

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 all Montclair residents 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

2025
3rd Quarter

HistoricMontclair.org
HistoricMontclair@gmail.com



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President's Note

By Judy Baxter

With hindsight, we can appreciate the near past. I now realize how lucky we were to have perfect weather for the 4th of July event. As I write this in the first week of August, we have had back-to-back days of sweltering weather in the mid to high 90's. We are fortunate to live in a state where we can head to the hills to get some relief.

What a great 4th of July Celebration we put on. This event has changed over the 50+ years it has been a staple in the Montclair community building cabinet. I have been told that it has evolved from a bring your own picnic and even grill, to one where we rented a grill and provided food, to the now professional grill operation we have, thanks to board member Jim LeDuc (saluting the camera). The bands that played for years have retired, with new ones taking their place. Games come in and out of favor. The water balloon toss is spectacularly easier with the new systems for filling 50 at a time. Every year it is a little different, last year the fire truck was unable to be present, but it was the first year of the Classic Car Show, organized by Joe Natale, which made up for the loss of the fire engine. This year we were fortunate to have both. A real change this year happened because District 2 could not commit police officers to ensure safety for the bike parade on Richthofen Parkway, a rule dictated by the City offices, so we moved the parade to the Montclair School parking lot. It was clear this experiment was less than ideal and fraught with more safety concerns than it solved. Next year, one way or another, we will be back on Richthofen.



We appreciate all the words of encouragement and appreciation that you all shared at the event. Some 358 of you came, brought guests, renewed your membership, listened to music, played games and got hosed by the fire truck. It takes a village of well-coordinated, energetic volunteers to pull this off. From making arrangements for bands, firetrucks, and permits, to the buying and cooking food in advance, to the vegetable and watermelon chopping brigade, to the set-up and take down, to the bike parade and games, membership table, food service set up and delivery and the grill operation, it wouldn't come together if it weren't for volunteers. It takes a small army and I want to recognize those individuals. Many thanks to: Carrie O'Shea, Gretchen Armijo, Christine Ralston, Anne Cannon, Gail Wallace, Cindi Scott, John Ralston, Brian Narber, Ryan Stevens, Steve Usick, Jay Mead, Tim Collins, Tim Damour, Steve Goettge, Anne Collins, Gail Barry, Caryle Faust, Marika Rietsema, Judy Baxter, Toni Ann Kuper, Pat Slavin, Fred Cooper, Jim LeDuc, Merritt Pullam, Christine Armijo, Mike Burt, Michelle McDermott and likely others whose name I didn't get.

We look forward to seeing you at the HMCAI Fall Gatherings—check the newsletter for dates and times. Wishing you well as we head into the back half of the year.

Be well. Be safe. Be in Touch with us: historicmontclair@gmail.com.

HMCAI 2025 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	Anne Canon
Toni Ann Kuper	Ryan Stevens
Jim LeDuc	Marika Rietsema

HMCAI Events Calendar 2025

Feb. 28	Wine & History Night	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Molkery
Apr. 19	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 am	Montclair Park
Jul. 4	July 4 Picnic	10:30 am -2:00 pm	Montclair Park
Sept. 26	Beer & Wine Reception	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Molkery
Oct. 15	Annual General Meeting	7:00 pm	Molkery
Oct. 26	Halloween Party	3:30-5:00 pm	Molkery
Dec. 6	Treats with Santa	10:00 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 become a supporting member: 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 _____

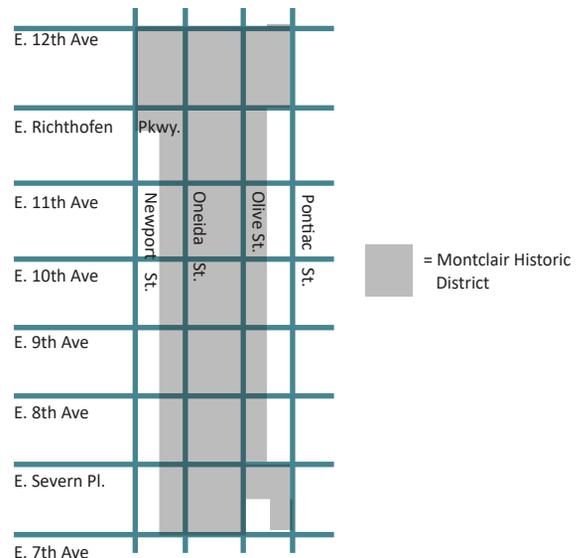
What would you like to help with? _____

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, 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



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

City Council District 5 Updates

By Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer, District 5



Fall is here, and there's a lot happening in Montclair! From revitalizing our parks to strengthening neighborhood connections, we're working hard to make our community an even more welcoming place to call home. Catch up on the progress and see what's ahead

for Montclair below!

Fall Parks Clean Up Day

Join us for Fall Community Clean-Up Day on Sunday, September 28 at 8:30 a.m. at Montclair Recreation Center. This family-friendly event brings residents together to beautify local parks, trails, and bus stops by removing trash, trimming vegetation, and painting benches. Visit bit.ly/FallCleanup2025 to register and learn more.

13th and 14th Avenues Traffic Safety Included in Bond

Knowing how important traffic safety on 13th and 14th Avenues is to residents, our office has secured \$18 million in the 2025 Vibrant Denver Bond package to implement the East Avenues Study. This will return 13th and 14th Avenues from Colorado Boulevard to Quebec Street to

two-way traffic, add additional calming traffic, and address the significant safety issues along these roads. Learn more about 13th and 14th Avenues traffic safety here: bit.ly/13thand14thAvenues.

East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Progress

Work continues on the East Colfax Bus Rapid Transit project, which aims to create vibrant, connected neighborhoods, increase transportation reliability and efficiency, and improve safety along the corridor. In the Montclair area - from Hudson Street to Niagara Street - early construction activities are underway and expected to take two months. More information is available at bit.ly/EastColfaxBRT.

Neglected and Derelict Buildings Ordinance Passed

Denver City Council unanimously passed the updated Neglected and Derelict Buildings (NADB) ordinance that I co-sponsored with Councilmembers Jamie Torres and Paul Kashmann. The new ordinance strengthens Community Planning and Development's ability to address problem properties in several ways, including increasing fines on violations to up to \$5,000 per day and creating a service response fee of up to \$5,000 per response by the Denver Police Department, Fire Department, or Emergency Medical Services.

I'm proud of all we've achieved together to enhance life for our residents. With your continued support, we can keep making Montclair a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Find us at:

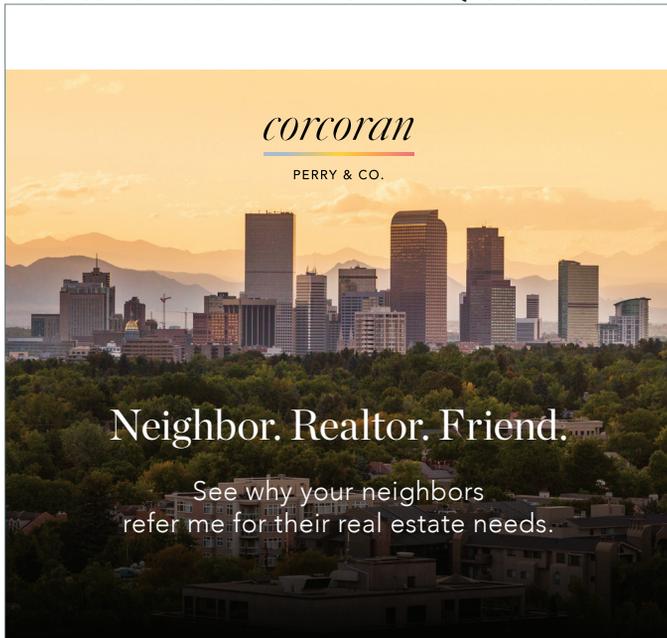
Phone 720-337-5555

Email denvercouncil5@denvergov.org

Website www.denvergov.org/District5

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



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Montclair and Mayfair Businesses See Declining Sales Due to Colfax Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Construction

By Marika Rietsema

Welp, construction on the long-discussed Colfax Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project has finally made its way to the Montclair neighborhood, with construction on the project's Segment 3 (stretching from Madison St. in Congress Park to Niagara St.) expected to continue from June 2025 through to late next year. And yet, the project's impact on the Montclair neighborhood isn't limited to the Segment 3 timeline, with construction on Segment 4 (running from Niagara St. through to Yosemite St.) of the project set to being in the spring of next year and continuing until the estimated completion date of the project at the end of 2027.

Unfortunately, with construction comes detours, road closures, and decreased access to some of our favorite neighborhood haunts. As many of you have likely heard or experienced during the years-long 16th Street Mall renovation project, construction can and usually does have a serious impact on businesses along the usually busy mall. In fact, it is reported that during the 16th Street Mall project, some businesses saw up to a 70% drop in revenue, causing them to eventually close their doors, with many others seeing between a 20% and a 40% drop in revenue.

Unsurprisingly, with initiation of Segment 3 construction, some of our neighborhood favorites have already begun to experience the same hardships many of the 16th Street Mall businesses are already all too familiar with. A trip into even just one of the businesses along Colfax will easily lend to a conversation surrounding their recent revenue troubles, with the current construction only months in. And, sadly, as noted by the timeline discussed at the beginning of this article, those troubles are likely to be long-lasting. Denver's "Back the Fax" campaign takes to heart what we in the Montclair neighborhood value, community, by encouraging people to continue to support their local businesses, something so much more important during these next two years. With the reminder that Colfax Avenue is still open for business, even during construction, I encourage you to shop and eat local. Maybe even making a list of those places nearby that you've never visited in an effort to show our community that their Montclair neighbors support them!



ANNE MCWILLIAMS: THE MARKET IS MOVING - LET'S NAVIGATE IT TOGETHER

Real estate dynamics are evolving rapidly, and having the right insights can make all the difference in your next move.

Let's connect and discuss what these market shifts mean specifically for your situation and goals. Your next smart real estate decision starts with a conversation.

Anne McWilliams

Broker Associate

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Montclair Community Garden

By Idelle Fisher

It's been a good summer. Tomatoes are growing well and starting to ripen, and peppers are coming in. We even have a gardener with watermelons growing successfully! Thanks to one of our gardeners, we are a "Giving Garden" this summer and have been donating produce and herbs to Fresh Food Connect for the past couple weeks, we plan to do this weekly for the rest of the summer! With the garden being organic along with our pollinator garden with tons of sunflowers, milkweed, and other natives, we have lots of wild visitors to the garden, such as native long-horned bees, assassin bugs, swallowtails and bumblebees.



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Important Numbers

DPD non-emergency help (burglary or auto theft not in progress, after hours loud music complaints)
720-913-2000. For emergencies, crimes in progress call 911

Crime Stoppers Hotline
720-913-7867 (STOP)

Gang Hotline
720-913-1339

Report Graffiti
720-913-1311 or 311

Report Trash and weedy yards
311

Sex Offenders Hotline
720-913-6511

Hate Crimes Hotline
720-913-6458

Report Animal Abuse

Denver Animal Protection at 720-913-2080. For emergencies in progress, call 911. Denver Dumb Friends League animal neglect or cruelty hotline: 303-923-0022.

Report Street Racing

9-1-1 and reportstreetracing.com

Report Broken Street Lights

XcelEnergy.com

DPD District 2 Community Resource Officer

Officer Mike Borquez- mike.borquez@denvergov.org

The Denver Police District 2 Station is located at 3921 Holly Street. The station phone number is 720-913-1000 and the station email is 2.Dist@denvergov.org.

Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer, City Council District 5
DenverCouncil5@denvergov.org, 720-337-5555

2nd Annual Montclair Glow Ride- August 23, 2024, 7 pm in Kittredge Park



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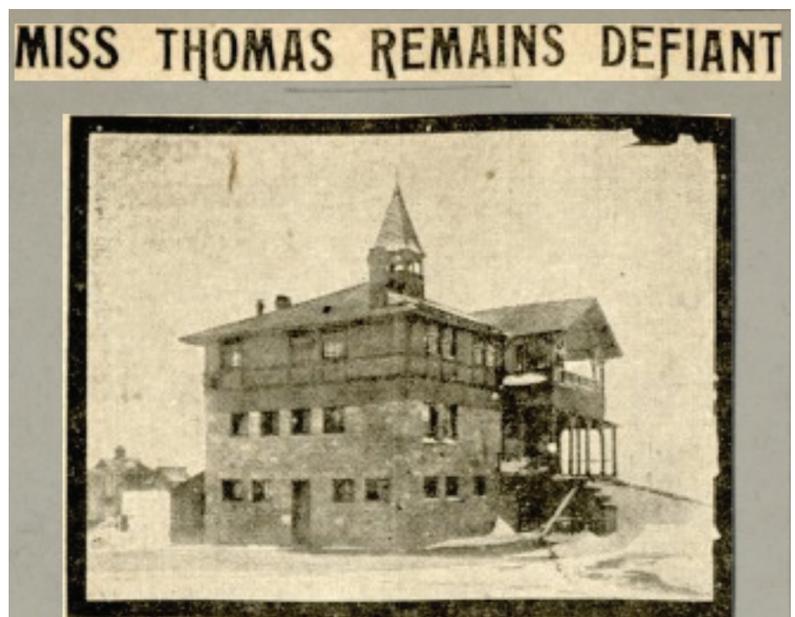
Contact Jennifer Bolda
Jenniferbolda@gmail.com



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Search "Historic Montclair
Community"

The Molkery Asylum Dooms Montclair

By Bill Hansen



“The people of Montclair are again agitated” crowed the Denver Republican on February 12, 1902. By April Fool’s Day, the Rocky Mountain News presciently reported:

The peaceful current of municipal life which the Town of Montclair has enjoyed hitherto seems likely to develop into a boiling maelstrom of litigation and all because one determined little woman has taken up residence in the town and has brought with her half a dozen helpless imbeciles over whom she has established a watchful and constant care.

The cause of all this hubbub was Miss Luella M. Thomas (above), a nurse trained in mental health problems. She had rented out the old Molkery to establish a private sanatorium for care of those afflicted with “nervous diseases”. “A storm of protest arose from Montclair residents with indignation expressed that such an institution would locate within the exclusive precincts of Denver’s most aristocratic suburbs” mocked one newspaper.

Petitions were circulated in Montclair condemning the establishment of an insane asylum as a public menace. This was followed by a Town Ordinance forbidding the establishment of any institution for the treatment of “idiots, imbeciles, lunatics or any persons suffering from mental or nervous infirmities.” Miss Thomas retained top-notch legal counsel and litigation soon followed over the enforceability of such a law. With Miss Thomas’s support from Denver’s medical establishment, local newspapers relished in ridiculing snooty Montclair.

In the early morning hours of May 24, a Town Trustee was awakened by banging on his door and his beholding “... the ghostly form of a woman wafting across the prairie in trailing night garments, like an uneasy spirit from the regions beyond.” He detained the chilled old woman and returned her to the Molkery. Miss Thomas discounted the affair as simply the escape of one of her harmless “nervous”- but not insane- patients who was likely just sleep-walking. The Town was not convinced.

Miss Thomas was arrested for violation of the local ordinance. The trial was held on June 11 before Montclair’s Police Magistrate in the Town Hall. It was hardly solemn and dignified. The lawyers were “freed from the punctilious restraints (of the Denver courts) and turned loose for a frolic” until the courtroom “became as vocal as a boiler factory” as the attorneys “yelled their lungs sore.” One highlight of the trial was a colloquy over whether Miss Thomas’s inmates were any more “crazy” than the residents of Montclair. That issue was left unresolved.

Miss Thomas was convicted and fined \$25. Appeals followed with eventual fatal results for the Town of Montclair. The Thomas case became the test case for the recently enacted Rush Amendment to the Colorado Constitution creating the new City and County of Denver and the forceful annexation of its surrounding suburbs. Montclair, which had steadfastly fought annexation, lost. The Colorado Supreme Court held that as Montclair no longer had legal existence, it had no capacity to further prosecute Miss Thomas. On May 14, 1903, newspapers trumpeted “Montclair is a part of Denver!”

Annual HMCAI July 4 Picnic



From the Desk of Matt Ball, State Senator

District 31



Montclarions,

I hope your summer has gone well. Mine has been busy spending time with my family, getting out into the community, announcing my re-election campaign, and preparing legislation for the

2026 legislative session. The federal government also just made the largest cuts to essential services in years, with disastrous impacts on our state budget. Most state lawmakers, including myself, are also getting ready for the upcoming legislative special session on Aug. 21st.

Despite roaring opposition, Republicans passed a sweeping federal tax bill that prioritizes cuts for high earners at the expense of working families. The legislation slashes funding for critical programs like Medicaid and SNAP, increases student loan costs while limiting income-based repayment options, eliminates tax credits for clean energy upgrades, reduces funding for national parks, defunds Planned Parenthood, and eliminates consumer protection programs, among other damaging provisions. These changes will deeply impact Colorado's state budget, potentially forcing cuts to needed services in our state. While we will act to minimize the harm, even the most responsible decisions

20th Annual HMCAI Beer & Wine Reception

Friday, September 26, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Molkery

Let's close out another wonderful summer in Montclair and toast to the changing of the seasons at the Annual HMCAI Beer and Wine Reception. This is a great opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors. Join us for a relaxing evening on the Molkery porch as we say goodbye to summer and welcome to fall. Beer, wine, and appetizers will be provided.

This is an adults-only event. No charge for HMCAI supporting members. Non-members can join HMCAI at the door with credit card, cash or check. If you would like to bring an appetizer to share please contact Carrie O'Shea at historicmontclair@gmail.com by September 23th.

HMCAI Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, October 15th, 7 p.m. at the Molkery

Agenda TBA

Please join us!

may not prevent painful consequences for Coloradans. I'm committed to doing everything I can to support our community through this uncertain time.

For the next several weeks, I'll be working hard to find solutions to our budget hole that impact our community the least. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns during this time.

Looking beyond the upcoming special session, I will be hosting a Denver Joint Town Hall in September with Representative Sean Camacho. Be on the lookout for the finalized date and location on my website and monthly newsletter. This is a perfect place to bring your questions about our state budget and federal budget cuts, along with any other questions or concerns. If you'd like to attend and get more details please email my legislative aide, Abbie, at sen.ball.aide@gmail.com.

As always, don't hesitate to contact my office with whatever you need at matt.ball.senate@coleg.gov, or call (303) 866-4861. You can also check out my website at www.mattforcolorado.com

Take care,
Matt



Meet Your Neighbor

Helen Brown, Oneida St.

How long have you lived in Montclair?

We moved into this house, which my husband built, in 1955. Prior to that we lived on 16th & Poplar but we had small children and needed more space. We raised 5 children in this house. I was born in Tarrytown, Wyoming in June 1923 and came to Denver after graduating from St. Mary's of Notre Dame College in Indiana. I lived in an apartment on 18th & Grant and worked at Gano-Downs department store on 16th & Stout. I met my husband Tom when he came into the store one day. He was an officer at Lowry Field, learning to fly B29 bombers. We were married in 1947.

What do you like most about Montclair?

I love all of the trees; I have nice neighbors. Everyone is friendly and I feel safe here. My family is still nearby. When my dad used to visit us from Wyoming, he said that Montclair felt like living in a small town. When we moved here the neighborhood was full of families. I belonged to the Montclair Women's Club. Our meetings were held in the Molkery and we had lectures and book discussions and we held a home tour for a few years. In the 1950's and 60's our kids participated in Denver Parks' summer camp at the Molkery. The kids would learn crafts and have lunch. It was nice that they could walk there from our home. I like that Montclair has an official flower, the red geranium, and years ago the Montclair Women's Club sold them so everyone could put one in their front yard. The Boy Scout troop from Montclair Methodist Church put American flags in everyone's yards every Memorial Day in the '60's and '70's. We were longtime parishioners of St. James and our daughters attended school there. I was active in the Altar & Rosary Society and bridge club and Tom was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

How has the area changed since you moved in?

Denver was a cowtown when I came. There were streetcars on Colfax. Montclair was very quiet. Kittredge Castle was on the corner of 8th & Oneida and we could see it from our house. By that time it was no longer owned by the Kittredge family and had become Holland Hall which was a home for teenage girls. They were great babysitters! After it was demolished it became sports fields for the Archdiocese of Denver and now of course it's Kittredge Park. There were a lot of empty lots in Montclair when we moved in but throughout the '50s and '60s they filled in because Lowry Air Force base was so busy and people were moving to this part of town. My husband built a number of houses in Montclair. I would say the biggest change has been all of the traffic, and the air force base is no longer there. My husband and I would have dinner and dance at the Officers' Club on the base, which was a lot of fun.



Do you have a favorite spot in Colorado?

My husband owned a fishing camp near Gunnison, the Eagle Rock Resort, and we took the kids there often. The federal government took it to build the Blue Mesa Reservoir. We enjoyed riding the Georgetown train to see the changing fall colors.

We also liked spending a weekend in Aspen every year, and Tom liked fishing the Frying Pan River there. We spent a weekend every year with friends in Estes Park during the elk rut. Tom loved fishing, so anywhere we went there had to be good fishing spots! In town we loved dinner and dancing at the Brown Palace, which we did fairly regularly with friends. There were 6 of us who would have brunch twice a year together at the Broadmoor, which was lovely.

Helen celebrated her 102nd birthday in June. HMCAI wishes her a very happy belated birthday!

THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOUGHS

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Submitted by Andrew Rapp, an artist living in Montclair. Learn more at andrewrapp.com or phdtoons.com



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Denver Police Department District 2 Montclair Crime and Safety Report

Police Department | Denver, CO 80204 www.denvergov.org/police

Type of Offense		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Crimes Against Persons	Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Aggravated Assault	1	2	2	5	2	0	12
	Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
	Non-Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kidnapping/Abduction	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
	Simple Assault	3	1	6	5	3	2	20
	Intimidation	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Subtotal		7	5	10	10	5	3	40
Crimes Against Property	Arson	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Bribery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Burglary	3	4	0	3	3	3	16
	Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Criminal Mischief/Damaged Property	3	3	7	5	3	5	26
	Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Extortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fraud	3	4	2	2	1	3	15
	Larceny	20	20	22	17	17	21	117
	Theft from Motor Vehicle	0	3	2	4	5	1	15
	Motor Vehicle Theft	3	2	3	2	2	1	13
	Robbery	0	0	4	0	1	1	6
	Stolen Property	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal		32	36	40	34	32	35	209
Crimes Against Society	Drug/Narcotics Violations	3	1	0	3	2	2	11
	Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Child Pornography	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Prostitution	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Weapon Law Violations	0	0	2	2	1	0	5
Subtotal		3	1	2	6	3	2	17
All Other Offenses	Fraud - NSF-Closed Account	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Curfew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disorderly Conduct/Disturbing the Peace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Family Offenses / Nonviolent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Liquor Law/Drunkenness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Violation of a Restraining/Court Order	2	1	1	0	1	1	6
	Harassment	0	0	1	2	0	1	4
	Criminal Trespassing	0	3	3	2	0	4	12
All Other Offenses	1	1	1	2	0	2	7	
Subtotal		3	5	6	6	1	8	29
Grand Total		45	47	58	56	41	48	295

All files used to generate this report are dynamic. Dynamic files allow additions, deletions and/or modifications at any time, resulting in more accurate records in the databases. Due to continuous data entry after reports are compiled, subsequent reports are subject to change.

Baseball in Denver

By Erick Stragand, Montclair Resident and Baseball Nerd

I wasn't always like this. Growing up, I knew about baseball, but really didn't follow the Major Leagues until 1990. My interest grew and going to MLB games at Mile High Stadium and, later, Coors Field, became part of my summers.

So it was that, in the summer of 1995, I took a shot at a 300 level class at Metro State College of Denver, entitled "Baseball History". I needed some 300 level classes outside of my art major and thought it would be fun to take a history class about baseball, over the summer. It was actually fairly intense and required more research and writing than I knew I was capable of. I learned about the culture and history of baseball and it turned me into the Baseball Nerd I am today.

A few weeks into the class, our instructor announced that we would have a guest speaker: Charlie Metro. I thought it had to be a joke that a guy named "Metro" would be speaking at Metro State College. I half-expected somebody to come in dressed up like Metro State's roadrunner mascot. Yet he was a real guy who had a long history with Denver's checkered baseball history.

Born Charles Moreskonich in Nanty Glo, Pennsylvania, in 1918, he played a total of 171 games in the Major Leagues. His first official action in organized baseball was with the Easton (Maryland) Browns in 1937; an old affiliate of the St. Louis Browns (now the Baltimore Orioles). He bounced around the minor leagues and independent teams for a few years, until he made his Major League debut in 1943 for the Detroit Tigers. Playing outfield, he was mostly a light-hitting bench player. In 1944, the Tigers released him, and it was belived because the well-liked Metro had been inquiring about starting up a players' union.

Metro then played for manager Connie Mack and the Philadelphia Athletics in the 1944 and 1945 seasons. He was released before the end of the 1945 season, and ended up with the Pacific Coast League's Oakland Oaks, where he brushed shoulder with another famous MLB manager: Casey Stengel.

His last season, as a player, was in 1946. After that is when things got really interesting, as he embarked on a long career as a manager, coach, or scout, working for the New York Yankees, Tigers and Orioles, in the minors. Included in his assignment with the Tigers was managing their top minor league team: the Denver Bears in 1960 and 1961. Metro's Bears teams made the playoffs, both seasons.

Metro got his break in the Majors with the Chicago Cubs in their odd "College of Coaches" in 1961 and 1962. In one of

the "most Cubs things ever", the "College" was essentially a daily rotating manager spot, as one of 8 coaches would get the "honor" of being the manager. Metro must have stood out from the other 7, as he managed the final 112 games of the season. He was let go after the season, yet quickly found work as a scout.

However, Metro's '60-'61 Denver tenure proved significant. There, he met Bob Howsam; a Denver native who owned the Bears. When Howsam moved to the Cincinnati Reds as their new general manager, he called up Metro and offered him a job as a scout. Metro was considered for the Reds' managerial job in 1969, but politely declined. However, in his travels, Metro had run across a young guy named Geroge Anderson and thought he would make a splendid manager. On Metro's suggestion, Howsam hired the unproven George "Sparky" Anderson. Anderson then went on to win 2,194 games for the Reds and Tigers, including 3 World Series wins, and an eventual Hall of Fame plaque.

Metro then had various scouting jobs across Major League Baseball until he retired in 1984, settling back in Denver. He was often involved as an advisor in the 80's efforts to bring an MLB team to Denver. When Coors Field was being constructed, Metro offered a suggestion for the right field wall: in that corner is a quirky diagonal wall about 8 feet in length. Metro said that it would provide all kinds of fun bounces and help with extra-base hits. The idea was incorporated into Coors Field and still remains.

When Metro spoke to my class, he offered us a trivia question: what was his career batting average? Whoever guessed the closest would win two tickets to his season seats in Coors Field. Everybody else in the class answered with flattering overtones, as they guessed somewhere in the .250 to .350 area. Indeed, that'd be a very respectable career batting average. Yet, since FREE TICKETS were on the line, I wasn't trying to flatter the guy, I wanted to win! So I guessed something like ".205". I was the winner, as I was the closest to career batting average of .193.

After class, I got to visit with Metro and we "talked baseball". He joked that Metro State was named after him. He was thrilled that we were both born in Pennsylvania, and he was more than happy to give me his tickets for the upcoming Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Colorado Rockies game, near the visitors' dugout. I took my dad and we had a blast.

Metro passed away in 2011. Yet, a few weeks ago, I took my daughter to a Pirates/Rockies game and got seats near the visitors' dugout. Then I checked out that quirky corner in right field and remembered my baseball buddy.

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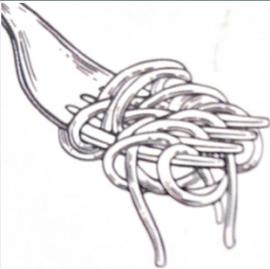
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