



University Park Community Council  
 UP Words Newsletter Oct.-Dec. 2023  
 P.O. Box 102407  
 Denver, CO 80250



October/November/December 2023 🌿 [uparkcc.org](http://uparkcc.org)



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Fall General Meeting: Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

- University Park Elementary Auditorium
- Meet local leaders and discuss city projects that impact our neighborhood
- Vote for 2024 UPCC Executive Board members
- Learn more about how to get involved!

#### **Sing n' Sleigh Bells Holiday Celebration**

- When: Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
- Where: Chamberlin Observatory 2930 E. Warren Ave.
  - Holiday Horse Drawn Carriage/Wagon Rides from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
  - Cookie Exchange: Bring treats to share (be sure to label if they have nuts!)
  - Santa Sighting!
  - Holiday Carolers spreading merriment and good cheer!
  - Observatory staff on site to give tours of the Chamberlin Observatory
- Contact Kate Winn, Events Chair, at [events@uparkcc.org](mailto:events@uparkcc.org)
- Check out <https://uparkcc.org/home/events/> for more information and updates



University Park Community Council  
 Your Neighborhood Voice



### **Thank You to All Our Dues Payors**

Your contributions are vital to making our events and newsletters come to life!

- Go to [Uparkcc.org/#donate](http://uparkcc.org/#donate) or mail a check to UPCC/Treasurer, P.O. Box 102407, Denver, CO 80250.
- Use the PayPal QR Code printed here for a direct link to our donation page  
 Reminder: The voluntary yearly dues are: \$50/family and \$25/single/senior.
- **Summer Dues Payors:** Anderson, Brown, Conover, Coyle, Dolson, Durst, Dykhouse, Frenkel, Futera, Hayden, Humber, Koehler, LaPlante, Lees, Long, McMahon, Mesko, Red Willow, Roble, Rosenblum, Schantz, Scott, Slater, Steinhoff, Tate, Welch, Wilder

### **KIDS CORNER:** Kristin Kleimann-Duggan, Secretary

Did you know the Denver library offers free Museum and Cultural Passes for over a dozen different museums in town including Wings Over the Rockies, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Butterfly Pavilion, and Four Mile Historic Park? Reservations may be booked up to 2 weeks in advance. You will need to make sure your library card is active and has a PIN number (which should be your birth year) to book online. Visit: <https://www.denverlibrary.org/museum-passes>

### **SIGN UP FOR THE E-NEWSLETTER:**

Get the latest and greatest news right to your inbox – the UPCC sends out approximately one to two emails per month with updates on community events. Contact [webmaster@uparkcc.org](mailto:webmaster@uparkcc.org) if you have questions or have events you would like to have considered for the newsletter. Sign up here to join the mailing list: <https://uparkcc.org/subscribe/>

### **WEBSITE NEWS:** Elise Maskell, Communications Chair

If you haven't paid a visit yet, please check out our new and improved website ([uparkcc.org](http://uparkcc.org)) that launched this summer. While we try and keep you informed and updated on the main happenings and events through *UPWords*, the website houses so much more information and up-to-date pages with events, local news, and history. It also has a Google Calendar which is continually updated with events. Our webmaster, Laura Garcia, has been an incredible asset to our UPCC Board, bringing us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. She is to thank for keeping it current and for the newly reinstated E-Newsletter. You can find a signup page on the website for the E-Newsletter, which comes out roughly monthly with current information and highlights important events and neighborhood news. If you're looking for a way to contact us, emails and information for all the board members and how to contact the various committees are found on the website as well. We are always looking for new voices on the board and would love to have you join a meeting to see what it is all about. Feel free to email [info@uparkcc.org](mailto:info@uparkcc.org) or myself at [communications@uparkcc.org](mailto:communications@uparkcc.org) for more information!

# What's the Story of That House?



Far Left: 1891 view of Chamberlin Observatory and Howe House.  
Left: Howe House in 2023.

## Former Astronomer's House Marks Important Chapter in University Park's History

By: Rosemary Stoffel, Community Preservation Chair

When DU astronomer Herbert Howe and his wife Fannie built their house at 2201 S. Fillmore in 1891, the bright lights and bustle of central Denver were miles away. Howe chose that location to oversee the new Observatory being constructed across the street, a project that he passionately promoted, and to easily walk from his house to do frequent night work at the Observatory.

Howe was hired by Colorado Seminary (later renamed DU) in 1880, after graduating from the University of Chicago at the age of 16 and then obtaining a master's degree from the University of Cincinnati, where he was an astronomy assistant at the acclaimed Cincinnati Observatory. He taught mathematics, astronomy, and survey, as well as Latin and Greek at DU. When the school was about to relocate from downtown Denver to its present campus in 1888, businessman Humphrey Chamberlin pledged funds for an observatory at the school. Professor Howe took on the project with gusto, travelling to other observatories in the country, producing plans and specifications for both the main and students' observatories. He chose what is now Observatory Park as the ideal location, which was then considered remote from downtown Denver.

He selected a refractor telescope for the Observatory at a cost of \$11,000, with the lens ground by master scientific craftsman Alvan Clark. He personally accompanied the large lens from Cambridge, MA by train, with the lens nestled in its own pullman berth. Howe insisted that the streets surrounding the Observatory be replatted to reduce horse and carriage traffic vibrations which could impact the telescope. This explains why the southern half of Observatory Park is wider than the northern half. Howe was named director of the Observatory in 1894 and was a meticulous scholar, compiling innumerable publications and lengthy diaries. In 1910 he was so absorbed preparing charts and positioning the telescope for the approach of Halley's Comet that he reportedly forgot to eat or rest and missed the first sighting after falling asleep at the telescope.

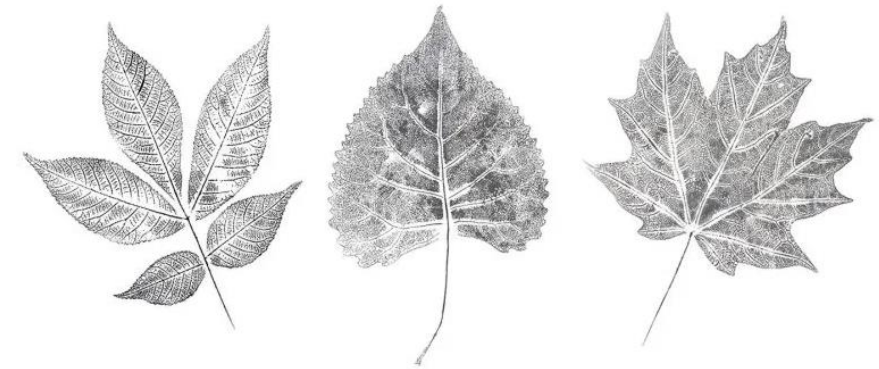
Howe sketched the plans for his and Fannie's house in 1890-91, and then turned them over to Robert Roeschlaub, notable architect for the Observatory, for the final design. He hired Frederick Walter, who had just completed his own house at 2111 S. St. Paul St., as contractor. Howe's diary indicated that the total cost of the house was \$6,229.34. After eight months of construction, the Howes moved into the home in April, 1892. They raised four sons in the house and lived there until 1920, when local attorney Charles Haines and his wife Nanaruth Haines purchased the house. Mr. Haines was a respected mining attorney, and through his efforts in the Civic League in the early 1920s worked to expose Ku Klux Klan membership of local candidates. On his 100th birthday he enjoyed reminiscences of his numerous former law students. His daughter, Ruth Haines Purkale, was an ardent supporter of the University of Denver and our neighborhood.

The house was the neighborhood's first transitional Foursquare and is one of the earliest known examples in Denver. The boxy shape, large-hipped roof and unadorned elevations were a departure from the more popular Queen Anne style at the time. More owners and builders in University Park began experimenting with more modern boxy styles that took cues from the Howe residence. By the early 1900s, the Foursquare (or Denver Square) had become immensely popular throughout Denver.

In 1985, ownership next passed to Grace and Lon McCain. With their two children it was a time of active remodeling of the interior, updating utilities and adding a sunroom and enclosed rear entry to the west end of the home. The present garage was built at that time.

The home is situated on four lots with a spacious southern side yard and has been meticulously maintained by the current owners. The house is eligible for inclusion in the proposed University Park Historic District, and the owners since 1992, Kathy Kennedy and Ben Vernon, vigorously support this. Historically and architecturally, it remains as one of University Park's most beautiful and important properties.

\*Thanks to Barbara and Jim Steely, SquareMoon Preservation Consultants, and DU Archives for historic content and photos.



## "Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." - Albert Camus

By: Jannet Manning, Seeders and Weeders

Autumn's arrival brings a brilliant display of colors, and we can certainly take advantage of this in our own gardens. Fall in Colorado is almost always beautiful with leaves changing from green to yellows, oranges, reds, and even a few shades of purple. A walk through our University Park neighborhood will highlight maples, serviceberries, burning bush, and oaks, just to name a few. There are also quite a few perennials that bloom late in the season, and grasses, with their glorious seedheads that can continue to provide winter interest. When you're out on your walk, don't just think about getting your heartrate up – enjoy the array of colors along the way!

People often wonder about fall cleanup in their gardens. It's often best to leave most perennials and grasses till spring. They provide food and shelter for many birds and beneficial insects. Annuals should be removed and composted if possible.

As leaves fall from the trees, consider how to dispose of them in a more environmentally responsible way. If you're lucky enough to have a green bin, just put them in there. If you have too many leaves or you don't have a green bin yet, please bag them in large paper bags available at various hardware-type stores for that purpose. You can take them to the leaf drop-off site at 7400 Cherry Creek Dr. S. at no cost. Check out the details for LeafDrop at [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org).

## SEEDERS AND WEEDERS: OUR NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN CLUB

UP Seeders & Weeders meets the 3rd Wednesday evening of every month, except for December and January (no meetings).

- 9/15 10:00 a.m. - Tour of Sprout City Farms
- 10/18 6:30 p.m. - Garden potluck and 2024 planning
- 11/15 6:30 p.m. - Creating dried centerpieces for Thanksgiving

Please contact Karen Appel at [karenldurfee@gmail.com](mailto:karenldurfee@gmail.com) for more information. We'd love to have you join us!

## PARKS UPDATE: Tyler Kiggins, Parks Chair

Denver Parks and Recreation want's your feedback on our urban canopy. Please fill out their second public survey to make your voice heard! You can find more information at <https://uparkcc.org/help-denver-plant-for-the-future/> or the survey directly here; <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DPRForestry>