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Presidents Message: Lisa Pope

It's hard to believe that 2022 has come and gone. UpDoNA had a very busy first year, and I am extremely proud of what our members and volunteers accomplished. Thanks for your commitment to making Upper Downtown a better place for everyone to live, work, and play; your efforts made a difference.

[Read the Full President's Message...](#)

Safety and Quality of Life Committee - End Aloft Contract

By Rob Squire

An email was sent out to the membership on December 19, 2022 on this topic.

For several months, UpDoNA's Safety and Quality of Life Committee has worked with the Department of Housing Stability and others on the Aloft issue. It has been our position that Denver has a need and a responsibility to provide homeless shelters to

Safety and Quality Of Life Committee

house our homeless population. The specific purpose for the use of Aloft Hotel as an emergency action shelter has been to provide private accommodations to the segment of the homeless population that would have been most susceptible to COVID if they had remained in a congregate environment.

[Click here to read the full email sent out.](#)



New Business Member – Union Lodge No. 1



By Melissa Matuska

Union Lodge No.1 is an ode to the golden years of the craft cocktails of the 1800's. The beautiful, historic building that the bar is in, the Odd Fellows Hall Lodge, was built in the late 19th century. The building itself served as an inspiration behind the bar's theme, with the name Union Lodge No.1 engraved at the top of the building.

Read all about our newest member [here.](#)

District 10 Candidate Forum

by Rob Squire



The upcoming municipal elections that will be held in early April are very important to the future of downtown Denver. We are hoping that candidates that we elect at the mayoral and city council levels have a firm grasp on the issues that we face, such as illegal camping on the streets, homelessness, crime, and so many others. Moreover, we are hopeful that the candidates understand the urgency of solving our problems and have viable plans in mind for implementing those solutions in order to help Denver recover.

Connect to the [full article here.](#)

Good Neighbor Committee Bi-Monthly Report

Written by Garis Smith

During the past two months, the Good Neighbor Committee has been quite active, testifying at two license hearings and has been presented with several more opportunities to execute Good Neighbor Agreements (GNA) with restaurants and bars in Upper Downtown.

To read about all the opportunities, [click through here.](#)



Mental Health First Aid Class

By Sal Tripodi

On December 8, I had the privilege of attending an all-day class called Mental Health First Aid. For 7 hours. Walter “Mitty” Craig from Bayaud Enterprises laid out the signs of various mental health challenges and how the lay person can recognize symptoms and find appropriate assistance for the individual. It is a compassionate, informative, essential class for those of us who encounter persons dealing with a mental illness, whether that be family members, friends, co-workers, a neighbor, or a stranger. Bayaud is making this class available to UpDoNA residents in an effort to educate the community and help us formulate strategies for assisting those dealing with these issues

Learn more [here.](#)

Cherry Creek Trail Closure and Detour

Forwarded by Denver Parks and Recreation

The Cherry Creek Trail will be closed for approximately 4-6 months (December 12, 2022 – June 2023) while the Larimer Street bridge is reconstructed, along with other streetscaping enhancements as part of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure’s [Connecting Auraria project](#). Trail users will be routed to the south side of the trail at the Downtown Playground and Creekfront Park via Wynkoop, Market, and 14th Streets. **Download the trail detour map [here.](#)**



For all the information, [click here](#).

Clean Up Day Brings Unexpected Surprise

By Sal Tripodi

As many of you know, on the first Saturday of every month (sometimes the second Saturday because of holidays falling on the first Saturday), many of us in the UpDoNA community meet in the lobby of The Spire (891 14th Street) to clean up the surrounding streets. We usually hit 5 to 10 streets, depending on the number volunteering that day. This activity is spearheaded by UpDoNA's Clean Sustainable Denver Committee, co-chaired by Kristen Deak and Carolyn Benton.

[Catch up on the full article here!](#)



Pet Pride in UpDoNA

We want to hear what it's like for you and your pet to live in a high-rise!



Review our article guidelines below:

Pet Pride in UpDoNA - Canine Life in Upper Downtown

Contributed by Carol Wayne

When someone decides to live in the city, knowing the positive and negative aspects of urban living is a conscious choice. Often that choice involves a centrally located condo with many services, but pets do not have that choice. Whether they know it or not, they will become an urbanized dog who, instead of dealing with a grassy backyard, soon become familiar with a host of other dogs, the elevator, numerous folks in their environment, city parks, and "the concrete jungle." This article attempts to show our UpDoNa readers how the dogs and their owners respond to this city living and its effects on them, their owners, and other condo neighbors.

Please read the [full article here](#).

We'd love to hear from all pet owners and are launching a Pet of the Month. To submit an article about your pet, please follow the guidelines:

- Article from 100 to 500 words;
- Write about how you acquired your pet;
- How did you decide on the name;
- If it's a pet that you walk, please tell us what your pet most enjoys about Upper Downtown;
- Must include at least one photo, with information about who took the photo



Please send your article to Carol Wayne at carolwayne@updona.org.

Click on any of the images below for more information!



******UpDoNA has been approved and is now a 501c(3) organization! Your donations are tax-deductible and any donations made previously are tax-deductible retroactively to the date of UpDoNA's founding in 2021.******

Yes, I want to Donate to UpDoNA!



Who We Are

UpDoNA is a city registered neighborhood organization formed to advocate for the interests of the residents and businesses in Upper Downtown Denver.

Our Vision

To have an Upper Downtown community that is and continues to be one of the most sought-after neighborhoods for residents, businesses and visitors.

Our Mission

To be a partner and advocate for the betterment of the Upper Downtown community and all those who live, work and play here!



[Clean Sustainable Denver](#)

First Saturday of the month (January 7th) at 9 AM

Venue: Lobby of Spire at 891 14th St.

Bring gloves, a trash grabber or broom, and a dustpan

[Who tells a tale, adds a tail](#)

Nov. 18th - March 5th, 10 AM to 5 PM

Denver Art Museum

[Yonder Mountain String Band](#)

January 13th

Mission Ballroom,

WYNKOOP STREET 4242

[Who's Bad - Michael Jackson Tribute Band](#)

January 27th - 28th

Bluebird Theater, 3317 E Colfax Ave

[To Kill a Mockingbird](#)

Jan. 24th to Feb. 5th

Buell Theater, 1400 Curtis Street

[Collage: Consider Everything](#)

Weekly from Jan 17th - Feb 7th, 6 - 8 PM

Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy

To see more, please click [here!](#)

For a complete list of concert and event schedules at the biggest venues around town, visit the following sites:

<https://www.ballarena.com/events-tickets/calendar/>

<https://www.empowerfieldatmilehigh.com/events>

<https://www.paramountdenver.com/event-calendar/>

<https://www.redrocksonline.com/>

<https://www.denvercenter.org/tickets-events/>

For a complete list of Events Around Town, visit [Denver.org](#)

Volunteers Needed!

We need help to do our work. It takes volunteers to make a volunteer organization run. There are opportunities all over.

- Interested in making downtown life safer and more rewarding? Volunteer for the Safety and Quality of Life Committee
- How about helping to improve the lives of the homeless? Volunteer for UpDoNA Cares
- Would you like to help make our streets clean and attractive? Volunteer for our monthly Community Cleanups with our Clean Sustainable Denver Committee
- Have a writing skill? Write articles for our Website/Newsletter Committee
- Or would you rather help by increasing the influence of UpDoNA. There is power in numbers, and you can be a part of our Membership Committee
- Are you good at organizing? Help arrange social events as a part of our Social Committee
- Do you have a skill or interest in managing organizations? Consider running for our Board of Directors. We have an immediate opening and will be holding an election in April of this year.

We can only do our work with the help of people like you! Please consider offering your services to help us be a more effective and influential association. [Click here to get involved as a volunteer!](#) Every committee I mentioned can use help. Please – Get Involved.



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