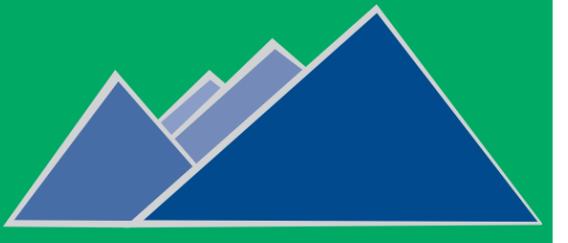


GLENDALE CHERRY CREEK CHRONICLE



From LoDo to the Dam

THE VOICE OF THE CHERRY CREEK VALLEY —

MAILED TO 82,501 HOMES AND BUSINESSES IN THE CHERRY CREEK VALLEY

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Trader Joe's Parking And Traffic Problems Mar Opening Lack Of City Planning Enrages Neighbors; Petition Drive Started

by Charles C. Bonniwell

The opening of *Trader Joe's* at East 8th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard on Valentine's Day was widely anticipated by neighbors and fans of the specialty grocer. A nearby church even put out a banner declaring "Welcome to the Neighborhood — *Trader Joe's*." But the mood has definitely soured due to what critics call an absence of any meaningful traffic planning or engineering by the city.

Shopper Peter Colussy declared, "It's an absolute zoo." Local resident Mary Martin said that, "On Saturday, we just sat in front of my window and watched the chaos." For Martin it took 15 minutes to just get out of her driveway. Other residents complained not only of the horrific parking but broken wine bottles and shopping carts left on the streets and on residents' lawns.

One resident described the area around *Trader Joe's* to be like the movie *Road Warrior*, while another individual told KDVR television, "Fighting, actual fighting in the streets over parking spaces. There were two ladies up here and there was yelling and horns were honking and, oh, it was a mess." Mary Tirrell who lives near *Trader Joe's*



No Parking: *Trader Joe's* at 8th and Colorado opened on February 14 and the traffic congestion and parking woes have continued for weeks. Critics charge that *Trader Joe's* has a corporate history of providing inadequate parking and leaving the resulting problems to the neighborhoods where the stores are located.



notes that in the very short time since the store has opened she has had her car side swiped three times.

While nearby businesses have enjoyed the increased foot traffic, many are taking draconian steps on the parking overflow. Julie Perlmutter was one of four persons who got her car towed after parking in the

U.S. Bank lot and going over to *Trader Joe's*. "There are tow trucks everywhere. The second you walk to *Trader Joe's* you're gone." Shoppers who have gotten their cars towed have to get transportation to the tow lot and pay \$280 to get their car back. Perlmutter succinctly noted, "It sucks!" Homeowners near *Trader Joe's* who have

their homes for sale are finding it difficult to find buyers. Mary Martin has taken her home off the market noting, "It doesn't look good for a potential buyer to come and see that this is not a quiet street anymore."

Critics are generally split on who is to blame for the mess that 8th and Colorado
Continued on page 28

Glendale Mayor Considers Gubernatorial Run Mike Dunafon Running On 'Liberty' Platform

by Mark Smiley

The mayor of Glendale, Mike Dunafon, is contemplating running for governor of Colorado as an independent candidate. Planning a possible candidacy that will emphasize the use of social media, he has set a goal 60,000 likes on Facebook by the time he turns 60 years of age on April 6. If he achieves this, he is throwing his hat in the ring. At press time, he has 25,000 likes on Facebook.

Dunafon has been traveling around the state speaking to groups and promoting what he calls his "liberty" agenda. He doesn't necessarily have anything against the other candidates. He just has a different approach.

Dunafon is libertarian leaning but is not easily pigeon-holed in the normal liberal/conservative continuum. He is a small government advocate who is pro-gay marri-

age, pro-gun, pro-choice and pro-marijuana. He was the only mayor in Colorado to come out in favor of Amendment 64, which legalized marijuana in Colorado, he officiated a gay wedding in 2013 at a small chapel in the town of Morrison, and helped lead the Magpul "Free Colorado" rally in Glendale that was held to protest upcoming gun restriction laws. The event was attended by over 5,000 people.

Political experts give Dunafon only a very small chance to win as an independent candidate not backed by either major party. The only person to become governor of the State of Colorado who was neither a Republican nor a Democrat was David "Bloody Bridles" Waite elected in 1893 in response to the devastating Silver Crash of 1893. He is best remembered for being instrumental in getting woman's suffrage passed in Colorado, but he last-

ed only two years in office.

Dunafon's possible candidacy has, however, attracted a great deal of early interest. Eli Stokels of *Fox 31* did a highly positive piece on television on his potential run and Dunafon has been featured on various radio programs. One political expert noted, "For those who would totally rule out any possibility of Dunafon being able to succeed I have two words for them — Jesse Ventura."

Ventura, a former Navy Seal and professional wrestler, won the governor's seat in Minnesota over future U.S. Senator Norm Coleman as the Republican candidate and political scion Hubert Humphrey III on the Democratic side. Ventura spent only \$250,000 on his campaign and was originally given no chance of winning.

Regarding campaign financing Dunafon
Continued on page 4



Governor Dunafon?: Mayor Mike Dunafon is the ninth mayor in Glendale history and would like to become the 43rd governor of Colorado. He wants 60,000 likes on Facebook before he runs.

Panhandling Goes Professional Realtor Sponsored Sign Attracts Attention From Motorists

by Mark Smiley

Panhandling in the Cherry Creek Valley used to be seen the old-fashioned way. A handwritten message on a cardboard box may have read: "Will Work for Food," "Anything Helps, God Bless," or even "Who am I kidding, I will use the money to get a drink." Now, the latest rage is to have these messages professionally printed, sponsored by local businesses, with the panhandler having work shifts. At the southwest corner of Mississippi and Colorado Boulevard, Phillip stands proud with a sign sponsored by a local realtor. He has been working this corner for over four years and now he is taking things to the next level.

RE/MAX real estate agent Joe Manzanares hired Phillip to hold a RE/MAX sign while he works the corner in lieu of his old cardboard handmade sign. He pays Phillip \$100 per week to work two hours in the morning and two more in the afternoon to stand with a RE/MAX sign and pass out business cards to motorists. Mr. Manzanares started this unique marketing effort after running out of gas at the corner of Speer and Federal Boulevard. Panhandler Chris Ruzac offered a helping hand and a push to the nearest gas station. After having driven by Chris many times, Manzanares came up with the idea to have Chris stand with a sign promoting his business as long as he was working the corner anyway. After a month of sponsoring Chris and an
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Professional Panhandling: Phillip has worked the corner of Mississippi and Colorado for four years. Now, he is sponsored and has a more professional approach to his panhandling.

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Glendale Mayor Considers Gubernatorial Run

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indicates that he is not accepting any campaign contributions. "Why vote for a candidate based on television or radio advertisements? My views on virtually any subject are posted on my website and I plan to meet voters either in person or by Twitter and the Internet. A smart phone is the greatest campaign and voter empowerment tool that has ever been invented. If I am elected I will not be beholden to any money interests."

Dunafon wants to cut the size of government and decrease the number of laws that average citizens are subject to. He points out that these are not just theoretical political positions he has taken. Glendale has been able to cut its work force in half and starting last year at every regularly scheduled council meeting at least one outdated or harmful law has been revoked.

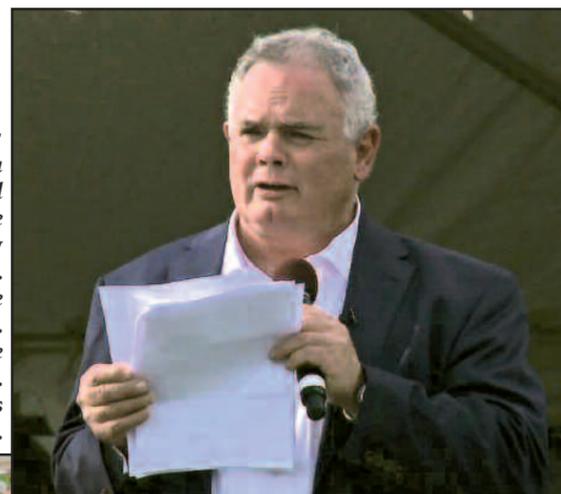
He notes, "Cutting back on government really isn't all that hard to do, but you really have to want to do it. Democrats never want to get rid of any government workers as they view them as people who will vote for them and never have seen a law they didn't like no matter how oppressive. Republicans say they want to cut the size of government, but when they get elected

they do little more than concentrate on implementing the worst sort of crony capitalism for their big money supporters."

Another issue that he promotes is decreasing the state's burgeoning prison population. "We incarcerate more people in the United States than any other country in the world on both gross numbers and percentage of the population. We have 5 percent of the world's population but 25 percent of the prison population. In states like California the prison guard union has become incredibly strong and fights any legislation that would effectively decrease the prison population and thus negatively affect the number of prison guards needed."

Colorado has 21,486 prisoners in the state system with 4,070 of them being drug offenders. Upon becoming governor he would seek to release virtually all non-violent drug offenders. He notes it costs the state \$26,000 a year to house an inmate. "Why not give them an ankle bracelet and a job and get them adding to society rather than costing us incredible sums of money. I would give employers a \$13,000 deduction for employing these inmates for up to five years. All we are doing to is to support a prison industry that is costly and destructive to lives. We could save a great

"Vatican Of Liberty":
Mayor Mike Dunafon addresses the crowd of 5,000 at the Magpul Rally at Infinity Park.
"Gatherings like these are celebrations of liberty. Commit to the challenge and stand for liberty. You are the hope of this nation," said Dunafon.



I Now Pronounce You...: Mike Dunafon officiates a gay wedding at a small chapel in Morrison. *Photo by Stevie Creclius*

deal of money and do something positive for people."

Dunafon points out that he once again is not simply talking about simple political talking points. He is a board member of Step 13, a local non-profit alcohol and drug program that puts former addicts and alcoholics back to work and receives no governmental funding. Dunafon has personally employed many Step 13 "clients" for projects. "They are very hard workers who are unbelievably grateful to get a second chance. Not all of them make it and some slip back but many do succeed and to think that it is preferable to have them rotting in jail or living on government assistance is both sad and pathetic."

He has repeatedly invited Governor Hickenlooper to tour the Step 13 facility to show him that it can work. His requests to date have been declined.

He notes that polls indicate that trust in government here in Colorado and across the country is at an all-time low. "Nothing is ever going to change if we just keep on electing the same old politicians whether Republican or Democrat who just regurgitate the same old tired ideas. I admit that I am not the standard cookie cutter candidate, but it is perhaps time to look for people that are not part of the political mainstream which has in many ways become more of a stagnant pool. I promise you I would stir things up and I think for the better."

You can view Dunafon's website and political platform at mikedunafon.com and visit his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MikeDunafon. If he gets another 35,000 likes he will be on the campaign trail until November promoting his different style of politics throughout Colorado.

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