



From LoDo to the Dam

THE FEARLESS VOICE OF THE CHERRY CREEK VALLEY —

MAILED TO HOMES AND BUSINESSES IN THE CHERRY CREEK VALLEY AND NORTHEAST DENVER

Volume 29, Issue 4

April 2024

Migrants Overwhelming Mile High City And Mayor

Mayor Cuts Service, Hours At Parks & Recreation, DMV, Plans More; The Mayor, City Are Prioritizing Migrants Over Them



Destitute In Denver: Denver's homeless population, or people without housing, grew 32% in the 12-month period at the end of 2023.

by Glen Richardson

Given the callous title of “coldhearted” after refusing to ban homeless camp sweeps in cold temperatures, merciless Denver Mayor Mike Johnston is winning a new title, “cutthroat.”

With 40,000 migrants — almost 5% of the city's entire population — having arrived here from Venezuela and other places in the world in the last 12 months, Johnston has announced enormous cuts to city services, hours due to the burden of migrants, and its stress on city resources. Furthermore, he warns. “This is the first phase of cuts and the city aims for reductions across many departments.”

Homeless Growth

The migrant burden, of course, is on top of the more than 4,000 homeless people either sleeping on city streets or in shelters. Denver now ranks as having the nation's fifth-largest homeless population.

Moreover, Denver ranks third nationally in the increase of homelessness in a single year. Sadder still, the Mile High City ranks second in the country with the largest upsurge — at 116% — in the number of



Drab Denver Deed: Mayor's decision not to plant the city's annual flower beds — roughly 545 citywide — is about to turn the Mile High City drab, including at Wash Park.

homeless families with children.

Adding it up: The homeless population grew 32% in the 12-month period at the end of 2023. At least 311 homeless people died in Denver last year, more than any other year.

Fading Flower Beds

Due to the city's surging migrant burden, Johnston is initially reducing hours and services at *Denver Parks & Recreation* and

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City's Public Golf Courses Are At A Perilous Crossroads

Audit Finds City's Public Courses Still Aren't Up To Par; Parks & Recreation Cutbacks Increase Chances For Closures

by Glen Richardson

Denver's public golf courses' distinctive locations — particularly the *Wellshire Golf Course* on S. Colorado Blvd. and the *Kennedy Golf Course* on E. Hampden Ave. — have made the Mile High City an all-seasons, outdoor-lover's playground, and golf one of the city's best ways to enjoy the outdoors.

In recent years, however, *Denver Parks & Recreation* — that runs the local courses — has become the number one enemy of the Valley's local players, always a putt short of doing their job. Denver Auditor Timothy M. O'Brien, CPA, who has tried to caddie the staff managing local courses, again reports Denver's public courses aren't up to par.

Declining to improve customer experience for golfers, instead simply manipulating amenities and services to an ever-de-



Challenging Course: Kennedy Golf Course offers terrific views and challenging play at every skill level. Fairways and greens are difficult yet friendly.

clining revenue stream, is threatening to spiral local courses out of solvency.

Ignoring Action Plan

This year O'Brien's approach shot has never been stronger: “I remain concerned about the future of city golf courses,” Auditor O'Brien declares.

To provide a better customer experience for golfers, *Denver Golf* — what O'Brien terms the Park & Rec group managing public courses — “should improve customer service, maximize revenue, update strategy documentation, improve its capital planning and financial monitoring.”

O'Brien says he is disappointed Denver Golf has chosen to disagree with strategy and action plan recommendations that would increase transparency, hold the Denver Golf enterprise more accountable to the

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Infinity Park Offers Something For Everyone

by Laura Loeff

Since opening its gates in 2007, *Infinity Park* has welcomed tens of thousands of visitors. The first and only municipally-owned rugby-specific stadium in the United States, *Infinity Park* spans 16 acres (including an eight-acre green open space), features a state-of-the-art gym, a full-sized outdoor training pitch, and a stadium with a seating capacity of 4,000. It is also home to a recreation center and an event center, as well as the *American Raptors* rugby team.

Located in the heart of Glendale, *Infinity Park* was built on a bold vision to center the future of the city around the growing sport of rugby. Featuring a multi-purpose indoor/outdoor sports complex, *Infinity Park* has earned the designation of *RugbyTown USA*. Along with serving as the *American Raptors*' headquarters, *Infinity Park* has hosted several different international men's and women's rugby matches including the 2008 *North America 4*, the 2009 and 2010 *Churchill Cups*, the 2009 *Americas Rugby Championship*, the 2019 *Pacific Nations Cup*, and all three 2023 *Rugby World Cup Qualifiers* for the United States men's

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Home Team Support: *Infinity Park* has become a destination that people of all ages look forward to visiting as they enjoy cheering on their home team.

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Local Destination: With a seating capacity of 4,000, Infinity Park continues to draw large crowds for all types of events.



Social Spot: Spending a spring afternoon outside socializing with friends has become part of the park's legacy.

Infinity Park Offers Something For Everyone

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national rugby team. The venue was also the United States stop on the 2018-2019 *World Rugby Women's Sevens Series* and is home to the annual *RugbyTown 7s* tournament.

Local Destination

Beyond rugby, Infinity Park has become a destination that people of all ages look forward to visiting. "We see families, groups of friends, rugby fans, and community members who want to spend time outside and cheer on their home team on a beautiful weekend afternoon," says Glendale City Manager Chuck Line. "Watching Infinity Park become the heart of our city has been very rewarding."

Another aspect that sets Infinity Park apart is the local feel it brings to hosted events and provides for the community. Because of the park's expansive space and Glendale's welcoming mindset, local recreational leagues, youth leagues, and residents always have a place to practice and compete, gather and interact, or simply hang out.

"Infinity Park serves as an entertainment anchor for Glendale and offers the community and beyond the opportunity to enjoy sporting events, movies, and music," says Director of Infinity Park Operations, Kieran

Nelson. "Also, since its inception, the park has garnered a reputation among the international rugby community as a world-class venue, and we could not be prouder to have earned that distinction."

In addition to the family-friendly environment and welcoming staff, spending time at Infinity Park is affordable as adult tickets for rugby games are \$10 and admission for kids 12 and under is free. This spring, Glendale residents are looking forward to watching their home team return from South America to play in the professional *SRA league*.

Upcoming games will feature the following theme days:

April 7

For **Military Appreciation Day**, Glendale will show gratitude to our armed forces by offering camo koozies at the gate and opportunities to engage with various on-site military branches. Additionally, fans can nominate a hero to be honored during the match, making it a day to celebrate and recognize our military heroes.

April 14

In recognition of **Mental Health Awareness Day**, Infinity Park is partnering with Howzit — a mental health awareness brand founded by former rugby players — by of-

fering a gate giveaway of stress balls. Engage with representatives from *All Health Network*, the *Glendale Police Department*, and *Canine Partners of the Rockies*, as Glendale promotes mental well-being and support within the community.

April 21

Celebrate **Colorado Day** at Infinity Park with exciting promotions including a complimentary American Raptors Colorado keychain, opportunities to interact with mascots from local college and sports teams, and delicious Colorado-themed food from our on-site food trucks, among other festivities.

April 28

For **Autism Awareness Day**, *Firefly Autism* will provide valuable resources and information at Infinity Park. Receive a complimentary fidget spinner at the gate, and meet the adorable service dogs in training from *Canine Partners of the Rockies*. There will

also be a quiet room for those needing a sensory break. Additionally, thanks to *KultureCity*, sensory bags will be available at all Infinity Park events, ensuring inclusivity and support for individuals with sensory sensitivities.

More events happening this summer include:

May 11: 2024 High School Boys and Girls Rugby Championships

June 10: Movie Night — Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

June 24: Movie Night — The Marvels

July 2: Glendale Fireworks

July 8: Movie Night — Trolls Band Together

July 22: Movie Night — Barbie

August 23-25: RugbyTown 7s

For more information, or to view the Raptors' schedule and ticket information, visit www.americanraptors.com/schedule-and-tickets.

RTD Plans May Through Sept. Downtown Shutdown

RTD is about to reroute some downtown rail lines and suspend others as part of a \$152 million light rail reconstruction project. The shutdown will be from May through September.

The *D* and *H* lines will reroute to *Union Station*, while RTD will suspend the *L* line. RTD says the reconstruction could also affect bus routes that run along 15th St., and 17th St.

With the suspensions and rerouted lines, no light rail lines will operate in the central corridor for five months, starting in May. RTD is planning to restart the free *MetroRide*, a bus service down 18th and 19th Streets, to account for the disruptions, according to Debra A. Johnson, RTD general manager-CEO.

The first phase of the project will reconstruct intersections at 15th and Stout St., 17th and Stout St., 15th and California St., 17th and California St., plus Broadway and Welton St. The construction will happen at diverse times from May through September and will likely reroute local traffic during portions of the project.

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