Palmer Elementary removed from DPS school closure list, for now

On Oct. 25, the Denver Public Schools administration said it would recommend to the Denver Public Schools Board of Education that 10 schools be closed for the 2023-2024 school year. Mayfair’s neighborhood school, Palmer Elementary School, was on that original list for closure. Palmer students and staff were to be consolidated into Montclair Elementary School. The district stated that the goal was to make up for a budget shortfall caused by declining enrollment.

On Thursday, Nov. 10, the district said it modified that proposal to suggest closing the five schools that have received the largest budget assistance, accounting for more than two-thirds of the nearly $5 million that DPS provides to subsidize the original list of 10 schools. Palmer accounts for the least amount of money of all the schools on the proposed closure list.

The final proposal, that went before the Board of Education on Nov. 17, proposed the closure of just two of those five schools, Denver Discovery School in Central Park and Math Science Leadership Academy in Athmar Park. The DPS Board rejected that proposal, which means that all ten schools that were on the closure list are safe, for now, while the Board
MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS:
The Mayfair Neighbors board meeting takes place the first Monday of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. All Mayfair residents are welcome. If you would like to make a presentation to the Board, please contact Patricia Mulligan or Leslie Reingold at mayfairneighbors@gmail.com. Please email to confirm meeting venue.
- Monday, Jan. 9
- Monday, Feb. 6
- Monday, March 6
- Monday, April 3
- Monday, May 2
- Monday, June 5
- Monday, July 10
- Monday, Aug. 7
- Monday, Sept. 11
- Monday, Nov. 6

APRIL
Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m.
Mayfair Park
There will be an Easter Egg Stuffing event on Friday, April 7

MAY
Spring Shred-a-Thon
May date TBD, 9 a.m. to noon
Mayfair Plaza, 14th Avenue and Krameria Street
Sort through those piles and files and then bring your unwanted documents for shredding and recycling to the parking lot in front of 7-Eleven. Mayfair Neighbors’ members get three bags shredded for free. Those with more and non-members pay $15 – or pay $20 to join and support the neighborhood.

Submit your Letter to the Editor and/or Photos
Mayfair Neighbors welcomes comments and feedback for possible publication as a “Letter to the Editor” in The Mayfair Mirror as well as photos of Mayfair, Denver and Colorado. Please send submissions to Mayfair Neighbors, Inc., PO Box 200306, Denver 80220-0306 or mayfairneighbors@gmail.com.

Content will be reviewed and/or edited for clarity and space. Only those submissions that foster a sense of community and respect will be considered for inclusion.
determines where else it can make up its $36 million budget shortfall.

Michelle Norris, a Palmer parent who is part of The Save Palmer Leadership Committee, presented on the Palmer situation at the Mayfair Board meeting. She said that the DPS administration has decided to not consolidate Palmer with Montclair at this time. It is still up for closure consideration in the future; this is a temporary reprieve.

The Save Palmer Leadership Committee is still advocating for the DPS school board to revoke the Small Schools Resolution and address the root cause of poor policy that is driving inequities between schools. It plans to use this opportunity to engage with DPS to influence the decision-making process and demand transparency, structured decision-making, and true community engagement.

Make a difference – Support your neighborhood!

You may have asked what you get for your membership in your neighborhood association? That membership (and any donation) helps to support all of the events and activities sponsored by Mayfair Neighbors, Inc. For 2023, these will include:

- Egg Hunt in Mayfair Park, plus the Egg Stuffing Pizza Party prior to the Hunt
- Shred-a-Thon events in the Spring and Fall. First three containers free for members!
- Mayfair Community Garage Sale – we help publicize Brad Colburn’s annual efforts
- Concert in Mayfair Park
- Taste of Mayfair – we help publicize and support this annual event
- Annual General Meeting
- Other activities that you might help us to put on

Importantly, your membership and donations are one of the main sources of funds that allow us to publish the Mayfair Mirror! Costs to publish and mail the Mirror have increased substantially over the past two years, and we need your help and support in maintaining the high quality that we have all come to expect from our neighborhood publication.

So, join Mayfair Neighbors, Inc. or make a donation to support our events and publication of the Mayfair Mirror. We have a variety of memberships – all are tax deductible: Scan the QR Code below!

- Senior (65+) $25
- Household $30

Neighborhood contacts to keep handy

911: Emergency and active crime

311: Navigate city services and report city concerns

Police Non-Emergency number: 720-913-2000

District 5 Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer: Denver.gov, DenverCouncil5@denver.gov or call 720-337-5555

Request Photo Radar Enforcement: 720-337-1114 or dpdpeu@denver.gov.org

DPD District 2 Speed Enforcement: Officer Matthew Trujillo, matthew.trujilloDdenvergov.org or 720-641-1047

DPD District 2: 2.Dist@denvergov.org or 720-913-1000

Denver Public Schools Weather Delay Information: 720-423-3200
I will be stepping down from the position of president of Mayfair Neighbors, Inc. in January 2023, so I’m taking this opportunity to share what I have learned in this office.

Get involved!
Our community organization always needs new folks with new ideas, helping hands, and positive attitudes. Please come to our board meetings and volunteer to join the board. Email us at mayfairneighbors@gmail.com.

Meet your neighbors
Getting to know your neighbors’ names and greeting them as you regularly walk by increases not only the friendliness factor of your block but also its safety. Greet their dogs, too!

Enhance safety
Although the crime stats of Mayfair show that crime has increased here just as it has all over the city, remember the simple things you can do to keep your neighborhood safer. Keep your front porch light on all night, keep doors and windows locked, keep your car empty and locked, and call 911 if a crime is in progress.

Reach out to help
Whether it’s helping out at a big event like the Egg Hunt or bringing dinner to a neighbor in need, each act of caring adds to the sense of Mayfair being a desirable area to live. MNI member and former vice president Dan Lemke participates in the non-profit A Little Help, which allows older adults to stay in their homes by coordinating neighborly assistance with daily tasks.

Be a leader OR a supporter
Not everyone has the inclination or time to head up a big event, but each person has the ability to pitch in somehow. At our board meetings I see over and over how readily folks are willing to contribute in a way that suits them. And it’s getting all these small jobs done that makes for a terrific event. I am so gratified to see hands go up when help is needed. BUT, if you have a big idea, please bring it forward. That’s what Patti Shyne did last year. She had a big idea for a neighborhood festival featuring the restaurants and businesses of the Jersey Shoppette; she presented it to our board convincingly enough that we co-sponsored the Taste of Mayfair both in 2021 and 2022.

Buy local
The Jersey Shoppette is just a sample of the many businesses here in Mayfair. Do you make a point of choosing these places for your shopping rather than driving to the mall or downtown? Do you dine at our nearby restaurants instead of choosing one of the big chains? A flourishing business district is a sign of a thriving neighborhood. Check it out!

Show appreciation
I have been lucky to receive more than my fair share of thanks from residents who have participated in events sponsored by Mayfair Neighbors. After the Egg Hunt and the Concert in the Park, folks came up to me to express their gratitude. I always accept their thanks gladly, on behalf of the whole army of volunteers who made the event possible. But it gives me a great deal of pleasure to have our effort acknowledged. This has taught me the lesson of how important it is to express appreciation for each person’s contributions. I feel truly grateful; now I remember to say it often.

Call 3-1-1
Our District 5 Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer has told us to contact the city via the 311 system whenever there’s
a problem or a question relating to Denver services. She states that the city keeps track of how many and what type of calls come in; this data is used to help determine the allocation of funds for each neighborhood. I had never realized the importance of using this system, but now that I have begun calling more often, I find it mostly very effective in resolving a problem.

**Speak up**

Do you have an idea that you’d like to have heard by our Mayfair Neighbors board? Maybe it’s a question regarding our policies and practices, or maybe it’s a matter of clean streets. Our annual meeting in October had more attendees than any previous meeting in my memory. The reason, I believe, is that we advertised that the main topic would be the horrific traffic problems on 13th and 14th avenues. The speeding, the car crashes, and the injuries have reached an intolerable level. This topic is of great importance to all of us who live and drive on those streets. The professionals who presented information to us were inundated with questions from the audience. Your concerns will be listened to; please don’t hesitate to contact us at mayfairneighbors@gmail.com.

**Scoop the poop**

This is the most frequent complaint I hear from neighbors. So let’s just do it!

I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve as Mayfair Neighbors president. Thanks for your support.

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**Navigating today’s housing market?**

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Sarah Bates
sarah.bates@compass.com
303.597.8999
On Oct. 11, more than 70 community members gathered at Palmer Elementary School for the annual General Meeting of Mayfair Neighbors Inc. (MNI), our registered neighborhood association. The audience heard from Palmer Elementary School Principal Dawn Salter, District 2 police officers, District 5 Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer and speakers David Krutsinger, City Transit Director, and Patrick Picard from Fehr and Peers civil engineering firm.

District 2 Police Commander Kathleen Bancroft and her team of police officers highlighted how important it is to play an active role in the community, especially as crime has risen in the city. Getting to know your neighbors and watching out for each other is one of the best ways to improve the safety of our neighborhood. If you are witnessing an active crime or it is an emergency please call 911. The Denver Police Non-Emergency number is 720-913-2000 for other questions.

Councilwoman Amanda Sawyer presented an annual overview from City Council and District 5. Based on last year’s resident survey, crime/safety and traffic/mobility infrastructure were top priorities. She gave an overview of how the city is structured and highlighted the projects her and her team have tackled in 2022.

- Designed a monthly gun buyback program in partnership with Aurora At-Large Councilman Curtis Gardner, the Denver Broncos, and non-profit RAWTools. To date, more than 700 guns have been voluntarily taken off the street
- Supported a new Inclusionary Zoning law that will require developers of 10 or more units to build deed-restricted affordable units into their developments
- Saved Denver residents money by exempting diapers, including adult incontinence products, from City sales tax
- Funded two traffic studies and worked with DOTI on a number of projects to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety and quality of life in East Denver
- Successfully advocated for $36 million in improvements throughout District 5 in the RISE Denver Bond package
Councilwoman Sawyer also emphasized the desire to hear from community members. The city relies on data to make informed decisions and so it is crucial to make your voice heard. She encouraged all residents to utilize 311 often. 311 is a key resource to report non-emergency problems and elevate issues impacting the neighborhood. Whether it is a pothole that needs to be fixed or you have concerns around traffic on 13th and 14th avenues, speaking up about your concerns helps create change. Her full presentation can be found at mayfairdenver.org.

Finally David Krutsinger, City Transit Director, and Patrick Picard, from Fehr and Peers civil engineering firm, gave updates about the progress on the Bus Rapid Transit project on Colfax Avenue and left residents wanting more answers on what can be done to address the crashes and dangerous speeds that we see along 13th and 14th avenues. Since the meeting, DOTI and Councilwoman Sawyer’s office have taken a first step by placing six electronic message boards along these corridors (three on each road) to draw people’s attention to the speeds they are driving and to encourage people to slow down. While a good first step, there are still longer term and more impactful solutions needed to address the dangers on 13th and 14th avenues. As such, Mayfair Neighbors Inc. will continue to explore options and we would love to have your help by participating in a 13th and 14th traffic issue sub-committee. If you are interested in getting involved with the committee, please email mayfairneighbors@gmail.com.

Overall the General Meeting provided residents with community updates and highlighted that the folks that live in Mayfair are an engaged group that cares deeply about our neighborhood.
Mayfair Neighbors hosted our summer concert in Mayfair Park on Aug. 27, for the second time after a two-year hiatus during the pandemic. We had a wonderful evening of music, picnicking and spending time with friends. We were even treated to a beautiful double rainbow! The Denver Municipal Band's Jazz Band set up their stage in their usual spot in the middle of the park, and played all evening until the sun went down.

Some concert-goers brought their own food and drinks, carrying coolers in or wheeling them into the park on little wagons. Others had their choice of dinner from three great food trucks: Hand pies from My Friends and Pie, Creole comfort food from Sauvage, and tacos or quesabirrias from R&B Tacos and Grill. To round it all out, Eskimo Bros Nitro Ice Cream provided dessert to all who wanted it. The food trucks were kept busy with lines all evening, and the owners each reported strong business. Thank you to all the concert attendees for supporting these small businesses!

The volunteers from Mayfair Neighbors showed up in force to make the event happen, from meeting the port-a-john delivery to arranging at the last minute to have street repair equipment moved out of the way. A special thank-you to event chair Frazer Humes and to organization president Patricia Mulligan for emceeing the concert.
Fall Shred-a-Thon brings in more than $2,000 for MNI

By Melissa Kostic, MNI Board Member

We had another large turnout for our biannual Shred-a-Thon on Saturday, Oct. 1, at 14th Avenue and Krameria street. We filled 190 Pro-Shred trash cans, and we raised enough money from donations, new memberships and renewing members to help finance other Mayfair Neighbors activities, including the Concert in the Park, publication of the Mayfair Mirror and the Egg Hunt.

A quick count shows we made $2,018. Welcome and a special thank you to new and renewing members!

None of this could have happened without the sponsorship of Dan Percefull of RE/MAX Professionals, Taste of Mayfair, and Kathy Pappas of the Jersey Shoppette.

Keep cleaning out your files, drawers and closets since our Spring Shred-a-Thon is set for spring. Date to be determined from 9 a.m. to noon in the Mayfair Plaza parking lot at 14th Avenue and Krameria Street, in front of 7-Eleven.

Big thanks to Mayfair Neighbors Board Member Jackie Medford who is again organizing the event.

We fielded several questions regarding electronics recycling at the Shred-a-Thon. Members of our board have had success using Retrievr service. You can see what items can be recycled and schedule a pickup of items at https://retrievr.com/denver/. 

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Handmade

Vintage
How do we solve a problem like Krameria Cafe’?

By Andrew Sanders, a Mayfair Neighbor

In my last article, I touched on some of the amazing businesses we have been blessed with in our neighborhood: Bertha’s, Little Dragon, Mozart’s, Jersey St. Liquors. We have good food, and good drinks around us. However, there is one location, one vacant business that sticks out like a sore green thumb.

I am, of course, talking about Krameria Cafe.

I confess that I never had the opportunity to eat there. But in my research through old internet reviews, and talking to neighbors who did eat there, I have discovered that Krameria Cafe was, at best, accepted as a place that served OK food. I never actually heard anyone say a good word about Krameria Cafe, other than it was a local place to walk to.

“So, why does it bother you so much that it’s closed, Andrew?” I hear you cry. “Because of the one good thing I have heard about it,” I respond in a calmer fashion. One thing I believe we are missing in this neighborhood is a decent breakfast/brunch place (don’t worry La Fillette, I see you opening in the old Garlic Knot location - I am excited to enjoy your pastries!)

Breakfast/brunch, as we all know, is the best meal of the day, especially when cooked by someone else. And isn’t it lovely to be able to get up and walk somewhere local and get some good food (which apparently this place didn’t have before, but I digress)? What I am saying is we need to attract a breakfast/brunch place to move in, and become a neighborhood hub.

“Ok,” I hear you respond (and I am enjoying this back and forth dear reader) “why don’t you open it if you care so much?” Great question. One, I can’t cook. Two, see point one.

Honestly, this is not really about a closed breakfast place (though, I do enjoy a good breakfast), or the cafe itself. It’s more about a big hole in the neighborhood; one of the big holes we have in the neighborhood. In the King Soopers parking lot multiple storefronts are empty. Up by the park Padoca’s location stood empty for a long time. The question really is, how do we as a community attract and encourage local businesses to start here? We have heard of multiple plans to tear down and put up a high rise where King Soopers is, that to me would be a shame. Communities like ours depend and thrive on the small businesses that operate within them. It’s too late for Krameria Cafe, but please, let’s ensure we support the businesses we do have for a long time to come.
Are you looking for the perfect gift for all the Colorado Front Range gardeners in your life? The 2023 Park Hill Garden Walk calendar is back by popular demand and has been created specifically for the Colorado Front Range gardener. This calendar is not only beautiful, it’s informative. It showcases stunning images of gardens featured in the 2022 Garden Walk and will keep your garden plans on track with timely gardening tips and reminders throughout the year. It also features information on Colorado Native Plants each month.

You’ll learn when to plant, prune, fertilize and mulch, as well as watering tips and so much more to create and maintain a beautiful garden. If you or someone you know finds Colorado gardening challenging, then this is just what you need. Get one for yourself or give it as a gift.

You can place your calendar order online beginning Nov. 15, at parkhillgardenwalk.org/calendar/ and pick it up at 2823 Fairfax St. on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to noon starting Dec. 5. Calendars will also be available at select neighborhood retailers starting the end of November. Check parkhillgardenwalk.org/calendar/ for information regarding calendar sales locations at neighborhood retailers beginning the end of November.

Calendars are ONLY $20 each and measure 11” X 17” when open. You, your family and friends will love it. Supplies are limited, so don’t delay.

Three Mayfair gardens participating in 2023 Garden Walk

Mark your calendar now for the 2023 Garden Walk. This incredible event will take place on June 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eight magnificent gardens will be featured, including three in the Mayfair neighborhood. Not only will you experience beautiful gardens, you will also be able to enjoy the work of several area artists who will display their talents at each garden location. This is the 23rd year for this glorious event. Tickets will go on sale starting May 1, at www.parkhillgardenwalk.org. Advanced tickets are $15, seniors (age 65+) are $12, and children under 12 are free. Tickets will also be available at several retail locations starting in May. More to come in the next issue of the Mayfair Mirror.

Proceeds from the sale of these calendars support the Greater Park Hill Community mission. The Park Hill Garden Walk committee is a group of volunteers working to raise funds to support Greater Park Hill Community, Inc., a volunteer-based registered neighborhood organization that promotes the character and vibrancy of Park Hill through its resources, information and advocacy, all while preserving the quality of life and the history of the neighborhood through community participation. Learn more and get involved in the Greater Park Hill Community at www.greaterparkhill.org.
Instant giftafication on main street

Let’s hear it for the holidays! With the gifting season upon us, our main street is bursting with unusual gifts, local crafts, handmade treasures, upcycled finds, holiday décor, art shows, craft markets and everything for celebratory get-togethers. And get this – you can see it and take it home with you on the spot! Forget checking the doorstep and hoping your box will arrive in time. That’s the beauty of hometown holiday gifting on Colfax in the Mayfair district!

Shop local and keep our local businesses in business

From the shopkeepers and employees who make our Colfax main street hum, an enormous THANK YOU. Your support of local businesses ensures that we keep our doors open. As a result, the neighborhood gems that stock everyday essentials, personal treats and round-the-corner eats are still serving the neighborhood. Thank you for making Colfax Mayfair your go-to for local shopping!

Boutique art and antiques right around the corner

With 85-plus local Colorado artisans and antique dealers, Park Hill Treasures is gift central. You’ll find vintage wares, artwork, apothecary goods, pottery, handmade creations, jewelry, clothing, sculpture, plants, home décor and furnishings.

Park Hill Treasures is celebrating its first-year anniversary with two open-air Denver Makers Markets with Santa Saturday, Nov. 26, and Sunday, Dec. 4, both from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop by for unique gifts and a good time! Park Hill Treasures is at 6035 E. Colfax Ave., parkhilltreasures.com

Make your own centerpiece or festive wreath

Ed Moore Florist is sharing its secrets with do-it-yourself workshops where you’ll walk out with a gorgeous creation to grace your home or gift to someone special. Sign up for the winter wreath class Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 5:30 p.m. Can’t wait? Ed Moore Florist can design and deliver a stunning arrangement or holiday creation right away. You’ll find Ed Moore Florist at 6101 E. Colfax Ave., edmooreflorist.net

Get serious about gifting at the Holiday Fine Arts Festival

Stop by the Art Gym Gallery open house on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 4 to 8 p.m. for art displays, unique holiday fine art gifts and demos throughout the shop’s workspaces. The exhibit runs Dec. 10-24, to help you grab all those last-minute stocking stuffers. Art Gym Gallery is located at 1460 Leyden St., artgymdenver.com

Charcuterie anyone?

Learn to make a spectacular meat, cheese and more spread for all those holiday parties! Park Hill Treasures sponsors a charcuterie board class on Dec. 5, 6:30-8 p.m. You’ll take home a scrumptious tray of appetizers. Register at parkhilltreasures.com

It’s wild at The Shop

The Shop showcases revolving collections of curated vintage gifts, apparel, furnishings and more. Browse The Shop’s eclectic Wild Western Winter looks now at 5728 E. Colfax Ave., shoptheshop.com
Meet Rudolph. Seriously.

City Floral Garden Center is rolling out the green carpet for a live reindeer on Sunday, Nov. 27, from noon to 3 p.m. Stop by and snap a reindeer photo, listen to live music, sip hot chocolate and browse holiday goodies from nearby businesses. City Floral Garden Center, 1440 Kearney St., cityfloralgreenhouse.com

Décor galore

All the tree trimmings, holiday housewares, table centerpieces and beauty makeovers you crave are available down the street on Colfax Mayfair. And so are those emergency essentials, like tape, fasteners, hardware and that holiday housewarming gift you forgot about until the last minute. Grab and go on main street.

Eat your heart out

Did you know Colfax Mayfair is home to nearly 30 eateries and bars? So meet your besties at a local pub or restaurant, treat yourself to tasty take-out or delivery, sample local java and enjoy the people-watching. Our main street is also the source for wine and spirits, groceries and goodies. You don’t have to travel far to make the foodie in your family smile.

Celebrate on Colfax!

Look for local specials and other news on Facebook and Instagram. We appreciate you and wish you all the best!
Top 10 reasons to purchase pre-owned goods

By Kate Hakala, co-owner of Park Hill Treasures and self-professed tree-hugging penny pincher

My mantra is: if everything gets used twice, we will consume half as much. Of course there are plenty of things that can’t be used twice, but there are also things that can be sold, upcycled or repurposed. Unfortunately, the market for fast fashion and inexpensive furniture is still strong, but the trend for purchasing used products increases every year. A 2015 study showed that this trend will eventually reduce the large scale production of inexpensive clothing and other throw-away goods. The resale site Offerup estimates that Americans spent $160 billion on used items in 2021, will spend approximately $178 billion in 2022 and predict that the number will be $289 billion by 2027. It finds that 82% of Americans buy and/or resell used items; 76% of sales are for non-clothing items.

My business partner, Suzi and I opened a shop specifically because we love the quality and style of vintage items, and we continue to be shocked at how much “stuff” is available. Baby boomers are downsizing and things that were precious and important when they first set up households are no longer in style. I learn new things every day; for instance, I never realized that “bone” china is actually made from animal bones and is much more durable than inexpensive ceramics. We hope to encourage 20-something shoppers to take another look at what is available. I found several sets of china on the internet selling for less than $1 per piece, and much less than sets from Target or Walmart. The difference in quality and beauty is startling (and not all china has flowers on it). It would be very easy to find a nice pattern and then purchase pieces from multiple sellers to own a complete set plus spares. Crystal is another item that is easy to purchase now. Clear glass doesn’t sell well, and buyers don’t always know the difference in qualities. And furniture - you have to practically give away large sets of quality wood pieces. So here is my list of the top 10 reasons to purchase pre-owned items:

1) Environmental advantages: less items wind up in landfills, and there is no pollution from manufacturing. By some estimates, the fashion industry is the second-largest source of global pollution. The production of cloth from cotton uses a tremendous amount of water, energy and pesticides which contaminate water and acidify soil. Production of fast-fashion creates an estimated 10% of carbon emissions, more than maritime shipping and international air travel combined. Used items purchased from local sources require very little transportation, and often the packaging is being reused as well.

2) Monetary savings: used items almost always cost less than new items.

3) Buying used goods supports local businesses and helps keep your money in the community.

4) You can purchase beautifully made, unique items of high quality for a fraction of the original cost. Often, it would be impossible to replace a vintage item with a new one of the same quality.

5) Purchasing high quality vintage items helps preserve them for future generations. It is still possible to buy items that are rare and of limited availability.

6) Some resale stores benefit charities, so purchasing from them is a win-win.

7) Manufacturers are not always ethical and there is a history of sweat-shop labor and exploitation of workers in other countries. Buying pre-owned items decreases the demand for new goods.

8) If you frequent local shops you can meet new people and form new relationships in your community.

9) There is more opportunity to barter when you are purchasing used items.
10) Vintage clothing and furnishings help create a unique sense of fashion and home décor.

A book that I found fascinating (though my family does continually remind me that I am weird) is Secondhand, Travels in the New Global Garage Sale by Adam Minter. With Americans consuming 40% of goods produced in the world, it’s fascinating to know what happens with our discards. When you are buying retail, consider buying used items. I have a second list to share.

Items that almost always could be purchased used:
Picture frames
• Vases
• Books
• Suitcases
• Purses
• Jewelry
• Tableware
• Most clothing

Purchasing second-hand items may not change the world but it doesn’t hurt and may actually help.

Kate Hakala is a mother of two grown kids, a dentist and co-owner of Park Hill Treasures.

Instant Giftafication on Main Street

Your main street in bursting with unusual gifts, handmade treasures, upcycled finds, holiday décor, art shows, craft markets and everything for celebratory get togethers. Shop local to keep our local businesses in business!

Follow our social media for holiday gift ideas and specials!
Antiques Etc • Art Gym Denver • City Floral Garden Center • Ed Moore Florist
The Local General • Moss Pink Flora & Botanicals • Park Hill Treasures • The Shop
Happy Winter Holidays to everyone! From the entire Council District 5 Team, we hope your season is bright and joyful - and spent celebrating an extraordinary year with family and friends!

At the city, we’re addressing the larger issues that affect community health and safety; but in our neighborhoods, we need your help to maintain the incredible sense of community that makes Mayfair special. Denver has processes for our residents to submit feedback about issues you see in the neighborhood. Without this feedback, which creates data points for City staff to reference, it is difficult to make a case for needed improvements.

To address this issue, participate in 3-1-1 Thursdays with us next year! Please help us create these data points by reporting something that needs to be addressed in our neighborhoods to 3-1-1 or pocketgov.org every Thursday in 2023. For example, you could report a sign that needs replacement in a local park, weeds that need to be cut back, or a pothole along one of our roads. How else can you help?

• Get to know your neighbors!
• Bring in their packages or trash cans to stop crimes of opportunity
• Join your HOA, neighborhood organization, or school PTA
• Light up the neighborhood at night!
• Keep your porch and alley lights on at night to deter crime

• Contact our office to request additional street lights from Xcel
• Please slow down!
• Stop at stop signs, don’t text and drive, and share the road with pets, kiddos, and bikers
• Grab a “SLOW DOWN” yard sign from our office
• Keep an eye out for each other!
• Take the DPD District 3 Neighborhood Watch Training and start a Neighborhood Watch program on your block
• Install a Ring Doorbell and/or cameras

If you haven’t already, please also fill out our annual 2022-2023 D5 Resident Survey at https://bit.ly/D5AnnualSurvey22 by Dec. 31. The feedback you provide helps ensure that we are advocating for the issues that matter to you. And, as always, don’t hesitate to reach out to our office if there’s anything we can do to support you. Find the District Five team at:

Email: denvercouncil5@denvergov.org
Phone: 720-337-5555
Website: bit.ly/D5Website
Social media:

instagram.com/denvercouncil5
twitter.com/denvercouncil5
facebook.com/DenverCouncil5

Access D5 website by scanning the code
Many of you know me as the garage sale guy! 2023 will be my fifth year sponsoring and organizing the Mayfair Community Garage Sale. I’ve enjoyed meeting so many of you in the neighborhood through this effort and feel it can bring a community together. The sale has continued to grow over the years. The first year I sponsored it, we had 12 sales, and the response was good. Last year, we were scheduled to have 32 sales over the weekend; however, the weather didn’t cooperate and the weekend didn’t prove to be that profitable for those that braved the weather and went ahead with the sale. Unfortunately, that is one item I can’t control; let’s hope for great weather this year.

There is power in numbers. The more households that participate, the better the buyer response. Friday is usually the busiest day. There are many people who garage sale on Friday morning and take those items to the flea market for the weekend to resell. In the same breath, Saturdays are also busy with many people finally having time off. There are many homeowners, who I can now call friends, who have participated all four years and continue to be huge supporters and advocates of this effort, thank you to all of you and your assistance over the years. It is a lot of work for both you and I. Putting together a sale does take planning and effort – let’s make this the biggest, most successful year in 2023.

I provide signage as well as maps for all of you that organize with me. I flank the neighborhood with signs the Monday before the sale. On Wednesday of sale week, I meet with you at Mayfair Park and provide directional signs and maps. The maps are designed to assist buyers in the location of your specific sale along with which days you’re participating in the sale. This process assists buyers and the feedback, after year one, has been fantastic. If you’d like to participate in the 2023 sale, please RSVP with your address, which days you’ll be participating and a phone number to Brad@madisonprops.com or 303-618-0109.

Mayfair Community Garage Sale planned for June 2-3, 2023, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

By Brad Colburn, a Mayfair Neighbor
Myxed Up Creations celebrates 30 years on Colfax Avenue

Myxed Up Creations, Inc., also known as “Myxed Up,” celebrated its 30th anniversary in October with an event at its 5800 E. Colfax Ave. location. Myxed Up is best known as Denver’s original urban supply store because of the amazingly diverse products available for sale, including many Myxed Up-branded exclusives.

Phil Guerin started Myxed Up in 1991, hand making Fimo clay mushrooms (necklaces and key rings) at his parent’s home on 16th Avenue and Pontiac Street, and then at his Colfax shop in 1992. Myxed Up became a famous fixture at the Capitol Hill People’s Fair and Taste of Colorado. The iconic mushroom logo evolved from these collectable pieces of art, which are available for special occasions only, due to the labor-intensive process.

Phil Guerin says he is most proud of “providing employment opportunities for the most vulnerable people in our community, picking up (literally) tons of trash around our neighborhood, and creating a distinctive retail culture and experience. I am devoted to our neighborhood, and I want all our visitors to see the positive the way I do.”

Myxed Up has occupied five locations on Colfax, starting in 1992 at 5606 E. Colfax Ave., and then expanding into 5612 E. Colfax Ave. in 1995. Myxed Up then migrated to the current location at 5800 E. Colfax Ave. in 2010. Myxed Up opened and operated a second location in the space next to Casa Bonita, 6733 W. Colfax Ave., from 1998 to 2002, before moving to Aurora.
Taste of Mayfair raises funds for Denver Dumb Friends League, Palmer Elementary, Hellenic Dance Academy

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors, friends of Mayfair, volunteers, vendors and Jersey Street businesses for their support of the Taste of Mayfair on Sept. 17, 2022. We are pleased to announce that the event was successful.

Donations to the following organizations will be made from the Taste of Mayfair: $2,000 to Denver Dumb Friends League, $500 to Hellenic Dance Academy of Denver, $500 to Palmer Elementary School. Please check our website tasteofmayfair.com for updates on our 2023 event. Hope to see you again next year!

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church welcomed furry, feathered and finned friends for Blessing of Animals in October

Sunday, Oct. 9, was a bright, sunny day that was just perfect for the 13th and Poplar neighborhood to celebrate the Blessing of Animals and St. Francis’ feast day at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Pets sat comfortably in church with their families for the Scripture readings and a children’s sermon.

Following the service, St. Luke’s new rector, Mother Amy Underhill Lythgoe, blessed pets in the courtyard. Pets and their people had pictures taken at a Photo Booth in front of the church and then enjoyed refreshments and conversation.

Those attending contributed monetary and in-kind donations to benefit the Colorado Pet Pantry, a non-profit that assists people who need support to continue caring for their pets. Truly a fun day for all!

Upcoming events at St. Luke’s:

- No-rehearsal Christmas Pageant, Sunday, Dec. 18, at 10:15 a.m.
- Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m.
- Christmas Day Service, Sunday, Dec. 25, at 9 a.m.

Join us any time. Sunday services are held at 7:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. All are welcome.

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
1270 Poplar St. | 303-355-3221
www.stlukesdenver.org
www.MayfairDenver.org
George Washington High School celebrates a new principal, newly opened health clinic

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start at George Washington High School! Students have been learning, growing and engaging in so many ways:

Our fall sports season has been filled with success! Our football team is 4-1, girls volleyball is 3-1 in league play, boys soccer is 9-0 (and ranked second in the state!), girls softball is 8-0 in league play, boys tennis is off to the state semifinals after advancing from the quarterfinals, boys golf is fifth in their league, and cross-country has had impressive individual and team finishes. Our gymnasts have stuck their routines, and we’ve even fielded our first girls flag football team!

GWHS is extremely proud to announce it has ten National Merit Semi-Finalists from the Class of 2023. This is more than twice as many as any other Denver Public Schools high school! Additionally, we have eleven National Merit Commended students to celebrate.

GWHS JROTC students volunteered at Dove Valley Training Center (home of the Broncos) to promote youth fitness and competed in Kennedy High School’s rifle marksmanship competition.

In early June, GWHS Speech and Debate competed at nationals in Lexington, Kentucky. Four students finished in the top ten in their categories, and GWHS won the highly-coveted “School of Outstanding Distinction” award, presented to the top ten schools nationwide.

The Pulse, our newly-opened student health clinic, is keeping our students healthy.

Our brand-new School Store celebrated its grand opening Oct. 10, providing students with real-life work experience and the opportunity to purchase snacks, beverages and school merchandise.

Student Leadership broadcasts a newscast to keep students up-to-date on school events, including a weather and sports report!

Our new principal, Dr. Dackri Davis, is hosting “Doughnut with Dr. Davis” the first Wednesday of each month, 9-9:30 a.m. Please join her in the GWHS Community Room for casual conversation. She would love to hear your ideas and share her vision.

We are hosting ten opportunities for eighth grade students (also known as the GWHS Class of 2027!) to “shadow” a current GWHS freshman through their classes. These extremely popular events have filled up quickly, but watch our website for more opportunities to explore all GWHS has to offer!

Please visit the GWHS website to learn more about GWHS’s diverse programs and opportunities. Go Patriots!
So How is the Market?

I am always asked “how is the real estate market?” and usually write a brief overview as part of my quarterly Mirror article. I wrote an in-depth analysis in fourth quarter 2018 (pre-pandemic) and thought it was worthwhile for a deep dive. Next quarter I will provide the 2022 neighborhood summary and statistics.

What concerns me is the effect on the monthly payment. A home priced at $800k with 20% down ($640k loan) in first quarter at 3.5% would have a monthly principal and interest payment of $2,874. Now at 7% interest, the payment would be $4,258, a 48% increase from earlier in the year. For most Buyers, this is not reasonable and they would need to look at a less expensive home.

Sellers and lenders are getting creative with opportunities to assist buyers in this higher interest rate market. FHA and VA loans (with better interest rates and lower down payment requirements) as well as down payment assistance programs are more viable in our current market. Sellers are offering concessions (interest prepayment) to Buyers to lower monthly payments. Lenders are offering to refinance Buyers in the future for free when interest rates go down. Loan assumptions may become viable in the future but may require larger down payments from Buyers.

At the same time, Sellers need to temper their expectations. Homes are not selling in the first weekend like they did in the first quarter. Buyers are not offering tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars over list price. Realistic pricing is more important than ever when competing with more homes on the market.

These factors are softening demand in the market but I do not see a major correction in the future. I'm all in favor of a more balanced market where there is ample inventory and time to make an important purchase decision without undue pressure. I still believe our fundamentals are strong - we have net population growth and new construction is not keeping up with demand. I look forward to seeing the final numbers for 2022.

David Bromberg is a licensed REALTOR® with RE/MAX of Cherry Creek 720-233-0711
What’s it like being a young person in Mayfair?
By Sofiya Sharova, a Mayfair Neighbor

The stories we hear in this publication are wholesome and heartwarming, but they are all by adults. But adults are not the only ones who live in Mayfair.

I moved to Mayfair about five years ago, when my brother was born. Writing this, I now realize how long that feels. I have my experience, but to add on to it, I asked several of my friends who have lived here longer than I have. This is what I came up with.

Mayfair has a very calming sort of feel. It is quiet and peaceful, with a chill community. It is the sort of place you could spend all day in. We’re lucky to grow up here.

Mayfair is special. It is a good place to just hang out and relax. The people are friendly, and the community feels close-knit. It is calming and enjoyable.

Here are my thoughts: The community here is very welcoming and extremely kind. Friends and acquaintances come by easily and stay long. It feels different from any other neighborhood. Almost like something out of a storybook. Take for example the Taste of Mayfair. Everyone got together for seven hours, particularly the kids, and just helped out. That is certainly something unique.

I think that, in short, Mayfair feels happy and we are lucky to grow up here.

Poetry Corner

Sidewalk Sonnet*
By Ruth Burnham

Assorted concrete squares laid end to end
Form sidewalks, bisect lawns and boulevards,
Create right angles (concrete does not bend),
Connect the neighborhood, define the yards.
Incidental monuments they bear the names
Of those who mixed and poured and smoothed the squares.
Along with hand and footprints, tiny claims
To immortality each sidewalk shares:
Names like Clinton, Sandoval, and May,
Beside names scrawled by children long since grown,
A testament to years of work and play
Across which fallen leaves, the past, are blown.
Thus can simply walking beget mystery
And reveal to walkers Mayfair’s history.

*To me, one of Mayfair’s best features is its walkability. We have sidewalks, something that many neighborhoods lack. And despite the fact that Mayfair’s unique homes, lovingly tended yards, and whimsical, often spectacular holiday decorations provide much for pedestrians to view, there’s also much to be seen when looking down. Sidewalks throughout Mayfair bear the stamps of the companies, contractors, and individuals who laid and repaired them over the years, along with handprints, footprints, pawprints, and names left in wet cement by Mayfair residents, past and present. The inclusion of the “Denver Deserves Sidewalks” initiative on November’s ballot attests to a certain fondness for sidewalks, as does this sonnet.

Winter In Mayfair
By Jackie Medford

Silent snowfall all around
Covers valleys, hills, and towns.
Makes the air all fresh and new
Crystals sparkling….frozen dew.
Crunchy footsteps, ankle deep
Snow has fallen while we sleep!
Red-tipped noses (sure is cold!)
So glad to have a hand to hold.
Days will soon be getting longer,
Warmth returning…..ever stronger!
Gardening catalogs soon arriving
Soon our Springtime will be thriving!

Please, yes, please! (Don’t blow it La Niña!)
Colorado is, well Colorado. We are home to cowboys, the Broncos, all things with western flare, but until now there haven’t been a lot of options to shop for the style Colorado is so synonymous with - that is until curator and designer Taylor Woodard launched her Wild Western Winter collection at The Shop at Colfax Avenue and Ivy Street.

From western hats, cowboy boots, snap button shirts and fringe jackets to furniture, home accents and any unique gem you can think of, she’s probably got it.

“I wanted to create an inviting space that brought out the incredible personality and roots of our original Colorado aesthetic that seems to have been lost here in Denver,” Woodard said. And she really means it. Everything in the store not only has a unique Colorado western vibe but everything in The Shop is vintage, pre-loved or antique so you immediately feel a sense of nostalgia when you walk through the doors.

As I looked at myself in the mirror in a 1950s Stetson, a pair of ’80s Levi’s and a vintage pair of Lucchese boots, I began to wonder where she finds these one-of-a-kind treasures?

“I’ve been scouring the state (and beyond) to curate and create a destination for things that were not only western but distinct and seemingly one-of-a-kind. It’s been a blast! Not only have I gotten to dive into the treasures that make the west wonderful, but I now get to share and celebrate that world with Denver and it just feels right that it’s on a historic street like Colfax,” she said.

Her unique eye is not only developing a loyal following but is quickly converting them into secondhand and vintage believers.

“Our mission at The Shop is to encourage the community to think differently about the way they shop. By bringing both a highly curated and consultative approach to the shopping experience, we help our customers both see and believe that you don’t have to jeopardize style when buying pre-loved pieces. You can seamlessly mix and match old with new and still look great while dramatically reducing your impact on the world that comes from fast fashion and fast furniture!”

Interestingly, had you walked into the store a month ago, you wouldn’t believe it was the same boutique. It looked like a garden party with umbrellas hanging from the ceilings and vintage garden décor. Four months before that a Fancy & French market consumed the space.

“I love so many design aesthetics; I love mixing it up and I wanted everyone to see how much beauty there is in vintage, secondhand and antiques from various eras and styles! And, of course, there is the allure of surprise that drives me and delights our customers.”

Delight it does. There is always something new she is putting out and there is no shortage of quality gift options as we roll into the holiday season.

“We hope people will think of us when it comes to gift giving. We’ve got such unique options that you can feel good about buying. Not only are you making a purchase for the planet but 10% of sales go to local charities – win win,” Woodard said.

“And if you don’t find something at The Shop, we love that there are so many other stores on Colfax that you can swing into. We are creating our own style south Broadway over here.” You would think The Shop wouldn’t want the competition but, Woodard said, “the dream would be that every retail store in this area is vintage, secondhand or antique!”
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. MNI reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. 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 or email mayfairneighbors@gmail.com.

Mayfair Neighbors, Inc.  
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