



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.

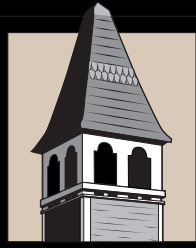
Formed in 1907 as a not-for-profit corporation, the Historic Montclair Community Association, Inc. (HMCAI), is the oldest neighborhood association in Denver. Officers and at-large board members serve without pay. HMCAI is a Registered Neighborhood Organization and is a member of Denver's Inter-Neighborhood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

2026
2nd 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** State Senator Matt Ball
- 6** HMCAI Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- 7** HMCAI 8th Annual Wine and History Night
- 8** Thank You to the Montclair Neighborhood
- 9** Celebrate July 4th in Montclair Park with HMCAI
- 9** Share Your Vision for Denver's Recreation Centers and Pools
- 10** Meet Your Neighbor
- 11** Discovering the World on Two Wheels
- 12** The Evolution of Montclair Park and Playground
- 13** Montclair's New Traffic on 11th Group
- 13** Summer Gardening 2026
- 14** Crime and Safety Report
- 15** Baseball in Denver

President's Note

By Judy Baxter

Welcome to May in Colorado. For a moment, I thought we had our seasons turned around, and then I remembered wet snow in May, even Memorial Day, is not unheard of. Though my trees made it through without damage, I know that many of our neighbors are clearing away both small and large piles of tree limbs. Fingers are crossed this will restore our reservoirs, though drought conditions cannot be remedied with one spring storm.



I have been seeing our neighborhood, city and state, through the eyes of a new friend from the Northern Territory of Australia, staying with me for 6 months while working with colleagues at CU-Anschutz on a Fulbright Scholarship. Lexie was so surprised by snow in May, especially given the lack of snow in February-March. When you are showing people new to Denver around, what are your go to spots, sights, things to do? Having her here has made me think about this. She walks our neighborhood regularly and really appreciates the larger of the city parks-enjoying Cheesman, City and Wash Parks. Places and things we've seen and done: lunch in Evergreen overlooking the lake, taking in the Denver Powwow (see picture), a trip to Crested Butte, a concert at Red Rocks, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, seeing Hell's Kitchen at the Buell, running in the Colorado Marathon in Fort Collins (I cheered at the finish line), and a walk through the Botanic Gardens the day before the storm. The DAM, History Colorado and maybe a baseball game are up next. This reminds me of what a great community we have and how I take it for granted much of the time.

Speaking of great communities, check out what has been happening in Montclair. This newsletter gives you the recap of both the History Night and the Easter Egg Hunt. A special thanks to Kate Fritz, who gave an engaging and informative talk on history of the Denver Mountain Parks and the role they have played in preserving the American Bison. I also want to bring your attention to the article by Barbara Mattison about the Traffic on 11th Group. There are several traffic concerns, though not new, that seem to be increasing in severity and frequency in Montclair. We hope that by raising awareness of this focused area of concern that we might gain a better understanding of how to address and advocate for other ways to make our neighborhood safer.

"Safety and security don't just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. " Nelson Mandela

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



HMCAI 2026 Board

President: Judy Baxter
1st Vice President: Carrie O’Shea
Secretary: Bob Jusell
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At Large Board Members:

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Meg Goos	Merritt Pullam
Wendy Ho-Schnell	Anne Canon
Toni Ann Kuper	Ryan Stevens
Jim LeDuc	Marika Rietsema
Caryle Faust	

HMCAI Events Calendar 2026

Mar. 6	Wine & History Night	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Molkery
Apr. 4	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 am	Montclair Park
Jul. 4	July 4 Picnic	10:30 am -2:00 pm	Montclair Park
Sept. 25	Beer & Wine Reception	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Molkery
Oct. 15	Annual General Meeting	7:00 pm	Molkery
Oct. 21	Halloween Party	3:30-5:00 pm	Molkery
Dec. 5	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: \$45 (\$30 seniors, ages 65 and older)

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

Name(s) _____

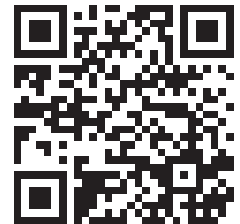
Address _____

Phone(s) _____

Email _____

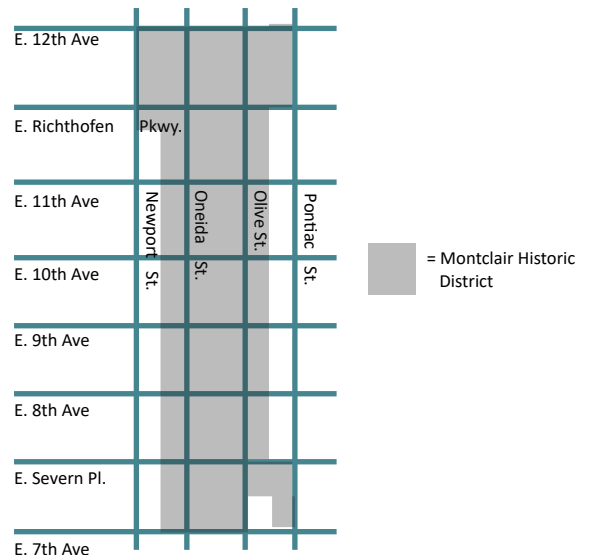
What would you like to help with? _____

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



With summer right around the corner, thank you to all our neighbors who joined us for Community Clean-Up Day. Our shared spaces are refreshed and ready to enjoy for the warmer weather. As we head into the season, Montclair is undergoing continued investment and

improvements across the community. Catch up on the latest updates and see what's ahead below!

Schlessman Family Library Branch Renovations

Schlessman Family Branch Library is undergoing a major renovation with updated spaces and improved services, with a grand opening expected early next year. Phase I is complete, enhancing accessibility, study areas, and technology, while Phase II, previously unfunded, is now underway to upgrade restrooms, HVAC systems, and address deferred maintenance. During closure, expanded services are available at Virginia Village and Ross-Cherry Creek Branch Libraries, with updates at: denverlibrary.org/southeast.

Denison Park Basketball Court Improvements

Upgrades to the Denison Park basketball court began in February, with construction scheduled to be completed in June. The upgrades are part of a multi-park project spanning seven parks throughout Denver. These enhancements will provide the Montclair neighborhood with an accessible, dual-hoop, full-sized basketball court.

Denver Water Drought Pricing and Lead Reduction Program
The Denver Board of Water Commissioners has approved temporary drought pricing on outdoor water use due to severe drought conditions driven by low snowpack and reduced spring runoff. The pricing took effect in May

(reflected on June bills) and runs through April 30, 2027. Indoor essential use remains unchanged, while outdoor use includes temporary charges to encourage conservation. More information is available at denverwater.org/Conserve. Work has also begun in the Montclair neighborhood under the Lead Reduction Program, with service line replacements expected over the next several months to improve system reliability, reduce main breaks, replace corroded pipe, address water quality issues, and increase hydrant flow.

Vibrant Denver Bond Interactive Dashboard

The Denver Department of Finance launched an online Vibrant Denver bond dashboard for residents to track the status of all bond projects, including details on scope, schedule, and budget. In Montclair, residents can stay up to date on safety improvements along 13th and 14th Avenues. To view the dashboard, visit www.denvergov.org/vibrantbond.

We encourage neighbors to get outside and enjoy all that the Montclair neighborhood has to offer. Take time to visit local parks and see the improvements happening throughout the community this season!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our office with any questions! You can reach the Council District 5 Team at:

Phone 720-337-5555

Email denvercouncil5@denvergov.org

Website www.denvergov.org/District5

instagram.com/denvercouncil5

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Contact Jennifer Bolda
Jenniferbolda@gmail.com

From the Desk of Matt Ball, State Senator

District 31



Montclarions,
As I'm writing this, we are in the final days of the legislative session; by the time you read this, we'll be done. The Colorado Constitution gives the legislature 120 days to get all the work done, and on May 13, our time is up.

I'm proud to report that I have passed several bills this year that will make a positive impact on our community. After years of stalled attempts at reform, I passed Senate Bill 150, which will strengthen RTD's governance and help build a more effective transit system. I also passed legislation to rein in parts of the online sports betting industry and create stronger protections for people struggling with gambling addiction, along with a major geothermal energy bill focused on lowering utility costs and expanding new energy infrastructure in Colorado.

In total, I ran more than 40 bills this year touching everything from child care affordability, to balcony solar panels, to making it easier for local governments to build housing. Some of those bills will make headlines; many won't. But all of them were aimed at making Colorado more affordable, functional, and easier to live in.

Of course, passing policy is only part of the legislature's work. This year's budget conversation was just as consequential—and in many ways, far more difficult. We passed the state budget in April, and the fiscal outlook was difficult. There are no easy ways to close a \$1.2 billion gap, and this year required months of hard conversations and difficult trade-offs. I want to thank the members of the Joint Budget Committee for the steady and thoughtful work they did navigating an extraordinarily challenging budget year. While no budget of this size is perfect, the legislature worked to protect core services and limit the impact on the Coloradans who rely on them most.

The broader challenge, though, has not gone away. Colorado continues to face growing demands on schools, healthcare, transportation, and other basic services, while operating under structural fiscal constraints that make long-term planning increasingly difficult. If we want to maintain the quality of life Coloradans expect and continue investing in the things that make this state work, we will eventually have to confront those realities directly instead of lurching from budget shortfall to budget shortfall.

If you have any additional questions about my work in the legislature or need any assistance at the state level, don't hesitate to contact my office with whatever you may need at matt.ball.senate@coleg.gov, or call (303) 866-4861. If you want more regular updates from me, you can sign up for my monthly newsletter. Reach out to my office to sign up!

Take care,
Matt

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HMCAI Annual Easter Egg Hunt



HMCAI 8th Annual Wine & History Night

Kate Fritz, Executive Director of the Denver Mountain Parks Foundation gave a fascinating presentation titled: **Denver Mountain Park 100 Years of the Magnificent Dream:** How Denver Mountain Parks came to exist and the history of how they played a leading role in the conservation of the American Bison.



Thank you to the Montclair Neighborhood

On Monday March 30th at approximately 1:45 am we were awoken by the sound of a crash, followed by the sirens of police. Soon the police were knocking on our windows letting us know our garage was on fire and that we needed to evacuate the house. Aurora PD had been in pursuit of someone in a stolen vehicle, and although the pursuit had been called off when it neared residential areas in Denver, the driver was still speeding and driving recklessly when they crashed into our garage. The police quickly evacuated us from the house while the fire department set to work extinguishing the fire. While the house was spared any damage; the garage, its contents and our vehicles were a total loss.

That could have been the end of the story, had it not been for our fellow Montclair residents. The outpouring of support we received from our immediate neighbors during the fire, and the neighborhood as a whole in the aftermath has been overwhelming. Aside from the myriad of neighbors offering condolences, we also had many neighbors reach out and offer a place to stay if needed, vehicles to use in the interim, storage of items, and the list goes on. If we had accepted every offer of a meal we would not have needed to cook for weeks.

So while this incident was unfortunate, we feel grateful. Grateful that we were unharmed, grateful that our house was left unscathed, grateful that our insurance company has been so easy to work with, and also extremely grateful to live in a neighborhood that is so willing to support each other when one of its members experiences a loss.

Greg and Amber Berning
6969 E 11th Ave



MAKING SENSE OF TODAY'S DENVER REAL ESTATE MARKET

The Denver market is shifting — and Montclair homeowners who stay informed find opportunities others miss.

Let's talk about what these changes mean for your home and your goals.

Anne McWilliams

Broker Associate

312.320.8219

AMcWilliams@kentwood.com



Celebrate July 4th in Montclair Park with HMCAI

Please join us for our annual Montclair neighborhood picnic.

Food, festivities, & fun!

Saturday, July 4th at Montclair Park from 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 supporting member, lunch is free for your entire household. If you are not a member or are a member's guest, please make a donation for the picnic: \$10/adult (12+) and \$7/child. 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 \$45 per family and \$30 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!

Share Your Vision for Denver's Recreation Centers and Pools

Denver Parks and Recreation is developing a strategic plan to guide investment in our recreation centers over the next 20–30 years, and we want to hear from you! Denver is evolving, and so are the ways people recreate. Help us shape what comes next by joining us at an upcoming event or taking our virtual survey. Ways to get involved:

Open House 1:

Wed, May 27 | 5-7 PM

Washington Park Recreation Center, 701 S Franklin St

Open House 2:

Sat, May 30 | 10 AM-12 PM

Scheitler Recreation Center, 5031 W 46th Ave

Virtual Meeting:

Wed, June 3 | 5-6:15 PM

Register at: bit.ly/3P1H1aO

Take the virtual survey: Sign up for updates on the link below, so you are looped in when it launches May 27!

Learn more and sign up for updates here:

<https://bit.ly/reccenterplan>



Meet Your Neighbor

Beckett Stokes and Andy Sealaus, Niagara St.

How long have you lived in Montclair?

We moved in to 1170 Niagara in October of 2000 (26 Years)

Where did you live prior to that?

Congress Park

What do you like most about Montclair?

The mature trees drew us to the neighborhood and reminded Andy of his childhood home in PA. It has always seemed like a bit of a secret tucked away between Park Hill, Mayfair and Crestmoor, with its mix of houses, three little parks and quiet streets.

How has the area changed since you moved in?

More growth around Montclair brings more traffic. We've lost some of the great old large trees. On the positive side, having Lowry so nearby provides easy access to a growing list of great restaurants and shops, and it is great to see so many young families moving into the neighborhood.

Do you have a particularly good memory or funny anecdote of the neighborhood?

Beckett soliciting neighbors in support of Montclair Elementary while pregnant with our youngest. Andy annually losing all of his arm hair while grilling burgers for the 4th of July picnic on our charcoal grill that he



carted to and from the park. We sent our kids to Montclair Elementary and remember many great talent shows, International Nights and mask parades.

Any favorite businesses in the area?

The Local General, Quince Coffee Shop, Cheyenne Fencing, and of course True Value Hardware Store — all on Colfax.

How do you like to spend your free time?

Andy is out putzing in the yard most weekends, and supports local rugby as best as he can. Beckett likes to cook, swim at the Montclair Rec Center, walk the dog and ski.

Do you have a favorite spot in Colorado?

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Discovering the World on Two Wheels

by Mark Fields

I went on my first international bicycle trip in 1990 when I spent a week cycling through the wilds of western Ireland, including the Connemara region north of Galway where many Irish still speak Gaelic. It was a transformative adventure for me: exploring by bicycle is a very different experience from touring by car or bus; it's up close and personal. I could see, hear, and smell more; and I could talk with people as I cycled past. In fact, I came home with a new appreciation for Irish culture (my family kidded me that I "became" Irish on that trip).

I have since explored numerous international locations by bike: France, England, Scotland, the Netherlands, Quebec, and most recently Croatia. I have also taken bike tours across the U.S. as well with similar enjoyment.

As I approached retirement a few years ago, I was wondering how I could maintain this lifelong vacation style on what would be a newly limited income. My partner Wendy and I ended up that summer of 2022 on a Netherlands bike-and-boat tour with the owners of the company that I frequently booked. I asked if they ever

hired guests to become bike tour leaders. In their opinion, former guests made the best guides because they knew the expectations from the other side. That conversation led to me being hired as a tour leader the following season.

Since then, I have spent part of each summer and fall leading week-long bike tours in New York, Vermont, Quebec, South Dakota, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. We cycle about 30-40 miles a day, stopping along the way at historic sites and appealing cafes, and then we spend the evening resting in a nice hotel. We also eat quite well, replacing all the calories we burned up during the day (and then some!).

This summer, I will be returning to South Dakota, Washington, and Quebec (still one of my favorite tours) for a total of eight weeks. Who knew all those years ago that a bike trip to Ireland would lead to a lifetime of adventure on two wheels?

(If you're interested to learn more about bike touring, email moviemark1959@gmail.com)



Croatia



Washington State Cascades tour

The Evolution of Montclair Park and Playground

By Bill Hansen

Montclair just recently lost one of its “legacy” American Elm trees in Montclair Park, located in the playground. An entirely new playground layout is planned to replace the old.

When Montclair was first platted in the spring of 1885, the original Montclair Park was the entire block north of today’s 12th Avenue and between today’s Oneida and Newport Streets. Twelfth was then dubbed “Lake Avenue” to create, as the promotors described it, the illusion of an oasis or “veritable Eden” on the barren prairie. The depression adjacent to the present Montclair Civic Building served as the “lake”- likely not much more than a buffalo wallow that filled up in the spring- but early would be-buyers were offered “free boat rides” on the “lake”.

In 1887, Walter Baron von Richthofen built his medieval castle on the heights to the southeast and platted Richthofen’s First Addition to Montclair to the south. He donated the current Montclair Park site to enhance his own holdings. The “lake” was drained and the Molkery was completed in 1888. It was separated from the new Montclair Park by Ruby Avenue. Beginning in 1887, Arbor Day became a regular local holiday for tree-planting throughout Montclair, including Montclair Park, as well as along both sides of Ruby Avenue. If one looks very carefully from east to west at the area around today’s playground and just to the south, including the tall stump of the lost legacy tree, one can still discern the faint outline of where Ruby Avenue was once located.

In 1909, the city condemned the old Molkery and joined it with an enlarged Montclair Park. The Montclair Civic Center was opened as a community clubhouse in 1910. More landscaping ensued. A gazebo was constructed among winding gravel paths in the park (below). A water fountain was added. Montclair resident Warwick M. Downing, the first President of the Montclair Improvement Association and Mayor Robert W. Speer’s Parks Commissioner for the regional Montclair Park District, was an early proponent of Denver’s “Playground Movement”. He ensured that Montclair Park was not only a showcase for Mayor Speer’s “City Beautiful” plans but also Denver’s first park to offer swings, slides, teeter-totters, climbing apparatus, and other child-play equipment. As Tom Noel has observed, the “keep off the grass” signs were removed to encourage parks as places for residents of all ages to enjoy more fully than simply strolling along designated pathways.

Montclair Park has gone through many changes over the years, with new and additional plantings, the addition of a tennis court, and various redesigned playgrounds. The new plans are simply a new iteration of the original 1910 plan.

So how old was the recently lost legacy American Elm? While nobody counted the rings, it likely dated back to at least 1910 and possibly to the Baron’s earliest beautification efforts in the late 1880’s. A legacy lost but a playground transformation begun.



Figure 1- Montclair Park in 1910-The playground is in the left background of the new gazebo



Figure 2- Playground equipment in 1910- looking from the water fountain southeast to the gazebo. The lost elm tree from today’s playground is in the background somewhere and one can only guess to its age. Playground safety seems to have come a long way since 1910.

Montclair's New Traffic on 11th Group

By Barbara Mattison, Co-Chair, Traffic on 11th Group

There's a new group in town – the Traffic on 11th Group is working on safety issues along 11th Avenue between Quebec St. and Monaco Parkway. The Traffic on 11th Group formed in August 2025 in response to fears expressed by Montclair residents who live and drive on this stretch of 11th Avenue. The group has 45 members and is co-chaired by Barbara Mattison and Alice Liu. The group seeks cooperation from the city to improve signage and add speed calming measures and cross walks.

The Group has several concerns:

- Drivers regularly exceed the 20 MPH speed limit – going west from Quebec, the speed limit changes from 30 to 20 MPH; drivers either ignore this or are unaware.
- Children and families regularly walk to and from Montclair School along 11th Avenue. With narrow or no sidewalks, speeding cars pose a real threat to safety.
- Driveways along 11th – especially on the hill between Pontiac and Olive Streets – have little or no sight distance relative to westbound traffic. Serious accidents have occurred there.
- Children and families walking to Denison Park, between Poplar and Quebec, face a risky crossing due to drivers trying to make a green light at Quebec.
- Signage is confusing and out of date – signs noting 20 MPH in the school zone for Montclair School imply a decrease in speed; the speed limit is already 20 MPH.
- 11th Avenue is narrower than surrounding streets; with fewer stops, it is used as a thoroughfare.

Summer Gardening 2026

By Gail Barry

This year is anyone's guess as to temperature and water conditions. As we are all aware of the extreme dry conditions and variable temperatures, it will be extremely important to follow water wise practices. I always recommend adding good quality compost to your beds. (4 cy/1000 sf) When watering, as allowed, water deeply. Be sure to use a 3-4" deep mulch around all plants except ground covers, which can only take about an inch of fine mulch. Mulch conserves moisture and keeps down weeds. If ground covers are fully covering the soil, then mulch may not be useful. In my annual beds I usually use grass clippings for mulch. Grass clippings must be spread shortly after mowing, otherwise they heat up and can be harmful to the plants. If used properly they break down and add to the soil. I tend to renew the grass clippings every few weeks. You can also use leaves. Commercial mulch is available by the bag or by the truckful and is usually a wood-based product. You may wish to eliminate some (or

Actions and Results:

- The Traffic on 11th Group has met with Montclair School Principal Clint Duvo to ask the school's cooperation in reminding parents driving their children of the 20 MPH speed limit.
- The Group has gathered 125 signatures on an online Petition that has been sent to our city councilpersons, the Denver Police Department, the Mayor's office and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure asking for safety improvements on 11th.
- The Group presented their concerns to the Historic Montclair Community Association (HMCAI) Board which gave its support to this work; Merritt Pullam and Judy Baxter are HMCAI liaisons to the Group.
- Denver Police installed a very temporary Speed Trailer at Olive and 11th to show drivers their speeds.
- The Group is working to make contact with Denver's Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI), the entity responsible for signage, speed humps, etc.

The Traffic on 11th Group is working to address safety concern in our neighborhood along 11th Avenue by advocating with the city for actions for improved safety. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Barbara Mattiso, rambjm@comcast.net, or Alice Liu, alicecliu@gmail.com.

all) of your lawn area in favor of other plants that use less water. Personally, I do not advocate using gravel or rock as a substitute for lawn, except in rare or contained situations. Gravel and rock tend to absorb heat, are hard to maintain, difficult to walk on and difficult to remove.

Currently I am waiting to see how the weather develops before planting any of the tender plants. It is not abnormal for there to be frost and/or snow in late May. According to data I found, there is a 90% chance of no lower than 36-degree nights by May 25th. It is not unheard of to get frost in early June. The latest occurrence of that was on June 8th, 2007. However, most years it is relatively safe to plant in the second half of May.

Don't forget to consult CSU Extension for gardening advice. Hoping for a gardening season with more moisture, no hail and few beetles!!

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	Total
Crimes Against Persons	Murder	0	0	0	0	0
	Aggravated Assault	2	1	2	0	5
	Forcible Sex Offenses	0	1	1	0	2
	Non-Forcible Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0
	Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	0	0	0
	Simple Assault	2	3	4	0	9
	Intimidation	2	1	0	0	3
Subtotal		6	6	7	0	19
Crimes Against Property	Arson	0	0	0	0	0
	Bribery	0	0	0	0	0
	Burglary	0	2	0	0	2
	Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	0	0	0	0
	Criminal Mischief/Damaged Property	1	6	2	2	11
	Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0
	Extortion	0	0	0	0	0
	Fraud	2	0	0	0	2
	Larceny	11	10	7	0	28
	Theft from Motor Vehicle	6	7	6	0	19
	Motor Vehicle Theft	1	1	1	0	3
	Robbery	0	1	2	0	3
	Stolen Property	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal		21	27	18	2	68
Crimes Against Society	Drug/Narcotics Violations	2	0	0	2	4
	Gambling	0	0	0	0	0
	Child Pornography	0	0	0	0	0
	Prostitution	0	0	1	0	1
	Weapon Law Violations	2	4	0	4	10
Subtotal		4	4	1	6	15
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/Drunkenness	0	0	0	1	1
	Other Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0
	Violation of a Restraining/Court Order	1	0	0	1	2
	Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
	Criminal Trespassing	0	0	1	0	1
	All Other Offenses	1	0	1	2	4
Subtotal		2	0	2	4	8
Grand Total		33	37	28	12	110

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

Recently, I saw a sensationalist click-bait headline that read something to the effect of “for the first time in decades, Colorado has NO minor league teams.” True, over the offseason, three Pioneer League teams *were* dissolved and/or left our state: The Rocky Mountain Vibes (Colorado Springs), Grand Junction Jackalopes, and the Northern Colorado Owlz (who, in a bizarre turn of events became the Colorado Springs Sky Sox and shared the Vibes’ field for the end of the 2025 season). It’s important to note that all three were, technically, “minor league” teams, yet they were not affiliated with a Major League team, as the Pioneer League is officially a “partner league”.

It appears that Colorado Springs may be done with minor league or independent baseball for the foreseeable future. In January, their former stadium; most recently known as UCHHealth Park; held a large garage sale, selling everything from refrigerators and lawnmowers to lighting fixtures. Now gutted, the field is empty and is rumored to be slated for housing or retail development.

Grand Junction, however, shuffled over to the Pecos League and is currently home to the Razorback Suckers (a type of fish). Their season runs from now until July 26. They set up shop in the Jackalopes’ old home of Sam Suplizio Field; named after a former Denver Bears outfielder. Suplizio Field also played home to the Grand Junction Rockies from 2012 to 2020.

Further south, the Trinidad Triggers have been active in the Pecos League since 2012. However, their home is more like a high school field than a minor league park. If you know what to expect, it’s still a good time for baseball, as the Triggers are one of the longest tenured teams in the Pioneer League. It’s not the Coors Field Rooftop. It’s more like a picnic in Kittredge Park.

On the field, there’s a definite difference between the Pioneer and Pecos League teams vs. MLB affiliated Minor League teams. I went to see the (now defunct) Pecos League Colorado Springs Snow Sox in 2023 and saw a pitcher unintentionally throw behind a batter’s back-- twice. The winning team also got 4 more Little Caesar’s pizzas than the losing team did. If you caught a foul ball, you could redeem it for a free candy bar at the concession stand. Several players took advantage of that promotion.

Curiously, there’s a new “Front Range League” that’s starting up, right as this column is being written. It’s a wood bat collegiate league and features the Morgan County Wranglers over in Fort Morgan. The six-team league also has squads in Nebraska and Kansas. They all appear to

be operating out of smaller fields. Once again, set your expectations before venturing out to see these teams.

Closer to Montclair, there are a few more collegiate baseball teams and leagues around the Denver area. Over summer break, college baseball players need somewhere to play, which is where collegiate baseball leagues fill in. These teams seem to come and go frequently, due to player availability, travel arrangements, scheduling, permits, and even the weather.

So while Colorado no longer has any official “minor league” teams affiliated with an MLB club, there are still plenty of independent, collegiate and semi-pro teams. These teams usually include some dudes who are not ready to give up on their baseball dreams and are looking for a chance. Other teammates just enjoy playing, as it beats watching it on TV. The guys probably won’t show up in MLB, but some *have* shown up in the World Baseball Classics of 2026 and 2023.

Independent and collegiate teams are *not* directly comparable to Major League Baseball. Or even Minor League Baseball. You won’t have racing scoreboard dots, \$18 drinks and multiple food options. Yet if you’d like an alternative to “baseball” that is not a cog in the giant MLB machine, these can be a fun change of pace.



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