

Nell Thompson
Research conducted by DPL's Special Collections Team (SCA)

Nell's earliest noted commitment to community service was undertaking the leadership of a Southwest Denver Girl Scout troop in 1953. She promoted the library and the Barnum Recreation Center. She helped secure the addition of a senior center and pool at the Rec Center, an amenity that a 1994 Denver Post article identified as the soul of the community. Her husband even taught a watercolor class at the center.

Thompson was also a founder of Concerned Citizens for Barnum. While working for US Representative Tim Wirth, she engaged the community in Beth Israel programs around clean air and patient care. During Wirth's term, she also participated in the Senior Citizen Congressional Seminar.

She was the first president of the Greater Barnum Improvement Association (Sam Sandos was her VP in 1975), which tried to ameliorate traffic problems, issues regarding local children, and raising funds for a local swimming pool. Nell was active in the Southwest Denver League of Women Voters and was a community advocate in the 1973 planning of the Ross-Barnum Library remodel planning.

From DPL Archives [here](#).