted in more than 100 local landlords attending this 8-hour program hosted by this city's Neighborhood Services office. The program covers topics such as finding good residents, fair housing, City codes and ordinances, leases and evictions, and much more.

Fort Collins has a large rental market and the intent of these trainings is to provide local landlords with accurate and helpful information about how to be successful in Fort Collins in the property management business and to promote successful rental and leasing relationships. This program's success is a result of the collaborative effort to bring these topics together.

Plant low shrubs around your home — to reduce reflection of solar heat. Pavement reflects or absorbs solar energy (depending on the color) and radiates heat to the walls of your home. Low shrubs and ground cover around your home will reduce reflection of solar heat from roads, driveways, walks, patios or water.

Did you know that Xcel Energy spends \$35 million annually trimming trees? Perhaps that's why most of us kept our power throughout the 8-week series of snowstorms!

For more energy-saving tips and ideas, please visit xcelenergy.com/energysavings or call 1-800-895-4999.

*Always be sure to call before you dig to identify the location of underground utility lines. See our article on the back for more information and other important considerations when planting trees.

For Your Bookshelf

The Kid's Guide To Service Projects

by Barbara A. Lewis

Are you or your child wondering what to do this summer? Check out this service project book by Barbara Lewis. Espousing a firm belief that young people can be a powerful force for positive change, Lewis describes 10 steps to successful service projects including form a team, find a sponsor, make a plan, and advertise. She then offers more than 500 suggestions. Her ideas span the alphabet from animals to transportation. One chapter offers 28 ideas on possible community development and beautification projects.

Young people can cut through the red tape and get results when adults are still wondering where to start!

In this well-organized and concisely written book for young people, the author also lays out her service project "how-to's". These descriptions outline how to write a flyer, press release, proposal or proclamation. Lewis explains how to create a public service announcement, a survey or a petition. Using clear, simple language, the author explains

Presenters include City staff and local landlords and property managers, non-profit agencies and local attorneys. The Colorado Apartment Association, the National Association of Residential Property Managers, and CSU Off-Campus Student Services all provide support for the training.

Given the demand for this training, Fort Collins' Neighborhood Services office will continue to offer educational programs geared toward landlords. Please check their website periodically for future dates. For more information please contact Ginny Sawyer at 970-224-6070 or gsawyer@fcgov.com.

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other vital "how-to's" that many adults would find helpful including how to create statewide funding and how-to support or oppose a law. She even offers seven ways to fundraise, which every non-profit can use!

Lewis recommends that young people pick an area that appeals to them because they will have more fun and likely stay committed to the effort. If none of the ideas is suitable Lewis suggests using the book to brainstorm other ideas by going to schools, scout troops, community group or faith community for project suggestions.

The Kid's Guide to Service Projects encourages young people to get involved. Lewis recognizes that government solutions to society's problems and needs tend to be slow and expensive. Young people can cut through the red tape and get results when adults are still wondering where to start! Why? Because youngsters don't know ahead of time all the reasons why something might not work! This is a book for youngsters or adults who want to make a difference in their communities and their own lives.

Barbara A. Lewis is also the author of The Kid's Guide To Social Action and Kids With Courage.