

The *Littleton* **EXAMINER**

A News Magazine for the People of Littleton



.....
August 2006

*“The way to combat
noxious ideas is with
other ideas.*

*The way to combat
falsehoods
is with truth.”*

William O. Douglas

We hope you are enjoying

Western Welcome Week

**Dedicated to carrying on the tradition of greater
Littleton — yesterday, today and tomorrow**

by Jack Randall

Western Welcome Week is a 78 year old happening. In this case, the term “happening” is best defined by the web’s Wikipedia as:

“a performance, event or situation meant to be considered as art. Happenings lack a narrative, are often multi-disciplinary, and frequently seek to involve the audience in the performance in some way. Elements of them may be planned while retaining room for improvisation. They can take place anywhere.”

Western Welcome Week meets every single aspect of that definition. It is clearly art – performance art. As many as 80,000 art lovers enjoy this happening.

It is multi-disciplinary and I can’t think of a discipline that is not or could not be included. From Rubber Ducky Racing on Sunday the 13th to the **wonderful Miniature Horse and Pony Show on Sunday the 20th**, all types of animals are included.

There are events all over Littleton. There are so many different locations that you must use a brochure/map to find them.

The audience is vital to each event and can be on stage participants or contestants in many.

The entire 11 days offer something for everybody, including curmudgeons and crabs.

*“The entire 11 days
offers something for
everybody...”*

The longest running single event is the 23rd Annual All Colorado Juried Art Exhibit at the Depot Art Center and Gallery. I had to check the meaning of a “Juried Art Exhibit”. It is one where the

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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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The Littleton Examiner is an annual news magazine that publishes topics of interest to the people of Littleton, Colorado. It is distributed by direct mail to residents of Littleton and archived on our website, www.littletonexaminer.com.

PUBLICATION FEATURES

Alice in Littleton

Stories of Littleton by Alice, a local writer who loves our city.

Citizen Minutes

Minutes of city council meetings written by local citizens. Offers more detail about city council meetings than what city council themselves provide.

Letters to the Community

These are letters to you from your fellow Littletonites. Send your letter to letters@littletonexaminer.com.

Articles / Photos

Other items about Littleton.

Advertising

If you are interested in placing an ad in The Littleton Examiner, please email ads@littletonexaminer.com for rates and upcoming publication schedule.



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July 18, 2006
Subject: *2006 Budget plus various topics*

Regular Meeting of Littleton City Council..... 14-15 ▶▶
August 1, 2006
Subject: *Various Topics including the Budget*



www.LittletonExaminer.com

So that we can continue to bring you complete Citizen Minutes, feature more articles and information about Littleton and encourage your input we have added an interactive component to *The Littleton Examiner*.

When you see this symbol there is more content online. Each article printed in this issue is online and you can comment on it.

Join us in examining Littleton.

Kudos &

OTHER ITEMS

All too often focus is given to what is going wrong or what needs to be fixed. We want to share some things that are going right and give some credit to folks who are doing a great job. Please join us in celebrating Littleton - one little piece at a time.

Littleton Merchant Kudos

DentSmiths

I had an experience that is all too infrequent – I did business with a real craftsman who did all he promised and more.

I took my 1984 Jeep Cherokee (yes, 1984 – 22 years old) to the DentSmiths for paintless dent repair. The owner, Michael Smith, looked over the oldtimer (the jeep) carefully and quoted a fair price. I agreed to the work and told him that I was going to have it painted soon.

He told me that he believed that he could polish the car at least one more time and that I could have a paint job later. The price he offered was fair, so I agreed to that and left the car.

When I returned to pick up the Jeep, I could not believe my eyes. He had removed all the dents so well that no trace of them showed and had polished the car to perfection!

He did all that he said he would do and did it excellently in the most professional manner. I offered to pay more, but he refused the money and said just tell my friends. That is what I'm doing here.

Most of the people I deal with are honest straight-forward types and they deliver what they promise – DentSmiths delivered more. I cannot recommend them more highly.

His company is DentSmiths – Paintless Dent Repair & Auto Reconditioning. His shop is at 2115 West Chenango, Unit N, and his phone is 720-971-2143.

The shop is easy to get to but hard to find the first time. From the intersection of Santa Fe Drive and Belleview, go North on Santa Fe to the first turn to the West. Turn off Santa Fe just before the U-Haul Store. Go west to the first driveway past the U-Haul and turn right. DentSmiths is in unit N at the end of the building on the left.

If you need to remove small dents or to have your car detailed, go see them. It is best to call first as Michael does a lot of work out of the shop. If he can't help you, he can tell you who can.

By the way, Michael grew up in Littleton. I guess that we can safely say that a Littleton Boy does good! Thanks, Michael.

Jack Randall

Share Your Kudos

Next time you spot something cool around Littleton or have a great experience with a local merchant, please share your story with us. We want to know what you love about Littleton. We're pretty sure that we'll get so many that we won't be able to print them all. Send them to kudos@littletonexaminer.com or our post office box.

Cupola Cam

Take a live tour of historic downtown Littleton and the surrounding region via the Littleton City website. You can control the video camera pointing it at preset locations or just looking around.

If you have out-of-town relatives and want to give them a live wave on the webcam, just set the time, send them online while you go to the Official Cupola Cam Greeting Site. They will be able to grab the camera, point it at you while you wave. This might also be fun for kids at home to wave at their working parents over lunch.

Western Welcome Organizers & Volunteers

Thank you so much to everyone who works so hard to put on this awesome event. We love it and appreciate your efforts. THANK YOU!

Western Welcome - Enjoy continued

artists who originally exhibited in the 1st Exhibit, form the jury and a majority of them must approve the inclusion of any new artists.

On at least nine occasions, you can go specifically to eat. The first one is at Littleton City Center at 5:30 on opening day; the last is a Homecoming Luncheon at the Museum on Sunday the 20th. In addition to the specific dining occasions, food is offered by vendors almost all the time at almost every venue.

Twelve times you will have an opportunity to attend a music/dance performance.

Please see our list of events organized by category on pages 4-7. Enjoy! ☒

Art

Thursday, August 10, 2006

23rd All Colorado Juried Art Exhibit
Depot Art Center and Gallery
11:00 am

Friday, August 11, 2006

23rd All Colorado Juried Art Exhibit
Depot Art Center and Gallery
11:00 am

Saturday, August 12, 2006

Firehouse Quilts Outdoor Quilt Show
Denver Seminary
9:00 am

Littleton Summer Art Walk Series
Main St. and Nevada
10:00 am

23rd Art Show Reception and Awards
Historic Depot Art Center and Gallery
5:00 pm

Friday, August 18, 2006

4th Quilt Show "Made in America"
First Presbyterian Church of Littleton
4:00 pm

Saturday, August 19, 2006

Sculpture in Bega Park
Bega Park
8:00 am

18th Depot Art Center Bin Bonanza Art Sale
Depot Art Center and downtown Littleton
8:00 am

4th Quilt Show - Made in America
First Presbyterian Church of Littleton
8:30 am

47th WWW Arts & Crafts Festival
*Main and Prince Streets -
Historic downtown Littleton*
8:30 am

Animals

Saturday, August 12, 2006

11th Colorado Canine Challenge Frisbee
Disc Competition
Cornerstone Park
8:00 am

48th Horseshoe Rally
Cornerstone Park - South West Shelter
9:00 am

Children's Fishing Derby
*Geneva Lake Park -
West Crestline & Prince Street*
10:00 am

Sunday, August 13, 2006

Brad Bradford Rubber Ducky Race
Bowles Bridge at the S. Platte River
1:00 pm

Tuesday, August 15, 2006

9th Hawk Quest Night Out
South Platte Park Carson Nature Center
6:30 pm

Sunday, August 20, 2006

25th Annual WWW Horse & Pony Show
*Ketring Park - east end,
Off Sheperd and Lakeview*
8:30 am

11th Annual WWW Mayor's Cup Stick
Horse Class
Ketring Park -- east end
12:00 pm

Etc.

Saturday, August 12, 2006

3rd Littleton WWW Live Trivia
Tournament Platte River Bar and Grill
1:00 pm

Sunday, August 13, 2006

4th WWW Old Fashioned Cake Contest
Arapahoe Community College Cafeteria
7:30 am

Monday, August 14, 2006

Family TOGA Party!
*Buck Recreation Center
Littleton Blvd. and Powers Avenue*
6:00 pm

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

Family Film Festival Under the Stars -
SHOWING: Napoleon Dynamite
Aspen Grove parking lot - west of Champps
8:00 pm

Saturday, August 19, 2006

Saturday at the Elks Lodge
Littleton Elks Lodge
8:00 am

Reinke Brothers Haunted Mansion
Reinke Brothers Costume Shop
12:30 pm

Sunday, August 20, 2006

54th Annual Homecoming Luncheon
Littleton Historical Museum
10:00 am

Parades

Rumor has it that there may even be a parade or two...

Saturday, August 19, 2006

26th Annual Littleton Fire Fighter's Children's Parade
Main Street in Downtown Littleton, Main Street and Rio Grand
8:30 am

78th WWW Grand Parade - Embracing Volunteerism
Gallup Street and Littleton Blvd./Main Street to Rapp Street
10:00 am

Musical Performances

Thursday, August 10, 2006

Halau Hula Puanani' ohelohelo
Edwin A. Bemis Public Library Lawn
6:30 pm

Friday, August 11, 2006

17th Family Night - Concert in the Park & Fireworks
Sterne Park
6:00 pm

Sunday, August 13, 2006

Concert in the Gardens - The Nacho Men
The Hudson Gardens and Event Center
6:30 pm

Monday, August 14, 2006

Golden Eagle Brass Band • Music for a Summer Evening
Littleton United Methodist Church
7:30 pm

Tuesday, August 15, 2006

10th RiverPointe Swing Dance & Dean Bushnell Orchestra
RiverPointe Senior Living
6:00 pm

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

27th Carousel of Music
Littleton Center, Geneva Lake Park
5:00 pm

Thursday, August 17, 2006

Jeff Jenkins Jazz Quartet
Littleton United Methodist Church
7:00 pm

Colorado Fire Tribe
Edwin A. Bemis Public Library Lawn
8:00 pm

Friday, August 18, 2006

Toad Tavern - Live Country Music
Toad Tavern
7:00 pm

The Littleton Chorale ~ An Evening with Cole Porter
NEW LOCATION: South Suburban Christian Church
7:30 pm

Saturday, August 19, 2006

WWW Dance Stage — Festival Day
Colorado Business Bank parking lot
12:00 pm

Saturday, August 19, 2006

Best Legs In A Kilt Contest
Bagpipe & Dance Performance - Kerreen O'Connor
1:00 pm

10th Country Classic Barn Dance & BBQ
Pegasus Program
6:00 pm

Sunday, August 20, 2006

WWW Singers and Ringers
First Presbyterian Church of Littleton
1:00 pm

Concert in the Gardens - Air Supply
The Hudson Gardens and Event Center
7:00 pm

Shopping

Visit your favorite Littleton merchants anytime during Western Welcome Week in addition to these opportunities:

Thursday, August 10, 2006

6th Taste of WWW & Silent Auction
Littleton Center Courtyard City of Littleton
5:30 pm

Friday, August 11, 2006

Sidewalk Sale - *Southbridge Shopping Plaza*
10:00 am (Sidewalk sale goes through Sunday)

Saturday, August 12, 2006

Historic Downtown Littleton Farmers' Market
Nevada Street North of Main St. in Downtown Littleton
8:00 am

Saturday, August 19, 2006

Historic Downtown Littleton Farmers' Market
Nevada Street in Downtown Littleton
8:00 am

3rd Seniors' Choice Yard Sale
Seniors' Choice Adult Day Program
8:00 am

18th Depot Art Center Bin Bonanza Art Sale
Depot Art Center and downtown Littleton
8:00 am

47th WWWW Arts & Crafts Festival
Main and Prince streets in historic downtown Littleton
8:30 am

Action-Oriented

Saturday, August 12, 2006

12th Stampede for Open Space
Carson Nature Center South Platte Park
9:30 am

Children's Fishing Derby
Geneva Lake Park - W. Crestline & Prince Street
10:00 am

11th Gold Panning on the Platte
South Platte Park Carson Nature Center
10:00 am

3rd Grand Prix Skateboard Contest
Cornerstone Park (NW Corner) SE corner Belleview & Windermere
11:00 am

3rd WWW Moonlight Golf & BBQ
Littleton Golf & Tennis Club
6:30 pm

Sunday, August 13, 2006

WWW Kids Games of Old
Arapahoe Community College (ACC) - lawn
8:00 am

Brad Bradford Rubber Ducky Race
Bowles Bridge at the S. Platte River
1:00 pm

Tuesday, August 15, 2006

26th Annual WWW Golf Tournament
Lone Tree Golf Club
7:00 am

Saturday, August 19, 2006

8th Annual Mile High Soccerfest
Cornerstone Park & Cherry Knolls Park
8:00 am

Panther Sports Day at Western Welcome Week
Progress Park
1:00 pm

Sunday, August 20, 2006

8th Annual Mile High Soccerfest
Cornerstone Park
8:00 am

11th Annual WWW Mayor's Cup Stick Horse Race
Ketring Park -- east end
12:00 pm

✓ Checklist

WHAT TO BRING:

Of course remember to grab your sunscreen, lawn chairs and some bottled water, and be sure to bring the following:

Enthusiasm

Life is not all work and obligation, so when you get a chance to attend something fun like this, just enjoy it - enthusiastically.

Appetite

Many events have great food available. Come hungry and you'll be able to sample the fares.

Kids

Kids of all ages love Western Welcome Week. Bring yours. If you don't have kids or yours are grown, come as a kid yourself.

Patience

All events are carefully planned, but we all know that no plan survives the opening of the event, so attend with an appreciative mind and enjoy the happening - no matter what happens.

Curiosity

As you attend an event take notice of how many years it has been going on. Wonder what it must have been like in 1928 when Western Welcome began, what it would have been like during WWII or the 50s, and 60s. Notice how much has changed since you first started attending.

If you have fun stories about those days, please share them with us. (see page 4.) ☒



A New Wal-Mart in Littleton...

In the last issue of *The Littleton Examiner* we asked you to write in with your opinion about whether or not a new Wal-Mart should be allowed on Santa Fe in Littleton.

We are so excited by the number and quality of the responses. Thank you for sharing your opinion.

It is worthwhile to note that the single common theme in all the letters is that you love Littleton. (We do too!)

In this issue we're sharing two of the letters and highlighting the main points of each point of view. At our website you can view all the responses we received. Please take a few minutes to review them here www.littletonexaminer.com.

What You Think

Certainly the analysis of the letters we received was not a scientific poll, however the general trends are noteworthy.

The most common reason for not wanting the Wal-Mart in the proposed location on Santa Fe is how it will impact the wildlife and the natural feel of the area. 34% of all respondents mentioned this concern.

Interestingly 36% of those opposed cite that there are too many Wal-Marts nearby. Of those favoring the store, 56% want to shop at a Wal-Mart in Littleton. It seems that to those who want to shop at Wal-Mart choosing a store within 7 miles is not close enough for convenient shopping.

Also interesting is that while 21% of those opposed feel Wal-Mart is bad for Littleton and her economy, 44% of the supporters state the opposite - that it would be good for Littleton and the economy here.

Bottom line — there is still much discussion ahead on this issue.

YES

The three most mentioned reasons for wanting a new Wal-Mart in Littleton are:

1. Wal-Mart is a great place to shop.
2. The other Wal-Marts in town are not close enough for convenient shopping.
3. Wal-Mart is good for the economy of Littleton.

The consequences of fighting off Wal-Mart

by Glenn Kendall

I have lived in Littleton since 1999. As a minor I lived in Wheaton, Illinois, a lovely residential suburban community of Chicago. The good citizens of Wheaton were successful at keeping their community a residential community. They banded together and, for the most part, kept out industry, big office buildings, interstate type highways and big box stores.

What were the consequences? Today Wheaton is a lovely residential community with high taxes, clogged streets and consequently does not have the highest property values in the area.

The residents of Wheaton travel their clogged streets to neighboring communities to spend their hard earned dollars and give their sales tax revenues to their neighboring communities.

When I bought my first house, I bought in Carol Stream to the north of Wheaton because I saved about \$1,000 each year in property taxes. Naperville to the south has the high tech industry along the highway Wheaton kept out. Consequently property values are higher in Naperville than in Wheaton.

We can successfully band together and keep out non-residential development in Littleton like Lowes and Wal-Mart. However, we must be aware of the consequences.

1. We will have to pay higher property taxes.
2. Our children may not be able to afford to live in Littleton.
3. We will not necessarily have higher property values than our neighboring communities.

Continued on page 10

What do YOU say about it?

NO

The three most mentioned reasons for not wanting a new Wal-Mart in Littleton are:

1. Wildlife and environmental concerns at the proposed location site.
2. Too much traffic will be caused by this Wal-Mart.
3. There are already enough Wal-Marts in close proximity.

We don't want Wal-Mart here

by Linda Redding

The citizens of Littleton do not want a Wal-Mart next to the South Platte River corridor. Why? Wal-Mart's business ethics do not fit Littleton's community and the reasons many of us have chosen to live and raise families here. Wal-Mart has a history of driving out local business, building mega-stores within miles of each other (there are three other Wal-Marts within seven miles of the proposed site), closing stores within a few years of opening and leaving the spot vacant after enjoying local tax breaks, utilizing questionable product procurement practices and viewing the payment of environmental fines as simply a "cost of doing business." (Visit www.walmartwatch.org and www.stopwalmart.org for more information.) This is not the type of business that fits in our community.

A grass roots organization, Littleton Against Wal-Mart (LAW) is fighting to stop this proposed development.

We are a diverse group of concerned citizens who love Littleton's quality of life and community and have a deep appreciation for the city's South Platte Park.

City leaders and residents alike have worked hard to create our unique environment. The City of Littleton has long been concerned about and focused on preserving the natural tranquility of the South Platte River corridor. From the 1960s, when Littleton citizens and legislators caused Federal legislation to be passed initiating the creation of South Platte Park (a precedent-setting floodplain park), to the city's current support of the Mary Carter Greenway Trail, Littleton has an extensive history of preserving our distinct, hometown setting.

Is it now clear that the City of Littleton is thoroughly altering its vision of our community's future? Zoning at the proposed site – currently residential and suburban

Continued on page 10

What's Next

Wal-Mart will submit their rezoning request to the Department of Development.

A public meeting will be scheduled in front of the Planning Commission.

Watch our website (www.littletonexaminer.com) and The Littleton Independent's Legal Notices section for the date.

If you have input you wish to share on this issue, plan to attend the public meeting.

Wal-Mart: Greedy Villain or a Shopper's Best Friend?

This is an excellent article by 20/20's John Stossel and Penny Fleming of ABCNews about Wal-Mart. Well worth the time to read.

You can find it here:
<http://tinyurl.com/fygeo>

Wal-Mart in Littleton . . .

*What do YOU say about it?
continued*

YES

- 4. We will give our sales taxes to our neighbors.
- 5. Development will come but we may not benefit as much and crime and traffic will increase anyway.

I don't like stoplights any more than you do. But I would rather have a stoplight on Santa Fe that reduced our taxes by \$1.2 million dollars than a stoplight that was just a stoplight. Ask the city planning commission. Some day there will be another stoplight on Santa Fe.

Crime will go up if a Wal-Mart is built on Santa Fe. But crime will go up no matter what is built there. Vacant land always produces less crime than where people are living, working or shopping.

Traffic will increase no matter what is built on Santa Fe. But let's get the benefits of the development and not push those benefits to our neighbors.

My fellow citizens, let's think carefully about development and not categorically turn down development. How can we develop our area so that we can keep our tax dollars in Littleton? How can we develop so that we can still be a beautiful community and develop? How can we develop so that we can minimize the increase in crime that comes with development?

My suggestion is to let Wal-Mart build on Santa Fe but work to make it as beautiful and attractive as possible. If we don't like the Santa Fe location for Wal-Mart, suggest other locations but within Littleton.

Glenn Kendall

Letters to the Community

If you haven't already done so or if you wish to add to your original thoughts, please submit your Letters to the Community about Wal-Mart coming to Littleton on Santa Fe.

We will publish them on our website and possibly in future print issues if time and space allow.

Send to: walmart@littletonexaminer.com

NO

agriculture – would have to be changed drastically to allow Wal-Mart to build. This proposed plan does not meet the city's own South Platte River Corridor Development Design Objectives that were adopted by the Planning Commission in February of 2000: "The Planning Commission reached a consensus that this corridor, as one of the last developable areas in Littleton, must be developed in a highly sensitive manner. The proximity to the South Platte Park exemplifies this issue due to South Suburban Park and the Recreation District's desire to preserve the wildlife habitat."

A 24/7 business operation on the proposed site will radically disturb the serenity and beauty of South Platte Park and along the Greenway Trail. As residents of Littleton, are we ready to sit back and watch as the damaging impacts of around-the-clock operations (noise pollution, traffic congestion, light pollution, drainage issues, etc.) negatively affect our community's crown jewel, until it becomes unrecognizable as the natural oasis it once was?

And it's more than just Wal-Mart's harmful environmental impact that threatens our community. The City of Littleton has recently been emphasizing "economic gardening" (a concept which aims to develop locally-owned businesses who hire local residents) as a natural extension of our community's values into the economic sector. How does inviting a "big box" store to build on prime city property embrace local ownership and employment as emphasized by the city's initiatives?

We understand that the City of Littleton sees dollar signs when it looks at Wal-Mart. But at what cost to our community's future? There can be no guarantees with Wal-Mart. No assurance of increased revenue for the city, increased jobs for Littleton residents and increased commerce for local businesses. The only guarantee Wal-Mart will bring is that of decreasing Littleton's quality of life and an irreparable loss of the true spirit of our neighborhood. Preserve our Park – Preserve our Community.

Linda Redding
Littleton Against Wal-Mart



Citizen Minutes

Regular Council Meeting

July 18, 2006

Recorded by Carol Brzeczek

As always, the italicized portion of the minutes reflects our thoughts and explanations and not the words of any Council member. I may have the last names misspelled for two of the speakers from Southbridge – I apologize but I spelled them as I heard them.

Consent Agenda

1. Parking by permit only areas – to be heard on August 1, 2006. This will add several other areas where a permit is required to park. Currently there is only one such area in Littleton.
2. Closing of Main Street on September 9 for the “Get Wild in Littleton” night.
3. The Service Plan for the Promenade Metro District to be heard on August 15, 2006. This is for the Ensor property.

All three motions passed.

2006 Budget

This action transferred money in special revenue funds to the general fund so it could be spent.

There was a point of contention with the \$117,000.00 in the PEG fund. *(Comcast cable users fund the fund. Our bill shows a \$.49 per month charge. The money is to be used for Public Access, Education and Government Information - PEG.)*

When asked it was brought out that only \$54,000 was necessary to revamp the audio system in the Council chambers so they could produce DVDs of the meeting, provide a DVD to the company that does their streaming on the web site, and provide VHS tapes of the meetings to the library.

(The streaming of the meeting will allow anyone with access to the internet to select the meeting and the topic and watch the portion of the meeting that interests them without having to go through the entire meeting. We think this is a good idea.)

When asked what the other \$63,000 would be spent on, Kelli Narde said they might spend some in the police department updating the inadequate equipment in the interview rooms.

The staff think that the equipment for the police qualifies for the PEG money.

Clark asked if half of it was for the backroom (projection booth) and half for the police. Narde said she didn’t know where it is going. Jim Woods said the short answer is yes.

Marty Brzeczek suggested that Council just approve the expenditures that are currently needed and wait to approve the other money as needed.

Taylor said that the contract says it can be used for equipment not just the council room.

Clark asked if it was an increase in appropriations and not an increase in revenues. Woods said yes.

Cronenberger moved to transfer the money as requested. John Ostermiller seconded.

Clark offered an amendment – he wanted to transfer only the PEG money that was needed at this time. Tom Mulvey seconded.

Kast said she didn’t understand what he was doing with the money.

Clark explained that he liked a more formal format for approving the money other than through email, which is not so formal.

Taylor told Clark that the only reason for Clark’s amendment was that Clark did not trust the city administration and how they would spend the money.

The motion failed.

Clark and Mulvey - Aye

Kast, Ostermiller, Cronenberger and Taylor - Nay

The original motion passed on the same 4-2 split.

Business/Industry Affairs Advisory

The approval of the BIAC members was next for consideration. *(BIAC is the Business/Industry Affairs Advisory – they make annual recommendations to Council. In 2004 they recommended that Littleton pursue “big box” stores to be situated along the Santa Fe corridor.)* Kay Watson, Erik Wangsness and Lori Nevarez were up for appointment. Clark said he would not be voting in favor of this motion; not because of the candidates but because of the process used in making the determination of candidates.

Motion passed 5 to 1.

Council Reports

You can get the information from the City’s web site to read what they reported.

Clark mentioned a conversation with a citizen that has a hearing problem and did not attend Council meetings because of his difficulty. Clark thought the City had devices for the hearing impaired.

He was told that the equipment is available and Clark asked that it be placed out on the entry table for those who need to use them.

The topic turned to a short discussion about the lack of a working PA system in the community room. *(This room is next to the council chamber and is without a PA system.)*

Cronenberger said she had attended a meeting in the community room as part of the audience and she said it was very hard to hear what was being said. Someone said it looked like a PEG project.

(We agree – as Cronenberger said, it is terribly difficult to hear what is being said at the meetings in the community room.)

The Council holds their special meetings in the community room. During the special meetings the council discusses and hashes out their positions on different public issues. However, there are no substantial minutes of these meetings.

Continued on page 13

What are Citizen Minutes?

by Carol Brzececzk

The Citizen Minutes came about when my husband ran for Council. We encountered several citizens who were interested in what was going on at City Council but did not think they were getting good information.

We started writing our own minutes of meetings we attended and emailing them to all who requested. After the election, I continued.

Jack Randall, the Publisher of *The Littleton Examiner*, is one of the citizens on our email list. He asked me if he could print all or part of the minutes that we email and I said yes. To be clear - I am not a reporter for *The Littleton Examiner* nor am I paid for my minutes.

If anyone is interested in receiving our emails we would be happy to send them to you; just call - we are in the book.

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Notes About Reading Citizen Minutes

When reading Citizen Minutes, please note that *italicized type* reflects Carol's comments and are not actual minutes.

Due to space limitations we can rarely print Citizen Minutes in their entirety. When you see this ►► symbol at the end of a set of minutes it means there are more minutes available. Just go to www.littletonexaminer.com and select Citizen Minutes on the sidebar.

Also, please be sure to see the website address we will always provide that links to the available official minutes.

Be sure to stay current with City Council happenings by reading the articles and the Legal Notices printed in the *Littleton Independent*.

When you can, attend a City Council meeting. It will help to know the faces that go with the names and make reading the minutes easier. ☒

Regular Council Meeting, July 18, 2006 continued

Example: At the June 11, 2006 special meeting Council agreed, by consensus, to remodel the police holding cells and processing rooms at a cost of approximately \$400,000.

We agree that the remodel is badly needed but the only record of the decision states: "The unanimous Council consensus was to renovate the holding cells as generally described in Scenario VII of the city manager's presentation."

There was considerable time spent discussing other scenarios but that discussion is not included in the Council minutes.

Another example. The same meeting minutes state that the "council consensus was to proceed with referring a general de-Brucing question." This is another discussion on which considerable time was spent and the public has no idea if the consensus was 5-2 or 4-3 or 6-1 etc.

Furthermore, the public has no idea of how their particular council representative articulated his or her position. We believe this is information that should be contained in the official minutes.) ►►

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Citizen Minutes

Regular Council Meeting

August 1, 2006

Recorded by Carol Brzeczek

This most interesting discussion of the meeting occurred during the council members reports rather than agenda items scheduled. As always, the italicized portions represent my editorial comments.

NOTE: The Citizen Minutes covering the agenda items may be found at our website (www.littletonexaminer.com).

FYI for council members from Jim Woods: The Richardson's (aka Littleton Village or the Marathon property) filed a service plan last Friday and the public hearing may be as soon as August 15th.

It was noted by the city attorney that an executive session was needed and asked for a motion. After the motion passed Doug Clark asked if the executive session would be held during or after the regular meeting. Taylor said during.

(This is a change in council behavior and one of the issues that I have challenged them. The law allows them to meet in an executive session but their past practice has been to adjourn their meetings and then meet in an executive session. Because they are adjourned they have no right to meet in a executive session. I believe this is a very important aspect of the law that needs to be adhered to primarily because if there is any action required, as a result of their executive session, they are still convened in a meeting and can come back to the public session and take action.

Another reason I believe it is important, there is an actual record of time spent in an executive session whereas their current practice makes no mention of when they convened into an executive session or when they ended their executive session. The law requires them to come back to the public session and state, for the record, that their executive session discussions were limited to the subject matter and nothing else was discussed. .)

At the meeting on July 18th I addressed the Council and asked questions about their procedures that I did not believe were in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Here's a summary of what I said taken from the clerk's draft minutes of that same meeting.

"Ms Brzeczek had been observing Council conduct the public's business and had worked to get Council to follow the open meetings law. She said Council relied on the city attorney for understanding of the open meetings law. It was not a difficult law to read and commit to memory.

Ms. Brzeczek wanted to discuss what she saw as violations with regard to executive sessions. She said Council rarely held an executive session at a regular meeting.

The proper way to convene an executive session was to make a motion and the minutes should reflect the time Council convened the executive session and what time the regular session was reconvened. The record should reflect a signed statement from the chair attesting that any written minutes substantially reflected the substance of the discussion during the executive session.

She had never seen such a statement in the written minutes. Ms. Brzeczek said there should also be a signed statement from the attorney attesting that a portion of the executive session was not recorded because of attorney/client privilege. She asked why Council had not followed the laws of the open meetings law?"

Mayor Taylor told me, at the July 18th meeting, that I would receive a response to my questions. I had not received an answer so I addressed Council once more asking Taylor directly when I could I expect an answer. He did not respond with an answer but instead told me to continue.

Channel 8

The additional comments I made had to do with the PEG fee that they had approved to be spent on video equipment for the City Center. (PEG is an acronym that represents Public Access, Education, and Government Information.)

Reports

Jim Woods – Two issues on next week's agenda – The Southbridge Jamison Street Bridge and campaign finance issues.

Amy Conklin – Made a motion that the Council adopt the ground rules from CAC. Cronenberger seconded. Clark said they already had a study session and thought they were to revisit the subject. Cronenberger agreed that the discussion was never completed but she did not think it would hurt to adopt CAC's ground rules. Clark said he would prefer advance notice in order to have a proper discussion as to how they fit in with the Council's procedures. His understanding, from the last discussion of Council norms, was that Kast and Taylor were going to meet with Berkowitz and come back with recommendations. Taylor said that Clark was correct and that the work with Berkowitz was not yet finalized. Taylor thought adopting the CAC ground rules was "jumping the gun" and that he would prefer to address the subject in a study session and not act on the motion. Ostermiller agreed saying they needed to spend an hour or two in a study session and see how it ties into their rules and procedures. Conklin, with Cronenberger's approval, withdrew her motion.

Conklin gave the Council a "heads up" on a proposed ordinance she has been working on addressing environmentalism.

Conklin, who was absent when the South Bridge pool was talked about at the last regular meeting, thought it would be a "really good thing" if the City stepped in to mediate. She wanted to know what the City could do.

Woods told Council that there has been a rezoning application for the property. In the Council packets they should have found a history of the property that was put together by a citizen. The citizen did not make a specific request for the City. Woods had a concern that since there was an active rezoning application Council should not get involved. Conklin asked if the City had any responsibility?

Continued on page 15

Woods said if they go back to the 1977-78 minutes it is clear that the facility is a private facility. Four or five years ago So. Suburban looked at the property but it was too expensive. Since that time So. Suburban has closed two neighborhood pools and Woods doubts that So. Suburban would have any interest in the property under the current situation. Woods did not believe the City has a responsibility to step in. Clark's understanding is that community members were to be included on the Board and he wasn't certain that had happened.

Woods said the agreement was to have citizens on an advisory board and they were to provide advice on the operation of the facility.

Conklin continued to push support for the City's involvement with mediation and Taylor responded that they need to be careful in what they authorize staff to do. Ostermiller said this is a personal property rights matter and they can't encroach on anyone's personal property rights.

Cronenberger said that the zoning hearing needed to be productive and asked if mediation would make it "less of a train wreck?"

Kast asked how mediation on the Southbridge property would be any different than with Wal-Mart?

Conklin thought it was special case since it had gone on so long, there's good documentation and good will on both sides. She thought it would be an opportunity.

Kast said they needed to hear from Berkowitz saying to get involved would be different from what they have done before.

Cronenberger asked the staff, "What can be done to make the rezoning more productive? Think about it."

Brad Bailey, a City attorney, said given the nature of the beast they are not productive.

Pat Cronenberger – She has asked other council members to be prepared for the budget hearings by submitting budget questions and issues to Woods prior to the hearings. She had 4 questions.

1. How has Littleton fared without having an officer in the Metro Drug Task Force?

2. Budget needs for the Complan process?

3. Long range planning for the improvements of the Bemis house?

4. The Jamison Street Bridge budget needs?

Cronenberger also wanted to know when they would be discussing the ULI team report. (*ULI is the Urban Land Institute that was paid to "study" the land around the So. Platte River. The cost of the study was split between the City and DRCOG.*) Woods told her that he was "trying to sort that out" in light of the fact that there are active zoning applications on the same property. "How do we factor in and provide due process and fairness to those that are in the application process?"

Doug Clark – He has come to the conclusion that the only way to "fix" the response time to the Trail Mark community is to put a substation out there. He requested budget data for a 24/7 operation, asked for data that might indicate that there might be a shift that can be omitted from the schedule. He is just asking for medical services at the substation.

Woods will prepare information on a full and partial service sub station.

Clark asked about the PEG account. Because Kelli Narde had suggested, at the July 18th meeting, the PEG money might be spent for something other than what it had been collected Mulvey asked her to fax him a copy of the franchise agreement that provided the language to support such an expenditure. Clark had received a copy and he did not see anything in the contract language that gives the City the permission to purchase equipment for something outside the realm of the contract. He asked for the specific language to be pointed out to him. He said "we can't take a fee and transfer it into the general fund without converting it into a tax." He wanted to know how that was any different than the water fund.

Kast said the Council didn't do that – referring to allocating money for purposes other than equipment for cable services. (*Actually Council did. The motion on July 18th transferred the entire \$117,000 from the PEG fund to the general fund to*

expend on video equipment for the City Center – not just the Council Chambers.) She then said she did not get the fax of the contract language.

Clark told Kast that they did (*authorize money for purposes other than for cable equipment*) and that was part of the problem. The Council authorized the expenditure of the PEG money and it (the spending) doesn't come back to council.

Narde said she asked the attorney if the money could be used for any capital expenditure and the contract says that money can be spent at the city's discretion. She saw a need and if the money isn't spent in one year it has to be returned to the payees. The microphones and cameras are terrible in the police interview rooms but she is ready to "throw in the towel."

Woods said he would get the facts all Council members and that Narde can get the advice from the attorney and comeback and explain how it is different than the water fund.

Kast asked him to include what was spent, what is left and what are the future needs.

Tom Mulvey – His remarks were going to be about the PEG money but he will wait until the information that is forthcoming.

There was a brief discussion on a contract with Qwest. Narde is ready to sit down with Qwest and begin negotiations. A couple of council members were concerned that she was going into negotiations without having some direction from council. It was decided that Woods would distribute a memo to all members summarizing the 60-page document.

There was some discussion on Taylor's suggestion that the car dealers on South Broadway purchase the residences on the west side and put in a parking lot for their employees. The most significant idea that came from the discussion was that the sales tax revenue generated per square foot of dealerships is probably equivalent to Woodlawn's. Therefore, shouldn't the dealerships be included in the discussions for redevelopment

Council recessed into an executive session at 10:07. ▶▶

Snapshot Update on Littleton City Council

Police Facility

Apparently they approved spending \$400,000 to fix-up the holding cells rather than to do what the city manager termed a permanent solution.

Sewer Tap Fees for New Customers

No change. The city will still undercharge the developers and make all of us who have already paid for the existing system buy a new system for the developers.

City TV -- Channel 8

Littleton City Council took all the money (specifically earmarked *solely* for equipment for Channel 8) from the account that cable subscribers funded through a fee on their monthly cable bill. They allowed this even though the City staff said they would spend most of it for other uses besides what it is was set aside to do.

Trailmark Emergency Service

No solution yet for the homeowners facing the possibility of slow response for ambulances due to the distance from a fire station.

Comprehensive Plan (Complan) for Future Development of Littleton

Neither the Littleton City Council nor the Planning Commission observe the restrictions on the current Complan anyway, but by developing a new Complan they are working to allow more people, more traffic, more condos and more stores to give them more tax money to spend as they see fit.

When their chosen magic bullet approach is questioned, their response is something along the lines of "what other choices do we have?" Yet they are not open to hearing other options.

The Littleton Examiner will be examining the Proposed Comprehensive Plan for Littleton. Send us your comments about this issue to comp2030@littletonexaminer.com. As always, comments sent in may be published in print and/or on our website.

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