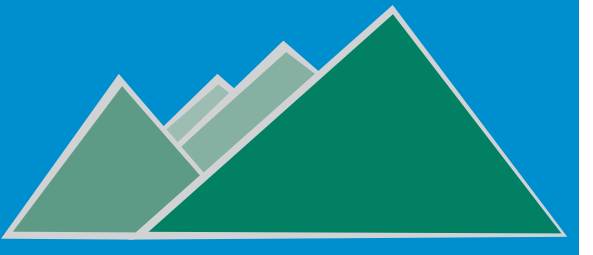


GLENDALE CHERRY CREEK CHRONICLE



From LoDo to the Dam

THE VOICE OF THE CHERRY CREEK VALLEY —

MAILED TO 84,825 HOMES AND BUSINESSES IN THE CHERRY CREEK VALLEY

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East Colfax: Long Road To Revitalization

Lowenstein Project Has Far-reaching Implications For A Key Portion Of The 'Longest Wickedest Street In America'

by Glen Richardson

Colfax Avenue is over 26 miles long, stretching across Denver, Aurora, Lakewood and Golden. The east-west artery was named after Speaker of the House and later Vice President Schuyler

Colfax. The street name dates back to 1868. That portion of East Colfax running east from the State Capitol was once home to the mansions of the mining millionaires, but the Silver Crash of 1893 brought all of that to an end.



Colorful Colfax: Urban art decorates the side of Denver Urban Ministries building on East Colfax. The organization nourishes the spirit of community and cultivates awareness of urban life while providing resources for persons in crisis.

After World War II East Colfax acquired a whole different reputation. *Playboy* magazine called it "the longest wickedest street" in America, while *Wikipedia* online encyclopedia declared it to be associated with "prostitution and crime." The portion of East Colfax running a half mile east and west of East High School, has long been considered one of the most crime ridden areas in Denver — but a metamorphosis is beginning to occur. Such a renaissance has long been predicted but never seemed to occur, but real change is now happening.

The area, now called by some "Upper East Colfax," is increasingly being



East Colfax Landmark: The recently redone City Park Esplanade at East High School reflects the revitalization of Upper East Colfax. The new Lowenstein project is across the street.

considered a bit bohemian while retaining in places its rough around the edges character. It is a very fun place but at times it can still be a little bit scary.

The cast that lifted the curtain for a cultural and demographic shift began in May of 2005 when the *St. Charles Town Company* purchased the vacant *Lowenstein Theater*

and adjacent land at 2526 East Colfax Avenue and the *Tattered Cover Book Store* and *Twist & Shout* agreed to move and become a part of the project to preserve the mid-century (1953) theater building.

Tenants Make Difference

Since then the *Neighborhood Flix* was built

Continued on page 23

Get Set To Go Greek

Greek Festival, June 20-23, Is Fast Paced Fun, Fused With Food, Art And Entertainment

Greek attitude. Glendale altitude.

The Cherry Creek Valley is gearing up for the 2008 *Greek Festival*, one of the Valley's largest ethnic festivals and the biggest annual event for Colorado's Greek community. Set for June 20-23, it is an opportunity to discover the spirit and passion of Greece while enjoying live music, dancing, wine and food.

The Festival is held on the *Assumption Greek Orthodox Cathedral* campus (4610 E. Alameda Ave.) in the City of Glendale. Oh, yes, the City of Glendale is getting into the festive mood by showing *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* on Free Movie Night, Wednesday, June 11 at *Infinity Park*.

Expanded Tradition

"The wonderful movie at *Infinity Park* offers us an opportunity to expand the Valley's Greek experience and ties the Festival to the Greek Cathedral's official home base, Glendale," says Glendale City Manager Jerry Peters.

It is a chance for attendees to immerse themselves into the most traditional social rituals of Greece, to connect with its compulsively sociable culture. You'll enjoy the classic flavors, unhurried conversations and cuisine that define the islands on the southern end of the Balkans.

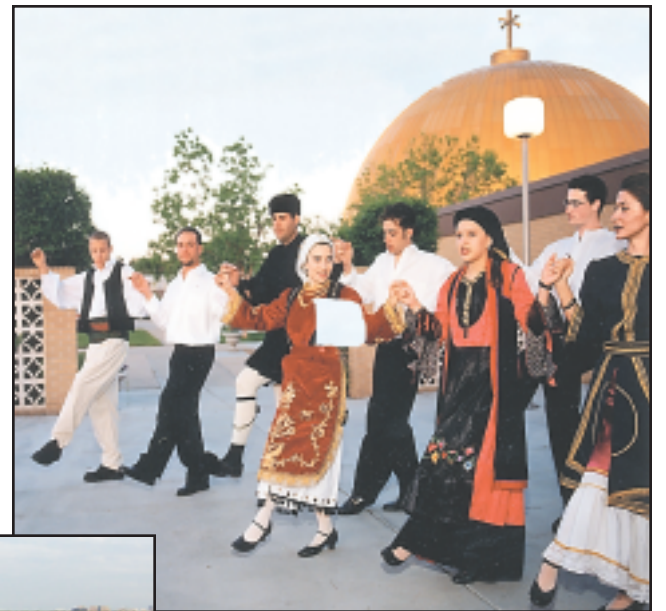
More than 30,000 join in each year, and the 42nd annual event this year promises to be better than ever. With more than 10 performing dance groups and *Etho Ellas* performing again, it is one of the Valley's

top ethnic food and entertainment festivals. Gate admission is \$1, with children under 12 and seniors over 65 free. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, June 20-21 and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, June 22.

Mouth-Watering Food

With the look and feel of an authentic Greek marketplace and taverna, the Festival's mouth-watering Greek food is always an enjoyable highlight. One of the best ways to enjoy the Festival is through the stomach, and there is a lot more than just gyros, lamb sandwiches and stuffed

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Going Greek: Large crowds turn out to enjoy dancing, music, wine and food at annual Greek Festival. This year's event is set for June 20-23 on the Assumption Greek Orthodox Cathedral campus, Glendale.



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Possible Lowry Vista Stumbling Block Flood Pool Easement Conflicts

by Rebecca Allen

There may be a potential impediment to the massive concrete development of an 80 acre site that was originally intended as open/recreational space known as Lowry Vista on Alameda Avenue.

Bill Degroot the Manager of Floodplain Management for the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District has indicated that at least a portion of the Lowry Vista is in a flood pool easement that prohibits development.

It has been indicated that the develop-

er International Risk Group ("IRG") intended to place on the flood pool area a parking structure and apartments. Sources indicate that IRG is attempting to or has gained additional land to try to offset the easement area and will attempt to engage

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Possible Lowry Vista Stumbling Block Flood Pool Easement Conflicts

Continued from page 1 in an exchange.

IRG has sought lifting of all restrictions from the easement from Urban Drainage, but have to date been rebuffed and told to first obtain the approval from the federal Army Corps of Engineers based in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Lowry Vista site abuts the earthen Westerly Creek Dam. That preventative dam has been deemed a key to containing major flooding from the Cherry Creek basin.

IRG has undertaken a major public relations campaign since its plans were revealed for a massive development on the land originally intended for open space and recreational uses. It has set up a Web site www.lowryvista to tell its side of the story.

The Web site indicates that IRG intends to have all necessary approvals for the development by the third or fourth quarter of this year.

Directly north of Lowry Vista are wetlands that IRG is seeking to acquire or has acquired from the Colorado Golf Association. The Web site describes the area as "100 acres of grassy open space offering breathtaking views of Downtown Denver and Long's Peak. This open space — forever protected — is integral to the vision of Lowry Vista as an environmentally responsible community."

No explanation is given why this acreage could not suffer the same fate as Lowry Vista which many in the public also be-

lieved was to be "forever protected." With no apparent irony the site provides a link for members of the public to sign up for an IRG controlled Lowry Vista "Open Space" committee that will meet monthly to discuss open space issues.

Citizens concerned about the Lowry Vista development and other issues surrounding Lowry have formed Lowry United Neighborhoods, an organization recognized by the City and County of Denver as a registered neighborhood organization. It also has a Web site www.lowryunitneighborhoods.org. At the Web site is a one page memorandum by Chris O'Conner outlining major concerns with the proposed Lowry Vista development and how it originated from a highly knowledgeable concerned citizen's prospective.

Benefit Amount For Utility Bills Increased

Winter has brought the worst to Colorado during the past few months with arctic cold temperatures and large amounts of snow in some areas. These conditions have created high-energy costs for residents throughout the Valley. Help is available. Colorado's Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), has increased the dollar amount available for assistance.

According to Scott Barnette, director of LEAP, the program has received additional Federal funds allowing the program to increase its benefit by 75 percent. The average benefit will increase to approximately \$448 per household from \$266. The increase will benefit everyone who has received assistance during the 2007-2008 seasons.

The program will accept applications through April 30. LEAP pays the highest benefits to those with the highest heating bills and lowest incomes by family size.

Applicant income cannot exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty index, which equals a maximum income of \$3,184 per month before taxes for a household of four people. To date, more than 75,000 Colorado households have received assistance, but there are thousands of additional families who are eligible to receive program benefits.

"There is a great need in our state for energy assistance, especially given the kind of winter Colorado has had," explains Barnette. "Our goal is to make sure everyone needing assistance knows more help is available and where they can find it," he tells the *Chronicle*.

To qualify, applicants must be responsible for paying their own heating costs, either to a utility company or to a landlord as part of rent.

Potential program applicants can apply several ways:

- 1) Call 1-866-432-8435 to have an application mailed to the home;
- 2) Applications are available at every county department of social-human services across the state. To locate the office, visit the program's Web site, www.cdhs.state.co.us;
- 3) Applications can also be downloaded from the Web site;
- 4) Applicants may then fax, mail or deliver a completed application to their appropriate county office.

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