



THE

MONTCLAIRION

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

Hello from Merry Old England, where my family who lives here is sure I brought some Colorado sunshine with me. One observation I have about being here is that the Brits are well focused on building and protecting BEE communities. I made it to KEW--The Royal Botanic Gardens and one incredible sculpture is The HIVE—where you can hear the hum of the hive when you stand inside. And Bee branded swag abounds.



Looking back already to the Easter Egg Hunt, this feeling of being in community and having the efforts of your HMCAI board appreciated by so many, was a highlight. It was a beautiful morning for the hunt, fun and frolicking was done by all. While I told bunny jokes the Easter Bunny made the rounds. Once the kids were let loose, the park was cleared of the 3000+ eggs in 20 minutes. What touched me the most was the number of parents, fathers especially, who made a point of telling me how much they appreciated what we (HMCAI) did and the number of children who said a sweet thank-you.

As I write this, your HMCAI board is looking forward to and planning for the 4th of July Celebration. The details are included in this newsletter—Volunteers needed. For those of you who are new to Montclair or who have been here a while, though have yet to attend the event, I say the 4th Celebration in Montclair Park is a must do. It is an over 50-year tradition and our biggest event of the year. What makes this such a special event? Maybe it is the effort and fun that goes into planning and pulling off a big event by the board and additional volunteers, maybe it is hearing kids laughter mixed with screams of delight as the firetruck hoses them down, or the decorated bikes, or the spread of grilled goodies we put out. For me, it is the whole package that gives me a deep sense of belonging, of having a community. It embodies much of what I think we are celebrating on the 4th, the values that bind us. I hope we live into the destiny a Frenchman who admired our young country articulated.

"The happiness of America is intimately connected with the happiness of all mankind; she is destined to become the safe and venerable asylum of virtue, of honesty, of tolerance, and quality and of peaceful liberty."
— Marquis de Lafayette

Though our main purpose as a community association is to put on events that bring the neighborhood together—creating connection, we also want to be a vehicle for keeping you informed about important issues of interest and which impact our neighborhood. This newsletter is one way that we attempt to reach every one of the 3,000+ households in our boundaries. Yet it is challenging to connect to this wider community to assess opinions and thoughts more interactively—e.g. through email or survey. Email us with your ideas on how we could build an electronic mailing- list.

Be well; be safe; be in touch with us: 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

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? _____

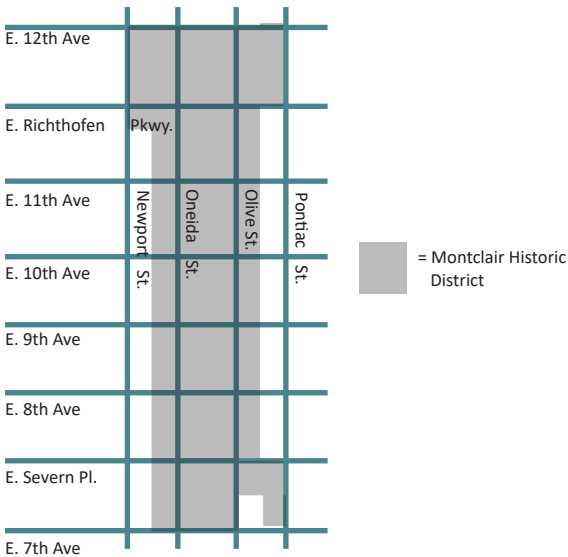
Possibilities include: Treats with Santa, July 4th, Easter Egg Hunt, Cocktail Party, Halloween Party, Board Member, Other (please specify)

2. Or, pay securely online with Square:



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, garage, retaining walls, 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



= Montclair Historic District

Questions? Suggestions? Article ideas? Contact your
HMCAI Board at HistoricMontclair@gmail.com

City Council District 5 Updates

by Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer, District 5



Summer is here! With the season of warmth and adventure upon us, our office extends a warm invitation to join us in embracing the spirit of community and progress. Let's dive into the exciting happenings in Montclair together.

Take DPD's Neighborhood or Business Watch Training

DPD's Business Watch Program is a direct partnership between the Denver Police Department (DPD) and local businesses, aiming to enhance community safety. It provides education on crime prevention, available resources, and emergency preparedness, while complementing existing safety policies. Business Watch thrives on collaboration among business personnel, management, property management, and private security, making it an effective crime-fighting initiative.

Similarly, DPD's Neighborhood Watch program fosters partnerships between officers and the communities they serve. Officers encourage neighbor connectivity, promote reporting of suspicious incidents, and provide Implicit Bias

education to raise awareness. This initiative emphasizes evaluating behaviors rather than characteristics when identifying suspicious activity. For those interested in learning more about Business Watch or Neighborhood Watch, contact the one of the following Community Resource Technicians: Mike Borquez (Mike.Borquez@denvergov.org) or Hana Ruiz (Hana.Ruiz@denvergov.org).

Colfax Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Construction Begins Soon

The Colfax BRT project continues to move forward with great momentum. After the unveiling of the final design late last year, preliminary work is underway in preparation for construction, which is scheduled to commence in fall 2024. The BRT promises improved transit options and enhanced connectivity along this vital corridor. Stay informed by visiting <https://bit.ly/ColfaxBusRapidTransit> for the latest updates.

Montclair Park Renovations

Exciting transformations are on the horizon for Montclair Park! Building upon the completed updates to the tennis court and horseshoe pits, further enhancements are planned to improve walkability and revitalize the park playground. While specific details and timelines are not yet available, we anticipate sharing more information in the coming months. Keep an eye on our social media pages and newsletters for updates as we work to create a vibrant and inviting space for our community.

Please feel free to reach out to our office with any questions or concerns. Your input and engagement are invaluable as we strive to make District 5 and Montclair a better place for all. You can connect with the Council District 5 Team at:

Gratefully,
Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer

Phone 720-337-5555

Email denvercouncil5@denvergov.org

[instagram.com/denvercouncil5](https://www.instagram.com/denvercouncil5)

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[Facebook.com/DenverCouncil5](https://www.facebook.com/DenverCouncil5)



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BROKER ASSOCIATE, REALTOR®

m 303.419.2622
mpullam@corcoranperry.com
perr.co/mpull
hmbt.co/dB6jE9



Celebrate July 4th in Montclair Park with HMCAI

Please join us for our annual Montclair neighborhood picnic. Food, festivities, & fun!

Monday, July 4th at Montclair Park. 10:30 AM-2:00 PM.

Fat City Mardi Gras Band will be playing favorites from 10:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m. Festivities include a bike parade, games, live music, a fire truck, and food.

Bring a blanket & beverages for the family. It will be hot, bring more than you think you need! Reusable containers are encouraged, trash facilities are minimal.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

10:30 a.m.: Live music begins
11:00 a.m.: Bike parade for the little ones (ages 0-5)
11:15 a.m.: Bike parade for the bigger ones (ages 6-12)
11:30 a.m.: Food service begins
12:30 p.m.: Games begin/fire truck arrives
2:00 p.m.: Picnic ends

BIKE PARADE RULES: The Bike Parade is in two heats: one for children 0-5 and one for children 6-12. For everyone's safety, please have your child participate only with his or her age group. Parents are welcome to push/pull their

smaller children as needed. Prizes will be awarded for uniquely decorated bikes! No motorized vehicles, please.

COST: If you are a current HMCAI member, your entire household attends for FREE. For those who have not joined HMCAI, the cost for the picnic is \$7/adult (11+) and \$5/child (ages 3-10). Children under age 3 attend at no cost. You may join HMCAI at the picnic. The membership table will be under the trees at the west end of the park. The annual cost is \$40/family and \$20 for seniors. Membership in HMCAI includes many seasonal family activities and two adults-only events.

****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED****

We are in GREAT need of volunteers for this event! We need volunteers to help with set-up/clean-up, games, the bike parade, food service. Email HMCAI at historicmontclair@gmail.com with your availability.

Please help your neighbors, friends and family enjoy this longtime, treasured community event.

WEATHER: Rain or shine, we hope to see you there!



THE MCWILLIAMS TEAM: YOUR MONTCLAIR REAL ESTATE EXPERTS

Curious about the spring and summer real estate market in Denver? Reach out to your local experts, Ed & Anne McWilliams



Ed McWilliams

Broker Associate
303.902.1558
EMcWilliams@kentwood.com

Anne McWilliams

Broker Associate
312.320.8219
AMcWilliams@kentwood.com

The Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment

By Merritt Pullam

As we close out another year at Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment, I am sad to report that we are going through another principal hiring cycle. Mr. Barks is no longer going to be leading the school and we wish him well on his future endeavors. DPS has committed to hiring a new principal by the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This will be my youngest child's fourth principal in five years at the school, but I am very optimistic that she is receiving a top-notch education at our neighborhood school.

In the last Montclarion, I spoke about how my wife and I have been pleased with our children's experiences at Montclair. It goes without saying that even though we have seen a tremendous amount of change in leadership at the school, we also have a very strong group of teachers and staff that continue to care for the students and each other. I have been informed that next school year we will see a renewed focus on the school's enrichment program – something that has been curbed since Covid. We are also seeing a very robust focus on events to bring together our diverse community within the school. Events such as International Night, a staff v. students soccer game, various art exhibits, as well as multiple drama programs, and multiple craft fairs have all led to students and families coming together and enjoying each other's space and contributions to our community. I can't say enough about how important it has been to see the retention of so many long-tenured teachers at the school. The teachers and staff truly care about our children and how they will impact the world around them.

This past March the school participated for the first time in Destination Imagination Colorado and advanced to the state finals. The fourth-grade GT team worked hard and were rewarded with the opportunity to learn from their experiences and hopefully return in 2025 for another opportunity. 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 to learn more about this unique experience. Thank you Mr. Horeis for the fantastic experience.

Schedule Alerts:

- **Last day of school for 2023-2024:** Tuesday, June 4th
- **First day of school for 2024-2025:** Monday, August 19th
- **Late August 2024:** Round two of school choice is under way and will close in late August. This includes students for ECE, Kinder, and 6th grade. Go to: schoolchoice.dpsk12.net for more information.

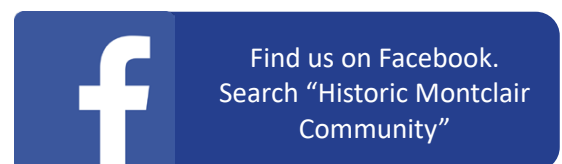
If you are looking to help with our neighborhood school, please visit Montclair.dpsk12.org. This is a great resource if you have questions about the school, how to participate/volunteer as a parent/guardian, or to learn more about the school and our community. Please call the Montclair front office at (720) 424-5380 with any questions.

Pressing needs:

- The school is searching for a sprinkler or irrigation expert who is willing to donate their time to help us revive our outdoor garden irrigation system.
- Our Backpack program which helps feed some of our families has more than doubled in families in need. Please consider donating to PEAK to help out. See below paragraph for how to donate funds to help our community.

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. 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 and select the support us tab at the top of the page and find out how to donate to our school.

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



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STEPHEN BERG



Patriot Update: George Washington High School

By Kate Douglas

The 2023-2024 school year is about to wrap up at George Washington High School, and we have so much to celebrate. Here are just some of the highlights from around the school.

In addition to our spring sports (baseball, Track and Field, girls' soccer, golf, tennis, boys swim and dive, and volleyball), our GGHS Unified Soccer team competed at the CHSAA Special Olympics and brought home FIRST PLACE.

We are also proud to announce that we have eleven National Merit Finalists, more than any other Denver Public Schools high school, and third most of any high school in Colorado. Additionally, we boast three

Presidential Scholar Nominees.

The Kraken, our Robotics team, won the Utah Regionals and competed at the World Championships in Houston!

Our JROTC Raider Team (a physical fitness and survivalist challenge) competed at the Black Hills National Raider Challenge, finishing second in Orienteering, third in the Gauntlet and Physical Endurance, and fourth Overall.

Lastly, GWHS celebrated its first ever Wish Week with spirit days and a pep rally, raising funds for a Make-A-Wish child to receive their dream of a trip to Disney World.

Go Patriots!

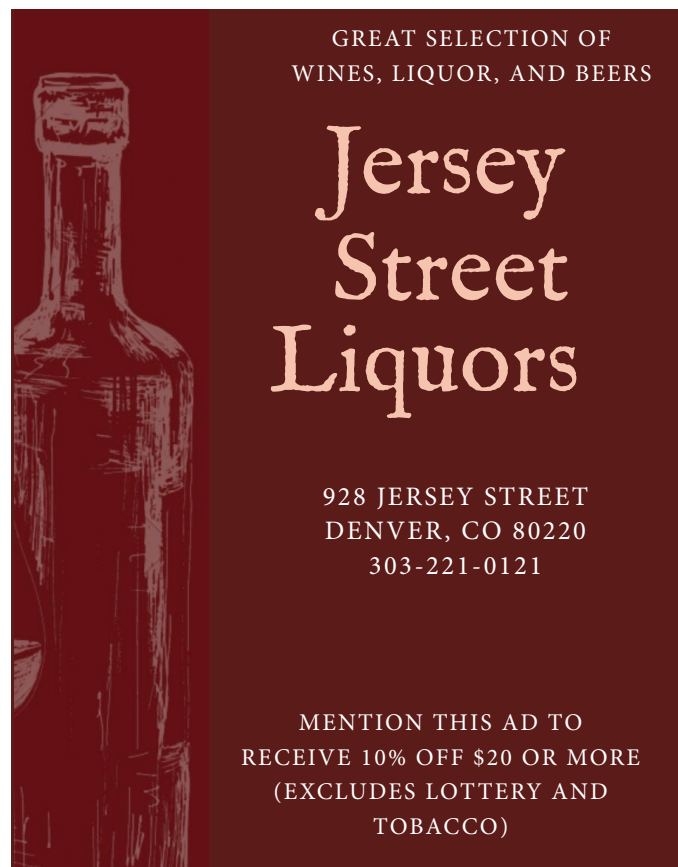
Pickleball and Community Reminders

Why No Pickleball on Montclair Park Tennis Court?

Please remember that pickleball is not allowed on the Montclair Park tennis court. Pickleball is very loud and the Montclair court is in close proximity to single family homes, which are considered a "protected district" under the Denver Zoning Code. Protected districts have stricter regulations than other zone districts, including those for noise. Outdoor pickleball courts can be found at MLK Jr. Park and at the Northfield Courts.

Community Reminders

- Help keep our nighttime streets safe and well lit. Residents are encouraged to keep their porch lights on at night. If you see a street light that is out, please report it to Xcel Energy at [xcelenergy.com](https://www.xcelenergy.com) or by calling 800-895-4999.
- Please remember that Kittredge, Montclair, Denison, and Mayfair parks are NOT off leash dog parks. Dogs must be leashed at all times, per Denver's Leash Law. Violators face fines of \$100 for the first offense, \$250 for a second, and \$500 for a third violation. Parks are patrolled by Denver Park Rangers. Nearby off-leash dog parks are located at Greenway Park at Montview & Syracuse and Lowry Dog Park at East 4th Place & South Yosemite Way.
- As the weather warms and doors and windows are opened, noises are heard easier and more frequently. Citizens are encouraged to be respectful and courteous to neighbors. Denver's Noise Ordinance stipulates that loud noises from lawnmowers, power tools, construction equipment, is allowed between 7:00 am and 9:00 pm on weekdays, 8:00 am and 5:00 pm on weekends. Amplified music, human voices and crowd noise is allowed between 7:00 am and 10:00 pm. Dogs must be quiet between 10:30 pm and 7:30 am or when none of the owners of the dogs are home. Noise violations may be reported to the DPD non-emergency number 720-913-2000, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Going out of town for summer vacation? Call Denver Police District 2 at 720-913-1000 to place your house on vacation watch so that officers can keep an eye on your house during your absence.
- Report graffiti, potholes, fallen branches, trash, weedy yards, abandoned vehicles by calling 311.



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Early Montclair's Smelly Politics

By Bill Hansen

The 1893 Silver Crash was so catastrophic it became known as the "Panic". Boom times went bust as banks closed, unemployment soared, companies went bankrupt, land values plummeted, and the rich became poor. Many of the smaller towns and villages around Denver saw bonds become due and basic utility costs skyrocket making survival impossible amidst a dwindling tax base. They were quickly absorbed by Denver.



Warwick Miller Downing

Founded in 1888, the nascent Town of Montclair just barely hung on as local papers described it in 1896 as in a state of "stagnation" amidst a "waste of brush and tomato cans." The forces of annexation soon took hold. Baron von Richthofen swept back into town, armed with foreign and Schlitz Brewing Company investors, with a brand-new scheme for Montclair- a \$700,000 first class hotel, sanitarium and casino boldly called the "Colorado Carlsbad". Naturally, there was a catch. Montclair would have to be annexed to Denver and give up its bans on liquor and gaming that just years before had made the now impoverished Baron wealthy by hawking the town as an independent center of wealth, refinement, and culture. Eager for this ripe plum, Denver and its leading businessmen fully supported the Baron's plans. It offered not only to take over Montclair's debts but also provide improved roads, better mass transit, grassy parks, and, especially, a much-needed \$40,000 sewer system.

The annexationists, led by the former Town Attorney, Robert Foot (1325 Olive), who had just sued the Town over his salary, filed a Petition for Annexation, signed by over 25 of the Town's luminaries. Fresh out of law school and the son of the previous mayor, the new Town Attorney, Warwick M. Downing (765 Oneida), appealed the initial granting of the Petition for a special election to the District Court. The judge sided with Downing by strictly construing the statutory requirement that such petitions be signed only by "qualified taxpayers"- several of the signors were still behind on their property taxes.

The schism amidst the residents grew deeper and more vocal when the Baron petitioned the Town to reduce its prohibitively exorbitant \$2,500 (almost \$100,000 today) annual licensing fee to allow the sale of alcohol at the Colorado Carlsbad. Despite a counter-petition signed by

64 residents opposing the Baron's request, the Rocky Mountain News blamed the denial on "a few meddling women" who created a "hubbub" by expressing their "ultra-virtuous horror" over the prospects of a decline in morals. The bitter Baron moved the Colorado Carlsbad site south of 6th Avenue and outside the Town limits, proclaiming that Montclair would enjoy none of the benefits of his sure-fire plans. The Colorado Carlsbad would die with the Baron's death in 1898.

It was clear that a special election on annexation was needed. Foot organized the annexationists into the "Taxpayer's Party" while those opposed to annexation organized the "Independent Citizens Party". In Montclair's largest and most divisive election in April 1897, the issue of annexation lost by a vote of 88 to 80. The Independent Citizen Party swept the ballot box with Downing defeating Foot 101 to 85 as Town Attorney, and a new Mayor, Sylvester G. Williams (754 Olive), winning by 97 to 92. Perhaps to smooth the ruffled feathers of the losers, Mayor Williams' first official act was to pass an ordinance protecting the local songbirds from being in any way disturbed or "molested". Tranquility was restored- if only briefly.

Montclair remained independent until a state-wide vote created the new City and County of Denver in 1902, forcefully annexing Montclair. By then, most all of Montclair's citizens were opposed to annexation. To placate Montclair's angry residents, Denver's new Mayor, Robert W. Speer, appointed Downing, a founding member of the Montclair Improvement Society, as Parks Commissioner. Montclair's roads were finally improved, parks established, the new Montclair Civic Building opened, and a long-desired sewer system laid. Montclair's residents could finally stop cleaning out their cesspits, realizing just how smelly local politics could be.

Tap Caps Connect! ! A Story About a Young Montclair Resident

Eight-year-old Aiden Newman has started his first entrepreneurial venture. He upcycles bottle caps from around the world that he transforms into NFC-enabled charms to encourage people to share their favorite digital content in person. Tap Caps can be programmed and reprogrammed as often as you wish to your business website, social media page, favorite playlist, contact info, etc. using the free app NFC Tools. Tap Caps are all about making connections and building community, which is why his tag line is “Tap Caps Connect!” Tap Caps are both functional and fashionable. Each bottle cap is a little piece of art that has a story behind it. He blends the nostalgia of bottle caps with the modern connective technology of Near Field Communication Tags (NFC).

A portion of Aiden’s proceeds go to making and distributing Tap Cap Connect bags for food insecure individuals in Denver. Every bag is filled with healthy foods, personal hygiene products, socks, lip balm, hand warmers (in the winter), and a personalized note from Aiden.

Please check out the web site he built:
www.BottleCapsAreCool.com



Mayfair Vision Clinic is Moving!

After serving the eyecare needs of the Montclair community for many years, the Mayfair Vision Clinic will be closing our doors and joining another practice, **Eye Envy Vision**, in Aurora. We will be available at our current location through July and will keep our current phone number active through the end of the year. We will be contacting current patients with more details. Thank you for making us a valued part of the Montclair community, and we wish you all the best.

With Gratitude,
Janice I Jarrett, OD



From the Archives



Mayfair Shopping Center at 13th & Krameria circa 1951-1955 From DPL Digital Collections

From the Desk of Chris Hansen, State Senator

District 31



Dear Fellow Montclarions,
I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and spring showers as we head into summer!

The Colorado General Assembly just wrapped up work for the 2024 legislative session. The journey this year wasn't always easy, but I am proud of the work we accomplished this session. The legislation was wide ranging, often bipartisan, and aimed to:

- Improve Colorado's Environment and Boost Transit
- Address our Housing Crisis
- Expand Health Care Access
- Provide significant Property Tax Relief

With the 400+ bills passed this session, we made progress on each of these topics and many more. But our work is not done, and after a short respite, I will begin preparation for next session.

The forty-one bills I sponsored this session focused on various efforts, but one of the foremost issues I aimed to tackle was making progress on our emissions goals and addressing the climate crisis. Bills with this focus addressed issues such as improving our energy systems, expanding local access to the grid, and ensuring protection of high priority habitats.

As Chair of the Property Tax Commission, it was an honor to join with my colleagues to pass a landmark, bi-partisan bill to provide significant and permanent property tax relief during the 2024 session. This bipartisan effort will have a 1.3 billion dollar impact in the next fiscal year and while making sure we have sustainable funding for education. While these were my main priorities of 2024, some of my other bills this session focused on gun safety, reducing distracted driving, advancing online youth safety, and addressing substance abuse in Colorado. Please see the full list of bills and additional bill details at <https://leg.colorado.gov/legislators/chris-hansen>.

This session we also had the chance, for the second straight year, to honor the George Washington High School 2024 5A Speech and Debate State Champions on the Senate floor. It was a joy to host these young Denverites who exemplify resilience, skill, and compassion and who continue to be inspirations in our community. Furthermore, I gave tribute to Ukraine in condemning

the war and Russia's invasion; acknowledged the 20 year anniversary of the Canadian Consulate's partnership with Denver; and highlighted Asian American Pacific Islander month in the Senate.

Looking back at the past 120 days, the legislature passed effective policies that will have a positive impact on our state. I'm looking forward to the interim spent iterating on new policy ideas in preparation for the 2025 session.

Thank you for reaching out with policy ideas, opinions, and feedback; it continues to be my honor to serve you! As always, you can reach me at chris@hansenforcolorado.com or 303-866-4861. Also, feel free to subscribe to my newsletter on my website www.hansenforcolorado.com for regular updates.

Sincerely,

State Senator, CO District 31
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Around Montclair

Photos from neighbors



Arlo watering, Ruby supervising.
By J. Hornyak



Hannah, age 2, at HMCAI Easter Egg Hunt
by C. Faust



Prom night. Daryn & Dru Bridwell
with son Cade



Snow maidens
by S. Sullivan

Summer Gardening: 2024 Mosquito and Bug Repellant Plants

By Gail Barry

There are a number of plants that can be used to repel insects and some are particularly effective against mosquitos. Most are readily available in garden centers and though some are hardy perennials, others are plants that are or need to be treated as annuals in Colorado. Many can be grown in pots and placed around your outdoor eating area or other gathering spot in your yard.

The hardy perennials consist of: Catmint (try Little Trudy), Bee Balm (I like Cambridge Scarlet and the blossoms are very edible and quite good), Mint (best contained in a large pot), Sage, Allium and Lavender. Lavender is picky and I have found the hardiest variety for our area is *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Munstead.' Over the years I have grown lavender in various places and it likes it in one and not another....

Those bug repelling plants that are annuals here include: Scented geraniums (particularly lemon), Marigolds, Basil, Ageratum (Floss Flower which contains coumarin and is toxic to humans and other animals), Lemon Grass (can grow in a pot and be brought inside for cooking in the winter) and Rosemary (which is mostly an annual here and can be brought inside in winter. Some may get the variety "Arp" to overwinter outside.)

In addition to this official list, I have found the annual Fever Few (*Tanacetum parthenium* L.) to be a good bug repellant. Fever Few is beautiful when in bloom with masses of white daisy-like blossoms. It tends

to seed itself all over if you don't remember to cut off the blooms before it goes to seed. Cutting allows it to rebloom. It is a fascinating plant with many medicinal properties. If interested, find out more at the link below.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3210009/>

I am hoping for a season with fewer Japanese beetles and great gardening weather and no hail!!



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Baseball in Denver

By Erick Stragand, Montclair Resident and Baseball Nerd

As we move into late spring and early summer, a good portion of the 2024 baseball season is already in the books. Thus, the annual clichés of the days getting warmer, the grass greening, spending more time outside, watching baseball and hearing the *PING* of the bat.

Wait? PING?! Correct. College baseball is nearing the end of its season, already. There are a few differences between college and professional baseball, such as a mercy rule, a curfew on Sunday games, and the obvious PING sound from aluminum bats. While I enjoy poking fun at the sound, as many other baseball nerds do, it's actually closer to what I played as a kid. All the leagues my friends and I played in, all used aluminum bats. Why would we waste our time and money on those wooden bats that broke? When I grew older and began playing softball, we also used aluminum bats. So I actually feel more of a personal connection to college baseball for this reason.

In all my years of following baseball, I had been to one single college game: in 1996 when my alma mater, Metropolitan State College of Denver (now known as Metropolitan State *University* of Denver) played Wyoming. I was between two of my 3 hour art classes, and killed some time at the old Auraria campus ball fields in front of the Tivoli (it's now a parking complex).

I didn't even think about MSU and baseball until two years ago, when I attended a Pecos League game for the (now defunct) Colorado Springs Snow Sox, and noticed that they had a guy from "Metro", Zac Baldini. My curiosity piqued, I set out to learn more.

MSU's baseball team began in 1968, three years after the college opened. The school picked the roadrunner as their mascot, because the Auraria campus was not closed off as it is now, and students had to run across the roads to get to their classes. The Roadrunners' first head baseball coach (manager) was Irv Brown, who went on to a lengthy career as a Denver sportscaster and was inducted in the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame. The Roadrunners have also won 2 RMAC Championships and have officially had 30 players go on to play in professional ball, including 12 drafted by MLB teams. Yet records before 1980 aren't as complete for collegiate players, so it's entirely possible that that number is higher.

Regardless, MSU athletics is an intriguing aspect of our city, that not many talk about. Even a guy who went there from 1993 to 1997. In 2015, I was driving along the elevated portion of Colfax Ave. and noticed that MSU suddenly

had a nice athletic complex to the south. Eventually, I got involved in the MSU Alumni Association and felt like I owed my old school a fresh visit.

So it was, on a recent sunny March day, that I biked down to the "new" Assembly Athletic Complex at 1390 Shoshone St. It's basically at 13th Ave., a block west of Osage St. or La Alma-Lincoln Park. A nice bike ride, but also very accessible via car. You can also take the RTD Light Rail, get off at the 10th/Osage station and walk three blocks.

The field is a huge upgrade over what MSU had, pre-2015. It boasts nice soccer fields and a softball field, adjacent to the baseball field. The softball field has a pretty cool view of downtown Denver, from an angle you don't normally see. They sell some concessions, on par with what you'd find at a recreational sports field, yet they *do* sell beer (enjoy responsibly, of course). On certain days, you may even run into the MSU mascot, Rowdy the Roadrunner. However, there isn't much sun cover at the MSU complex, so be prepared.

The game I attended was the second half of a double-header between MSU and Colorado Mesa University. Mesa won by the robust score of 16-14. Most attendees seemed to be friends or family, so I felt like an outsider, at first. I began talking to some random folks about baseball stuff, explained that I was an alumni, and I was soon welcomed into the "family". Or at least felt like a distant cousin who attended a family picnic for the first time in 28 years.

The next time I'm pining for a different type of baseball, instead of planning a road trip to a random city, I'll consider the local, "rowdy", option of MSU and see some Baseball in Denver.

PING!



Denver Police Department District 2 Community Meeting | Montclair Crime and Safety Report

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The next District Community meeting (2CAB) will be held on Wednesday, June 5th from 6 PM to 7 PM. Doors open at 5 PM for station tours and/or to meet with your Community Resource Officers to discuss neighborhood questions/concerns. District 2 Headquarters is located at **3921 Holly St.**

Type of Offense		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Crimes Against Persons	Murder	0	0	0	0	0
	Aggravated Assault	1	1	0	1	3
	Forcible Sex Offenses	1	0	1	1	2
	Non-Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0
	Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	0	2	3
	Simple Assault	2	0	6	3	11
	Intimidation	0	1	3	1	5
Subtotal		4	2	10	8	24
Crimes Against Property	Arson	0	0	0	0	0
	Bribery	0	0	0	0	0
	Burglary	5	6	3	3	17
	Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	0	0	0	0
	Criminal Mischief/Damaged Property	4	0	5	6	15
	Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0
	Extortion	0	0	0	0	0
	Fraud	1	0	1	2	4
	Larceny	17	15	13	6	51
	Theft from Motor Vehicle	4	3	2	3	12
	Motor Vehicle Theft	6	3	4	0	13
	Robbery	1	2	1	4	8
	Stolen Property	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal		38	29	30	23	120
Crimes Against Society	Drug/Narcotics Violations	5	1	2	0	8
	Gambling	0	0	0	0	0
	Child Pornography	0	0	0	0	0
	Prostitution	0	0	0	1	1
	Weapon Law Violations	0	3	0	1	4
Subtotal		5	4	2	2	13
All Other Offenses	Fraud - NSF-Closed Account	0	0	0	0	0
	Curfew	0	0	0	0	0
	Disorderly Conduct/Disturbing the Peace	0	0	0	0	0
	Family Offenses / Nonviolent	0	0	0	0	0
	Liquor Law/Drunkeness	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0
	Violation of a Restraining/Court Order	0	1	0	1	2
	Harassment	1	1	0	0	2
	Criminal Trespassing	2	1	2	0	5
	All Other Offenses	2	0	1	1	4
Subtotal		5	3	3	2	13
Grand Total		52	38	45	35	170

NIBRS reporting. This data was compiled from Denver Police Department data. 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. Due to continuous data entry, reports are compiled, numbers may vary in previous or subsequent reports.

Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc.
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