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# PLAN-Boulder County

## Newsletter

### January 2011

Happy New Year to all PLAN-Boulder County's members and friends! In this new year we're going to be trying a new Annual Dinner date. Traditionally the Annual Dinner has been held at the end of January (although last year it occurred at the end of February in order to accommodate the schedule of the main speaker, former United States Senator Tim Wirth). This year the Annual Dinner will take place in the spring when the days will be longer and hopefully the weather milder. The Annual Dinner Planning Committee is putting a fresh, fun and stimulating program together. Watch for an announcement soon.

### Board Transition

Long-time PBC board member and former vice president Susan Morris has resigned from the Board of Directors. A Louisville resident and former member of the Louisville City Council, Susan has decided to take a break from local politics and to spend more time with her new grandchild, who lives on the East Coast. We will miss her diligence, good spirits, and intimate knowledge of Louisville.

### Mavis McKelvey

### Upcoming Fora

**Friday, January 14**, noon to 1:30 p.m. Boulder Creek Room, main Boulder Public Library. *What Does the City of Boulder Want from the Colorado Legislature, and What Can We Expect It to Do (and Not Do)?* Panelists:

- Carl Castillo, governmental affairs director, City of Boulder
- Deb Gardner, state representative from District 11
- Rollie Heath, state senator from District 18

**Monday, January 24**, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Sherpa's Restaurant, 825 Walnut St. *The B-Cycle Program in Boulder.* Panelists:

- Elizabeth Train, B-Cycle
- Lewis Wolman, B-Cycle

**Friday, February 11**, noon to 1:30 p.m. Boulder Creek Room, main Boulder Public Library. *The Latest Social and Economic Trends in Boulder County.* Panelist: Morgan Rogers, Executive Director



PLAN-Boulder County founder and long-time member Al Bartlett wrote the following tribute to Mavis McKelvey for the [Blue Line](#):

Mavis and Bob McKelvey were a close knit team as they worked to establish the Blue Line (1959) and later the Greenbelt-Open Space Program (1967).

Bob was the public speaker and organizer; Mavis operated behind the scenes, offering advice, calling people, recruiting help and thinking long and hard about the big picture.

It was Mavis who made the observation that,

Greenbelts are for children

and their children,

and their children, —

Mavis loved the out-of-doors. She would watch the buds and flowers come out on the plants in the spring. She would look for the baby birds to appear in the nests and then would marvel as they grew and finally took flight. She loved her garden for the flowers, fruits and vegetables it produced and she loved her family. She was a beautiful person. My admiration for her continues even though she is gone.

*Mavis McKelvey's full obituary is reprinted in the [Blue Line](#).*

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## Forum Summary

### Local Information Media, December 10

News travels much faster and is more fragmented than ever before, people spend less time absorbing it, and fewer professional journalists are working to develop and follow it, a panel of prominent local information media figures opined at a PLAN-Boulder County forum on December 10. Kevin Kaufman, a forum panelist and the editor of the *Daily Camera*, declared "The greatest competition I have is time. If I can get someone to spend twenty minutes reading the *Camera*, that's great."

Richard Valenty, another panelist who was a political reporter and elections editor for the *Colorado Daily* and now serves as an aide for State Senator Rollie Heath, passed out a column by Neal Gabler called "A modern-day Gutenberg, without the helpful impact," which Valenty said expressed some of his views about the current state of

of the Civic Forum.

Please visit the [PLAN-Boulder County website](#) for updates to the forum schedule.

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### Join us

PLAN-Boulder County is on the Web at [www.planbouldercounty.org](#). To become a member, please join via our [website](#) or send your check to P.O. Box 4682, Boulder, CO 80306. Our regular dues are \$25 a year, \$35 for a household, \$50 or more sustaining, and \$15 for a student or someone on limited income. Please include your e-mail address and phone number.

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### PLAN-Boulder County Board

Board meetings are open to members and are usually the first Monday of the month. Please call to confirm, 303-473-9979.

### Board members

- Pat Shanks, Co-chair
- Ruth Blackmore, Co-chair
- Liz Payton, Vice-chair
- John Spitzer, Treasurer
- Alan Boles, Secretary, forums, newsletter editor
- Ray Bridge
- Dick Harris
- Suzanne Jones
- Eric Karnes
- Scott McCarey
- Leonard May
- Susan Peterson
- Morgan Rogers
- Max Taffet
- Molly Tayer
- Archivist: Bruce Bland
- Off-Board Resource: Gwen Dooley

the information media. The column contended that contemporary electronic communications, such as Facebook and Twitter, are "increasingly narcissistic and trivial," undermine rational thought, and erode "serious engagement." Gabler proposed what he called "Zuckerberg's Law: Empty communications drive out significant ones." Valenty called contemporary media the "primordial ooze."

Panelist Sam Fuqua, general manager of KGNU, claimed, however, that public radio interview programs have the capacity to pull together many disparate elements of the Zeitgeist in a coherent way and generate "real conversations." But Fuqua admitted that distracted audiences were a challenge for KGNU and acknowledged that he did not know how long people were actually listening to these programs.

Kaufman called the on-line forums at the end of articles in the electronic edition of the *Daily Camera* "a veritable romper room" and observed that "a lot of it is silly nonsense." Two Boulder City Council members who attended the PLAN-Boulder forum, Suzy Ageton and Susan Osborne, commented on the impact of the blogosphere on local politics. Osborne said that, although she does not regularly read the local blogs, people would sometimes forward them to her and she frequently found those to be distressing. Ageton remarked, "One's skin needs to get thicker if you're going to be in the public arena, because people are nasty."

Panelist Jefferson Dodge, the managing editor of the *Boulder Weekly*, said he believed that political endorsements are "still powerful." Kaufman concurred that they continue to have an impact, but disclosed that the *Daily Camera* is seriously considering ending its candidate endorsements. He noted that interviews of candidates occupy a great deal of time—about 25 hours, he said, for the last local elections-- and declared, "They [the candidates] don't tell you anything."

Kaufman noted that in 2000 the *Daily Camera* employed about 70 people in its newsroom, and now it employs about 40. Valenty, the former reporter, declared that he does not intend to pursue the profession of journalism any more.

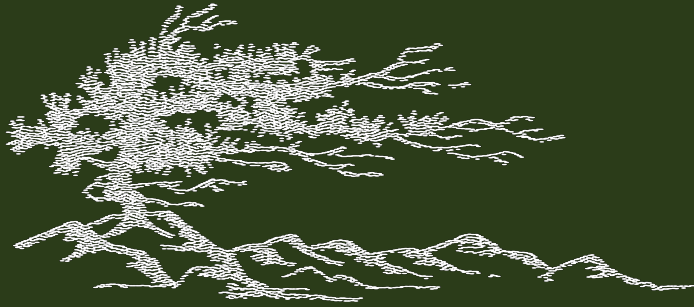
Dodge welcomed the rise of "citizen journalism" and called it "great." Valenty asserted that "citizen journalism" is most effective when it leads to a network. Fuqua, however, decried the concept of "citizen journalism." He argued that journalism is a profession and should be practiced as a profession, not an avocation "We don't talk about citizen accountants," he exclaimed. "You wouldn't want your finances handled by a citizen accountant." Dodge commented that the closing of the journalism school at the University of Colorado seemed like "a slap in the face of the industry."

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## Advocacy

Board member Ruth Blackmore [read a statement](#) to the City of Boulder's Open Space Board of Trustees at their December 9, 2010 meeting regarding the West Trail Study Area.

The PLAN-Boulder Board of Directors [adopted a position statement](#) about the proposed Jefferson Parkway and "Section 16." Board member Suzanne Jones read it to the City Council at its December 21, 2010 meeting.



## PLAN-Boulder County

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