

9 Lives

News and notes from District 9 Councilwoman Judy H. Montero

Summer 2008

2008 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

It has been 100 years since Denver has hosted a national political convention. Back then, District 9 didn't even exist, and the city was split into wards rather than districts. There was no City Council, rather, a Board of Aldermen governed the city. Instead of Mayor John Hickenlooper heading up "Greenprint Denver", Mayor Robert Speer led the "City Beautiful" campaign.

If the convention delegates of 100 years ago could see Denver today, they would experience District 9 in much the same way. For example, the 1908 conventioners arrived here through Denver Union Station. Denver Union Station is being preserved and will act as the signature structure for the build out of Denver's new national transportation hub.

The issues on the minds of 1908 Denverites are not so different than those of contemporary District 9 residents. Here are a few examples:

YOUTH: A year before the 1908 convention, local Denver Judge Benjamin Lindsey created the first stand-alone juvenile court system in the nation. Lindsey's goals with the new juvenile court were to channel kids into constructive activities (education, work) rather than simply locking them up. The model was so successful that the entire nation embraced it.

There is a lesson to be learned. As a community we deal with graffiti, vandalism and gang activity. However, rather than only focusing on strict enforcement and harsh penalties, we need to create positive opportunities for youth. That's why I have worked hard to keep all of District 9's public recreation centers open and affordable. I have helped promote organizations like the Bridge



*Councilwoman Judy H. Montero
District 9*

Project and the constructive public-art event "Off the Wall," which are essential to District 9 neighborhoods. I've spent hours on the Graffiti Task Force pushing to have graffiti listed as the Council's number-one legislative priority for 2008-09.

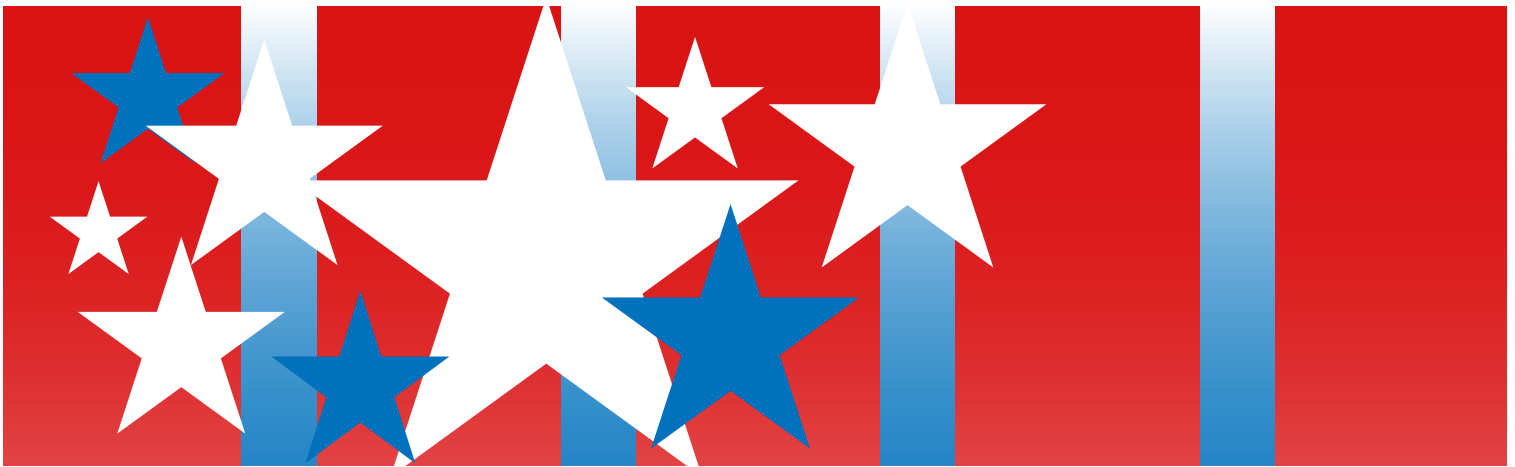
CULTURAL DIVERSITY: Denver's culturally rich population was booming in 1908, and a lot of immigrants settled in present day District 9. According to Denver historian Tom Noel, while many Scottish people, "settled in that area known as Highlands, they were soon outnumbered by Irish, Italian and Hispanic residents." Mr. Noel also noted that Arapahoe Chief Little Raven and his tribe camped at what

is now known as Confluence Park in the 1840s and 1850s, but tragically, by the time conventioners arrived in Denver in 1908, the Arapahoe tribe had been dislocated. Recognition of the Native American footprint at the

continued on the inside



*1908 Democratic
National Convention
courtesy of
the Denver Public
Library, Western
History Collection.*



CONVENTION FUN FOR EVERYONE

Not a delegate? Not to worry. There are lots of ways for you to enjoy the convention.

Unless you're a delegate, or a member of the media, you probably won't be able to get inside the Pepsi Center during the convention. However, XM radio is hosting a channel you can tune into for 24-hour coverage. Most TV networks will offer one hour of coverage each evening, and the PBS News Hour will broadcast full coverage throughout the week.

Regardless of what happens inside the convention, the city wants to make sure that Denver residents also get to enjoy this historic event. There will be concerts, exhibitions, film festivals, and a lot more. For more information, go to: <http://www.denver.org/metro/dnc/> and www.denvergov.org/dnc2008. Here are just a few of the events for Denver residents during the convention:

BEFORE THE CONVENTION

Pepsi Center Open House

For one day during the week prior to the start of the Convention, local residents will be invited to tour the DNCC (Democratic National Convention Committee) "re-designed" Pepsi Center. Denverites will be able to check out the high-tech podium and converted press room. Stay tuned for the date of the open house and ticketing information.

Interfaith Gathering

Join delegates, elected officials, clergy from many communities of faith, and special musical guests as they gather in a spirit of unity on Sunday, August 24 at 2pm, at the Wells Fargo Theater in downtown Denver.

Green Frontier Fest

Held Sunday, August 24, in the Sculpture Park of the Denver Performing Arts Complex, the Green Frontier Fest will be an open-to-the-public event promoting green practices and highlighting the sustainable aspects of the Democratic National Convention. The free festival will feature human-powered carnival rides for the kids, as well as exhibits and artwork promoting eco-friendly messages. The day will conclude with a Green Concert at Red Rocks.

THROUGHOUT THE CONVENTION

Dialog: City

Taking place August 21-29, Dialog: City is an arts and cultural event that hopes to spark a citywide conversation by inviting internationally renowned artists and designers to create participatory, interactive, site-specific works in neighborhoods across the city. Dialog: City has already attracted a number of world-renowned artists, including Ann Hamilton, DJ Spooky, Sharon Hayes and Spurse Collective. Get updates and info at www.dialogcity.org.

Cinemocracy

The Denver Office of Cultural Affairs and the Denver Film Society are inviting citizens to speak out and share ideas on what democracy is (or isn't) through the creation of short films. The top 25 films will be shown. The winner of the Cinemocracy competition will have his or her film shown during the Starz Denver Film Festival in November. Learn more at www.cinemocracy.org.

The American Presidential Experience

The largest traveling exhibit of presidential memorabilia will be open to the public at Invesco Field at Mile High (Parking Lot D) from August 22-29. Appearing for the first time in the Rocky Mountain region, the spectacular 150,000-square-foot, nonpartisan exhibit will include a wide variety of items and activities, including life-size replicas of Air Force One and the Oval Office and a collection of first lady gowns. For more info, visit www.presidentialexperience.com.

America Live and In Person

Step up and tell the world what America means to you through personal stories, photographs, poems, original song, paintings, or anything you can dream up. It can be a big idea—like how being an American has affected your life, or it can be a small moment—something that symbolizes to you what America is all about. It can be touching, funny, inspiring or thought-provoking. The best submissions will be showcased throughout the city at locations to be disclosed soon.

GETTING AROUND DURING THE CONVENTION

The City and County of Denver worked with local, state and federal transportation and security officials to devise a plan for local mobility and access during the week of the convention that meets Democratic National Convention needs while keeping downtown Denver open and accessible. At the time this newsletter was printed, roadway impacts had not yet been finalized for Thursday, August 28; they will be announced by early August. Updated information at www.DenverGov.org, www.DowntownDenver.com, www.DenverConvention2008.com and via the City's 3-1-1 system.

ROADWAY CLOSURE INFORMATION: Monday—Wednesday

Speer Blvd. from I-25 to Lawrence St. (and the I-25 ramp to southbound Speer Blvd.) will be closed from 9 a.m. on Monday, August 25 through midnight on Wednesday, August 27 except during morning rush hour. Two lanes in each direction of Speer Blvd. between I-25 and Lawrence St. (and the ramp from I-25 to southbound Speer Blvd.) will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Monday through Wednesday. The I-25 ramp to northbound Speer Blvd. will remain open at all times.

Auraria Parkway from I-25 to Speer Blvd. will be closed from 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, August 24 through midnight on Wednesday, August 27. The I-25 ramps to and from Auraria Parkway will be closed during this time frame.

Bannock St. between 14th Ave. and Colfax Ave. will be closed August 25 - 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Designated Parade Route staging area.

While still accessible to pedestrians, vehicular traffic on the following blocks between 15th St. and Speer Blvd. will be limited to residents and employees from Monday, August 25 through Wednesday, August 27: Wazee, Wynkoop, Delgany, Wewatta, and Little Raven. (Details on residential and business access are below).

RECOMMENDED ROUTE INFORMATION: Monday—Wednesday

EAST AND NORTHEAST: Drivers may access downtown from the east and northeast using Martin Luther King Blvd., 18th Ave., 13th Ave., and 8th Ave.

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST: With northbound Speer Blvd. closed at Lawrence St., drivers along Speer Blvd. south of Lawrence, as well as on Lincoln and Santa Fe, may experience slight increases in traffic. Slowing may occur on these streets as they cross Colfax Ave. Commuters may want to use Downing, Clarkson, or Logan St. to avoid delays. Exiting downtown may be slightly slower than normal due to Convention-related activities, but once traffic crosses Colfax Ave., movement on Kalamath, Broadway, Grant, Washington and Corona/Downing should be similar to a normal weekday.

WEST AND SOUTHWEST: Travelers may access downtown from the west and southwest using 6th Ave. or northbound I-25 to 20th St. Traffic exiting downtown to the west and southwest may be a little slower than normal, but with the combination of increased transit use and the absence of Auraria Campus traffic, delays along Arapahoe, Champa, Glenarm and Colfax should be minimal. Once traffic reaches Kalamath, I-25, and 6th Ave., travel should be similar to a normal weekday.

NORTHWEST: Drivers can use I-25 to Park Ave. West or 20th St. to access downtown. Traffic exiting downtown to the northwest should use 20th St. or Park Ave. West to I-25.

RTD PUBLIC TRANSIT INFORMATION: Monday—Wednesday

LIGHT RAIL: Light rail lines coming into the Central Business District will not be disrupted, including lines D, F and H. There will be no light rail service to or from the Pepsi Center and Denver Union Station stops. Passengers on the C and E lines who want to travel downtown can transfer to the D, F and H lines. All C- and E-line light rail passengers will be required to disembark at the Invesco Field light rail stop.

BUSES: RTD plans to run normal bus service during the Convention, adjusting routes impacted by street closures. RTD will provide information on these adjustments through its web site, the RTD Telephone Information Center, and information will be posted on buses and light rail.

RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS ACCESS: Monday—Wednesday

Residents (and their caretakers or renters, if applicable) and businesses (and their employees) west of 15th Street along Wynkoop, Delgany and Wewatta will receive vehicle placards from the Secret Service enabling them to access their normally assigned parking spots. There will be no pedestrian restrictions in this area, so visitors will be able to come and go on foot.

Residents (and their caretakers or renters, if applicable) in the small area bound by Speer Boulevard, Wazee Street and 14th Court will receive vehicle placards from Secret Service enabling them to park in their normally assigned parking spots after undergoing vehicle screening at a 24-hour checkpoint. There will be no pedestrian restrictions in this area, so visitors will be able to come and go on foot.

Residents (and their caretakers or renters, if applicable) and businesses (and their employees) in the area bound by 11th Street, Auraria Parkway, Speer Boulevard and the Pepsi Center will receive personal credentials from the Secret Service, enabling them to come and go by foot with ease. Placards will also be provided for their vehicles enabling them to park in their normally assigned parking spots after undergoing vehicle screening at a 24-hour checkpoint. Individuals renting any of these units during the Convention may undergo the same registration process to obtain these access documents. Residents in this area expecting guests will be asked to meet them on the street and escort them into their building.

* Please note, traffic information for Thursday evening at Invesco Field at Mile High information was not available at the time of this printing.

1908 v. 2008 (continued from the first page)

junction of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek still remains – in 1994 Little Raven Street was dedicated. According to Noel, the Polish began settling in Globeville in large numbers in the late 1800s. And, by the early 1900s, Scandinavians, Austrians, Slovenians, Croatians, and Russians began populating Globeville and the Elyria/Swansea neighborhood. Elyria/Swansea was settled by Slavic immigrants throughout the mid nineteenth century. The Baker neighborhood – one of Denver’s oldest – can proudly claim Colorado’s first Poet Lauret, Alice Polk Hill, as a resident in the early 1900s. During that time, lower downtown had small populations of Japanese and Chinese immigrants and the Tivoli Brewery was owned by German immigrant, John Good – reflective of the growing number of taverns and restaurants owned and operated by Germans, and other Slavic populations, during the time Democratic Convention goers arrived in Denver.



Denver Union Station circa 1910 - courtesy of the Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

All these populations had their own churches, shopping districts, and foreign-language newspapers. 100 years later, the descendants of those immigrants are indispensable parts of Denver’s social and cultural fabric. That’s something to keep in mind as we help the immigration populations of today assimilate into our community.

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT: Most of Denver’s streetcar system was built out 15 to 20 years before the 1908 convention, so by the time the Democrats came to town, the city was already reaping the benefits. Just a few years ago Denver voters had the vision and foresight in voting to fund FasTracks – currently the largest light rail and commuter rail system build-out in the country. Given the current prices of transit, many in Denver are anxious to enjoy the benefits of mass transit and are carefully watching the progression of the FasTracks project.

In all of these issues, the decisions that Denverites made in 1908 still resonate today. By and large, that generation chose wise and far-sighted policies. If we do as well in 2008 as our predecessors did a century ago, we will leave a proud legacy to future citizens.

THE PARADE ROUTE

The city wants to promote free speech during the convention, while avoiding tie-ups and safety hazards. Accordingly, it created a Designated Parade Route to give demonstrators a high-visibility venue in which to express their views—without disrupting or endangering downtown residents, workers, and businesses.

The route begins at Civic Center Park, heads west on Colfax toward Speer, then turns northwest toward the Pepsi Center. The parade route will be active from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day of the convention (Monday through Thursday, August 25 through 28). On those days, westbound Colfax and southbound Speer will be closed from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. along the route. There will be no interruption in light-rail service.

LA CONVENCION TRANSMITIDA EN ESPAÑOL

Si Ud. es uno de los millones de personas que esperan con ansia ver a Barack Obama aceptar la nominación de su partido y oficialmente empezar en camino a la Casa Blanca, y también está acostumbrado recibir sus noticias en español, no se preocupe. El Comité de la Convención Nacional Demócrata (DNCC por sus siglas en inglés) anunció hoy que por primera vez en la historia de las convenciones políticas, la Convención Nacional Demócrata será transmitida simultáneamente en español.

La empresa Comcast producirá la extensa cobertura en español y también será el Proveedor Oficial de Televisión por Cable y Video-On-Demand durante la Convención.

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Inside:
Important 2008
Democratic National Convention
Information

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE !!

PRIMARY ELECTION: AUGUST 12

WHERE/WHEN TO REGISTER

The deadline to register for the primary election has already passed.

EARLY VOTING DATES

August 4 through August 8; see locations below.

VOTING BY MAIL

Mail your ballot to the Elections Division, 3888 East Mexico Avenue, Denver, CO 80210. Postage for mailing back the Primary Election ballot is 59 cents. Mailed ballots must be received at the Elections Division no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted.

GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 4

WHERE/WHEN TO REGISTER

The deadline for the general election is Monday, October 6. You can register by mail; in person at the Denver Elections Division (3888 E. Mexico Ave.); or in person at any state or city Motor Vehicle office. For a mail-in copy online at http://www.denvergov.org/Portals/639/documents/Forms/voter_registration_form_english_05.21.08.pdf

EARLY VOTING DATES

October 20 through October 31; see locations below.

VOTING BY MAIL

Mail your ballot to the Elections Division, 3888 East Mexico Avenue, Denver, CO 80210. Postage for mailing back the Primary Election ballot is 59 cents. Mailed ballots must be received at the Elections Division no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS: PRIMARY ELECTION AND GENERAL ELECTION

Scheitler Recreation Center, 5031 West 46th Avenue
Barnum Recreation Center, 360 Hooker Street
Montclair Recreation Center, 729 Ulster Way
Harvard Gulch Recreation Center, 550 East Iliff Avenue
Wellington E. Webb Municipal Bldg., 201 West Colfax Avenue
Christ Church United Methodist Church, 690 Colorado Boulevard
Hiawatha Davis Jr. Recreation Center, 3334 Holly Street

Harvey Park Recreation Center, 2120 South Tennyson Way
Tamarac Square Mall, 7777 East Hampden Avenue
Denver Elections Division, 3888 East Mexico Avenue
Manual High School, 1700 East 28th Avenue
Rude Park Recreation Center, 2855 West Holden Place
Montbello Recreation Center, 15555 East 53rd Avenue