

# Front Porch

A publication of Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

STAPLETON

DENVER, COLORADO

SEPTEMBER 2004

## A Day in the Life of Stapleton

6:25 am  
August 16, 2004

On Monday, August 16, 2004 Front Porch editor Tom Gleason and photographer Steve Larson spent the entire day documenting some of the many activities that capture the unique character of the Stapleton community. Here residents jog through the East 29th Avenue Town Center as the sun rises behind the former airport control tower. This special “Day in the Life” issue of the Front Porch features a “timeline” of activities happening every hour of the day at Stapleton, as well as a centerspread of photos selected to evoke the feel of living at Stapleton.

## Stapleton: Neighbors and Neighborhoods Coming Together

By John S. Lehigh

Stapleton is a community of neighbors and neighborhoods coming together.

Literally.

Not long ago, a group of about 200 parents and children from Stapleton and surrounding neighborhoods turned out for the 2nd Annual “Pool to School Walk” to celebrate opening day of the 2nd school year at Stapleton. That walk began at Aviator Park on 28th Avenue and wound its way down to the bike and walking path of nearby Greenway Park that passes safely under the newly opened Central Park Boulevard and leads directly to Westerly Creek Elementary School and The Odyssey Charter School. Locating the two schools on the open space was one of the priorities we established in our planning process with Denver Public Schools.



John S. Lehigh

Earlier this summer, nearly two thousand Stapleton residents and neighbors also turned out for the 3rd Annual Founders’ Day Celebration on Founders’ Green in the East 29th Avenue Town Center. In spite of the size of the crowd, nearby parking lots remained almost empty as nearly everyone walked to the party. Later in the summer, a crowd of almost five thousand people gathered on the same

Founders’ Green for a concert that was one of the highlights of the “Stapleton Under the Stars” summer season of free concerts and movies.

But Stapleton residents are coming together for other important reasons as well. Just as their fellow citizens regularly do in neighborhoods throughout the city, Stapleton residents have been working with each other for nearly two

years on traffic and transportation matters and other issues of concern to their neighborhoods with the same energy and commitment that they have brought to every role they play in our new and still growing community. Under the effective guidance of the officers of their neighborhood association, Stapleton United Neighbors, and with the support of Denver City Councilman Michael Hancock and representatives of city government and Forest City, the “growing pains” of our still very young community are being addressed one-by-one. We look forward to continuing our support for that process.

This edition of The Front Porch carries a special feature entitled “A Day in the Life of Stapleton.” Hopefully you will find it to be an enjoyable series of “snapshots” of our diverse, active and truly amazing urban community.

*John S. Lehigh is the Chief Operating Officer for Forest City Stapleton, Inc.*

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8 Stapleton  
Photo  
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28th  
Avenue  
Traffic

12

Stapleton  
Fountain

14





Wine Festival Saturday, October 2  
Founders' Green

## EVERY MONTH

### First Tuesday of each month

Stapleton Residents' Social Events  
Committee 6 - 7:30 pm  
Stapleton Visitor Center

### Third Tuesday of each month

Stapleton Business Assoc. 8 am



### Third Thursday of each month

Stapleton Development Corporation  
Citizens Advisory Board 7:30 am  
7350 E. 29th Ave., Suite 300

### Every Wednesday

Music Together 9:30 - 10:30 am  
Westerly Creek School

### First Saturday of each month

Bluff Lake Birders 7 - 9 am  
Bluff Lake Nature Center



# Mark Your CALENDAR

## 2004/05 STAPLETON EVENTS

## EVERY MONTH

### Every Tuesday

Stapleton Strollers  
9:30 am  
29th and Valentia

### Every Other Friday

Mobile Cyclery  
9 am - 6 pm  
King Soopers parking lot

## SEPTEMBER

### Monday, September 6th

Pool closes for the season

### Thursday, September 16th

Fireside Chats 6 - 8 pm  
Bluff Lake Nature Center

### Tuesday, September 21st

Stapleton Business Assoc. 8 am  
Call 303-393-7700 for details



Visit the Farmers' Market from 9 am til 2 pm Sundays through October.

### Every Sunday through October

Stapleton Farmers' Market  
9 am - 2 pm  
E. 29th Ave. Town Center

## SEPTEMBER

### Wednesday, September 1st

Stapleton Under the Stars Movie  
Founders' Green, Gates Open 7 pm  
50 First Dates

### September 2nd - 15th

Westerly Creek Elementary PTA  
Fall Bulb Sale  
Contact Melissa Darzins at  
mdarzines@comcast.net  
or call 303-393-1142

## OCTOBER

### Saturday, October 2nd

Wine Festival  
Founders' Green

### Saturday, October 16th

Fall Festival Noon - 2 pm  
Founders' Green

### Tuesday, October 19th

Stapleton Business Assoc. 8 am  
Call 303-393-7700 for details

### Saturday, October 23rd

Flu Shots 10 am - 2 pm  
Stapleton Visitor Center

### Wednesday, October 27

Flu Shots 4 - 7 pm  
Stapleton Visitor Center

## NOVEMBER

### Saturday, November 6

Flu Shots 10 am - 2 pm  
Stapleton Visitor Center

### Wednesday, November 10

Flu Shots 4 - 7 pm  
Stapleton Visitor Center

### Tuesday, November 16th

Stapleton Business Assoc. 8 am  
Call 303-393-7700 for details

## DECEMBER

### First week of December

Holiday Decoration Contest

### Sunday, December 12th

Lighting the Holiday Tree  
5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Founders' Green

### Tuesday, December 21st

Stapleton Business Assoc. 8 am  
Call 303-393-7700 for details

## JANUARY 2005

### Tuesday, January 4th

DPS Schools in Session

## MARCH 2005

### Saturday, March 19th

Spring Fling  
Founders' Green

## JUNE 2005

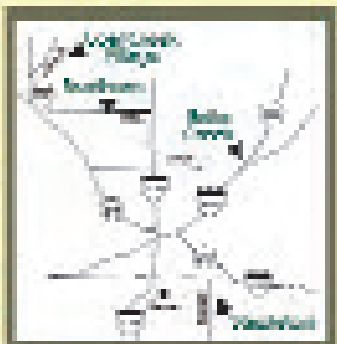
### Saturday, June 11th

Founders' Day

For more information visit  
[www.StapletonDenver.com](http://www.StapletonDenver.com)

## New Town Builders

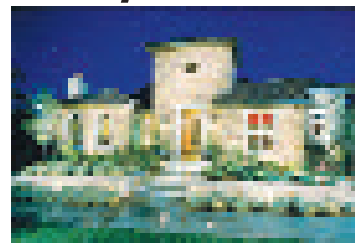
Thinking outside the beige box.



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### Visit the Infinity Retail Studio

Experience the "birth of cool" at Infinity's state-of-the-art information center located in the 29th Avenue Town Center. Visit today to learn more about one of Denver's most decorated homebuilders while discovering what makes Infinity's Stapleton offerings so appealing.

[www.infinityhomecollection.com](http://www.infinityhomecollection.com)

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# Front Porch

[www.StapletonDenver.com](http://www.StapletonDenver.com)

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August 16, 2004

A Day in the Life of Stapleton

A timeline of activities every hour of the day.



6:20 am

An early morning walk in the Town Center.

# How Large is Stapleton?

By Dick Anderson

When the original Stapleton Development Plan (Green Book) was under study, Stapleton was referred to as a 4700-acre site. The study area included land owned by others in the Smith Road corridor that was not owned by Denver International Airport. The Stapleton Development Corporation and its Master Developer, Forest City, together control what happens on about 4000 of those acres. For many, Stapleton has grown beyond its original airport borders just as the Denver Tech Center did.

When I was president of the Denver Tech Center, we owned less than 900 acres. As the area became more prominent, the greater community including land west of I-25 and north of 225 gradually became known as the Denver Tech Center. There are no boundaries and people take pride in being a part of the Tech Center.

At Stapleton it has always been our purpose to encourage outreach to our surrounding neighborhoods. The Stapleton Foundation manages that outreach. Recently I received a phone call asking if we were going to replace the existing construction security fences to become a “gated community.” My response was an unequivocal “no!” There are numerous efforts being made to encourage our neighbors to enjoy Stapleton and for residents of Stapleton to benefit from the facilities of our neighbors.

There are many examples of the neighborhoods coming together. Councilman Michael Hancock’s recent neighborhood picnic, Stapleton residents attending neighborhood churches, the use of the dog park by everyone are but a few examples.



Earthwork at the NorthField Regional shopping center.



The “Pool to School” walk on the bike path through Greenway Park included children from neighborhoods surrounding Stapleton.



City Councilman Michael Hancock’s community picnic for Stapleton and surrounding neighborhoods in his district.

Through a natural evolution Stapleton is being identified with facilities that just ten years ago were not thought of as being part of Stapleton. The continued growth of Johnson & Wales University and its impressive outreach to many community programs causes many of us to be proud to have it referred to as being at Stapleton. It retains its own identity and programs but through its commitment to service it strengthens our greater Stapleton community.

The recent announcement that the land in Commerce City northwest of our new NorthField Regional Retail Center is going to be developed to include the home of the Colorado Rapids and community soccer fields is exciting. They will always be in Commerce City but I predict that overtime they are likely to become known as being at or near Stapleton. As plans north of I-70 continue to unfold, there will be a conscious effort to connect the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and Commerce City development to Stapleton. The same is true of the connections to Aurora and Fitzsimons on the south and east of Stapleton.

As residents we have “bought into” the Stapleton Development Plan and are proud of Denver’s newest neighborhoods. Let us find joy in celebrating our neighbors and the synergism that strengthens the entire community.

Dick Anderson is a Stapleton resident and the President and CEO of The Stapleton Development Corporation.

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7:10 am

SDC  
President  
Dick  
Anderson  
leaves home  
to walk to  
work.



7:25 am

A Starbucks  
customer  
buys her  
morning  
coffee.



*A Day  
in the  
Life of  
Stapleton*

## Choosing a Cosmetic Dentist

by Brett Kessler



The makeover craze is in full swing. From their homes to their bodies, people are eager to renovate. As a dentist, I couldn't be more pleased with people's interest in improving their look, especially their smiles. But, when it comes to cosmetic dentistry, the quick-and-easy results shown on TV don't always address all the aspects involved. I'd like to offer some advice to those of you who are considering cosmetic dentistry on how to choose the dentist that's right for you.

**Be an active participant.** Ask lots of questions: What will happen? How will I feel? And most importantly: What are the best and worst possible outcomes?

**Do a background check.** Is your dentist affiliated with the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry? What are his or her other credentials?

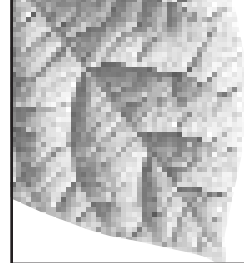
**Ask to meet satisfied clients.** While every cosmetic dentist has a before & after photo book to boast, ask to get a first-person testimonial.

**Does the dentist consider more than just the way the end result will look?** Your bite and the functionality of the end result are just as important as how it appears. If your bite is unbalanced, you'll be back in that chair before you know it to fix what could have been corrected initially.

**Does the dentist stand behind his or her work?** Ask about guarantees. If the dentist is truly confident that he or she can deliver, this shouldn't be a problem.

**Finally, don't be rushed into a decision.** A competent "Cosmetic Dentist" will take the time to understand your wants and needs. If your dentist has the experience, he or she will know if your expectations can be met prior to taking on your case.

*Dr. Brett Kessler, DDS and his wife Gina Kessler, DDS MS, both Stapleton residents, opened Town Center Dentistry and Orthodontics last December in the East 29th Avenue Town Center at Stapleton, where they are devoted to providing a whole-health approach to dentistry.*



## Sustainability at Stapleton

by Melissa Knott

### Celebrate Autumn!

September in Colorado still feels like summer, but fall is on its way! Now is the time to enjoy all that fall has to offer—from cooler weather, to the changing colors of leaves, to shorter days, to preparing the garden for winter. Make sure to read the Fall Bulb Planting Tips on page 15 to learn what you can do now to ensure a colorful spring floral display and where to buy bulbs.

To celebrate the arrival of fall, have fun visiting a farm. Miller Farms, a vegetable vendor who has participated in the Stapleton Farmers' Market since the very first Sunday, holds an annual fall festival from mid-September through mid-November. The Millers have operated their family farm just outside of Platteville, CO since 1949. At their fall festival visitors can take a hayride through 180 acres of farmland and pick potatoes, carrots, onions, beets, Indian corn, squash, and pumpkins. Check out [www.millerfarms.net](http://www.millerfarms.net) for more information.

Fall is also a great time to visit The Urban Farm, right here at Stapleton. Families can stroll through the gardens tasting fresh vegetables and herbs as they go. Volunteers will introduce children of all ages to the animals at The Urban Farm—baby goats, horses, sheep, chickens, cows and other farm animals. The best time to visit is Saturday mornings between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Admission is free but donations are gladly and gratefully accepted.

Fall is also the time to sign up your children ages 5-18 for 4-H at The Urban Farm. 4-H is not just for kids who live in the country but for kids who live in the city as well! At The Urban Farm, youngsters can participate in projects with the farm animals, learn to ride horses, grow a garden and more. For more information, e-mail Donna at [donna@theurbanfarm.org](mailto:donna@theurbanfarm.org) or call 303-307-9332.

Enjoy the autumn season!

*Melissa Knott is the Director of Sustainability for Forest City Stapleton.*

## RODEF SHALOM PRESCHOOL



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8:09 am

Dr. Michele Smith gives a post-surgical exam to a patient in the E. 29th Avenue Animal Hospital.



9:04 am

Michelle Stefanon owner of Amore Fiori Flowers, opens her sidewalk flower display.



## 4 Paws News

by Michele Smith, D.V.M.

### What to Expect if Your Pet Needs Dental Care

Root canals, dental x-rays, orthodontics, crowns, caps for pets? You must be kidding! Not at all. Dental procedures are routinely performed in veterinary practices daily. How does a loving pet owner know if dental care is needed?

Examination is the key to diagnosis and helps determine the type of treatment needed. Pet owners can help by examining their pet's teeth and oral cavity at least monthly. First smell your pet's breath. If you sense a disagreeable odor, gum disease may be present. Periodontal disease is the most common ailment of small animals. Gum problems begin when bacteria accumulates at the gum line around the tooth. Unless brushed away daily, these bacteria can destroy tooth supporting bone, cause bleeding and if untreated, tooth loss. Usually the first sign is bad breath. Other signs you may notice are red swollen gums, tartar (a yellow or brown accumulation on the tooth surface), or loose teeth.

When your home exam reveals dental problems or if you are still uncertain, a trip to the veterinarian is in order. The veterinary oral examination will begin with a complete visual exam of the face, mouth and each tooth. The veterinarian will usually use a record chart similar to the one used by human dentists to identify and document such dental problems.

A more detailed exam then follows. Unfortunately cats and dogs cannot point to dental abnormalities with their paws so in order to determine the proper treatment plan, other tests are usually necessary. Sedation and anesthesia are essential to adequately evaluate oral conditions. Anesthesia allows the veterinarian or assistant to thoroughly examine each tooth individually. Modern veterinary medicine offers a wide array of safe and effective anesthetics and monitoring equipment to allay previous concerns of anesthesia.

Your pet may also need x-rays of abnormal dental conditions. X-rays show the inside of the tooth and the root which lies below the gum line. Many decisions are based on x-ray findings. Usually the veterinarian will visually examine the mouth, note any problems, take x-rays under anesthesia, and then tell you what needs to be done.

Dogs and cats do not have to suffer pain and discomfort or untreated broken or loose teeth or infected gums. With the help of thorough examinations, x-rays, dental care and daily brushing, your pet can keep its teeth in its mouth where they should be.

*Dr. Smith's clinic is located in Stapleton's Town Center.  
For more information call 303-394-3937*

## Creating Beautiful Basements

by Kari Cummings

Are you thinking about finishing your basement? Your basement is a great way to add a significant amount of living space to your home for about a third less than the cost of an addition.

It is important to spend some time to make a wish list for your basement. Visit model homes with builder finished basements or friends who had their basements professionally remodeled. Think about what you want to include in your basement both for now and the future. For example, you may want to use the basement as the kids' playroom now, but as your children grow to be teens, the area should be able to evolve into an entertainment center for your kids and their friends. Thinking about the big picture now can make future modifications relatively easy and much less expensive.

Take the time and effort to create an inviting entrance to your basement. Consider opening up your stairwell and installing a banister. Basements often have enclosed stairwells so one way to make yours unique is to alter this feature. This can allow some natural light from the main floor into the basement and it can also make it easier to move large furniture into your basement.

You should strongly consider adding a bathroom to your basement. A full or 3/4 bath (shower only) is the preferred choice. It provides convenience for your family and it is the best way for adding resale value to your home.

Another way to add value to your home is to add a room for sleeping. This can be great for guests or in preparation for a teenager who may want a bit more privacy. Two important factors to consider when adding a bedroom is to ensure that it has a closet and an egress window. Be sure to consult and comply with the Uniform Building Code for the city of Denver.

Don't underestimate the importance of storage. Everyone has holiday decorations, seasonal sports equipment and old toys. Having a separate room or closet space to organize these items can eliminate those unsightly piles that most of us have in our basements.

Plan to let in as much natural light as possible. Maximize the effect of natural light by using some windows and/or French doors in the interior walls between rooms that open pathways for natural light to reach interior rooms. Consider using a combination of recessed lighting and table and floor lamps to give yourself flexibility to create a variety of lighting moods.

Be sure to install a sufficient number of electrical outlets, telephone lines and cable outlets to accommodate televisions, lamps and computers that will be in use in the basement.

Finally, basement remodeling is not like remodeling your kitchen or bathroom, where you expect to add significant resale value to your home. Instead, finishing your basement is an investment in the quality of your life!

*Kari Cummings is a Broker Associate with Keller Williams Realty - Downtown and a Stapleton resident.*

### STAPLETON COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Founded on Faith  
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Radisson Hotel  
Conference Center  
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Sunday Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Pastor - Dr. E.V. Thurman  
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\$4.00 Admission

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10:13 am

Workers install new landscape on Quebec Street median.



11:42 am

Heavy equipment operators grade the site for NorthField.

# Sand Creek

By Kate Kramer

Sand Creek Regional Greenway sparkles more brightly after the hard work of 45 volunteers on Saturday, August 14, in the project sponsored by REI, Hands On Denver, Forest City, and the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership.

Paul Bareis-Golumb, a resident at Stapleton, picked up trash, pulled shopping carts out of the creek, and scraped off sand from the recent rainstorm in the run-way tunnels. After nearly four hours of hard work he declared, "Sand Creek Greenway is a hidden treasure and real asset for Stapleton residents – and for citizens from miles around. I am happy to spend my Saturday morning helping to make it a better place for everyone."

The volunteers collected nine shopping carts, dozens of bags of noxious weeds, twenty tires, and over fifty bags of trash. Graffiti removal was also a priority for the hard workers.

Happy Haynes from the Mayor's Office came by to help and stated, "With partners like REI, Hands On Denver, Forest City, and the volunteers from Stapleton and across the metro district, we can make a real difference for the Greenway."

"Wild outdoor areas that are accessible and usable by the public is what our customers look for," said Mark Guebert-Steward, REI Event Coordinator



Stapleton residents and employees: if you haven't used your Stapleton Club Card yet you're missing out on great savings! The Stapleton Club Card is a discount program for participating merchants located in Quebec Square, East 29th Avenue Town Center and hotels on Quebec Street. Check below for new retailers offering great discounts when you present your Resident Pool ID/Stapleton Club Card!

Visit [www.StapletonDenver.com](http://www.StapletonDenver.com) for more information.

## PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS

### A Day Spa

Offer: 10% off any service.

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Offer: Two complimentary discount tickets for Comedy Works with any (FREE), no hassle quote on home and auto, or health, business or life insurance.

### AT&T Wireless

Offer: FREE Vehicle power adapter with new activation (\$29.99 value). Waived Activation fee on new activations (\$36.00 value).

### Amore Fiori

Offer: Saturdays - get two for one on select flowers.

### Bladium Sports Club

Offer: Initiation fees waived.

### Cat's Music Together at the Bladium

Offer: \$5 off tuition for each registered child in your family.

### Character's Sports Bar & Grill (at the Doubletree Denver)

Offer: 10% discount on all food and beverage.

### Cold Stone Creamery®

Offer: \$1.00 off "Love It," or "Got to Have It" creations. \$3.00 off cake order.

### Commercial Federal Bank

Offer: Open a FREE No-Minimum Balance Checking account with Direct Deposit and receive added benefits equal to those offered to bank employees!

### Credit Union at Stapleton

Offer: Receive a FREE \$20.00 gift when you open your new Credit Union at Stapleton account!

### Curves

Offer: 50% off initiation fee.

### Doubletree Denver Café

Offer: 10% discount on all food and beverage.

### Environmentally Friendly Cleaners

Offer: 20% off of all DRY CLEANING (Quebec Square location only).

### Executive Tans

Offer: 20% off select lotion with purchase of session. Tan until 2005 for \$99.

### Fantastic Sams

Offer: 10% off all services and professional products. Free haircut with color service.

### FirstBank

Offer: Receive a \$10 deposit into your new FirstBank savings account when you open a new FirstBank checking account.

### Get Fired Up Pottery

Offer: 10% off \$50 or more.

### GNC at Quebec Square

Offer: \$5 off a purchase of \$30 or more.

### Great Clips

Offer: 20% off any product with haircut purchase.

### Instant Imprints

Offer: 10% off of all products and services.

### Kyle's Saloon and Eatery

Offer: FREE salad with dine-in pizza or calzone order.

### Noodles and Company

Offer: Free fountain beverage with purchase of entree sized bowl.

### Panera Bread

Offer: \$1 off Sandwich, Salad or You Pick Two.

### PostNet

Offer: \$3 off Fed Ex and/or UPS shipments (excluding ground service).

### Radisson Hotel, Quebec's Bistro

Offer: 15% off food menu items.

### Stapleton Home Services

Offer: \$25 off first scheduled maid service or one-time-detailing. New Residents: 50% off first scheduled maid service.

### Thomas Bros. Coffee & Chai

Offer: FREE size UPGRADE on ANY beverage.

### Tires Plus

Offer: \$9.99 oil change; 10% off any automotive service; \$25 off of a set of four tires; \$30 off your 30, 60 and 90k scheduled maintenance service.

### UPS Store

Offer: 50% off black and white copies.

### US Bank

Offer: .25% discount on ANY fixed rate loan.

### V2K Window Fashions

Offer: 10% off of orders of \$100 or more.

### WIIRE Group Real Estate Services

Offer: \$500 towards closing costs.

### Wingz ETC!

Offer: 10% off any combo meal.

Look for the Club Card logo at participating merchants.

Visit [www.StapletonDenver.com](http://www.StapletonDenver.com) for participating merchants and program information. Offers may change monthly.



A Day  
in the  
Life of  
Stapleton

12:45 pm

Khadija Haynes and Stephan Vice milk a goat at the Urban Farm.

1:15 pm

Lee Boyd and two Tires Plus employees check a vehicle in Quebec Square.




# Treasure Sparkles

Sand Creek volunteers celebrate the clean-up.

said. “They find it in the Sand Creek Greenway. It is great to see them come out to make it a better place for all users. We look forward to helping out next year.”

The event was such a success that the organizers and sponsors want to hold it again next year. “It is amazing that 45 volunteers and 4 hours can make such a amazing different in the quality of the green-

way! Many thanks to all who volunteered!” said Kate Kramer, Executive Director of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership.

*Kate Kramer is the Executive Director of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership.*

## Flu Shots to Come to Stapleton

The October edition of The Front Porch will carry information about flu shots that will be offered at Stapleton through a partnership between Exempla and Forest City Stapleton, Inc. The shots will be available for \$20 per vaccination in late October and early November.

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Sept. 1

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7

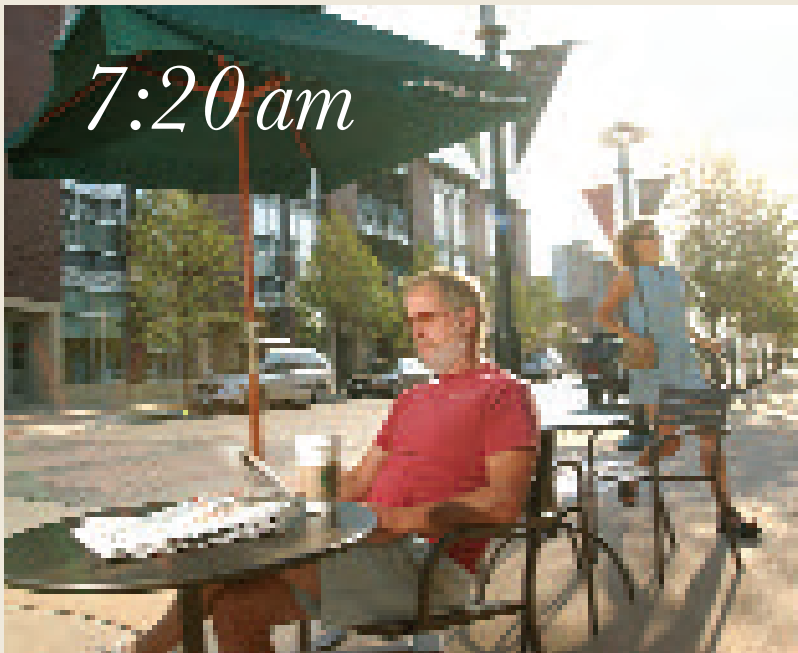




6:38 am

# August 16, 2004...

From sunrise to sunset and beyond, Stapleton is showing all the signs of becoming the exciting new community of urban neighborhoods that has been envisioned by the citizens of Denver, Aurora and Commerce City. Stapleton is diverse not only in its population, but in its workplaces, destinations and attractions that include an urban farm, an increasingly vibrant town center, new schools, athletic fields, parks and pool, and one of the nation's most sophisticated centers for high definition television studios. Most of all, the neighborhoods of Stapleton are a great place to call "home."



7:20 am

Morning coffee at Starbucks



4:30 pm

Swimming



8:20 am

Traditional walk on first day of school on the Greenway Park bike path

8:10 pm



Pat Teegarden

Khadija Haynes and Stephan Vice examining a steer at the Urban Farm



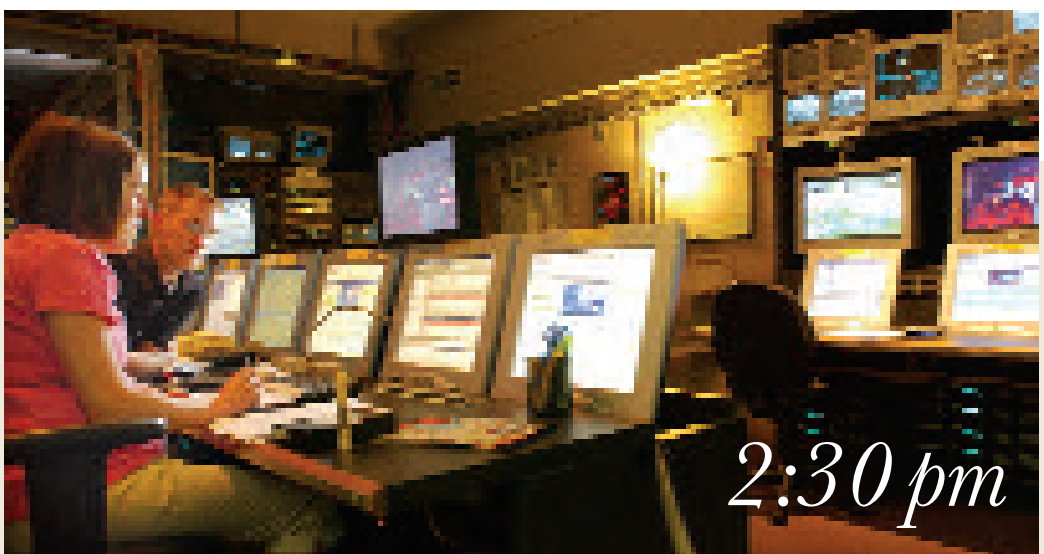
Noon

# ...A Day





ing after school



Technicians in the HDNet control room at Colorado Studios



A soccer team practices at Fred Thomas park



n reads a bedtime story to daughters Lian (left) and Jade (right).



Two families strike up a conversation as they enjoy dinner at Noodles and Company in the Town Center.

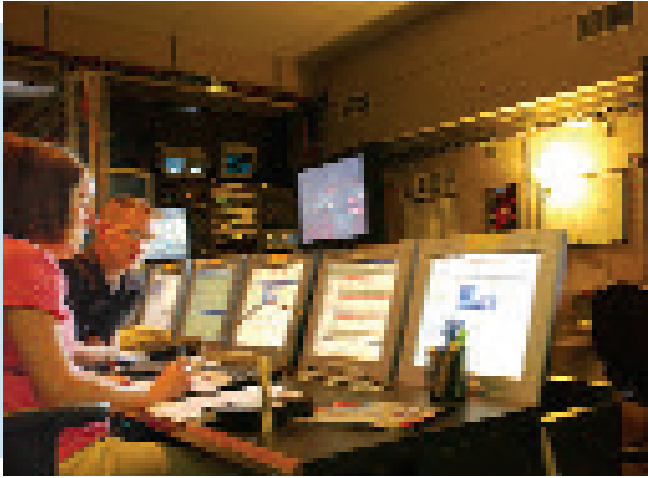


# *in the Life of Stapleton*



2:30pm

Technicians  
in the  
HDNet  
control  
room at  
Colorado  
Studios



3:15pm

Construction  
workers at the  
Parkside  
Apartments,  
affordable  
rental housing  
at Stapleton



# A Conversation With Nelson Chase, Director of the Odyssey School at Stapleton



*Editor's note: The Odyssey Charter School was founded in 1998 by a dedicated group of parents and teachers in the Park Hill neighborhood west of Stapleton. It is a kindergarten through eighth grade Expeditionary Learning public school in Denver Pubic Schools (DPS) that serves northeast Denver.*

*From 1998 to 2003 Odyssey operated in three different buildings until it moved to a permanent location at Stapleton's Westerly Creek Campus. Odyssey is designed to remain small with 216 students. Odyssey seeks students from diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds with a range of abilities, affinities and strengths. Odyssey's only requirement for admission is family involvement.*

*Odyssey believes children learn best through direct experience that begins with children's curiosity about the world. Expeditionary Learning harnesses their natural passion to learn and helps them develop the curiosity, knowledge, skills and personal qualities they need for successful adulthood.*

*Brian Weber of The Stapleton Foundation conducted the following discussion with Nelson Chase, director of The Odyssey Charter School, to provide Front Porch readers with a closer look at this successful DPS school.*

**Weber:** What is the Expeditionary Learning (EL) curriculum?

**Chase:** Outward Bound started Expeditionary Learning. It proved be very adaptable to schools. The basis of the curriculum is that there is literacy, math, science — all the things you'd expect in a school but the focus is on how that is approached. It's what we call "learning expeditions." It's a journey into the unknown in depth on a topic that is of interest to the teachers and kids that unfolds over a long period of time, a few months or a whole year. The topics are in line with Colorado state standards.

For example, the standards say that in third or fourth grade you should do something on Colorado history. A traditional school might do a textbook on Colorado history. At Odyssey we might study Colorado history through the expeditions of John Wesley Powell and the Colorado River. That allows you to bring other topics into it. Geology could take you into water rights. We don't use textbooks. We use other books, articles, magazines, trips to the library, fieldwork, talking with people who have run the Colorado River, a variety of things.



**Weber:** Where do the outdoor expeditions come in?

**Chase:** We incorporate the Outward Bound component of the curriculum into the topics of exploration. Third and fourth graders would go on a camping trip in the fall and incorporate it into that trip. A canoe trip down the Colorado River would make sense.

Last year the fifth and sixth graders spent the whole year studying farming and agriculture. They visited a variety of farms to talk to farmers. They spent the year doing service at the Urban Farm here.

The history piece was looking at the dust bowl era and writing about that. There is also a very strong studio arts program. That work is done to support the work in the expedition. It's not a separate thing or to do whatever the art teacher wants to do.

There's also a service component. Fifth and sixth grades did their service at the Urban Farm.

**Weber:** Describe how an EL classroom functions.

**Chase:** There are no rows of desks. Kids are often working in groups. People often think the classroom looks a little (continued on next page)

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A Day  
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Life of  
Stapleton



3:40pm  
Parents pick up their children from Westerly Creek on the first day of school.



3:50pm  
Michelle Moret brings children home from school in an electric car.



Photo By Steve Groer

M.A. Mortenson  
Donates to DSA

Denver School of the Arts principal Patti Bippus joins assistant principals Scott Springer and Rory Pullens in accepting a check for \$3,200 from Kerry O’Connell, project manager for M.A. Mortenson.

Mortenson, the company building Stapleton’s infrastructure, raised the money at a July 23 golf tournament held at Canterbury Crossing golf course in Parker. Mortenson chose to support DSA, which is one of Stapleton’s more notable neighbors and one of the education jewels of the Denver Public Schools.

The money will go to two programs: stipends for interns and other costs associated with working with students this year at the Smith Renaissance School of the Arts (39th Avenue and Jasmine Street); and for costs incurred by National Honor Society students who will help build a home in Ireland next summer (2005).

(continued from prior page) chaotic because kids are talking, they’re working and moving around freely, finding the books they need. Our classrooms are also “multi-age.” The idea is that as you progress through the school you are with the same teacher for two years rather than one. Those relationships are important.

**Weber:** Why would a parent choose EL over a more traditional program?

**Chase:** Often parents are looking for something not traditional and an opportunity for their kid to explore. They want them to be out in the community. They are looking for something with a little more holistic approach that meets all of the kids needs, not just the academic piece.

**Weber:** Why is EL right for some and not others?

**Chase:** I don’t think EL is for everybody. If you’re looking for breadth, don’t come here. If you’re idea of camping is the Holiday Inn with the window open, don’t come here. If you’re looking for the more in depth study where kids learn critical thinking skills, problem solving skills and research skills, we are a good place. We also do well with kids who have not done well in traditional environments because of the attention they get. We individualize instruction as much as we can.

**Weber:** What’s expected of Odyssey parents?

**Chase:** We expect them to be involved in the school. Minimally that means coming to all of the conferences. It means making sure your kids are prepared. We want them to serve on a committee or chaperone a camping trip...help drive buses on field work. Bigger commitments are being on the



board, coming to the family council meetings. There’s a whole variety of ways. We did a survey a couple years ago and 60 percent of the parents were significantly involved, meaning they go into the classroom more than four hours a week. And 90 percent were at least minimally involved.

**Weber:** What’s been the benefit to being at Stapleton?

**Chase:** Having a stable place, a big playground, great resources, big classrooms and a new growing community. It’s great.

**Weber:** Are there any plans to expand?

**Chase:** No. I would expect with our sibling preference there will be parents who want to come who can’t. I don’t know what that

ultimately means in terms of growing frustration. But just because you don’t get accepted at first don’t be discouraged; the wait lists do move.

Brian Weber is Vice President-Education/Workforce Initiatives for The Stapleton Foundation and the Chairman of the Odyssey Board of Directors.



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4:05pm

Tossing a ball at Stapleton's off-leash dog park.



4:30pm

Getting up the nerve to jump off the diving board at Aviator Park Pool.



A Day  
in the  
Life of  
Stapleton

# Councilman Sets up Traffic Taskforce

By Tom Gleason

Denver City Councilman Michael Hancock will set up a taskforce to work with Stapleton United Neighbors(S.U.N), city officials, The Park Creek Metropolitan District (PCMD) and Forest City Stapleton, Inc. to address traffic concerns raised by Stapleton residents on 28th Avenue and along portions of the new Central Park Boulevard.

The taskforce is the result of a recent meeting the S.U.N. Transportation Committee held to give residents a forum to express their concerns about the increased traffic they say their neighborhood has experienced since construction of a reclaimed water line in Montview Boulevard has caused traffic to be detoured north on Central Park Boulevard to Martin Luther King Boulevard. The meeting attended by approximately 50 residents and senior officials from The City of Denver, Forest City Stapleton, Inc. and the Park Creek Metropolitan District (which is overseeing the infrastructure work at Stapleton), developed a list of nearly 50 issues to be addressed related to traffic control and pedestrian safety, most of which were related to the intersection of 28th and Central Park Boulevard. The City of Denver's Traffic Engineer, Bob Kochevar, attended the meeting and provided an overview of the city's policies related to traffic management. Mr. Kochevar expressed a willingness to work with Stapleton residents in addressing those concerns.

In response to a question from residents concerned about the safety of school children crossing Central Park Boulevard on their way to schools on East 28th Avenue, Kerry O'Connell of M.A. Mortenson, the contractor constructing the infrastructure for the Park Creek Metro District, said that "construction flaggers" his company had assigned to Central Park Boulevard during the detour of traffic from Montview Boulevard would continue to help direct both vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Central Park Boulevard until Montview is reopened in early to mid September. Forest City Stapleton, Inc. is working with Westerly Creek Elementary, The Odyssey Charter School and S.U.N. to encourage parents and students to avoid the intersection by taking the Greenway Park bike path that passes underneath Central Park Boulevard at 26th Avenue and leads directly to the schools.

Denver Police Officer Greg Roberson, who has worked closely with S.U.N. and Forest City Stapleton, Inc. for more than a year on the enforcement of speed limits at Stapleton, also attended the meeting and addressed the residents' concerns about speeding and other traffic

violations. He also urged S.U.N. to explore the city's "Speed Watch" Program in which DPD trains citizens to monitor speeding within their neighborhoods.

Chris Lines of Councilman Hancock's office told the group that traffic concerns were the "number one complaint" in neighborhoods of every council district in the City of Denver, outweighing even crime as the concern raised most often by Denver residents. He said Councilman Hancock would be personally involved in the work of the task force, which will include residents who attended the S.U.N. meeting to voice their concerns.

To obtain more information about the taskforce, contact Councilman Hancock's office at [Michael.hancock@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:Michael.hancock@ci.denver.co.us) or Jason Longsdorf, Chairman of the S.U.N Transportation Committee, at [jason.longsdorf@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:jason.longsdorf@ci.denver.co.us) Minutes from the S.U.N. traffic meeting are available by visiting [www.StapletonOnline.com](http://www.StapletonOnline.com)

*Tom Gleason is vice president-public relations for Forest City Stapleton, Inc.*

## E.L.K. Casts a Line for Youth



ELK — Environmental Learning for Kids — will hold the first annual "Cast a Line!" fundraising event on September 18, 2004 at Lake Lehow, a remote pond in Waterton Canyon, southwest of Denver. ELK, whose goal is to "Put a little 'wild'-life into a child's life," is a local community-based non-profit organization that offers science education, natural resource experiences and mentoring to low-income, culturally diverse youth in Denver.

The "Cast a Line" event will be held from 11am to 3pm. For more information, visit [www.elkkids.org](http://www.elkkids.org), email [skinsley@elkkids.org](mailto:skinsley@elkkids.org) or call 303-291-7503.

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violations. Officer Roberson recommended that residents call the Neighborhood Enforcement Team of the DPD Traffic Operations Bureau (720.865.6942) to report those traffic

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5:15 pm

A soccer team practices at Fred Thomas Park.



6:10 pm

Lightening fast action in the roller hockey league at the Bladium Sports Club

## Free Car Care Clinic at Tires Plus

Have you looked under the hood of your car recently and tried to make sense of what you are seeing? If you have questions about the basic parts and systems of your automobile or would like to know how to make your vehicle run better, safer and last longer, there is no need to worry: help is on the way at the Tires Plus Store in Quebec Square!

Lee Boyd, manager of the award-winning Tires Plus Store at Stapleton, invites you to attend a free Car Care Workshop on Tuesday, September 28th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. The clinic will be conducted by Bridgestone/Firestone spokesperson Trisha Hessinger, the nationally recognized host of three automotive television shows and the first woman to pilot an official CART Pace Car.



To register for the free clinic, which will be held at the Tires Plus Store at 3710 Quebec Street, call Lee Boyd at 303.355.2114.

## Master Community Association News

by Diane Deeter  
Stapleton Community Manager



### Wasn't it great?

Those of you who came out with your children to participate in the 2nd Annual "Pool to School Walk" to celebrate the opening day of the 2004-2005 school year here at Stapleton know the weather could not have been better as we walked together to Westerly Creek Elementary along the bicycle and running path of Greenway Park. Our group of nearly 200 parents and students included not only Stapleton residents, but families from the surrounding neighborhoods as well. What a terrific way to kick off the new school year and put even our youngest students on the path to success!

Walking your child to school may take a little extra time, but it is time well spent for any parent who wants to add to the "quality time" that so many families long for in their daily and too often hectic lives. Our "Pool to School Walk" along the Greenway Park bike path that runs under Central Park Boulevard gave parents the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of our neighborhood's open space free from concerns about automobile traffic. It was also an opportunity to impress upon children the importance of selecting the safest route possible as they travel to and from school. And, it helps to build good habits that lead to a more active and healthier lifestyle—for parents and their children!

### On other subjects....

The Master Community Association (MCA) is asking for volunteers to be a part of the MCA-Residential Renovation and Remodeling Design Review Committee. This committee will review submittals of residential changes planned on existing homes in the community. If you have any experience in architecture or design and are interested in volunteering, please email your resume to me at [ddeeter@stapletondenver.com](mailto:ddeeter@stapletondenver.com).

### Use Your Intranet

If you have trouble accessing The Stapleton Intranet (StapletonOnline.com), contact me, Diane Deeter, at [communitymanager@stapletondenver.com](mailto:communitymanager@stapletondenver.com)

## To Send Letters to the Editor

The Front Porch will publish Letters to the Editor, as space allows. We reserve the right to edit length. Please mail your letters to Tom Gleason, editor, Front Porch, Forest City Stapleton, Inc., 7351 E. 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80238 or email [tgleason@stapletondenver.com](mailto:tgleason@stapletondenver.com)

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8:10 pm

Bedtime  
reading  
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Teegarden  
children



*A Day  
in the  
Life of  
Stapleton*

# Founders' Green Fountain Tells a Story

The Founders' Green water feature is quickly becoming one of Stapleton's most popular attractions. In addition to being a fun and inviting place to gather, it is also an important place to spend time – important because of the story it tells.

Designed in partnership between Denver based landscape architecture firm Nuszer Kopatz and Boulder/Denver based Artscapes, a collective of craftsmen and designers, the design narrative for the fountain tells the story of Colorado's water reality. The water emanates in the mountains, represented here by the graceful granite dome at the east end of the plaza. It then travels through its natural course until its ultimate return to the earth, represented by the bowl that receives the water west of the granite dome. Throughout this waterway, we see eddies whimsically represented by granite monoliths set within the channel – an example of the harmony between form and function realized throughout this design.

But this is only half the story of water in the west.

The rest of the tale involves us – people, society, culture and our demands on this most precious resource. These requirements are represented by the very rigid runnels of "water" which are drawn from the main channel, diverted through the mountain ranges of its origin, beautifully articulated in the form of 10-foot tall stone columns. The water represented in these runnels is used variously for agriculture, mining, urbanization and recreation - all of which are alluded to subtly in the forms set within the areas surrounding the central plaza.

The fountain was designed in the midst of the region's worst drought in generations and at a time when some were suggesting that no more



The fountain in the East 29th Avenue Town Center

water features be constructed. Our response to that notion was, "if not now, when?" We determined to not shy away from the controversy but rather to simply apply new rules to classic forms. Design a water feature that treated the water as one of the region's most precious commodities and not gratuitously; use it as a forum to educate the public that, when valued and conserved, water can add to the quality of our daily lives.

As such we designed the water feature, and indeed the entire western crescent of the park, to use as little water as possible while providing a wonderful opportunity for interaction between people and nature. And the results speak for themselves – it takes only a quarter of the amount of water to run the fountain and irrigate all the trees, plants and shrubs on the site than would be consumed if the entire area were grass. By designing the water to flow gracefully from the dome as opposed to spraying into the air, by storing and recycling the water in an underground cistern, by incorporating underground drip irrigation and taking other measures, we have taken every effort possible to conserve and inspire.

While the entire plaza was designed to invite

exploration of all of its features, parents should exercise common sense and monitor children when visiting the fountain.

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The Ross's were one of the 1st families to move to Stapleton in June 2002. Justin's older daughter Jericka will be entering the 6th grade this fall and he and his wife Marissa are expecting their 1st child in September.

Justin and Marissa are quite anxious to experience the growth along the Stapleton corridor and look forward to serving your mortgage loan needs. Stapleton Mortgage may be reached at 303-810-0782, or email [jusross@stapletonmortgage.net](mailto:jusross@stapletonmortgage.net)



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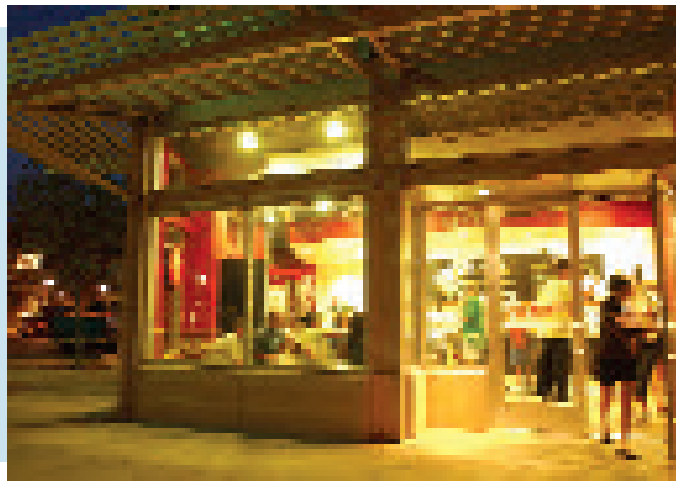
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9:00 pm

Stapleton homes glow in the evening light.



9:05 pm

Neighbors gather for ice cream at Cold Stone Creamery

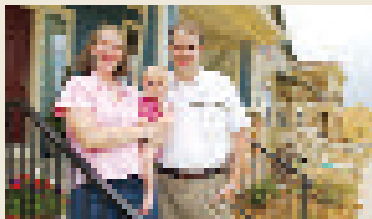
## STAPLETON TODAY



**An update of Stapleton's evolution from a former airport to a new urban community.**

### HOMES

Andrew and Kristie Kelley were welcomed this summer as the 1,000th homebuyers to move in at Stapleton.



Crescent Flats apartment homes are almost 90% occupied. Monthly rents are from \$779.

Botanica on the Green apartment homes are welcoming their first residents into the one-, two- and three-bedroom homes.

Stapleton has homes for everyone, priced from the low \$100s to over \$1 million. Mansion Homes are priced from the high \$100s. Townhomes are priced from the mid \$200s. Lofts are priced from the low \$300s and apartment monthly rents from \$700 - \$2,000.

The diversity of homes at Stapleton is complemented by Wonderland's Garden Court Homes, which feature a shared green space and covered front porches.

### SCHOOLS

Westerly Creek Elementary School welcomed its new principal, Patricia Lea for the new school year.

On August 16th the second "Pool to School" walk to celebrate the first day of school was held (shown above). Students, teachers and family members walked from Aviator Pool to Westerly Creek Elementary School.

### SHOPS

NorthField at Stapleton, a new 1.1 million square-foot retail center, will welcome Bass Pro Shops in October 2005.



East 29th Avenue Town Center will welcome The Grape Vine, a wine and spirits store, in September. Coming soon are Anthony's Pizza and Pasta, Clancy's Pub and the Coral Room.

**STAPLETON**

the art of urban living

### OFFICES

The Denver BioScience Center at Stapleton will be a unique location for science and technology companies with many advantages including tax incentives, nearby affordable housing, an experienced and financially capable developer and great school choices.

The East 29th Avenue Town Center Office Suites are 100% leased and occupied.



### PARKS

Greenway Park welcomes visitors everyday to its walking paths, picnic areas and Dog Park.

Work progresses on Westerly Creek, a natural corridor that will provide ponds and wetlands for all to enjoy.

### EVENTS

Stapleton's Farmers' Market is every Sunday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Stapleton's Founders' Green.



## Fall Bulb Planting Tips

By Sarah Christian

**When is the best time to plant?** - Fall is the time to purchase and plant spring flowering bulbs such as crocuses, daffodils, and tulips. Bulbs should be planted from late September through October so they can root well before the ground freezes. Plant as soon as possible after purchasing.

**Selecting Bulbs** - The earlier bulbs are purchased in the fall, the better the selection. Select the largest bulbs of a variety, as there is a direct correlation between bulb and flower size. A bulb should be plump, firm and heavy, not moldy or damaged.

**FALL  
BULB SALE**

**Sept. 2 - 15**

**Westerly Creek  
PTA Fundraiser**

For more information  
contact Melissa Darzis  
atmdarzines@comcast.net  
or 303-393-1142

Bulbs can be selected from bulb catalogs or open bins. Select a variety of bulbs with different flowering times to lengthen bloom period. Crocuses, snowdrops, species tulips, dwarf iris and scilla are very early reliable bloomers. Early to late-spring bloomers include grape hyacinths. Late spring to early summer bloomers include alliums and bearded and dutch iris. Careful planning can lead to an outstanding bloom display from early March through early June.

**Where to plant?** - Research required growing conditions. Your site should have appropriate sunlight and show the flowers off to their best advantage. A southern exposure, especially when close to the foundation, induces early emergence that may result in freezing injury. Plant bulbs in groups of the same color and variety. This looks more impressive than a mixture of colors and varieties.

**How to plant?** - Soil preparation is key. Bulbs prefer a sandy or clay loam soil. To improve the soil, spread 2-3 inches of compost on the bed and spade or till it in 6 inches deep. Plant bulbs with the growing tip up at the directed depth, generally four times the height of the bulb. After the ground freezes, cover the bed with 3-4 inches of mulch to prevent frost heaving and prepare for a spectacular spring display!

Sarah Christian runs her Landscape Architecture Design & Consulting business from her home, located at 8591 E. 26th Avenue. For more information, call 303-320-0392.

Stapleton is a tapestry of homes, shops, offices, parks, and schools in a walkable community of classic city architecture.

### beyond urban.



So often, "urban" means you get a lot of style but you have to give up something. The Colonial Row Homes at Stapleton are a no-compromise approach to urban. Great city location and great city architecture. But they also have a garage, a basement, up to three bedrooms and, yes, even a bit of a back yard.

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## Interfaith Families Invited!

Stepping Stones to a Jewish Me is a hands-on educational program for children and parents of interfaith families who do not identify with one religious tradition.

Space is limited, so call Debbie at 303-388-4013 x335 or e-mail [director@SteppingStonesFamily.com](mailto:director@SteppingStonesFamily.com) for information and to register your family.

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*Drawing to a Close, August 16, 2004*  
*— A Day in the Life of Stapleton —*

9:15pm



As August 16th draws to a close, Stapleton residents enjoy a warm summer night at Founders' Green in the East 29th Avenue Town Center.

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**Exempla** Family Medicine at Stapleton  
HEALTHCARE



Meet Stapleton's Neighborhood Doctor, Kristine Leathery, MD. Dr. Leathery is board certified in family medicine. She and her partners at Exempla Family Medicine at Stapleton recently opened their new office conveniently located in the Stapleton Plaza Office Building. They offer a full range of medical care for all members of your family including newborn care, child health care, women's health care, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology. Exempla Family Medicine at Stapleton is located at 3401 Quebec, Suite 1015. For an appointment, please call 303-467-8900. Dr. Leathery and her staff look forward to providing extraordinary health care to you and your family, our Stapleton neighbors.

**Back-to-School Packing & Shipping\***  
**\*Unpacking not included**

  
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