



# HISTORIC MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

founded 1907 Denver, CO

1st Quarter 2008

[www.HistoricMontclair.org](http://www.HistoricMontclair.org)

[info@HistoricMontclair.org](mailto:info@HistoricMontclair.org)

## President's Message 2008 In Historic Montclair

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A belated Happy New Year to everyone in Historic Montclair. The stock market and real estate markets are certainly unsettling as we begin a new year in Denver's greatest neighborhood. But HMCAI, as it begins its 101st year, will continue to do its part to bring cheer and information to our residents. We have been sending out periodic announcements to those on our email list, but going forward we will be posting these announcements directly to our website: [www.historicmontclair.org](http://www.historicmontclair.org). Please visit the site regularly to get neighborhood updates and announcements of upcoming events.

Our next **General Meeting** is scheduled for *Wednesday, March 19th - 7 p.m. at the Molkery*. Our councilwoman, Marcia Johnson will provide a timely neighborhood update and Marcus Pachner, President of The Pachner Company and community liaison for Shea Homes will provide an overview of the new developments at 9th and Colorado, the site vacated by the University of Colorado Health Sciences. (Shea is the master developer for the site.) There is so much going on in or near our neighborhood that it is difficult to stay updated on latest developments. Plan to attend our meeting for the latest information.

We are planning another year of special events. Please mark your calendars. Neither rain, snow nor sleet will deter us from hosting an **Easter Egg Hunt** on *Saturday, March 22nd*. It will begin promptly at *9 a.m. in Montclair Park*, followed by morning refreshments in The Molkery. Bring the little ones, dress them warmly (based upon our track record of snowy, cold weather) and let's hunt for eggs left by the snowshoe hare (aka Easter bunny).

As always, our signature event will be our **July 4th Picnic**. We love hosting this event. It brings the neighborhood together, the bike parade is turning into a great spectacle, and the games for kids and adults alike are great fun. What a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and make new friends. And the Dixieland jazz is wonderful, too.

## Almost Spring Gardening Tips

While it may not seem like it, we are progressing toward spring. It is getting to be time to **start seeds** inside for the summer gardening season. (Summer bulbs such as dahlias, tuberous begonias and cannas can also be started now in preparation for putting out after danger of frost has passed.) Tomatoes and peppers, along with other slow developing perennials, can be started by seed in late February to March. Put one or two seeds in a small pot with potting soil. Water, cover *loosely* with clear plastic (a dry cleaning bag works well for large trays and can be cut to fit) and allow the seeds to germinate in a moderately warm spot, such as a window sill. Watch carefully and make sure the plants are not so wet that they develop mold. When the top of the soil dries out, lift the plastic and water by spraying gently from a spray bottle. After a couple of weeks (sometimes more, sometimes less) the seedlings will begin to sprout. Once the plants have developed their "real" leaves (not the first leaves that appear) the seedlings can be transplanted to a larger pot that will allow the roots to develop more fully. Using a grow light can be helpful to develop strong plants. In general, and depending on type, plants prefer to be on the cool side. If you are so inclined, you can build a cold frame from an old window and some wood and, as the weather gets warmer, the plants can be put outside in the cold frame. The lid gets lifted during warm sunny days and stays shut during the cold times. Cold frames are available from various garden supply companies if you don't care to make one yourself. More detailed information may be gathered from our local cooperative extension agencies or a good book on gardening.

This is also an excellent time to go outside and **cut off dead canes** from perennials and remove any annual plants remaining from the previous season. If it warms up enough so the soil is not frozen, turning the soil in your vegetable or annual flower beds is a good idea. For annual planting beds, whether for flowers, vegetables or both, **adding in compost** is very beneficial. EKO is a good compost brand, available at many garden supply stores. *Do not use mountain peat.* Spread a couple of inches of compost over the area to be dug and thoroughly mix it with the soil below to a depth of at least 6 inches, deeper if possible. If you still have leaves, dig them in too, unless there are more than a couple of inches of them. You can even plant lettuce, spinach, radishes, cilantro, arugula and peas or marigolds, cosmos and other cold hardy annuals at this time. Often the greens do better and emerge in spring much more developed than would be possible if planting at a later date.



Sarah Hopkins

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### Good News about Denver Real Estate

9NEWS reported on Wednesday, January 16th "Only 12 major markets in the country provide a more secure housing market than Denver", according to a risk report by PMI Mortgage Insurance Company.

PMI Mortgage says there's less than a five percent chance that home prices will decline two years from now. The risk index considers the number of foreclosures, homes for sale, unemployment rate, housing affordability and past changes in home prices when making its rankings. Denver's low unemployment rate likely helped the cities solid ranking."

*If you're waiting for something good to happen, it already is.*

Katy and Sarah get Montclair and Mayfair homes sold.



continued on Page 9

## Denver City Council Column

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson, District 5

### Westerly Creek Connection Stakeholder Group Convened

Stakeholders for the Westerly Creek Connection recently convened and officially established a citizen organization to further the efforts I have initiated, and Brian Hyde was elected president of the group. Brian is a former water resource specialist who spearheaded the effort to obtain state funding for the Matrix feasibility study. I encourage residents of Historic Montclair to get involved! Please contact project coordinator Charles Gatto at (303) 355-4615 or [charles.gatto@denvergov.org](mailto:charles.gatto@denvergov.org) for more information or if you are interested in joining the effort.

The Westerly Creek runs between Denver and Aurora, and has been developed as a significant recreational feature of parks in both Lowry and Stapleton. Across the ten blocks between these neighborhoods this amenity is diminished as the creek moves above and below ground in culverts through a densely populated area.

In 2007, the Matrix feasibility study for the Westerly Creek Connection was completed. Funded by the Denver Department of Public Works and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, many area residents, cyclists and agencies participated in the process. The Denver City Council adopted a proclamation supporting this effort, and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District is undergoing a hydrology study of the corridor. Upon its completion, Denver Parks & Recreation and Aurora Parks will pursue a Great Outdoors Colorado grant for the Westerly Creek environs. There will be significant community input on any proposal.

The Westerly Creek Connection envisions a significant change in the current condition of the creek and its surrounds, with a connection between Lowry and Stapleton. It provides several synergistic opportunities for the region. The underserved demographic in the Montclair and Aurora gateway neighborhoods could gain a beneficial and safe public amenity with a water feature, green spaces, bike trails and pedestrian paths. It could create a connection between existing trails in the metro area from Waterton Canyon along the Highline Canal and through Lowry, to Stapleton and the Sand Creek Regional Greenway and the South Platte River Greenway. The project would also tackle the floodplain and drainage hazards along the Westerly Creek which impede future development, and could serve as an important catalyst for revitalization along East Colfax near the Denver-Aurora gateway.

For the latest project information, please visit [www.denvergov.org/CouncilDistrict5](http://www.denvergov.org/CouncilDistrict5) and in the left-hand column select "Projects in District 5" and then "Westerly Creek Connection."

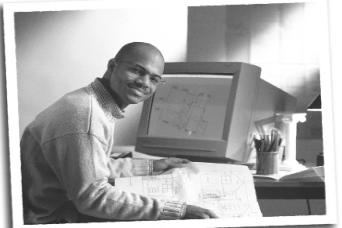
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## Upcoming Historic Montclair Community Association events

### Wednesday, March 19, 2008 General Meeting

7 p.m. at The Moltery

Scheduled to speak:

Marcia Johnson Councilwoman 5th District

Will provide a community update

Marcus Pachner President, The Pachner Company  
and community liaison for Shea Homes

Will provide an update on the redevelopment of the properties at  
9th and Colorado (University of Colorado Health Sciences site)

### Saturday, March 22, 2008 Easter Egg Hunt

9:00 10:30 a.m. in Montclair Park

(Rain, snow or shine)

Refreshments in The Moltery to follow the Easter egg hunt

Watch our website: [www.historicmontclair.org](http://www.historicmontclair.org) for details

## President's Message

*(continued from Page 1)*

Our one event for members only is our **adults-only cocktail reception**, which is a great way to end the summer. Mark your calendars for *Friday, September 19th, 6 -8 p.m. at The Moltery.*

And we will close out the year with "**Treats with Santa**" on *Sunday, December 21st.*

And if you are not yet a member of Historic Montclair, please take a moment to join. (The application is in the back of the newsletter.) In days of rising gas and food prices, this is truly a bargain at \$15.00/year. We need and appreciate your ongoing support.

And with baseball spring training only days away, GO ROCKIES!! (And this from a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan!)

*Nancy Mucker  
HMCAI President*

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## Snacks with Santa

The HMCAI Snacks with Santa was held on Sunday, December 16th from 1 to 3 pm. at the historic Molkery in Montclair Park.

We had a great turnout this year! The children had cookies and juice and lots of fun making Christmas ornaments and cards. Santa arrived at about 2 pm and all the kids got a chance to tell Santa their Christmas wishes and get their photos taken. Santa let each child pick out a small gift from his gift box. This event provides a great opportunity for the kids to talk to Santa in a fun, relaxed environment.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the event possible: John Franks, Lori Richards, Ted Reece, and Cynthia Nelson. A big thank you as well to all the parents for bringing your children and seeing to it that they had a good time. We couldn't do it without you!

## 2008 HMCAI Board Members

### Board Officers

<i>President</i>	Nancy Mucker	nmucker@msn.com
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Katy Saunders	katy@hopkinssaunders.com
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Carrie O'Shea	caroshea@msn.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Lori A. Richards	lrichards@fwlaw.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gail Barry	Gaillmd@qwest.net

### At Large Members

Matt Bortz  
Veronica Dolan  
Larry Farin  
John Farnam  
Bill Hansen  
Scott Heimel  
Jerry Malia  
David McCord  
Ted Reece  
Beckett Stokes

### Montclair Moms

Looking for other kids and moms in the neighborhood?  
Let get together for play dates, discussions, and more!  
Visit us at  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MontclairCOMoms>  
or contact  
Katy: at [Katy@RodandKaty.com](mailto:Katy@RodandKaty.com), 303-521-9065  
Or  
Judy: at 303-322-3494

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## Montclair Snubbed Again

By Bill Hansen

Imagine Oneida Street as Monaco Parkway. That is what Montclairions and the newly formed Montclair Improvement Association had expected as Denver's new parks and parkway system was planned in 1907.

Oneida Street, then Geneva Street, had always been Montclair's "main drag" with its original school-house, Town Hall, planned hotel, firehouse, a business block called the "Geneva Block", built in 1890, Montclair Park, the Richthofen Fountain, and the many elegant Victorian mansions, including the Kittredge Castle, along its southern stretch. Monaco Street, was largely vacant lots and prairie grass except for the Montclair Casino at 8th and Monaco, which had burned to the ground in 1902.

Sixth Avenue, initially heralded as "Montclair Boulevard," was already touted in 1890 as "the grandest driveway in the West" with tree-lined pathways for cyclists and a central promenade for carriages. Heavy teams and car lines were forever excluded. Being on the border between Denver and the Town of Montclair, both governments cooperated in its beautification. However, the Parkway was to extend from Geneva Street (Oneida) to Colorado Boulevard.

"Mount View Boulevard" (now Montview Boulevard) was approved in 1890, laid out in 1892, and was Denver's first grand Boulevard when completed after the turn of the century. It was to be the "splendid boulevard to Montclair."

Geneva Street was always expected to be the north-south boulevard connecting these east-west thoroughfares. In July 1899, the Denver Driving Club urged a continuous 6-mile long highway and cycle path along Mount View Boulevard, Geneva Street, Sixth Avenue, and up Colorado Boulevard to City Park. At that time, drivers of horse-drawn vehicles loathed the new bicycle craze and urged that separate paths be created for each. The Town of Montclair similarly endorsed Geneva Street as a central "boulevard" and, in 1900, agreed to work with Denver in the creation of its overall boulevard and parkway system.

Boss Mayor Robert Speers took office in 1904 over the newly formed City and County of Denver and the recently annexed Town of Montclair. In 1907, Mayor Speers called for the expansion of the parkway and boulevard system to connect the many parks so that the residents of the Montclair area, including Park Hill, could travel to and from Denver along tree-canopied and flowered parkways. It was thought that the evening homeward bound trip would relieve weary businessmen of the tensions of the day.

Another clear purpose was to promote the development and sales of lots in East Denver, Park Hill, Montclair and other street car suburbs, which were further booming with the advent of the automobile.

*continued on Page 13*

# SOLERA RESTAURANT & WINE BAR

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## . . . . . **On the Table**

*by Paul Heitzenrater*

Returning from a recent trip to Italy, where even everyday meals become surreal, I am more inclined to scourer recipes to recreate our taste adventure than to be disappointed by a mediocre red sauce over pasty noodles. That is, until we wandered into **Locanda Del Borgo** at 3rd and Holly Street, one frigid Tuesday evening. Expecting any restaurant to be dead, we were hit by a house overflowing with lively conversation and aromas of roasting meats and baking pizzas from the wood fired ovens. We were seated at one of the last remaining tables and the wait staff immediately made us feel at home - recommending wines, appetizers and the specials of the evening. Although they apologized for being short staffed, the floor staff was attentive and helpful, not hovering and hurried.

The menu includes interesting and appealing appetizers, pastas, roasted meats, seafood and pizzas. Pastas and sausages are all made on location. Most of the items are prepared in the centrally located wood fire ovens in the open kitchen. The wine list is not large, but thoughtfully selected from many regions, with wine available by the glass or bottle. After a glass of Prosecco and the house Chianti, my partner and I settled in for an evening of culinary enjoyment.

We started with the fritto misto, a paper cone filled with very lightly crusted and fried shrimp, calamari, scallops, zucchini, and artichokes, served with a slightly spicy marinara sauce. While the presentation was unique, the cone made it somewhat difficult to get to the last seafood morsel. For entrees, we ordered the ricotta gnocchi and the scaloppini of the day, prepared with shitake mushrooms and marsala demi glaze. The gnocchi, lighter than the traditional potato type, came bathed in parmesan cream, Italian speck and fresh rugola. The rugola balanced brilliantly with the deep smokiness of the ham and made the dish comforting yet not too heavy. The generous scaloppini was perfectly cooked and served with the freshest vegetables of the day. Full from dinner, we caved to the bright, sunny lemon sorbet, the cloud-like tiramisu, cappuccino and espresso, for dessert. Feeling very contented, we lingered over these and reminisced being back at a Roman trattorie.

On another visit, we opted to sit at the bar for a Peroni and pizza. Again, the house was busy, but the staff was friendly and several mentioned they were glad to see us back. We started with a plate of small meatballs and the salad of the day. The meatballs were in a tomato sauce, bite sized and juicy. The blood orange, frisee, fennel and goat cheese salad was simply dressed and satisfying in its freshness. The classic pizza Margherita was a perfection of tomato, fresh mozzarella and basil on a thin crust with the taste of being hot from the wood oven.

We love this gem we have in the neighborhood. The foods are fresh and simply prepared, but unique in their combinations. We plan to make this a regular haunt, whether for a pizza at the end of the day, or a quiet, more leisurely dining experience.

*Locanda Del Borgo, 5575 East Third Avenue, 303-388-0282,  
Open for Dinner Tuesday thru Sunday at 5:00pm*

## St. James School News

by Liz Tovado

Following are a few examples of what is happening in St. James classrooms:

Jr. Kindergarten Class, ages 4-5 has been traveling back through time to explore dinosaurs. They will cast fossils, write dinosaur stories and learn new vocabulary like carnivore, herbivore, etc. They are also learning how to combine letters to make words. They can read seven sight words.

The kindergarten class visited Fire station #14 and learned about fire safety. The firefighter put on all of his gear and the children should now know that they should not be afraid of firefighters if they ever encounter one.

Second grade culminated their study about Native Americans with a trip to The Colorado History Museum. They studied about Advent in December and wrote stories about favorite Christmas memories and put them in a book for their parents. They went to the Stock Show and learned about how Colorado contributed to the U.S. food market and about a few Colorado Businesses. They will tour the Governor's Mansion and the Capitol. They are writing stories about their past and writing to Members of our Armed Forces. They will do a class project for the science fair and learn about the scientific process.

The third grade teachers' goal is to develop life long readers. The class is reading many books and then taking field trips that are related to the books. The class read the story about the Titanic and wrote a book on the realistic fiction novel. They went to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science to see the exhibit. "Because of Winn Dixie" and "Ramona and her Father" are two books that the class is reading and will follow up with field trips.

The 6th grade will be going to the National Earthquake Center and the Geology Museum at the School of Mines. They are studying decimals in Math and earthquakes in Science.

The 7th grade is studying genetics and heredity in science and recently went to tour The Renewable Energy Lab in Golden.

The 8th grade is studying algebra and learning about chemical reactions. They will visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder.

We have several middle school students who are having their poems published in "The Celebration of Young Poets". Congratulations!! In Art, paints, clay, paper mache, printing and drawing are explored. The children express ideas and celebrate their faith through art.

Jayhawks' Roost is the before and after school care program open from 6:30-8:00 a.m. and 2:50-6 p.m. Homework is a part of the program but no tutoring is done unless census is low. The children go outside every day and explore art items, books, puzzles, games, blocks, Legos' and science items while at the Roost. The director and site aide are present every day.

Out spring middle school play is a musical comedy called: "Into the Woods". May 15th will be a matinee, May 16th is Family Night, and May 17th will be an Adult night to include a Wine and Cheese reception preceding the play.

School tours are always available upon request. Please check out our website at [www.stjamesdenver.org](http://www.stjamesdenver.org). Click on to the link for St James Catholic School for more information.



## Almost Spring Gardening Tips

(continued from Page 2)

Don't forget about **winter watering** if we have a dry period with no snow cover. The temperature must be above 40 degrees Fahrenheit before watering. (It is way too early to turn on your irrigation system, if you have one.) A slow steady dispersal of water from a hose over the root zone of the tree is the best method. Trees tend to have their feeder roots in the top 18" of the soil but their roots extend out at least as far as the drip line (outer branches) of younger deciduous trees and way beyond that point for mature trees. Any plants that were planted in the previous season will need winter watering in our climate. It usually takes 3-5 years for shrubs and trees to establish themselves. During the establishment period more regular watering will be important, even in the winter. If the weather continues to be dry, watering should be done approximately once per month. This holds true for xeric plants as well as higher water use plants, although the goal for xeric plants is to gradually reduce water over a three to five year period until little to no additional water is needed.

If you are an **indoor gardener**, this might be a good time to check the health of your plants. If the lower leaves of your plants turn yellow and drop off they are probably getting too much water. Allow them to dry out more between waterings and move the pot to a brighter spot. If you don't have a bright spot, a grow light may help. If the whole plant turns yellow and drops leaves, increase intervals between watering and repot the plant using new soil. Burned tips on leaves may indicate over fertilizing, too little water, a cold location or salt damage from softened water. It is always a good idea to feel the soil with your fingers and even dig down under the top layer to check whether or not a plant is in need of water. If you have undersized new leaves it may be lack of water, a need for fertilizer or poor drainage. If changing the first two doesn't help, then try repotting the plant. Leggy, spindly looking plants often indicate too little light or too high a temperature. Move them to a brighter, cooler spot.

For additional information please call your county extension agent, a book from the library or browse the web.

*Gail Barry-landscape architect and gardener*

*Co-owner of Land Mark Design Inc. [www.landmarkdesigninc.com](http://www.landmarkdesigninc.com)*



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## Recipe Box: US Senate Bean Soup

*From Gail Barry*

Soak 1 pound of white beans overnight in cold water and cover. Drain and put them in a soup kettle with a ham bone that still has some meat on it. Add three cups of water, bring to a boil and simmer for about 2 hours. This could probably be made in a crock pot as well. About an hour or so before serving, add 1 cup cooked mashed potatoes and the following items all chopped: 3 onions, 1 small bunch of celery including leaves, chopped, two cloves of garlic and ... cup parsley. Simmer all for an hour or until the beans are tender. Remove the ham bone and dice the meat, returning the meat to the soup. Serve with crusty bread and a tossed green salad. This is very delicious! (makes approximately 6 servings)

*for more recipes visit [www.HistoricMontclair.org](http://www.HistoricMontclair.org)*

## The FAX Partnership: 2007 Highlights

*By Shawne Ahlenius, Executive Director*

The FAX Partnership had a great year in 2007, with many noteworthy activities. Here are some of the year's highlights:

Held the 2nd annual Feast on The FAX, which showcases restaurants on The FAX. This year, 12 restaurants participated, and between 400-500 people attended. The Feast is one of our programs to assist businesses in our district, as well as to introduce and acquaint residents in the surrounding neighborhoods to businesses along the FAX. A number of non-restaurant businesses took advantage of the evening traffic to stay open late and attract additional sales. The neighborhood associations in adjacent areas also benefited from a portion of each ticket they sold. This year, a portion of the proceeds also benefited the Colfax Community Network, which provides services to families/children living in Colfax motels.

Received funding to hire part-time staff, including an executive director and a special events coordinator.

Organized a meeting for residents of adjacent neighborhoods to solicit information about desirable businesses for The FAX corridor. Approximately 45 people attended. Among the ideas for desirable businesses were additional full service restaurants, a hobby/craft store, cards/gifts, shoe repair, a natural foods store/public market, a wine bar/bistro, etc. Additional public meetings will be held in 2008.

Outreach to the brokerage and development communities, to promote redevelopment opportunities along the corridor.

Hosted public meetings regarding Main Street zoning. Implementation of the MS zoning will attract additional investment to the corridor due to areas of increased density and clearly defined, yet flexible, guidelines for development and redevelopment.

Surveyed businesses to update business profiles and generate baseline jobs number. There are approximately 1,900 jobs in non-home-based businesses in the corridor. Baseline will be used to track the number of jobs created in the corridor over time.

Approximately 50 businesses received assistance during 2007 (includes 12 restaurants who participated in Feast on the FAX.).

Held the first planning retreat for the board of directors in September. From the retreat a committee-based organizational structure was adopted. A strategic plan was developed following the retreat, and each committee is developing action plans to begin implementing in 2008.

FAX Partnership staff have participated in the following efforts: planning for the Streetcar transit workshop, the Denver improvement district working group, the redevelopment of the University Hospital district, the Main Street zoning process, and the Colfax design guidelines process.

So what is coming for 2008? Save the date for the third annual Feast on the FAX, scheduled for **June 10, 2008**. The FAX Partnership Events committee is actively looking at additional events for the district, and will keep the neighborhoods informed as more information becomes available. We will be actively recruiting businesses to The FAX. And look for an informative and useful website within the next couple of months.

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# Business Focus: Mayfair Liquors

by Gail Barry

Owner and self-taught businessman, Thom Noller, is justifiably proud of **Mayfair Liquors**, which has been in business since Saint Patrick's Day of 1959. The original 800 square foot store was operated by Thom's father "Bud" and located on the corner of the old King Sooper's building at 1390 Kearney St. In April of 1974 Mayfair Liquors moved across the street to 6245 E 14th Ave. to what is known as Mayfair North Shopping Center. The Mayfair North site began as an 1800 square foot space and later enlarged to 3000 square feet by adding a 2nd floor. Thom, who grew up in Wheat Ridge; tried his hand at working on the Alaska pipeline; returned to Colorado where he briefly joined his brother in a separate liquor store venture on Denver's west side; and finally, in 1977, decided to join his father at Mayfair Liquors. About the time Thom decided to take a job with his father, his father decided to retire and Thom found himself running Mayfair Liquors on his own. In the late 70's business was good. Thom's business doubled in the first three years and tripled in five years. By 1991, when the new King Sooper's was built, business was so good that Thom decided to take a chance and move back by King Sooper's and into his current location. He now has 6000 square feet of retail space. After Mayfair Liquors moved, Thom made the decision to concentrate on the higher quality wines, beers and spirits and considers his wine selection to be his strength although his beers and spirits are also excellent. Thom values those with whom he works. Randy, his wine buyer has been with Thom for 24 years. Kathy and Karen, cashiers, have been with him 6 & 5 years, respectively. Steve has been there for 6 years and tends to be the spirits guy. Paul has been there almost 6 years and is generally there and in charge during the evening hours. Justin is the beer guy, although everyone knows a lot about all of the products. Mayfair liquors produces an emailed update called The Cork Board which notifies people of events that are being put on at various venues. Mayfair Liquors has recently replaced its old carpet with refinished concrete floors and is in the process of rearranging and expanding some of its product offerings to include more German, French and Colorado wines.

Thom has been a loyal supporter of his surrounding neighborhoods and schools. He has generously provided wine and beer for our recently begun music/cocktail receptions at the Molkey.

## Selecting Wines

I sat down with Randy, the wine buyer at Mayfair Liquors, to get some advice on selecting wine. He began by saying people tend to take wine too seriously. Trying wine should be a fun, light hearted experience. No one should be intimidated by the process. With that in mind, we should remember that the ratings and the write-ups on any given wine can be a guide but they are just one person's opinion, or sometimes a consensus of a small group. You may not agree with their opinion. Everyone is different and you should be able to taste a wine and decide for yourself if you like it.

Establishing a relationship with someone who can give you sound advice on wines to sample can be important.

Both Thom and Randy recommend keeping a record of any wine that you buy and whether or not you liked it. Thom said to keep a notebook by your corkscrew for this purpose. It is nearly impossible for them to know what wine you liked by having you come in with a vague description. But if you know the wine type and the company that produced it, the year it came out and so forth you should be able to find it again. This will also give Randy, or another advisor, an idea of what else you might like to try.

If you want a recommendation for a dinner party or other event with food be sure to have in mind what you are serving before you ask for the type of wine.

Two mistakes are commonly made when serving wine. The first is not allowing red wine to breathe long enough before drinking it. You can experiment by opening a bottle of red and tasting it over a period of two or three days to see how long the opened wine can endure and still improve. The second common mistake is serving white wine too cold. A too-cold white wine, especially if it has been aged in wood, will camouflage the fruit flavors and instead bring out the oak.

By Gail Barry

## **Jerry's Restaurant Corner**

*by Jerry Malia*

SOLERA Restaurant & Wine Bar

5410 East Colfax Avenue

Denver, Colorado 80220

303-388-8429 Phone

[www.solerarestaurant.com](http://www.solerarestaurant.com)

Christian "Goose" Sorensen, Chef / Proprietor

Ian Maxwell, General Manager / Sommelier

\*\*\*\*\* (5 Stars)

Conveniently located on the corner of East Colfax Avenue and Grape Street, the understated exterior is deceiving to the discriminating dinner. Chef "Goose" Sorensen has created an exquisite New American Style restaurant with an innovative mixture of flavors and styles from around the globe. A Wyoming native, Chef Sorensen gained his culinary training with a degree in the Culinary Arts, from the Art Institute of Colorado in Denver.

After discussing and selecting your menu items with your server, be sure and ask for Ian Maxwell, the General Manager and Sommelier for exquisite direction pairing a bottle of wine from the cellar he has personally created. The wines are offered by the glass or by the bottle. Begin by enjoying an extensive array of Cheese Plates on the patio (weather permitting) or the Thai Style Calamari. Of the ten entrees, none will disappoint, I would suggest the Braised Colorado Lamb Shank or the Sautøed Sea Scallops, cooked to perfection with an insightful twist of flavors. SOLERA offers casual dining at their full service bar, and full service dining in their dining room and on their patio. Large parties are encouraged to make reservations two weeks in advance. Although the restaurant is closed on Sundays and Mondays, reservations are taken for private parties or special events. An overall excellent experience with thoughtful intense fare paired with the perfect wine. Top Chef "Goose" Sorensen has my vote for the upcoming Feast on the Fax!

This past summer marked Chef Sorensen's third appearance at the Aspen Food & Wine Festival. In the summer of 2005, Chef Sorensen was honored to represent SOLERA at the prestigious James Beard House in New York as a guest chef. Formerly the Executive Chef at Mel's Bar & Grill and The Saratoga Inn in Wyoming, Chef Sorensen has also spent several years under the tutorage of Michael Degenhart of Tante Louise and at Aquavit restaurant in New York City, as well as Chef at Starfish & Michael's of Cherry Creek. Why all this history? To appreciate a chef's vision of their restaurant, you need to understand where the chef gained their inspiration. It's personal, very personal. Thank you, Goose!

Trivia question: What is the definition of "solera"?

(for the answer log on to [www.HistoricMontclair.org](http://www.HistoricMontclair.org) and click on Trivia Answer)



## Montclair Snubbed Again

(continued from Page 6)

Denver's first street was paved in 1892 but most main streets remained muddy, dusty roads. East Colfax would not be paved until 1916. With the automobile came the demand for paved avenues and boulevards, which would include the grand parkway system envisioned.

Mayor Speers' first Parks Commissioner was Montclairion lawyer and developer, Warwick M. Downing. He ensured that the Montclair area received the "lionshare" of the new paved parkways. In 1906, Downing was also developing "Downington" in southeast Park Hill between Colfax, Montview, Forest and Monaco. It was hailed as the "newest jewel in Denver's Crown of beauty" and "exclusive, aristocratic, swell".

It was not then terribly surprising that when George E. Kessler's first comprehensive design for a parkway system was unveiled in 1907, Monaco Parkway was selected over Oneida Street. It abutted Downington and had far fewer expensive properties to condemn. The west side of the Magnolia to Monaco block was purchased and the few homes facing Magnolia Street suddenly had their backyards overlooking the new Parkway. Most reconfigured their homes so that the frontage faced Monaco. It was also not coincidental that the new Seventeenth Avenue Parkway traversed the middle of Downington and Downing's other holdings in Park Hill.

The Baron's original grand entryway to Montclair, Richthofen Boulevard, was retained with its terminus originally proposed at the then-vacant Richthofen Castle which was to be purchased and made into a museum. A new park for Montclair in the northeast corner of 6th and Quebec, catty-corner to the Agnes Memorial Sanitarium, was also planned but never came to fruition. The entire cost of this new parks and parkways system in the Montclair and Park Hill environs was a whopping \$350,000.

Still, Montclairions felt once again snubbed. The former town's previously designated "boulevard" for Oneida would be overlooked. Montclair residents wrote editorials to the newspaper and the Montclair Improvement Association voiced its protests. All to no avail. To placate Denver's new constituents, however, the Plan was revised to expand Montclair Park and condemn the Baron's old Moltery, then used as an insane asylum, for reuse as the Montclair Civic Center. Although initially snubbed, Montclairions seemed appeased.



## A Free Quality Education at Lowry

Vanguard Classical School is open to **all students from any district as a public school of choice**. We offer an outstanding education in a safe, positive and supportive environment which will indeed foster a lifelong love of learning and academic success!

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## News from Denver Parks & Rec

2008 has arrived and we are gearing up for another great year of volunteer opportunities at Denver Parks and Recreation. As you know, we rely heavily on our volunteers to help us maintain and beautify our parks and make our exciting recreation programs available to people throughout the City. While the needs of parks and recreation differ, they are vital to our success. Denver's recreation system includes 29 facilities that offer a variety of programs and activities for adults, children and seniors alike. Currently, Denver Parks and Recreation is seeking volunteers to assist with the following opportunities:

Coaching various sports throughout the year: Coaching opportunities include basketball, flag football, baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer and t-ball. Interested individuals will coach youth, ages 5 to 14.

Front Desk/Office Help: Interested individuals will assist at recreation centers throughout Denver with basic office skills, front desk operations, and customer service delivery. Volunteers would assist in typing, filing, answering phones, greeting public, providing customer service and registering the public for memberships and programs. Friendly personality and computer knowledge is helpful.

Cleaning/Janitorial: Help keep your neighborhood recreation center clean! Volunteers are needed to provide assistance to neighborhood recreation centers with custodial duties. Flexibility in schedule is a plus, but not needed.

Program Enrichment Volunteers: "In fifty years it will not matter how much money I make, the size of the house I live in or all the material things I may have, but if I have made a difference in the life of a child." Denver Parks and Recreation is looking for volunteers to enrich our after school and summer camp programs by bringing innovative and interesting activities to the youth participants. Whether it be sewing, puppet making, magic, art or other specialized area of interest, Denver Parks and Recreation would welcome your talents.

The following qualifications are sought and requirements are needed:

Ability to educate participants in the skills and basic fundamentals of the sport.

Ability to work with participants to develop and emphasize the fundamentals of teamwork and sportsmanship .

Ability to facilitate team practices one to two times per week.

Ability to attend all games.

Willingness to encourage a positive athletic experience and good sportsmanship.

Ability to attend a training session.

Successful completion a background check .

Willingness to HAVE FUN and be a positive role model.

A background check is required of all recreation center volunteers.

If you would like sign up to use your talents; please contact Tina Romero at [tina.romero@denvergov.org](mailto:tina.romero@denvergov.org) or call 303.806.9083

Thank you and we look forward in working with you,

Tina Romero  
Volunteer Program Coordinator  
Denver Parks and Recreation  
303-806.9083(Office)  
303-806-9082(Fax)  
303.916.2694 (Cell)  
[tina.romero@denvergov.org](mailto:tina.romero@denvergov.org)

Please Join Us



St. JAMES FISH FRY



13th & Oneida St.

Every Friday Night During Lent  
February 8th through March 14th

Adults \$8.00 Children \$4.00 Family \$25.00

## Community Items

**Metro Volunteers** is a local nonprofit that helps thousands of people find volunteer opportunities at many different service organizations in the Denver metro area. If interested in volunteering or if you would like more information contact Metro Volunteers online at <http://metrovolunteers.org> or via phone at 303-282-1234.

Lowry Family Dentistry is excited to participate in **Give Kids a Smile!** This is a national program that provides access to dental care for children from disadvantaged or uninsured families. For the sixth year, Give Kids a Smile will provide children the dental care that they desperately need and highlight the ongoing challenges that disadvantaged and uninsured children face in accessing quality dental care. Dr. Makala Hubbell and her staff are joining thousands of dental volunteers across the nation that are committed to providing access to quality dental care for all children. **Lowry Family Dentistry** will provide free dental care to children enrolled in local elementary schools. Dental care will include examinations, x-rays, cleanings, sealants, oral hygiene instructions, restorative and emergency treatment. If you would like to know more about this event, please contact Cori Brown at Lowry Family Dentistry at 303.366.3000.

The newly renovated **Eisenhower Chapel** at Lowry has re-opened after undergoing an extensive renovation. The Colorado State Historical Fund, the Lowry Foundation, and the Lowry Redevelopment Authority funded the restoration which includes new windows, roofing, plumbing, flooring, electrical, and a new heating and air system. Improvements also include new restrooms, a servery, and additional space in the balcony. The chapel will be available for weddings, memorial services, meetings, and special events. The Lowry Foundation plans to offer concert and lecture series for the community in 2008. Originally one of four nearly identical chapels on the Lowry Air Force Base, Chapel No. 1 is the last remaining. Constructed in 1941, it was dedicated just two weeks before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The chapel was designated as a Denver Landmark and placed on the National Historic Register more than two decades ago. The building earned its name when President Dwight D. Eisenhower and First Lady Mamie Eisenhower became frequent worshippers at the chapel in the 1950s when the president directed international affairs from his "Summer White House" on the Lowry Air Force Base. *From the Lowry Redevelopment Authority Update*

**Recycle Your Magazines and Catalogs.** Now that the holidays are over, you may still have all those catalogs that arrived in your mail almost each day, everything from "Hickory Farms," "The Pottery Barn," to "Toys R Us." They are some of the two million magazines and catalogs produced each year in the United States that could be recycled. Unfortunately, we only end up recycling about 20 percent of such publications. Increasing magazine and catalog recycling will reduce the amount of new fiber that must be obtained from wood-meaning that fewer trees will need to be harvested to produce a given quantity of paper or board product (*Magazine Publishers of America*).

Old magazines and other similar materials are recycled and used to make new newsprint, tissues, paper/box board boxes, and even writing and printing paper. **Denver Recycles** has made it easier than ever to recycle all your magazines and catalogs. Simply toss them in your purple recycling cart with the rest of your recyclables. You can even cancel unwanted catalogs from arriving at your home in the first place by contacting the catalog company and asking them to remove you from your mailing list. For more information about Denver Recycles programs, call 311 or go online at [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles).

**Habitat for Humanity** of Metro Denver, a non profit organization building affordable homes for qualifying families in need, has opened a new Home Improvement Outlet at 70 Rio Grande Blvd. in Denver to complement the Outlet at 10725 West 1-70 Frontage Road in Wheat Ridge, CO. Habitat will pick up your donations of appliances, furniture, building materials and tools. Visit our web site at [habitatoutlet.org](http://habitatoutlet.org) to see if your donation meets our acceptance criteria. Habitat will either use your donation directly in the construction of a new home, or it will sell your donation to the public to raise funds to build more homes. Over 40 homes are planned for 2008 and your donation is an important part of our fund raising effort. Our Home improvement Outlets are open to the public with prices 50-80% off retail. Call 303-722-5863 to schedule a pick up for large donation items (smaller items can be dropped off during business hours.) Outlet hours are 9am - 6pm, Tuesday - Saturday.

