

“Communication is the key to a strong community”  
October 2004, volume 2, issue 10

At Long Last!  
By Barbara Harrington

At long last we have a new entryway monument!! Now we can once again find our way home – and our friends and relatives can find us too. The new lighting is in and the new letters on the other two community pillars have been installed. A number of residents have given board members much appreciated feedback. Thanks for the kudos!

Hopefully our new sign is far enough out of the path of destruction that it will not meet the same car-crash fate as the old one!!

Since one project always seems to breed another, the Board will be in discussion over the winter as to what type of flowers or plants to put in the center of the existing shrub ring where the old monument used to be. Suggestions are always appreciated. The plants will need to be low enough to allow people to see the sign easily. ~

New entryway is a “monumental” success.  
1st Annual Great Andover Glen “Spiff” set to be begin  
By Bob Meyer

Sound the trumpets! The Andover Glen Board has approved a new program to encourage beautification and community awareness in our neighborhood. The contest will be called the “Great Andover Glen Spiff” (spiff is slang for “smartly dressed”) and it will include prizes for a variety of outdoor beautification efforts. From landscape design to most improved exterior there will be several categories of real cash prizes given! The idea is that a more attractive Andover Glen raises all of our property values and increases pride of ownership. Other benefits will include the fact that we’ll all just be a bit more aware of what is going on in our neighborhood and this can have significant beneficial effects on how secure our neighborhood is. The contest really begins right now, as you can begin your planning and even some outdoor preparation for next year on our nicer fall and winter days. Don’t forget of course, for any major work outside you need to fill out a Property Improvement Request Form and submit it to our Board Preservation Chair, Ron Adams, for review, before you start work. The contest will end around the end of next summer with the winners to be announced at the annual picnic. You’ll be hearing much more about this exciting new contest over the next few months, so be sure to check back in the AG Gazette each month for more details or feel free to call me, Bob Meyer, at 303-690-6927. Let the Spiffing Begin! ~

Political Signs vs. HOA’s  
By Jan Laitos, University of Denver law professor, and reprinted from 9news.com

Can a Homeowner's Association prevent a homeowner from putting up a political sign on that owner's property? Isn't political "speech" in the form of political signs one of the most protected constitutional law rights that we have as citizens?

Is it ever permissible for a private association to stop political expression?

Two forces come into conflict when a Homeowners' Association (HOA) imposes speech related rules on homeowners within the HOA.

The first is the right that we all have to express ourselves freely and openly under the First Amendment. That Amendment to the US Constitution permits us to express our views publicly, not matter how controversial they are. And there is no more protected place to express our views, especially our political views, than with signs in our front yards of homes that we own.

The second is our ability to give up, or "waive" any constitutional right, including First Amendment rights, so long as we are giving up these rights freely and with knowledge of what we are waiving. When one agrees to enter an HOA, one either expressly or impliedly agrees to all "covenants" that control that HOA. A covenant is a contract between the owner and the HOA. The covenant is an agreement whereby the owner of homes within the HOA gives up certain property rights, and perhaps constitutional rights, for the privilege of living within that HOA.

If an HOA has as one of its covenants that a homeowner give up that homeowner's right to speak through signs placed on front yards, the HOA has asked the homeowner to "waive" the constitutional right to speak. ~

The HOA can, in fact, validly and legally accomplish this, so long as the owner is not coerced into signing the covenants, and if the owner has actual or constructive knowledge of the covenants. In virtually all HOAs, owners have such knowledge, and owners are rarely if ever coerced into giving up their rights.

So, the HOA rule will typically prevail over the HOA homeowner who wants to put a political sign there.

Moreover, the First Amendment only applies when there is GOVERNMENT action which is suppressing speech. An HOA is not government, so the First Amendment would not apply in any event (unless the HOA sought to enlist the aid of the courts in enforcing its fines against a recalcitrant owner).

If an owner in a HOA wishes to put political signs within an HOA which prohibits those signs, the way to get those signs up is to get the other HOA members to VOTE to change the rules. That is what happens in a democracy to get rules changed - one does not engage in civil disobedience; one changes the rules by majority vote.

REFERENCES

City of Ladue v. Gilleo, 512 U.S. 43 (1994) ~

Andover Glen Helps Women and Children In Need  
By Barbara Harrington

For those of you who were unable to attend our annual picnic you may be wondering what we did with your dinner. We had a lower turnout this year than expected (55 versus about 90 in years past) so we did have quite a number of meals left over.

I am pleased to tell you that your meal was donated to The Gathering Place in Denver, a daytime drop-in center for women and children experiencing homelessness or poverty. We estimate that our contributions fed about 40 people. They were most excited about our generosity and planned on using the food for their evening meal the following day. Helen, the kitchen manager, said the children were going to love the cake.

In addition to providing meals for the women and children, The Gathering Place also provides bathing facilities, classes for those wishing to obtain their GED, a computer lab, help with résumés, help with finding jobs, on-site child care, and medical assistance. They also link women and children with more than 80 community human service programs. They are privately funded. Adding space to house women and children for overnight stays is one of their current goals. If you would like to get involved with their programs, please call them at 303-321-4198. ~

We all need a little “Neighborhood Watch”  
By Bob Meyer

Over the past few months we’ve had an unfortunate rise in a few specific types of crimes in our area. Specifically, we’ve seen a few break-ins and car burglaries. These are nothing to get overly alarmed about, as every neighborhood in every city has security issues. What these increases may mean is that criminals may think our area makes an attractive target because residents here are not paying as much care as they could to security issues. Many of these crimes could have been avoided by a little common sense vigilance by the victims, and all of us need to take more responsibility for keeping a careful watch over the security of our homes and carry that over to looking out for our neighbors as well.

As the new Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for the area, I’ll be featuring several safety tips here in the Gazette each month. I’ll also be organizing Neighborhood Watch Block Captains to help each block pay special attention to safety needs. So look for one of them to come to your home in the next few months. Here are this month’s safety tips:

1. Keep your car off the street and in the garage if possible. Clean out the \$100 worth of junk in your Garage to make room for your much more valuable car. Even parking it on the driveway is better than on the street.

2. Keep all windows locked, upstairs and downstairs when you are not at home. Downstairs windows and doors should have security pins, bolts, or even wooden dowels placed in the tracks. Garage and patio doors can make especially enticing entry points.

Please check back each month for more safety updates and information. Give me a call at 303-690-6927 if you need more information. Working together, we can keep Andover Glen safe and secure. ~

#### 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](http://www.auroragov.org)

Oops...we goofed

Last month in the Gazette we mentioned that Bob Meyer and Cindy Wagner had joined the Andover Glen Board and that Jan Guerra had returned to the board, but we failed to mention that Curt Krall had also returned to the board for a 3 year term. Curt has done such a great job as the Chair of our Social Committee that we couldn't let him go without serving at least one more full term.

Again, a big THANK YOU is quite appropriate for these people as they are volunteering their time to serve our Neighborhood and make Andover Glen a better place to live. ~

"...in the end, when we are dead and gone, we'll be remembered not for how much we acquired, but how much we gave to others..." - Princess Diana

#### A Note of Thanks

Thanks to all of you who honored your commitment to the covenants and your neighbors by not displaying political signs in your yard. And thanks to you who removed your signs after having received a reminder from a board member.

#### Next Meeting reminder:

The next AG board meeting is open to all AG Association members will be held at the home of Jan Guerra on Wednesday, November 17th, 2004 at 7 p.m.

We'll be keeping the meeting as short as possible as Jan will be going to bed promptly at 8:30 p.m. and we'll need to let ourselves out quietly if the meeting goes any longer.

#### Neighbor to Neighbor

Services and stuff for sale, cheap!

Baby Sitting: Red Cross Certified Babysitter!

Great rates. Responsible 8th 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](mailto:rgatess@yahoo.com)

Andover Glen website: [www.neighborhoodlink.com/aurora/andoverglen](http://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