

Published by Denver City Councilman Charlie Brown

Mayoral race questions 1,2,3

More campaigning ahead 3

Books by friends and neighbors 4

Waiting For Superman 5

Local artist paints Wash Park 5

Colleague Profile 5

Tidbits and Outrages 6

Contact Us

District Office
2324 E. Exposition Ave.
Denver, CO 80209

(303) 871-0601
FAX (303) 698-4908
Charlie.Brown@denvergov.org

Council Aides

Carol Singer
Carol.Singer@denvergov.org
Sydne Harwick
Fall Intern

Visit us online at
www.denvergov.org/

The Email Express



November/December 2010

City voters need straight answers to make mayoral choices



Denver City and County Building

With a large field of candidates jockeying to be Denver mayor, voters will need thoughtful answers about issues facing the city in order to make their choices.

Trying to cut budgets while meeting popular demand for services will make it difficult to please key constituencies.

Here are some of the issues and questions that voters — and the candidates — need to think about.

The Budget:

The weak economy has slowed the growth of sales tax revenue, the city's largest revenue source, forcing budget cuts and adjustments.

What solutions do you propose to ensure the overall sustainability of basic

city services? Would part of your solution be new or higher taxes and fees? What opportunities do you see for reductions in spending?

City Services:

The City has experienced the largest decline in revenue since the 1930s. Basic city services such as public safety, parks and recreation, public works and environmental health, as well as employee compensation, have been strained by the tight revenue situation.

How would you prioritize specific city services in a time when cuts and trade-offs have to be made?

Do you feel any city services, such as garbage collection for private homes, should be changed to a fee system?

(Continued from Page 1)

Property Rights:

City government has broad powers over zoning and other land use tools. Policies and decisions in those areas often conflict with private property rights.

What is your philosophy about reconciling city and neighborhood desires with private property rights? Do you see any areas where the city can improve its policies on this issue?

Zoning:

The Hickenlooper administration took a bold gamble by implementing a new, form-based zoning system, which now covers the majority of the city.

Are you prepared to closely monitor its successes and failures, make adjustments quickly and perhaps overhaul substantial parts of the new code if it's not working?

Historic Designation:

Denver is one of the few cities in Colorado where a person's property (home) can be designated as historic without the consent of the property owner. This has severe implications as to what the owner can do with their property.

What is your opinion of this Landmark Preservation Ordinance, and would you advocate any changes to it, such as significantly increasing the requirements and fees for non-owner, hostile designation requests or require the owner's consent?

Growth and Development:



Denver's population has grown in recent years, thanks to developments such as Lowry and Stapleton. But the recession has stalled other projects, such as redevelopment of the former

University of Colorado medical center and the old Gates factory (pictured above).

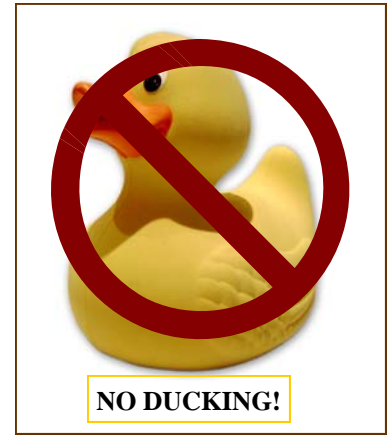
As mayor, what economic development proposals would you support to promote sustainable growth and job development in Denver?

Do you feel the city's approval process for new projects should be changed to make Denver more competitive, and should the city change tax or cash incentives to attract new jobs? What are your priorities to ensure that Denver is a supportive environ-

ment for creating and maintaining small businesses?

Infrastructure:

The city has been making improvements to its infrastructure, including parks and streets, paid for with bond money approved by voters before the recession.



What future improvements does the city require, and do you foresee the need for any major bond issues during your first term in office?

Parks Policy:

Several citizen groups have opposed the city's new policy of allowing paid, private events in city parks.

Do you support the new policy or would you change it? Do you believe a citizen-approved charter change is needed before that policy can legally go into effect?

Collective Bargaining:

Driven by the budget crisis, the city negotiated changes in the current collective bargaining agreements covering 3,106 police, fire and sheriff's officers. The costs related to the uniform positions represent 34% of the city's budget.

What approach will you take to the 2012 collective bargaining negotiations for public safety officers, and to what degree do you think the city will need to be conservative because of budgetary constraints?

The Homeless:

Mayor Hickenlooper made homelessness a major initiative of his administration and spent millions launching the Denver's Road Home initiative.

Do you believe that program has worked well? As mayor, would you continue it, modify it or end it?

Mayoral Powers:

The city charter creates a strong mayor form of government, the powers of which have been used by the last three mayors.

Describe the approach you would take to governing, including relations with City Council.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Medical Marijuana:

Both the city and the state have passed major legislation to regulate this business.

Do you believe appropriate laws and taxes are in place for cannabis commerce or that additional legislation is needed?



Denver International Airport DIA is the fifth-busiest airport in the nation.

What should the city do to ensure that DIA remains competitive as the largest economic generator in the state?

Denver Public Schools:

DPS has an elected board and operates independently of the city, but the quality of the school system has an important impact on Denver's economic health and livability.

Do you support the current policy of reform, choice and experimentation being pursued by the DPS administration, and how would you relate to and interact with DPS as mayor?

Whom would you retain?

The mayor's budget supports a 12-person Cabinet and 38 additional at-will appointees. Of the mayor's Cabinet (salaries are noted), whom would you keep?

- David Fine, City Attorney (\$141,284)
- Peter Park, Community Planning (\$133,562)
- Kim Day, Manager of Aviation (\$240,996)
- Nancy Severson, Environmental Health (\$120,900)
- Penny May, Excise and License (\$97,734)
- Claude Pumilla, Finance (\$147,706)
- Derek Brown, General Services (\$106,838)
- Lucia Guzman, Human Rights & Community Relations (\$87,446)
- Patricia Wilson-Pheanious, Human Services (\$136,474)
- Mary Malatesta, Acting Manager of Safety (\$152,000)
- Kevin Patterson, Parks and Recreation (\$130,546)
- Bill Vidal, Public Works (\$172,614)

Mayor's Residence:

Mayor Hickenlooper proposed to sell Cableland, the mayor's official residence, and give the proceeds to a charity.

Do you believe the city can make good use of Cableland for official functions and charity events, and would you consider using it as a residence?

It's like Groundhog Day: 6 more months of campaigns!

Just as the groundhog's appearance in February signals how many weeks of winter remain, the election of Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper as Colorado's governor signaled months more of political campaigning for residents of the city.

While the volume of television ads and junk mail thankfully won't be as great, be prepared for continued rhetoric and advertising.

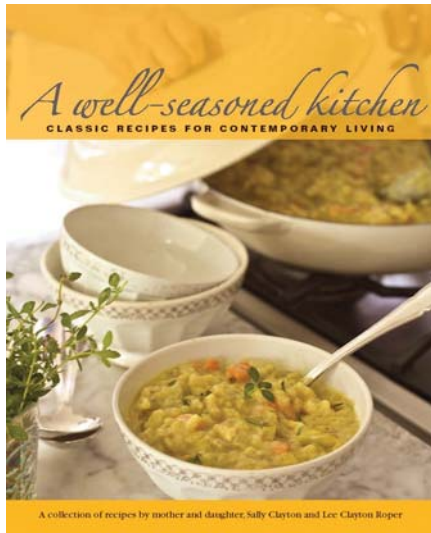
Here are key dates to help you mark the coming new political season:

- **Jan. 11:** Last day for mayor to resign; gubernatorial term begins
- **March 9:** Deadline for candidates to submit nominating petitions for mayor and other municipal offices
- **May 3:** Denver general election
- **June 7:** Denver runoff election (if necessary)



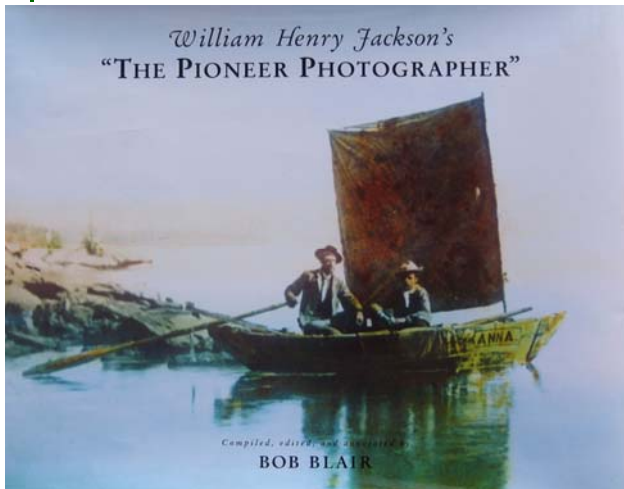
A board member of the Groundhog Day Committee in Pennsylvania holds up the famous groundhog, to see if it can see its shadow.

Books by Friends and Neighbors



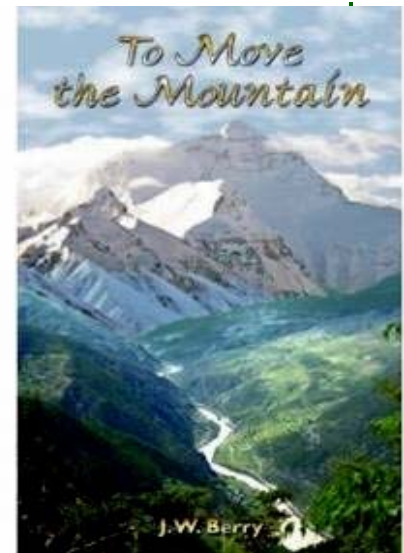
A Well-Seasoned Kitchen was written by Lee Clayton Roper and her late mother, Sally Clayton, who lived in Polo Club North. The theme of the book is effortless style and smart sensibility. The book contains many classic recipes with a contemporary spin of simplicity and casualness for the modern-day cook. Pictured to the right are Sally and Lee. Lee was a resident of Bonnie Brae until 2007. She currently lives in Cherry Creek North.

Published by MLC Publishing, Denver
\$34.95, 272 pages



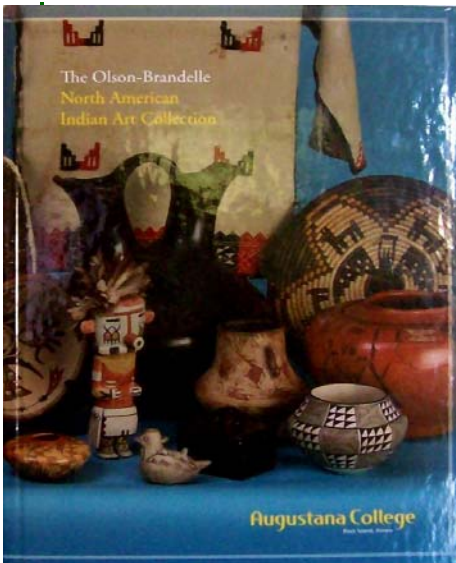
Councilman Brown and author Bob Blair were Snake River guides in Grand Teton National Park. Bob spent two decades researching this book and restoring images of William Henry Jackson's pioneer days on the American frontier. Images of Yellowstone, the Colorado Rockies, the Grand Tetons, the native cultures of the Southwest, and of the efforts undertaken by the great geological survey teams of the period constitute the largest and most significant body of American landscape photographs in history. This is a must read for western history fans.

Published by Museum of New Mexico Press
\$39.95, 220 pages



To Move the Mountain is a novel written by lobbyist John Berry, whose subject is mountain climber Rob Lockhart, who has climbed every mountain above 8,000 meters except Everest. His goal is to re-create the famous expedition of George Mallory, who allegedly climbed Everest. The trip goes awry and Rob finds refuge with Tibetan lamas. This is an excellent and exciting read. Barry lives in Stapleton.

Published by Wheatmark, Tucson, Ariz.
\$24.95, 340 pages



Cory-Merrill resident Kent Olson has been collecting Native American objects and art since 1979. It all started in Scottsdale, Ariz., at a friend's house. Kent was looking through the library for something to read and came upon a book called *Pottery Treasures* that featured phenomenal photography of Native American ceramics. His first pot was small, "a little jewel." It only took one pot to get his journey started. Kent's 318-piece collection was on display this fall at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. The collection was donated in 2004, and this book features all the artifacts on display.

Published by Augustana College, 328 pages

Waiting For Superman

Director Davis Guggenheim makes a powerful point about the need for effective change in education in his new documentary film, "Waiting for Superman." Guggenheim also made the film "An Inconvenient Truth." *New York Magazine* calls "Superman" the 'Inconvenient Truth' of education, an eye-opening, debate-defining" film.

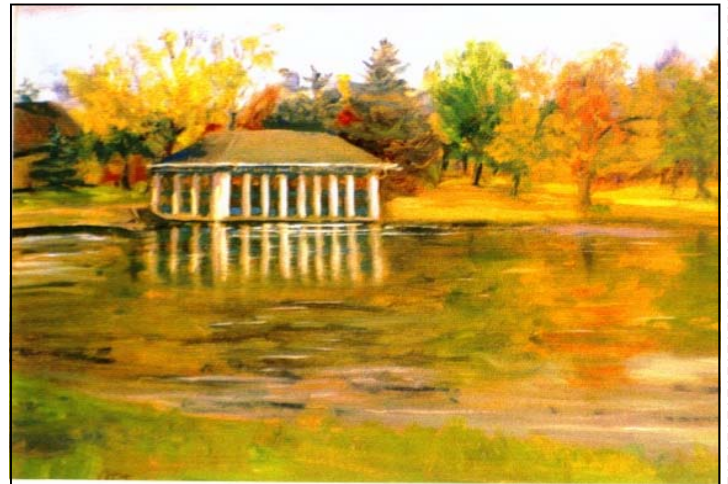
Councilman Brown and his wife, Suzanne, attended a special screening of the film at the Denver Pavilions. David Guggenheim was in attendance. "It was an enlightening and disturbing movie that will get under your skin," Brown said.

The advance screening was organized by the Colorado Children's Campaign and more than 40 community partners. It also was an opportunity to learn more about Colorado-specific opportunities to take action to improve education and change lives in our own communities.



Local Artist Paints Washington Park

Richard Ott uses trees and figures from Washington Park to create beautiful oil paintings. He followed his father's footsteps into the legal profession. He worked as the district attorney in Adams County before joining his father's law firm. He co-founded Denver's nonprofit Art Students League with Phil Levine in 1986. Ott now serves on Denver's Parks & Rec Advisory Board. He paints every day, and if there is downtime in court, he will sketch the people around him and later incorporate them into paintings. His law office is located in East Washington Park, where many of his painting are on display.



Colleague Profile: Chris Nevitt, District 7

Council Service: Elected in 2007 and will be running for re-election in 2011. His district straddles Broadway and the Platte River in south Denver, running as far east as University Avenue and as far west as Federal Boulevard.

Bio: Growing up in a foreign service family based in Fairfax County, Virginia, he also lived in Thailand, Nigeria, and Australia before leaving home for college. He earned a bachelor's degree at Haverford College near Philadelphia, and a Ph.D. in political economy at University of California, San Diego. In 2001, he moved to Denver, his wife Lisa's family home.

Family: Chris is married to Lisa Reynolds. They live in West Washington Park with their 22-year-old cat, Grendel.

Policy Interests: Protecting stable neighborhoods and improving resident quality of life; promoting robust and responsible economic development; and making Denver a national leader in sustainability.

What issues concern your constituents the most? The cleanliness, safety and livability of their neighborhoods.

What are your proudest accomplishments? The huge community-wide effort associated with the 2010 adoption of the new zoning code.

What has been your greatest frustration? How much time and work it takes to make any real change.

What has surprised you the most? The depth of public commitment shown by city employees.

What's one thing you would change about Denver?

I wouldn't mind having an ocean as well as the mountains.

If you were mayor for a day, what one thing would you do? Even the mayor can't get much done in a day. But if I were king for a day, I'd put Denver on a more fair, diversified and stable revenue foundation.

What do you do for fun? Read economics textbooks. No, I hike, bike and go birding.



Tidbits and Outrages

No ducking the issues

“Campaigns are meant to test the candidates’ views on the issues, their character, their intelligence and their ability to weather the rough and tumble that governing will entail. If candidates are afraid to answer the questions, and prefer to hide behind handlers and TV commercials, you have to wonder about their fitness for public office.”

Editorial, “Politicians duck the press, try to avoid accountability”
USA Today, 10/27/10

You got that right, Karl

“Republicans must not delude themselves: The voters didn’t throw out the Democrats because they are enraptured with the GOP. The polling data suggest that many voters, while warming to the party, still remain nervous about it. Republicans are on probation. And whether they get off on it depends on whether they do what they said they would on the campaign trail.”



Denver-born Karl Rove

Karl Rove,
Op Ed, “Time for Republicans to Deliver,”
The Wall Street Journal, 11/4/10

You got that right, Maureen

“Barack Obama became president by brilliantly telling his own story. To stay president, he will need to show he can understand our story. In 2008, the message was him. And that’s why 2010 is a referendum on him.”

Maureen Dowd,
Op Ed, “Can The Dude Abide,”
The New York Times, 10/31/10

Loving a \$25.4 billion state budget deficit

“There is absolutely nothing wrong with California that can’t be fixed by what’s right with California . . . If you’re from another state, you’d love to have the problems of California.”

Lt. Governor-Elect Gavin Newsom,
Comments after winning his race,
11/2/10



Whatever happened to Linda Ronstadt?

“I’m ready, I now have a wife, I come home at night and I don’t try to close down all the bars in Sacramento like I used to when I was last governor of California.”

Jerry Brown (72),
“Ready to Take the Reins in Two Troubled States,”
The New York Times, 11/5/10



Gov. Moonbeam’s old flame

They are doing a lot more in China than in the Senate

“Michael Bennet, a freshman Democrat from Colorado, said, ‘Sit and watch us for seven days – just watch the floor. You know what you’ll see happening? Nothing. When I’m in the chair, I sit there thinking, ‘I wonder what they’re doing in China right now?’ ”

George Packer,
“The Empty Chamber – Just how broken is the Senate?,”
The New Yorker, 8/9/10

Hey, Mom, I’m home

“One research firm found that 85 percent of graduates last spring planned to move back home. ‘Right now there aren’t too many jobs available in the fair trade, natural food movement, dealing with indigenous farmers in LA,’ she joked, referring to her daughter’s college major.”

Beth Koblner,
“Guiding a Child to Financial Independence,”
The New York Times, 11/5/10

A major issue in Greece now?

“It is not up to the city of Denver to decide whether a dog is a suitable service animal.”

e-mail to Councilman Brown from Athens, Greece; similar e-mails also came from Germany and South Africa concerning a disputed federal mandate to allow pit bulls to be service dogs in Denver. This issue will come to City Council again in December.
11/8/10

