A New Playground for Palmer!

By Scott Babcock, President MNI

Anyone that has driven past Palmer Elementary the last couple months knows that school's playground is undergoing a major facelift. Thanks to an anonymous, generous Mayfair donor and funding provided via the 2003 DPS General Obligation Bond, the school's sun-baked asphalt and pea gravel playground is being replaced with a more welcoming, fun, and aesthetically pleasing play area. By October of this year, our neighborhood's children will be enjoying a state-of-the-art "Learning Landscape Playground" equipped with new park

Transformation underway at the Palmer playground.
501(c)(3) IRS Status for MNI

By Mark Gardinier, MNI Treasurer

Since the publication of the last Mayfair Mirror, we were notified by the IRS that our application for 501(c)(3) status had been approved. We undertook this effort because we viewed our role as a charitable organization dedicated to the improvement of the Mayfair neighborhood. We organize community activities such as the Egg Hunt and Concert in the Park and plan to add more neighborhood events as time goes by. We are also dedicated to assisting our neighborhood school, Palmer Elementary.

What does this mean to you as a Mayfair resident? The best news is that your membership dues, gifts, and donations to Mayfair Neighbors, Inc. are now tax deductible. Also, the board anticipates that this status will open more doors for donations and gifts that will lower our costs associated with our community activities and help stretch your membership dollars as we continue to enhance our activities in the neighborhood. The Mayfair Mirror and our website, www.Mayfairdenver.org, are our primary communication avenues to our neighbors. The 501(c)(3) status will help lower our postage costs, and save on sales tax dollars for printing and other items purchased.

What does this mean to us as an organization? We cannot endorse candidates or ballot issues or contribute to these campaigns however, we are not barred from facilitating political discussion, hosting candidate forums, or engaging our elected officials on issues affecting the Mayfair neighborhood.

This should be an enhancement for the neighborhood as a whole as we work to build the quality of our great neighborhood. Your response to our call for more membership has been outstanding. We have already more than doubled last year’s membership numbers. If you have not already joined, please send your membership, today. If you already have joined, please consider an additional tax-deductible gift to Mayfair Neighbors, Inc., P.O. Box 200306, Denver, CO 80220.

Welcome Bethany!

The Mayfair Neighbors Board is pleased to welcome our newest board member, Bethany Mulhall who joined MNI in July. Bethany works in the financial services industry, and lives on the 1300 block of Fairfax. We look forward to her energy and expertise in serving our neighborhood.

JOIN MAYFAIR NEIGHBORS!

It’s quick! It’s Easy!
It’s only 15 bucks!

Send in your membership to:
Mayfair Neighbors, Inc. • PO Box 200306 • Denver, CO 80220-0306
What is a Learning Landscape Playground?

Studies show that a well-planned and equipped exterior play area enhances a student’s learning environment resulting in improved learning and achievement. Such play areas provide physical and mental challenges that translate into improved health and learning attention. Further, with proper design, these areas themselves become outdoor classrooms and “learning landscapes.” These playgrounds also contribute to a sense of community—a place to gather and to meet, a place to enjoy, a place that enhances the community’s appearance.

Guiding Principles for Palmer’s Playground

University of Colorado—Denver worked with Palmer’s staff, students, and Denver Public Schools’ administrators to come up with the following goals, which served as the basis for the redevelopment of the Palmer Elementary campus.

- Create a foundation that utilizes geographical elements including maps of city, state, nation and world to promote multi-disciplinary learning.
- Create a multi-functional space that fosters school and community gathering.
- Provide a wide variety of places for students, teachers, and neighbors to be interactive and inventive both academically and physically.
- Create flexible places that can adapt to a wide variety of uses and programs.
- Create a welcoming, safe, fun and aesthetically pleasing playground.

To realize these goals, the cost estimate for infrastructure improvements requires $225,000. The Learning Landscape aspect of the improvements is estimated to be $404,000. To review the Palmer Elementary School Campus Master Plan in its entirety, please visit: www.cudenver.edu/Academics/Colleges/ArchitecturePlanning/discover/centers/LearningLandscapes/Pages/index.aspx.
A Tribute to a Wonderful Neighbor

By Jackie Medford

“Friends are like flowers, beautiful flowers, friends are like flowers in the garden of life.”

Lawns and gardens and flower beds are working overtime to make our Mayfair neighborhood our perfect garden of life. But a few weeks ago Jersey Street lost its most “colorful rose” when Thelma Wood passed away. She had lived on our block since 1969 and when we moved here in 1971, she was the first neighbor to welcome us with her wonderful apple cake. She also was the one to give our son his first paying job at age 10 — shoveling snow.

She gathered neighbors at Christmas to celebrate (and eat her famous fudge) and when her dining room got too small, we moved the party to a neighbor’s house. Then last Christmas we advanced down the street to Delaney’s basement and over 30 neighbors sat down table set with beautiful linen and china and the best food and conversation ever.

Her ninetieth birthday last year was celebrated at her sister-in-law’s home in Highlands Ranch. Friends and relatives from all the way back east in Delaware came to celebrate. It was the biggest and best party ever. Then this year, on June 26, on what would have been her 91st birthday, we all celebrated her life at her memorial service.

Jersey Street will miss her a lot, but when we heard a rumor that her beloved grandson, Peter, might be moving in while he goes to college in Denver, we took heart, and know that he will be spoiled by all the good cooks on our block!

So life goes on, new “flowers” show up, and we are all grateful for the love and caring of our wonderful neighbor, Thelma Wood as a new generation of her family continues on Jersey Street.

Today, if you have a neighbor like Thelma on your block, and you maybe haven’t told them, or showed them how much they are appreciated, do it, and do it now. Tonight, go see them, take them a little treat, or just give them a hug. Even a phone call works wonders. You’ll be rewarded by becoming a flower in the Mayfair Garden of Life.

Volunteer Opportunities

Tutors at Palmer Elementary

Make a lasting difference in the life of a child and our community. Palmer teachers welcome volunteer help, especially in reading and math classrooms. Small-group tutoring opportunities are available both during school hours and after school. No experience necessary and training is provided. If you have other skills that might be of use, please let us know. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jessica Nguyen at jessica.aman@hotmail.com or 303-956-4170.

Gardeners at Mayfair Park

Denver Parks and Recreation needs volunteers to adopt the Mayfair Park flowerbeds through October 24, 2009. The program enables civic groups, individuals and businesses to help keep their park and community beautiful and litter free. Training, tools and materials will be provided. Contact Tina Romero with Denver Parks and Recreation at tina.romero@denvergov.org, at 303-806-9083.

Naturalists & Stewards: Bluff Lake Nature Center

The nature center, located on the eastern edge of Stapleton along Sand Creek, is a unique native habitat, urban wildlife refuge and outdoor classroom, and is visited each year by thousands of school children and others each year. Volunteer opportunities include naturalists to be leaders in the youth science program, and site stewards to lend a hand and make the habitat healthy for our wild friends. No experience necessary. Contact Kristin Libberton at 303-344-1282 or visit www.BluffLakeNatureCenter.org for more information.
Block Party On!

On July 25, neighbors on the 1300 block of Fairfax Street gathered for a summer block party hosted by Christine and Kirk Pokrandt. With plenty to eat and drink, long-time residents met new families, reminisced about past gatherings, and talked about plans for future get-togethers. For this block of Mayfair, gatherings like this are a tradition. A block picture album records the comings and goings of families taken at gatherings like this for more than 25 years!

2010 challenge

While the summer of 2009 is fading, Mayfair Neighbors, Inc. wants to encourage—and challenge—ALL blocks to hold block parties of their own in 2010. Exact details of the challenge will be communicated well before then, but start thinking now how you can host a gathering to get to know the people next door or at the end of the block. Start recruiting volunteers now. It’s fun, it’s friendly, and downright neighborly! Let’s make Mayfair Denver’s model neighborhood for the friendliest in town.

P.S. With many fine days ahead in September and October, it’s not too late to host a block party yet this year.

Tips from www.ehow.com on how to throw a successful Block Party

1. Put a flyer in neighbors’ mailboxes inviting them to meet to discuss a block party.
2. Distribute sign-up sheets for tables, chairs, glasses, plates, napkins, utensils, barbecue grills, side dishes and other party essentials. Have plenty of trash cans and bins for recycling bottles and cans. Rent a portable toilet if necessary.
3. Plan the food and drinks. Call it international night and have each family make a dish that is unique to its heritage. Or have everyone bring

continued on page 6
A Citizen Speaks Out

Stop, look, and look again. Yes, it’s that time of year again when we delight in partaking of the greater outdoors with man’s (or woman’s) best friend, and other companions — Spot and Fluffy.

Often, these outdoor experiences may not be as delightful as we would like when some of our neighbors have neglected to do what is right by their fellow neighbors — not pick up after their pet. This causes neighbors to curse, whine, and cast disrespectful comments toward those that have neglected the ‘good neighbor’ policy of curbing their pets.

Please, let us all be kind and thoughtful to one another by picking up after those delightful furry friends of ours, and allow one and all to continue to enjoy our walks in our parks (and sidewalks) without having to treat the excursion like navigating through a mine field.

If you forget yours, plastic bags will be available at the Lyle Manor on Leyden Street. Kind souls have also placed a stash or two at the two parks (Mayfair and Lindsley) enjoyed by Mayfair residents.

One parting thought: Mayfair Neighbors’ annual Concert in the Park will be held on August 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Mayfair Park. Please plan to attend, and remember—watch your step!

— Dr. Percy Lyle, 1060 Leyden Street, 303-399-5587

Tips for a Block Party continued from page 5

their own food to grill. This is a surprisingly effective way to get strangers to mingle easily—they feel less awkward with something to do.

4. Dress up the block with colorful decorations. Buy lots of balloons and have everyone tie them to trees and fences on their property. You might consider a block theme color and decorate accordingly.

5. Organize entertainment. Bring in pony rides or a mobile petting zoo or rent an inflatable jumping structure for the kids. Ask the neighborhood fire station to send an engine by if it’s available. Plan party games for kids and adults alike, such as a water balloon toss and an egg race.

6. Rock the street with music everyone will enjoy. Hook up a CD player outside or splurge on live music.

7. Contact town officials to see about getting the road barricaded if it’s a large enough group.

8. Send invitations to everyone on the block. Get the kids involved and have them stuff the invites in everyone’s mailbox.
Cheap Eats # 12 – Snooze

By Mike Nelson

Is there such a thing as a breakfast that’s worth waiting an hour for? At Snooze A.M. Eatery, the answer is a resounding YES!

I guarantee you haven’t had a pancake like the ones they serve at Snooze. We’ve tried almost all of them, including the “Cinnamon Roll” pancake, that isn’t on the menu but can be had, if you ask nicely and they have the ingredients on hand. My personal favorite is the “Colorado Peach Ginger” pancakes, which are buttermilk pancakes with Palisade Peaches, candied ginger, vanilla cream sauce, streusel & ginger butter. In addition to the world’s best pancakes, they serve an amazing array of hollandaise-topped dishes, tasty breakfast sandwiches, breakfast burritos and tacos, a corned beef hash that puts others to shame, and omelets made to order.

Keep in mind, that this isn’t “fast food.” Your meal at Snooze is a hand-made creation that is designed to be savored. If you’re in a big hurry, you won’t fully appreciate the Snooze experience. To keep you busy while you wait, they offer coffee, water and sidewalk chalk. Once seated, your servers will be cheerful and attentive. They also serve “breakfast cocktails” for those who chose to indulge in that manner.

In addition to serving heavenly food, Snooze also strives for sustainability in their operations. They buy carbon offsets for their water and energy use, recycle and compost everything possible, use recycled and chlorine-free paper products, and don’t send your leftovers home in those nasty Styrofoam containers that most other restaurants do.

Stop by and welcome them to the neighborhood. You’ll be very glad you did. Expect lines on the weekends (I’m not kidding about the hour wait), but during the week you should be able to be seated right away – or close to it, anyway.

Snooze: 700 N. Colorado Blvd. 303.297.0700. Open every day 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Breakfast all day, lunch from 11 a.m. Check out their website www.snoozeeatery.com for more information.
This section features updates from the offices of the four Denver City Council members who represent Mayfair. Each council member reports on projects that he or she has been actively involved with.

New Developments in District 5

By Marcia Johnson, District 5 City Councilwoman

I am happy to report that Sherman Associates was recently notified that the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) has approved their project for Low Income Housing Tax Credits!

For over a year now, I have been working with this Minneapolis-based developer on their proposed project for the old “Pillar of Fire” property on Colfax at Poplar.

What does this mean for our stretch of East Colfax? It means that development is coming! Their project, the aptly named “Phoenix on The FAX” will invigorate redevelopment along the Colfax corridor. For instance, this development could be a magnet for a new tenant for the long-vacant former St. Vincent de Paul building just across the street.

Zoning

The property at Colfax and Poplar is zoned “Main Street 2” which means that a building up to 65 feet high (stepped back to a maximum of 38 feet high in the rear) can be built. The plans that Sherman Associates submitted to CHFA include 50 units of affordable housing on top of work/live space and a restaurant.

Generally speaking, “affordable” housing refers to housing affordable for households that make less than 80% of the Denver area median income (AMI), which is currently $53,200. This income level varies based on the size of your household. For example, in a one-person household, 50% of the median income is $26,600, while 50% of the median income is $38,000 for a four-person household.

The Phoenix on The FAX project will include 6 units at 60% AMI, 39 units at 50% AMI, and 5 units at 30% AMI. It will include some three-bedroom apartments, which are often tough for families to find, as well as one and two bedroom units. Imagine a single mother with two kids, who qualifies for an affordable housing unit at the 50% or 60% AMI rate with her job as a teacher. Or think of the Johnson & Wales student who might be eligible to live here, working a part-time job while going to school.

Finally, Sherman Associates does intend to retain ownership of the Phoenix on The FAX project after it is built, as they do with most of their other projects. They will manage and have direct oversight of the rental units, so they will be able to ensure the quality of their tenants.

I encourage you to check out the other projects in their portfolio at www.sherman-associates.com.

New Biz

Another exciting development in District 5, and very close to Mayfair, is the new Snooze A.M. Eatery on Colorado Boulevard. Owner Jon Schlegel is expanding the popular LoDo breakfast spot to the old Boston Market on 7th & Colorado. The “7-CO” Snooze is open, and features the same innovative recipes and local products as the original downtown location. Be sure to try my favorite, the pineapple upside-down pancakes!

Please feel free to contact my office with your thoughts, questions or concerns any time at 303-355-4615 or marcia.johnson@denvergov.org.
Time to Improve Graduation Rates

By Doug Linkhart, City Councilman At-Large

Congratulations to the 3,000 students who graduated from Denver Public Schools (DPS) this year! Unfortunately, however, another 3,000 failed to graduate. For the first time, Denver’s graduation rates fell below 50% this year, to 49.5%. This means that half of the students who started as freshmen four years ago failed to graduate this past spring.

Whether the cup is half-empty or half-full, we should not be content with these circumstances in our community.

Understanding the Data
Graduation rates vary somewhat among different schools in the city. The highest rates this year were at the Denver School of the Arts and Denver Center for International Studies (DCIS), where the graduation rate was nearly 100%. For George Washington and East, graduation rates were nearly 80%.

I recently spoke with a research analyst at DPS to check the accuracy of the 50% graduation rate. I was hoping that there was some kind of statistical misunderstanding. Perhaps the 50% didn’t count transfers or some other factor. No, they said, it was a real number, at least for high school diplomas. Transfers were counted, although the number did not include students who received a GED, which would bring the number with diplomas or GED’s to 58%.

Graduation Essential to Success
It’s no secret that on average, kids who do not graduate from high school get jobs that pay far less than those who graduate. High school graduates, on average, make $1M more during their lifetime than non-graduates. People with college degrees fare even better, in terms of career opportunities.

At a recent luncheon, DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg said, “this is an age in which the failure to graduate is a condemnation to a second tier of economic citizenship.” Boasberg and others are calling for a new emphasis on keeping kids in school and helping them graduate.

Partnership Solutions
So what can we do? Well, DPS is working on several fronts to reduce dropouts and increase graduation rates. A study released this spring showed that most dropouts showed early signs of failure in the 9th grade; so many efforts are aimed at 9th graders. Working with groups like Goodwill, Denver Kids and Colorado Youth at Risk, DPS is trying to identify kids with the potential to drop out early and provide mentoring, tutoring and other assistance to help them be successful.

As a community, we can not afford to have so many kids entering adulthood without a high school diploma. As school starts up again this fall, it’s time to rally around DPS and the nonprofit groups that help kids succeed in school. When these kids are successful we all benefit.

Hot Mayfair News Via Email!
The Mayfair Board frequently sends out email alerts to let neighbors know about key issues and events affecting our ‘hood. Sign up to receive e-mail updates at:

www.mayfairdenver.org

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Denver’s Challenges and Opportunities

By Carol Boignon, City Councilwoman At-large

In tough times, the challenge for city leaders is cutting spending without harming the city or her people. I believe that there would have been lasting harm done by budget cuts proposed several months ago for childcare services. That is why I urged the Mayor and my City Council colleagues to allocate $2.1 million in general fund dollars to Denver Human Services. I am grateful they said, “Yes.”

Maintaining Support for Those in Need

With their strong support, we used that money as local match to gain more than $7M in additional federal money for Denver’s most vulnerable residents. Some $1.8M of the local money went for subsidized childcare to keep current families in the program and give at least 420 new kids access to subsidized childcare. Eligibility for the program will be redetermined every 12 months instead of cutting it to 6 months, helping parents stay independent of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families support. Another $357,000 will support the homeless initiative, Denver’s Road Home.

I want to thank Mayor Hickenlooper and his staff and ten of my council colleagues for their support. We have worked hard over the past 15 years to build high quality school readiness into subsidized early education. The planned cuts would have eroded any hope of school readiness by forcing children to change preschools mid-year.

Critical Challenges Ahead

Make no mistake: this is going to be a very tough year or two. Denver gets about half its revenue from sales tax. For 2009, sales tax revenue is down a combined 12.7%. Last month, we learned that the city’s projected budget deficit for the next 18 months has grown to $120M.

Until this year, we have maintained general fund reserves of 20% a year. The city will use about $24M of its reserve-fund balance to limit the deficit to $120M. This will lower the reserve balance to nearly 12% of the general fund.

Priorities Drive Decisions

If the city makes careful choices, such as the four furlough days that employees recommended and other measured actions, we can preserve the trees and parks, maintain the safety of our neighborhoods, and protect our people and businesses. Actions taken so far closed an $86 million gap: non-uniform employee merit increases were limited to 2.25%, police and fire unions reduced their pay and the sheriffs cut personnel to save 4.9%, personnel bonuses were suspended, leases of large equipment replaced planned purchases, more than 350 vacancies were not filled, and other operational adjustments were made.

Denver also advanced many of the bond projects as a local economic stimulus. Bond-rating agencies have advised the city against lowering the reserve fund below the 10% threshold of $80M to $90M. One of the city’s lead bond advisors just told me that Denver bonds are selling very well in the capital markets, another sign of the strength and stability of this city.

As the 2010 Denver budget comes up for review, it will be our task to identify savings that will responsibly close the budget gap without causing lasting harm to the city.
A Streetcar Named Colfax

By Jeanne Robb,
District 10 City Councilwoman

Amidst the gloom of budget cuts and complicated discussions of the proposed new Zoning Code, I have good news! A team has been selected and the contract signed for a Streetcar Feasibility Study for Colfax from I-25 to Yosemite.

The Company

The team will be led by the local office of Fehr & Peers, transportation planners and engineers. They worked on the Downtown Multi-modal Access Plan, the Civic Center Plans and the Auraria Campus plan, so they get the connections. They will be joined by URS Corp. Having participated in the planning phases of streetcar projects in more than 30 communities, URS is doing the current cost-benefit analysis for the Albuquerque Streetcar Project.

A feasibility study is a technical study. Should the Denver/Colfax community seek federal funding through New Starts or Small Starts, federal agencies will want to be sure that a fair range of alternative routes, modes of transportation, and transportation impacts have been thoroughly explored. RTD, which is currently managing $4M for enhanced transit and priority signalization on Colfax, needs to be thoroughly involved and onboard. There are many streetcar myths and realities and all concerned must understand the tradeoffs.

Even if we weren't in the current economic downturn, we would have to look at the feasibility of funding a streetcar on Colfax. Both the zoning code update and Colorado's response to the economy focus on sustainability. A streetcar would enhance Main Street zoning and capitalize on Colorado's budding green economy.
The following facts about energy conservation and the city’s efforts are courtesy of greenprintdenver.org:

- Buildings in the U.S. account for 36% of total energy use, 65% of electricity consumption, 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, 30% of raw materials use, 30% of waste output (136M tons annually), and 12% of potable water consumption.
- In 2003, U.S. residents, businesses and institutions produced more than 236M tons of municipal solid waste, approximately 4.5 pounds of waste per person every day, and up from 2.7 pounds per person in 1960.
- Tossing away an aluminum can wastes as much energy as pouring out half of that can’s volume of gasoline.
- If every household in the U.S. replaced one light bulb with one compact fluorescent bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 2.5M homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars.
- Denver utilizes goat herds to help eliminate invasive weeds and manage brush in natural areas. By grazing on vegetation and trampling plants with their hooves, the goats create natural mulch, add organic matter to the soil, and distribute seeds.
- New irrigation systems and replacing bluegrass with native grasses has enabled Denver Parks and Recreation to use 28% less water today in its parks than it did in 2001.
- Steel from the former Mile High Stadium, demolished in 2002 to make way for the construction of Invesco Field, was reused in tracks for the metro area’s T-REX light rail expansion.
- 6M tons of concrete from the former Stapleton airport were recycled and reused in construction projects at DIA, Buckley Air National Guard Base, E-470, The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, and Bluff Lake Nature Center.

The EPA estimates that Coloradans dispose of 6.1 pounds of waste per person per day: 26% more than the average American.

Calling All Gardeners
Mayfair Cottage Garden Tour 2010

By Lynn Gregory

Do you, a neighbor or a friend living in Mayfair have a great veggie garden? A patio that is unique and wonderful? Xeriscape or a water garden? We would love to view it as we busily search out the prettiest gardens in Mayfair for our tour scheduled for June of 2010.

For many, this is the premier event of our year with visitors coming from across the metro area and beyond to view Mayfair’s hidden treasure gardens. And, we guarantee that homeowners, guests and visitors will have a great time. There’s even a celebration afterwards to say ‘thank you’ to all who participated. Proceeds from our tour are used within our community, and the great public relations we receive from word of mouth throughout Denver is priceless.

If your garden, a neighbor’s or a friend is deserving of our tour please contact me. Requirements are minimal except for a well-tended, beautiful garden, and a request that owners are present during the tour to answer questions about their garden. Both entry and patio gardens combined will be considered. Please contact Lynn Gregory at 303-321-5645 or chelgarden@aol.com and tell us about a special garden.

Non-gardeners also needed to volunteer for this event!
Could Your Home Use an Energy Audit?

By Clayton Bartczak

When I moved to Mayfair two years ago, I noticed two things right away. I recognized the neighborhood’s proximity to great restaurants, retail, open space, and workplaces as well as its mixture of older and newer homes of varying sizes and prices. And, I recognized that the majority of the older homes (like our family’s 1922 brick bungalow) and some of the new homes are most likely expensive to heat and cool, and overall use energy very inefficiently.

A home energy audit is the first step in understanding how your home uses energy and what you can do to be more comfortable, reduce your energy costs, and conserve our natural resources. As a building energy analyst, I’ve conducted numerous home energy audits in our neighborhood, and have seen many opportunities for improved energy efficiency in our neighborhood’s homes, including air infiltration and insulation.

If you’re concerned about the energy efficiency of your home, several companies provide home energy audits. Xcel Energy and their partner companies offer energy audits, as well as free energy efficiency presentations for groups of 10 or more. These presentations are designed to educate homeowners about energy use and describe steps that can be taken to reduce energy consumption, lower utility bills, and make their homes more comfortable including insulation, lighting, windows, water heaters, furnaces, and more.

For more information, visit http://www.xcelenergy.com/Residential/Programs_Resources/Pages/Home_Energy_Audits.aspx.
Palmer Welcomes New Teacher for Program

By Principal Elizabeth Trujillo and Robbi Makely

As principal of Palmer Elementary School, I am very excited and fortunate to have Robbi J. Makely join our Gifted and Talented program this school year. Palmer will be sharing Robbi with the district Gifted/Talented office which is an extra bonus for Palmer since we will be in the loop for all requirements and changes for students. Robbi has a lot of experience as a teacher and consultant for gifted and talented students and is excited about bringing new programs to Palmer students. She also will be able to provide special staff development for staff. Welcome, Robbi!

My name is Roberta (Robbi) Makely, and I am Palmer Elementary School's new teacher for the Gifted and Talented program.

My background in education has spanned 17 years, and includes teaching all grade levels from early education to the post-secondary level. My passion is working with the young, gifted learner. For the past twelve years, I have worked in the field of gifted education for Denver Public Schools in many capacities.

Once school begins, my first objective will be to research and develop an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) for every identified gifted student. This will require input from teachers and families. I anticipate having the ALP completed in time for parent/teacher conferences in October. Throughout the year, I will be working closely with the classroom teachers to extend and enrich the curriculum using Web 2.0 technology.

On a personal note, my husband and I have been married for twelve years and have two children: a seven-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son. As a family, we enjoy typical activities of other families with young children. We are members of the Denver Zoo and the WOW Children's Museum. We can be found playing at local parks and digging for good books at the library.

I look forward to becoming an integral member of Palmer Elementary by working with teachers, parents, and the building administration to meet the varied needs of our high ability learners.

Support Our Local Businesses

The businesses you see advertised in this newsletter have shown great support for the Mayfair neighborhood. Please return this support by patronizing these businesses whenever possible.
Youth is a gift … Age is an art.
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720.974.3555
www.ChristianLivingCommunities.org
Thinking of Renting Your Home?

By Peter Meer

As a lifetime Mayfair or Montclair resident, I’ve observed that the Mayfair neighborhood has always had a strong sales market. Several months ago, Denver was ranked the number one city in the country most likely to come out of this recession earlier than all the other major metro areas. However, it is not immune from the current economic down turn. While some areas have seen a softening in home values, I believe that housing values will rebound as they did after the 1986-1987 recession.

Getting Help

If you are in the market to sell your home, are concerned about home values, and personal circumstances allow, consider turning your home into a rental property. This strategy may well buy you that extra time you need and still pay the mortgage. There are about 250 property management companies, in addition to my firm, that can provide you with the expertise to undertake this path.

Do it Yourself

You can consider doing the property management yourself. If that is your choice, the best book on the market is “The Unofficial Guide to Managing Rental Property” by Melissa Prandi. She is a former national president of the National Association of Residential Property Managers, and I served on the national board with her.

Depending on space in future issues of the Mirror, I hope to provide some property management tips. If you do decide to buy Melissa’s guide (no, I don’t get any royalties for this endorsement), my tips will direct you to more complete information in her book.

Citizens Respond to City Budget

Facing an estimated shortfall of $120M in the 2010 budget, the City invited residents to respond to an online survey to assess the impact of current economic conditions, as well as identify citizen priorities when addressing the gap. Nearly 3,400 citizens completed the online questionnaire, with the majority of them female (57%). The age range for the majority (84%) 30 to 60 years.

Response

In response to the opening and telling question, a significant 85% of respondents said they have changed their financial habits due to current economic conditions. Changed financial habits most often cited include:

- 80% Eating out less
- 75% Buying less expensive clothing/buying in less expensive stores
- 65% Postponing large purchases or home improvements

Citizens were then asked “which would you prefer” to help determine priorities in two areas:

- Public libraries: Reduce hours system wide (59%) vs. close low use branches (41%)
- Recreation centers: Reduce hours system wide (49%) vs. close low use branches (51%)

Finally, citizen choices for the top five areas to generate city savings (in parentheses) in 2010:

- 1.56.7% Reduce Denver 8 (public access TV) programming ($450-550K)
- 2.49.6% Implement a user fee for large item trash pick-up (~$1.4M)
- 3.49.4% Use mail-in ballots for specific elections as allowed in law ($85-125K)
- 4.49.0% Charge for false fire (as with burglar) alarms ($500K)
- 5.48.3% Reduce jail population through alternative sentencing for non-violent offenses ($60-70/day/inmate)

The city will use citizen responses to help us find savings now, and to shape next year’s budget.
There are more than 4M Twitter accounts and more than 30M Facebook accounts. Social media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and LinkedIn, are no longer just a place for kids to post pictures and share the latest gossip with their friends. Adults are beginning to use the sites for everything from planning high school reunions to marketing their businesses. Even companies like Comcast are getting in on the action by having employees respond to user complaints on Twitter. However, as the use of social media sites increases, so does the need for people to understand the legal issues that can arise from their use. The following are just a few of the ways you can get into trouble when venturing online.

**Personal Safety**

The first way you can get into trouble online is by endangering your physical safety. In California, “buyers” held up a couple selling sweatshirts through a Craigslist ad. The transaction was to take place in a semi-deserted parking lot; instead, the “buyers” took the couple’s merchandise and their cash. The moral of the story: if at all possible, meet the other party at a public place if using a site to buy or sell merchandise on Craigslist and always be aware of your surroundings.

**Job Seekers Beware**

The second way you can get in trouble online is by hurting your employment chances. Just as individuals are getting more familiar with online sites, so are employers. By posting information online, a jobseeker may be asking to not be hired. At the age of 20, it may seem fun to post pictures of yourself in a compromised position at Mardi Gras or your best friend’s bachelorette party. At 26, when applying for a job, a prospective employer may not find those pictures so amusing. The moral of the story: companies will judge you by what you have posted online, whether it is your stellar grades or pictures of you at an all-night kegger.

**Truth or Fiction?**

The third way you can get in trouble online is by good old-fashioned lying. In late July, the media first reported a widely publicized case about a person suing a Twitter user over a post (or “tweet”). In Chicago, a renter complained via the service that her apartment was moldy; the landlord filed suit for damages claiming the tweet was defamatory. (It remains to be seen whether the apartment was moldy or whether the tweet was a lie, and thus defamatory, as the case has not gone to court yet.) The moral of the story: if you are posting bad things about a company or person, make sure they are true.

Social networking is fun and exciting. Its use can improve your life, increase the number of friends you have, and bring you more business if used correctly. It can also lead to problems far into the future. Be smart about what you post and if you have any questions about a post: don’t do it until you check with someone familiar with online law!
Water, Water Everywhere!

By Elaine Zupancic

The wet spring was a boon to flowers and grass, but not as popular with a number of neighbors who are experiencing a real flooding problems (knee high/chest high lakes, mud and sludge so heavy it can’t be hosed off, etc.) after even slight rainfalls and melting snows. This prompted them to request a meeting with Councilwoman Marsha Johnson regarding their plight, as well as an update on city plans for relief. Councilwoman Johnson attended the August 5 Mayfair Neighbors, Inc. board meeting, and brought with her Senior Storm Water Planning Engineer Michael Anderson.

The Report

Mike reported that the Storm Drainage Master Plan is updated every five years per the city’s requirement. The latest plan is now in place; if every project were to be completed today it would be to the tune of more than $1B. The good news for Mayfair is that the area around 11th Avenue and Forest is in the budget plan for 2010 and Mike is confident that it will be approved. This project will run roughly from Hale and Elm, north on Elm to 11th, east on 11th to Holly or Hudson. The amount of time the project will take is unpredictable at this time, as much depends such things as how many other utilities have to be moved, etc.

For a more comprehensive overview, go to www.denvergov.org/marciajohnson, sign up for her Subscribe to 5 online newsletter and read the article in the August 9 edition. There are many other informative articles in the newsletter, as well!
2009 Mayfair & About Calendar

Save the Date!

Sept. 1 – First Tuesday on The FAX - 5:30 p.m. – location TBD
Sept. 5 – FREE Day at Denver Art Museum
Sept. 7 – Monthly MNI Board Meeting – 7 p.m. – 6740 E. Colfax Ave.
Sept. 13 – FREE Day at Museum of Nature & Science
Sept. 15 - Mayfair Annual Wine Tasting – 5:30 - 8 p.m. – Solera – 5410 E. Colfax
Sept. 19 – FREE Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
Oct. 3 – FREE Day at Denver Art Museum
Oct. 4 – Free Day at Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Oct. 5 – Monthly MNI Board Meeting – 7 p.m. – 6740 E. Colfax Ave.
Oct. 7 – FREE day at Denver Zoo
Oct. 13 – MNI Fall Annual Meeting – 7 p.m. – Palmer Elementary Auditorium
Oct. 23 – FREE Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
Oct. 25 – FREE Day at Denver Zoo
Nov. 2 - Monthly MNI Board Meeting – 7p.m. – 6740 E. Colfax Ave. – Deadline for submitting articles & ads for Winter Mirror

Visit www.mayfairdenver.org for updates!

Mayfair Neighbors’ Wine Tasting

Mark you calendars for Tuesday, Sept. 15 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. for Mayfair Neighbors’ Annual Wine Tasting. This year we are pleased to announce that we will be at the Solera Restaurant. Our host and chef for the evening is Goose Sorenson, nationally recognized for his culinary skills. Tom Noller, from Mayfair Liquors, will be supplying a very nice selection of wine from several of his top wine distributors. It should be a wonderful evening and one you will not want to miss, especially in the ambience of Solera’s charming patio, voted Best Patio in Denver by 5280 Magazine.

It promises to be a great time to mix and mingle with fellow Mayfair neighbors in a truly fun and relaxing atmosphere. With Goose’s tasty hors doeuvres and a great selection of wines from Mayfair Liquors and us good folks from the Mayfair neighborhood, it truly doesn’t get any better than that. Be sure to RSVP by Sept. 11 by calling 303-388-8429. The cost is only $25 per person or $45 per couple.

This is our one-and-only funding raising event this year, so plan to join us and support your local Neighborhood Association. Your support enables us to make events like the Easter Egg Hunt and the Municipal Band Concert in Mayfair Park possible, not to mention being the liaison with the City and County of Denver when it comes to issues that affect the quality of life in our “Hood.” This a great opportunity to show your support, meet some interesting people that share your love for our neighborhood, and have a GREAT evening on top of it.
Mayfair Neighbors, Inc. (MNI) is a non-profit Colorado corporation and Registered Neighborhood Organization with the City and County of Denver. Our neighborhood’s boundaries are Eudora St. on the west, E. Colfax Ave. on the north, Monaco St. Pkwy. on the east and E. 6th Ave. Pkwy. on the south. The Mirror is distributed free of charge to over 3,500 residences and businesses within Mayfair, and is made possible through the support of MNI members and local advertisers. For information about advertising in our next newsletter, please call 720-233-0711. We invite you to send any questions or comments about MNI, The Mirror, or the Mayfair neighborhood in general to: Mayfair Neighbors, Inc., PO Box 200306, Denver, CO 80220.

When busy lives meet big responsibilities...

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