



Published by Denver City Councilman Charlie Brown

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Final Four

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# The E-mail Express



May/June 2011

## Round 1 Trims the Field

**D**enver voters face the real election for mayor June 7 after Tuesday's balloting left Chris Romer and Michael Hancock as the two top vote-getters. Council member Doug Linkhart, Denver Preschool Program head James Mejia, lawyer Theresa Spahn and four other candidates did not make the runoff. Council member Carol Boigon dropped out of the race earlier and endorsed Hancock.

Romer, a former state senator, banker and son of former Gov. Roy Romer, is new to city politics. Hancock is a veteran councilmember and formerly worked for the Denver Housing Authority, National Civic League and the Urban League.

The election means there will be five new members on the 13-member City Council, although the identity of three of those will be determined by runoffs.

*Here's a rundown of Tuesday's election:*

Debbie Ortega, a former City Council member, will be returning as an at-large member. She represented District 9 from 1987 to 2003, then served as executive director of the city's homeless commission and most recently has worked for the city Human Services department. Robin Kniech won election with the second-largest vote total. She's a program director and staff lawyer at Front Range Economic Strategy Center, a union-affiliated public policy organization.

There will be runoffs for three open council district seats.

In District 1 (far northwest Denver), Ken Padilla, a well-known Denver injury lawyer who has sued the city numerous times, will face off against Susan Shepherd, a small-business owner and former political director for the Denver Area Labor Federation.

In District 5 (central east Denver), former television reporter Steve Saunders and Mary Beth Susman, a former community college administrator, are in the runoff election.

The District 8 (downtown and City Park areas) race was cast into uncertainty when Councilwoman Carla Madison died after the ballot had been set. The race attracted 37 write-in candidates. The top two who emerged from Tuesday's election were Wil Alston, executive director of the Five Points Business District, and Albus Brooks, director of the Issachar Center for Urban Leadership, an outreach of Mile High Ministries.

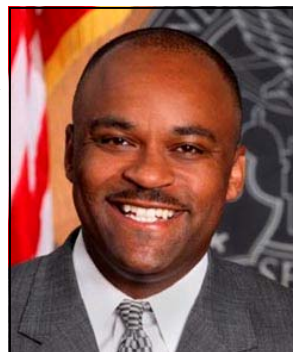
There was an outright winner in just one open council seat. Chris Herndon, a Walmart store manager, defeated Chris Martinez, a City Council aide, in District 11, Hancock's district in far northeast Denver.

Two council incumbents won reelection Tuesday. Jeanne Faatz was an easy victor in District 2 (far southwest), while Judy Montero handily beat two opponents in District 9 (north and west Denver).

Five members were unopposed, including: District 3 (west Denver) – Paul Lopez  
District 4 (far southeast) – Peggy Lehmann  
District 6 (south Denver) – Charlie Brown  
District 7 (south Denver) - Chris Nevitt  
District 10 (central Denver) - Jeanne Robb

But there will be a runoff for clerk and recorder between Sarah McCarthy, executive director of the Neighborhood Resource Center of Colorado, and Debra Johnson, current Aurora city clerk and District 6 resident.

The June 7 runoff also will be a mail ballot election, with ballots expected to be mailed about May 20.



Michael Hancock



Chris Romer

# Tomato Entitlement Days May 12-13

This year, we have 15 varieties of tomatoes available for your growing pleasure **Thursday, May 12, from 12 to 3 p.m. and Friday, May 13, from 2 to 5 p.m.** Please contact the office with your name, home address, phone number, and e-mail address to reserve a maximum of five plants. If you would like more than one variety, please bring extra containers with potting soil. Tips on growing will also be provided. Just a reminder—these are only for residents who reside in District 6 and recipients of the newsletter.

**BIG BEEF:** Beefsteak, huge globe-shaped fruits about 10-12 oz. each. This All-American winner has sweet flesh and a lot of juice—perfect for “BLT” sandwiches. Renee’s Garden, 75 days.

**BLACK KRIM:** An Heirloom from the Russian Black Sea, these tomatoes are slightly flattened, dark red and slightly maroon in color. Fantastic, intense, with slightly salty taste. 80 days.

**BRANDYWINE:** Dating back to the late 19th century, this is a gardener’s favorite heirloom by far; tender, pink-skinned that burst with quintessential rich tomato flavor. Fully mature can reach 1.5 pounds. Renee’s Garden, 80 days.



Black Krim

**CHIANTI ROSE:** Juicy, flavorful, and heavy in the hand, these beautiful, Beefsteak Heirlooms are thin-skinned with smooth, creamy flesh and a glowing rosy-red color. Renee’s Garden, 80 days.

**COSTOLUTO:** A favorite since the 19th century, this tomato is robust, tangy, deep-red lobed, and heavy with juice. A traditional Italian Heirloom favorite for fresh eating. One of the best tomatoes for making homemade tomato juice. Renee’s Garden, 80 days.

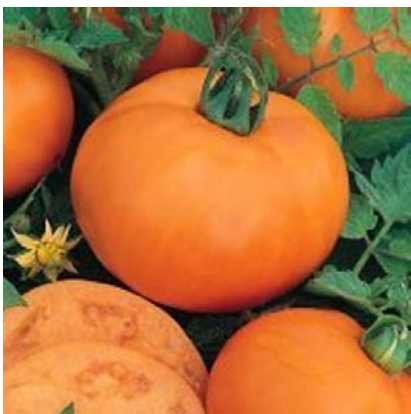
**EARLY HARVEST HYBRID:** 8-ounce deep red fruits that are bred for cool, short -season areas with just the right combination of sweetness and true tomato flavor. Burpee, 67 days.

**EARLY PICK HYBRID:** A fine flavor, gorgeous red color, delicious, meaty flesh, medium-sized weighing 5 to 6 oz. It’s great for slicing. Burpee, 62 days.

**GARDEN CANDY:** 3 different color cherry tomato (orange, bright yellow and rich red) that are the sweetest of all tomatoes. They are bite-sized, beautiful, and early bearing. Renee’s Garden, 65 days.



Garden Candy



Persimmon

**MARGLOBE:** A naturally disease-resistant Heirloom producing a heavy yield, typically 8 to 10 oz., but they can be larger. They are globe shaped, smooth, and bright red. Burpee, 73 days.

**MARTIAN GIANT:** Seen as early as the 16th century in Europe, a juicy, scarlet-red slicing tomato with a firm texture and sweet taste. Yields produce tomatoes 7 to 12 oz. Seeds of Change, 90 days.

**MARVEL STRIPE:** An Heirloom from Mexico that is rosy-red color marbled in gold with a smooth, sweet, and mild taste. Renee’s Garden, 80 days.

**PERSIMMON:** First grown by Thomas Jefferson in 1781, a big, meaty, globe-shaped Heirloom that ripens up to a beautiful glowing orange. They have a mild, sweet flavor and have few seeds. Renee’s Garden, 80 days.

**SUNGOLD ORANGE:** Rich-tasting, small, juicy cherry tomatoes borne with the sweetest tomato flavor and superb orange color. Renee’s Garden, 67 days.

**SUPER BUSH:** Perfect for growing in large pots, patio containers. A scrumptious hybrid that bear juicy, heavy fruits with full sweet tomato-y flavor, not bland or watery. Renee’s Garden, 75 days.

**YELLOW PEAR:** Clusters of miniature pear-shaped, yellow fruits that have a mild, sweet, delicious flavor with thin walls and tender skin. Considered by many as garden candy. Give them kids who don’t like tomatoes and see if they change their minds. Burpee, 70 days.

## A Gardener Traces His Roots

For many years, Denver City Councilman Charlie Brown has planted hundreds of tomato seeds and nurtured the plants to distribute free to residents at numerous neighborhood meetings and to friends in the spring. This year, he has 650 plants and 15 varieties. His love affair with gardening began decades ago . . .

**M**y first gardening memories can be traced back to my grandparents' small farm located 5 miles east of Durham, N.C. When we were about 10 years old, my mom would take my twin brother and me there to spend the weekend helping with farm chores. Saturday mornings started early. A rooster's cock-a-doodle-doo would send us dashing off to the hen house to gather fresh brown eggs for breakfast. That was the easy start of a long day working in the heat and humidity and the orange clay soils of North Carolina's piedmont region. We milked cows, fed the pigs and chickens, and tackled the dreaded task of hoeing and weeding.

I would do things that city folks have trouble understanding: wringing a chicken's neck for Sunday supper and watching it run around the barnyard with no head, and plowing long rows of dirt with a large, tail-swishing, smelly beast 6 feet in front of me who surprisingly respected my commands of "whoa, mule." I loved every minute of it, especially the gardening.



Big Boy Tomatoes

The Southern climate allowed for early planting and harvesting. It's hard for Denver gardeners to fathom that by late June we were already "bringing in" potatoes, broccoli, spinach, beets, onions, field peas, squash, butter beans, string beans, green peppers and, my favorite, juicy *Early Girl*, *Celebrity* and *Big Boy* tomatoes. Okra, turnip greens, cantaloupe, watermelon and *Silver Queen* corn would soon follow.

Most vegetables would be "put up" in canning jars or, later, a small Sears & Roebuck freezer. In traditional "Southern cooking" style, bacon or "fat back" was always added to the pressure cooker, which would steam for hours — leaving tasty but limp string beans with limited healthy nutrients.

As I look back on those days I realize just how much my grandparents taught me. My grandmother, Cleo Luquire, was an early naturalist who loved birds, wildlife and gardening. "Gardening teaches you patience," she said. She politely reminded us not to keep all the Bluegill fish we caught from the farm pond but return some for "another day" long before the concept of "catch and release." My grandfather, Eugene, was a hard task-master. If he discovered us leaning on our hoe to catch a quick break, he would shout like a master sergeant, "You have to hoe to the end of the row," a work ethic that's sometimes hard for youngsters to comprehend.

Thanks to the influence of my grandparents, I've planted a garden each spring for 30 years. It gets in your blood. It's just too bad we can't add three more weeks of summer to Denver's climate. Not being a fan of fried green tomatoes, it's frustrating after our first September frost to clean the garden and discover many green two-pounders. When it hails in Denver, everyone is concerned about their cars and roofs. But like all farmers, ranchers, and urban gardeners, our concern is about protecting and nurturing our crops through whatever Mother Nature has in store for us. As Cleo would say, "Mother Nature reminds us who's boss."

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Grandfather Eugene Luquire of Durham, N.C.



Grandmother Cleo Luquire and grandson

### What is an Heirloom tomato?

Heirloom tomato seeds have been passed down through several generations to ensure that the quality of the tomato is preserved. Each variety is genetically different but they are not disease

resistant. Heirlooms have also developed an adaptation to specific growing conditions and climates. They come in many different sizes, shapes, colors, and flavors.



# Airport Architecture



The recently updated **Jackson Hole Airport** is the only U.S. airport located within a national park. It establishes a rich dialogue between the interior and the world outside—mediating between the logistics of air travel and the sublime mountain landscape that awaits the traveler. The wood-framed glass walls open up the terminal to expansive east and west views of the Snake River Valley and the surrounding mountains.

*Photo courtesy design architect Gensler and photographer Matthew Millman*



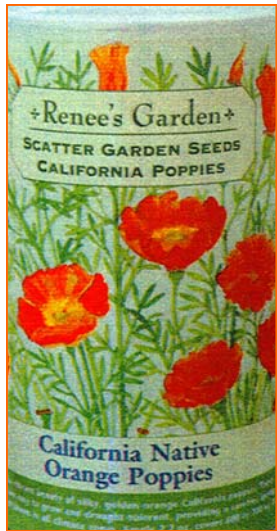
**Raleigh-Durham Airport Terminal 2**, by Curt Fentress of Fentress Architects, is the world's first major airport with a lenticular wood truss structure supporting the roof, creating a warm, inviting passenger experience and a sense of place unlike any other airport in the world. Long-span wooden roof trusses create column-free spaces that offer world-class efficiency and adaptability. Curt is a native of North Carolina and recently received the N.C. State's Distinguished Alumni Award 2010 for its College of Design.

## In Memory of Carla Madison

*Councilman Brown's wife, Suzanne wrote this article about late Councilwoman Carla Madison and the celebration of her life that took place on Saturday, April 23.*

**H**undreds of people — many wearing orange and some riding bicycles — descended on the Museum of Nature and Science on a recent Saturday afternoon to celebrate the life of a beloved family member, dear friend and respected colleague, Carla Madison. The city councilwoman, who would have celebrated her 55th birthday April 23, recently lost her long battle with cancer. But instead of mourning her loss, husband Paul Weiss wanted the gathering to honor Carla's full, rich life.

Politicians and artists, business leaders and entertainers talked about how Carla enriched their lives and the fabric of life in Denver. Before becoming involved in politics, Carla held such jobs as a cartographer, physical therapist and firefighter. Friends and colleagues talked about how Carla's smile had the power to make them feel special and that a simple encounter with her could make their day. Friends Lannie Garrett and Hazel Miller sang songs, and Cleo Parker Robinson and her troupe danced and led the assembled in a swaying birthday song.



Chris Nevitt, president of the City Council, talked about how she would be missed both as a respected member of council who worked hard on issues and policy, and as a friend. Earlier, Councilman Brown had given each member of council a canister of orange California poppy seeds from Renee's Garden to plant in her memory. He suggested on

Councilwoman Madison's birthday, they all clear a small space in the front or side yards at their homes and scatter about one-fourth of the orange poppy seeds, as a way to remember Carla. These poppies are California Native Orange Poppies. The canisters are re-sealable so they can be put in a cool, dark space to plant again next April 23 and for each of the four years of Carla's term.

"She lived out loud and was exotic and grounded at the same time," said Gov. John Hickenlooper, who served as mayor during most of Carla's time on City Council. Congresswoman Diana DeGette said she was impressed with the way Carla approached her job. When you're a woman in politics, she said, consultants show you pictures of how you're supposed to look and dress. Carla ignored all that and wore her signature red hair in a short and spiky style and was known for her flamboyant, colorful outfits. She rode around town on her orange scooter, attending multiple meetings and events in a single day.

Robinson said she didn't know for a long time that Carla was involved in politics. "She always cared and always listened," she said. The mostly joyful ceremony ended with Hazel Miller singing "Bridge Over Troubled Water," which brought many of the assembled to tears. Afterwards, people mingled on the plaza, where there was entertainment and tables loaded with food. Many stopped to look at a colorful chalk mural on the sidewalk that showed Madison's face, as well as a monkey and a butterfly.



## Denver Digs Trees Volunteers



In Washington Park, Colby Pash, Jill Grabill, Joey Busch, Sofia and Chris Chavez on Saturday, April 16 helped Denver Digs Trees. The organization works to preserve, enhance and advocate for Denver's parks, recreation resources, open space and urban forest.

## It's Awesome, Baby!



Dick Vitale, an ESPN basketball sportscaster, Councilman Brown and his wife, Suzanne at a recent surprise family tribute to magazine publisher Terry Vitale. Dick is Terry's brother.

*Photo by Debbie Crecelius*

# Tidbits and Outrages

## The center of attention

“Seriously?”

Donald Trump cover story  
**Bloomberg Businessweek**  
May 2-8, 2011

## Early start: application madness

“Kat (college counselor) had agreed to meet me for breakfast. She seemed slightly jittery. It turned out she had found herself in the same situation as her clients: She was trying to get her daughter into a prestigious school.

“We’ve got the application essay to worry about, and next week is the interview. There are tests to take, too,” she said. “So now you see what it feels like,” I said. “Exactly.” Well, not **exactly**. Kat’s daughter was nine months old. She was trying to get her into an exclusive day care in Manhattan.”

Andrew Ferguson  
**Crazy U-One Dad’s Crash Course in Getting His Kid into College.** (Simon & Schuster, \$25)

## No telling what you’ll find

“What is the most dangerous animal in Denver? Is it the fox, the coyotes or, Lord help us, the chicken? Nope. The most dangerous animal in Denver is the sacred cow. We need to scrub our city budget, line by line, and get rid of old programs we really don’t need and can’t afford.”

Councilman Brown on the city’s \$100 million budget shortfall

## How about a Ford truck?

“The same guys who once drove BMWs have now downsized to BMWs: Beached White Males.”

“Dead Suit Walking”  
**Newsweek** 4/25/11



## All men please leave the chamber

“Who the hell is for abortion? I don’t know anybody running around with a sign that says ‘Have an abortion, they’re wonderful.’ They’re hideous. But they are a deeply intimate and personal decision, and I don’t think men legislators should even vote on the issue.”

Former Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo)  
**MSNBC’s Hardball**



Donald Trump

## Contrast on jobs (last 3 years):

Texas +165,000  
California –1.2 million

“We came to learn why they would pick up their roots and move in order to grow their businesses. Why does Chief Executive magazine rate California the worst state for job and business growth and Texas the best state?”

California GOP Assemblyman Dan Logue

“And just as Texas business leaders were testifying about how the state’s tort reforms had improved job creation, word came of California’s latest priority: On April 14, the state passes a bill mandating that all public school children learn the history of disabled and gay Americans.”

“California Dreamin’ - of Jobs in Texas”

**Wall Street Journal** April 2011

A column by John Fund, who traveled with California lawmakers to Austin to hear from business leaders who left their state to set up shop in Texas.

## They were biting 50 years ago

“There is an age-old phenomenon that has recently acquired a name: ‘shifting baselines.’ This describes the natural tendency of each generation to accept the world they inhabit as normal, as the baseline against which change is to be measured. In terms of nature, this means that the character of wildness in our lives, once lost, is not missed—cannot be missed—by those who have never experienced it.”

Writers on the Range columnist Pepper Trail

“The way the West was can be seen again.”

**High Country News** 4/18/11

## You’ve got that right

“The income tax is based on the principle that the government owns everything, and they allow you to keep a certain percent.”

Ron Paul  
“The Founding Father”  
**Esquire** May 2011



Ron Paul

## Ask this question at checkout

“If I pay in cash, can you do better on the price?” New federal rules that took effect last fall make it legal for merchants to give discounts to people who slap down actual greenbacks. By doing so, you’re saving the merchant a credit card fee of as much as 3.5 per cent - so try to negotiate close to that amount off your purchase price.

“Smart Consuming” **Money Magazine** May 2011