

## Tips from Peggy

According to a 2009 survey by the Littleton Planning Commission, what residents prize most about Littleton is the “small-town feeling.”

### Things you can do to help preserve that small-town feeling:

- **Meet your neighbors.** You don't have to become “buddy-buddy,” but *recognizing* each other is key to making your neighborhood friendly & safe.
- **Participate in community events, such as**
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration,
  - Get Wild on Littleton block party (downtown),
  - National Night Out block party (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in August),
  - Western Welcome Week (in August),
  - Candlelight Walk (Friday after Thanksgiving, downtown),
  - Special events at the museum, throughout the year.
- **Volunteer.**
  - At Bemis Library (Inquire at the library.)
  - At the Littleton Museum (Inquire at the Museum.)
  - At the Carson Nature Center (South Suburban Parks & Recreation facility).
  - In the Handy Man program (volunteers make minor house repairs for the elderly & disabled).
  - On the Snow Squad (volunteers shovel for people who cannot shovel their walks).
  - As a mentor in the Littleton Immigration Integration Initiative (Ask for information at the Library.)
  - On Arbor Day to help plant trees (Watch for announcements in the *Littleton Report* & the *Littleton Independent*.)
- **Participate in civic groups.**
- **Participate in City government.**
  - Vote in City elections (November in odd years).
  - Express your views on City issues.
    - Contact your District representative or the At Large Council members (by e-mail, phone or letter).
    - At a regular City Council meeting, speak up to 4 minutes during “unscheduled public appearances” on any City-related issue (a complaint, a compliment,...)
    - At a regular City Council meeting, speak up to 3 minutes during a “Public Hearing” on a specific issue.
  - Serve on a board or commission whose members are appointed by the City Council. (Most terms are 3 years. See the City website, or contact a member of the City Council for more information.)
- **Shovel your sidewalk when it snows.** Clear walks make it safe for children to walk to school & adults to walk to the bus or Light Rail. They say, “I care about my neighbors & my neighborhood.”
  - Hint: If several inches of snow are predicted & you have time, shovel when 3 - 4 inches of snow has accumulated – it is easier to shovel a few inches at a time than 6” or 8” (let alone 2 - 3 feet). But if it is windy, just put your feet up & wait for the storm to stop – because the wind will just cover the walk up with snow again.
  - If one of your neighbors is sick or out of town, shovel his/her walk if you have time.

- **Obey City Codes / Report Code violations.** Code enforcement is key to preserving the quality of your neighborhood & the value of your property. (60% of Code violations that the Code Enforcement officers handle are reported by citizens.)
- **Discourage burglars & robbers.**
  - Keep your doors locked when you are home. Some robbers actually open the door & snatch a purse or another item – in full view of people in the room – & dash out, leaving the people dumbstruck.
  - Don't leave your keys in an unattended car.
  - Don't leave valuables in your car.
  - Keep the door from your house to your garage locked, & don't leave your garage door open unattended, even for a minute. It takes just a few seconds for someone to run in & grab something – or hide in the garage & then slip into your house when you aren't home.
  - Trim shrubs & trees so that don't provide a shield for burglars.
  - Consider getting a burglar alarm system.
  - Ask at least one neighbor to keep an eye on your house when you go on vacation.
- **Form a Neighborhood Watch Group.** (Contact the Police Department for information.)
  - Immediately report suspicious people or activities in your neighborhood or anywhere else in the City.
  - Immediately report any "tagging" you see in your neighborhood or anywhere else in the City. Do not remove the tag/s until a police officer has photographed it. The photos (1) help the Police identify patterns of gang activity & (2) serve as evidence & thus increase the number of "counts" against the taggers when they are caught.
    - Traditionally taggers have "painted" their "tags" on doors, fences, street signs, etc. But it is becoming increasingly common to write tags on Priority Mail stickers & then walk along fast & slap the tags on garage doors, garbage cans, street signs, cars & trucks, etc.
    - If the tag is on City property, the City is responsible for cleaning up. If it is on your property, you are responsible.
- **Attend the Littleton Police Citizens Academy** – 1 night a week for 11 weeks – & learn more about what the Police do, & why & how they do it. (Contact the Police Department for information.)