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## HEIMLICHER AND THE WESTSIDE

 Posted by Dave Hughes on September 20, 2009 at 12:00pm [View Blog](#)

Barry Noreen of the Gazette asked whom do we want to fill District 3s vacated seat?

The diversity of District #3 is extreme. Culturally, economically, racially. It ranges from super wealthy Broadmoor on the south, with just slightly less so Skyway, largely black Hillside neighborhood south east of downtown, high-rise commercial downtown itself, the educated neighborhoods north of downtown around Colorado College, and then the historic blue collar Westside and Old Colorado City district.

All these districts have very different dependencies on City services and infrastructure problems.

Two weeks before Jerry Heimlicher was first elected 6 years ago, I asked to meet with him. I told him I was sure he was going to be elected. I handed him the fat city Community Development 'Westside Plan' that laid out a long term strategy, including use of Federal Block Grant funds to remove westside slum and blight, increase the tax base, and increase jobs. It incorporated our strategy of doing so while historically preserving the heritage of the proud blue-collar carpenter-Victorian Westside neighborhood and its turn of the century Old Colorado City district. I assured him that plan was what the westside was hanging its hat on.

From that day on, even though Jerry clearly came from and lived in the upscale Broadmoor, was being elected by conservative elements from there and downtown, did not have deep roots in Colorado Springs, and he would have all these other neighborhoods to represent also – Jerry represented the Westside superbly. He never failed us. From arbitrating conflicts over commercial use of Bancroft Park, dealing with century old westside sewer systems, getting Red Rock Canyon developed as a recreational gem, to supporting the city match-funding with the State Historical Fund for a Westside residential Historic Preservation plan.

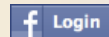
Well, the westside has largely come back from the dark days of the 1960s when it had only 2/3s the average income of the rest of the city, it was full of deteriorating homes, plenty of bums and drug dealers, and 50 of the 92 commercial properties between 24th and 27th street along Colorado Avenue were totally vacant. Now it is one of more desirable parts of town. All that happened without public controversy or playing a win-lose zero sum real estate developer or bureaucratic planner's game.

Jerry has been a big help in supporting that effort, which culminated August 8th with our Old Colorado City Historical Society donating to the city a \$40,000 6 foot rose granite monument and decorative base to 150 years of the original Colorado City

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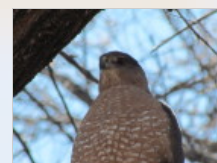
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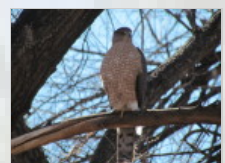
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HAWK**

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history of the westside.

Tuesday September 22 the Council, including Jerry, will thank the Board of our Historical Society for its gift that will enhance Bancroft Park, and complement its 1859 Cabin. We raised all the money and donated service ourselves.

Not a nickel of hard pressed city tax money went into it.

It will be a cold day in Colorado when I think we will be represented that well on Council again. Send us another Jerry Heimlicher, Barry Noreen, if you can find anyone who is as good a representative of a diverse District, and who can also stand the caterwauling crowd of unhelpful critics of everything the city does, the city-destructive initiatives of people like Bruce, the free lunchers who think the city can live on sunshine without taxes, a Libertarian Newspaper which has no economic solutions, just ideological posturing, and who will do that 24/7 for a \$6,750 a year insulting pittance paid by tight-wad voters.



Jerry Heimlicher



## PHOTO GALLERIES



## EVENTS



**THE NETWORK MEETING FOR PARENTS CARING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS**

[April 8, 2016](#) from 6pm to 8pm – [Zach's Place](#)



**PINE FOREST SPRING SHOW & SALE**

[April 23, 2016](#) at 10am to [April 24, 2016](#) at 3pm – [Lewis Palmer High School](#)



**JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE WITH JIM CURRY**

[May 13, 2016](#) from 7pm to 9pm – [Stargazers Theatre](#)

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The Gift Monument

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Comment by [Dave Hughes](#) on September 22, 2009 at 2:45pm

The brief ceremony wherein the City Council thanked the Old Colorado City Historical Society formally, by resolution, for the gift of the Monument, went off smoothly. Before the Council Meeting started no less than 5 people, including 2 councilmen walked up to me and said they read the 'Fresh\*ink' column where I praised Jerry that appeared in the 90,000 Gazette copies distributed today and thanked me for it.

So SOMEBODY reads Fresh\*Ink!



Comment by [Dave Hughes](#) on September 22, 2009 at 7:36am

Too bad the Fresh\*Ink editors couldn't find room for the above picture of the donated Monument which will be accepted by City Council today. It will exist and educate the public visually long after most of the transient images that were printed disappear..

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