

# The Montclarion

Founded 1907 Denver, CO

1st Quarter 2016 www.HistoricMontclair.org

HistoricMontclair@gmail.com

#### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Small children and their parents are invited to....

WHAT: HMCAI's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

WHEN: 10 a.m. Saturday, March 26

WHERE: The Molkery, 6820 E. 12th Ave., and Montclair Park

WHO: Montclair families

**TREATS**: Coffee, cookies and juice served to all in the Molkery

after the hunt.

**COST**: Free for Montclair families.

**GEAR**: Bring a basket, bag or box to carry your goodies home (we reuse the plastic eggs every year, so all eggs are emptied and left in designated boxes at the event)

RAIN DATE: None. Rain or snow the egg hunt is on!

**VOLUNTEERS**: We are in great need of volunteers to help scatter eggs throughout the park, stuff eggs, serve snacks, clean up etc. It will truly only take one hour of your time to help us pull off this fun event for the kids! Please consider volunteering, and contact Judy Baxter at baxterj.jb15@gmail.com.



\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Time for spring cleaning! HMCAI is happy to sponsor our annual spring neighborhood garage sale. This year's event is:

Saturday May 14 - 8:30 - 3pm

All those interested please contact Valerie Alford at Valerie@valeriealford.com or 303-641-6823 to pick up a yard sign.



Log on and search for "Historic Montclair Community"

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#### **Discover Denver's Compost Collection Program**

Denver Composts is redefining what was once waste. By signing up for compost collection you can reduce the amount of waste you throw away by as much as 50 to 75 percent. Denver Composts is a fee-based service that collects residentially generated organic material like yard debris, food scraps and non-recyclable paper. All homes in Montclair are now eligible for this service.

Why Join?

- 1. IT'S SO EASY. Simply put your organic material in the green cart and set it out for collection each week.
- 2. LESS WASTE SENT TO THE LANDFILL. More than 50% of what the average Denver households put in the trash is organic material.
- 3. REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Composting results in less methane emitted into the atmosphere.

Each compost program participant is supplied with a green cart that is collected weekly. The organic material collected is sent to a commercial facility where it gets turned into a high quality soil amendment known as compost which is then sold to farmers and retail stores. Denver Composts is a fee-based service paid for by the resident at the rate of \$29.25 each quarter (every 3 months). Call 3-1-1 and sign up today!

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Street Paving, Finally!** 

Good news for Montclair residents who have been living with cracked and crumbling streets for the past several years. Public Works is scheduled to repave a portion of the neighborhood this summer, covering Niagara – Quebec from 8th Ave. – 13th Ave. Neighbors hope Oneida is at the top of the list!



**Questions? Concerns?** Suggestions? Have an idea for an article?

Contact the HMCAI Board at historicmontclair@gmail.com

#### **Get Your Green On!**

Looking for a community to garden with this summer? Check out the **Historic Montclair Community Garden** on 14th & Niagara. Members of the garden enjoy working together as a team and harvesting the rewards.

The garden was started in 2010 by residents concerned about improving the neighborhood bordering Colfax. Neighbors pitched in and the empty lot was transformed into a thriving garden. Throughout the years, the garden has enjoyed a stable group of participants and we always welcome new gardeners to join us.

"The best part of the garden, is that we all get together to clean up, plant and harvest - and you get to know people from the neighborhood and learn new

gardening tricks along the way. It's been a very rewarding

experience and a huge enhancement to Montclair," remarked Sheri Kaz, one of the founding members of the Historic Montclair Community Garden.

We will have our community spring clean up to celebrate Earth Day over the weekend of April 22.

For more details or to reserve your plot (\$35/yr.) contact Karen Hickey 303-321-3542 or email hmcg@ijdesign.com.







#### **Rent the Molkery**

Did you know the Montclair Civic Building (aka Molkery) is available for rent? Owned by the city of Denver and operated by Denver Parks and Recreation, it's available year-round for parties, weddings, reunions, both daytime and evening. Indoor capacity is 50, indoor/outdoor capacity is 75. Renters must provide their own catering. Host your next party in this unique historic landmark, built by Baron Von Richthofen in 1888. For more information, contact the Events Coordinator for Denver Parks and Recreation at (720) 913-0766, or visit www.denvergov.org and look under Parks and Recreation Rental Facilities.









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#### **Paddington Station Preschool News**

By Annie Scott, Paddington Teacher

Have you ever wondered how STEM plays a role in early childhood education (STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)? In early childhood education, when we think about SCIENCE, we focus on questioning and constructing explanations. When we think about TECHNOLOGY, we focus on tools and how to use them. When we think about ENGINEERING, we focus on problem solving and material properties. When we think about MATH, we focus on relationships and measurement.

Paddington Station Preschool has acquired new STEM products to share among all the classrooms. The products are from a company called KODO Kids (www.kodokids.com) and align perfectly with Paddington's play-based philosophy because they help children lead their own exploration with teacher support. As a school we know that even the youngest children can be scientists, engineers, mathematicians and involved with technology!

Incorporating STEM into the preschool experience supports all areas of development including sensory work, motor work, understanding of environment and using "loose parts" to build things. The teachers use investigation-based teaching and practices. These investigations provide the opportunity for children to: focus on process, not just outcomes; model design thinking and ideation; and embrace mistakes, failures and any constraints as opportunities.

There are many ways to activate STEM thinking: asking questions; developing and using models; planning or carrying out investigations; analyzing or interpreting data; designing solutions; and engaging in argument from evidence.

We have learned that children are natural engineers and we are offering a camp session this summer devoted to having fun with "loose parts", making crazy concoctions and experimenting with ramps, rollers and more! Paddington Summer Camp is open to all children (ages 3, 4 and 5) – not just current students. To learn more about our camps, call 303-333-9154 or visit the DISCOVER tab on our website: www.paddingtonstation.org. Space is limited in our camp sessions, so sign up soon!

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#### **Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment Update**

By Ryan Kockler – Montclair Principal

Hello wonderful Montclair community,

Spring has sprung and I would just like to update you on some exciting things going on at Montclair! You may have noticed the recent construction that has taken place on the north side of our field. Thanks to the generous donation of labor (and many materials) from TerraCare Associates, and a grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation, we have been able to complete our school gardens! We have built raised garden beds for each classroom in the school. Students will plant and germinate seeds inside under grow lights before placing them outside in their classroom's bed later this spring. Feel free to come over anytime and take a tour of the new garden! And we're always looking for volunteers... please contact Shawna Olsen at shawnaolsen@yahoo.com if you are interested in getting involved.

As we look to the 2016-2017 school year, we would like to encourage all families from Montclair and the surrounding neighborhoods to consider our school. We will be accepting students who live within the Denver Public Schools neighborhood boundary, and also accepting students who live outside of that boundary. Montclair is an ECE through 5th grade elementary school located at 1151 Newport Street. Starting this year, we will be offering full day and half-day ECE for four year olds.

Round Two of the DPS School Choice process begins Monday, March 21, 2016. Round Two is the first-come, first-served segment of Choice for families who missed Round One, or who took part in Round One but want to re-explore their options. Round Two School Choice forms will be available at all DPS schools beginning March 21. There is no online form for Round Two; families should submit their completed Round Two forms directly to schools they are interested in for 2016-17.

More information about the School Choice process can be found at www.dpsk12.org. Feel free to reach out or stop by with any questions you may have.

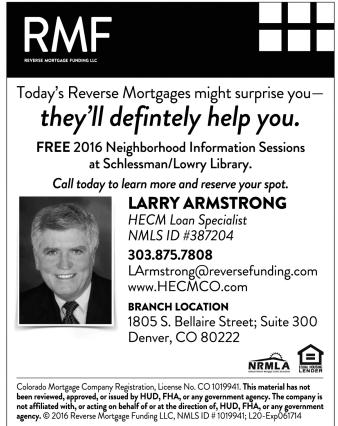
We have some upcoming Eat Out! for Montclair Restaurant Nights. If you dine at the following restaurants and mention Montclair, the restaurants will donate a percentage of the sales to benefit our school! Stella's April 17th and

Mesob on May 5th. We hope to see you there!

Lastly, please join the Montclair community and our neighbors on Saturday, April 9th from 2:00 – 5:00 pm at the Molkery for our annual Plant Sale Pre-Party, to celebrate spring and place your annual plant order to support enrichment at the school. NOTE: Unlike in the past, there is no Plant Sale event this year, so come join us for a glass of wine and to place your order for flowers, herbs, and veggies!

If you cannot make the event, you can still stop by the school office to get a catalog or you can place your order directly online at: <a href="https://bit.ly/MontclairPlantSale">bit.ly/MontclairPlantSale</a>





#### **Easy Goodies for Chocolate Lovers**

Other nuts may also be used and the recipes can be doubled or tripled if desired. If you don't want nuts you could try granola or crushed toasted rice cereal. Feel free to experiment.

#### Cocoa Pecan Balls

Grind 4 ounces Pecans, with 3 tablespoons of unsweetened cocoa powder and ½ cup confectioner's (powdered) sugar until the nuts are very fine. A food processor works best but chopping could potentially also work. Heat (but don't boil) 2 tablespoons of heavy (whipping) cream and pour it into the cocoa/nut mixture. Blend by hand or in food processor until thoroughly combined. Transfer to small bowl and chill until the mix is stiff. (About 15 minutes.) Shape into 1" balls and dust with unsweetened cocoa. Makes about 12 pieces. These may be placed into the mini candy cups that are like tiny cupcake liners or on squares of aluminum foil or waxed paper and then stored in a box of tin for a gift.

#### **Cocoa Pecan Toasties**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Have a lightly greased cookie sheet ready.

Soak ½ cup of pecans in warm water for a few minutes. Shake off water but do not dry them. Toss pecans in a presweetened cocoa mix and spread on cookie sheet. Place the sheet of nuts in the preheated oven for about 5 minutes or until lightly toasted and crispy. Do not let them burn.



# SAVE THE DATES HMCAI's Events for 2016

**Event** Date

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 26: 10:00 a.m.

Montclair Park & The Molkery

Montclair Neighbors Garage Sale Saturday, May 14: 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

July 4 Picnic Monday, July 4: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Montclair Park** 

Adults-only Beer & Wine Reception Friday, September 16: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The Molkery

Montclair Neighbors Garage Sale October date TBD

HMCAI Annual Meeting Wednesday, October 19: 7:00 p.m.

The Molkery

Halloween Kids Costume Party Saturday, October 29: 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Molkery

Treats with Santa Saturday, December 10: 10:30 a.m. - Noon

The Molkery

HMCAI Board Meetings 3rd Wednesday, January - November: 7 p.m.

The Molkery

If you are not yet a member of Historic Montclair Community Association, please consider joining. Your membership dollars help support these events. If you would like to volunteer for any of these events, please contact HistoricMontclair@gmail.com. Volunteering ensures these events will continue.

The Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Party, and Treats with Santa are free to all Montclair neighbors. The July 4 Picnic and Adults-only Reception are free to HMCAI members.





#### **Great Denver Cleanup**

Denver residents, if a garage, backyard, alley or neighborhood cleanup is on your **spring to-do list**, don't miss **The** Great Denver Cleanup, Saturday, May 21st, 9am - 2pm. Haul discarded household items (furniture, appliances, bikes, carpet, large bulky items, rigid plastics, etc.), household trash, and yard waste to a free drop site (listed below)

Sorry, appliances with Freon (e.g. refrigerators), electronics, hazardous waste and auto parts are **not acceptable**. See denvergov.org/kdb or dial 3-1-1 for details.

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#### News from Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman, District 5

Late last year the administration put forth a proposal to extend the moratorium on marijuana licenses by an additional two years. Presently only medical facilities in business before Amendment 64 passed are allowed to get retail licenses or any other kind of license, i.e. grows and marijuana infused businesses. The administration seeks to "hit the pause button" so that they can assess the problems, collect data and chart a course forward for the nascent marijuana industry. I believe this moratorium would not solve the issues we have heard right now with the growing pains of this budding industry and I was successful in getting the decision whether or not to extend the moratorium put back into City Council who created the laws in the first place.

Over the past two months City Council has met weekly to discuss the marijuana issues. These include whether or not there is a saturation of the market, the clustering of these facilities in certain neighborhoods, potential diversion of product to the black market, access to licensing by new players, and odors. The extension of the moratorium would not solve these issues, might even exacerbate some, and City Council has the ability to find fixes now.

There are common sense solutions to any real issues. Council is already at work having just passed an ordinance that would now require medical dispensaries to have "needs and desires" hearings just like retail licenses. They weren't before, so they could move into a neighborhood without informing the neighborhood. Also, the city has greater control over retail marijuana stores than medical dispensaries right now (for example we cannot access some information about medical dispensary practices because of "patient privacy), also something a moratorium wouldn't solve.

We have a proposed ordinance from Environmental Health which will take care of the "odor" problem, not just for cultivation facilities, but also can be applied to unlicensed personal grows and co-op grows (those facilities that grow "personal plants" for others).

There is very little data to suggest that licensed facilities are causing diversion to the black market because of strict oversight by the state, but we don't know about medical "caregiver" or "personal" grows. Again, the odor issue and present possible diversion are two issues that a moratorium doesn't address.

Council is studying a proposed ordinance that would cap new licenses, but still allow new retail facilities to get licenses with restrictions on new locations. This is a step towards inhibiting greater clustering of stores in certain areas.

In the coming weeks our work on these issues will continue. I am hopeful that elegant solutions that get at the root of the problems can be found that allow this market to remain in response to voter intentions, and with tighter city oversight on their operations.

Councilwoman Susman can be reached at MaryBeth.Susman@denvergov.org or 720.337.5555

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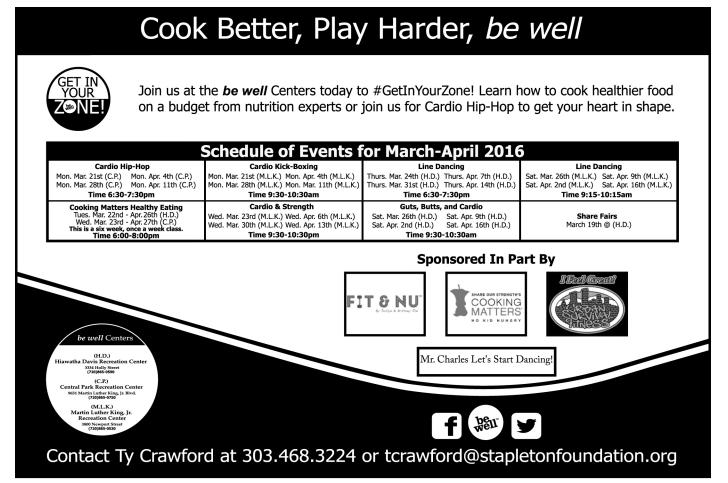
#### **DESMOND - A New Neighborhood Grill and Bar in Park Hill**

Restaurant Review By Judy Baxter

What luck that long-time Denver restaurateur Sean Kelly was once again ready to give us another unique eatery when the recently renovated home to Table Top at 22rd and Oneida became available. This is a great space nestled in Park Hill and close to our Historic Montclair hood. It has year-round appeal and I look forward to see what Sean does with the spring/summer menu and outdoor space.

You may remember Sean Kelly—he brought us Aubergine (to this day one of my all-time favorite restaurants of the last 20 years in this town), Claire de Lune and was the opening chef at Barolo Grill. Like I said WHAT LUCK, because this is a terrific addition. I have been there twice in the last month once for this review and then again because it was so good I wanted to try more. There is definitely an eclectic Mediterranean flare to the menu—though not exclusively. The small plates are definitely designed to be split and order several if you go that route. Watch out as you may want to hog the whole plate for yourself because they are so good. The more entre level items are still portioned well (not too much food for one and splitable for two). The two times Becky and I have been there for our Tuesday night out, we split everything. Our first combination of plates included Crispy Brussel Sprouts (\$10), Baba Ghanoush with mint yogurt and flatbread (\$8), Fennel Stewed Mussels (\$15) and the Grilled Cheeseburger (\$12). Our second night led us to the French Onion & Chevre Cheese Tart (\$9) Mascarpone Polenta with Mushrooms (\$9) and a shrimp special. We topped that off with the Gateau Victoire Chocolate Cake (\$8). Simply put ALL delicious. This is a lovely uncomplicated menu with designer cocktails and a lovely selection of wine to accompany your meal. They are open Tuesday-Saturday for dinner.

I plan on taking my work group there for Happy Hour that starts at 4:30. I say we urge them to open for lunch as well. Try it, you too will become a regular as I plan to be. WHAT LUCK.



#### **Spring Gardening 2016**

Spring is almost here and it is time to think of our gardens. I was very pleased to discover that Denver has expanded its composting program to all of our neighborhood, on a first come first served basis. For those who don't currently compost this is a way to be environmentally proactive and avoid throwing everything into the landfill. For those of us who do compost and plan to continue, there are still many things that can go into the compost bins. Branches, heavy woody stems, Kleenex, paper towels, greasy unwaxed cartons, noxious weeds, seed heads and other organic items that are not easily composted. The program is, unfortunately, a fee based program for now. I think friendly neighbors could combine forces and get one bin to share, if needed, making it more affordable.

As I write this, unseasonably warm weather, with has been with us for a few weeks. I assume we will be receiving more cold weather before Spring really hits. In the meantime I have taken the opportunity to go outside and dig in the defrosted ground and plant some cold hardy greens. Other seeds that can be planted include beets, carrots and peas. Even though it is tempting to clean up all the leaves, I always recommend leaving leaves around your plants until the weather has become consistently warmer. Leaves (and other organic mulch) moderate soil temperatures and may enrich the soil. You can also dig leaves into the soil rather than removing them. Putting leaves in your compost pile (or saving them for the bins) is preferable to sending them to the landfill as part of your trash pickup. It is time to start cutting down your grasses, prune perennials, roses, berries, shrubs and any broken branches that may have developed from wind and snow. When fat buds develop on clematis cut the vines back to +/- 18". This promotes more stems and blooms. It is a good time to try to get invading grass out of planting beds. Starting seeds inside, to later transplant into the garden, can be done now as well.

If you have spring bulbs, do not remove the foliage after blooming until it turns completely brown and pulls out easily. This allows the bulbs to mature and hopefully bloom again next year. If you are anxious for indoor blooms, pick branches of forsythia, plum, crabapple and serviceberry. Put them in water and watch them develop beautiful early blossoms.

If the ground stays workable, one can also plant new perennials and shrubs, or transplant plants already in your garden. Be sure to water them in after planting.

Hopefully this year will be an easier gardening one than last.

Gail Barry is an avid gardener, cook and landscape architect with Land Mark Design inc.





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#### The Birth of the Montclair Improvement Society

by Bill Hansen

The citizens of Montclair did not want to "...go to the officials of Denver as cringing slaves to ask for a pittance." So declared the first President of the Montclair Improvement Society, Mr. T. J. Anders. Founded as a community in 1885 and incorporated as a town in 1888, Montclair was subsumed within the vast sprawl of the newly formed City and County of Denver in 1903. The City Charter had created a strong Boss Mayor in Robert Speers and had weakened the locally elected City Councilmembers. Mayor Speer's "City Beautiful" dream embraced islands of spectacular public monuments interconnected with wondrous green parks and boulevards. Montclairions legitimately feared that, despite substantial tax dollars being sent to the City coffers, local affairs would be neglected and basic City services would not be extended to the newly annexed suburban neighborhoods.

Montclair's streets were still called "trails" that were impassable in the mud of winter snows and spring rains. Gas mains had not yet advanced beyond York Street to replace coal for cooking and heating. Sewers were nonexistent. The locally coveted school district had been dismantled. While Park Hill would soon have a new firehouse with modern fire engines, Montclair would not replace its horse-drawn fire equipment until 1924.

Moreover, there was a local nuisance that had to be addressed. Ms. Luella M. Thomas's asylum for "nervous people" was still being operated out of the old Molkery building despite years of neighborhood protests and court battles that had gone all the way to the Colorado Supreme Court. Now, there was a criminal investigation of a beating murder of one of Ms. Thomas's more unruly cuffed and straight-jacketed patients. The neighborhood had had enough.

In March, 1907, the neighborhood formed the Montclair Improvement Society to meet these growing concerns. T. J. Anders, who had lived in the big house at Colfax and Poplar Street since 1890 (torn down in 2004), and was a former Town Trustee, was elected the first President. Dr. Stephen Parsons, who also ran the local pharmacy in the commercial block that stood at 14th and Oneida Street, was made Secretary and Treasurer. Even the Baroness von Richthofen joined.

An ingenious compromise was engineered with the City. Ms. Thomas could not be evicted but the neighborhood convinced the City to condemn the property and add it to Montclair Park as a community center. Condemnation proceedings began in July, 1908 and the Molkery's patients were finally removed. By April, 1910, the old Molkery was completely renovated and reopened as the "Montclair Civic Building" and the City turned its operation over to the Society. The Montclair Improvement Society was soon renamed the Montclair Improvement Association.

The Association has now celebrated over 100 years as one of the oldest neighborhood organizations in the City. History does not record the number of pants legs Mr. Anders and his successors have worn out in groveling before City officials and protecting Montclair's interests.

# Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc. 2015-16 Board

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#### **Montclair Real Estate News**

By Valerie Alford

How's the real estate market?

There are lots of different factors and metrics I can discuss when assessing our market, such as:

Rising home prices

Overwhelming consumer demand for homes

A lack of inventory for sale

New construction not keeping up with demand for housing

Skyrocketing rents

The effect gas and oil prices have on housing

How low interest rates are continuing to make housing relatively affordable

What parts of town have appreciated more than others over time

In January 2016, there were 4,286 homes on the market in Denver, nearly an all-time low for a January since records have been kept! This lack of inventory defines our current housing market.

At the moment there are 16 Actives in Montclair, from \$1,395,000-\$269 000.



Membership dues are essential to continuing the events which unite us, the neighbors of Montclair. And it may surprise you to know the impact your membership has on all households in our neighborhood!

For only \$20 annually per member household, HMCAI sponsors and organizes these community-building events:

- Easter egg hunt
- 4th of July picnic
- · Bi-annual neighborhood garage sales
- · Adults-only reception
- · Halloween party
- Treats with Santa and holiday party

JOIN NOW

Mail in the form on the back of this newsletter

HMCAI publishes the Montclarion newsletter, serves as a liaison with Denver metro, and proudly maintains the Molkery with flowers during spring and with holiday lights in December. Join in the fun and become a member today!

We need your help to continue these services! Please consider joining HMCAI, your neighborhood association.

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#### **Montclair Home Sales**

February 2016

Address	Baths	Beds	Sold Price
735 Ivanhoe Street	4	5	\$1,100,000
1401 Monaco Parkway	3	4	\$639,000
760 Oneida Street	4	4	\$555,000
1350 Monaco Parkway	2	3	\$488,000
1041 Kearney Street	2	3	\$485,000
734 Ivanhoe Street	3	3	\$458,300
1116 Olive Street	2	3	\$450,000
1414 Olive Street	2	2	\$360,000
625 Pontiac Street	1	3	\$325,000
1454 Jersey Street	1	2	\$170,000

# James LeDuc

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## **HMCAI** Membership Form

Please complete form (block letters) and mail with check to: HMCAI Treasurer, P.O. Box 200125, Denver, CO 80220-0125

Annual dues per household Voluntary donation Total Amount of Check	\$ 20.00 (\$10.00 for seniors) \$ \$
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Please let us know if you would like Treats with Santa   July 4th   East	ter Egg Hunt   Cocktail Party   Halloween Party   Board Member