Governor Bill Owens recently joined students, parents, faculty and administrators from the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the first new high school to open at Stapleton.

The Denver Public Schools charter school opened its doors to 125 ninth-graders in fall of last year at a temporary location west of Stapleton. On January 4th, exactly 11 months after Governor Owens and Mayor John W. Hickenlooper presided at the groundbreaking for the permanent school, students returned from their holiday break to begin classes at the brand new state-of-the-art facility located on a ten-acre parcel of land donated by Stapleton’s master developer, Forest City.

DSST is dedicated to providing an outstanding liberal arts high school education with a science and technology focus to a diverse student body. Of the students enrolled in the initial freshman class, 22% are Hispanic, 42% are African American, and 29% are Anglo. Students from... (continued on page 16)

Beth and Bill Letzsch will bring the nationally renowned Primrose program in educational childcare to Stapleton in the late fall of this year. The school will be located on Syracuse Street, across from Fred Thomas Park. As owners and operators of Primrose School at Stapleton, the parents of twin one-year-olds plan to establish a partnership with parents that is a “springboard to a child’s emotional, physical and intellectual development.”

Prior to coming to Stapleton, Beth and Bill Letzsch designed, built and operated a large, private preschool in Tucson, Arizona that was quickly recognized as the ‘gold standard’ for private preschools in that state. After learning they were expecting twins, they decided to build a preschool in the Denver area. They continuously heard from business and community leaders that Primrose was the most respected preschool provider in Colorado. After investigating other providers in the area and learning more about the Primrose philosophy of providing premier early childhood education, they agreed that Primrose was their choice, and decided to open Primrose School at Stapleton.

“The greatest wish we can have for children is that they become adults who love who they are and what they do,” said Beth Letzsch. “Such self-knowledge, such passion for life, requires a delicate balance that becomes one of the keys to lifelong happiness. We look forward to bringing that philosophy to Primrose School at Stapleton,” she added. (continued on page 3)
Mark Your
CALENDAR
2005 STAPLETON EVENTS

EVERY MONTH

First Tuesday of each month
Stapleton Residents’ Social Events Committee
Stapleton Visitor Center
6 - 7:30pm

First Wednesday of each month
Westerly Creek PTA
Childcare $3.00/head donation 6:30pm

First Saturday of each month
Blight Lake Birders
Blight Lake Nature Center
7 - 9am

Third Tuesday of each month
Stapleton Business Assoc.
Call 303-393-770 for location 8am

Third Thursday of each month
Stapleton Development Corporation
Citizens Advisory Board
7350 E. 29th Ave., Suite 300
7:30am

Every Tuesday
Stapleton Strollers
29th and Valentina
9:30am

Every Tuesday
Preschool and Parent Support Group
Westerly Creek Elementary School
10:30am

Every Wednesday
Music Together
Westerly Creek Elementary School
9:30 - 10:30am

Every Friday
Story Time for Tots
Westerly Creek Elementary School
9:30am

Every Sunday
June - September
*Stapleton Farmers’ Market

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 5th
First Annual Stapleton Rotary Club Fundraiser
Radisson Stapleton Plaza
5:30pm

APRIL

Saturday, April 30th
May Day Preparations
Westerly Creek Elementary School

MARCH

Wednesday, March 2nd
S.U.N Community Policing Meeting
7350 E. 29th Ave. (3rd floor)
6:30pm

Saturday, March 5th
Baby/Kid Stuff Sale
Westerly Creek Elementary School
9am - noon

Thursday, March 10th
Family Game Night
to Benefit Tsunami Relief
The Odyssey School
RSVP at 303-316-3944 6pm

Saturday, March 19th
Spring Fling
Founders’ Green
10am - Noon

MAY

Saturday, May 28th
Aviator Pool Opens
Saturday, May 28th
Happy Hour
Aviator Pool
6:30 - 8:30pm

JUNE

Saturday, June 11th
Stapleton Charity Chase

JULY

Monday, July 4th
4th of July Parade
Begins at Founders’ Green
10am

Monday, July 4th
4th of July Ice Cream Social
Aviator Pool
1 - 4pm

Thursday, July 28th
Happy Hour
Aviator Pool
6:30 - 8:30pm

AUGUST

Saturday, August 20th
Happy Hour
Aviator Pool
6:30 - 8:30pm

Saturday, August 27th
Stapleton Stampede Run

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 24th
Wine Festival
Founders’ Green

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 15th
Fall Festival
Founders’ Green
11am - 1pm

*Watch www.StapletonDenver.com for more information

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Editor’s Note: Brian Weber of the Stapleton
Foundation interviewed Bill Kurtz, Head of School
for the Denver School of Science and Technology
at Stapleton, to learn more about the school and the
philosophy behind its programs.

First, tell a little about yourself, your education and
other background.

When I was in college I was interested in working
in the non-profit, social service field. My mentors
made it clear to me if I had a chance to go into the
financial world for a few years I should do it.
Financial knowledge is involved in everything in life.
Regardless of what one does in life unfortunately it
does come back to money in the end.

I spent four and half years on Wall Street and
enjoyed it tremendously. I knew it was not going to
be long term. I ended up going to a school in the
South Bronx (Holy Cross School, a grammar school
serving 540 children in grades prekindergarten
trough eighth) for three and half years. I was doing
all sorts of things. I was assistant principal, I helped
fundraise, I coached, I taught. I chose that because we
have a lot of people in education who have never
been in the trenches, in poor rural or urban areas
where schools are not working and understand why
that is.

It became very clear to me that there was a huge
leadership gap in education particularly in
low-income communities. I went back to get a masters
degree at Teachers College at Columbia University at night.
Mr. Kurtz then went to work in Newark, N.J.,
at the Link Community School, an independent
middle school serving 125 low-income African-
American seventh and eighth graders. It was the
right fit, the right time. It took kids from Newark
public schools, a struggling system. We placed
100 percent of our graduates in top high schools
for five consecutive years.

What attracted you to the DSST job?

I came here for family reasons. We wanted to see what
life was like on the other side of the Mississippi. We
wanted to explore new places, see what they had to
offer. Denver seemed like one of those wonderful
places to try. On a professional level this just seemed
like the right opportunity largely because I am
committed to continue to create opportunities for
underserved children, to have what they deserve,
which children are inspired to think for themselves
and explore their own abilities, while being guided
by teachers who instill in children a love of learning
and the resources they need to prepare for success
in life.

The Primrose School at Stapleton will enable
children to thrive in a safe and secure environment
under the care of a professional, highly trained and
experienced teaching staff that is 100% certified in
CPR and First Aid. The balanced learning programs
of Primrose are enhanced by the inclusion of music,
charter development and other essential compo-
nents of a daily curriculum. Serving children from 6
weeks to 12 years, preschool, pre-Kindergarten and
private full-day Kindergarten classes will be available,
as well ‘educational play dates’ that prepare children
from age 2 1/2 to 4 for preschool. After school pro-
grams providing individualized homework assistance
and summer camps are also planned.

And in addition to their established success in the
field of early childhood education, Beth and Bill
Letzsch bring a wide variety of business skills to
their new school at Stapleton. Beth, an Army
veteran, has more than 10 years’ experience in
business operations, including large childcare
development, computer, high-tech and
communications industries both as a lawyer and a
businessperson.

To obtain more information about Primrose School at Stapleton, contact Beth Letzsch at
primrose@stapleton.com or visit
www.myprimroseschool.com/stapleton where
parents can fill out an online request form and
provide detailed information in regard to the
care and educational needs of their children.

We have the highest expectations for character as
well as academics. We feel there is a real timidity
in our public institutions that you can’t say values are
important. We feel like the values we have are what
are our society supports and reflects and our society
depends on. Our young people have to grow up with
an understanding of what democratic values mean
both individually and in living within a civic
structure. They have to be defined. Every organization
communicates values. It’s just a matter of whether you
intentionally communicate them or not.

What aspects of the DSST would seem very different
to someone accustomed to the traditional high school?

It comes down to the tangible impacts of what we
talk about. One is that when a person walks in here
they feel a culture that’s defined by those values. For
one thing, our students get along. We have one of the
most diverse student bodies
(continued on page 14)
** Denver Children's Home Teacher A Problem Solver **

When the employees of Forest City Stapleton, Inc. worked side by side with the children and staff of Denver Children's Home (DCH), they were impressed by the dedicated teachers and staff providing a safe, therapeutic place for emotionally distressed children, adolescents and their families.

One of those special instructors is Christopher Richie, who teaches science as well as an elective called Strategy for Creative Problem Solving to 9th and 10th graders. Christopher has been in Colorado since 1996 working with emotionally distressed children and teens in the Denver Metro area. About three years ago, he heard about the Denver Children’s Home and decided to check it out. He has been with DCH ever since.

Christopher believes that creative problem solving is a very important life tool that will carry his students well into their adult lives. The class teaches revolves around using chess as a tool for teaching problem solving. Christopher finds it to be a real advantage to utilize the freedom of a non-traditional high school to make learning fun and more interesting through unconventional and more diverse methods of teaching. Although he finds it challenging not to have the same students in his class through an entire semester, he says it is rewarding when a student who has not had the greatest success in a traditional school begins to feel good about attending class and wanting to learn.

As a teacher, he prides himself on making sure that every day he steps into his classroom, he exudes only positive energy while interacting with his students. Christopher’s positive attitude, dedication and commitment to DCH are clearly exhibited in the children’s lives he touches.

Fifteen-year-old Jodon Simms, a 10th grader, is one of Christopher’s students and one of many success stories. Although this is her first year attending class at DCH, Jodon says she feels very comfortable and welcome. She loves attending school there because the teachers are kind and nurturing – and they care. Jodon is so excited about learning now that she says one of her favorite things to do after school is completing her homework. Jodon now has aspirations of being a singer, a lawyer, a nurse, a doctor or a teacher because she is comfortable with the positive strides she has made while attending school at DCH. She is inspired to dream big because she now has gained confidence in herself through her education that she did not have before. She advises other teens to be responsible in decision-making, respectful, focused, and not feed negativity.

Thanks to Christopher Richie of Denver Children’s Home, those are lessons well learned.

** Smiley School Celebrates Black History Month **

The third annual Smiley Celebrates Black History Month will be held on February 17, 2005 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Smiley Middle School, located at 26th and Holly in Park Hill, in walking distance west of Stapleton. This fun filled evening celebrates Black History Month as well as other cultures that contribute to Denver’s rich diversity. Student works of art, music, drama, and dance performances will fill the halls with color and entertainment. The whole school family and neighborhood is invited to see the effort put forth by Smiley students in these creative endeavors that explore culture and particularly the contributions of African-Americans.

Smiley’s Artists in residence have been working with students to develop creative works such as two-dimensional art, dance and drama. The Smiley Cougar Band will be performing as well. Dinner will be served for a small charge in the cafeteria. The entertaining and informative event is funded, in part, by the Colorado Council on the Arts and the Smiley Parent-Teacher-Students Association. For further information contact Trine Bumiller at 303-322-8244.

** Smiley School Celebrates Black History Month **

The follower education Program of The Bluff Lake Nature Center at Stapleton was recently awarded the K-12 Award for Excellence in Environmental Education from the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE).

The Bluff Lake Nature Center occupies 125 acres adjacent to Sand Creek on the eastern portion of Stapleton. It offers a variety of native habitats including a seasonal lake, wetlands, short-grass prairie, a riparian zone and forest. Bluff Lake has become an urban wildlife refuge for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, deer, fox, reptiles, amphibians and other types of wildlife that visit or live at the site.

The Bluff Lake environmental education programs were developed to benefit urban students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The programs emphasize a variety of natural science topics including wildlife habitats, food webs, plant communities, wetland ecology, non-point source pollution, land-use history and environmental stewardship.

The Bluff Lake Nature Center has worked to ensure that all students, regardless of financial circumstances, have the opportunity to learn about nature. All public schools receive free programs. Schools rated at 50% or higher enrolled in the “Free and Reduced Lunch” program will also be offered reimbursement of school bus expenses for field trips made to Bluff Lake.

The Bluff Lake Nature Center is open free to the public daily from sunrise to sunset. To obtain directions to Bluff Lake or learn more about the special restrictions visitors must observe to protect the wildlife while visiting this sensitive natural area, visit www.bluflakenaturecenter.org.

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** ALPS Volunteers Needed **

The Active Living Partnership at greater Stapleton (ALPS) is looking for a few volunteers to help us with its projects. Many of you participated in our Passport to Active Living program in August and September of 2004. We are in the process of putting together the 2005 Passport and are in need of volunteers to assist with the website and graphic design, solicit Passport sponsorships and donations, and coordinate events and activities that are listed in the Passport. We are also in need of neighborhood block representatives to promote and distribute the Passports and people to help with the marketing of the program. Volunteers are asked to contact Tina Pah, ALPS Project Coordinator at 303-315-9047 or tina.pah@uchc.edu.
Westerly Creek Teacher Creates Enthusiasm

By Alaina Brandenburg

As one of two kindergarten teachers at Westerly Creek Elementary School, Romi Hovey brings creativity and enthusiasm into her classroom.

Ms. Hovey is a Denver native who has been teaching within the Denver Public Schools for 19 years. She started her teaching career teaching bilingual education (Spanish and English) for 3rd graders. After that, she taught first grade for five years, and has been teaching kindergarten for the past five years.

An administrator from Denver Public Schools approached Romi about interviewing for a position at Westerly Creek when the school opened two years ago. She came on board when the school opened, and although she is not a Stapleton resident, she enjoys teaching at Stapleton. Romi says, “It is close to everything, which is nice. The parent participation is incredible.”

Romi admits that working for a new school in a new community does have its challenges. “It was a struggle in the first year trying to get everything going. This is a young community, and we did not have a lot of neighborhood kids our first year. This year is better. The school almost doubled in size this year. I am looking forward to the community growing into the school,” she adds.

After earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Graphic Design, Ms. Hovey decided that the field was not for her. She says that teaching is “in her blood.” Her mother is a middle school teacher for Aurora Public Schools, and her sister teaches Social Studies because she loved it in high school and enjoys teaching children about the world and current events.

Ms. Hovey says, “Every day the kids show you things you didn’t think they could do.” She finds teaching kindergarten gratifying because there is a huge amount of growth from the beginning of the year until the end of the year. “Every day the kids show you things you didn’t think they could do,” Ms. Hovey says.

Alaina Brandenburg is a member of the staff of Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

Odyssey Teacher Explores History

By Ali Morgan

Alison Morgan doesn’t merely teach history, she helps her students explore history.

Ali has been an instructor at The Odyssey School of Stapleton for four years. While she also serves on the charter school’s Board of Directors, her most important contribution is made both in and outside the classroom, where she is currently helping her 5th and 6th grade students explore the history of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The learning project is an example of a philosophy that lies at the heart of the school’s curriculum. A visit to The Odyssey School’s website (www.odysseydenver.org) reveals an in-depth description of the “learning expeditions” Odyssey describes as “rigorous” and “purposeful.” Unlike the traditional classroom field trips in many schools that are more casual, of a shorter duration and superficial, learning expeditions at schools such as Odyssey can last anywhere from 4 to 9 weeks, enabling students and their teachers to engage in a more in-depth study of a single subject, topic or theme. Each learning expedition has a clear set of goals that are consistent with those established by the school and its district. A plan for an expedition typically describes specific activities, defines final products, specific performance standards, and how students and teachers will measure success in the expedition.

The Odyssey School is chartered by the Denver Public School system, making attendance free for any student in that system. For more information, visit www.odysseydenver.org.

Building a Great Environment for Business

By Brad Phillips

Do you have a business based in the Stapleton area? Then we’ve got the organization for you! The Greater Stapleton Business Association encompasses the areas of the E. 29th Avenue Town Center, Quebec Square, and “Hotel Row” along Quebec Street and Clark expedition. The greater community of Interstate 70. Our group is designed to help foster a healthy business environment for companies based in the area, as well as provide an outlet for networking and the sharing of ideas across a broad spectrum of topics related to business growth. We meet the 3rd Tuesday morning of every month in the boardroom of the Stapleton Development Corporation offices at 7350 E 29th Avenue. For more information, contact me at 303.377.4767, or call Angie Malpiede of the Stapleton Foundation at 303.468.3231.

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<th>SERVICES</th>
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<td>Allstate Insurance, Brad Phillips &amp; Associates</td>
<td>AT&amp;T Wireless</td>
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<td>Offer: A $5 gift card to your choice of Starbucks or Thomas Bros</td>
<td>Offer: FREE Vehicle power adapter with new activation ($29.99 value). Waived</td>
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<td>Coffee &amp; Chai with any FREE, no hassle quote on home and auto, or</td>
<td>Activation fee on new activations ($36.00 value).</td>
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<td>Offer: Open a FREE no-minimum balance checking account with Direct</td>
<td>Offer: Saturdays - get two for one on select flowers.</td>
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<td>Deposit and receive added benefits equal to those offered to bank</td>
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<td>employees!</td>
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<td>Credit Union at Stapleton</td>
<td>Cat’s Music Together at the Bladium</td>
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<td>Offer: Receive a FREE $20.00 gift when you open your new Credit</td>
<td>Offer: $5 tuition for each registered child in your family.</td>
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<td>Union at Stapleton account!</td>
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<td>Environmental Friendly Cleaners</td>
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<td>Offer: 20% off all DRY CLEANING (Quebec Square location only).</td>
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<td>V2K Window Fashions</td>
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<td>Offer: 10% off of orders of $100 or more.</td>
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<td><strong>RESTAURANTS</strong></td>
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<td>Brasserie Restaurant</td>
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<td>and Lounge in the Renaissance Hotel</td>
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<td>Offer: 15% discount on all food and beverage.</td>
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<td>Character’s Sports</td>
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<td>Bar &amp; Grill (at the Doubletree Denver)</td>
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<td>Cold Stone Creamery®</td>
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<td>Offer: $1.00 off “Love It,” or “Got to Have It” creations.</td>
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<td>Kyle’s Saloon and Eatery</td>
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<td>Offer: FREE salad with dine-in pizza or calzone order.</td>
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<td>Noodles and Company</td>
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<td>Offer: Free fountain beverage with purchase of entree sized bowl.</td>
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<td>Panera Bread</td>
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<td>Offer: $1 off Sandwich, Salad or You Pick Two.</td>
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<td>Radisson Hotel, Quebec’s Bistro</td>
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<td>Offer: 15% off food menu items.</td>
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<td>Thomas Bros.</td>
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<td>Offer: FREE size UPGRADE on ANY beverage.</td>
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<td>Wingz ETC!</td>
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<td>Offer: 10% off any combo meal.</td>
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**PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS**

| HEALTH & BEAUTY                                                                                           | A Wild Smile Pediatric Dentistry                                                                 |
|                                                                                                            | Offer: Free well baby check up for 12-18 month-olds.                                           |
| A Day Spa                                                                                                 |                                                                                               |
| Offer: 10% off any service.                                                                               |                                                                                               |
| A Wild Smile Pediatric Dentistry                                                                        |                                                                                               |
| Offer: Free well baby check up for 12-18 month-olds.                                                     |                                                                                               |
| Bladium Sports Club                                                                                      |                                                                                               |
| Offer: $75 for initiation fees.                                                                           |                                                                                               |
| Curves                                                                                                    |                                                                                               |
| Offer: 50% off initiation fee.                                                                             |                                                                                               |
| Executive Tans                                                                                            |                                                                                               |
| Offer: 20% off select lotion with purchase of a session.                                                  |                                                                                               |
| Fantastic Sams                                                                                            |                                                                                               |
| Offer: 10% off all services and professional products, Free haircut with color service.                   |                                                                                               |
| GNC at Quebec Square                                                                                      |                                                                                               |
| Offer: $5 off a purchase of $30 or more.                                                                  |                                                                                               |
| Great Clips                                                                                                |                                                                                               |
| Offer: 20% off any product with haircut purchase.                                                         |                                                                                               |
| Sports Clips                                                                                              |                                                                                               |
| Offer: $2.00 off a men’s or boy’s haircut.                                                                 |                                                                                               |

**RESTAURANTS**

Students gather at Star K Ranch located just minutes east of Stapleton.

By Kate Kramer

The Sand Creek Regional Greenway, which traverses Stapleton, is a wonderful outdoors laboratory for learning that has a number of attractions. In addition to the activities offered at The Bluff Lake Natural Area on the eastern edge of Stapleton, another great place to find organized educational programs along the fourteen mile Greenway is at the Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch, a 200-acre natural area and outdoors learning center that is just minutes east of Stapleton.

Set in a historic and refurbished ranch house, The Morrison Nature Center offers a variety of programs for children, both free and for a small fee. For 3 to 5 year olds, the center offers programs called “Star K Kids” and “Little Naturalists.” Junior Rangers (ages 6 to 10) can learn about nature, and Nature Explorers can also earn badges for participation. Many schools hold wonderful field trips to Star K Ranch, which also offers programs for adults and teens on a weekly basis on such topics as “Winter Tracks” and “Deer of Aurora.” Directions: To get to Star K Ranch from Stapleton, take I-70 east to the Chambers Road exit. Go south on Chambers Rd, to Smith Rd. Travel east on Smith Rd to Laredo St. Turn south on Laredo St. and look for the green tile roof at the bottom of the hill.

Kate Kramer is the executive director of The Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, Inc. She may be reached at 303-468-5283 or www.sandcreekgreenway.org.
The Urban Farm at Stapleton

By Christy Landwehr

The Urban Farm at Stapleton offers a wide array of programs in horsemanship, animal husbandry, gardening, conservation, stream reclamation and land cultivation to young people. There are also goats, sheep, cows, chickens, donkeys and even a sow and a llama to meet! Perhaps most importantly, the programs offered by the Urban Farm build character and self-confidence in boys and girls who learn how to ride and care for horses. Several of the students in the Urban Farm programs have excelled in competition in The National Western Stock Show. The Urban Farm at Stapleton is currently offering information about riding classes for the spring season. Group lessons are a good way to maintain riding skills, ride different horses and meet “horse-crazy” friends. There is an indoor arena for year-round lessons.

To learn more about this non-profit organization that brings youth and horses together and serves as a great asset to the Denver community, please visit www.theurbanfarm.org or call 303-307-9332. Registration forms for Urban Farm programs are available at www.theurbanfarm.org/currentschedule.pdf.

Christy Landwehr is a member of the staff of The Urban Farm at Stapleton.

March 10 – Games for Good: Tsunami Relief

Game Night at Odyssey School

The first and second grade students at The Odyssey School who are studying world games will be hosting a community wide Family Game Night to raise money for the children hurt by the December 2004 tsunami. We invite all fun loving folks to come meet a neighbor, play a board game or tour, have some food and donate money for the children. All the money raised will be used to help children in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and India. The Family Game Night will be held on Thursday, March 10 at 6 p.m. at The Odyssey School, 8750 E. 28th Ave. Donations will be accepted at the door and pizza, drinks and desserts will be sold.

As it would help our planning for food and space, please call the school at 303-316-3944 if you plan to attend.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

Upcoming Nature Programs

Reservations are required for these FREE programs. Space is limited. Call 303.289.0930 to register.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 5, 1–3pm Winter Exploration

Sunday, February 6, 10am – noon Where Eagles Soar

Sunday, February 13, 9–11am Sky Tigers

Sunday, February 20, 1–3pm Wildlife Watch Workshop

Sunday, February 26, 1–3pm Birding Basics

MARCH

Saturday March 5, 1–3pm Tracks & Scat

Saturday March 12, 10am–noon Refuge Manager Tour

Saturday March 19, 9–11am Friends of a Feather

Sunday March 20, 10am–noon Kids in the Wild

Saturday March 26, 1–3pm Scouting for Wildlife

Sunday, March 27, 9–11am Shutterbug Tour

Editor’s note: To reach the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge from Stapleton, take Quebec Street north to 56th Avenue. Travel east on 56th Avenue to Havana Street and turn left to enter the Refuge.
Westerly Creek Valentine’s Dance and Auction

“Be mine” at the Westerly Creek Valentine’s Day Sock Hop and Auction! Don’t forget your dancing shoes . . . or your checkbook! On Friday, February 11 at 6pm, Westerly Creek Elementary School will hold its first Valentine’s Day Sock Hop & Auction. Students, parents, friends, family and community members are all invited to join the fun. Parents can drop off their kids in the cafeteria where children can practice their dance moves, eat and drink under the supervision of chaperones. Adults can then stroll down to the gym to place bids on valuable items and services in a silent auction that will benefit the Westerly Creek PTA. Cast a bid for Nuggets or Rockies tickets, ski packages, goods and services from merchants in Stapleton’s Town Center, wooden furniture hand-painted by Westerly Creek students, and much more. Tickets for the Sock Hop are just $2, and can be purchased at the door. For more details, contact Sarah Rogers at 720-480-5578 or sdenio2@aol.com.

Westerly Creek Preschool and Parent Support Group

Come join the fun at the Preschool & Parent Support Group at Westerly Creek Elementary School (8800 E. 28th Ave.) Offered through the Emily Griffith Opportunity School, this terrific program for parents and their children (ages 2-5) meets on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:30pm. The children will enjoy an afternoon of art, music, and creative play activities under the supervision of qualified, caring instructors. Parents meet in a separate room and discuss topics chosen by the group. This is a great opportunity to meet neighbors, make friends, and share ideas for managing home & family. Adult curriculum & activities may include discussion groups, guest speakers, projects and field trips.

For further information, please call Arlene Neff @ 303-377-3831 or just come to the class.

Another DPS School Coming to Stapleton

By Brian Weber

Site work will begin soon on the next Denver Public School (DPS) planned for Stapleton, with an opening scheduled for August 2006. The school, located at Montview and Central Park boulevards, is planned as a kindergarten through eighth grade school with early childhood classes for four-year-olds. The school will be able to accommodate up to 750 students and will be the Denver Public Schools middle school of assignment for Stapleton.

The education program for the school will be determined over the next year. In the first half of 2005, focus groups and a community meeting will be held to gather ideas from residents about possible programs. A principal will likely be hired by summer. In the fall, the principal and a representative group of residents, teachers, community members and DPS administrators will form a program committee that will analyze various options. That committee will then recommend a program to the DPS Board of Education. DPS will make the final decision on the program.

DPS, the Stapleton Foundation and Forest City Stapleton, Inc. will coordinate the program process. For information contact Brian Weber at Stapleton Foundation, 303-468-3224; bweber@stapletoncorp.com. Brian Weber is Vice Pres. Education/Workforce Initiatives for The Stapleton Foundation.

Baby Power

Thomas Cobb plays at Baby Power! Forever-Kids play program for parents and children, which recently opened its doors in the Quebec Square Regional Retail Center at Stapleton. For information, call 303-377-8855.

TO ADVERTISE IN THE FRONT PORCH call: 720.249.5118 email: marketing@StapletonDenver.com or visit: www.StapletonDenver.com
RK Mechanical, Inc. is a full service commercial and industrial mechanical contractor. We design, fabricate and install Plumbing, Hydronic Piping, Process Piping, Refrigeration, and HVAC systems. Additionally, we have a mechanical service company, Performance Building Services (PBS), and a fabrication company, Performance Fabrication and Manufacturing (PF&M). Both are wholly owned divisions of RK Mechanical, Inc.

RK Mechanical is also dedicated to growing and training the next generation of tradespeople. RK Mechanical has an established, accredited, in-house apprenticeship program. We are committed to our employees and foster an environment where they can stay on the cutting edge of new technologies, tools and techniques.

And, as a merit shop that rewards its tradespeople based on performance, RK Mechanical employs an inspired workforce that is committed to safety, quality and cost-effectiveness.

Our apprenticeship program consists of 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and 776 hours of classroom, lab and shop training. RK Mechanical’s bilingual, accredited programs help hundreds of apprentices receive certification in the Bureau of Apprenticeship Training (BAT) program, a recognized accreditation from the Department of Labor. Additionally, apprentices receive college credits from the Emily Griffith Opportunity School.

We are very proud of our industry-leading training program, and overall commitment to training. Our Training Manager, Jim Kentel, leads our in-house apprenticeship program, all management training conducted on a continuing basis, and all specialty training. Tom Menzies, our Corporate Safety Director, assists with training by providing CPR/First Aid, OSHA 10-hour, confined space, forklift, trenching and excavating, supervisor safety training and lock-out/tag-out training.

RK Mechanical, Inc. is an aggressive and diverse company with continued profitable growth as a primary goal but feels education is an important part of our future. We consistently rank in the top three for mechanical contractors in Colorado, and in the top twenty nationally. We are Colorado’s largest privately held mechanical contractor.

Quebec Square Family Dentistry

After Dr. Preet K. Clair graduated from Marquette University School of Dentistry and completed her residency, she decided to move to Colorado to “escape the Milwaukee cold.” A native of Nova Scotia, Canada, Dr. Clair practiced for six years before opening Quebec Square Family Dentistry at Stapleton nearly two months ago.

It has been a busy two months. Dr. Clair says her practice is thriving and attracting new patients every day from Stapleton, Greater Park Hill and the other surrounding neighborhoods. Many of those new patients have learned about her practice from her ads in The Front Porch, where she advertises the latest dental technology and a gentle, personal approach to educating her patients how to take an active role in developing good oral health.

Dr. Clair’s office hours are 7am to 4pm Mon./Tues./Wed., Thursdays from 8am to noon and Fridays from 8am to 5pm. Dr. Clair also schedules Saturday appointments twice a month from 9am to noon. Call 303.322.2081 to schedule an appointment or obtain more information.
February is Dental Health Month, a month dedicated to helping people understand the importance of dental hygiene and a healthy smile from the very young to the very old. Dr. Jesse Witkoff and his staff have decided to turn Dental Health Month into an event to be remembered. On Saturday, February 19th from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. A Wild Smile-Pediatric Dentistry will be hosting a FREE Safari Family Carnival. On this date the first two floors of 7350 E. 29th Avenue in the East 29th Avenue Town Center will become a jungle of fun. Children will be welcomed with clowns, face painting, puppet shows, games, crafts and a journey that ends with great prizes for all. Parents will be welcomed with food demonstrations and samples, dental educational materials, safety identification cards for the children and a chance to win a number of great door prizes, including an I-pod, sporting event tickets, zoo memberships and more.

A Wild Smile’s office is already a magical place that instead of transporting a child to the dentist chair, embraces a child’s imagination and takes the child on a journey through the jungle of Dr. Witkoff’s office. It is a journey where the teeth brushing area becomes an animal watering hole and x-rays are now simply getting a picture taken with the friendly stuffed gorilla.

For more information call 720-945-1234. RSVPs are appreciated, but not necessary, to drjessewitkoff@aol.com.

Holiday Sponsors
The January edition of The Front Porch inadvertently failed to acknowledge two of our sponsors from the Holiday Activities at Stapleton. We would like to thank Talty Insurance (door prizes) and Commercial Federal (cookie table) for their generous support of our celebration!

2005 Master Community Association Delegate Election and Annual Meeting
Are you interested in serving as a delegate for The Master Community Association? The Master Community Association invites you to get involved in your community. The delegate election and annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Westerly Creek Elementary School. A quorum is required to vote on delegates.

Two delegate positions are open for one-year terms: District #2 and District #3. (Please refer to the Delegate Map in the Stapleton Homebuyer Guide available at the Stapleton Visitor Center to confirm your district). If you are interested in becoming a delegate, please submit a “Delegate Questionnaire” (available at www.stapletononline.com no later than February 15, 2005).

Please encourage your neighbors to attend the annual meeting along with you! A great community starts with YOU!

2005 Pool Season
Can you believe the 2005 pool season is right around the corner? It is time to start thinking about getting your pool ID, registering for swim lessons and swim team, and finding your swimsuit. Okay, you could probably wait another month or two on the swimsuit, but don’t forget registering for summer programs be an afterthought. To register, please call 720.529.9911.

The Stapleton Stingrays need strong swimmers. If you are interested in joining this swim team, be sure to attend either registration date listed below to sign up for the team and be sized for your swimsuit.

If you need a 2005 ID or update sticker or to register for summer swim programs and swim team please attend one of the following sessions at the Stapleton Visitor Center:

Saturday, March 12 (12:00 – 2:00 p.m.)
Monday, March 14 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

Additional ID dates are scheduled for April and May. However, program registration is on a “first come, first served” basis so register EARLY! Please check for updates at www.stapletononline.com.

Contacting the Community Manager
Diane Deeter, Community Manager, Forest City Stapleton, Inc.
7480 East 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80238
Email: communitymanager@StapletonDenver.com
Phone: 720-249-5110

Recently opened retail in the East 29th Avenue Town Center...

The Grape Leaf
Henry Platter, Manager of The Grape Leaf, examines the label on a bottle of wine in his store in the East 29th Avenue Town Center. For information about store hours call 720-941-7117.

Anthony’s Pizza
Jason Priddy, a co-owner of Anthony’s Pizza with Stephen Hunter, serves take-out customers during a busy lunch hour in his restaurant in the East 29th Avenue Town Center. For more information call 303-398-2800.

A Wild Smile Celebrates Dental Health Month on a Safari
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For more information call 720-945-1234. RSVPs are appreciated, but not necessary, to drjessewitkoff@aol.com.
A Living Education: Five Things Pets Can Teach Children

Parents should first make sure their child desires a pet before rushing out to get one. Together, they should decide what type of pet is best. Moreover, don’t expect your pet to teach children about the importance of taking care of themselves. For instance, you can teach your children why it is important to take care of a pet, because animals stimulate curiosity and build empathy, pets can play a vital role in helping a child learn how the world and living things are interconnected.

Stapleton’s Sustainable School Buildings

You probably already know that Stapleton’s residential builders do a terrific job in delivering housing that leads the Colorado market in green and energy efficient construction practices. At Stapleton, we also work with Denver Public Schools and The Stapleton Foundation to integrate sustainability principles into the design and construction of school buildings.

Denver School of Science and Technology

The Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST), which just opened in January on a 10-acre site along Montview Boulevard donated by Forest City Stapleton, Inc., was designed through a collaborative effort between David Stephen, the architect of High Tech High, the Denver-based klytp architectural firm and the contractor, M.A. Mortenson. DSST has many sustainable building features:
- The building is oriented longitudinally on an east west axis. This maximizes the building’s southern exposure to increase heat gain from the sun during the winter.
- Lighting strategies were used extensively.
  - An effort to maximize daylight reduced the need for artificial lighting, which in turn reduced the heat load generated by the lights.
  - The use of courtyards allows more light into the classrooms. In fact, you can go into many spaces during the day and the lights do not need to be turned on.
  - The majority of the lighting installed is indirect lighting, which is optimum for learning environments.
- High efficiency glass and thermally broken windows reduce temperature transfer along the walls.
- B-19 insulation in the walls and B-30 insulation at the roof was used.
- Recycled carpet was used throughout the building.
- White roofs were used on the flat areas to reduce the heat island effect.
- The wood arcade at the south entrance is made from spare wood shavings from mills.
- The wood arcade at the south entrance is made from spare wood shavings from mills.
- Sun control devices to block direct sunlight but also project natural light deep into classrooms.
- Commissioning of mechanical and electrical systems;
- Connection to future gray water utility for irrigation;
- Rain sensors to shut off irrigation during rainstorms;
- Separate irrigation systems for trees/ shrubs and sod so that the trees and shrubs can be irrigated during drought restrictions.

Learn more about the Denver School of Science and Technology elsewhere in this edition of the Front Porch. And be sure to watch the second DPS elementary school comes out of the ground later this year!
Crime at Stapleton

Stapleton United Neighbors Editorial

New Urbanism, Old Problem: Crime at Stapleton

By Mike King

Shortly after moving into our beautiful new homes, many of us quickly
learned the hard way that “new urbanism” at Stapleton has not escaped an
age-old problem: crime. Over the past summer, in addition to two sexual
assaults, which occurred in open spaces at 25th & Spruce and 28th between
Roslyn and Syracuce, a wide array of other crimes were reported at Stapleton.
For example, during the month of September, an average of seven to nine
crimes per week were reported, including burglaries, larcenies, auto theft, and
drug related crimes, about half of these crimes occurred at Quebec Square,
and the other half occurred in the residential portion of Stapleton. Several
disturbing trends emerged, including teenage males on bicycles scouting alleys
for open garages and other targets of opportunity (and typically “reporting”
back to a vehicle, often parked at Fred Thomas Park), vandalism of cars and
attempted car thefts, “drag racing” of cars side by side down 29th Avenue,
vandalism of homes, both occupied and not yet occupied, including broken
windows, and theft from homes still under construction. Sadly, even
children’s toys, bicycles, lawn furniture and lawn decorations have been
stolen right off of front porches. Finally, neighbors have expressed concern
about the dangers posed by rampant speeding in our pedestrian-friendly
neighborhood. Crime statistics compiled by the DPD can be reviewed
at the SUN location under the Stapleton Intranet.

Numerous crimes, particularly theft of items from garages and porches,
have gone unreported. Reporting crimes or attempted crimes immediately is
crucial for at least three reasons: (1) you give the DPD the chance to arrive
on the scene – even if they do not catch the perpetrators, their arrival will
deter future crime, (2) crime statistics compiled from your reports allow
the DPD to spot trends and direct police resources accordingly, and (3) complete
reporting of all crimes is necessary for DPD District 2 to obtain necessary
resources from the City in an extremely challenging budgetary environment.
SUN continues to work with Forest City, Councilman Doug Linkhart,
Councilman Michael Hancock and the Mayor’s office for creative ways
to rapidly increase the resources dedicated to DPD District 2 given the
burgeoning Stapleton population. Happy Haynes, Denver’s Director of
Legislative Affairs, noted that the Stapleton’s concerns about the increase
in certain types of crimes are similar to concerns in neighborhoods
throughout the city.

Community Policing: Low Cost, High Yield

Even with unlimited resources, the most effective prevention programs are those in
which neighbors take an active and collaborative approach, working with
their local officers in a model known as “community policing.” SUN has
aggressively implemented such a program with the DPD, holding its second
training seminar on November 18 at the newly dedicated District 2 Police
Station. “This is the first neighborhood-wide training program in the city of
Denver, and SUN is light years ahead of the curve in getting organized,”
noted DPD Neighborhood Liaison Officer Mike Rappe. Because neighbors
knowing and looking out for their fellow neighbors drives any successful
community policing program, residents attending the session were organized
on a block-by-block basis. As part of the program, Officer Rappe and fellow
Neighborhood Liaison Officer Reyes Trujillo provided training on personal
safety and crime prevention, and each household receives a copy of the
Denver Police Department’s Crime Prevention Manual, which contains
valuable tips on self defense, protecting your home, preventing auto theft,
child safety, discouraging burglars, and reporting crime.

Blocks that achieve substantial participation in the community policing
training and registration will become part of the Denver Neighborhood
Watch program. Among other benefits, the program includes the posting
of Neighborhood Watch signs, which have had a proven effect in deterring
crime. While over 150 homes have participated in the program and at least
nine Stapleton blocks have achieved “Neighborhood Watch” status, Stapleton
now has over 52 city blocks and will need more participation to maximize
safety. SUN and the DPD will run this program again on Wednesday, March 2
at 6:30 in the Stapleton Development Corporation Conference Room at
7350 E. 29th Avenue (3rd Floor), with light refreshments and door prizes
included. SUN is also organizing residents for training in the DPD’s “speed
check” program in which residents will learn how to operate radar and mail
drivers with warning notices for speed limit violations to help build traffic
safety awareness and reduce speeding.

What can I do to help?
The SUN/DPD Community Policing seminars and handout materials provide
extensive crime prevention help, including detailed information on self
defense, weak points in your home or car’s security and how to remedy them,
and alarm systems. Here are a few highlights:
• Know your neighbors, and keep an eye out for suspicious
persons/activities.
• In the event that you witness ANY suspicious activity, please call the
appropriate DPD phone number below and report what you have seen.
• Consider parking in your garage if possible.
• Keep garage doors closed whenever you are not in your garage.

S.U.N. Editorial (continued)

Articles on outside lighting in the front and back of your home after
dark – this is the cheapest crime prevention device and you already own it!
These lights are crucial in Stapleton alleys, as they have no other lighting.
Inexpensive photo-electric cells can do this for you!

To prevent speeding, become the “pace car” by strictly holding to the
speed limit. If interested in the DPD speed check program, express
interest at the Stapleton Intranet’s Grapevine under the “Community
Policing” discussion heading.

Organize your block: create a phone/email chain for your block and
attend the next Community Policing Seminar.

Several Stapleton residents are independently organizing a self defense
class and have obtained a professional instructor – again, express
interest at the Grapevine under “Community Policing”.

Additional information and periodic updates can be found on the Grapevine
under “Community Policing.” Keep everyone informed by posting them!

Mike King is a S.U.N. board member. Email: mking@bhflaw.com

Views on the Street

Who was your favorite teacher and why?

Tara Grant
Secretary to the Principal
Westery Creek Elementary School

“I have two. Mrs. Barbara Batey
who was at Smiley Junior High School and Mrs. Braverman who
was at East High School. Mrs. Batey always told me I could do
it. She never let me give up. She was my English teacher. She
instilled a love of reading. Mrs. Braverman also. She just
deepened that love of reading and of books that have stuck
with me all the way until today. I think it’s helped me all
through the years – it opened up a whole new world for me.
They both retired recently from Denver Public Schools.”

Shere Dayney
Office Manager
The Odyssey School

“My favorite teacher’s name
was Mr. Cormon. I had him
for two years – in 11th and 12th grades. He would
force us to read Time and
NewswEEK every Friday. And
we had to read it from cover
to cover – that was our job
for an hour. It’s part of my
ritual every week now, and
I’ve learned so much from
just that one little thing
he made us do.”
Mary Spicer
Office Manager
Denver School of Science and Technology

“My favorite teacher was Mr. Arterberry, George Washington High School. Tough, caring and supportive. He was a history teacher – and that was during the first year the Denver Public Schools allowed ethnic history (around 1979). He was really tough. If you didn’t do the work he had no problem giving you a big fat F.”

Sam Hanes
Math Teacher
Denver School of Science and Technology

“My favorite teacher was my 12th grade physics teacher named Mrs. Westfall. I really liked the subject but the way she presented it really got everyone interested in it and she had an interesting way of introducing just about every concept that we came to. As a result I ended up studying physics in college and now I’m a teacher too. She had a great effect on me. She used a lot of hands on stuff... a lot of labs where we would get to see the way things worked rather than hear about the way things worked. A lot of getting up and moving around the classroom - but also she had very high standards when it came to written work and lab work, so she really had us prepared for college level science and math.

I try to bring some of her methods into my classes. Especially in math class there is a tendency to have the students sit still and write equations on their paper, whereas there are a lot of ways we can do the same kind of hands on things as you do in science.”

By Bryan Penny

Many residents have questioned why there is not more “local” retail in the E. 29th Ave. Town Center. In keeping with SUN’s mission, we met recently with representatives from Forest City to address this issue.

In the meeting, we learned that currently there is approximately 900,000 square feet of retail space in Stapleton, with planned growth to over 2.2 million. Quebec Square contains the largest part of the retail space at Stapleton and houses many locally owned businesses. In the 29th Ave. Town Center, 13 of the 23 businesses are locally owned. Remember that just because a business carries a national name does not mean that it is corporate owned. Several of the businesses in the Town Center and Quebec Square are franchises that are owned by Denver residents and in some cases Stapleton residents.

NorthField Center will be the next retail development in Stapleton. It will be north of I-70 and, according to reliable sources, it appears this development might just be right on Target. Plan to attend the February 15th (6:30 pm) neighborhood meeting at Westerly Creek Elementary School to hear representatives from Forest City talk about retail and answer your questions.

Bryan Penny is a S.U.N. board member. Email: stlbearfun@aol.com.

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Wonderland Homes Introduces Artisan Plazas

Artisan Plazas, located at the southeast corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Clinton Street, approximately 1.5 miles east of Quebec, is the newest Wonderland neighborhood to be built at Stapleton. Artisan Plazas is comprised of artfully defined town homes reminiscent of the simple but stylish artesian enclaves found along the Mediterranean. These distinctive urban living environments are the epitome of sophistication – perfect for the buyer seeking artistic character and function. Exciting 1, 2, and 3-bedroom, 2-story town homes range in size from 845 to 1132 square feet with attached garages for security providing direct entry into the home. Pricing is from the upper $100s to the low $200s. These charming new additions in Stapleton mirror the community’s acceptance of previously developed land, and Stapleton mirrors that philosophy. So, let’s talk about the affordability. Focused on the high $100s, the Carriage Homes are the perfect financial fit for an individual buying for the first time or a young couple settling into a lifestyle together. You won’t be able to find a better value at Stapleton. So now that McStain has your interest – you better hurry to find out more about these charming new additions in Stapleton. Pre-sales begin in early 2005 and construction will begin by February 2005. McStain expects the first closings in summer 2005. Janet Abreesh is a Stapleton single-family sales consultant for McStain Neighborhoods. For more information visit www.mcstain.com.

Carriage Homes at Stapleton will reflect a welcome alternative to modern living: low maintenance, ADA adaptability, open floor plan, impressive energy efficiency and an affordable price.

The Carriage Homes were designed especially for Stapleton and provide character unlike any other home in the neighborhood. Homeowners will enjoy a virtual single-family experience in the stacked flat design, with ample living space and windows that are not bordered by others. Standing in front of McStain’s Carriage Homes, one notices the exterior of a home that yields a charming streetscape scene of diverse homes. The Carriage Homes will provide easy access to the enjoyment of outdoor space and all the amenities within close proximity of the community. With five different floor plans, you’ll be able to choose a Carriage Home style that’s just for you. The homes range from 850 to 1,150 square feet.

The Carriage Homes are not only affordable up front, but can save you money in the long run as well. Like all McStain homes, the Carriage Homes will be built in compliance with Energy Star and Colorado’s Built Green program guidelines, incorporating recycled materials and numerous energy-efficient building practices. This means that in addition to being better for the environment, they will help lower your monthly energy bills.

McStain understands that potential homeowners view their home as an investment. These charming homes are part of a community that is leading the way for smart growth. As one of Colorado’s pioneer Green Builders, McStain finds new sustainable uses for previously developed land, and Stapleton mirrors that philosophy.

In the summer of 2005, the Stapleton Carriage Homes will open for sales. For more information, contact Janet Abreesh at 303-285-6750 or Janet.Abreesh@mcstain.com.

Bill Kurtz (continued from page 3)

that are on the same track in the city of Denver. We have kids from all income levels. We have not had a single student conflict this year, verbal or physical.

The value of that apology is the fear of whether the community will accept it or not. We have accountability time, which closes every morning meeting. If a student is late they apologize to the whole school. If they’ve committed an offense to the community, usually on a suspension level, they have to make a public apology for that and make a commitment to the whole school to live our values. The value of that apology is the fear of whether the community will accept it or not.

Talk about the admissions process and standards; how it is a public school but there are certain expectations beyond just showing up on the first day of school?

Bill Kurtz (continued on next page)
are unique in a couple ways. One is we have commitment to serve low-income students. At least 40 percent of our students will be low income and we have two separate lotteries for low income and the general population. And we are here to serve the Stapleton community. Stapleton residents do have preference to get in. They are excluded from the lottery.

Why do you think this model will be effective and get kids to graduate who would not be expected to do that well in a traditional high school?

I think this model works for everybody. It only doesn’t work if the student doesn’t want to engage in the kind of commitment we expect of them. What is different for low-income students is giving them the opportunity to be in a college track program. And we personalize what we are doing. If student is low in their skill development, in math or English particularly, we have an extra support class. They’re getting an extra 155 minutes of support a week on top of the 350 they’re already getting in class. That’s almost two and half times of what a typical high school would give. At a large comprehensive high school, the structure dictates how well teachers can do their jobs as opposed to doing the job and building the structure around it.

Can DSST be replicated and do you think it will be by you and your supporters?

We by no means have achieved anything yet. We have created a school that seems to have a solid community to it and we’re trying to do the right thing but we have not accomplished anything yet. Can it be replicated if we do what we hope we can do? Absolutely. One of the things that’s really important for people to understand is that what makes this place different and special has nothing to do with the building or the technology or all the things that sets this school apart on a monetary level. With the core of our program, the values we spoke about, the community and expectations, we could open up this school in a warehouse tomorrow and have the same culture and have the same success. The building is a spectacular asset. But the replication depends not on that but the program itself.

As you have noted there are few models or examples for you to follow of a high performing high school with a diverse student population. How are you going to adjust as you go to make sure you are doing it right?

One of the things I commit to as the Head of School and I’ve asked the faculty to commit to is that we are chief learners of the school. The day we become not the chief learners of the school is the day the school starts to head downhill. We meet everyday as a staff. We are constantly evaluating what’s working. We make changes on the fly. That process is ongoing throughout the year. That should lead to our success, that we are able to change and adapt. The other thing is that at the end of this year everything is on the table. Nothing is sacred.

The length of the school’s name lends itself to a shorthand version. What name is emerging: DSST, Science and Tech, Sci-Tech?

DSST is emerging. I don’t know if that’s what we want. It’s kind of like DSA (Denver School of the Arts). You can’t prescribe that. It just sort of happens.
Justin Ross, Owner, is excited about the opportunity to offer Mortgage Loan Services to the residents of Stapleton and the Metro Denver area. With twelve years of mortgage experience, Stapleton Mortgage was established in September of 2002.

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 welcomed their first 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.

Above: A computer class at the Denver School of Science and Technology.
Left: An all-student morning meeting.

**DSST Opening (continued from page 1)**

low-income backgrounds comprise 46% of that class.

The innovative DSST charter high school is located on the southern edge of Stapleton along Montview Boulevard at Valentia Street. Any student who lives in Denver is eligible for admission. DSST will be fully enrolled with a total student body of 425 students in grades 9-12 by fall 2007.

For more information about DSST, see the conversation with Bill Kurtz on page 3 in this edition of The Front Porch or visit the school’s website at www.scienceandtech.org.