

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
4th Quarter

HistoricMontclair.org
HistoricMontclair@gmail.com



**HISTORIC
MONTCLAIR
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
INC.**

Table of Contents

- 2** President's Note
- 3** HMCAI Info/Historic Info
- 4** Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer
- 5** The Fax Partnership
- 6** Annual HMCAI Treats with Santa
- 7** Travelling with Kids- Part I
- 8** 20th Annual HMCAI Beer and Wine Reception
- 10** Christmas in Early Montclair
- 11** State Senator Matt Ball
- 12** Meet Your Neighbor
- 13** George Washington High School
- 14** Crime and Safety Report
- 15** Baseball in Denver

President's Note

By Judy Baxter

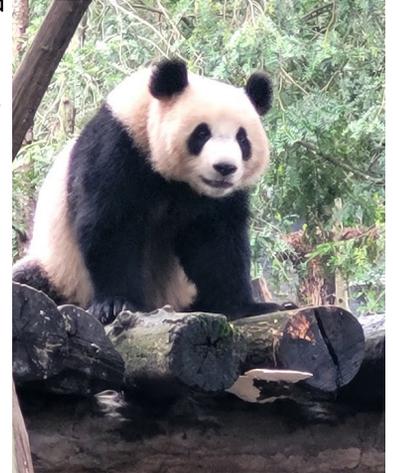
I started drafting this column on my return from a 12-day adventure to China. Pandas, sparkling multi-colored mineral pools and waterfalls of 2 UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites (Huanglong and Jiuzhaigou Scenic Areas), tasting the hot pot cuisine at Michelin rated restaurants, temples, palaces and visiting the "8th Wonder of the World"—the Terracotta Warriors Museum are selected highlights.

The week before I left, HMCAI put on the 20th Beer/Wine Soiree at the Molkery, made a smashing success by the great turnout—some 90+ new and continuing members. The turnout, combined with a beautiful September evening, a great spread of food provided by the board and contributing members, wine and beer donated by Mayfair Liquors (we even ran out and had to make an emergency run to the store), and live jazz played by the Red Sax Jazz Trio on the porch made for a perfect evening of comradery and community.

Events like this one, the 4th of July picnic, History Night, and the various children's events provide one way of connecting with each other about neighborhood events and happenings. The quarterly newsletter, that reaches every household is another connection, however it is very much a one-way line of communication. The Welcome Bags go to new homeowners, though we miss new renters. Our Supporting Members who pay the annual dues provide us with their email, giving HMCAI a way of connecting with some 10% of the households in the neighborhood. This means we have no way to systematically reach a wider cross-section of residents between newsletters to stay abreast of neighborhood concerns or to solicit opinions about issues. Though we would very much like to expand our Supporting Member base, as the affordable dues help fund our many activities, it is also important to expand our base of connection. As we bring this year to a close, I am setting a goal for 2026, to build an email distribution list of Montclair residents that extends beyond the supporting membership base. Stay tuned and if you are interested in helping with this project, please be in touch at our email below.

It seems early to see the end of the year ahead, but it is late October and the holidays will be with us soon. We at HMCAI wish you the best as you head into the season of giving thanks and celebrating community, and what we hope is a peaceful and safe beginning of the new 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
Nov. 19	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 _____

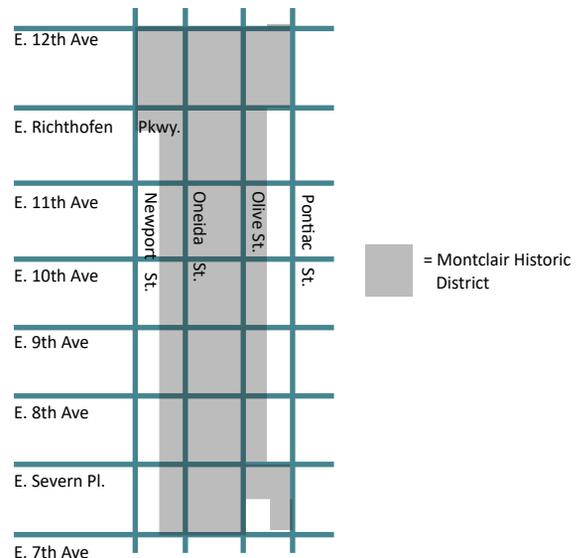
What would you like to help with? _____

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



Winter has arrived in Montclair, bringing new opportunities to connect, give back, and build toward an even brighter future for our community. From gathering feedback through our annual survey to advancing neighborhood initiatives, there's a lot happening across District

5—catch up on the latest updates and see what's ahead below!

Share Your Feedback: 2025-2026 Annual Survey

Take part in our annual survey! Your feedback is valuable for my staff and me as we create our 2025-2026 work plan, and it guides how we advocate for the budget and projects within District 5 in the year ahead. Thank you for your continued engagement and partnership as we work together to address the issues that matter most in our community. Visit bit.ly/D5Survey2025 to take the survey by December 31.

Holiday Events and Giving

District 5 residents are celebrating the season of giving through efforts like Denver Human Services' #BeAGiver Gift Drive, the Denver Santa Claus Shop, the Giving Machine at

Cherry Creek Holiday Market, George Washington High School's Food Pantry, and Augustana Lutheran Church's Sanctuary Soup Shelf. To cap off the festivities, join neighbors for the annual Ugly Sweater Party on Friday, December 5 at 4:30 p.m. at Montclair Recreation Center. Together, we can spread holiday cheer and make a difference in our community this season!

Montclair Park Tree Removal and Playground Renovations

The difficult decision has been made to remove the American Elm tree in the Montclair Park playground due to safety concerns. Tree removal is always a last resort, especially for notable trees like this one. New trees will be planted to restore shade where appropriate, and the trunk will be repurposed into a wood carving featured in the new playground, scheduled to begin construction in spring 2026.

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 at: bit.ly/13thand14thAvenues.

As we celebrate the holiday season and look ahead to the new year, I'm grateful for the progress we've made together and the partnerships that make it possible. Let's keep the momentum going this season and continue making Montclair a warm, welcoming place for all. Find us at:

Phone 720-337-5555

Email denvercouncil5@denvergov.org

Website www.denvergov.org/District5

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The Fax Partnership

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, and most importantly with local residents and businesses. Colfax is an integral part of Denver, and a stronger, more vibrant East Colfax means a stronger and more vibrant Denver.

Traveling along Colfax, the ongoing construction is unmissable. The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is underway and we look forward to the increase in accessibility along Colfax, but we are also aware of how much pressure businesses are under during this construction. The Fax has been working with Denver Economic Development and Opportunity (DEDO) to administer the Business Impact and Opportunity (BIO) Fund. This unique fund provides grants to businesses along Colfax that are affected by the BRT construction as it progresses. We are proud to be able to work with the city in an effort to support the businesses that make up Colfax.

We have also recently assisted three East Colfax businesses in receiving the Certifiably Green Denver grant, where businesses can receive up to \$10,000 to fund projects focusing on sustainability, reducing energy use, or reaching their sustainability goals (such as training to reduce environmental impact day to day). Those businesses are: The Bad Kittie Salon, Sarahi's Kitchen, and La Abeja.

In 2024 our Residential Support Office distributed over 90,000 diapers and 40,000lbs of food. Household visits increased over 300% year over year, reflecting a clear need in the community. Unfortunately, funding for such essential programs has been greatly reduced in 2025, despite a growing need. We are accepting food donations for our Residential Support Office food pantry. If you are interested in donating non-perishable items, the pantry's most urgent needs are: oil, sugar, flour, salt, white rice, baby formula, canned tuna, canned peaches and canned corn.

We are able to receive donations during business hours at our office, 6740 E Colfax Ave, or please email our community services navigator, edem@thefaxdenver.com, to learn how you can help. More information about The Fax can also be found at thefaxdenver.com.



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Annual HMCAI Treats with Santa

Saturday, December 6th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Molkery, 6820 East 12th Ave. in Montclair Park

This is a chance for children to talk with Santa in a friendly, low stress environment. They can make Christmas crafts and enjoy some breakfast treats. After speaking with Santa each child picks a gift from the gift box.

***An adult must accompany all children.

We provide the craft supplies so the children can create Christmas ornaments, etc. while waiting their turn to speak with Santa. Enjoy muffins, fruits, scones, juices, coffee, and tea.

This is a gift exchange, so every child in attendance must arrive with a wrapped present to be placed in the gift box, value at \$10 maximum, suitable for either a boy or girl. This provides assurance that each child that speaks to Santa will receive a gift.

No standing in line here! Each child should take a number when they arrive to indicate their turn to talk to Santa. Be sure to bring your camera.

There is no charge for this event other than the cost of the wrapped gift. Cash donations accepted and greatly appreciated! If you'd like to volunteer please contact Carrie O'Shea at historicmontclair@gmail.com



THE MARKET IS MOVING - LET'S NAVIGATE IT TOGETHER

The Denver real estate market is shifting, and Montclair homeowners need to stay informed.

Understanding what's happening in our neighborhood can reveal opportunities others might miss.

Let's discuss what these market changes mean for your home and your goals. Smart real estate decisions start with the right conversation.

Anne McWilliams

Broker Associate

312.320.8219

AMcWilliams@kentwood.com



Traveling With Kids 101 – Part I

By Merritt Pullam, HMCAI Board member

Traveling with kids can be one of the most stressful, but also most rewarding experiences for both parents and the kids. My goal for this and future articles is to share some tips that we found helpful for your next trip with your kids. I want to stress that all of us as parents have our own travel hacks, and that what I write about may not fit your needs. I am purposely going to avoid talking about how to travel with babies, because we all know that is a whole different animal to prepare for. Best of luck to those of you who are going through that experience. Not only do you have to worry about your kiddos, but those around you and all their “helpful” suggestions as you try to keep your baby occupied on long flights, without interference from the nosey person in the next row who thinks you should do it differently.



Start off with a family planning session. If you know you must visit a specific place for work or for family obligations, take the time to sit down together and research where you are going. What is that city known for? What age-appropriate activities are there for the kiddos? I tend to lean on google to look up things to do. There have been many times google maps has saved the day by finding city park playgrounds, amusement parks, interactive science or art museums, or a local farmers market to stroll through that may interest and tire out the kids. Check out the app “Playground Buddy” to help locate local parks and playgrounds too.

Don't feel obligated to plan every second of the trip. Some of our best memories have been made by stumbling on simple activities that allow the kids to interact with the local population. I often speak about how much fun we had going to a self-wash



laundromat near Oxford, England. We met some of the funniest locals who pointed out one of those “old school” playgrounds nearby that made me remember my childhood days...you know the type, with the two-story metal slide that burned your bum on hot days or cut you with its jagged edges. The jungle gym would make any Gen X parent recall the times they almost died falling off one like it as a second grader. Interacting with the locals isn't everyone's cup of tea, but it sure paid off that day, plus I got two loads of laundry done!

As I began this article I wanted to make sure I didn't come across as a know it all. Not all of us have the same opportunities to travel to places that our family has been fortunate enough to visit and I am sure you have your own helpful hints on traveling with kids. There's so much more to write about, so I welcome you to write to me at merrittpkw@gmail.com or historicmontclair@gmail.com to let me know some of your travel hacks, and I will have more tips in future articles. Overall, remember to have fun and involve your kids as best as you can. They will appreciate it and so will you. Safe travels and remember when in Rome...



20th Annual HMCAI Beer & Wine Reception- September 26, 2025 at the Molkery



 Find us on Facebook.
Search "Historic Montclair
Community"

20th Annual HMCAI Beer & Wine Reception- September 26, 2025 at the Molkery



Christmas in Early Montclair

By Bill Hansen



Richthofen Castle in winter

From 1888 to 1903, the independent Town of Montclair celebrated Christmas much as the quaint village described in the above resident's poem. While a nickel would provide streetcar service for holiday shopping in downtown Denver, most festivities were local.

Montclair's grand mansions were the site of most Christmas gatherings and family celebrations. In the very early years, Helen Ingersoll recalled: "When we were children, we went to Christmas parties at the Castle. We all got candy canes or something off the Christmas tree." Young boys called the Baroness "Mrs. Baron", while the little girls pulled on the jovial Baron's beard.

On the last day before the holiday break, Stanley School held a large Christmas party in the assembly hall for students, parents, and residents with carols, dancing, and refreshments around a Christmas tree. The kindergartners were told the Christmas Story and their ears perked up when they heard of the three wise men bearing gifts to the Baby Jesus, which began the tradition of gift-giving. Immediately thereafter, an upper classman would rush in dressed as Santa to dispense small toys to the eager tots.

The cadets at Jarvis Hall Military Academy (1888 to 1902) held a dance for the young girls of Montclair before heading home for the holidays. Those cadets that stayed helped decorate the school's chapel, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, for the Christmas services. The Town's sole house of worship swelled with parishioners who heard sermons on the meaning of Christmas. By the turn of the Century, the Church boasted a 9-piece orchestra and a 15-voice choir singing favorites such as "To Us A Child Is Born" from Handel's Messiah.

By 1900, Catholics in the Town celebrated Christmas at the former Kittredge Castle, presided over by Reverend J. M.

Christmas Tide
We wander down the village street,
A-past the hedge-rows white with snow,
And many an old acquaintance greet
With loving welcome as we go;
We linger by the old church tower
And hear the glad bells merry peel;
They tell of right for every wrong, of glad release
from every ill;
They sing the herald angels' song
Of "peace on earth, to men good will".

- Anna Engler, Montclair, 1897

Walsh. A quarter admission was charged for the gala, to be used for a building fund to erect what would become St. James Church in 1909.

The Warwick and Emma Downing family celebrated Christmas with parties at their Victorian home at 1033 Niagara. (demolished 1960) Pictured, their young son, Richard, showing off his new football amidst the clutter of opened presents on December 25, 1902. The Christmas tree is adorned with handmade strings of beads, popcorn and paper chains, along with glass-blown ornaments, candy canes, gingerbread men, and Christmas cards. The Downing trees were always lit by tapered wax candles. A bucket of water was usually kept nearby for the obvious fire risk.



Over the holidays, children would sled down Lake Street (now 12th Avenue) from the Castle, past the Molkery, and all the way to Newport Street. Ice skating was available on the frozen stone-lined lake of the former Zoological Gardens near today's 11th and Quebec. The Town's Marshall, Dennis Tirsway (1433 Olive), offered popular hayrides.

Such was village life during the holiday season in the early Town of Montclair. This year, may we again all sing "Peace on Earth, to Men (and all) Good Will".

From the Desk of Matt Ball, State Senator

District 31



Montclarions,
It's been a few months since my last update, when I was about to head into my first special session. In special session, I worked hard to pass important legislation that will help close the \$750 million budget shortfall caused by the federal

government. I used my vote to cover the costs of SNAP benefits through Proposition LL and Proposition MM—you'll see these on your November Ballot, don't forget to vote—prevent health insurance premium increases, and close corporate tax breaks. And I passed a bill to crack down on foreign tax havens, which will redirect millions of needed funding for our schools, hospitals, and roads.

Immediately following special session, I spent a few weeks away fulfilling my Army Reserve duties. Now I'm back, spending my days preparing for my third (or second, if you count special session) official legislative session. I plan on focusing on the priorities that I ran on – mental health, protecting our climate, and ensuring Coloradans can live affordable and equitable lives. As we get closer to the session, please reach out to share any legislative ideas you may have. I would love to hear from you.

I hear from people across my district who are deeply concerned about the state of our country, and I couldn't write this column without mentioning it. To say the federal government is a mess is a massive understatement. But despite that fact, I am confident that we will weather this storm. If you ever need help getting connected with those representing you at the federal level, including Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, Representative DeGette, or Representative Crow, please let me know.

You can check out my website at www.mattforcolorado.com to get information on any upcoming community events I have, including my monthly casual office hours, Chat with Matt. It typically happens on the second or third Saturday of the month at a local district coffee shop. Check out my events page to get the specific details

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

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Meet Your Neighbor

Gail Barry, Pontiac St

How long have you lived in Montclair?

"How long have I lived in Montclair" is a little complicated. My husband's (Chips Barry's) family has lived here since Baron von Richtofen started this neighborhood in the late 19th century. Chips and I got married in 1968 went into Vista, in Alaska, took 27 Eskimo high school students to Japan for 6 months, and then bought a little house on Newport Street when we returned. A few months later, we were recruited to go to Micronesia, where we spent 2.5 years. We returned to our little house again in 1974. Shortly after our return we had the opportunity to buy the house I currently live in, at 1027 Pontiac Street. I have lived in this house since 1974. I'm not sure if the first part of this counts as having lived here or not.... But I have definitely been here 51 years.

I was born in Cleveland, and came to Colorado Springs with my family when I was 2 years old. I think I am almost a native. My mother was born in Colorado Springs. We lived in the Cheyenne Canon neighborhood at the base of Cheyenne Mountain. I moved to Denver during college. I went to Columbia in NY, for my first graduate degree in fine arts and fine arts education. I later went to UCD for a second graduate degree in landscape architecture.

What do you like most about Montclair?

I feel honored to be able to live in this beautiful neighborhood. I love the mix of old and newer houses, the big trees, the relative quiet, the mix of old and new neighbors, and the vibrant activity that comes and goes in Montclair.

How has the area changed since you moved in?

When I first moved into the neighborhood, I was a young, energetic, new parent. 51 years later I am one of the older generation, so of course things have changed along the way. My own house has changed totally after several remodels of inside and out. It is hard to pinpoint exactly what has changed except for people moving in and out of the neighborhood, modifying houses, planting new landscapes and so forth.

Do you have a funny memory of the neighborhood?

My children are the 5th generation to have grown up on this block. My younger son, Duncan, was best friends with Casey Scott who lived across the street. They were pretty much inseparable. On one notable occasion, Casey and Duncan hid themselves under the porch and kept so quiet we all thought they had disappeared. All the parents were out searching and calling. Given that they were usually very talkative it was hard to believe that they managed to stay silent for so long, giving all the parents a lot of worry.

Eventually we found them and they were aware that this was not to ever happen again.

Do you have any favorite area businesses?

I particularly appreciate Mayfair Liquors. They are the only ones that carry my favorite box wine and they have been steadfast supporters of our neighborhood for many years.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I am an avid gardener when able to do so. I enjoy cooking. I also enjoy deep water aerobics, riding my exercise bike and other active pursuits. I really love to read escapism books when I have the chance. And I have wonderful friends who stay connected.

Favorite spot in Colorado?

I am quite a home body so do not go very many places any more. When I was younger, I used to love back packing into the various wilderness areas. There are so many beautiful places in Colorado that I couldn't begin to pick a favorite.



George Washington High School

Support the GWHS Food Pantry and Unlock a \$10,000 Matching Grant!

The GWHS Food Pantry is a vital resource, consistently providing free access to nutritious food and hygiene items for students, faculty, and staff who are experiencing food insecurity. During October, there is a \$10,000 matching grant courtesy of a generous donor. This means that every dollar you donate will be matched, doubling its impact and allowing us to serve our 90+ families each week. Please help us meet this goal and ensure the pantry can continue its crucial work. Your contribution makes a direct difference in the lives of those in our community.

Ready to donate?

- Colorado Gives: <https://www.coloradogives.org/story/Cgdfoodpantry>
- Zelle: GWHS.Food.Pantry@gmail.com

Interested in volunteering your time? We always appreciate a helping hand! Sign up here:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054FABAA28A02-58009691-202526#

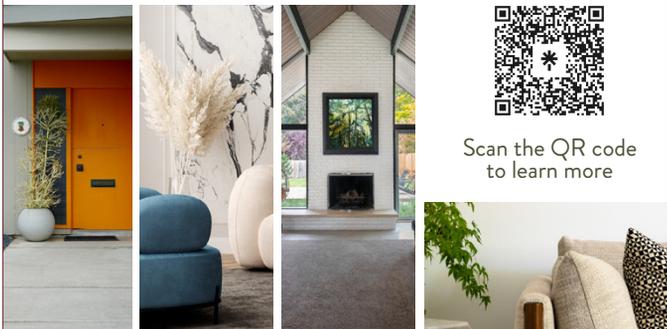
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St. Luke's Episcopal Church by Carrie O'Shea

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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	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Crimes Against Persons	Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Aggravated Assault	1	2	2	5	2	1	2	1	4	20
	Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
	Non-Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kidnapping/Abduction	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
	Simple Assault	3	1	6	5	3	2	0	3	2	25
	Intimidation	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	8
Subtotal		7	5	10	10	5	3	3	8	7	59
Crimes Against Property	Arson	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Bribery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Burglary	3	4	0	3	3	3	5	3	2	26
	Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
	Criminal Mischief/Damaged Property	3	3	7	6	3	5	4	4	3	38
	Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Extortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Fraud	3	4	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	18
	Larceny	20	20	22	17	17	21	19	14	4	154
	Theft from Motor Vehicle	0	3	2	4	5	1	1	2	2	20
	Motor Vehicle Theft	3	2	3	2	2	1	3	1	2	19
	Robbery	0	0	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	9
	Stolen Property	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal		32	36	40	34	32	36	35	27	16	289
Crimes Against Society	Drug/Narcotics Violations	3	1	0	3	2	2	1	1	1	14
	Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Child Pornography	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Prostitution	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Weapon Law Violations	0	0	2	2	1	0	1	3	1	10
Subtotal		3	1	2	6	3	2	2	4	2	25
All Other Offenses	Fraud - NSF-Closed Account	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Curfew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disorderly Conduct/Disturbing the Peace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Family Offenses / Nonviolent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Liquor Law/Drunkenness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Violation of a Restraining/Court Order	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	10
	Harassment	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	7
	Criminal Trespassing	0	3	3	2	0	4	1	3	2	18
All Other Offenses	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	9	
Subtotal		3	5	6	6	1	8	2	6	8	45
Grand Total		45	47	58	56	41	48	42	45	33	418

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

Montclair Halloween 2025 is in the books. More specifically Montclair's **Oneida Street Halloween** 2025 is in the books. As most residents are aware, Oneida Street is closed between 6th and 8th avenue, every year, as hordes of avid trick-or-treaters swarm these 3 blocks (which includes the block between 7th and Severn). This year was no exception as generally nice weather, combined with Halloween falling on a Friday, meant we had roughly 2,000 people come by our home.

So what in the name of Christian Encarnacion-Strand does this have to do with baseball?! While we do give away the traditional candy, about 8 years ago I began to offer a low calorie and healthy option: a re-pack of baseball cards. Like many sports fans my age, I was heavily into the sports card boom of the late 80's and early 90's. Like many of those kids, I also acquired huge amounts of un-opened boxes (in some cases even crates) of cards. I'd open each pack, and would eventually get a complete set; usually around 792 cards. After that, I'd continue opening packs and setting aside the superstar players that I just *knew* I could sell and pay for my eventual mansion.

Problem was, there were several manufacturers of sports cards and each began over-producing their cards. This period of baseball cards became known as the "Junk Wax Era" (where "wax" refers to the "wax pack", the way the cards were packaged). It got so bad, that we even sold 1990 Donruss Baseball card packs at my first job: which was working the concession booth at a movie theater. I never understood the appeal of buying a pack of *baseball cards* with your popcorn and soda... but I do recall them being slightly popular than the 2 or 3 hot dogs that sat on the rollers each night.

Needless to say, I never sold enough cards to get that mansion (although my Montclair home is pretty sweet) and was left with boxes and boxes of cards sitting around, taking up space, and not paying for their rent.

When we arrived in Montclair and experienced Halloween on Oneida, I began to think of ways to cut that outlandish annual candy bill...and turned to those space-eating sports card boxes. At first, I just grabbed about 7 or 8 random cards, stuffed them in a Dollar Tree sandwich bag and passed them out. Some revelers were confused and would either discard them or ask for candy instead. The next day, it wasn't unusual to see them thrown around our street. I decided that, just because I was stuck with "Junk", that didn't mean I needed to re-distribute that same junk.

Instead of grabbing random cards and re-packing them, I began to "curate" them a little bit more and put some thought into it. I made a rule that EVERY pack I put together would have at least one Hall of Famer, superstar or "cool card I would like to get". Someone like Ken Griffey, Jr., Paul Molitor, Andres Galarraga, Dave Parker or Larry Walker.

I soon expanded it to other sports and included guys like Barry Sanders, Patrick Roy, and even The Fresh Prince, Will Smith (I've given out a few NBA cards with Smith, where he's encouraging kids to stay in school). I mix it up, so you didn't get strictly one sport. I've ventured past the "Junk Wax" cards and have included cards of stuff up to 2025. Beginning around August of each year, I set up my office desk with the "one cool card" stack, then 4 stacks of the "common" players (or lesser known stars) from each sport. I pick from each stack until I get 7, then wrap 'em up.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive and it's added another unique twist to Halloween on Oneida. I've had kids come by and exclaim: "Yes! This is the house with baseball cards!" or "Whoa! I still have my cards from last year! I'm glad you're doing this again!" It's not unusual for adults to see what we're giving out, get intrigued, and politely ask if they can have one, too. We oblige, with no hesitation. Of course, we still have several bags of candy if the kids (and adults) prefer that.

I've seen Internet videos where people burn their "worthless" sports cards and think it's hilarious. Yet my hope is that a kid will get my Halloween re-pack, take it home, open it, and think: "this is cool. Whoa! I've heard of this guy!" It's better than yet another Snickers bar.

Hope your Halloween 2025 was fun...and be sure to drop by Oneida for your baseball cards, next year.



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