



HISTORIC MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 200125, Denver, CO 80220-0125
www.historicmontclair.org

Issue: Q2 2004

founded 1907 Denver, CO

Old Fashioned Fun at Fourth of July Picnic

Come one, come all to the annual HMCAI Independence Day Picnic. The Historic Montclair Community Association will provide soft drinks, hot dogs, watermelon, salads, chips, and other goodies. All for free.

Kids of all ages are invited to participate in the annual Bike Parade. Dress your bikes, tricycles and wagons up in patriotic attire and then ride the traditional parade route around the playground circle. The parade will start at 11 am.

The Dixieland Express returns to jazz things up from 11 am to 1 pm. If the music doesn't get you moving, then maybe the relay races and games will.

Seating is limited to several picnic tables, so you might want to bring along blankets or chairs.

The Picnic is the time to join or renew your membership in HMCAI. A membership table will be set up, as usual, to accept your dues for next year. We prefer checks for \$7.50 (made out to HMCAI) but will take cash. Please bring the membership coupon in this newsletter. Use block letters when printing

*Montclair Park
July 3rd
10 am to 2 pm*

names and addresses, especially email addresses, to prevent errors. Many thanks

for your continued support of HMCAI!

The HMCAI Picnic is our biggest annual event and also our biggest expense. It has always been free to our Historic Montclair neighbors, whether or not you are HMCAI members. If you don't join us, you are still invited to attend. A donation to help defray expenses would be welcome. See the donation jar on the Membership Table.

Whether you are new or old to the neighborhood, this gathering is the place to be on the Fourth of July!

Celebrate the Grand Opening of the Molkery Montclair Park - June 30 - 6 pm

by Gail Barry

The Grand Opening for the Molkery is scheduled for June 30th at 6 pm. The theme for the event is the Fourth of July/America to give a little foretaste of Montclair's July 4th (to be held on the 3rd) celebration.

Joan Wilson, the Molkery's new tenant, will be in residence by then. She is the person who runs Hands on Denver, the volunteer projects coordination arm of Denver Parks and Recreation. Perhaps some other dignitaries will be in attendance though those plans were not finalized at the time of this writing.

Come see the finished building and surroundings, newly renovated to the early 1900's era. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this event and celebrate this project which has been years in the making.

It Is Time

by Scott Hamling

I thought I would begin this letter with an appropriate line from a wonderful Disney movie. As parents of young children may know, the line is from the movie, "The Lion King," and it is in reference to the main character when it is time for him to reclaim his kingdom. The purpose of this letter is to tell you that it is time to reclaim our neighborhood elementary school.

So many exciting things have taken place over the last few months that I hardly know where to begin. I received a call from Dr. Irene Jordan from Denver Public Schools a couple months ago to let me know that Montclair has been chosen as one of three schools to receive an additional \$250,000 over the next 3 years to help in a revitalization project. I was also informed that the principal was retiring and they were searching for a new principal to lead the school in the direction that we as a neighborhood would choose. Dr. Jordan is well aware that less than 5% of the students who attend Montclair actually live within its historic boundaries. She wants that to change and she has backed up her assurances with helping us do this, not only with money, but with a new leader.

Katy Saunders, who is a fellow Montclair board member, and I were invited to help select the school's new principal. The other members of the group included two school officials from DPS, one parent, and five Montclair teachers. There were more than 50 highly qualified applicants who were considered for this position. As a group we were being picky because we know that turning Montclair around is going to be tough and we need just the right qualities in a new principal if we are going to make it work. Well, I would like to tell you that we found her.

Not only did we all know that we wanted her the minute the interview was over, but the first thing she said when we gave her the chance to tell us about herself was that she "wanted this job." She had driven through our neighborhood over the previous several days and talked with many parents at the neighborhood parks to find out what the perception of Montclair School was in our community. I would like to add at this point that she was the only one to do this. On top of this she is an expert at grant writing, a Ritchie Fellow Intern, holds a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction in the Content Areas, and is currently the Technology Specialist for Denver Public Schools. She also speaks French and Spanish and designed the Writing and Technology project for 3rd-5th grade students and teachers, etc. etc.

continued on Page 5

Changes Coming to Colfax

by Veronica Dolan

Trendy retail shops and restaurants are coming to Historic Montclair. The construction will begin this fall on Mayfair Village, two pedestrian-oriented retail complexes that are expected to house 10 quick-serve restaurants, upscale retailers and coffee shops.

The development by Drake Real Estate Services of Denver will be built at the northeast and southwest corners of Krameria and Colfax, former home of Empire Honda. According to Vikki Seward, development manager, the two properties cost \$1.9 million. She said Drake has received letters of intent, but no firm commitments at this time, from a coffee shop, a small bank, and a Mexican food restaurant that will provide both dine-in and take-out service. The three are slated for the southwest corner site.

Drake is awaiting approvals from the City of Denver before proceeding with the development but hopes to begin construction in October and have shops open by April 2005. Seward said there are no definite plans at this time for

what is being called the northeast corner, a site on the north side of Colfax between Krameria and Leyden. According to an April 12th article in the *Denver Post*, other Colfax changes within the Historic Montclair boundaries



include the Ivy Cafe, now open for breakfast and lunch, and a future Mexican and Cajun restaurant that will replace the Dutch Boy Donut shop at Magnolia and Colfax. A burger "joint" is scheduled for the future at

Elm and Colfax.

The projects are part of the Colfax Avenue redevelopment where \$80 million has been invested in buildings that stretch east from Grant St. for 40 blocks along Colfax. Councilwoman Marcia Johnson is actively involved in the redevelopment

Another major change for the neighborhood will be a new two-story Safeway at 13th and Krameria, set to open later this year. A Starbucks and a larger organic produce section are among special features planned for the store. Construction will begin as soon as the current 26-year-old store is razed.

Murder in Montclair

by Ellen Dumm

Historic Montclair has a checkered past - it is part of what makes our neighborhood historic. Montclair's beginnings were with a European baron intent on striking it rich by building a town on the plains. Then the town of Montclair failed, becoming part of Denver. We also housed tuberculosis patients, had a mysterious tunnel from the Molkery to the castle and a casino at the corner of 8th & Monaco (just to name a few highlights).

But one of the most sensational chapters in our neighborhood's history was a 1911 murder trial, featuring a beautiful female defendant who shot her husband in the back at the gate of the Richthofen Castle. The tale has been retold by in a book titled *Alienation of Affection* by Robert Hardaway, a University of Denver law professor.

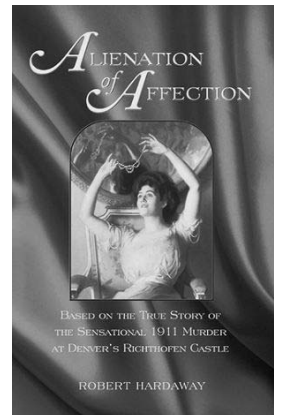
Hollywood could not have devised a more intricate, titillating plot than the one that unfolds in Hardaway's book: an emotional triangle, wealth, a whirlwind romance and death. Gertrude Gibson Patterson, who reporters dubbed "The Most Beautiful Woman in America," may have been a heartless gold digger/murderess or a loyal friend caught in a hopeless situation. Her life begins in a small rural town in Illinois and weaves its way through Chicago, Europe and Denver.





The courtroom circus that follows the shooting (yes, it was

called "The Trial of the Century") rivals anything we have witnessed in recent years. Media accounts (including the New York newspapers) extol Gertrude's beauty and fashion sense in excruciating detail and speculate about her romantic connections. Women's groups wrote to the newspapers beseeching they halt the scandalous coverage. Lucky for Hardaway, the coverage was exhaustive and gave him plenty of research fodder.

For a motivated reader, this book can easily be finished in a few sittings and can be addictive. My neighbor, Jack Murphy, loaned it to me after he checked it out of the library and I finished it a few days later. Hardaway paints his picture from one of several possible scenarios, but he is not heavy-handed in his depiction -- a reader can easily differ in their interpretation. But the book may leave you wanting more information, or at least a walk around the castle to imagine the scene of the crime.

There is a tragic subplot to Hardaway's tale. This is a book that would not have been published without the assistance of a law student who unearthed extensive Denver newspaper coverage (testimony was printed verbatim in the next day's edition), but did not live to read the book. Her mark is as much a part of this book as Gertrude's.



			
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TOP DOLLAR SALES FOR MONTCLAIR AND MAYFAIR HOMES



City Park Jazz Concert Series for Summer 2004

What do you get when you mix hot jazz, warm summer evenings, and Denver's premier park? City Park Jazz's 15th season, featuring concerts by top local artists. City Park Jazz is a non-profit organization bringing Free Concerts to City Park every Sunday evening all summer long. Concerts begin at 7:00pm and usually last until 8:30pm.

Pack your picnic, spread your blanket on the shores of Ferrill Lake, and settle in for a summer of jazz. This season's free City Park Jazz series on Sunday evenings offers a cross-section of jazz styles to audiences for whom Sunday evening picnics at the bandstand have become a tradition.

June 6

The Erica Brown Band - www.ericabrownband.com

June 13

Chris Daniels and the Kings - www.chrisdaniels.com

June 20

DKO - www.darrenkramer.org

June 27

Manuel Molina and his Latin Combo

July 4

The Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra

www.metropolitanjazzorchestra.com

July 11

The Clark Gibson Quartet

July 18

Nelson Rangell - www.nelsonrangell.com

July 25

Larua Newman and AOA - www.aoaband.com

August 1

Lisa Bell - www.lisabellmusic.ocm

August 8

Convergence

Sound by: *Richard O'Dell* - www.nfadenver.com

Picnics are welcome, or concert-goers can purchase food and drinks at nearby City Park Pavilion. Those who want to enjoy the music drifting across the lake can rent paddleboats.

For more information on the 2004 City Park Jazz Concert Series, call the hotline at 303-744-1004.



It Is Time *(continued from Page 2)*

She has interviewed with the superintendent of schools, Dr. Jerry Wartgow, and he agrees with us that we really lucked out with her. She is perfect and I know that you will be just as impressed as we all were when you meet her. The new principal of Montclair Elementary School is **Shannon Hagerman**. She has the energy, drive, education, and background to return our school to the top like it was when I was growing up in this neighborhood. It can happen, she can lead us there, all we need is your support. I would like for all of you to come meet Shannon at our neighborhood Independence Day Party at Montclair Park on July 3rd.

Getting back to the point of timing that I referenced earlier in this letter, over the last several years this neighborhood has seen a rebirth of sorts. New families have been moving back into the neighborhood as people have begun to realize that trees, sense of community and the fact that your house does not look like every house on the block really is important. Our neighborhood has become what is known in the real estate world as "HOT." The only downside to our wonderful neighborhood is our school. The kids have returned to the neighborhood and now it is time for the kids to return to our school.

As a parent, I would love to see my children walk or ride their bikes to school instead of sending them to school in another neighborhood. I would also love to see how we as a community could help support those children who do not have all of the opportunities that we can provide to our kids. As members of this community we have chosen to live in the city. We have not run to the suburbs and we know that exposing our children to all walks of life is very important to their overall education. With that said, things have gotten out of balance at Montclair and it needs our help, it needs our support and it needs our kids.

In the past when I have sent out similar letters I have received many responses and many people have said they want to get involved but they just don't know where to start. Here are some ways to start right now. The teachers at the school have provided me with a wish list of some things that could really help them out:

An atlas in each classroom (approx 20); Area Rugs; Bookshelves no taller than 27"; Book Bins; New Globes; and (of course) Money, Money, Money. If you can provide any of these items please let me know.

Next I would encourage all of you to get involved with your time. My mother volunteers at Montclair in after-school reading programs with several friends on Wednesday. There are many talented and wonderful retirees in our neighborhood that could be helping out in similar ways. Please contact the school and start volunteering. They could use as many of you as would like to help. Talk to your neighbor or someone in your bridge group about going with you and make it a fun time with friends and know in your heart that you are making a difference in a child's life.



MAYFAIR LIQUORS

1385 Krameria Street
Denver, CO 80220
303-322-0810

Upcoming Summer Events

Beer Tasting

WHAT: Summer Ales & Wheats
WHEN: Sunday, June 27th, 1-4 PM
WHERE: Oblio's Pizzeria,
6115 E. 22nd Ave.
COST: \$10.00 P/Person
BENEFITS: Our Four Legged Friends

Wine Tasting

WHAT: Les Vins de la France
WHEN: Sunday, July 11th, 1-4 PM
WHERE: Hillcrest Grill
5575 E. 3rd Ave.
COST: \$20.00 P/Person
BENEFITS: Our Neighborhood

Call Mayfair Liquors to RSVP 303-322-0810

I am also looking for people to help me in chairing and filling several different committees:

- 1) New parent recruitment committee;
- 2) Fundraising committee;
- 3) Volunteer committee; and
- 4) Teacher liaison committee.

I would also include any other committees that any of you think are important. Please send me an email or give me a call. My email address is shamling@earthlink.net and my home number is (303) 316-9091. Also, please feel free to stop by my house at 765 Olive St. to talk to me directly. Please don't put this off. Please get in touch with me today!!

Please join me and the rest of the HMCAI Board in making Montclair School not only the place that we send our kids to, but the school that everyone else wishes they could send their kids to as well.

White Elephant Sale

The annual benefit for St. James School is set for Thurs., Aug. 5 through Sat., Aug. 7. Sale takes place in the school's basement and on the parking lot outside the basement entrance, at the southwest corner of 13th and Oneida. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Whatever treasures are not sold will be available for "donation only" on Sun., Aug. 8, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

This yearly white elephant sale always includes valuable antiques and numerous collectibles and prices can run from ten cents to several hundred dollars. Sales items include furniture, books, clothing, working washers and dryers, among other treasures.

Donations of items in good condition are being accepted through July 31st. They may be left in the school's parking lot at 13th and Oneida. If you're donating large items that need to be picked up, call Mike Regan at 303-393-8463.

New Location for AARP Meetings

It can't get more convenient than this! The AARP's Queen City Chapter #995 is now holding monthly meetings at the East Montclair Community Center, 6740 East Colfax. That's on the southwest corner of Colfax and Newport, in Councilwoman Marcia Johnson's office building. Entrance on the Newport St. side, with parking in the rear. The building has no steps and is wheelchair accessible.



AARP meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, March through December, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Anyone of any age is welcome. For additional information, call president John Marrack at 303-377-9782. (marrackj@earthlink.net)

We salute the members of this AARP chapter for raising funds to buy chairs and tables for the center's meeting room. A most generous and much appreciated gift that all of us will enjoy.

Schlessman's Summer Programs for Children and Teens

The Children's Summer Reading Program, Camp Read-A-Lot, is for children from birth to those entering 5th grade in the fall. Schlessman's Teen Program, Cinema Summer, is for those entering 5th through 12 grades in the fall.

Registration for both programs starts June 5 and ends July 24. The programs both end on August 7. For more information about the programs, please contact your local library or visit the children's or teen web sites at www.denverlibrary.org.



Our Condolences to family and friends of **William Wilson**, M.D., who died March 22 at 92. Bill and Betty Wilson, his wife of 64 years, were long-time Oneida St. residents and enthusiastic supporters of HMCAI. Dr. Wilson maintained a 40-year private practice in otolaryngology in Denver and was a clinical professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. A fine doctor and wonderful neighbor. He will be missed.

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Membership Form

Please complete form (block letters) and mail with check to:
HMCAI Treasurer, P.O. Box 200125, Denver, CO 80220-0125.

Annual dues per household \$ 7.50
Voluntary donation \$ _____
Total Amount of Check \$ _____

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Tel: _____

Email _____

Please circle your area of interest:

Quebec St.

Molkery

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Montclair School

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Land Use/Traffic

Other (please specify)



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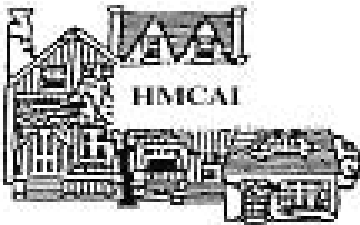
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