



# THE MONTCLARION

## Our Neighborhood

Annexed by the City of Denver in 1902, Montclair incorporated in 1888 as a Denver suburb. One of Denver's 78 statistical neighborhoods, its borders include Colfax Ave. to the north, 6th Ave. to the south, Quebec St. to the east and Holly St. to the west.

Formed in 1907 as a not-for-profit corporation, the Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc. (HMCAI), is the oldest neighborhood association in Denver. Officers and at-large board members serve without pay. 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.

Dedicated to innovative educational, civic and social activities, we offer our members quarterly newsletters, flyers and public announcements. We inform members of important zoning issues, historic preservation, construction and planning activities, elections and other activities impacting the neighborhood. HMCAI frequently collaborates with schools, churches and other local organizations for the common good. Interested in being a part of the community? Join today.

HISTORIC  
MONTCLAIR  
COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION

# 2024

## 1st Quarter

HistoricMontclair.org  
HistoricMontclair@gmail.com



**HISTORIC  
MONTCLAIR  
COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION**  
INC.

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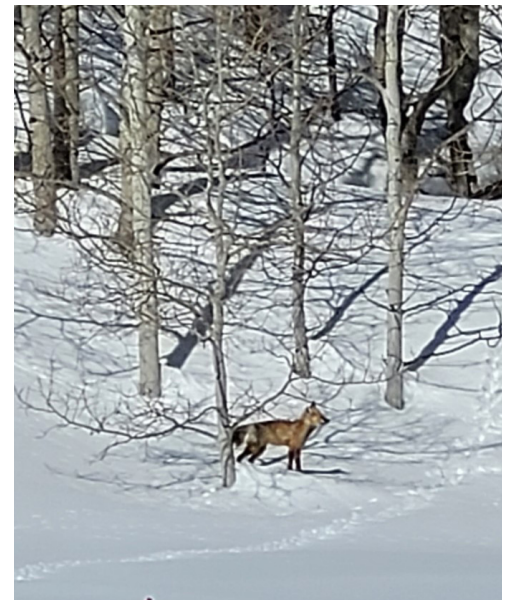
## President's Note

By Judy Baxter

We are nearly 1/6 of the way through 2024. How time flies, always strikes me more at the beginning of the year, than at the end. Our mid-winter days of sunshine and occasional snow, are magical. As I write this I am absorbing the sunshine streaming in from a crystal blue sky in Crested Butte. The drive down 285, then over Monarch Pass was stunning in its winter beauty most especially as South Park expanded before us, encircled by several ranges, stark white against a cloudless blue sky. Here in CB, as I walk Piper in the morning, also surrounded by hillsides, we see a fox tracking across the expanse of deep snow. There is a Haiku in there somewhere.



This newsletter will reach you after we have our 6th Annual History Soiree. This year we will learn of the ghosts and other peculiarities that haunt our local cemeteries from a local author and historian Phil Goodstein. It promises to be a lovely evening of socializing and expanding our knowledge of our local history. I am confident that the wine from Jersey Liquors and the spread of appetizers and desserts from neighbors will contribute to growing our reputation for putting on a great event.



And then it is on to getting ready for the Easter Egg Hunt, when neighbors gather to stuff some 3000 eggs, and then others gather lay them the morning of Saturday March 30 to cover Montclair park in a rainbow of colors. Anyone wanting to volunteer for light but fun Easter Egg Hunt tasks should contact me through the [Historicmontclair@gmail.com](mailto:Historicmontclair@gmail.com) or to [baxterj.jb15@gmail.com](mailto:baxterj.jb15@gmail.com). Remember, the HUNT is on, come rain or come shine. It starts at 10 and is over in a blink of an eye. There will be refreshments and fun times for all.

At both of these events we will be collecting non-perishable food donations to be distributed at Montclair Elementary and George Washington High School. Organized by a Montclair resident, this is a small way we can help support families in need. Thank you in advance for anything you can contribute.

“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing.” – Jean Vanier

Be well; be safe; be in touch with us: [historicmontclair@gmail.com](mailto:historicmontclair@gmail.com)

## HMCAI 2024 Board

**President:** Judy Baxter  
**1st Vice President:** Carrie O’Shea  
**Secretary:** Lynn VanderWielen  
**Treasurer:** Gail Barry

### At Large Board Members:

Jennifer Bolda                      Brian Narber  
 Meg Goos                              Merritt Pullam  
 Wendy Ho-Schnell              Rachael Roth-Stanfield  
 Toni Ann Kuper                      Ryan Stevens  
 Jim LeDuc

## HMCAI Events Calendar 2024

Mar. 1	Wine & History Night	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Molkery
Mar. 30	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 am	Montclair Park
Jul. 4	July 4 Picnic	10:30 am -2:00 pm	Montclair Park
Sept. 27	Beer & Wine Reception	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Molkery
Oct. 16	Annual General Meeting	7:00 pm	Molkery
Oct. 27	Halloween Party	3:30-5:00 pm	Molkery
Dec. 7	Treats with Santa	10:30 am - Noon	Molkery

The Molkery, aka Montclair Civic Building is located at 6820 E. 12th Ave. in Montclair Park

## HMCAI Membership Form

Two ways to join: 1- Please print legibly on form and mail with check to:  
**HMCAI Treasurer, PO Box 200125, Denver, CO 80220**

2. Or, pay securely online with Square:

Annual dues per household:     \$40 (\$20 seniors, ages 65 and older)

Voluntary donation:\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount of check:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

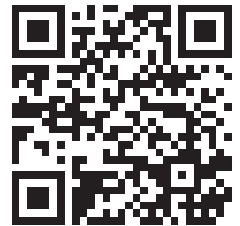
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

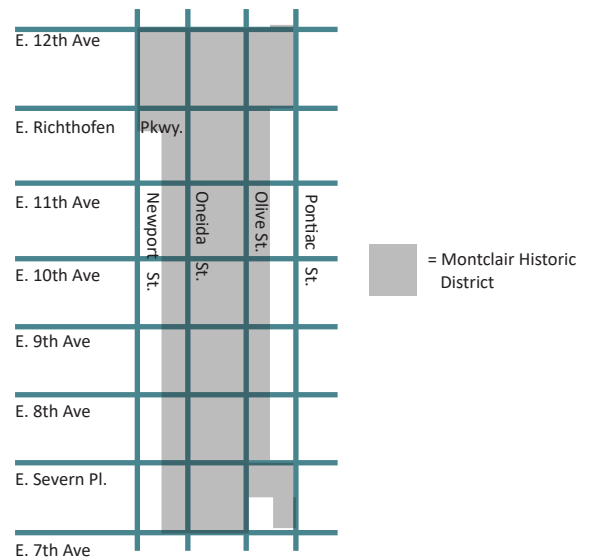
What would you like to help with? \_\_\_\_\_

*Possibilities include: Treats with Santa, July 4th, Easter Egg Hunt, Cocktail Party, Halloween Party, Board Member, Other (please specify)*



## Important Information

If you live in the designated Historic District (see map to the right) within the Montclair neighborhood and you’d like to build an addition, second story, porch, add solar panels, replace windows, roof, sidewalks, or demolish the house and build new, you must first contact Denver’s Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) and receive approval. Your proposal must meet the design guidelines for historic districts. This is mandatory for residents of all historic districts in the City of Denver. To schedule an appointment for a pre-application meeting, discuss your building project, or ask questions contact the LPC at 720-865-2709 or [landmark@denvergov.org](mailto:landmark@denvergov.org)



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

# City Council District 5 Updates

by Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer, District 5



## Council District 5's 2024 Work Plan

Happy New Year, Montclair! As we step into 2024, the District 5 City Council office is gearing up for an action-packed year. Join us as we unveil exciting updates and crucial information that will shape

Montclair and the entire district. Get ready for a year filled with progress and community engagement!

## Spring Parks Clean Up Day (April 21, 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

Mark your calendars for the District 5's spring parks clean-up on April 21! This annual event is a collaborative effort to enhance our parks' beauty. Join us at Montclair Rec Center at 8:30 a.m. for a quick breakfast and to collect supplies. Sign up to volunteer and make a positive impact on our shared spaces at [bit.ly/SpringParksCleanup24](https://bit.ly/SpringParksCleanup24).

## 2023 Exposition Traffic Study

Traffic concerns along Exposition Ave are a priority for our community. In partnership with DOTI, local firm Fehr & Peers, and the Winston Downs Community Association,

we're conducting a comprehensive traffic study. Your input is crucial! Join our virtual zoom meeting on February 27 by registering at [bit.ly/ExpositionStudyFeb](https://bit.ly/ExpositionStudyFeb) and share your thoughts through the survey at [bit.ly/ExpositionAveSurvey](https://bit.ly/ExpositionAveSurvey).

## DO-8 Overlay and Hale ADUs

Exciting developments are underway with the implementation of the Active Centers and Corridors Use Overlay (DO-8) along East Colfax. This initiative aims to activate ground-floor uses, enhance pedestrian-friendliness, and integrate future development seamlessly into our neighborhoods. The Overlay unanimously passed through City Council on December 18, 2023, and is now law.

Similarly, our efforts extend to the Hale neighborhood, where a survey was conducted on rezoning to allow for easier Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The survey received overwhelming support, with 58% of respondents in favor. The rezoning process is progressing well, and we are thrilled to announce that on January 17, the Planning Board unanimously approved the rezoning. Stay tuned for updates through our newsletter and social media channels.

## Property Tax Rebates

Recognizing the financial challenges associated with property taxes, I want to ensure you are aware of available rebates. For Denver residents, detailed information can be found at [bit.ly/DenverPropertyTaxRebate](https://bit.ly/DenverPropertyTaxRebate), and for the broader Colorado community, visit [tax.colorado.gov/PTC-rebate](https://tax.colorado.gov/PTC-rebate).

In our ongoing commitment to improving the lives of Montclair residents, we've made significant strides. Your continued support is invaluable as we address community needs and work towards innovative solutions. Together, let's shape Montclair into an even better place to live, work, and play.

Gratefully,  
Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer

Phone 720-337-5555

Email [denvercouncil5@denvergov.org](mailto:denvercouncil5@denvergov.org)

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**Merritt Pullam**  
BROKER ASSOCIATE, REALTOR®

m 303.419.2622  
[mpullam@corcoranperry.com](mailto:mpullam@corcoranperry.com)  
[perr.co/mpull](https://perr.co/mpull)  
[hmbt.co/dB6jE9](https://hmbt.co/dB6jE9)



## Annual HMCAI Easter Egg Hunt

Small children and their parents are invited to **HMCAI's Annual Easter Egg Hunt** at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 30th at the Molkery, 6820 E. 12th Ave., and Montclair Park

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 will recycle the plastic eggs, 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, serve snacks, and clean up. 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.jb15@gmail.com](mailto:baxterj.jb15@gmail.com).



## THE MCWILLIAMS TEAM: YOUR MONTCLAIR REAL ESTATE EXPERTS

We have seen Montclair evolve over 45 years. Let's discuss what 2024 has in store.



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### Ed McWilliams

Broker Associate  
303.902.1558  
[EMcWilliams@kentwood.com](mailto:EMcWilliams@kentwood.com)

### Anne McWilliams

Broker Associate  
312.320.8219  
[AMcWilliams@kentwood.com](mailto:AMcWilliams@kentwood.com)

# The Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment

By Merritt Pullam

Here we are, barreling into another Spring in Denver. As the weather changes, I look forward to seeing you out in your yards, walking our fantastic neighborhood, or at the parks enjoying various events. Every Spring Montclarion issue, I am compelled to give a huge Thank You to everyone who participated in the 2023 Giving Tree! Our community once again showed how generous and caring they are for those who are not as fortunate. You made the holiday season special for many families.

Round two of school choice is under way and will close in August 2024. This includes students for ECE, Kinder, and 6th grade. Go to: [schoolchoice.dpsk12.net](https://schoolchoice.dpsk12.net) for more information. I have seen multiple people post questions on various local websites asking about Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment. My wife and I have been extremely happy with the staff and school for the past 7 plus years. We have experienced ups and downs like most others, but overall, we feel the school cares about our children and our feedback.

Montclair has opened-up classrooms to help with the new arrivals. We currently have thirteen new students and will most likely continue to receive more. Monetary donations, backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, and youth clothing sizes 5t to 12 are much appreciated. Please visit our

website to learn more about how to help with our new neighbors.

This March, the school will be participating for the first time in Destination Imagination Colorado. This is another excellent example of our enrichment programs. Destination Imagination (DI) prepares Colorado's kids to be the innovators of the future by combining the arts, sciences, and technology with creativity, teamwork, and problem solving. Go to: [dicolorado.com](https://dicolorado.com) to learn more about this unique experience. Karl Horeis, one of our many great teachers, continues to provide opportunities for our students to step outside of their comfort zone and experience new ways to learn. Thank you Mr. Horeis!

### Schedule Alerts:

- **Spring Break:** March 25 – April 1.
- **Movie night in the Auditorium:** Moana. Friday, April 19. Doors open at 6 pm.
- **International Night:** Friday, May 9. Doors open at 5 pm
- **Last day of school for 2023-2024:** Tuesday, June 4.
- **First day of school for 2024-2025:** Monday, August 19.

If you are looking to help with our community school or DPS in general, please visit [Montclair.dpsk12.org](https://Montclair.dpsk12.org). This is a great resource if you have questions about the school, how to participate/volunteer as a parent/guardian, or to learn more about the school and our community. Various job openings are also listed – Montclair is currently looking for two para professionals. Also, feel free to call the Montclair front office at (720) 424-5380 with any questions.

If you or someone you know would be a good fit to help support our school community via PEAK (Parents, Educators, and Kids) please reach out to Devin Lopez at (720) 424-5385 or [devin\\_lopez@dpsk12.net](mailto:devin_lopez@dpsk12.net). You can help make a difference with the kids, staff, and other parents. We are always looking for those that can help in a leadership/support role or with donations. You may also go to [Montclair.dpsk12.org](https://Montclair.dpsk12.org) and select the support us tab at the top of the page and find out how to donate to our school. PEAK is continuing to look for new opportunities to raise funds. We are pursuing restarting our annual bulb and flower drive, partnerships with local restaurants, scheduled craft creating days at the school, and advertising along our fencing. If you know of anyone interested in participating, please reach out to the front office or visit our website.

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# Elections November 4, 2024: Two Denver Ballot Titles Plus a Possible Statewide Ballot

By David H. McCord

The below expresses **my opinions**, I oppose all of these, readers may differ.

1) "Shall the voters of the City and County of Denver adopt an ordinance concerning a prohibition of fur products, . . . , prohibiting the manufacture, distribution, display, sale, or trade of certain animal fur products in the City; and providing limited exceptions to the prohibition?"

2) "Shall the voters of the City and County of Denver adopt an ordinance prohibiting slaughterhouses, and in connection . . . , prohibiting the construction, maintenance, or use of slaughterhouses within the City, and requiring the City to prioritize residents whose employment is affected by the ordinance in workforce training or employment assistance programs."

Denver voters will act on these issues proposed by radical animal rights interests who want us to transition to a plant-based food system. Boulder voters banned fur sales several years ago and the proponents want the same here in Denver. Denver's Superior Farms is a major lamb slaughterhouse facility located near the National Western Stock Show grounds, employee owned and operated, 170 employees, 70 years of operation.

The slaughterhouse ban would use public funds to retrain workers for other pursuits. There may be small Denver slaughterhouses that process animals for halal, orthodox, and ethnic specialty menus. Denver has about a dozen fur vendors. Cowboy hats made from beaver fur could be banned, also, people who fly fish may lose access to fly hooks made with animal fur and to fur fly tying materials.

In addition, a possible statewide initiative, #91 (ballot number would differ) may appear if the proponents find the needed 128,000 signatures, would prohibit so called "trophy hunting" of mountain lions, bobcats, and lynx. The proponents claim hunter motivation is to seek "trophies", hide, skull, teeth, etc. Not true. State law requires that edible parts of harvested game animals be prepared as human food. Lion hunting has a winter season and, in snow conditions, tracks from a female and her babies are readily visible and they are not to be taken. Also, lactating females that find refuge in a tree are to be left alone. The Colorado Parks Wildlife staff provide excellent management of mountain lions and bobcats to ensure a healthy population balance and co-existence with food sources. Prospective lion hunters must take a class to qualify and during the hunting season must call in to determine if the allowed kill has been reached for their hunting unit. Lynx are protected and not hunted.

The proponents are out-of-state interests using out-of-state funding and they want to impose this anti-hunting stricture on our state. They appear not to care about impacts of this measure on our wildlife and on ranch and farm livestock and pets. A mountain lion will kill and consume a prey animal, deer, elk, moose, domestic cow, etc. every one or two weeks. The CPW estimates there are 3,800 to 4,400 mountain lions here. On average, hunters legally kill 500+/- lions a year. Doing the math, if the initiative passes those 500 lions continue in the ecosystem and they will kill around 13,000 prey animals per year the first year and continue the same plus more in following years leading to devastating impacts on our deer, elk, and moose herds and on ranch and farm livestock and pets. Attacks on humans are rare but do happen. Problem cats would be killed by state hunters but at taxpayer expense. If you may be approached by a petition circulator, please let me know, I am curious where – certainly not in rural, Colorado ranch country. For more information, visit [www.wildlifedeservebetter.com](http://www.wildlifedeservebetter.com)



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## Patriot Update: George Washington High School

By GW Staff

George Washington High School – affectionately known as GW – is the neighborhood high school for all of Montclair. As part of this community, we want to keep you updated on what is happening at the school. Although the first round of school choice is now over, it's not too late to apply. Please know that your children (or grandchildren) have an incredible home at the school. From the longest-running International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in Colorado, to our 5A state-winning Speech and Debate Team, to our many sports teams and clubs, GW is an environment where students are Present, Prepared, Engaged and Positive: our Patriot Principles.

So, what's been happening at GW? Our Patriots have been learning, growing, and engaging in many ways.

Our winter sports season is in full swing! Students are representing in basketball, swimming and diving, and wrestling. We'd love to have you join us for an event sometime. Schedules can be found on the GW website ([www.gwhs.dpsk12.org](http://www.gwhs.dpsk12.org)).

GW is proud to announce that we have more 2024 National Merit Semi-finalists than ANY OTHER Denver Public High School. This is also almost triple the number of any other school in the state! Last year we had one Boettcher Scholarship winner and three National Merit winners. We are truly proud of the exceptional level of academics offered at our school.

Would you like to learn more? Please join our Principal, Dr. Dackri Davis for "Doughnuts with Dr. Davis" the second Wednesday of each month from 8:00 to 8:30 am in the Community Room. This is a great opportunity to hear her vision and share your ideas. All are welcome.

GW is relaunching our Mentor program – Patriot Pairs – and is actively looking for mentors. Do you know someone who would like to support the academic, social, emotional, or professional development of our students? It only takes one hour a week but has a life-long impact on our young people. Jasmine Locks is the program director and can be reached at [jasmine\\_locks@dpsk12.net](mailto:jasmine_locks@dpsk12.net) or 720-423-8670. Please don't hesitate to reach out to her.

Lastly, GW has a food pantry that provides access to food and other necessities to students with food scarcity needs by bridging the gap for nights and weekends. We are experiencing a significant increase in need this spring - would you please consider supporting our community with either a cash donation or non-perishable food items? Donations can be dropped off at the school or at neighbor and GW parent Kate Douglas's house (935 Oneida).

For cash donations, please go to: <https://www.coloradogives.org/story/Cgdfoodpantry>.



## The Fax Partnership Update

The Fax Partnership's (The Fax) mission is to strengthen and support those who live and work along the East Colfax corridor. This work is done in many ways including working with the city and state, local and national organizations, but most importantly it is accomplished through work with local residents and businesses. This includes those who live and work in neighboring communities. Colfax is an integral part of Denver, and a stronger, more vibrant East Colfax means a stronger and more vibrant Denver.

To accomplish our mission, in 2022 The Fax started working with the local community to establish the East Colfax Cultural District to highlight the diversity and vibrancy of the neighborhood. The Cultural District runs along East Colfax from Monaco to Yosemite. Through this work a mission statement was developed, a community treasure map was created, and a district unifying logo was designed. In late 2023, a community steering committee was formed to guide the next phase of the work to strengthen the East Colfax Cultural District.

Interested in learning more or getting involved? That's now easy to do at the newly launched website where individuals and businesses alike can check in: [eastcolfaxculturaldistrict.com](http://eastcolfaxculturaldistrict.com). With links to local history, neighborhood business profiles, and a community events



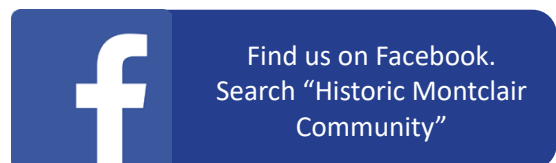
calendar, [eastcolfaxculturaldistrict.com](http://eastcolfaxculturaldistrict.com) aims to be the hub that keeps those interested in the know. Just like a community itself is a reflection of those within, this website will shine with greater engagement, and we look forward to its highlighting what the East Colfax community has to offer. We encourage everyone to post their events on the site and help make it a celebration of what makes East Colfax special!

In addition to The Fax's work, other changes are coming to East Colfax. The East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project is set to begin construction this year, starting at Broadway and working east. Through this project, Colfax will continue to be a main artery of the city - and visually harken back to its history of having center-running streetcars, which ran along it up until 1950. In anticipation of the BRT, The Fax will continue our work with local small businesses so that as development comes to the area they are equipped to adapt and grow. More efficient mass transit will bring foot traffic to the area and the businesses that thrive will be the ones that balance the needs of the current community and the influx of new visitors.

Whether it's frequenting local businesses, attending community meetings, or donating to The Fax or other local causes, our community is at a unique juncture and we are all being presented with a once-in-a-lifetime chance to help mold the future of this essential part of Denver.

Please visit our website, [thefaxdenver.com](http://thefaxdenver.com), and the East Colfax Cultural District's, [eastcolfaxculturaldistrict.com](http://eastcolfaxculturaldistrict.com), to learn how you can play a part in the growth ahead.

A dark red advertisement for Jersey Street Liquors. On the left is a vertical image of a liquor bottle. To the right, the text reads: 'GREAT SELECTION OF WINES, LIQUOR, AND BEERS' in small white letters, followed by 'Jersey Street Liquors' in a large, white, serif font. Below that, the address '928 JERSEY STREET DENVER, CO 80220' and phone number '303-221-0121' are listed in white. At the bottom, a promotional offer is stated: 'MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE 10% OFF \$20 OR MORE (EXCLUDES LOTTERY AND TOBACCO)' in white.



## From the Desk of Chris Hansen, State Senator

District 31



Dear Fellow Montclarions,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful start to 2024. We are back at the Capitol for the 2024 Legislative session and the pace has quickened. This session I am proud to serve on the Finance, Appropriations,

Joint Technology, Legislative Council, Committee on Legal Services, and State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committees. Additionally, I serve as the Chair of the newly created Colorado Property Tax Commission. Here is a preview of some of the bills I will be running this session:

- **The Seal of Climate Literacy** authorizes a school district to grant a high school diploma endorsement in climate literacy to graduating students who demonstrate mastery in climate literacy and attain conservation and technical skills.
- **Social Media Required Disclosures, Reports, and Protections for Minors** imposes requirements on social media companies to protect Coloradans under 18 from the sale of illicit substances and the unlawful sale of firearms.

The Denver Post published my Op-Ed with Senator Michaelson Jenet on the bill. Here is a link to the full article: <https://www.denverpost.com/2024/02/14/harmful-social-media-colorado-senate-bill-158-guns-drugs-sex/>

*"Our federal government has done little to protect children and teens from the drugs, illegal guns, and sexual exploitation rampant on social media platforms. Last year's report from the Colorado Attorney General's office detailed the ready availability of fentanyl and other illicit substances on social media platforms."*

- **Distracted Driving** would extend the current law that prohibits a person who is under 18 years of age from using a mobile electronic device when driving anyone 18 years of age older, unless the person is using a hands-free accessory.

I am incredibly proud that this bill with Senator Fields passed unanimously in Senate Transportation and Energy Committee last week. SB24-065 builds on the work of legislation started by the honorable Lois Court, previous Senator for my district. This bill prohibits holding a

cellphone while driving to limit distraction and would require drivers to use hands-free devices. Colorado Politics published an article with more details about the proposed legislation: [https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/colorado-lawmakers-give-green-light-to-bill-prohibiting-adult-use-of-cellphones-while-driving/article\\_cd1e9338-c9f7-11ee-9ada-6754b595cf8b.html](https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/colorado-lawmakers-give-green-light-to-bill-prohibiting-adult-use-of-cellphones-while-driving/article_cd1e9338-c9f7-11ee-9ada-6754b595cf8b.html)

- **Energy Infrastructure Siting and Decommissioning** works to improve the siting and development of renewable energy facilities and transmission in Colorado and protects public health, safety, and welfare and the environment, including wildlife.
- **Electricity Distribution System Planning** focuses on strengthening electricity distribution networks to support the transition to renewable energy, electric vehicles, building electrification, and energy storage.

I am looking forward to the work that will be done over the next few months that will benefit the people of Colorado and those in our community. As always I am open to hearing about the policy that matters to you. You can reach me at [chris@hansenforcolorado.com](mailto:chris@hansenforcolorado.com) or 303-866-4861. Also, feel free to subscribe to my newsletter on my website [www.hansenforcolorado.com](http://www.hansenforcolorado.com) for regular updates. Thank you for letting me serve you and our community in the State Senate.

Sincerely,

State Senator, CO District 31  
(303) 866-4861

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# Dogs of Montclair

By Lynn VanderWielen

Every morning and evening you may have noticed many dogs out for a little fresh air. Meet a few of the neighborhood pups!



When not napping, **Tess** enjoys long walks around the neighborhood so she can keep all the local squirrels and rabbits in check.

**Ridge** is a 2-year-old Irish setter who does field training. This picture is Ridge doing training near Bennett, CO. Field training (with the training done in many "steps") involves the dog learning to find a bird by scenting it, then to stop moving when he scents the bird, and then to indicate the bird's location by "pointing" it. Homing pigeons are the birds used for field training.



**Dexter** and **Aureus** are two beagle mixes who love adventures, walks, snuggles, and fallen food. Dexter recently passed away after a long happy life filled with love.



This is **Alfie** and **Walter**. They are boxer mixes and brothers!



We are two old ladies that love the sunshine. **Olivia** loves chasing squirrels and rabbits. **Kennedy** really loves hikes but is slowing down in her old age. The bark may be loud, but they are major lovers.

Hi! I am **Chloe**, a 2-year-old Beagle. I tend to walk the entire time with my nose to the ground sniffing those delicious scents. I am still shy of people but love to say hi! Guten tag, I am an 11-year-old Dachshund named **Austin**. I tend to be cautious and distrustful of dogs and people until I get to know them.



## Pontiac Street Gang Hanging Together

The sign Says: This home is filled with kisses, wagging tails, wet noses, and love.

# 2024 Spring Gardening

By Gail Barry

While most people do not consider the colder months opportunities for garden work, there is always something that can be done in the yard on the milder weather days. It is time to cut down ornamental grasses, spent perennials and unruly vines. If you are uncertain about methods consult CSU Extension. They have advice and online info on a wide variety of garden subjects. All is oriented to our specific Colorado requirements.

For those who love birds consider growing sunflowers in your garden this year. There are lots of kinds, many are quite beautiful, and some are very large. If you are growing for birds, the black oil sunflower is probably the most popular to the birds. The grey striped sunflower seeds are also good, but harder for birds to crack. Keep in mind that the squirrels love sunflower seeds, so be prepared to cover blooms with cheese cloth or similar protective cover that will deter the squirrels as the seeds develop. Birds are also attracted to insects and fruits.

My garden is widely diverse and includes flowers, grasses, shrubs, trees, fruits, herbs, and many vegetables when the season allows. I love to eat and nothing is better than fresh produce from one's own garden. I grow most vegetables from seed and start the ones that need time to develop

(tomatoes, pepper, basil) in late February/early March. Later in the spring I start squashes, cucumbers, and the like so they are ready to go in the ground when the time is right, usually mid-May. Other cold hardy seeds can be planted directly in the ground once the soil can be worked. These include lettuces, radishes, carrots, onions, Swiss chard, peas, and plants of broccoli, cabbage and kale. If you enjoy potatoes they can also be planted in March and harvested in July-August. Late potatoes (winter potatoes) are planted in April-May and harvested in September-November. I often plant early and harvest more than once in the season so I have those lovely new potatoes and larger ones later. It is a fun crop for kids, as digging them is kind of like finding buried treasure. Mixing flowers with vegetables is often very beneficial so do not forget to add some.

If you like annual flowers, once again consult with CSU Extension. They conduct many trials to find the best producing flowers. Make sure your pots have well enriched soil in them to encourage lots of blooms and do not forget to water.

**Happy 2024 Gardening!**



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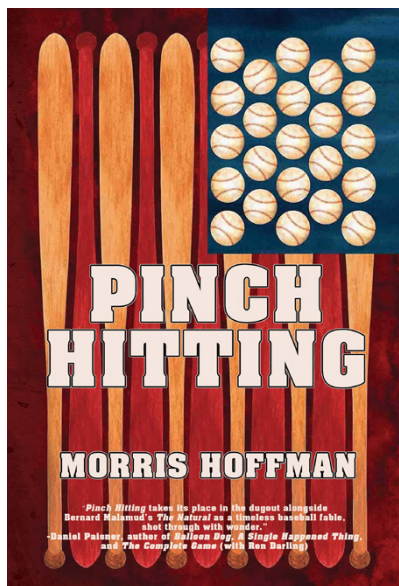


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## Baseball in Denver

By Erick Stragand, Montclair Resident and Baseball Nerd



One of the appealing aspects of baseball is that you never know what will happen, or when it will happen. Such was the case on a recent snowy morning. I was out shoveling snow in January, which is probably the “least baseball thing” one can conjure. My across-the-street neighbor was doing the same, when he came over to chat about... baseball!

Turns out, my neighbor Morris Hoffman, a retired trial judge and Colorado native who grew up in Montclair recently wrote his first fictional novel, *Pinch Hitting*. It follows the antics of one Harold Fungo— a hitting phenom and former janitor, who was discovered by the grounds crew at a minor league park. Harold can hit anything and send it *anywhere*, a baseball manager’s dream. He’s also one of the nicest and most approachable guys you could hope to meet, armed with an “atomic smile” as Morris describes it.

Like any good novel, along the way we’re introduced to colorful and memorable characters in Harold’s world. The somewhat prickly manager, Wally Berens; “Big Bob” Cooper; veteran Clewon Sumford; Sam “Hercules” Fresne; and a King Soopers worker in Greeley, named Joe Skelton.

Joe provides a unique perspective into Harold’s career, as he’s dying of a brain tumor. Joe’s world is also full of engaging characters. A singing Samoan, a piano prodigy, a pair of bullying twins, and even Joe’s dog, all of whom add to the chronicle.

The stories of Harold and Joe aren’t strictly tied to baseball, as they’re accessible to all readers. There is a distinct local flavor to the book with several scenes set in and around Denver as well as the Front Range and the Great Plains region. Thus, it was an extremely comforting read to me as I’d be in the midst of a chapter and think, “hey, I’ve been there!”

Morris paints a vivid picture with his storytelling. As I began the book, I kept Google-ing some of the character’s names, thinking they were real and asking myself, “why

have I never heard of this guy? He sounds interesting. Ahhhh. It’s fiction. Well played, Mr. Hoffman.” The characters aren’t caricatures and seem like they could exist in reality.

Most importantly, the stories of Howard and Joe kept me guessing and speculating until the very last page of the book. That’s no exaggeration, as it was literally the *last page* when it all tied together. Like an actual pinch-hitter, I was digging in and guessing what the pitcher would throw at me with each pitch/page. I typically like to sit in my recliner at night and read a book with a good bourbon. Thus, when I finished *Pinch Hitting*, I was a little bummed that I would no longer be able to share my evenings with Harold and Joe.

Recently, Morris and I sat down and chatted about his book and baseball, in general. While the book may seem semi-autobiographical, Morris assured me that it’s not. So don’t worry, our neighbor is NOT dying of a brain tumor!

Overall, the book reminded me of why I love baseball. It’s not watching the games and obsessing over numbers and stats. It’s connecting with other baseball people and swapping stories. Morris swapped a great story with me, and it’s making this season seem special already.

If you’d like to check out Morris Hoffman’s *Pinch Hitting*, you may pre-order it at the QR codes/links, below:

Amazon:



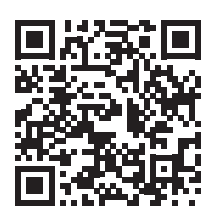
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## Montclair Real Estate Snapshot

By Valerie Alford

- Active Listings: 12
- Under Contract: 6
- Sold in the last 60 days: 9
- Price Total sq. ft \$324
- Above Grade sq ft: \$525
- 96% of Listing Price
- Average Days on Market: 81

Not much has changed in the last 60 days. With interest rates properties are not moving, days on market are getting longer. There might be some push for seniors to downsize with the higher property taxes, but other than that I don't see much change in the real estate market. It could cause more people to renovate instead of move.

### Solds:

Address	Baths	Beds	Above Grade Finished Area	Close Price (\$)
1336 Hudson St.	5	5	3,567	1,675,000
935 Monaco Pkwy.	3	5	3,602	1,557,500
845 Krameria St.	4	4	3,121	1,450,000
1255 Holly St.	4	5	2,239	1,083,000
1140 Ivy St.	3	4	1,393	865,000
1350 Locust St.	2	4	1,151	780,000

## Montclair Garage Sale

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