



# THE MONTCLARION

## Our Neighborhood

Montclair was incorporated in 1888 as a Denver suburb and annexed by the city of Denver in 1902.

It is one of Denver's 78 statistical neighborhoods and is bordered by Colfax Ave. to the north, 6th Ave. to the south, Quebec St. to the east and Holly St. to the west.

The Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc., formed in 1907, is the oldest neighborhood association in Denver. We're a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to innovative educational, civic and social activities.

Through our free quarterly newsletter, flyers and public announcements, we keep members informed about important neighborhood activities, zoning issues, historic preservation, meetings, elections and projects. Officers and at-large board members serve without pay. HMCAI frequently joins forces with schools, churches and other local groups for the common good.

HMCAI is a Registered Neighborhood Organization and is a member of Denver's Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation. West of Monaco, we overlap with Mayfair Neighbors, Inc.

1st quarter 2020 | [HistoricMontclair.org](http://HistoricMontclair.org) | [HistoricMontclair@gmail.com](mailto:HistoricMontclair@gmail.com)

## Annual HMCAI Easter Egg Hunt

Sat. April 11th, 10:00 a.m. at the Molkery, 6820 E. 12th Ave., and Montclair Park

Children and their parents are invited! Coffee, cookies and juice served to all in the Molkery after the hunt.

This is a free event for Montclair neighbors. Just 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 or snow the egg hunt is on!

We need volunteers to help scatter eggs throughout the park, stuff eggs, serve snacks, clean up etc. It will 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.b15@gmail.com](mailto:baxterj.b15@gmail.com).

## East Area Plan Update- Open House

Thu. March 26th, 6-8 p.m. at Johnson & Wales Univ. 1900 Olive St.

Denver Community Planning & Development will be holding an open house to show the first draft of the east area plan. Join your neighbors in the opportunity to not only view and learn about the plan, but to also offer feedback on the revisions that have been proposed in the draft.

Food will be provided and children are welcome.

## Time for Some Spring Cleaning?

Participate in the annual spring Montclair neighborhood garage sale, Saturday May 16 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Contact Valerie Alford for yard signs and to submit a list of items you're selling. [Valerie@valeriealford.com](mailto:Valerie@valeriealford.com), 303-641-6823.



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## President’s Note

By Judy Baxter

The year already feels like it is flying by-- here it is March 2020. The holidays seem like a long time ago. With the help of several from the HMCAI Board and tall neighbors in the persons of Steve Usick and Clint Goos, we were able to get the Molkery lights and décor up to add brightness to the winter, providing the proper setting for the annual Treats with Santa event. Always a favorite and last year was no different. Thanks to all who volunteered to make it a special event.



We had our first event of 2020 with the 2nd Annual Evening of History and Socializing on Feb 28th. Since we are the *Historic* Montclair neighborhood, we think this event is a most appropriate addition to our calendar. This year’s presentation featured Flint Whitlock, author, lecturer, and 42-year Montclair resident presenting *Skiiing Off To War* about the 10th Mountain Division—the connection to Colorado and the importance of the 10th in WWII. It was a wonderful history lesson. A special shout out to Jersey Street Liquors for the wine donation and Essence Reese from Bertha’s Baja Bistro for bartending.

Another upcoming event is the Easter Egg Hunt On Saturday April 11th. Be sure to see the details in this issue. Volunteers are welcomed, for set-up, including egg laying, and clean-up.

With the History Evening we now have 6 events at the Molkery, as well as provide the organization for 2 neighborhood garage sales and put out this newsletter. We hope you feel your membership has been a great value to date. We also hope you won’t be surprised by, in fact we hope you will be supportive of, our decision to raise our membership rates this year from \$20 to \$30 for a household and from \$10 to \$15 for seniors. This increase is driven by the costs for newsletter production and distribution to some 3,200 households and businesses, as well as the costs of food. You laugh, but stuffing 4,000 Easter Eggs isn’t trivial and neither is putting on a BBQ for 400 people on July 4th.

Since the last newsletter there was a big community meeting on the East Area Plan in November. Marti Holmes has an article in this newsletter providing you an update on the activities and timeline for that work. We are planning to organize, with the City Planning Office, a meeting in late March or early April for Montclair residents to provide further input.

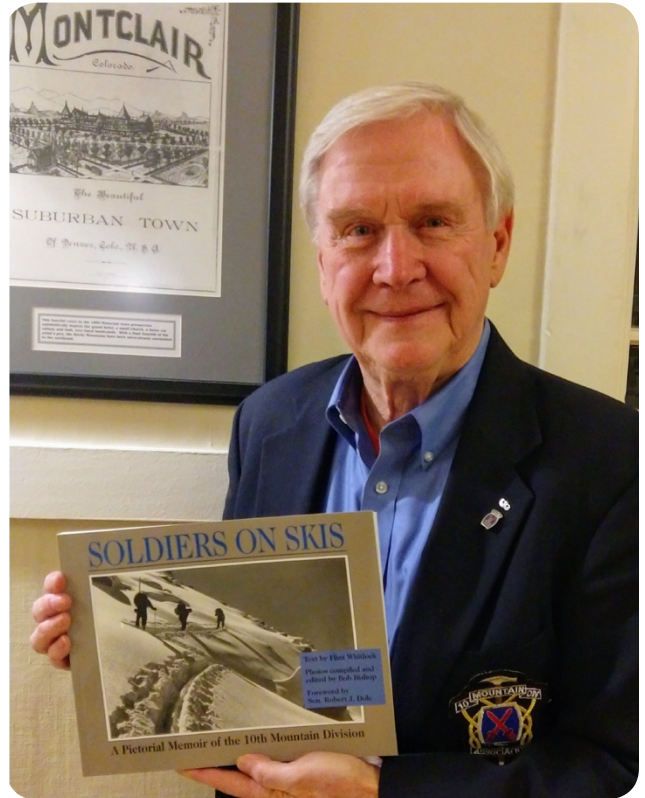
2020 will be an important year for civic engagement—I want to especially highlight the 2020 Census. In mid-March, households will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. With that invitation you respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. I consider this one of our most important civic duties, to insure we have an accurate count of us. It is how we know the great landscape that is our country and our city.

As a reminder the HMCAI Board meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (January through November) at the Molkery. Stay in touch with HMCAI Board with your thoughts by emailing: [historicmontclair@gmail.com](mailto:historicmontclair@gmail.com)



## Wine & History Evening with Flint Whitlock

Author, lecturer, and Montclair resident Flint Whitlock presents **Skiing Off To War** about the 10th Mountain Division at HMCAI's History and Socializing Evening on February 28.



## HMCAI 2020 Board

**President:** Judy Baxter

**Vice President:** Carrie O'Shea

**Treasurer:** Gail Barry

**Secretary:** Caryle Faust

### At Large Board Members:

Valerie Alford	Gretchen Armijo
James LeDuc	Jennifer Bolda
Brian Narber	Meg Goos
Bree Neely	Kelly Haney
Eric Stragand	Marti Holmes
Gail Wallace	Toni Kuper

Questions? Suggestions?  
Article ideas? Contact  
your HMCAI Board at  
[HistoricMontclair@gmail.com](mailto:HistoricMontclair@gmail.com)

## HMCAI Events Calendar 2020

All events take place at the Moltery and Montclair Park except the garage sale.

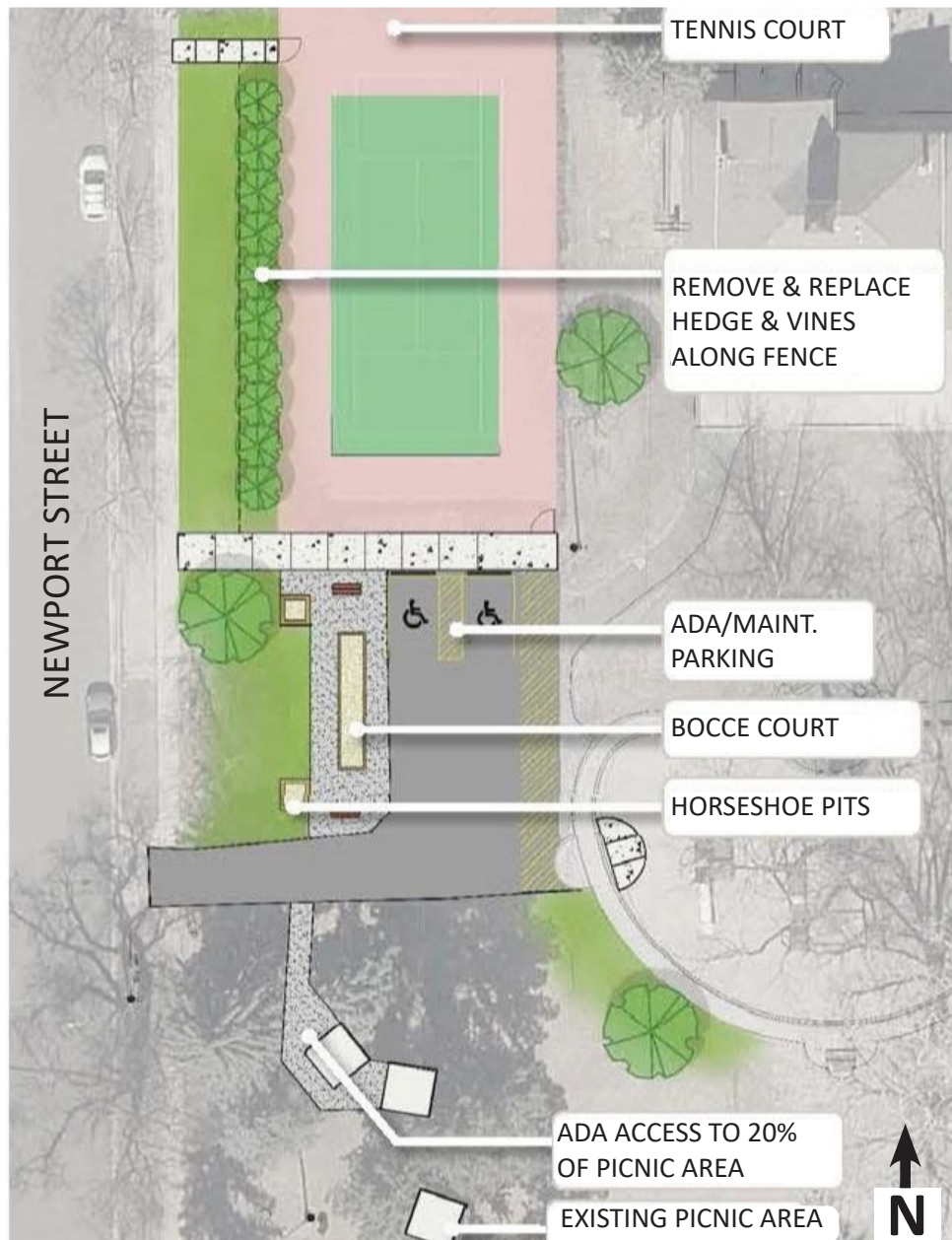
February 28	Wine & History Evening	6:30 p.m.
April 11	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 a.m.
May 16	Garage Sale	8:30 a.m.
July 4	July 4 Picnic	10:30 a.m.
September 18	Beer & Wine Reception	6:30 p.m.
September 19	Garage Sale	8:30 a.m.
October 21	General Meeting	7:00 p.m.
October 25	Halloween Party	3:30 p.m.
December 14	Treats with Santa	10:30 a.m.

## Montclair Park Improvements Update

In December 2019 Denver Parks and Recreation held a public meeting at the Molkery in Montclair Park to discuss the planned improvements to the tennis court, horseshoe pits, and picnic area. Surveys were given to attendees with two possible alternatives for park improvements. After DPR analyzed the comments and tallied the votes in the survey, the design pictured, here, was named the winner.

DPR expects the design phase to be completed later this summer, with construction scheduled to begin in August/September and completed by the end of 2020.

Expected improvements include a completely new tennis court (current court and fence to be demolished and replaced), two ADA parking spaces, ADA access to the picnic area, and a bocce court will replace one of the horseshoe pits.



## A Reminder from Denver Recycles

Please remember that plastic bags should NEVER be placed in your recycling cart.

Do NOT bag your recyclables!

Bagged recyclables are NOT recycled. They are thrown directly in the trash because the bags clog the sorting equipment. Plastic bags labeled “recyclable” are not accepted by Denver Recycles. If you collect recyclables in a plastic bag of any kind, empty the contents straight into the recycle cart and remove the plastic bag. Recyclables must be loose in the purple cart.

Plastic bags can be recycled at local grocery stores, including King Soopers, Safeway and Target. Look for the bin at the front of each store.



## From the Desk of Chris Hansen, State Senator

District 31



Hello Montclarions,

We are almost halfway through the 2020 Legislative Session and things are moving quickly. Since joining the State Senate in January, my colleagues and I have taken on many important legislative issues, including ending the death penalty, closing a private prison and animal cruelty. For my personal legislative agenda, I am sponsoring several pro-environmental bills that will increase the affordability of solar energy while eliminating a coal severance tax exemption, increasing the procurement of low-carbon building materials for state infrastructure projects, and putting in place programs to drastically reduce methane emissions in Colorado.

Just this morning, I had three of my bills make it through the Senate on final passage. SB20-065 will require hands free mobile phone use behind the wheel and cut down on distracted driving which is a major cause of traffic deaths, both in Denver and statewide; SB20-150 will establish a renewable natural gas standard that will utilize wasted methane from landfills, waste water treatment facilities, and agricultural operations, so that we can continue to cut methane emissions from all sectors of the economy and reach the climate goals we set last year; and SB20-167 allows EV manufacturers to sell directly to consumers which will decrease costs for consumers, increase the sale of electric vehicles, and significantly reduce harmful emissions state-wide. As we continue to move forward, I will turn my focus to bills that will institute more safeguards around gun storage, create sustainable support for transportation and improve K-12 funding. If you have any other ideas of legislative proposals I should consider, or just want to drop by the office to say hello, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Thanks as always for the opportunity to represent you in the General Assembly.

Your neighbor,

Chris Hansen

State Senator, CO District 31

(303) 866-4861, [chris.hansen.senate@state.co.us](mailto:chris.hansen.senate@state.co.us)

# Get to know us!



See our class schedule at  
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# Montclair Community Garden

By Idelle Fisher

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the Historic Montclair Community Garden! Each year we have about twenty neighborhood gardeners growing organic food for their families, friends and neighbors in 30 plots.

Would you like to grow organic vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers and be part of our friendly neighborhood community garden? Do you dream of harvesting your own tomatoes, cucumbers, chile peppers, greens, herbs and eggplants? If so, the Historic Montclair Community Garden could be just the place to fulfill your horticultural ambitions and meet some new neighbors. Tucked off-street on the 1400 block of Niagara Street, the garden has a pollinator garden, community herb garden, shade trees, an attractive fence and entrance sign, large compost bins, and a community picnic table. The fee for each plot is \$35 for the season which covers water, compost, some garden supplies and repairs.

We're always looking for passionate gardeners to join us, contact Karen Hickey: [kh1211@comcast.net](mailto:kh1211@comcast.net) or 303.321.3542 or Idelle at [idelle@ijdesign.com](mailto:idelle@ijdesign.com) if you're interested in gardening with us!



Coordinating neighborhood events at Montclair Park as an active HMCAI board member, building snowmen at Kittredge Park, and splashing through puddles on all streets in between, our family undoubtedly *loved* the years that we *lived* on Oneida Street in Montclair!

The average home price in Montclair is \$726,000  
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View the local market report for Montclair as well as comparables, instantly.

Please enter your address.      Unit # (optional)      [Get Estimate](#)

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# Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment

by Merritt Pullam – Parent and neighbor

Thank you to all who participated in the 2019 Giving Tree. So many families were impacted by your generosity. It is such a wonderful opportunity to work with our community and help provide more for those in need. A special thank you to Cahaj Reed for all her hard work and dedication to the Giving Tree in 2019 as well as her continued work with the Montclair Backpack Program.

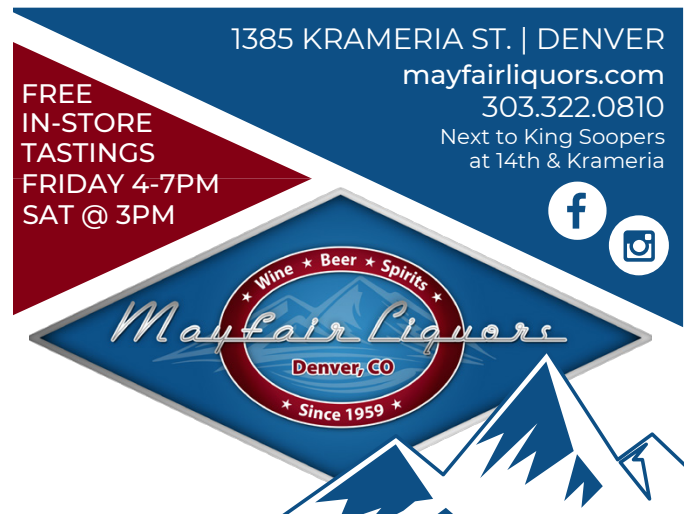
The Backpack Program is a year-round giving opportunity for our student families in need. If you wish to contribute to the program, items needed include: money to purchase fresh food and new backpacks, peanut butter, chili or pasta sauce with meat, cooking oil, pasta, and rice. If you have questions about the backpack program contact Cahaj at 720-234-4191 or [cajah\\_reed@dpsk12.org](mailto:cajah_reed@dpsk12.org)

For more information about our neighborhood school go to: [Montclair.dpsk12.org](http://Montclair.dpsk12.org) where you can learn more about the school schedule, our wonderful staff and teachers, opportunities to volunteer, school choice, or to schedule tours of the school. Our last day of school is May 30th, 2020.

PEAK (Parents, Educators, And Kids) is in need of your help. PEAK strives to continue to fund the enrichments that our teachers and kids use to better their education. Multiple field trips, events, and learning tours take place for each grade level. Please consider helping PEAK by going to [Montclair.dpsk12.org](http://Montclair.dpsk12.org) to find out more about how to directly contribute to PEAK such as: using your King Soopers card to donate (no points or rewards will be taken from your personal account), signing up with Amazon Smile, or attending one of the Dine Out Nights at a local restaurant. The school website is up to date and is a great resource for you to dig deeper into what is going on.

I firmly believe that the parents and community have a major impact on our kids' education. We have a respected and dedicated staff and set of teachers who are helping our kids thrive in our constantly changing world. Please continue to help if and when you can.

Thank you! Go Cougars! Montclair Rocks Woohah!!!



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- ❖ Powers of Attorney

Montclair Resident



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## From the Desk of Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer

City Council District 5



Spring is on the way and even though March is historically the snowiest month of the year in Denver, it also holds the promise of warmer weather and gardens in bloom.

We've been very busy at the City and County Building and there is quite a bit going on in our neighborhoods. For the most up-to-date information, follow us on social media: @denvercouncil5 on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, or sign up for our electronic newsletters at: [bit.ly/council5news](http://bit.ly/council5news).

### Camping Ban Enforcement Update

At the end of 2019, you may have heard quite a bit about a court ruling that potentially altered Denver's urban camping ban. We want to let you know a little information about this situation. In December 2019, now-retired Judge Barajas ruled that in one specific instance, Denver's urban camping ban was unconstitutional. The City Attorney's Office halted enforcement of the ban while preparing their appeal of that ruling. Our City Attorney's Office has now appealed that ruling and began enforcing the urban camping ban again in January. Our office has heard from many of you, on both sides of this issue, over the past few months.

I know that there are a lot of concerns about our homeless population and questions about what the City is doing to help provide support. We at the District 5 office share those concerns. The Mayor's Office has put forward a package of almost \$7 million in new funding to provide wraparound supportive services and turn our shelter system into a 24-hour system. This is an exciting advancement, but it isn't enough. We have a lot of work to do to provide better housing alternatives for Denver residents. That said, I truly believe that allowing people to sleep on the streets is not the solution to our housing crisis.

There are a number of City ordinances that apply to everyone using our public spaces and the legality of these laws is not in question. For example, park curfews remain in place and signs and structures cannot impede the public right of way. Please call 3-1-1 or use [pocketgov.org](http://pocketgov.org) to report any concerns in our community. If you need housing assistance, please call the Mile High United Way's helpline via 2-1-1, or access [denvergov.org/homelesshelp](http://denvergov.org/homelesshelp) for a list of homeless shelters and services. If you would like to support our homeless community, consider donating time, household items, clothing or funds. You can find more information on places to donate or provide a donation at [denvergov.org/give](http://denvergov.org/give).

Please feel free to reach out to our office at [DenverCouncil5@denvergov.org](mailto:DenverCouncil5@denvergov.org) with your questions and concerns. As always, thank you for all you do to make Montclair remarkable and I look forward to seeing you this spring and summer!

Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer • District 5

Phone 720-337-5555

[Denvergov.org/CouncilDistrict5](http://Denvergov.org/CouncilDistrict5)

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Sign up for our newsletter at [bit.ly/Council5News](http://bit.ly/Council5News)



# East Area Plan Update

By Marti Holmes

Since November 2019, city planners have reviewed more than a thousand comments on the updated draft East Area plan recommendations and approaches for building heights and housing options. These comments were gathered online, during the November 2019 workshop, and during two office hours sessions.

Throughout the two-and-a-half-year study, community members have suggested big ideas for the East area, the statistical neighborhoods adjacent to Colfax Avenue from Colorado Boulevard to Quebec Street. The predominant themes have been safety and revitalization of Colfax. Improved walkability and traffic have also been popular topics. On a snowy night at the end of January 2020, the Steering Committee met to hear preliminary feedback and discuss potential updates to plan recommendations, including those for housing options and areas of increased height. The strong focus is on equity, inclusivity, and complete neighborhoods.

City planners are considering the feedback from the community and from the Steering Committee and making updates to the plan recommendations. A draft plan will be available for public review in March, and there will be additional community input opportunities in March and April. It is anticipated that the plan will be brought forward for Planning Board and City Council consideration this summer. To learn more and sign up for updates, visit [denvergov.org/eastplan](http://denvergov.org/eastplan).

## Montclair Crime Report

From Denver Police Department

### CRIME IN MONTCLAIR REPORTED OFFENSES BASED ON UCR STANDARDS

TYPE OF OFFENSE		JAN-DEC 2018		JAN-DEC 2019		CHANGE	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
VIOLENT CRIME	Murder	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	NA
	Rape	4	1.5%	3	1.2%	-1	-25.0%
	Robbery	10	3.8%	6	2.4%	-4	-40.0%
	Aggravated Assault	20	7.6%	14	5.6%	-6	-30.0%
SUBTOTAL		34	12.9%	23	9.2%	-11	-32.4%
PROPERTY	Burglary	37	14.0%	31	12.4%	-6	-16.2%
	Larceny (Except Theft from MV)	114	43.2%	118	47.2%	4	3.5%
	Theft from Motor Vehicle	53	20.1%	41	16.4%	-12	-22.6%
	Auto theft	26	9.8%	36	14.4%	10	38.5%
	Arson	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	NA
SUBTOTAL		230	87.1%	227	90.8%	-3	-1.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>264</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>

All files utilized in the creation of this report are dynamic. Dynamic files allow additions, deletions and/or modifications at any time, resulting in more complete and accurate records in the databases. Due to continuous data entry after reports are compiled, numbers may vary in previous or subsequent reports.

PREPARED TO DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY PUBLIC INFORMATION STANDARDS

Excludes runaways, traffic offenses, unfounded reports and non-criminal activity.

# The Fax Partnership

By Monica Martinez, Fax Partnership Executive Director

The Fax Partnership was founded in 2004 to support and promote the East Colfax corridor. During our sixteen-year history we created the Mayfair Business Improvement District (BID), hosted a multi-year event called Feast on the Fax that featured our local restaurants and have worked to celebrate this dynamic corridor.

2020 will build upon projects that started in 2019 while also launching new efforts to support this community. Continuing the work that was started in 2019, The Fax will manage its Business Support Office, funded by the City of Denver. This will include a new partnership between The Fax and Mi Casa Resource Center to connect our local businesses to services and trainings. Keep a look out for an event later this spring to launch this partnership that will feature a mobile van that will go directly to businesses to provide support.

A new program in 2020 will be the launch of a Residential Support Office, funded by Enterprise Community Partners. The purpose of this Office will be to connect low-income renters and homeowners to support services that will help them stay and thrive in our community. We are excited to provide the combination of residential and business services and have two amazing new staff members to make this work a reality.

## New Staff Announcements!

My name is Sabe Kemer and I am from Ethiopia. I will be The Fax's Residential and Business Outreach Manager. I graduated from MSU Denver and have called Colorado home for the last 8 years. I am the founder of Colorado Language Services, an agency that provides interpretation and translation services. For the last two years, I have served on the Aurora Immigrant and Refugee Commission. I look forward to continuing my passion for supporting my community.

My name is Maya Thomas and I am one of the newest additions to The Fax. I was born in Denver and grew up in the East Colfax neighborhood. I joined The Fax to make a difference in the very neighborhood I am from. I am a Spelman College graduate with a passion for services geared towards marginalized communities. As the Communications Specialist at The Fax, I plan on accurately sharing about our mission, promoting the East Colfax corridor and elevating the voices of our culturally diverse community.

If you would like to learn more about what we will be doing for The Fax please reach out!

sabe@thefaxdenver.com

Maya@thefaxdenver.com

# Winter in Montclair



Photos: Carrie O'Shea




# 2020 Spring Gardening

By Gail Barry

While staring at another of our snowstorms, I am eagerly awaiting Spring's milder weather. Those who are eager can begin preparing for gardening now. Cutting down old perennials and grasses, removing annuals, spreading compost, and pruning can all be accomplished even if the ground is still frozen. Once the ground defrosts, one can plant cold hardy seeds and plants outside even if the temperature is cold. If you have Spring bulbs, they will begin emerging any time. Remember that bulbs need their foliage to mature and bloom again next year. When they have finished blooming cut off the spent flowers but leave the foliage until it turns brown and easily pulls off. Some people like to tie the foliage up with rubber bands to get them out of the way. Indoors one can start tomato and other seeds. Though I sometimes do so, it is really not safe to plant any tender plants outside until after Mother's Day so plan accordingly.

Two things I am constantly rehashing in these articles are: **1. Soil amendment** and **2. Composting**. If you are new to Colorado and haven't yet tried gardening here, you may be in for a shock. First, our soils are commonly heavy clay and need amending to help break up the soil and release the nutrients. Coarse compost or other amendment works better than really fine. Too much soil amendment at one time can bind up the calcium in the soil (of which we have plenty), so amendment should be added gradually and renewed often. For permanent planting beds I specify 4 cubic yards of soil amendment per thousand square feet (compost is good) tilled or dug into the soil to a minimum depth of 6". In annual beds I add amendment every season.

My second passion, composting, is easy to accomplish by making a 4' x 4' pile or you can use a commercial composter. Smaller pieces, layering different materials, turning and watering yield much faster results but it will all heat up and eventually turn into a great addition for your soil. Rather than sending them to the landfill, compost your kitchen waste, leaves and grass clipping. (I do not recommend weed seeds nor invasive plant parts.) If you don't have the room, the time, or the inclination to compost yourself, get a City compost bin. They are available for a modest price per year. The City Compost program takes all kinds of things, not just plant material. Shredded paper, waxed paper, used tissues, paper plates, napkins, cups, pizza boxes and paper towels, **all of which cannot be recycled, are compostable**.



Find us on Facebook.  
Search "Historic Montclair  
Community"



Photo: Carrie O'Shea



Photo: Winston Churchpaw

## Businesses Helping Our Community

By Sandra Murray, Resident, Contagious Media owner

We're off to a new year here in Montclair and we thank you for your continued support of this newsletter, our advertisers and helping your neighbors. I wanted to let you know that the **Be3 United Methodist Dinner Church at Newport & 12th** will be closing on Easter. Though Be3 is closing, The Newport Street Retreat will be open and active with many businesses including the Tina Porter Yoga Studio and other opportunities to rent space for parties and such. Check out their website at: [www.NewportStreetRetreat.com](http://www.NewportStreetRetreat.com). Many blessings to the Pastors and staff at Be3 for their continued success and for giving our community an unforgettable experience.

**Welcome New Supporters- Jamie DeBrosse (720-788-9303)** is an award-winning realtor serving clients in Denver Metro area. She partners with home sellers to strategically position and price their home for sale in order to realize the maximum return. If Jamie's name is familiar, there's a reason for that! Jamie DeBrosse, her husband Nick, and their twin babies (who are now nearly 8 years old, and no longer babies) were Montclair residents before moving to Centennial. Jamie was very involved in Montclair as a HMCAI board member. If you are selling or buying check out Jamie's website: [SellDenverMetro.com](http://SellDenverMetro.com)

**Refresh Studios** re-opened on January 1st and the new owner, Alison Oyler-Mitsch, has been an East Denver resident for over 20 years. She is an event planner, wife, dog mom, and proud member of the Montclair community. Refresh Studios (previously Dancing the Soul) focuses on the mind, body and soul through 20+ weekly classes, workshops and events with the goal of bringing Montclair and surrounding communities together in a gorgeous "refreshed" space. Everyone is welcome! Please visit them at 950-C Jersey St, Denver CO 80220 or at [www.refresh-studios.com](http://www.refresh-studios.com). Check out their ad in this issue!

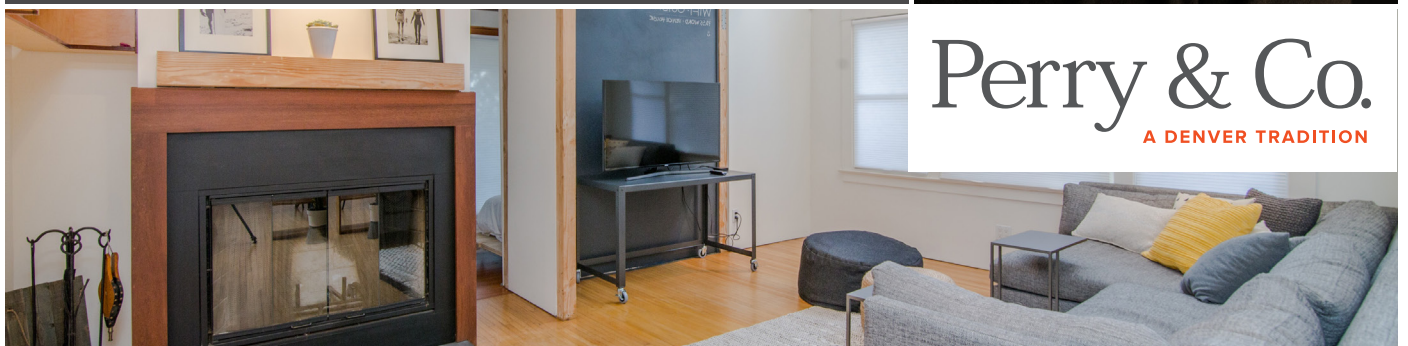
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# Montclair Real Estate Market Update

By Valerie Alford, Your Castle Real Estate

## January - February 2020

- 13 actives
- 13 Under Contract
- 7 Sold
- Average Price above ground \$450
- Price per square ft total \$305
- Average List Price \$786,912
- Average sold price \$581,843
- Average days on market 45

The market is slowing but it still is a seller's market, yet a little more balanced. There is still a short supply of homes for sale. The less expensive homes are going fast, but there is more activity in the luxury market than in years before.

Address	Beds	Baths	Above Grade	Total	Finished	List Price	Sold Price
770 Locust Street	3	2	1,228	2,456	2,333	\$765,000	\$752,000
655 Poplar Street	4	2	1,385	2,770	2,770	\$649,500	\$615,000
1300 Magnolia Street	3	2	1,120	1,949	1,940	\$575,000	\$577,000
635 Pontiac Street	2	2	1,132	1,132	1,132	\$549,900	\$540,000
1265 Olive Street	3	2	1,509	1,509	1,509	\$539,000	\$539,000
796 Pontiac Street	3	2	1,544	1,544	1,544	\$525,000	\$524,900
1200 Jasmine Street	3	2	1,277	1,277	1,277	\$525,000	\$525,000

## Free Festivals and Events

Courtesy of Visit Denver

### CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL

**WHEN:** May 2–3, 2020

**WHERE:** Civic Center Park

Attendance is free at one of the largest cultural events in Colorado, with more than 400,000 visitors each year. Enjoy live entertainment on three stages, hundreds of exhibitors, great food and drink, children's activities, a parade — and the hotly contested green chile cook-off.

### FIVE POINTS JAZZ FESTIVAL

**WHEN:** May 16, 2020

**WHERE:** Five Points

The Five Points Jazz Festival takes place on the third Saturday of May and celebrates the history of Denver's iconic and musical Five Points neighborhood.

### DENVER ARTS FESTIVAL

**WHEN:** May 23–24, 2020

**WHERE:** Conservatory Green at Northfield Stapleton

More than 100 of Colorado's most esteemed artists showcase paintings, sculpture, photography, glasswork, woodwork and more. A small set of acclaimed national artists will also display their work. This popular event is expected to bring over 50,000 attendees.

### DENVER DAY OF ROCK

**WHEN:** May 23, 2020

**WHERE:** 16th Street Mall - Pedestrian Mall

A free, outdoor music festival in the heart of downtown Denver? Yes, please. Denver Day of Rock is an annual tradition that will feature five stages of live music throughout downtown Denver.

### DENVER CHALK ART FESTIVAL

**WHEN:** June 5–6, 2020

**WHERE:** Larimer Square

Every spring, the sidewalks around Larimer Square come to life during the annual Denver Chalk Art Festival, as more than 200 professional, amateur and student chalk artists turn concrete into canvas. This is a don't-miss event, especially since these masterpieces will be washed away with the next spring shower.

### DENVER BBQ FESTIVAL

**WHEN:** June 19–21, 2020

**WHERE:** Empower Field at Mile High

It's Father's Day weekend, and what does dad want most? A cold brew and some BBQ! Enjoy pulled pork, brisket, smoked sausage and more. Free admission on Saturday and Sunday.

# Baseball in Denver

By Erick Stragand, Montclair Resident and Baseball Nerd

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Even though COVID-19 has delayed Major League Baseball's 2020 Opening Day, it will eventually arrive. The event is unique among all professional sports, as it typically falls on a weekday afternoon. "Opening Day" doesn't necessarily mean the first day of the season, either. It varies for each city's baseball club. Obviously, not everybody plays at their home field on the first day of the season, and not everybody plays on that first day, either. Thus, each club's "Opening Day" typically falls anywhere in the first 1-10 days of the season. For example, last year, the Colorado Rockies played their first game on March 28 in Miami, but didn't have their "Opening Day" until April 5 in Denver.

Thousands of people are known to play hooky or schedule some time off when "Opening Day" rolls around. It's become tradition for the streets of Denver's LoDo, Ballpark and even RiNo districts to be full of not just baseball fans, but anyone who is fan of a good time and the unofficial arrival of sunny days. Usually.

While I've been fortunate to attend many Rockies Opening Days, one that sticks out in my mind was from their second season in 1994. I had been to a few Rockies games in their inaugural season (I'll always recall the person who once celebrated when a Rockies' player hit a foul ball into the stands, thinking it was a home run). But 1994 was a new year and I had never been to an Opening Day. Unlike 1993, this Opening Day actually fell on the first day of the regular season-- on a Monday at 3:30! Furthermore, the Rockies were set to host the Philadelphia Phillies, who had just been to the World Series a few months prior. This felt like a REAL Opening Day. My dad and I were able to score two outfield tickets and we couldn't wait! After all, Opening Day is a nice spring day with sunny weather! Usually.

This was held at the old Mile High Stadium, just over a year before Coors Field even had gates to be opened. The area surrounding the old Stadium wasn't exactly as welcoming or as enjoyable as Blake Street is today. Surrounding the Stadium were parking lots, warehouses and more parking lots. The main lot behind the famous South Stands would sometimes have tailgating, but in short you couldn't stop off for a bite or a drink, before the game. The closest thing you had was the Burger King on Federal Boulevard.

As the game began, the Rockies trotted out their re-tooled line-up. They had returning fan favorites Andres Galarraga and Dante Bichette, while 1993 pitching star Armando Reynoso got the call as the Opening Day starter. They had new arrivals in shortstop Walt Weiss, center fielder Ellis Burks and left fielder Howard Johnson.

The first six innings of the game were relatively "normal"-- even somewhat low-scoring. The Rockies had the lead, 4-2. Then came the seventh inning. It's no secret that the weather in Denver can quickly turn, which is exactly what happened. While we knew there were cloudy skies and a chance of snow, we had hoped the game would be over before the snowflakes arrived. Yet here they were. I remember I was wearing a denim/khaki jacket, but with the sudden mini-blizzard, I had to activate my back-up plan-- the long sleeved flannel hoodie (hey, it was 1994 and I was stylin'). So much for that "usual" sunny day.

The snow and wind played havoc with the players, too. Howard Johnson was unable to play a flyball to left and it allowed the Phillies to score a few runs and take the lead. What happened at this point was somewhat historic, as Rockies fans loudly boo'ed Johnson. That was unheard of, as Denver fans had been crazy over their Rockies in 1993 and never boo'ed them! A few more miscues followed and the Rockies ended their Opening Day losing, 6-12.

Howard Johnson didn't have a good year and was gone at the end of the season. He retired after one more season with the Cubs. Nothing against "HoJo", as by all accounts he was a quality guy and had a decent career, but to me he'll always be known as "the First Rockie to be Loudly Boo'ed by the Home Crowd". You could say that Denver fans grew up a bit that day, as they now had expectations for their team. Fans didn't just cheer them, they now criticized them. In a sense, the Colorado Rockies had officially joined the world of Major League Baseball.

If you're heading over to Opening Day, whenever it arrives this year, have fun. To avoid parking headaches, I'd recommend taking a ride share service or the bus (RTD Routes 6 or 10). Yet be sure to check the weather forecast, as that "usual" sunny day could be impacted. If you need an extra layer, I might still have an old flannel you can borrow.





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