



# LITTLETON REPORT

City of Littleton

February 2005

## Poll assesses police building vote and quality of life

Last November, Littleton voters turned down a proposed 2.4 mill property tax increase to build a new police facility. The city council wanted to know why it was rejected. At a study session January 18, Bob Tonsing, President of the Public Information Corporation, told the council that, "The number one reason the question failed is that more people believed the city had the money to pay for the building and didn't have to go to the ballot, than people who believed the property tax increase was the only way to fund it," Tonsing said. "It's pretty clear that the opponent argument that the city could pay for it without a tax increase was decisive in the election outcome," Tonsing added. The perception that the city has plenty of money in its reserves to pay for the new police building led the "against" votes at 11 percent.

Ninety-four percent of those who supported the question indicated the lack of a modern crime lab was either "very" or "somewhat important." Police department employees jammed into a small space was "very" or "somewhat important" to 93 percent of respondents.

Tonsing's firm was retained by the Littleton City Council to

conduct a poll of active registered voters from the November 2 general election. The primary purpose of the poll was to give the city council accurate information as to why voters turned down the ballot question. Voters rejected the question 55 to 45 percent. The poll also sought to examine community attitudes about the city and specific services the city provides.

409 citizens participated in the telephone poll conducted in mid-December. The poll has a confidence factor of plus or minus 4.5 percent.

Ninety-four percent of poll respondents believe the quality of life in Littleton is either "excellent" or "good." Participants were also asked to rank other services the city provides. Fire protection scored 4.49 on a scale of 1 to 5. "In more than a dozen of our Colorado surveys, the fire department always scored higher than their police cohorts," Tonsing said. "What the two protective services do on a daily basis is very different – truly an apples and oranges situation, but we consider any score above "4" to be more than satisfactory," he added.

The poll results are available in the city manager's office. Call 303-795-3720 for more information.



The ribbon cutting dedicating the new Littleton Historical Museum took place February 5. Pictured are, left to right: Mayor Pro Tem Ray Koernig, Mayor John Ostermiller, Council Member Pat Cronenberger, Council Member Tom Mulvey, Council Member Rebecca Kast, Council Member Amy Conklin, and Council Member Jim Taylor.

See story on page 3

## City attorney reaffirms water fund must be used for water projects

The results of the mid-December poll indicate that many voters believed the city had funds to pay for a new police building without raising property taxes. Some had suggested that the city council use the \$11 million water utilities fund to pay for a new police building.

The city maintained that the Littleton Water Fund, derived from water tap fees paid by homeowners since 1984, could be used only for water related projects. The fund was started two decades ago when the city believed that Denver Water would require it to pay for Littleton's share of the Two Forks Dam. After that project was mothballed, the city still believed that Denver Water would require it to participate in future, unidentified water

storage or delivery projects.

At a study session January 11, Ed Pokorney, director of planning for the Denver Water Board, told the city council Denver Water plans to provide water for all of the customers in its service area through the year 2050. It will finance the costs to develop new sources by passing increases on to customers.

In a memo to the city council, City Attorney Larry Berkowitz cited numerous Colorado legal cases in determining that, "fees collected by the city for service or utility purposes cannot be used for or to offset the costs of operation of general government or for construction of facilities not related to the fee." In other words, the water

fund cannot be used to construct a new police building.

The city council asked Berkowitz to look at legal issues involved in other possible uses of the water fund: borrowing from the fund to pay for the police building, paying for the city's water charges for municipal uses such as public buildings and irrigation, paying the cost of Denver Water increases it passes on to citizens, and others. In addition, the staff will also look at other water related uses for the fund such as drilling a well to provide a reliable source of water for Ketring Lake and acquiring or developing water rights to guarantee minimum stream flows in the South Platte River.

HOW CITY SERVICES RATED	Sliding scale: 5=excellent, 1=poor
Fire protection	4.49
Parks and open space	4.27
Museum exhibits and programs	4.24
Police protection	4.12
Preservation of historic buildings	4.06
Traffic enforcement	3.64
Code enforcement	3.49
Street maintenance	3.47
Downtown parking	3.10

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City of Littleton

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## Mayor Ostermiller's Message



This edition's cover story reports on the results of a poll the city recently commissioned indicating that 94 percent of respondents rate the city's quality of life as either "excellent" or "good." While you can't please all of the people all of the time, that's a number most mayors would be thrilled with.

But how do you define quality of life? It's not in the dictionary. There are probably as many opinions on what it means as there are citizens in Littleton. To me, quality of life speaks to the things that make me proud to tell people that I live and work in Littleton.

How we take care of each other immediately comes to mind. Our free transportation programs for the elderly and disabled, like Shopping Cart and Omnibus are unrivaled. The soon-to-be constructed Infant/Toddler Center at the Village will give our most vulnerable children a greater chance to be successful. Our programs to integrate Littleton's increasing immigrant population continue to grow. The remarkable volunteers of the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative remain committed to the cause of reducing youth violence and risky behavior.

The Buck Recreation Center, painstakingly designed with amenities for every age group opens in March. The new Littleton Historical Museum enriches our lives through the arts, culture and education. Our extensive network of parks, trails and open space exceeds the national average by ten times. South Platte Park is the second largest urban park in the United States at 650 acres, and Hudson Gardens is the largest botanical garden in the state. Our preservation efforts with Downtown Littleton property owners have resulted in one of the finest examples of a historic Main Street anywhere. Our top notch school system consistently ranks as one of the best school districts in the state. One of Colorado's most respected community colleges is right in our backyard. And we know how to have fun—the Candlelight Walk, Western Welcome Week, the Fourth of July Family Festival and Fireworks Show. I could go on and on.

I think we are an extremely well-rounded community. Many agencies offer programs, services and amenities that appeal to a variety of interests. However you define quality of life, I'm glad you've found it in Littleton.

Sincerely,

Mayor John K. Ostermiller



**The 7th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Celebration at Arapahoe Community College (ACC) took place January 17. Attendees learned the "inside" story of the history of MLK Day in Colorado from Terry Nelson, Special Collection and Community Resource Manager at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. Participants were challenged to consider this event as a reminder to serve others with the theme of "Remember, Celebrate, Act: A Day On... Not A Day Off." Sally Bessette was noted by Mayor Ostermiller as one of the Littleton housing activists of the 1960s who paved the way for all races to be welcomed in the city. Left to right—Dr. Bert Glandon, ACC president; Sally Bessette; Mayor John Ostermiller; Terry Nelson.**

## Aspen Grove and GM honored at recent city council meeting



City Manager Jim Woods told those in attendance at the Littleton City Council meeting of the tremendous contributions made by the Aspen Grove Lifestyle Center and General Manager Jill Kobe.

Aspen Grove provides free office space to the Littleton Police Department, sponsors Western Welcome Week, the *Littleton Calendar and Annual Report*, and the Littleton Police Trick-or-Treat Street. In addition, Aspen Grove donated 25 percent of gift certificate sales on December 11 to the Littleton Public Schools Foundation. Kobe was honored as a guest citizen December 21.

## Land use and budget focus of city council workshop



**This property, along with several others near the intersection of Santa Fe and Belleview, is being evaluated by private developers for future retail development. The city is under contract to sell a 13-acre parcel that was formerly the location of the old sewer treatment plant as part of the project.**

The 2005 Littleton City Council Workshop was held January 21 and 22 and focused on the economic viability of Littleton from a budget, land use and policy perspective. The workshop provided a dialog for city council and staff to address these issues both long and short term.

The city council and staff set out to establish a frame work to address related budget issues and land use decisions. The strategy is to stay competitive with surrounding communities and establish a parallel track to attract large format retail users while keeping a focus on the redevelopment of marginal

shopping centers and sustaining the basic elements of Littleton's economy.

Presentations from staff covered current and future economic trends in the region and locally. Council reviewed information on various revenue producers for Littleton and the associated trade area for Littleton businesses. It is important for the city to stay competitive with the surrounding communities of Highlands Ranch, Southern Jefferson County and the newly-formed city of Centennial. These communities influence our economy and our businesses.

The growth in revenue in the

Denver metro area is uneven. The communities experiencing growth in revenue have had some catalytic event such as a large retail development, as seen in Glendale with the opening of a Super Target, that has created new revenue to cushion the budget issues most cities are facing.

Littleton has been fortunate to have Aspen Grove Lifestyle Center open in 2002 and provide additional retail tax that has kept the city from experiencing a larger problem in 2003 and 2004. The city is concerned that with little available land suited for a large retail project, and new development occurring in other surrounding communities, revenues may decline.

Staff presented data on a number of potentially available properties that might be suitable for a large retail project, and marginal retail centers whose owners have expressed an interest in redevelopment.

City council and staff will have discussions in the next few months regarding various zoning and land use issues and will look at a process to involve the planning commission, the business/industry affairs advisory committee and the community in the discussions.

## WESTERN WELCOME WEEK

### Learning focus of 2005 WWW celebration



"Embrace the Spirit of Learning" is the parade theme for the 2005 Western Welcome Week (WWW) celebration. According to Parade Chair Mike Giesen, "One of our valued community partners is Arapahoe Community College. In celebration of their 40th anniversary we felt a theme to coincide with learning would be appropriate. Learning encompasses a broad spectrum that goes beyond formal education; trade schools, training programs, crafts, athletics, internships, etc. Every day in every walk of life we experience learning—let's embrace the spirit!"

WWW has grown to be one of the largest, annual community festivals in the area. Each year, the 11-day celebration has over 40 events, providing something for everyone. The 2005 festival will be August 11-21. Festival Day with the Grand Parade, arts and crafts, and all-day entertainment will be Saturday, August 20.

The WWW Board is an all-volunteer, year around "working" board. Heading up the board as president is Sue Hill, of Hartford Insurance; vice president, Jill Schneider of Community Shares of Colorado; treasurer, Mike Giesen of Citywide Banks; secretary, John Boeckman of Anheuser-Busch, Inc.; WWW chair, Nan Holzer; WWW chair-elect, Janelle Sullivan of Hot Pots. Other directors include Ken Coddington and Joan Facchinello, retirees of Littleton Public Schools; Dennis Frichtel of Kubat Equipment & Service Company; Debbie Kintzle of Vectra Bank Colorado; Shari Lawson of United Way; David Oppenheim of David Oppenheim & Associates PC; Gerry Place of OfficeScapes; and Mike Ward, of Kuni Lexus, Inc. Board liaisons include Tim Weaver of the City of Littleton; Jean Flynn of South Suburban Parks and Recreation; Cindy Murphy of Arapahoe Community College; and Littleton City Council Member Tom Mulvey. The WWW office staff is Cindy Hathaway, executive director and Pauline Flierl, executive assistant.

## New museum building dedicated

The new Littleton Historical Museum was formally dedicated February 5. The day kicked off with a ribbon cutting and tours. The museum's primary focus is to educate citizens, especially children, on the history of Littleton and the South Platte River Valley. Harold Closter, Director of the Smithsonian Affiliations Program, told the crowd about the array of Smithsonian programs that will be available to visitors.

Over the decades, the former single-family home was enlarged and renovated many times. In the late 1990s, city officials recognized that the aging structure was no longer suited to accommodate the museum's 100,000 annual visitors, 40,000 of which are children.

Surveys, community forums and focus groups were held with Littleton citizens and museum visitors to determine what services the museum should provide. Interactive exhibits, historical lectures, expanded galleries and a museum store were among the most highly desired features.

Groundbreaking on the new 32,000 square foot facility occurred October 13, 2003. The project involved demolishing the former 9,000 square-foot single-family home and constructing permanent exhibit space, children's and fine arts galleries, a changing exhibition gallery, a dedicated education wing for school groups with classrooms for workshops and museum programming, a lecture hall, a research center, and staff offices and workspaces. The rhyolite stone walls, considered the key element of the old structure, were retained and became an integral component of the new design. The construction cost was \$8.5 million and was completed on time and under budget.



In 2003, the Littleton Historical Museum became the first museum in Colorado accepted into the Smithsonian Institution's Affiliations Program. Museum visitors will have access to the world's finest collection of artifacts, cultural programs and expertise. The Littleton Historical Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums. There are 841 AAM accredited museums in the United States. The accreditation signifies that the museum is operating on all levels according to the highest and most current professional standards and practices. This young lady tries her hand at designing an edition of the *Littleton Independent* newspaper at the museum's Kids' Connection.



The swimming pool and lazy river at the Buck Recreation Center.



The babysitting room at the Buck Recreation Center.

## Buck Rec Center to celebrate grand opening in March

Admission will be free Saturday, March 26 at the Douglas H. Buck Community Recreation Center. South Suburban Parks and Recreation's newest \$11.65 million recreation facility, located at 2004 W. Powers Avenue, just north of the Littleton Municipal Courthouse, will host special grand opening activities between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. March 26. Enjoy live entertainment, crafts, food sampling, spring class showcase, giveaways and much more.

The four-acre site was purchased by the City of Littleton for \$1.2 million and is leased to South Suburban. South Suburban utilized \$11 million from a 2000 voter approved general obligation bond along with a \$1 million dona-

tion from the Douglas H. Buck family, hence the name of the facility. Additionally, very successful fundraising efforts by the South Suburban Community Partners resulted in almost \$80,000 applied to an upgraded, commercial-class kitchen that will serve reasonably priced, healthy lunches weekly.

Don't miss the free opportunity to visit this exciting new facility. Tour the center, swim, work out, enjoy the entertainment and take home some treats. Look for Douglas H. Buck Community Recreation Center classes and photos on the South Suburban web site at [www.sspr.org](http://www.sspr.org).



The gymnasium at the Buck Recreation Center.

## LITTLETON ECONOMIC NOTES

### Littleton business community teeming with activity

#### Littleton Businesses

- January marks the first anniversary of Bella Vita, a personal fitness studio at 5921 S. Middlefield Road.
- 1st Equity Partners Ltd., which provides residential and commercial mortgages, has located its office at 1800 W. Littleton Boulevard.
- Eclipse Microcomputer Systems, Inc. at 7201 S. Broadway, is celebrating its 15th year in business.
- Yoga Oasis opened January 10 at 6767 S. Broadway. Owner Jeanne Thornton, who is Kripalu certified, provides a variety of classes.
- Along with expansion of its offices, Seniors ETC, at 26 W. Dry Creek Circle, has expanded

its services to include an elder law attorney, a handyman, and in-home companions. The company will hold a free seminar in February. Call 720-529-1211 for dates and times.

#### New Development

- The Ware Malcomb Office Warehouse has submitted a final site plan for four office/warehouse buildings proposed to be constructed at Hilltop just north of Auto Trek and Grand Prix Motor Sports. Expected tenants are a residential glass installer, a thermostat regulation company, a waxing machine service/resale company, and two offices.
- Peakview Office Park submitted a final site plan to construct a 41,672 square foot office building at 1241 W. Mineral Avenue.

- A \$38 million expansion of Littleton Adventist Hospital will house 24 ICU and 32 medical/surgical beds as well as shell space for future growth.
- John Elway Chrysler/Jeep has submitted a conceptual plan to renovate the existing dealership at 5455 S. Broadway.



**Super Suppers, co-owned by Julie Jacob (left) and Nancy Snyder (right), is an entrée assembly program designed to save folks time in serving meals. They are located at 2540 W. Main Street.**

## what's new online

The complete 2005 budget for the City of Littleton is now available as a PDF document to download from the city's web site. Prepared by the finance department, it includes details from the general fund, special revenue funds, capital project funds, enterprise funds, internal service funds and TABOR enterprises. The PDF file is about 2 megabytes, and requires Adobe® Reader® version 6.0 or higher to view.

Also available online is the 2004 Annual Report. The Annual Report recounts the many projects and events the city participated in last year, including the South Santa Fe Safety Improvement Project, the opening of Littleton Fire Rescue Station 12, and the new library computer system.

Both of these items can be found by pointing your browser to the city's home page at [www.littletongov.org](http://www.littletongov.org) and looking under the "What's New" heading.

## Police and community come together to put project on wheels

On June 14, 2003 at approximately 2 a.m., two 15-year-old juveniles took one of their parent's cars for a joy ride. They were observed driving the wrong way (westbound) on W. Alamo Ave. by a Littleton Police officer who was going the opposite direction. Thinking it could possibly be a drunk driver, the officer turned around intending to stop the vehicle which by this time had raced northbound on S. Santa Fe Drive.

The patrol officer notified other units of the speeding, possibly drunk driver traveling north on Santa Fe. Responding units began checking the area along S. Santa Fe Drive when they came upon the vehicle at Rio Grande and Santa Fe. The



vehicle had made an unsuccessful attempt to turn onto southbound Rio Grande from northbound Santa Fe, and crashed into a cement abutment. The driver was dead at the scene and the passenger was critical. Neither was wearing a seatbelt. Scene investigation and skid marks revealed that the juvenile had attempted to make the turn at 80 mph, nearly double the speed limit on Santa Fe. The juvenile passenger told investigators later that he had told the driver prior to the crash, "You're going too fast to make the turn." And the driver responded, "Watch me."

Officer Eric Miller was contacted by the father of the juvenile who died, requesting to visit the scene. While doing so, the father told Officer Miller he had lost his family in an auto accident when he was young. He asked what could be done to make young people realize that life is so precious and not to risk it by driving foolishly. Officer Miller informed the father

of a program he was involved in while working for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office known as "Drive Smart Evergreen/Conifer." This program started after several juvenile drivers lost their lives or became critically injured from crashes due to poor driving. In this case, had the juveniles stopped, the worst that would have happened is they would have received a curfew ticket and had their parents called to come and

pick up them and the car. Officer Miller approached the Littleton Police Citizen's Academy Alumni Association (LPCAAA) about using the car involved in this fatality in a Drive Smart Crash Car program. Officer Miller searched for over a year for a trailer to tow the car. The owner of Bob's Towing, George Connolly, notified Mickey Kempf of Bradford Auto Body, that a trailer had been found in one of his impound yards and that he was going to donate it, but it needed some work.

Mickey Kempf contacted paint suppliers for paint donation. Officer Miller towed the trailer home and with the willing assistance of his children, disassembled it. A neighbor named Greg Poisson, who is a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Badge, offered the assistance of the Scouts and they sand blasted the trailer and performed other prep work. Michael Mackelburg of Bryant Tire donated new tires and wheels for the trailer. Members of the LPCAAA donated a

chrome storage box for the trailer. Banner and lettering was donated by Greg Reinke. The tarp and bungee tie downs were donated by Dick Valore of Valore Hardware. Carl Graber, of G&S Auto Parts donated electrical and lighting. At times there were so many community members wanting to help, there just wasn't enough work to go around.

The project was unveiled at Bob's Towing November 27, 2004, along with a BBQ for all those involved. The first showing of the project was December 2 for the LPCAAA. Littleton Mayor John Ostermiller requested the Crash Car be displayed for city council December 7, 2004.

Drive Smart was a community project of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and was later replaced by the Safe Communities Project. The Crash Car ties into that program. Littleton Police hope to display the vehicle at area high schools to bring awareness to juvenile drivers that driving beyond one's ability and disregarding highway laws can lead to deadly consequences. A seat-belt convincer and roll-over display are also in the works. All displays and assistance from the LPCAAA are available to other agencies.

Thanks to these donations, the cost to the city was \$0.

Item Donated	Cost if new
Car trailer	\$1600-2500
Paint/supplies	\$100-200
Wheels and tires	\$250-300
Banner/lettering	\$80-100
Floor lumber	\$100-200
Electrical	\$60-100
Tool box	\$100-250
Storage	\$80-150/day

Thanks to these donations, the cost to the city was \$0.



DARE students, their families and friends, gathered January 12 at Damon Runyon Elementary School for the graduation ceremony.

## DARE graduates local school children

January 12, 2005, 7 p.m.  
Damon Runyon Elementary  
5th Grade  
DARE Officer Ray Romero

### Ms. Barnes's Class

Sadie Bondarchuk, Natatia Cady, Charlotte Cunningham, Brendan Daly, Jules Eickmann, Stephanie Gravitz, Helen Heywood, Karlee Kormos, Kelsey Leffel, Zach Leins, Jay Merrill, Rile Merrill, Ryan Murray, Sarah Nies, Isaiah Noriega, Joseph Organ, Eric Schmalz, Katie Serniak, Zach Tinaglia, Miles Tripp, Andrew Walker, Erica Winter, Ellen Woods, Meghan Zimpel, Tanner Zitek, Chandler Zitzmann.

### Mr. Opsahl's Class

Doug Anderson, Andie Berthiaume, Joshua Bohney, Megan Braa, Kyle Calhoun, Logan Cross, Craig DeBow, Liz Edwards, Rachel Johnson, Emily Kennel, Shannon McCormick, Noel Mesplay, John Mulhern, Christian Nielsen, Brianne Palmer, Jenna Pinto, Megan Reetz, Dakota Sheets, Laura Sivestain, Shayla Steranko, Laura Uyeda, Kristen Wangsness, Isaac Witte, Megan Witters, Matthew Zitzmann.

### Ms. Goodrich's Class

Courtney Asher, Allie Berthiaume, Kaleb Brown, Nikki Cammans, Cassidy Christopher, Michael Fogg, Cortez Garcia, Erin Holsteen, Arianna Horvath, Kevin Jagger, Tyler McManus, Anna Miller, Marissa Narde, Alysha Pederson, Richard Perez, Taylor Quenzer, Adarius Rathburn, Rachel Salz, Starfire Santana, Kellen Smith, Drake Solomon, Connor Walton, Zach Witters, Kalynn Wobbema, Maddie Zitzmann.



### Ms. Fordham's Class

Sarah Benson, Ziven Chingburg, Kaylynn Coy, Conor Dillon, Ben Larned, Anish Punjabi, Kelli Searle, Tim Seek, Kimberly Stanish, Gabe Verges, Austin White.

January 14, 2005, 10 a.m.  
Walt Whitman Elementary  
5th Grade  
DARE Officer Ray Romero

### Ms. Williamson's Class

Dustin G. Beisel, Sara Benedict, Matthew Caran, Hannah Cole, Sam Courtney, Tomas Falomir, Jeff Fuchs, Alex Grand, Zach Jones, Nic Lowthian, Danielle Meyer, Colin Patterson, Thomas Reeves, Morgan Reinert, Ian Rice, Cammi Sample, Kris Thomsen, Samantha Ward.

### Ms. Paller's Class

Courtney Bonner, Derek Brendlinger, Collin Calhoun, Levi Carrillo, Dylan Davis, Rudi Duran, Jordan Geier, Hailee Heflin, Shayne Howard, Thaddeus Keefe, Connor Meade, Jose Pinedo, Raven Rodriguez-Degregio, Jared Roley, Zachary Shockey, Tyler Sutton, Jenna Wampler, Tyler Yeaman.

### Ms. Hyde's Class

Evan Ayervais, Drew Bello, John Bruno, Matthew Charles, Marina Flatow, Rachael Floyd, Joey Fuchs, Matthan Gruzinski, Lauren Huggins, Maria Hundley, David Kuhlman, Tyler Lange, Emily Lyon, Eric Moss, Shelly Patton, Sarah Price, Alek Puc, Cody Rains, Sarah Sidrow, Hunter Smith, Crystal Waring, Kailyn Wieszcholek, Stevie Williamson.

## NEWS FROM LITTLETON FIRE RESCUE



In 2004, Littleton Fire Rescue conducted 1,004 business inspections, 310 by the Fire Prevention Bureau and 694 by fire crews. Of those 1,004 inspections, there were 886 fire code violations noted, or 886 opportunities to keep Littleton businesses open for business.

Littleton Fire Rescue conducts construction, hazardous material and compliance inspections and business self inspections. The business self inspection is an opportunity for business owners to review their own property for hazards.

When confronted with fire code violations, some business owners state they don't need to worry about it, they have fire

insurance. What those owners are not considering is the cost of the fire, the cost of closure, the loss of customers, and the loss of employees who will not wait for the business to reopen. Nationally, 1 out of 10 businesses that experience a fire are not in business two years after.

Here is your opportunity to stay open for business. Take a look around your store. Look to see if the address numbers are facing the street and that the numbers are on a contrasting background. Is the exterior rear door of your business marked with the suite number or business name? Are all exit doors unlocked and openable from the inside without the use of keys? Are all exit signs properly lit? Are fire extinguishers mounted in an accessible location? Are fire extinguishers inspected and tagged annually? Do you have any

extension cords providing power through walls, ceilings, on the ground, or under a carpet? Are there cover plates on all electrical wall outlet switches and junction boxes? Is your furnace or water heater room free of chemicals and flammable materials? Are there any holes in the walls or ceilings that would allow for fire spread? Has the fire alarm or sprinkler system been inspected or tested annually? After you have conducted your self inspection, take a moment to review your insurance policies. Do you have business interruption insurance? Do you have renter's insurance if you lease?

Taking the time to self inspect your business will pay dividends. Littleton Fire Rescue is here to help owners stay open for business. Give us a call at 303-795-3800 and we can help.

## 2005 Tree Planting Program returns



The City of Littleton continues its annual tree planting program with 14 species of trees. All of the species offered for 2005 are listed as low or low-moderate water demand by Denver Water, except for the Linden. All newly planted trees require regular watering applied in all seasons for three to four years after planting. Once established, the trees require minimal supplemental watering.

The Tree Program is intended to encourage tree planting, species diversity and water conservation and is open to all property owners in the city. On Saturday, April 16, the city's Tree Committee will distribute 400 trees for planting throughout the city. Program participants pay \$20 or \$30 for bare root trees and \$40 for balled & burlapped trees. These are less than wholesale prices. These trees must be planted within the Littleton city limits.

Seven types of trees will be provided in bare root form requiring immediate planting. Bare root trees are light and easy to handle with very high survivability when properly planted. The remaining seven species of trees are balled & burlapped (B&B), with root

balls weighing 50 to 100 pounds each. These trees are heavier and a little more difficult to handle. All of the trees will initially be five to twelve feet in height, with initial trunk calipers and mature sizes as indicated on the order form. They may be planted in the public right-of-way or on private property in the city, with an initial limit of eight trees per single-family residential property. Additional trees may be available depending upon the response to the program. School PTO's, businesses and homeowners associations are encouraged to purchase larger quantities. Participants of all ages and backgrounds have successfully planted 2,590 trees in the previous eight years of the program.

Participants must make arrangements to pick up and plant their own trees and are responsible for all maintenance, pruning and watering. The trees must be picked up Saturday, April 16 between 8 a.m. and noon at the Littleton Center, 2255 West Berry Avenue. Master gardeners from the CSU Arapahoe County Extension office will be on site to answer plant questions and give out information. Detailed tree planting instructions will be provided. Volunteers will plant trees for those who are physically unable.



Kentucky Coffeetree



Horsechestnut

Tree Species/ Botanical Name	Size/ Price	Notes	Mature Height	Mature Spread	Fall Color
<b>Large Shade Trees</b>					
Cimmaron Green Ash <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Cimzamm'</i>	1-1½" bare root/ \$30	seedless, oval form	50-60'	25-30'	brick red/ orange
Glenleven Linden <i>Tilia cordata 'Glenleven'</i>	1-1½" bare root/ \$30	fragrant June flowers	40-45'	30-35'	yellow
Shademaster Honeylocust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i>	1-1½" bare root/ \$30	thornless, podless	40-50'	30-40'	bright yellow
Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	1-1½" Cal. B&B/ \$40	tolerant of clay soils	50-60'	40-50'	yellow/ brown
Kentucky Coffeetree <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	1-1½" Cal. B&B/ \$40	white flowers, seedpods	40-60'	30-40'	yellow/ brown
Purple Robe Black Locust <i>Robinia pseudoacacia 'Purple Robe'</i>	1-1½" Cal. B&B/ \$40	dark pink-rose flowers in June	35-40'	25-30'	yellow
Turkish Filbert <i>Corylus corluna</i>	1-1½" Cal. B&B/ \$40	edible ½" nuts in fall	35-40'	20-25'	yellow/ purple
Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	1-1½" Cal. B&B/ \$40	large white June flowers	50-60'	40-45'	yellow/ brown
<b>Small Ornamental Trees</b>					
Ginnala Maple/ Amur Maple <i>Acer ginnala</i>	1-1½" bare root/ \$20	red winged seeds in summer	15-20'	15-20'	red/orange
Hedge Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	1-1½" bare root/ \$30	oval shape, glossy leaves	20-30'	20-30'	yellow/ brown
Spring Snow Crabapple <i>Malus 'Spring Snow'</i>	1-1½" bare root/ \$20	white flowers in May, no fruit	20-25'	15-20'	yellow
Japanese Tree Lilac <i>Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk'</i>	1-1½" bare root/ \$20	white flowers	15-25'	15-20'	brown
Cleveland Select Pear <i>Pyrus calleryana 'Cleveland Select'</i>	1-1½" Cal. B&B/ \$40	white flowers, glossy leaves	25-35'	12-15'	purple/red
Downy Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea 'Robin Hill'</i>	1-1½" Cal. B&B/ \$40	pink/white flowers, red fruit	15-25'	12-15'	orange/red/ yellow

Tree descriptions and photographs are available on the city's web site at [www.littletongov.org](http://www.littletongov.org).

### 2005 TREE PROGRAM ORDER FORM

Name:	Home Phone:
	Work Phone:

Address:

	1st Tree	2nd Tree
First Choice		
Alternate Choice		

	3rd Tree	4th Tree
First Choice		
Alternate Choice		

Total # of trees ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ (Attach additional sheet if more than 4 ordered).

Send application and check to: **Tree Program/City of Littleton  
2255 West Berry Avenue  
Littleton, CO 80165**

Return by March 8, 2005

Enclose check and make payable to City of Littleton: \$20 or \$30 per bare root tree  
\$40 per B&B tree

- I can help pick up and deliver trees in my neighborhood on April 16.
- I can help plant trees for others.
- I am requesting help planting my tree(s).

Comments/suggested species for future programs: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Call 303-795-3766 with any questions.

### City to sponsor tree care workshop

The City is sponsoring a tree care workshop Saturday, February 26 from 10-11:30 a.m. in the community room at the Littleton Center, 2255 West Berry Avenue. There will be hands-on demonstrations of pruning young trees for form, evaluation of mature trees for hazards and defects, tree watering methods and proper mulching. The workshop is free and open to all. Call the city arborist at 303-795-3766 for more information.

## awards and recognition

### Bailey named top assistant city attorney



The Metro City Attorneys Association has selected Littleton Assistant City Attorney Brad Bailey as the Outstanding Assistant City Attorney for 2004. The award was presented at the association's December 15 meeting.

Bailey's nomination by Littleton City Attorney Larry Berkowitz cited his work as one of the drafters of the legal brief in the case of City of Littleton v. Z.J. Gifts, which was argued before the United States Supreme Court in early 2004. The justices upheld Littleton's adult entertainment establishment license, determining that Littleton's ordinance was constitutional. More recently, Bailey drafted an amicus brief on behalf of the International Municipal Lawyers Association and the National League of Cities on behalf of the Town of Castle Rock in a case that involves significant issues of municipal liability in the enforcement of civil court orders.

Bailey is a 1980 graduate of Colorado State University. He earned his juris doctorate from Gonzaga University in 1983.

Bailey began his career with the City of Littleton in 1999. His prior professional experience includes Clear Creek County Attorney from 1992-1999 and Longmont Assistant City Attorney from 1985-1992. Bailey clerked for the honorable William F. Dressel of the Larimer County District Court from 1983 to 1985.

### Cops recognized for NNO efforts



This year, the Littleton Police Department received special recognition for its participation in the 21st Annual National Night Out Program (NNO) from the National Association of Town Watch. In October of 2004, the Littleton Police Department was informed that Littleton had been selected as a national award winner for outstanding participation in the 21st Annual NNO crime, drug and violence prevention program. The department received the award on December 2, 2004, in recognition of extraordinary participation in the NNO 2004 campaign.

## South Platte reservoir to begin filling in 2007



Progress is being made on transforming the Kiewit Gravel Pit into a viable water storage reservoir, called the South Platte Reservoir. It is located north of C-470, west of South Platte Park, and east of Platte Canyon Road. The reservoir will be owned and operated by Centennial Water and Sanitation District, in concert with McLellan Reservoir, to meet the growing water demands of Highlands Ranch, a community of 75,000 people that will grow to approximately 90,000 to 95,000 when built out. When filled, the reservoir will cover 154 surface acres and have a capacity to hold over 6,000 acre-feet of water. The entire 212-acre property, including

the land around the reservoir, is in the City of Littleton and will be managed by South Suburban Parks and Recreation as a part of South Platte Park, with Centennial Water and Sanitation District managing the water storage facilities and operations. South Platte Park staff will patrol the area and assist in the land management responsibilities. Planning for the reservoir started in the mid-1990s and involved Centennial Water and Sanitation District, Rocky Mountain Consulting/Tetra Tech, the City of Littleton, South Suburban Parks and Recreation and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Three sources of water will fill the reservoir after it is completed

at the end of 2006. Filling the reservoir will begin some time in 2007 at a maximum rate of one foot per day, although actual filling will probably be slower due to water source supply limits.

Because the South Platte Reservoir will significantly fluctuate up and down, it is expected to provide only very limited recreational opportunities. Additionally, since it is a drinking water supply, it will be closed to fishing, swimming, boating and other general public use. However, provided there is enough water in the reservoir, access to the water itself may be available to the public through guided canoeing trips or instructional boating classes. Part of the south shore and the east shore will be available for wildlife observation and a viewing area will provide an overlook of the reservoir and the south end of South Platte Park. Handicap access may also be provided along the south shore. The entrance to the reservoir will be from Platte Canyon Road. Access to the park from C-470 will be closed.



**Mayor John Ostermiller and Bega Littleton Sister Cities President David Necker speak at the Australia Day celebration January 26 at Bega Park. The ceremony was especially significant as it marked the 50th anniversary of the partnership. In addition, the City of Littleton finalized the transaction with the State Board of Land Commissioners December 13 to purchase Bega Park for \$190,000. The 1.08 acre park will remain an important piece of open space in Downtown Littleton.**

## Handyman Program assists elderly and disabled

Just a reminder that the Handyman Program is here to assist the elderly, disabled and less fortunate with those pesky little tasks that might not warrant calling in professional help. Longtime Littleton residents Chuck and Ginny Fraser began the program in 2000. During the last five years, hundreds of citizens have benefited from the program. Available to City of Littleton residents who qualify, the Handyman Program is run by volunteers who have multiple skills in minor household repairs, such as leaky faucets and

toilets, hanging pictures, installing light bulbs, installing hand rails and minor furniture repair or assembly.

Contact Sue Payne, neighborhood resources coordinator at 303-795-3755, or Chuck Fraser at 303-794-9216 for further information.



## South Platte Park receives grant challenge

The Gates Family Foundation awarded a \$20,000 Challenge Grant towards the refurbishment of the Carson Nature Center in South Platte Park. However, the funds will only be made available if the full project budget of \$236,300 is raised before November 2005 and is matched to private funds raised. Previous grants and donations total \$186,000.

South Platte Park leveraged \$15,000 in capital funds provided by the City of Littleton and South Suburban Parks and Recreation that resulted in the award of a \$135,000 grant from Great Outdoors Colorado, combined with \$8,000 from Whiting Petroleum and another \$8,000 in individual donations. More grant applications

are being prepared and donations are welcome.

The enhancement project will help South Platte Park, which is owned by the City of Littleton, meet public school field trip needs. In March, construction will begin on an 800 square-foot classroom addition, converting office space into an orientation room, improving the habitat surrounding taxidermy mounts and the popular 200-gallon fish tanks, and making exhibits more kid-friendly.

Other improvements are replacement of failed roofing and remodel of public restrooms. New exhibits will also be added. For more information contact Skot Latona at 303-730-1022 ext. 14.



**More than 100 citizens, 50 percent of them foreign born, attended the "Involving New Americans" workshop at Bemis Library January 24. The Spring Institute coordinated three exercises: Discovering Our Strengths, Mapping Our Issues (above), and Dreaming Our Future. Participants representing every continent except Australia and Antarctica have committed to work on various subcommittees. They will meet again in the spring.**

# Fun and educational programs coming to Bemis Public Library

## Thermometers on Display

Stop by the library in February to see an exhibit of some of the most colorful and interesting thermometers from the collection of Ellin Hayes. Hayes has collected thermometers for 23 years and now owns over 1,500 that she displays throughout her home.

## Tax Forms Available

The library has all the forms you need to help you at income tax time. You can pick up basic federal and Colorado tax forms, and also photocopy any federal or state tax form or publication. A complete set of reproducible forms is available, and the staff can also show you how to access forms, including out-of-state forms, on the Internet.

## Tax Assistance

Beginning in February, the library will provide free tax return preparation for taxpayers who cannot afford professional assistance. IRS-trained volunteers will be available in the study rooms on the lower level on Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. and on Saturdays from noon-4 p.m. through April 9. Tax assistance will be provided in multiple languages. The City of Littleton is

also offering a telephone hotline that provides information in English and Spanish on all locations in the Littleton area where individuals can receive free tax preparation assistance. The hotline number is 303-734-8301.

## The Moons Of Jupiter: From Galileo to Galileo

Tour the moons of Jupiter with planetary scientist Robert Pappalardo, one of the world's leading experts on Jupiter's moons, February 22 at 7 p.m. From 1995 to 2003, the Galileo spacecraft returned spectacular close-up photos of these worlds of ice and stone, revealing their true nature: the crumbled countenance of Callisto, fault-torn terrains of Ganymede, bizarre freckles and doodles of Europa, and searing hot volcanoes of Io. Most incredibly, Europa's icy plains probably hide a global subsurface ocean, where microbial life could possibly exist. In 1610, Galileo's discovery of the four largest moons of Jupiter helped to bring about the Copernican Revolution. See how these moons which once revolutionized our sense of place in the universe may do so again.

## Colorado's Legendary Lovers

Hear about historic romantic scandals and haunting romances from author Rosemary Fetter March 9 at 7 p.m. Stories of famous couples from Colorado's past will include Baby Doe and Horace Tabor, Mollie Dorsey and Byron Sanford, Cort Thompson and Mattie Silks, and others. Copies of Fetter's new book, *Colorado's Legendary Lovers*, will be available for purchase.

## Travels in Morocco

Experience a photographic tour of exotic Morocco with world traveler Joe Wiggins April 6 at 7 p.m. Wiggins will take you on a grand adventure through Medieval cities, Roman ruins, Berber Kasbahs, and beautiful Islamic monuments. He will show you the wild landscapes of the High Atlas Mountains where he spent a week trekking and lodging with local Berber families.

## Great Sand Dunes National Park: Between Light and Shadow

On March 22 at 7 p.m., explore the beauty of the nation's newest national park with author and photographer John Weller. Each week for three years, Weller retreated into Colorado's Great Sand Dunes and photographed the dunes and surrounding wildlife in every season. Weller will talk about the history of the park as well as his own observations from journeying through the area. Copies of Weller's book, *The Great Sand Dunes National Park: Between Light and Shadow*, will be available for purchase.

## The Brave New World of Health Care With Governor Dick Lamm

On April 26 at 7 p.m., former Colorado Governor Dick Lamm will talk about the current state of the American healthcare system. Lamm is a nationally recognized expert on healthcare issues. Lamm is the author of *The Brave New World of Healthcare*, and copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing.

## Celebrate National Library Week

The library is joining libraries around the country to celebrate National Library Week from April 10-16. Stop by and write a paragraph



The Great Mosque, Casablanca, Morocco

about your favorite author or film to receive a free book of your choice at the reference desk. Children who write or draw a picture about a favorite book will receive a special prize.

## Computer Classes

Learn Internet Explorer: 9-10 a.m., March 12, and April 2.

*continued on page 8...*



## community profile

# Katherine Hartzler

Katherine Hartzler is a full-time mom, part-time assistant to a private investor, and lately, the full-time chair of the Littleton Historical Museum Board. The last couple of years have kept her and her fellow board members busy attending to many details associated with the planning, construction and move-in to the new museum building.

The Littleton Historical Museum Board is an advisory group with seven members appointed by the city council. Its mission is to review museum activities including review of the annual program plan, collection acquisitions, the master plan and the annual budget.

Hartzler likes change. "It's been very exciting to see the new building rise from the ground," she said. "As a Littleton homeowner, I think the museum and the new Buck Recreation Center will add greatly to our property values,"

she added.

Hartzler first sought appointment to a city board or commission in 1999. As the mother of two young children, she wanted to make sure more families visited the museum. "I wanted to bring a perspective to the board that included a variety of viewpoints," Hartzler said. "I consider myself a representative of the community so I spend a lot of time talking with friends and neighbors to find what they are looking for in our museum," she said.

Now that the museum is open, Hartzler and the board are focused on helping the museum recruit more volunteers. "More than 100,000 visitors each year are served by a staff of 13 full-time and seven part-time employees," Hartzler explained. "Volunteers are key to the museum's success."

About 25 long-time museum volunteers made the move to the new building. Meetings to enlist

new volunteers were held in November and January. A fresh group of 25 has been trained, but a base of 70 volunteers would be ideal. There are volunteer assignments for many interests such as gallery guides, sales associates in the museum store, gardeners, classroom educators and more.

Even with a career and two children, Katherine Hartzler has found time to volunteer as a member of the museum board. "I encourage anyone to volunteer who wants to make a difference in the community," Hartzler said.

The Museum Board meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. and meetings are open to the public. Margene Hamilton is the volunteer coordinator. She can be reached at 303-795-3950.



Katherine Hartzler and family: (left to right) daughter Lorna, son Warren, and husband, Rick.



## City offices closed February 21

The Littleton Center, Bemis Public Library, and the Littleton Historical Museum will be closed February 21 in recognition of Presidents' Day.

How to Search the Internet: 9-10 a.m., March 5, and April 6.  
 Managing Your Files and Folders: 9-noon, February 26.  
 Computers for the Complete Novice: 9 a.m.-noon, March 26.  
 Introduction to Word: 9 a.m.-noon April 16.

**Singles' Book Lovers Group**

All singles 18 and older are invited to come and meet others who love books and discussion! The group meets the third Saturday of the month from 9 to 11 a.m. Extra copies of the book selections will be available at the library three weeks in advance. The following titles will be discussed: February 19: *Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom, March 19: *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger, April 16: *Of Love and Other Demons* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.



**The Senior Book Group meets the first Monday of the month at 2 p.m. The book for discussion on March 7 will be *Forever* by Pete Hamill. For more information, contact Jan Knauer at the library, 303-795-3961.**

**Monday Evening Book Discussion Group**

The Bemis Evening Book Group meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. *Atonement* by Ian McEwan will be featured February 28, *A Gesture Life* by Change-Rae Lee March 21, and *City of Light* by Lauren Belfer April 18.

**English Conversation Sessions**

If you are learning to speak English, come to the library Friday mornings from 9-10:30 a.m. to practice your English in an informal group. No registration is required. For additional information, call Phyllis Larison at 303-795-3961.

**English as a Second Language Classes**

Beginning English classes are held from 9-10:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday, and 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Intermediate English classes from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, and 7-8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. These classes are open to teens age 16 and over and adults who want to learn English or improve their English. There is a registration fee of \$20 for adults 21 and older. You may register at the library's main floor reference desk. For more information, call Phyllis Larison at 303-795-3961, or Patsy Jaynes at 303-347-3448.

**Explore Mount Vernon with George Washington**

Bud Jenkyns will give a tour of Mount Vernon as the retired General George Washington February 28 at 2 p.m. In its heyday, Mount Vernon had 8,000 acres and five working farms, and was nearly a self-sustaining community. Washington lived there for 45 years.

**Just for the Fun of it!**

On March 28 at 2 p.m., listen to funny stories, tall tales, and yarns from one of Colorado's most entertaining performers, Bett Kopit. Her stories will amuse and warm you, so be ready for a rollicking good time.

**TEEN PROGRAMS Teen Game Group**

Join us the first and third Thursdays of the month, March 3 and 17 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. to play games and hang out with other teens.

**Teen Advisory Team**

The Teen Advisory Team, open to grades 6-12, makes suggestions to the library on programs and services offered to teens, and meets the fourth Thursday of the month (February 24 and March 24) from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS Black History Month**

Listen to the beating drums of Swallow Hill musicians Ed Contreras and Chad Johnson as they present "Istari Global Percussion," the story of how Africa shaped American music. This is a free family program, geared to children three years old and up, February 19 at 3 p.m. Children under seven must attend with an adult.

**Read Across America**

*Oh, the magical places you'll go, When you read Dr. Seuss There is always a show!*

Celebrate Dr. Seuss' 101st birthday! On March 3 at 7 p.m., we'll have readings, games, crafts, cake, and lots of fun books. This is a family program for all ages, and children under seven must attend with an adult. Space is limited, please come early.

**Spring Break: Destination Imagination!**

A week of free activities for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade, to keep busy during spring break from March 28 through April 2.

March 28—Imagine faerie dust, the Wizard's Sneeze, and a magical quest. A puppet show and more! For grades K-5.

March 29—Imagine yourself in a picture! Drawing and painting for grades 3-5.

March 30—Imagine soaring! The Raptor Education Foundation will bring majestic, winged ambassadors of nature. For grades K-5.

March 31—Imagine a...! Crafts and stories. For grades K-2.

April 2—Imagine a taekwondo demonstration! Students from Eagle Spirit Academy of Taekwondo, including the Lil' Dragons, will introduce the audience to this ancient form of self defense. For all ages; those under seven must attend with an adult.

**Kid's Book Club**

A book club for independent chapter book readers. Read one or more of the books on the reading list and then join us for snacks, discussion, and other book related activities. Visit the children's room to register and to pick up next month's book list.

**Paws To Read**

A program in cooperation with R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) and Denver Pet Partners for children in grades 1-5 to practice reading with a very special doggie pal. Space is limited, so call to register for a 20-minute spot February 19 or March 19 between 10 a.m. and noon. Call the library at 303-795-3960 for more information.



**Teens interested in helping to create and maintain a website about teen topics, call Jan Knauer at 303-795-3961.**

**Bouncing Babies**

A program for caregivers with infants to 12 months old to introduce books, songs, and social time. No registration required.

**Story Box**

Thirty minutes of rhythm, rhyme, and reading for children ages birth to three accompanied by adult. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Space limited, free tickets available one week in advance.

**Preschool Story Time**

Thirty minutes of activities for children three years old through kindergarten on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. No registration required. A puppet show is held the first week of the month.

**Night Tales**

A 30-minute program for families to share stories, games, and crafts Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Activities are geared to children ages three and over.

**Dial-a-story**

You can listen to a short story anytime by calling 303-795-3960.

# Littleton City Council



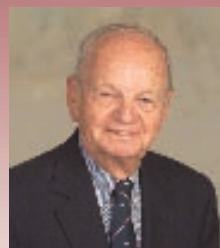
**Amy Conklin**  
303-795-5925  
At Large



**Pat Cronenberger**  
303-798-4708  
District II



**Rebecca Kast**  
303-730-2639  
District IV



**Ray Koernig**  
**Mayor Pro Tem**  
303-798-0464  
District III



**Tom Mulvey**  
303-730-7369  
At Large



**John Ostermiller**  
**Mayor**  
303-798-9665  
At Large



**Jim Taylor**  
303-795-6161  
District I

## City Council Accommodations

The public is invited to attend all regular meetings or study sessions of the Littleton City Council or any city board, commission or public program.

Please call 303-795-3857 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or program if you will need special assistance or any reasonable accommodation in order to be in attendance at or participate in any such meeting or program.

For any additional information concerning the city's compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, please call 303-795-3857.

Additional city government information can now be accessed via the Internet at [www.littletongov.org](http://www.littletongov.org).

## Littleton Report credits

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City Manager

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Director of Communications

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