



The Montclarion

founded 1907 Denver, CO

1st Quarter 2009

www.HistoricMontclair.org

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It's Easter Bunny Time In Montclair Park

WHAT: HMCAI's annual Easter Egg Hunt for 500 hidden plastic eggs containing candy, six of which will house golden eggs that can be redeemed for special prizes.

WHEN: Saturday, April 11, 2009, starting promptly at 10 a.m. Don't be late. It doesn't take long for energetic, motivated children to find 500 eggs.

WHY: It's springtime of course. That's when the Easter bunny hides her eggs.

WHERE: In Montclair Park, between 12th Ave. and Richthofen, from Newport to Oneida

WHO: Little children. Parents will know who would enjoy the hunt and who has outgrown it. The very youngest will have a special area to hunt so they aren't overwhelmed by bigger youngsters.

TREATS: Juice for the hunters. Hot beverages for adults. Plus snacks.

BASKETS: Children should come with baskets or bags to hold found eggs.

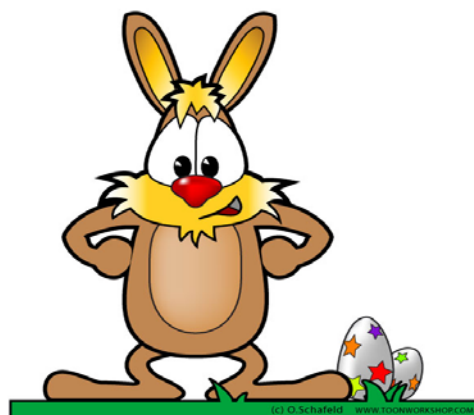
PIX: Parents: bring cameras. Great opportunity, especially for video. And be sure to post them on our re-launched website at www.HistoricMontclair.org

COST: No charge. Another free event for our Historic Montclair families.

RECYCLING: We're very budget conscious these days. (See Page 2.) So if hunters want to turn in their plastic eggs and just take home the contents for later feasting, we will gladly accept their donations for use next year. Strictly optional, not mandatory.

WEATHER: Rain or shine, the Easter Egg Hunt will go on. Either in the park, or inside the Molkery. So don't let snow or sleet or rain or gloom of night discourage you. Come to the park. The hunt for eggs will go on.

- Veronica Dolan



Notes from the President: The Importance of HMCAI in our Neighborhood

I would like to wish all of you a belated "Happy New Year" as we approach the third month of what promises to be a difficult and painful 2009 for many of us. We find ourselves with a new president but also a country with a very long list of challenges. 2009 is also HMCAI's 102nd year as a community association. I think this is important to note because it is organizations like HMCAI that will help us navigate the year, hold us together as a community and offer opportunities to gather together as friends and neighbors.

So, why in this environment would HMCAI find itself facing the difficult choice of having to raise its annual membership dues to \$20.00? (Though we are keeping the senior dues at \$10.00.) This newsletter goes to 2,300 households within our boundaries, but we have only 200-250 member households. With the decrease in ad revenue, we can no longer cover the costs of the newsletter. And it is memberships that provide the financial foundation for us to have numerous family events during the year: the annual Easter Egg Hunt, our wonderful July 4th picnic, Treats with Santa and our members-only adult gathering. We are faced with the possibility of having to restructure our annual picnic in order to cover costs. At the same time, the picnic has grown to be a phenomenally successful family event with a bike parade, great "eats" and numerous old-fashioned games for everyone. (There is a separate article in the newsletter asking for volunteers to help us organize this great party for 450-500 folks and an item about a poll on our new website asking for your opinion about charging for the picnic.)

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW

Yes, this is a plea to join HMCAI, or renew your membership if you are already a member, because HMCAI matters. When I first moved to Denver and Historic Montclair in 2000, I didn't know anyone and found it difficult to put down "roots" in this wonderful old neighborhood. It was HMCAI that gave it context and gave me a chance to meet new friends and neighbors. I was amazed by the July 4th picnic - by its wonderful, old fashioned feel and its simplicity. (I have since discovered how much effort that simple picnic takes to create.) In recent years my grandchildren, who now live in the community, have attended and loved the Easter Egg Hunt and Treats with Santa. These too are simple, old-fashioned events, and that makes them all the more wonderful.

Even if you don't attend these events, they are important to you too. They create a strong feeling of community, of being together and being held together by more than simply street addresses and physical proximity to each other. This newsletter also keeps us together. Neighborhood articles, lists of local events, school news and discussions of our history and heritage, along with great tips and recipes. And we've started to roll out a new website: www.historicmontclair.org. It's certainly more user friendly than our old one. Join us. Let us know what's going on, what's happening and if you can help us with our events and/or newsletter. We need you. We all need each other. And if you can spare the \$20.00, please become a member. It will help all of us.

- Nancy Mucker, President, HMCAI



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The Story of One Historic Montclair Block *by Gail Barry*

In 1885 Baron von Richthofen platted the Montclair community. John Denison, who later became a Colorado Supreme Court justice, did the legal work for the Baron in exchange for a block of land as his fee. This is the block bordered by 11th Ave., Pontiac Street, 10th Ave. and Olive Street. At that time, one of the requirements for the new community was for every block to have a building worth at least \$5-7,000. John Denison built the Victorian house on the southwest corner of the block. A clay tennis court was added soon thereafter, though it



was originally located approximately 30 feet to the west of its current location. (See picture of court, looking at the original house.) Later, portions of the block were offered to Denison's children, one of whom, Rosamond Denison McLean, built the house on the northeast corner of the block, at 7070 E. 11th Ave. in 1910. (See picture below.) Later, a nearly identical house, designed by Maurice Biscoe, was built on the northwest corner. We don't know why that 7-lot property was sold. In the meantime, other lots were offered to Rosamond's five children, two of whom, and their lawyer-husbands, chose to stay and build homes. Mary McLean Silverstein and her husband, Pete (Harry S. Silverstein),

built the house south of her mother's (1041 Pontiac St.) in the early 1940's and Gertrude McLean Barry and her husband, Hamlet Joseph Barry Jr. built the house at 1027 Pontiac St., immediately south of her sister's, in 1946.



While most of the houses built on the block were designed by an architect, the plans for the Barry house came out of a Better Homes and Gardens magazine. Both sisters had three children but only one of the children stayed around. Chips (Hamlet the third) Barry and his wife Gail now live in the house at 1027 Pontiac Street and are half-owners of the tennis court located in the middle of the block. (The other half is owned by Chip's cousin Sarah Silverstein Thomas, who lives in Portland, Oregon.)

After Gertrude (known as Doo) produced three children, the couple decided the bungalow they built was too small. Rosamond, then a widow, was alone in the larger house on the corner and the suggestion was made that they switch houses, which they did in 1952. With no other takers from the family, financial pressures made those remaining on the block sell off the southeast corner property and the middle property on Olive Street. The original Victorian house had been sold earlier. The Olive Street sale was made with a proviso that allowed the new owner to move the tennis court 30 feet east so he could build a swimming pool behind his house. After that, Hamlet Jr. decided to sell off the back of his property to pay for college tuition for his son. Later, when Rosamond was in her eighties, she was moved to a nursing home and Chips and Gail moved from their one bedroom bungalow on Newport Street, with their first child, to the slightly larger, 1946 bungalow on Pontiac Street. Both McLean sisters and their husbands are now gone but Chips and Gail have remained. Their two children were the fifth generation to grow up on the block. The postwar bungalow has become a two-story home.

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A Story of One Historic Montclair Block - A Further Insight

by Bill Hansen



*John Denison
1917*

In Gail Barry's excellent article on the history of the Denison Block, she correctly notes that the land was acquired from Baron von Richthofen as a fee for legal services. But, what were the legal services needed to earn such a nice fee - i.e. a 30 lot block at that time valued at perhaps \$6,000 to \$7,500?

In the land grab of the mid-1880's, the Baron was snatching up railroad lands south of the original Montclair for its expected expansion. Unfortunately, the title was hopelessly clouded by homestead rights secured from squatters by Jervis Joslin, brother of Denver mercantile magnate, Jay J. Joslin. Between 160 and 320 acres, including the previously platted "Pomona Vale," were at issue. Learning of the Baron's bold schemes in 1888, Joslin moved back to the site, built a cabin, and brazenly defied the Baron to remove him and promised to fight him in the courts.

The Baron turned to the newly arrived Harvard-educated lawyer, John Denison to clean up the mess. After years of legal wrangling, and a whopping \$10,000 pay-off to Joslin, title was ultimately cleared in 1890. The Baron's additions to Montclair were finally available for sale.

The cash-strapped but land-rich Baron paid John Denison's fees with Block 6 of Richthofen's First Addition to Montclair. Denison and his wife Agnes built their \$5,500 "cottage" on the southwest corner of the block in 1890. Consider the value of the home and the land today and one gets a good idea of what the Joslin settlement and the legal fees given were worth.

The ascendancy of John Denison's successful legal career began with his representation of the Baron. "Richthofen" means "House of the Right" or "House of the Just" with the Richthofen coat of arms, emblazoned in stone on the central tower of the Richthofen Castle, being two lions crowning the "just" judge. Appropriately, John Denison's legal career would soar following his work for the Baron and he became a well-respected Judge in the Denver District Court in 1912, was appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court in 1911, and became Chief Justice in 1928. Over its history, two other prominent Colorado appellate jurists have resided on this block prompting us to refer to it during walking tours as the "Block of Just Judges."



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Denver City Council Column

Councilwoman Marcia Johnson, District 5



Representative Claire Levy of Boulder has introduced legislation to ban Colorado drivers from talking on cell phones, unless they use a hands-free device. Drivers under 18, school bus drivers and operators of any publicly regulated vehicle would not be allowed to use a cell phone at all. The bill would make it a primary offense to hold a phone and talk while driving, meaning police could pull a motorist over even if no other driving offense is committed. Violators would be fined \$100.

I'm considering introducing legislation banning the use of cell phones while driving in Denver. Should there be a distinction between handheld and hands-free units? What about between talking and texting? Please email your opinion to me at Johnson5@denvergov.org with the subject "Cell Phone Ban". If the Claire Levy bill passes the state legislature, there would be no need for a local ordinance.

Denver Digs Trees is Back! Street trees are once again being made available to any Denver property owner for only \$25 each! Street trees must be planted in the public right-of-way, near the curbside in the City of Denver. Once these saplings are planted, property owners are solely responsible for the tree's care (watering and pruning).

The program addresses Denver's critical need to expand its urban canopy and is the only city-wide tree distribution program. Denver's current canopy coverage is 10.4%; recommended urban canopy coverage guidelines for U.S. cities west of the Mississippi is 25%. (Time Magazine, 6/21/07). The Denver Digs Trees program - in partnership with the City & County of Denver, numerous local community nonprofits and neighborhood groups - is working to address this deficit in our urban canopy. The program has already added over 35,000 trees to Denver's urban forest.

This year Denver Digs Trees will be offering ten different varieties of trees to interested Denver residents. The deadline for submitting an application for a street tree is March 16, 2009. Trees will be available for pickup on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Visit The Park People at <http://www.theparkpeople.com/denverdigs.php> for more information.

Should HMCAI charge for food at the annual July 4th picnic?

Our July 4th picnic has become such a big, fun event! But, we have more people come and enjoy the picnic than we have members! Membership is how we fund our wonderful events. So our budgets are forcing us to make changes. We want to hear what you think:

Please visit our new website at www.HistoricMontclair.org and take the **poll**.

- No, don't charge anyone. Find a way to cut costs.
- Yes, charge only non-HMCAI members. Members eat for free.
- Yes, charge everyone. Members can pay less.

Or if you prefer, please mail us at
HMCAI - Picnic Poll
PO Box 200125
Denver, CO 80220-0125

And in the mean time, please JOIN!

THE NINTH HMCAI HOUSE TOUR???? by Veronica Dolan

Is it time for another HMCAI fund raising house tour? Between 1971 and 1982 we did eight tours that benefited only MCA, our name prior to 1996. Since the 80s, other groups have hosted tours of our historic homes, from which we did not benefit financially. Our last official association fund-raising house tour was on June 27, 1982, twenty-seven years ago. Is it time for a ninth such benefit?

As you read in our president's message on Page 2, the HMCAI treasury is hurting. So we're thinking - perhaps, maybe, possibly - a benefit HMCAI house tour in Spring 2010 would be a good idea. We could go it alone, or if that seems impossible, co-host with another group with whom we would share the spoils as well as the work

A successful house tour needs not only great houses, which Historic Montclair has in abundance, but people. Lots and lots of efficient, well-organized, reliable, energetic, charming people. With good ideas, great organizational skills, healthy feet, strong work ethics, and an abundance of energy. As many as 100 of 'em just to take 2-3 hour shifts as hosts and hostesses in the toured homes. (Thus the need for good feet.) And dozens of others are needed to handle all the other jobs: printing and distributing tickets and keeping track of sales, lining up homes, writing histories of the various toured rooms for the host/hostess' spiels, securing sponsors, patrons and donors, handling advertising and publicity, assigning hosts and hostesses, and so on. Because we're 27 years out of practice, we might need a year to organize such an ambitious event and pull it off.



So think about it. Is an Historic Montclair House Tour a good idea? Or a pipe dream? Would you support it? Buy ticket(s)? Help in advance to organize it? Work on the day(s) of the tour? Would you be willing to co-chair a committee? Would you prefer a tour of old or modern homes? Or two/three of each? More about a possible house tour in our next newsletter. Until then, keep thinking.

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Winter/Early Spring Gardening Tips *by Gail Barry*

It is still officially winter even though there have been some balmy days here and there. So don't forget to water when the temperature is above 40 degrees Fahrenheit. This year has been particularly dry in Denver so watering now is even more important. A slow steady dispersal of water 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 have recently been planted need winter watering in our dry 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 occur once a month. Most xeric plants also need winter water 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 the weather is decent, winter/early spring pruning can be done at this time of year. Some species of trees cannot be pruned once the sap is running so winter is often a better time and usually less expensive if you are hiring the work. Perennials can be trimmed of dead canes. Shrubs can be pruned while the lack of leaves allows one to see the structure of the plant. If you plan to do your own pruning, consult an up to date book or an expert for current practices. There are certain techniques that result in a healthier, better looking plant.

You have probably already received a number of plant and seed catalogs. Your planned improvements for your garden should start with good soil preparation. As soon as the soil thaws spread 3-4 inches of good quality soil amendment, such as EKO or A1 Organics compost, and dig or till it into the soil to a minimum depth of six inches. You can plant any cool season annuals as well as perennials, shrubs and trees at this time. Often lettuce and other greens do better, being planted early, than would be possible if planting at a later date. Be aware that the birds love tender young greens and prepare to protect the plants with netting or row covering if the birds start eating them.

You may wish to try a temporary cold frame to 'harden off' some of your plants and ready them for spring planting. You can create walls with hay or straw bales around the perimeter of your planting bed. Old windows (glass intact) make great covers or use heavy duty clear plastic. For passive solar heat you may fill translucent gallon bottles (i.e. milk bottles) with water and place them on the north side of the space. These will heat up during sunny days and release heat at night. If the temperature drops below 20 degrees throw a blanket over the top to retain the heat. Raise the frame or plastic during warm days so the plants don't get overheated. This can all be disassembled once temperatures are consistently warm.

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

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Call for Volunteers

My name is Shadron Noonan. My husband Mark and I are at-large board members for HMCAI. We are also coordinating the volunteer effort for this year's neighborhood events, including the picnic.

Mark and I moved to Historic Montclair exactly a year ago. We relocated from another Denver neighborhood specifically because of Montclair's small-town feel and events like the July 4th Picnic, the Easter Egg hunt and Treats with Santa. We have a small child, and I believe that it is those of us with small children who benefit most from events like the July 4th picnic.

We strongly encourage you to become a volunteer for the picnic this year. We are in dire need of helpers and the commitment is minimal. There are a vast number of things you can do to help and volunteering can consist of something as simple as hosting a game for an hour, freeing you up to spend the rest of the day with your family. Last year only a half dozen volunteers organized and ran all of the events, shopped for and prepared all the food, and coordinated games for a picnic attended by more than 500 people.

Almost all of these volunteers were my fellow board members, most of whom have been on the board for years; who have grown children and grandchildren. They have an enduring commitment to this neighborhood because they know the positive effect that a cohesive and active neighborhood has on families and the opportunities it can provide for children. They work tirelessly on events like the picnic, but it simply can't move forward this year without additional neighborhood help.

In a year like this, where so many families are hurting, having a local event that everyone can participate in becomes all the more important.

Please contact Mark or me at (303) 825-2133 or at shadron.noonan@gmail.com to find out more about volunteering. You can also sign up on our new website: www.HistoricMontclair.org. Thank you very much.

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HMCAI's New Website

Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc. has a new social website! Come visit for up-to-date news and information concerning Montclair and Denver. Create your own profile and join the conversation. Discuss your views in our forum, volunteer for events, download the newsletter, create blog posts about your favorite subject, post local events and check the classifieds.

Go to **www.HistoricMontclair.org**. We'll see you there!

Montclair Moms

With over 60 members, the 80220 Moms has become a fabulous resource for neighborhood moms and their families. We have family get-togethers in the park, book clubs, mom's nights out and more. 80220 moms is a helpful forum for navigating parenthood and creating a community for ourselves and our kids.

If you would like to join or for more info, contact Katy Saunders at 303-521-9065
katy@rodandkaty.com or Kerstin Rowe at
(303) 355-9193 roweteach@yahoo.com.

Redesigned Golf Course to Open Soon *by Veronica Dolan*

The wait is almost over for Historic Montclair golfers eager to have, once again, an 18 hole, par 71 course practically in their own back yards.

The brand new course, CommonGround, is on the site of the old Mira Vista Golf Course, on Lowry at Alameda and Havana. Scheduled to open Saturday, May 23, it is the work of Tom Doak and his Renaissance Golf Design group who have designed dozens of U.S. courses from coast to coast, as well as in Scotland, Australia and New Zealand.

CommonGround is owned by the Colorado Golf Association (CGA) and the Colorado Women's Golf Association (CWGA) and is open to the public. The 7,200 yard layout is designed to appeal to golfers of all abilities, advanced as well as beginners. It is easy to walk, has mature trees and offers superb mountain views. CommonGround includes an 18 hole championship course, an enhanced practice facility, and two short courses devoted to junior golf. The U.S. Golf Association gave \$175,000 toward construction of the two short courses.




CommonGround has its own web site: www.commongroundgc.com The site features hole by hole descriptions, pricing and a calendar of events.

Rates for 18 holes are: \$40 for CGA/CWGA members; \$50 for public; \$30 for seniors (65+) from Mon.-Thurs. only; \$30 twilight; \$15 juniors (18 and under); and \$360 punch card for ten 18-hole games. Golf carts are \$15 for 18 holes and \$8 for nine holes. Balls are \$8 for large basket, \$6 for small, and \$25 unlimited.

A CommonGround annual pass, available only to CGA and CWGA members, starts at \$2,000 and entitles holders to unlimited rounds of golf on both the championship course and the par 3 course, among other benefits. Additional information by calling 303-340-1520 or by emailing: dtroyer@commongroundgc.com.

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Montclair Crime Down by Shadron Noonan

The District Three Police Station holds a Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting on the second Thursday of each month. Representatives from the various neighborhoods within District 3, including Historic Montclair, are given a detailed update on initiatives and incidents within central Denver. The meetings are led by Commander Kris Kroncke and attended by representatives from the traffic, detective and patrol divisions.

Crime in 2008 was down 25% or more in burglary, auto theft, theft from vehicles and criminal mischief, which account for the most common crimes within Montclair. The primary crimes in our neighborhood are crimes of opportunity - electronic devices left within sight in vehicles and homes being left unlocked during the day are two recurrent causes of crime. Commander Kroncke emphasized strongly that good neighbors are the best defense against this sort of crime. A number of crimes have been prevented by neighbors noticing and reporting something odd, such as an unfamiliar car parked in the driveway while residents were at work.

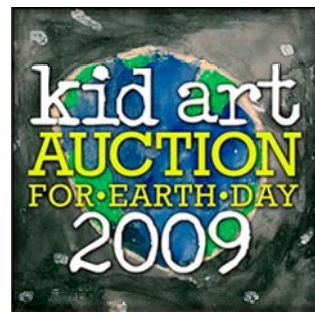
District Three traffic officers are coordinating the Speed Watch program that allows Denver residents to use a police radar detection device to monitor and record motor vehicle speeds in their neighborhood. Data is then forwarded to a local Denver Police District for follow-up by sworn officers. Registered owners of vehicles observed speeding will receive a letter informing them of the posted speed and the driver's observed speed. Streets that have habitual and excessive speeders will see additional enforcement as a result of the program. For information on the training classes and the citizens' radar program, contact Technician Robert Montoya of the Denver Police Traffic Operations Bureau at 720-865-6945.

Kid Art Auction for Earth Day 2009 By Katy Saunders

My little girl may be only three, but she is a grand artist. Her medium is watercolor. Or crayon. As good parents we keep her art everywhere - the fridge, the office, the walls. Even sometimes without canvas. Crayon on plaster has a unique look. I'm sure that's what she was trying for. This April she even gets to sell her art and watch it go to the highest bidder with a little lesson in 'doing good' for others. The wall art is mine, however.

Two local moms and their children began the art auction last year and raised \$800. Much of it came from the students and parents of Montclair Elementary. Kids in the kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades participated. Their artwork can still be seen on last year's auction site.

This year the beneficiary will be The Nature Conservancy, whose mission is to "preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive."



The auction is entirely on-line, but easy to participate in. Have your kids create a piece of artwork, take a photo, join www.Flickr.com (free! Yahoo website), upload to the 'Kid Art Auction for Earth Day 2009' group, and watch the bidding! No kid? No problem. Just bid! The kids will be so proud to see their artwork sell.

For more details including size restrictions, visit www.greeblemonkey.com. Bidding closes Earth Day, April 22, 2009.

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Montclair Elementary School News

There's nothing like a few bitterly cold days after warm weather to remind us that it is still winter! It's been a busy few months for students and teachers. Our most exciting recent event took place on January 20th as Montclair hosted its very own Inaugural Ball to celebrate the inauguration of President Obama. Many students and teachers came to school dressed in their finest clothes and packed into the auditorium to watch the ceremonies live from Washington, D.C. It was thrilling to see the children proudly waving their flags and celebrating this historical event. In fact, we were joined by two local news stations who wanted to capture the event. It was truly a day to remember!


In the upcoming months, you will notice some construction at the south end of the school. A two-classroom modular unit will be installed in time for the beginning of the 2009-10 school year. This will provide us with much needed additional space. We are still waiting for an update on the status of our learning landscape.

Every year the Colorado Department of Education releases a School Accountability Report (SAR) for every school. This report was released in December and includes information about our school's academic performance as measured by CSAP, school safety and discipline, attendance and teacher experience. Each school receives an overall index score and is placed in a performance category (i.e. Unsatisfactory, Low, Average, High and Excellent). The "Low" category includes the largest range of scores and is therefore the most difficult to move out of. In order for a school to move from one performance category to another, the index score must increase or decrease and this is directly determined by the CSAP scores that academic year.

Since 2005, Montclair has demonstrated steady improvement moving from a score of -1.71 to -0.87 which falls into the "Low" category. The exciting news, however, is that while we may still be rated as "Low," we are now within reach of moving into the "Average" category. This is the story that often goes untold and demonstrates that we are a school on the move! We have much to celebrate and know that we are on the right track. Enrollment has doubled, our students are learning, and Montclair is now the school of choice for many Denver families. Thank you for continuing to support our efforts.

Please mark your calendars for our 5th Annual Plant Sale and Fun Fair, which will be held on Saturday, May 9th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. As always, we appreciate all of the neighborhood support of this great community event. In addition, after much success last year, we will again be hosting "Consult With A Gardener Night" on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22nd from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.. At this event, which coincides with the Advance Plant Sale, professional gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and give advice. Plants can be ordered at a discount and then picked up prior to the actual Plant Sale day. We look forward to seeing our neighbors at these events!

Shannon Hagerman, Principal



Mark your calendars for the 5th Annual
Montclair Plant Sale and Fun Fair

Wednesday, April 22nd, 6PM to 9PM - *Consult with a Gardener Night*
Saturday, May 9th, 9 AM to 1PM, Rain or Shine - *Plant Sale & Fun Fair*

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9th Avenue Grill - Colorado Flavors Nestled in an Old Neighborhood Spot

By Judy Baxter

It is exciting when there is a new kid in the neighborhood-that is, a new restaurant. 9th Avenue Grill is that new kid, located in an old spot in Mayfair at 9th and Jersey. As someone who has worked or lived in Mayfair/Montclair for 25 years, I've seen many restaurants come and go in this spot. With each iteration I think many of us are hoping that a bit of a Cheers atmosphere will take hold. In fact Jessica and Zach, managing from the kitchen, are the second proprietors in this location in two years. The night we were there it was packed with a neighborhood crowd.

Jessica and Zach have put together some fresh ideas with a focus on Colorado and Southwestern flavors. For example, in the not very deep starters a Colorado Sausage Sampler and Bread Basket of corn bread and buttermilk biscuits with Colorado honey are offered; for soups, a Buffalo Chili and Pork Posole. Salads include an interesting rendition of a Caesar with green chile, goat cheese and cornbread croutons, as well as the solid standbys Hot Bacon Spinach and a Chicken Chopped Salad. These are interesting offerings but offer little for those looking for vegetarian options. The main courses cover a wide range of options that include a Duck Breast, Lamb Chops, Angus Steaks and Burgers of Buffalo, Angus, or Chicken. I really appreciated having quality meat options that were also low fat, like buffalo. My friend and I went with the less expensive, less fancy options that included the only strictly vegetarian option-a really fun and flavorful Spaghetti Squash & Pesto Pasta (\$14) and the homemade Chicken Pot Pie (\$12) and mixed greens side salad with some interesting dressing choices. These were a great mix of different ingredients, well presented and tasty--as even the pot pie had a spunky flavor. The best part was the dessert, a fabulous serving of Pumpkin Bread Pudding with caramelized pecans and ice cream. The wines focused on Colorado and California vintners. They need to look for some depth in this selection. I haven't been for lunch, but many of the same offerings with smaller portion sizes are there as well.

(continued on next page)

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Recipe Box *by Gail Barry*

Cheese Rice Souffle

Souffle has a reputation for being difficult but this souffle is almost fool proof, light and delicious. The recipe serves 4-5 people and can be doubled for more if desired.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Grease a 1 1/2 qt casserole or souffle dish.

Have on hand 1 cup of cooked rice, or cook while preparing sauce.

Melt two (2) tablespoons butter or margarine, stir in three (3) tablespoons flour until smooth. Gradually stir in 3/4 cup of milk, stirring constantly, and cook until thickened. Add one half (1/2) pound of sliced sharp cheddar cheese and stir every few minutes until cheese is melted and combined with the other ingredients. While cheese is melting, separate 4 eggs. Add one half (1/2) teaspoon of salt and a few dashes of cayenne pepper to the egg yolks. Beat with a fork or whisk. Thoroughly combine with cheese mixture and remove from heat. Add the cooked rice to the cheese mixture. This mixture should be really thick. Beat the egg whites in a mixer until stiff but not dry. Slowly pour cheese mixture into egg whites gently folding the two together using an under and over motion until combined. The more gently the mixture is folded the lighter the souffle will be. Pour into the prepared casserole dish. If you want a crown on the souffle, use a spoon to draw a shallow path around dish about 1 inch from the edge. Place into preheated oven and bake for 40 minutes. Do not open the oven while cooking. When the time is up, take to the table to serve. Variations can be made by adding chopped cooked broccoli, green beans or green onions to the cheese mixture. If dinner is delayed a few minutes, allow the casserole to remain in the oven with the heat turned down to 250 degrees.

Chocolate Chip Coffee Ring

Serves 8-10 people

Batter: In a large mixing bowl beat 1 cup sugar with 1/2 (one half) cup butter until light and fluffy. Add 2 cups of flour, 1 cup sour cream, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon baking soda, and 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract. When thoroughly combined add 1/2 cup semi sweet chocolate chips. Spread into greased 9" tube pan.

Topping: Into a medium bowl measure 1/2 (one half) cup of flour, 1/2 (one half) cup of brown sugar, 1 & 1/2 (one & a half) teaspoons of baker's cocoa and 1/4 (one quarter) cup of butter.. Cut or mix together until crumbly in texture. Add 1/2 (one half) cup of chopped walnuts and 1/2 (one half) cups of semi-sweet chocolate chips. Spread evenly over batter in pan. Bake approximately one hour or until cake pulls away from side of pan. Do not over cook. Cool completely in pan on wire rack. Loosen cake and remove to cake plate. If kept covered this cake stays moist and delicious for several days. My family likes to add a few more chocolate chips to the batter but too many can make the batter heavy.

Note: The soup recipe in the last newsletter lost the amount of beans to some quirk in the Quark program. The amount was one quarter cup of each kind of bean. Sorry if some of you made it and it was awful as a result!!

9th Avenue Grill *(continued from Page 12)*

So will 9th Avenue Grill make it where there has been so much turn over and in these times? They have a great start on a menu that needs a little expansion to include more vegetarian options and a little lower price point, where only three of the entree options were under \$15. The Cheers potential is there too-but they need to work on the decor and ambiance for it to really succeed as a place you want to go back to time and again. So let's welcome 9th Avenue Grill as a place to create community and send them good wishes for success in a tough business in tough times.

Inclusion of articles in The Montclarion is not an endorsement of the views expressed therein.

Montclair Miscellanea

Letters to the Editor

The Montclarion welcomes Letters to the Editor. If you have a neighborhood comment, question or concern, please send a brief letter to Montclarion@gmail.com. Select letters will be published in upcoming issues. Please include your name and phone number so we can confirm you are the sender.

Montclair Park Gets New Events Coordinator

Jim Johnson is the new Events Coordinator for Montclair Park and the Molkery building. Jim met with the board of HMCAL at the January meeting and introduced himself. He has a long background in both private and public events planning, and spent several years working with the CHUN People's Fair. Jim is also responsible for Chief Hosa Lodge, The Boathouse at Washington Park and the City Park Pavilion, but the Molkery presents a unique challenge as it is closest to nearby residences. Jim's top priority for the Molkery will be enforcing the hours of operation, ensuring that groups who rent the venue will respect the posted closing time. Jim welcomes comments from the neighborhood, particularly those neighbors who live near Montclair Park and the Molkery. He can be reached at jim.johnson@denvergov.org

Bye, Bye Building

We bid a fond farewell to Denver Water's little blonde brick building, a former pump station, on the northwest corner of 11th and Quebec. So much nicer now to have an unobstructed view of Denison Park from the south and east. And so much safer for drivers on 11th to make a right turn onto Quebec without having to pull out and try to peek around that now-demolished structure without getting t-boned. Denver Water expects the site to become an extension of the park. We salute their efforts.


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Cub Scout Pack 286

Cub Scout Pack 286 - serving Montclair and Park Hill Neighborhoods

We will be having Pack Meetings on March 31st and April 28th, starting at 7 p.m. We are also having our annual graduation picnic at Lindsley Park on May 17th at 2 p.m. We are also planning a pack campout at Cherry Creek State Park on June 5th and 6th.

Want to see what scouting is all about? Visit the Scout Show on April 25th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the National Western Stock Show Complex. This annual event is packed with exciting activities for the whole family to enjoy. You and your family can experience all the fun activities planned by units throughout the Denver area at this great Expo event!

If you have a boy in first through fifth grades, please take the time to find out what scouting has to offer. We meet at Park Hill United Methodist Church, located at Montview and Forest.

For boys ages 12-18, we have a very active Boy Scout Troop that meets Tuesday nights in Montclair United Methodist Church at 12th and Newport. Contact Larry Dunn, Scoutmaster 303-394-3220, larryannedunne@comcast.net

Tim Brackett, Cubmaster, 303-322-5823, tbrackett24@gmail.com

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Montclair Recreation Center *by Veronica Dolan*

729 Ulster Way

New main phone: 720-865-0560

New pool phone: 720-865-0569

Are you feeling fat, flabby, frustrated, friendless or financially strapped? Have you failed to fulfill your New Year's resolution to get physically or mentally fit? Yes? Well, don't despair. Help may be as close as the Montclair Rec Center, just east of our neighborhood - right there on Lowry, tucked in among those gleaming new homes and townhouses.

Montclair Rec has something for just about everyone. The facility, born out of bond money, has a lap pool, a leisure pool with water spouts and curvy slide big enough for an adult holding a small child, a gymnasium with bleachers, arts and crafts room, weights and cardio room, multi-purpose room, lockers, family-changing room and a youth lounge. Wow! Plus, the building is accessible to the handicapped.

You can take swimming lessons, do water aerobics, make a new friend, learn Karate, drop by for a pickup basketball game, take a pottery class, learn Yoga, take a lap swim, join a volleyball program, or sit in the bleachers and cheer for your more athletic friends shooting baskets.

Seniors get special attention on the third Friday of the month from a Visiting Nurse who checks blood pressures and cuts toenails, among other services, for which there are some charges.

Montclair Rec is a Denver Parks and Recreation facility. Rates remain the same as last year: annual adult membership - \$150; youth (2-17) - \$35; Seniors - \$55. Day passes are \$5 for adults, \$2 for youths and seniors.

Directions: To reach Montclair Rec from 11th Ave., drive south on Uinta Way (the street across from post office) to 8th Ave. turn right and go one block west. Or take 6th Ave. to Ulster Way and go north to 8th Ave.

More Great Stuff on the Web!

We couldn't fit everything into this quarter's newsletter, so we've put additional content on our website. Log on to www.HistoricMontclair.org, select *Add'l Info* from the *Montclarion* menu and find the Schlessman Library Event Calendar, an article about Coyotes in Montclair, Denver Mountain Parks News and much more!

Membership Form

2009 Membership Year

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

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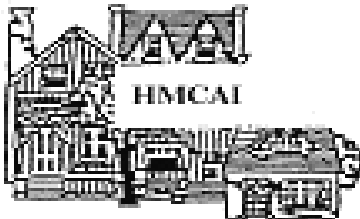
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Please let us know if you would like to volunteer (circle):

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