

# Front Porch

A publication of Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

STAPLETON

DENVER, COLORADO

DECEMBER 2005

Special Edition  
45,000 Extra Copies  
Showcasing Stapleton

## Stapleton's Brightest Neighbor

*The Front Porch Interviews the "Man Behind the Zoo Lights," Patrick Phelan*

**How long have you been in charge of the zoo's holiday lights and how did you end up in a job where you're responsible for almost two million lights?**

I've been here five years and I got incredibly lucky. As a kid I wanted to be a zoo veterinarian, so when I got to high school I started working in a veterinary clinic. I also did some work at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and followed the zoo veterinarian around. When I got into college I started out in pre-veterinary medicine - and found out I hated the smaller details of biology and chemistry. What I really loved was the animals, but I didn't think of the other jobs at a zoo so I put my dreams behind me and turned to business.

I was near graduation from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs but decided I didn't want to give up on my dream. My mom had purchased a membership to the Denver Zoo for me and I started coming here on holidays and hanging out. I moved back to Boulder and started a degree in advertising and marketing with a plan to do that for (continued on page 3)

### Zoo to Have Almost Two Million Lights This Year



Patrick Phelan, Director of Promotions and Special Events at the Denver Zoo, shows off some of his creations at Zoo Lights, which runs from December 9th to January 1st.

#### In the East 29th Avenue Town Center



### Coral Room Chef Shares Cooking Secrets

**T**he Coral Room's executive chef, Jerry Hise, has worked professionally in kitchens under seven different internationally renowned chefs. From Cajun to Asian, from classic French to Italian, and fusing many styles of cooking and cuisine, Chef Hise has the ability and insatiable appetite for striving to be innovative and unique.

Born in South Africa and raised in Houston, Chef Hise moved to Colorado at the age of 18. He spent several summers working his way (continued on page 14)

## Bass Pro Now Open at NorthField

Photo by Steve Groer

**B**ass Pro Shops Outdoor World has opened its first store in Colorado at Stapleton's NorthField Retail Center, drawing sports figures, dignitaries and a packed house of shoppers from throughout the region.

Among the dignitaries participating in the opening festivities was NFL Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway, who joined Bass Pro Shops Stapleton General Manager Don Watts in cutting a ribbon for the 186,000 square foot store. Known for its commitment to conservation efforts throughout much of the nation, Bass Pro celebrated the opening by earmarking a portion of the first night's revenues to benefit the Fish Habitat Initiative in the Rocky Mountain Region. Conservation groups attending the opening included Colorado Division of Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, Colorado State Parks, Pheasants Forever, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which manages the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge on the northern boundary of Stapleton.



A hot air balloon rises over the NorthField Retail Center on opening night of the new Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Store at Stapleton.

The store hours for Bass Pro at NorthField are from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. To reach NorthField at Stapleton, where a Super Target and Circuit have also opened new stores, take Quebec Street to 49th Avenue and turn east into the Center.

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Reorganized

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Printed with soy ink.







Holiday carriage ride at the East 29th Avenue Town Center.

# Mark Your CALENDAR

## 2005 STAPLETON EVENTS

### EVERY MONTH

#### Every Tuesday

Preschool and Parent Support Group  
Westerly Creek Elementary School  
1 - 3:30pm  
[720.423.4797]

#### Every Tuesday

AA Open Discussion Meeting  
Stapleton Visitor Center 8:00pm  
[Contact Joe Mc at 303.912.7075]

#### Every Tuesday & Thursday

Stapleton Strollers  
28th Ave. & Tamarac St. 9:30am  
[www.hotmamasdenver.com 303.296.2609]

#### Second Tuesday

Stapleton Residents' Social Events Comm.  
Stapleton Visitor Center 6 - 7:00pm  
No January meeting  
[Master Community Assoc. 720.974.4136]

#### Second Tuesday

New Resident Orientation Meeting  
Stapleton Visitor Center 7:00pm  
No January meeting  
[Master Community Assoc. 720.974.4136]

#### Third Tuesday

Stapleton Business Association  
Call for location 8am  
[Stapleton Foundation 303.393.7700]

### EVERY MONTH

#### Every Wednesday

Music Together classes  
Westerly Creek Elementary School  
9:30 & 10:30am  
[Music Together 303.333.1474]

#### First Wednesday

Westerly Creek PTA Meeting  
Westerly Creek Elementary School  
6:30 - 7:30pm  
[Westerly Creek Elementary School 303.322.5877]

#### Every Third Wednesday

S.U.N. Transportation Comm. Meeting  
Stapleton Visitor Center 6:30 - 8:00pm  
[Stapleton United Neighbors 303.355.9600]

#### Third Thursday

Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board Mtg  
Stapleton Development Corp  
7350 East 29th Ave.  
7:30 - 9am  
[Stapleton Development Corporation 303.393.7700]

#### First Saturday

Bluff Lake Birders  
Bluff Lake Nature Center 7 - 9am  
[BluffLakeNatureCenter.org 303.468.3240]

### EVERY MONTH

#### Second Saturday

NE Denver/Park Hill MS Self-Help  
and Peer Support Group  
Pauline Robinson Library  
10:15 - 11:45am  
5575 E 33rd Avenue  
[Paula Sussman 303.813.6691]

### DECEMBER

#### December 5th - 9th

Holiday Lighting Contest\*  
[Master Community Association 720.974.4136]

#### Sunday, December 11th

Lighting of the Holiday Tree\*  
Founders' Green 5 - 7pm  
[Master Community Association 720.974.4136]



Westerly Creek Elementary School holiday pageant.

\* Check [www.StapletonDenver.com](http://www.StapletonDenver.com) two weeks prior to the event for more specific information.

*Don't miss pages 6-9, filled with near-by places to go and things to do during the holidays - from art galleries to ice skating, from cooking classes to theatre, there is something for everyone.*



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# Front Porch

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

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# Stapleton’s Brightest Neighbor

*(continued from page 1)*  
a zoo. So after I gave up on my dream I came back to it. I drove here two or three times a week and volunteered for two years. I worked a lot in our animal education area, then, as a senior in college, I worked as an intern. After two years a marketing job in Special Events and Promotions opened up and my whole fantasy just fell into place. I love the zoo and can’t imagine working anywhere else.

**How long does it take to get the lights up?**  
We have a ground staff of three to four people working three months to set it up and we have a contracted staff of three or four people working full-time for three months. We also use our electricians and maintenance staff. It’s really a full effort from the whole institution to do Zoo Lights. Two years ago I worked every day from Thanksgiving all the way through January – didn’t take a day off. But when it’s all over and you get to see people walk through, it really pays off.

**How many lights and sculptures are in Zoo Lights?**  
When Zoo Lights first started about 15 years ago we just had a few lights here and there, a couple sculptures and just a couple buildings were open. Now it has become more than 35 acres with hundreds of light exhibits. In the last three years we’ve taken a big step forward, going from a nice little family outing to real entertainment. We have well over 150 lighted animal sculptures. We might put several kangaroos together to make a scene – or we’ll combine lions with leaping antelope. We have well over 1.5 million lights, probably close to 2 million this year, though we don’t have an exact count.

**How do you come up with new sculptures?**  
If we have a new animal, like the last two years, we focus on that. Last year we did a lot of big lion sculptures since we had the new lion exhibit. We don’t have anything huge this year (a new animal or a new baby) so we added a variety of new sculptures here and there. Each year I get a new idea. I think about lights and how we can make it move. I plan the sequences and what it’s going to do. Is it a big kangaroo sculpture that’s leaping across a meadow? Or is it lions that are leaping over a pathway? This year we have a giant octopus – a 12- to 20-foot octopus and the



Zoo Lights runs from December 9 to January 1.  
See information on page 9.

eight arms move up, down and around. We also have a whale that spouts lights out the top.

take 35 acres and figure one-third of it is using 80 percent less electricity, it’s a big savings.

I can come up with a concept, but I’m no graphic artist. So I draw a stick figure and send it to a graphic artist who draws it. Then I give it to a local welder. He projects the design on a wall and then welds the outline of it. Next we hook up tube lights and come up with a controller – and that’s how we make it work.

**Is your whole exhibit LED (light-emitting diode) now?**  
No, partly because it’s more expensive to buy LED – about one and a half times more to buy a string of LED lights. After building this show for 15 years, it isn’t possible to completely change over in a year. Every year we replace some lights, but it will take three to four years to completely revamp the show with LED. So far we’ve redone about one-third of our show in LED lights, which is a huge savings electrically. LED uses about 80 percent less electricity. When you

**Can you give us a figure for what it costs per night to turn everything on?**  
I can tell you the cost per string. If you take 600 of our large C-7 bulbs in the trees and light them for the month of Zoo Lights, it costs about \$31 to light that string. When we switch that over to LED it will cost about 45 cents – so there will be a huge savings in electricity costs.

**Tell us more about LED lights.**  
LEDs are quite a bit brighter – you can really see the difference. The colors are completely different and I like the LED better. The downfalls are they cost a little bit more and the strings are usually not as long, so it takes a few more lights. But they can last up to 10 years. Our bulbs can sit out for as long as six months – a month during the show, two to three months to set up and two to three months to take down. The light bulbs start to fade, so usually a string of lights only lasts two years. Every two years we replace about half of the show. LEDs don’t fade out, so they will give us better longevity.

**Can you give us some tips for home light displays? What can people do to make their own lights more interesting?**  
First make a plan. A lot of people go out and see something great, and they pick it out and bring it home. But what happens is you just add a lot of stuff that doesn’t fit. We used to do that too. With 35 acres we would go out and say, “That’s so cool. Let’s add it.” And you stick it in and then what you end up with is a lot of mixed and matched pieces. So the best way is to plan it out. If you’re going to do a big display at home, or even a small display, think of what you (continued on page 4)

## Councilman Michael Hancock Dynamic Northeast Denver

This weekend as I walked through the new Bass Pro store with my family it dawned on me how blessed we are in northeast Denver to have new neighbors who will enhance our communities and our quality of life for years to come. It is amazing to look at the positive growth we see around us each day, but more important are the ways in which this growth will contribute to our future.

What is occurring in Stapleton and the surrounding communities is forward movement. Whenever I drive through Council District 11 and see new people and new businesses, whether it is in Stapleton and Park Hill or Montbello and Green Valley Ranch, I am grateful that residents are coming together and taking advantage of their opportunity to imprint the future in a favorable

manner. I am equally honored to represent this dynamic and enterprising area of Denver.

New homes, new businesses and new schools are working well with established neighborhoods to create one of the most inviting, positive areas in the country to live, work and play. With the period of Thanksgiving now upon us it is certainly a time to be reflective and thankful for the abundance we now enjoy!

Finally, it is a time for each of us to remember those less fortunate. The holiday season cannot go by without realizing our duty to give of ourselves. Please remember this season to volunteer at a shelter or give a turkey to a food bank. It has been said that we will reap what we sow. In this 2005 holiday season, let us sow seeds of generosity and thankfulness with



Councilman Michael Hancock

everyone we meet!  
My family and I wish you a safe, wonderful, abundant 2005 holiday season. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

## We Heard Your Concerns

On Monday November 7th I joined with a coalition of ten Council members to amend the Mayor’s 2006 budget and hire more new police officers. Residents from across the District and across the city weighed in with their concerns about police staffing levels and City Council heard those calls for change.

Issues of delayed response time or lack of police coverage in growing areas of the District are unacceptable to me. I believe having the new officers will reduce crime and allow the police to be more responsive in the future.

A recent analysis by Commander Jones of Police District 2 (Stapleton/Park Hill) and Commander Keesee of Police District 5 (Montbello/Green Valley Ranch) shows that in this part of town we are today 45 officers under staff. Mayor Hickenlooper called for 20 new officers in his budget proposal, and the amendment passed by Council will add 19 additional officers to training classes in 2006.

This is another instance where people who care about what is happening in their neighborhoods have come to the forefront and caused positive change. Thank you for your continued consideration and support!

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# Zoo Lights *(continued from page 3)*

want for color, where to put it and how much space to use. Then come up with your budget. You can start with one or two cool pieces and fill the rest with background.

I would definitely recommend LED, especially with the cost of energy going up – do a smaller display and buy only LED. We always want people to learn how to conserve energy. If you spend the money on LED this year, it’s going to last you much longer – up to 10 years. The bulbs aren’t as fragile, they don’t break. The colors stay a lot longer. You use 80 percent less electricity. And they don’t produce heat so the LEDs are better for the trees.

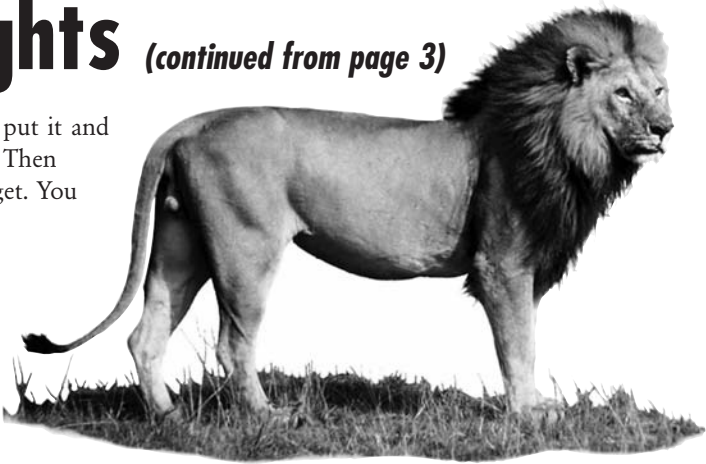
LED uses electricity differently, which allows us to do new things. For years we’ve said it would be great if we could have the lights change colors. Finally this year with LED our whole front gate is done with color-changing lights. Every tree will start out in a blue color, and slowly you’ll see it change to purple and then to red. It’s a brand new technology, and I think we’ll be one of the few places in Denver that has it.

### Is it computerized?

It’s becoming computerized. In the past the display was very basic, almost like you plug in a string at home. We may have put it on some sort of timer. Now we’re starting to control large sections, several acres, on one control box. It times the lights, or makes each string come on individually, or has the lights chase each other. This year in the dancing trees scene, a large two-acre section by the giraffe house, the lights will chase each other and it’s all choreographed to music. It’s becoming more technologically advanced.

### How big is the storage facility for all your lights?

We have multiple storage facilities: two large



barns in the back and two large areas in the parking garage. Maybe it’s equal to a basketball gymnasium full of lights. All the sculptures are stacked up and the lights are boxed. Hundreds and hundreds of large plastic sweater box containers are labeled by color.

### How many people see the displays?

About 110,000 to 150,000 people come see the Zoo Lights. This year we’re expecting about 130,000 people during the month of Zoo Lights. We’re open every day of the year. We have a lot of people who come on Christmas as a family tradition. It’s comparable to a summer month. We get the majority of our winter attendance during that Zoo Lights season. It’s always been an effort for the zoo to get a bigger attendance in the winter. People think of going to the zoo in the summer, but the winter is a great time to come out. The main purpose for the display is that it helps us. When you come to our Zoo Lights, it’s like donating to the zoo. We are a nonprofit, so that money goes back into our education and conservation. The funds help protect animals around the world and take care of animals at this zoo. The more people we have the better.

### Can you share any anecdotes about putting up the lights over the years?

Our biggest problem is squirrels. Squirrels chew through the light strings and they’ll



actually pull out the bulbs and chew on them. People call and ask, “What can you do about it?” But the truth is, there’s not much we can do. It’s one of the hazards of living around wildlife. But as a zoo we appreciate the wildlife so we just factor repairs into our maintenance plan.

### Have you seen squirrels get sick from eating the lights?

They’re not actually eating them. Squirrels and rabbits are rodents and their teeth are constantly growing, so they have to chew on something to wear them down. If they don’t chew on something, their teeth will continue to grow in a circle. So the squirrels and rabbits are looking for nice soft limbs and twigs to chew on to keep their teeth shaved down. They don’t swallow the lights and wires, they just gnaw. They think the light strings are nice little branches.

### Do you think the lights bother the animals?

If it’s a newer animal you’ll see them up and alert, watching the people. Some of the older animals, they’ll just stay lying down. If it’s naptime, like for the tigers, they see hundreds of people watching them and they just roll over and go to sleep. They’ve gotten used to the lights and the people.



### What is your favorite part of the Zoo Lights display?

I think this year my favorite area is our North Pole, where Santa Claus is located. There are a lot of great little sculptures that make it look great. My second favorite is the dancing trees. The song this year is “Under the Sea” from The Little Mermaid. We have this great oceanscape area, a giant two-acre meadow, that we’re turning into an underwater fantasy.

## Reconfiguration of Stapleton Schools Approved – Public Planning Process Begins

By Brian Weber

The Denver Board of Education has approved the plan to reconfigure the grades at Westerly Creek Elementary and the second school at Stapleton.

Next fall Westerly Creek will become a primary center school of Early Childhood Education (ECE) to grade three. The second school – which will be referred to as “Stapleton II” until a name is chosen with public input early next year – is located at Montview and Central Park boulevards and will house grades four to eight. The two schools will form a K-8 “campus” in two buildings.

The academic program for the schools will be based on the core Denver Public Schools (DPS) curriculum. However, the schools will feature additional academic focuses designed to meet the particular requirements of the Stapleton community. A program planning committee that is reflective of the Stapleton community was formed in November after soliciting applicants from the community. The DPS administration chose the members.

This new type of education complex requires a set of strong principles for planning, organizing, and sustaining the new approach. Those principles must be developed by the community and clearly articulated to develop the necessary culture and climate. All planning committee meetings will be open to allow community participation. However, when consensus is needed on a decision the committee will determine it.

A meeting schedule will be distributed and made available on the Stapleton intranet. Meetings will be held at a Stapleton location. The committee will

meet every week or two into February. At that point the committee is expected to have a good idea what the program will look like. This timing is necessary to make sure teacher candidates understand the basic expectations of the community. The DPS hiring process begins in this period. The committee will likely work until April when it will submit a final recommendation to the DPS board.

The committee plans to use a community process that’s been successful for other DPS schools. It’s prescribed in the book by Richard DuFour and Robert Eaker, “Professional Learning Communities at Work – Best Practices for Enhancing Student Achievement.” The PLC model helps a school community develop the four building blocks for a successful school: mission, vision, shared values and goals.

- The PLC process requires answers to a number of challenging questions:
- Why do we exist?
  - What kind of school are we trying to create?
  - What attitudes, behaviors and commitments must we demonstrate in order to create such a school?
  - Which steps should we take first?
  - What is our timeline?
  - What evidence will we present to demonstrate our progress?

Watch future editions of The Stapleton Front Porch for more information about this new “K-8” campus approach to meeting the needs of Stapleton families.

For more information, contact either Westerly Creek Principal Trich Lea at 720-424-3185, ([patricia\\_lea@dpsk12.org](mailto:patricia_lea@dpsk12.org)) or Brian Weber of The Stapleton Foundation at 303-468-3224 ( [bweber@stapletoncorp.com](mailto:bweber@stapletoncorp.com)).

## Forest City Wins ULI Honor, Donates Prize Money to New Orleans

Forest City Enterprises, the master developer of Stapleton, was recently awarded the 2005 Urban Land Institute J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development.

Forest City Enterprises Co-Chairman Albert Ratner accepted the award, which carries with it a \$100,000 stipend. Mr. Ratner declined the \$100,000 stipend and requested instead that the money be used to create a program to help plan a revitalization strategy for the city of New Orleans. Mr. Ratner also announced that the Ratner Family and Forest City Enterprises would match the prize money

and make an additional donation of \$100,000 to support the Urban Land Institute’s work in New Orleans.

The Urban Land Institute is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit research and education organization supported by its members. Founded in 1936, the institute now has more than 25,000 members worldwide representing the entire spectrum of land use and real estate development disciplines, working in private enterprise and public service. The mission of the Urban Land Institute is to provide responsible leadership in the use of land to enhance the total environment.



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4



# Forest City Stapleton, Mortenson Team Up to Recycle Trees

## Leaves become fodder for zoo animals

By JuliAnne Murphy

Giraffes, rhinos, and other Denver Zoo residents have been eating well lately. That’s because Forest City Stapleton, Inc., and M.A. Mortenson Company teamed up to recycle dying trees as “browse,” or leafy treats.

In September and October, a Mortenson crew trimmed branches from 400 elms and crabapple trees at Stapleton deemed too distressed to transplant.

Six flatbeds full of branches were hauled to Denver Zoo, where dozens of elephants, giraffes, rhinos, antelope, and other hoofed animals have feasted on the green leaves.

“This is a great example of Stapleton’s commitment to sustainability,” said Heidi Majerik, senior residential development manager for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. “Nothing goes to waste in this neighborhood, where we’ve recycled two square miles of former runways and every home is ‘Built Green.’ The trees needed to come down and would have gone to waste if the zoo had not contacted us.”

The trees were located along the abandoned Harry B. Combs Parkway in an area where the 4,700-acre Stapleton neighborhood is under redevelopment.

Penny Smith, a zookeeper for Denver Zoo, lives near Stapleton and stays on the lookout for trees coming down to salvage as treats for zoo animals. She noticed the trees along Combs Parkway and asked Forest City Stapleton if she could clip some branches.

Instead she got a whole city block worth of trees. “When Combs Parkway closed, the irrigation was



turned off,” explained Majerik. “We had an arborist assess the trees and he determined none were viable for transplant.” M.A. Mortenson, the company overseeing the construction of Stapleton’s infrastructure, then volunteered a crew to trim trees and transport browse to the zoo.

“It was a nice break for our crew working on the reconfiguration of Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard,” said Randy Payment, a supervisor for Mortenson. “It’s something positive for the crew and for the public. Anything we can’t save at Stapleton we reuse. That’s the way everything is done here.”

Payment’s crew spent parts of three weeks on the project bringing over bundled browse in two flatbeds at a time. The relationship will continue as Stapleton grows and Forest City identifies other trees too weak to transplant.

“Although we don’t want everyone taking down a tree to bring us branches, this was a special situation that allowed us to harvest a large quantity of high-quality browse,” said Vickie Kunter, Denver Zoo’s area supervisor of hoofstock. “We look forward to continuing this relationship as Stapleton expands and opportunities arise.”

The 4,700-acre Stapleton is being developed under a Sustainability Master Plan including high standards for energy and water conservation, recycling, transportation alternatives and other environmental initiatives. For more information visit [www.StapletonDenver.com](http://www.StapletonDenver.com).

JuliAnne Murphy is Director of Marketing for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. She may be reached at [jmurphy@stapletondenver.com](mailto:jmurphy@stapletondenver.com).

# Registration for Early Childhood Education and Kindergarten at Westerly Creek Elementary School Begins in January 2006

The first round in the application process for Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Kindergarten classes at Westerly Creek Elementary will be held between January 4th and January 31st.

### Early Childhood Education

ECE is a tuition-based pre-school program offered at Westerly Creek. A child must be four (4) years old on or before October 1, 2006 to be eligible for ECE. Eligibility for full, partial or free tuition is based on family income. ECE is available on a first come, first served basis and does not differentiate between Stapleton residents and non-resident applicants.

### Kindergarten

To be eligible for Kindergarten, a child must be five (5) years old on or before October 1, 2006. Full-day and half-day kindergarten classes are available at Westerly Creek. Full-day kindergarten is an optional, tuition-based program and half-day kindergarten is guaranteed for all Westerly Creek neighborhood students. The full-day option is available on a first come, first served basis.

### Registration Requirements

The items required for registration are:

- A copy of the child’s birth certificate;
- A copy of the child’s immunization record;

- A Medicaid/Clinic Card (if applicable);
- Proof of Address (including contract, bill deed, loan statement);
- Income Verification (only if applying for tuition assistance); and
- A \$50 application fee for ECE and Full-Day Kindergarten.

Anyone not currently a Stapleton resident, but holding a contract on a house and planning to move to Stapleton prior to or during the 2006-2007 school year should complete all registration information using their current address and future Stapleton address. Parents in this

category must provide a copy of their contract and request that their application be given directly to Trich Lea, Principal of Westerly Creek Elementary, for processing. “Despite the fact that we have several official kindergarten registrations dates set in the spring, I would like to urge families to register their children for Westerly Creek Elementary as early as possible,” said Principal Trich Lea. “We are a growing community and I want to be able to make somewhat of an educated guess in the number of new children that will attend the school for the 2006/07 school year.”

“Early registration will directly benefit the children,” Ms. Lea continued. “If I have early registration, I can plan more accurately for my staffing allocations. For example, if I have fifty new kindergartners registering for school, I know that I will need at least two full time teachers at a particular grade level. I would rather not wait until weeks before school to hire new teachers; it limits the selection

process and results in larger class sizes. While I totally support your ability to have choices in the school your child attends, I also support the decision to make that choice in the early part of the (continued on page 15)

### First DPS Choice Period Jan. 4 to Jan. 31

Helpful phone numbers:  
School of Choice Hotline, 720-423-3493  
DPS Administration, 720-423-3200  
DPS Welcome Center, 720-423-3970  
Transportation, 303-825-2611  
School Boundaries, 720-423-3400

### Pediatrics at Lowry

Pediatrics at Lowry welcomes Dr. Scott Merenstein, to our pediatric office. Providing care for infants, children & adolescents in the Denver Metro Community

Dr. Paul Bogan

Dr. Noah Makovsky

Dr. Scott Merenstein

125 RAMPART WAY #220 DENVER, CO. 80230  
720.859.8222 [www.pediatricsatlowry.com](http://www.pediatricsatlowry.com)

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website: [www.premiernannies.com](http://www.premiernannies.com)  
2960 E. 2nd Ave., Suite B, Denver CO 80206

### Balanced Learning®

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The balance you’ve been seeking between his happiness and a good preschool education can be found right here in your community.

For more information, call us or visit our web site [www.primroseschools.com](http://www.primroseschools.com). But hurry. Your child’s potential is unlimited, but enrollment is not.

### Primrose Schools

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[www.myprimroseschool.com/stapleton](http://www.myprimroseschool.com/stapleton)

**Join us Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am for our Ground Breaking.**  
**Open Enrollment - First Round - Dec. 6 - Jan. 6.**  
**Visit our website for more information!**

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Circuit City



CHUCK BARRY

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cell: 720.296.6217

Buying? Selling? Investing?

Contact Chuck about his expertise  
and success in the Stapleton area!

“Helping move Stapleton one yard at a time”

Circuit City opened its new Stapleton store at NorthField by presenting a \$5,000 check to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver. Participating in the opening ceremony were former Denver Bronco Ed McCaffrey; Jahrae Hampton, Program Specialist with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver; Tod Krajewski, Store Manager; Jason Fox, District Manager of Circuit City; and children from the Boettcher Branch of the Boys and Girls Club of Aurora.

Circuit City, Super Target and Bass Pro Outdoor Shops are all open now in the NorthField Retail Center at Stapleton.

Famous Dave's



The Burns Family of North Park Hill lingers after enjoying their meal at Famous Dave's Pit Bar-B-Que in Quebec Square.

QUEBEC SQUARE



RESTAURANTS

Arby's  
Country Buffet  
Famous Dave's BBQ  
IHOP  
Inta Juice  
McDonald's  
Panda Express  
Panera Bread  
Papa John's Pizza  
Subway  
Subway (in Wal-Mart Supercenter)  
Thomas Bros Coffee & Chai  
Wingz, Etc!

CLOTHING & DRY GOODS

3-Day Blinds  
Famous Footwear  
Lane Bryant  
Linens N Things  
Payless Shoe Source  
Ross Dress for Less  
Wal-Mart Supercenter

HEALTH & BEAUTY

America's Back (in Wal-Mart Supercenter)  
A Day Spa  
Cost Cutters (in Wal-Mart Supercenter)  
Doctor's Vision Works  
Executive Tans  
GNC  
Great Clips  
Lollilocks Kids' Salon  
Nails of the World  
Quebec Square Family Dentistry  
Regal Nails (in Wal-Mart Supercenter)  
Sally Beauty Supply  
Sport Clips  
Stranz  
Wal-Mart Pharmacy  
Eyecare Center (in Wal-Mart Supercenter)

SERVICES

Academy Bank (in Wal-Mart Supercenter)  
Alliant Credit Union  
American Family Insurance  
Baby Power  
Check Into Cash  
Countrywide Home Loans  
Environmentally Friendly Cleaners

SERVICES, (CONT.)

Fresenius Medical Clinic  
Money Tree  
Next Care Urgent Care  
State Farm  
TCF Bank  
Tires Plus  
UPS Store  
Vectra Bank  
Wal-Mart Supercenter Portrait Studio

MISCELLANEOUS RETAIL

Baby Power  
Cingular Wireless  
EB Games  
Home Depot  
Instant Imprints  
Office Depot  
Okkasions Liquors  
Party America  
PETsMART  
Radio Shack  
Sam's Club  
Sprint Phone Store  
Volume Rate Liquors (in Sam's Club)  
Sam's Club / Wal-Mart Gas



NORTHFIELD  
STAPLETON

Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World

Circuit City

Super Target





Bar-B-Que

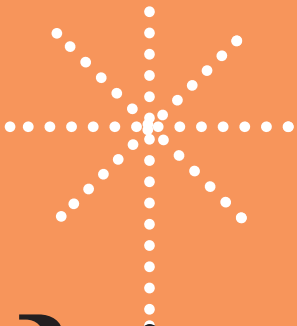


They say it is a great place to bring teenagers because they serve up lots of food. Famous Dave's has only been open since September but the crowd indicates it has already become a Stapleton favorite for family meals.

Mike Giles Family Karate



Mike Giles Family Karate is now open in the East 29th Avenue Town Center in Stapleton offering residents of the greater Stapleton community a family self-defense training center. Call 303-377-KICK for more information.



big shops  
little shops

...and plenty of places for elves to get nourishment in-between.

QUEBEC SQUARE: located at 35th Avenue and Quebec Street.  
NORTHFIELD: located just north of I-70 at Quebec Street and 49th Avenue.



FEELS DIFFERENT

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303.355.9600





## Thomas Brothers Open House



Thomas Bros. Coffee and Chai in Quebec Square will have an open house on Sunday, December 11th from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. ask about a free 8 oz. drink and prizes.

### Holiday Party Entertainment

## DSA Carolers Sing to Raise Funds



Denver School of The Arts holiday caroling groups of four to eight high school students from the vocal music department are available to entertain at corporate parties, special functions, and holiday gatherings of any variety. These performances are fundraisers for the students' upcoming performance trip to Puerto Rico in March 2006. All honorariums to DSA are tax deductible. Recommended contribution is approximately \$250 for two hours of singing. DSA students develop their creative abilities through a combined academic and arts curriculum and have the opportunity to be mentored by

professional artists and scholars. Students are accepted into the program based on their audition in an artistic specialty. DSA has a rigorous academic curriculum and is ranked as one of the top schools in Colorado. In August 2003, DSA moved into a new venue that features state-of-the-art equipment and facilities for the arts and academic programs. Denver School of the Arts is located at 7111 Montview Blvd. For more information or to book a group, contact Michelle Ferguson at DSA on Mon, Wed, or Friday at 720-424-1713, 303-439-8319 (home), 303-809-6587 (cell) or tpcshell@aol.com.



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&

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Landscape Design • Installation

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

## Colorado Free University – December

Colorado Free University was founded in 1987 by John Hand to provide opportunities for affordable, quality education and enrichment to the community. There are no prerequisites for learning and there are no grades or exams. There is a wide range of courses from the very practical to the whimsical.

People over the age of 17 can register for classes at CFU either as members, and receive a lower tuition and have the registration fee waived, or as non-members. An annual membership is \$20. Often there is an added fee to reimburse instructors for materials used in the class. The classes below are a sampling of what's available in the Lowry facility in December. Most courses are offered on a recurring basis, so if you miss one you will probably have another opportunity. Call 303-399-0093 to have a catalog mailed or visit [www.freeu.com](http://www.freeu.com) to see courses online.

### Couples Massage

Enhance your relationship and de-stress for the holidays by giving and receiving the healing power of touch.  
Sat. 12/3, 2-6 PM  
Tuition is \$79 or \$86 for couples.  
#2534

### Couples Night of Meditation and Renewal

As a couple learn a simple breath awareness technique and practice guided meditation.

Tues. 12/6, 6:30-9:00 PM

Tuition: \$34 or \$39 for singles and \$68 or \$78 for couples #2497

### Acupressure Face Lift

Learn pressure points and exercises that help stop pre-mature aging, and improve the condition of the skin.

Sat. 12/7, 2-4 PM #2500

### Wax & Wicks

Learn to make your own candles with Sally Lilly, a popular long-time CFU arts and crafts instructor.

Sat. 12/10, 1-4 PM

Tuition \$45 or \$50 with \$10 materials fee #1545

### Art for Ordinary People

For those without an art background, this course introduces principles of design and elements of art to help you become "visually literate" and gain greater appreciation for the world around you.

Sun. 12/11, 1-5 PM

Tuition \$54 or \$59 with \$10 materials fee #1748

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- Incredible Boys Program
- Birthday Parties

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**303-355-0080**



# ember Courses

### Essentials of Floral Design

A hands-on class that will teach you the basic principles of floral design so that you can make stunning arrangements for the holidays.  
Thurs. 12/8, 6:30-9:30 PM  
Tuition \$45 or \$49 with \$10 materials fee #1589

### Youthful Skin at Any Age

Learn about nutrition for healthy skin and learn to do a mini facial that will make your skin glow.  
Mon. 12/12, 6:30-9:30 PM  
Tuition: \$34 or \$39 with \$5 materials fee #2605

### Migrating To Digital Photography

Between the information you get from the camera salesperson and your use of software, such as Photoshop, you can actually learn to use all the features of your digital camera. Understand the ins and outs of your camera and learn to take the best photos possible for the holidays.  
Two Mondays, 12/5 and 12/12, 6:30-9:00 PM  
Tuition \$64 or \$69, with \$5 materials fee #1689

### A Beginner’s Guide to Stand-Up Comedy

Whether you want a career in stand-up to improve your stage presence or just feel more confident in public, this class gives you the skills. Guaranteed to make you the hit of the holiday parties.  
Wed. 12/7, 7-9 PM  
Tuition \$39 or \$34, with \$10 materials fee. #1207

— Holiday Gift Idea —  
Give a gift certificate  
for a class or  
event near Stapleton.

# Zoo Lights



Zoo Lights runs from December 9th through January 1st from 5 to 9pm. Visitors will see multiple animated sculptures and elegantly-crafted animal ice carvings created by Santa’s helpers with power tools. Festivities will also include carolers, instrumental groups, dancers and the Conservation Carousel. Warming stations throughout the zoo offer roasted chestnuts, hot chocolate, cider, soft bread pretzels and steamy cappuccino.

### Santa at Zoo Lights

Dec 9 - Dec 23 5pm - 9pm  
Children can bring their Christmas wish lists right to Santa’s mailbox at the North Pole and stop to decorate cookies at his special workshop.

### Wild Ice at Zoo Lights

Dec 21, 22, 23 5pm - 9pm  
A special ice carving garden, filled with numerous carvings.

### Kwanzaa at Zoo Lights

Dec 26 5pm - 9pm  
A holiday tradition that honors African American heritage through African dance, music and education.



### Zoo Year’s Eve

Dec 31, 5 - 9pm  
On the brink of a brand new year, children can also experience the fun of Zoo Year’s Eve, a very wild New Year’s Eve party that begins at 5 pm on Dec. 31 with entertainment, activities and crafts that leads up to an early 9 pm countdown to the New Year!

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org). Admission to Zoo Lights is \$7 for adults (12-64), \$4 for children (3-11), \$6 for senior citizens (65+), children 2 and under are admitted free. For more information on Zoo Lights, please call the Denver Zoo at (303) 376-4800 or visit [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org).

### Holiday Giving at the Zoo

Guests who wish to give back to the community during the holidays can donate non-perishable food items to a program offered through 9 News called, “9 Cares, Colorado Shares.”

# Santa Sightings Near Stapleton

**Stapleton Wal-Mart**  
Saturday Dec 10, 17 and 24  
10am - 2pm

**NorthField Bass Pro**  
Call 720-385-3600 for times.

**Zoo Lights**  
Dec 9 - 23 from 5 - 9pm

**Historic St. Nick at the Aurora History Museum**  
December 11, 2 - 2:30pm  
(See Aurora Library events p. 11.)





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**Exempla**  
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**One Standard. Excellence.**

Dr. Kristine Walsh, née Leathery, has served families in Stapleton since 2004. “She is one of the best GPs I’ve ever been to,” says Jim McBain of Denver, Colorado. Dr. Walsh’s compassion makes a difference in her patients’ lives. “I’ve been a patient myself so I know how important it is for your doctor to be a good listener,” says Dr. Walsh. “I want to understand the special needs of each of my patients. That’s my goal. That’s how I can give every patient the best possible care.”

Dr. Walsh provides leading-edge medical care for the entire family, including newborn, child health, and women’s health care. The offices of Exempla Family Medicine at Stapleton are conveniently located in the Stapleton Plaza Office Building, 3401 Quebec, Suite 1015. Come visit us or call 303-467-8900 today for an appointment. Making a difference in our neighbors’ lives — that’s Exempla Family Medicine at Stapleton.





The Club Card offers great discounts at these Stapleton merchants:

#### HEALTH & BEAUTY

**A Day Spa**  
Offer: 20% off of any one product with purchase of any service.  
Location: Quebec Square

**A Wild Smile Pediatric Dentistry**  
Offer: Free well baby check up for 12-18 month-olds.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**Bladium Sports Club**  
Offer: \$75 for initiation fees.

**Curves**  
Offer: 50% off initiation fee.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**Executive Tans**  
Offer: 20% off select lotion with purchase of a session.  
Location: Quebec Square

**Fantastic Sams**  
Offer: 10% off all services and professional products. Free haircut with color service.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**GNC at Quebec Square**  
Offer: \$5 off a purchase of \$30 or more.  
Location: Quebec Square

**Great Clips**  
Offer: 20% off any product with haircut purchase.  
Location: Quebec Square

**Phoenix Yoga Studio**  
Offer: One month unlimited, first timers \$79.  
Stapleton residents.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**Sports Clips**  
Offer: \$2.00 off a men's or boy's haircut.  
Location: Quebec Square

**Stapleton Health and Wellness, LLC.**  
Offer: Every resident will get their first yoga class for free.

**Stranz Beauty Supply/Salon**  
Offer: 10% off all services and professional products  
Location: Quebec Square

#### SERVICES

**Allstate Insurance, Brad Phillips & Associates**  
Offer: A \$5 gift card to your choice of Starbucks or Thomas Bros Coffee and Chai with any FREE, no hassle quote on home and auto, or health, business or life insurance.

#### SERVICES (continued)

**Art & Framing of Stapleton**  
Offer: \$10 off custom framing, not valid with any other offer  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**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!  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

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

**Environmentally Friendly Cleaners**  
Offer: 20% off of all DRY CLEANING (Quebec Square location only).  
Location: Quebec Square

**FirstBank**  
Offer: Receive \$10.00 deposit into your new First Bank savings account when you open a First Bank checking account.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**LolliLocks Kid Salon**  
Offer: 10% off any one product purchase with a purchase of service  
Location: Quebec Square

**New Avenues Real Estate Office**  
Offer: \$100.00 gift certificate toward select Stapleton merchants.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**PostNet**  
Offer: \$3 off Fed Ex and/or UPS shipments (excluding ground service).  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**RE/MAX City Horizons, The Kearns Team, LLC**  
Offer: \$500 towards closing costs and extra discounts on Home Sale costs when you buy at Stapleton.

**Renaissance Denver Hotel**  
Offer: Special room rate, savings up to 33%. Offer valid though 12/30/05.

**Stapleton Home Services**  
Offer: 50% off 1st scheduled maid service. (Expires 60 days after move in date.)

#### SERVICES (continued)

**Stapleton Realty, LLC**  
Offer: Free move-out house cleaning (\$250.00 value) when you sell your home with Stapleton Realty PLUS discounted commissions.

**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.  
Location: Quebec Square

**Town Center Apartments**  
Offer: Receive \$100.00 off of your move-in costs when you lease at Town Center Apartments  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**UPS Store**  
Offer: 50% off black and white copies.  
Location: Quebec Square

**US Bank**  
Offer: .25% discount on ANY fixed rate loan.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center – in King Soopers

**WIIRE Group Real Estate Services**  
Offer: \$500 towards closing costs.

#### MISC. RETAIL

**Amore Fiori**  
Offer: Saturdays - get two for one on select flowers.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**Baby Power**  
Offer: \$10 off of class session fee.  
Location: Quebec Square

**Cat's Music Together at the Bladium**  
Offer: \$5 off tuition for each registered child in your family.

**Cingular Wireless**  
Offer: FREE Vehicle power adapter with new activation (\$29.99 value).  
Location: Quebec Square

**Grape Leaf**  
Offer: 5% off liquor and wine purchases  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**Graham Taylor Photography**  
Offer: 15% off listed Wedding Package or 50% off portrait sitting fee.

**Instant Imprints**  
Offer: 10% off of all products and services.  
Location: Quebec Square

#### SERVICES (continued)

**Miss Talulah's**  
Offer: 10% off all lighting products.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**V2K Window Fashions**  
Offer: 10% off of orders of \$100 or more.

#### RESTAURANTS

**Anthony's Pizza and Pasta**  
Offer: 10% off all items  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**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.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**Copper Canyon Grill & Bar at the Renaissance Hotel**  
Offer: 15% discount on all food and beverage.

**Coral Room**  
Offer: Free dessert with the purchase of an entrée.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**Doubletree Denver Café**  
Offer: 10% discount on all food and beverage.

**Inta Juice**  
Offer: 10% off of any item.  
Location: Quebec Square

**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.  
Location: East 29th Avenue Town Center

**Panera Bread**  
Offer: \$1 off Sandwich, Salad or You Pick Two.  
Location: Quebec Square

**Radisson Hotel, Quebec's Bistro**  
Offer: 15% off food menu items.

**Thomas Bros. Coffee & Chai**  
Offer: FREE size UPGRADE on ANY beverage  
Location: Quebec Square

**Wingz ETC!**  
Offer: 10% off any combo meal.  
Location: Quebec Square

## December Events Denver Public Library

**Park Hill Branch Library**  
4705 Montview Blvd. 303-331-4063

**Preschool Story times for 3 to 5 year olds** are Mondays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

**Preschool Story times with a Craft** are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

**Bookbabies** is Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. Bookbabies is for children ages 6 months thru 24 months and their parents or caregivers.

Get in touch with your baby when Dee Gilmore presents **"Baby Massage"** on **Thursday, December 1st at 11:15 a.m.** This program is for newborn babies thru the age of 18 months. Please bring a pad or blanket for the baby.

On **Friday, December 9th at 10:30 a.m.** enjoy the fun when the Montview Puppets present **"The City Mouse and the Country Mouse."** You'll be surprised at the ending!

**Mervyn's** is sponsoring the following **Super Saturday** programs:

On **Saturday, December 10th at 10:30 a.m.** enjoy the fun when the Montview Puppets present **"The City Mouse and the Country Mouse."** You'll be surprised at the ending!

Mark Strivings performs **"Magic of the Season"** on **Saturday, December 17th at 10:30 a.m.** Join us for a magical celebration of winter and the holidays for the entire family!

Look for three informal musical performances by students from the Denver School of the Arts coming up in December. Dates and times for these late afternoon and early evening programs have yet to be determined.

The "Paws to Read" program has been discontinued for the present time.

## Ice Skating

**Big Bear Ice**  
8580 Lowry Blvd Denver 80230  
Call 303-343-1111 for public hours or check bigbearice.com  
Rental skates are \$3.00 per person. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for age 17 and younger. Special rates may apply for groups of ten or more.

**Cherry Creek North Ice Rink at Fillmore Plaza**  
3003 E. Third Ave. Denver, CO, 80206  
Thanksgiving through early January  
Call 720-275-9314 before you bundle up to make the trip – operating hours can vary.

## Theatre

The drama Unmerciful Good Fortune, by Edwin Sanchez, and directed by Michael Duran runs through December 17 at the John Hand Theatre in Lowry at 7653 East 1st Place. Call 303-562-3232 for information.



# Real. Community. Church.

Westerly Creek Elementary School  
Sundays at 9:45 a.m.  
**720.985.6810**  
[www.northfieldchurch.com](http://www.northfieldchurch.com)  
[contact@northfieldchurch.com](mailto:contact@northfieldchurch.com)

Purchase your Club Card at the Visitor Center, 7480 E. 29th Avenue, 303-355-9600. Present your Resident Pool ID/Stapleton Club Card for discounts at these businesses. Visit [www.StapletonDenver.com](http://www.StapletonDenver.com) for participating merchants and program information. Offers may change monthly.



## Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. seven days a week.  
Closed December 25. For reservations call  
303.322.7009 or 1.800.925.2250

### IMAX

*On weekends and holidays arrive an hour early  
due to long lines. (Closed December 5-9 for  
maintenance.)*

### Mystic India: An Incredible Journey of Inspiration

Follow one boy's remarkable story as he  
crosses a vibrant country searching for  
enlightenment. This true story, an undertaking  
lasting seven years and covering 8,000 miles,  
takes viewers across the landscapes of India.

### The Human Body

Get to know yourself a little better with this  
cutting-edge film that offers a look at the  
biological processes that go on without our  
control and often without our notice. The film  
discusses puberty and fertilization and may not  
be suitable for younger children.

### GATES PLANETARIUM – through Feb. 16th

### SonicVision: How Do You See Your Music?

*(Call ahead – many weekend shows in  
December are already sold out)*

### Passport to the Universe

### A Cosmic Journey

### The Search for Life: Are We Alone?

### SELECTED MUSEUM EXHIBITS

### Grossology: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body

Oct 7, 2005-Jan 1, 2006 (closed December 25)  
Like your favorite smelly burp, this exhibition  
turns heads as it details the science behind the  
most disgusting aspects of the human body.

### Space Odyssey

Explore the universe and your place in it in  
this dynamic and highly interactive exhibition  
with hands-on exhibits, live performances, and  
demonstrations. Explore the cosmos. Visit  
Mars. Make your own discoveries!

### Egyptian Mummies

Two women, wrapped in linen and enclosed in  
painted coffins, hold the secrets of 3,000 years.  
Who were they? How did they live? Their  
mysteries are revealed through the magic of  
modern technology.

### Gems & Minerals

Examine a host of colorful crystals and  
minerals in a recreated mine. Follow a mine  
shaft into a Mexican silver mine, where a  
cavern glistens with milky white gypsum  
crystals and stalactites. Hands-on activities and  
videos help young explorers learn about  
minerals and how minerals form.

## Aurora Fox's "The Miracle Worker" On Stage For The Holidays

The Aurora Fox 2005-06 season  
continues on November 18th with  
William Gibson's emotionally  
charged and powerfully moving drama  
"The Miracle Worker."

"The Miracle Worker" is a stirring

dramatization  
of the story of  
Helen Keller  
that is one of  
the most  
successful and  
warmly admired  
plays of the  
modern stage.  
Helen Keller is  
a young girl,  
who is left deaf  
and blind after  
a childhood  
illness. Trapped  
in her secret  
world, little  
Helen is bitter,  
violent, spoiled  
and almost  
animal-like. For  
years, no  
doctors can  
help Helen's  
condition. In  
a last act of  
desperation, the Kellers contact Annie  
Sullivan, a young woman who has  
recovered from her own crippling  
blindness. Given only two weeks by the  
Kellers, Annie must work a miracle with  
Helen, before she is lost forever.



"The Miracle Worker" is a rare opportunity  
to experience the work of Denver's  
most notable theater family. For the first  
time three generations of the Newcomb  
family, from grandmother to granddaugh-  
ter, are working together to bring this

remarkable  
play to the  
stage. The  
director,  
Bev New-  
comb  
Madden is  
the mother  
of Glenna  
Kelly who  
plays Kate  
Keller, and  
the grand-  
mother of  
Claire Car-  
son who is  
performing  
the role of  
Helen  
Keller.  
An award  
winning  
profession-  
al theater  
director,  
Bev has

directed more than 250 plays and musicals  
since the 1960s. Both Glenna Kelly and  
Claire Carson are carrying on the family's  
theater tradition and have appeared in  
professional theatre productions through-  
out metro Denver.

### The Miracle Worker

**Nov 18 – Dec 18, 2005**

Fri-Sat at 7:30 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m.  
Aurora Fox, 9900 East Colfax Ave  
Tickets \$11-\$22 Family 4-pack \$55  
303-739-1970 Free parking

## December Events Aurora Library, Museum, Rec Center

### Holiday Ornaments

Dec. 7, 4 to 6 p.m. Ages 6 to 12.  
\$15 Aurora residents, \$19 non-residents  
Expo Recreation Center  
10955 E. Exposition Ave., Aurora  
To register, call 303-326-8650.  
[www.auroragov.org/recreation](http://www.auroragov.org/recreation)

### Holiday Food Gifts

Food gifts for teachers, family and friends.  
Dec. 8, 4 to 6 p.m. Ages 7 to 12.  
\$20 Aurora residents, \$26 non-residents  
Expo Recreation Center (see above)

### Holiday Candy Factory

Make your own new and old-time favorite  
candies. Ages 7 to 12.  
Dec. 12, 4 to 6 p.m.  
\$18 Aurora residents, \$23 non-residents  
Expo Recreation Center (see above)

### Holiday Ornaments

Dec. 20, 5 p.m. Grades 6 to 12. Free.  
North Branch Library, 1298 Peoria St.,  
303-326-8620. [www.auroralibrary.org](http://www.auroralibrary.org)

### Cookie Decorating

Dec. 22, 2 p.m. Ages 5 to 12. Free.  
North Branch Library, 1298 Peoria St.,  
303-326-8620 [www.auroralibrary.org](http://www.auroralibrary.org)

### Harley Davidson Vroom!

Harleys and their impact on American  
culture. Free.  
Nov. 15 - Feb. 12, Tues-Fri 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
Sat-Sun, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Aurora History Museum,  
15051 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora  
303-739-6666 [www.auroramuseum.org](http://www.auroramuseum.org)

### "Festival of Wreaths"

Through Dec 9th, Free.  
Hand decorated wreaths for sale – proceeds  
go to the Aurora museum foundation  
Aurora History Museum (see above)

### "Historic Saint Nick"

Sun., Dec. 11 from 2 – 2:30 pm, Free.  
St. Nick steps off the pages of history to  
answer questions and hand out treats.  
Don't forget your camera.  
Aurora History Museum (see above)

### Denver Botanic Gardens

## Holiday Lights Blossom

### Dec. 3 to Jan. 22, 6-9pm

Denver Botanic Gardens will once again  
glow in a different light this holiday  
season at the sparkling spectacle known  
as Blossoms of Light.

Nearly one million colorful lights  
draped in elegant designs will illuminate  
the plants and hardscape features  
throughout the Gardens, which are  
located on 23 acres at 1005 York Street.  
Romantic and popular kissing spots  
under ornate balls of mistletoe hung in  
the most romantic spots throughout the  
Gardens also will return, making it a  
perfect date night. Blossoms of Light will  
be open nightly from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 3,  
2005 through Jan. 22, 2006.

Indoors in Gates Lobby Court, a  
captivating display of seasonal plants  
will be on display. Each night  
includes special seasonal  
entertainment such as bell choirs,  
carolers and dancers. Visitors can also  
enjoy warm drinks and tasty snacks to  
take the edge off the winter's chill.

Ticket prices: Adults \$8, Member  
adults \$6, seniors (65+) and youth  
(4-15) \$6, senior members and youth  
members \$4, children 3 and younger  
are admitted free.

Call 720-865-3544 for  
more information or visit  
[www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org). The Web site  
will have a list of nightly performers.

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# The People Who Make Stapleton Work

**Angie Nelson, Executive Assistant,  
Forest City Commercial Group**



Angie Nelson has her hands full. As an executive assistant with Forest City Commercial Group, she is involved with some of the most high profile retail projects Forest City has underway in the region. Those projects include the NorthField Retail Center at Stapleton, where Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World recently opened a superstore next to a new Circuit City and Super Target, The Orchard Town Center in Westminster, and Saddle Rock Village in Aurora. Among Angie's responsibilities is the scheduling of meetings for tenants, developers, architects, contractors and city officials involved in the ambitious retail projects.

Angie is a Nebraska native who grew up in Golden, Colorado. In spite of the demands of her job, Angie makes room in her life for her favorite activity: spending time with her friends and family. Among her highest priorities outside her work with Forest City is the part-time care she gives Devin, the five year old son of friends who is autistic.

**Brad Phillips, President of the Greater Stapleton  
Business Association**



Brad Phillips is the kind of person who comes to mind whenever someone talks about private business owners who "give back" to their communities.

As the owner of Brad Phillips & Associates, LLC, an Allstate Insurance Agency located in the Stapleton Plaza Office Building, Brad is heavily involved in a number of volunteer roles, most notably serving as the president of the Greater Stapleton Business Association. Brad describes the Association as "a different kind of organization that builds friendships among members as they work to become successful and contribute to their communities." Other recent volunteer activities include his participation in this past summer's Multiple Sclerosis "Challenge Walk" - a 53-mile hike to raise funds to find a cure for that disease. He is currently working on the Greater Stapleton Business Association's 2nd Annual Food Drive to benefit the Greater Park Hill Food Bank.

Brad is a native of Hickory, North Carolina. He and his wife Maida, a graduate of Boston College, have two children, Oliver (21 months) and Vivian (six weeks). In his free time, Brad has restored classic cars such as a 1969 Mercedes, a 1968 Porsche and a 1965 Sunbeam Tiger. One of his dreams is to own and restore a Dino Ferrari 246 GT.

**Charles Rountree, Construction Manager for  
Park Creek Metropolitan District**



As a Northeast Denver native, Charles Rountree takes particular pride in the role he plays in the conversion of Stapleton International Airport to one of the premier new urban communities in the nation.

Charles is a construction manager responsible for quality assurance for the Park Creek Metropolitan District, the entity established under state law to finance and oversee the construction of nearly \$700 million in new roads, utilities and open space at Stapleton. In an earlier role with the District, Charles was a safety manager. A second generation Denver native, he came to his present role in February 2001 from Civil Technology, one of the principle contractors building the infrastructure at Stapleton. Prior to his work at Stapleton, Charles was a purchasing manager for Oakwood Homes.

Charles says that one of his highest priorities is to help contractors understand that quality can be implemented without losing time or money. In speaking about Stapleton, Charles says "I am looking forward to

seeing the job done."

In his free time, Charles enjoys reading, primarily science fiction.

**Jan Bevier, Staff Accountant for the Stapleton  
Development Corporation**



Accounting is a profession that runs in Jan Bevier's family. The daughter of an accountant has worked for the past six-and-a-half years as the staff accountant for Stapleton Development Corporation, the private sector non profit entity that oversees the management and sale of the assets at Stapleton. Among her accounting responsibilities are the books for the Park Creek Metropolitan District, a special district that is overseeing the financing and construction of nearly \$700 million in new roads, utilities and open space at Stapleton.

Born on Wiesbaden Air Force Base in Germany, Jan grew up in Aurora, attending Gateway High School and later graduating with an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Parks College. Jan is the mother of two boys, Ricky (16) and Ryan (12). Among her favorite hobbies and talents is quilting and beading gifts for friends and family.



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## 2005 Community-Wide Thanksgiving Baskets



Community leaders from Northeast Denver announce plans for the 2005 Thanksgiving baskets program for the needy. This year's goal was to provide 3,000 baskets for what has become a holiday tradition in the Five Points Community.

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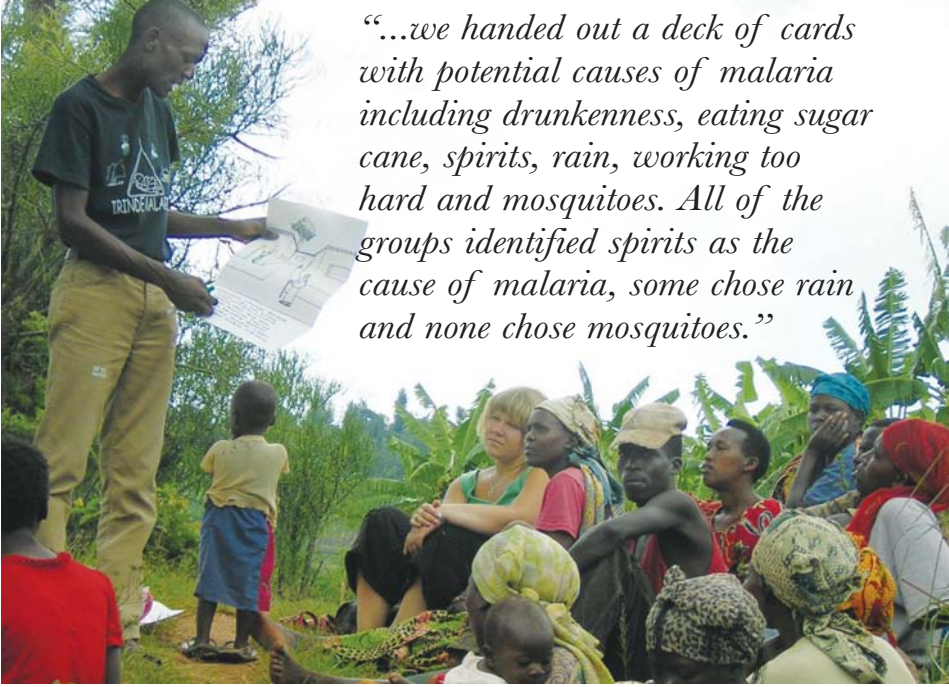
**Writer’s Corner: Soon-to-be-Stapleton resident writes about an AIDS and malaria prevention project in Rwanda**

**“We hiked for three hours... AIDS is still increasing in outlying villages since very few information projects have made it more than half an hour from the cities. ”**

By Austin Larson

**November 5, 2005**  
I flew from Dubai to Entebbe, Uganda and made friends with the guy sitting next to me on the plane. He gave me a ride to Kampala where I stayed for a night. I got up at five the next morning and took a bus to Kigali, the capital of Rwanda... nine hours away. It was great, I got to roll through a lot of Africa, African music blaring from the bus driver. When I got to Kigali I got in a minibus and waited and waited for it to fill up. I ended up with 23 other people in this van. Ridiculous. I was sitting on a tire with people piled on top of me.

The others from the house met me in Butare, where the National University of Rwanda is located (my internet access) and we walked for an hour (6k) to get to our house in the village of Huye. At the time it seemed like it was just through the countryside because everything was so dark and quiet, but walking back in the light today I found out that there were shacks along the whole way. You can pay 40 cents and ride on the back of a bicycle if you want, which takes half as long. Our house has two rooms: the bedroom and everything else. Our stove is a hole in the floor with a grate over it. Our bathroom is a hole in the ground outside. I'm not sure what the project will entail yet exactly... today we are interviewing villagers about their experiences with malaria.



*“...we handed out a deck of cards with potential causes of malaria including drunkenness, eating sugar cane, spirits, rain, working too hard and mosquitoes. All of the groups identified spirits as the cause of malaria, some chose rain and none chose mosquitoes.”*

**Nov. 7, 2005**  
It's amazing how different my life is here. The only things we can eat are potatoes, rice, tomatoes, onions, avocados and yams. I spend about 50 cents a day on food. Every night we have to come up with a different combination of some of those ingredients and cook them over the open fire. This morning we had an egg each, which was exciting. Two days ago I went up into the mountains with a couple of Rwandan medical school students to speak with the village elders about having a village meeting about malaria. It was exactly the kind of thing I'd like to do someday. It was about a six hour hike round trip, but we paid bicycle taxis to take us as far as the road went... about an hour. Total cost... 50 cents. But that's how much a decent meal costs at a restaurant so I guess it's fair. I thought about paying my biker more because I weigh about twice what

the Rwandans do. As we got to villages further and further from town, the kids were progressively more excited to see a Mbuzumbu (whitey).  
**Nov. 9, 2005**  
Yesterday we hiked out to a village, Mpunge, about an hour further out from town than ours. After the genocide, the government had built the village (in 1996) to house those whose houses had been burned. The problem is that the people who were relocated weren't used to living in villages. Basically, all of Rwanda

is sparsely populated with each family's house next to their field. With houses that spread out, hygiene isn't a major problem, but the government failed to build latrines in the village and the people have been getting ill. The Village Concept Project (VCP) group built six two-family latrines in the village this year and will build more as the money comes in, with a goal of 39 total. Normally, rather than build the latrines, they would just give the villagers the supplies and knowledge for building their own, but in this case, the village is majority Tutsi and hence mostly widows and their children. The Rwandan medical students we work with set up a time with the

village leader to give hygiene classes to the villagers to help them stay healthy. You would think that giving classes wouldn't make a big difference, but as I found out today, many of the health problems of the villagers here can be solved by keeping them informed.  
Today we started an informal research project interviewing teens who have been through the VCP's eight-session HIV awareness class (the medical students at the university here travel out to a village once a week for two months to give classes on anatomy, family planning, coping with HIV, prevention, etc.) Through an interpreter, we interviewed a couple of 18-year-old girls for an hour each to find out how successful the sessions are. Their answers were pretty disturbing... before the sessions they knew nothing of HIV/AIDS other than that some people were dying of it.  
Parents here are very reticent to talk with their children about anything relating to sex and hence many people are infected before they even understand the method of transmission. The rates of HIV infection in towns are stabilizing, largely because of informational campaigns, whereas out in the villages HIV rates are increasing (continued on page 15)



Austin with his neighbors in Huye.



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# Cooking Secrets

(continued from page 1)

up the through the ranks of the Grand Lake Lodge kitchen, where he became the executive chef for six years. He has been featured on the Food Network and had recipes published in many local and national publications and cookbooks including Bon Appetite and Colorado Cache. Jerry was most recently touted as one of Denver’s Hottest Chefs.

Jerry and his wife Christine are expecting a baby boy in September.

**Tell us about the Coral Room.**

This is an amazing American bistro with Asian fusion flavors started by two friends of mine. Stapleton gives a slice of downtown without the prices and hassles associated with it. We have plenty of parking and the Stapleton store is unique in the sense that we are geared for the romantic dinner as well as for the families, with a private dining area just for the families and separate “nooks” for the anniversary couple.

**Explain the concept of “Asian Fusion.”**

We’re taking classic recipes based upon any style of cooking whether its southwestern, northeastern, Cajun, classic French, or Italian, and putting a nice twist on it by throwing in accents of Korean flavors, Vietnamese taste, Thai spices, using all the freshest ingredients available. I shop off of Federal and Alameda at all the international and Asian markets specifically for their flavors to support this notion. It is just such a fun concept taking the flavors from different cultures and infusing them to work together and make something taste so different yet familiar.

**What’s going on with the kid’s area?**

We call it the “Little Reef,” which is a private dining area for families with small children. We have a great kids menu, a carpeted area for kids to play on with a toy chest, books, a small TV on which we play DVDs and two sculptures of a sea turtle and sting ray designed by the same guy who did the breakfast food sculptures in the Cherry Creek Mall play area. This room helps to create an environment for the parents as well as their children by alleviating the pressures of dining in a restaurant with a nice ambience and quality food while their little ones are controlled and satiated by the multitude

of entertainment found only eyeshot away from the table. However, the “Little Reef” really serves a dual purpose: it can be rented out for holiday parties and sometimes we have our own special events such as wine dinners. The room is actually quite cool, it is multi media equipped, with full audio and visual capabilities so you can watch your own movies or listen to your own music in there, it has sliding doors for privacy and it has its own restroom.

**What kind of tips do you have for people who are gearing up for holiday cooking?**

I recommend they book the private dining area and let me cook for them!!! Seriously, there are a million ways to simplify cooking to keep your meals elegant. Cooking is an art and should be fun, I know my mom used to freak out and stress about planning the perfect holiday meals; so when you have fun with it, keep it simple and try new stuff, that is when you have the best results. If not, just have fun anyway. Cooking is about enjoying what you do, not feeling pressure or anxiety about it. So enjoy that eggnog, get creative and have everyone help out. You shouldn’t be the only one slaving, make it a friends and family experience. We all know throughout the holidays, the kitchen becomes the center of entertainment – set the stage and enjoy! Oh yeah, keep the bar in the kitchen and the “helpers” will find you.

**What is one of your favorite holiday recipes?**

Deep fried turkey! NO, I am not kidding; once you try this you will never bake a turkey again. First, you come up with a spice base like paprika, cayenne pepper, garlic powder, thyme and salt. Add turkey stock and melted butter, fill a large turkey syringe and insert it in several times until the turkey is completely swollen with spices. Then you rub the outside with Tabasco sauce and Cajun seasoning, or whatever your liking is. (You can tell I like it hot!) Stick it in a fryer (they sell turkey fryers at Wal-Mart these days), and wow! The result is wonderful. We have all slaved over a turkey for hours, sometimes



Sunday brunch at the Coral Room.

days, cooked them over night only to have our turkey turn out as moist as sandpaper. This is revolutionary I tell ya!!!

**So what is your favorite dish on the Coral Room menu?**

We just revised the menu for the fall season and picking one favorite is tough. Right now I can’t get enough of the lamb shank Osso Buco. We are taking large lamb shanks, 1 1/2 pound per portion, searing them off, and cooking them slowly in the traditional manner of Osso Buco (Italian stew) which literally means “pierced bone” in Italy. And for the Asian fusion part we put South Pacific flavors like oyster sauce, plum sauce, hoison sauce, red Korean wine and a full flavored Korean paste in the broth. Top it off with a little Chinese five spice, bay leaves and star anise then cook it for about 8-12 hours. When we pull the shanks out of the oven the meat is just falling off the bone. It is served in the broth with autumn lentils, it’s delicious!

**How has the response been from the people of Stapleton?**

Interaction seems to be on a very positive note, people seemed to be thrilled and happy. However, I think we are struggling with a misconception problem. I think people assume because of our atmosphere and décor that we are really expensive, and it just isn’t true. I think people walk by and think we look like places in Cherry Creek or Downtown, and imagine we have those kinds of prices. Truthfully, you can have a five course meal here and chose from a great wine selection and you don’t have to break the bank doing it. On the same

token you can come in for a burger and a beer (or many other entrees) and spend under 15 bucks. Many of our customers would put our burger up against any other in town. We really are a neighborhood joint owned by two local guys, with a super friendly and welcoming staff.

**You have had so much success in the Highlands neighborhood, how are you gearing this one to the Stapleton crowd?**

We have the “Little Reef” dining area where, on Sundays, we have kid’s movie night and play movies like Aladdin and Finding Nemo. We started our brunch menu out here, with \$5 bottomless Mimosas. We have taken that concept to the Highlands because of the success we have enjoyed with it out here. Actually, the two neighborhoods are very similar; we have met a lot of folks who have moved here from the Highlands. Just like we are there, we are a neighborhood joint, we get our flowers across the street at Amore Fiori, our menus printed up at Post Net, and when we gotta have pizza, we get it from Anthony’s. We do exactly the same thing in the Highlands. Its all about supporting your community and local businesses, it gives you that small town feeling when you’re walking down the street and everybody smiles at whoever is walking by, or everywhere you go you know somebody whether its other patrons or the bartender. I just love it out here. My wife and I just bought a house in the area and we are looking forward to beginning our family in this incredible community – Denver’s best kept secret – for now!

## Coral Room Chef Jerry Hise shares a favorite recipe

### Seared Pork Tenderloin Medallions, Spiced Cognac Apples, Candied Pecans & Caramel Crème

- 1.5 lbs. pork tenderloin, trimmed and cut into 2 ounce medallions
- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- salt & white pepper to taste
- 2-4 Tbl olive or canola oil
- 4 granny smith apples, cored and sliced
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup cognac or cooking brandy
- 2 Tbl. butter, unsalted
- 1 Tbl. Chinese five spice
- 1 egg white, lightly whipped
- 1/2 cup sugar, granulated
- 1 1/2 cups pecan pieces or halves
- 1/4 cup caramel
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream

Method:

In a medium sauce pot add the unsalted butter and apples, cook for 2 minutes until they start to soften. Add brown sugar and Chinese five spice powder and cook another five minutes, stirring frequently. Add cognac to the apples and let simmer over low heat for 10 to 15 minutes or until apples are stewed.

In a separate mixing bowl add the egg white and mix well with sugar and pecans until the pecans are coated evenly. Spread the pecans thin over parchment paper on a baking sheet. Bake the pecans in a preheated oven set at 350 degrees for approximately

10 minutes until the pecans set, toast (not burn) and sugar mixture hardens. Stir pecans several times throughout the baking process to ensure they do not burn.

In a separate sauce pot add the caramel and heavy cream. Set over a medium flame until the mixture begins to simmer, lower the heat and let reduce until rich and creamy. Adjust the caramel in the sauce to your liking by adding more at the end or less in the beginning. Also try adding a little cognac to the sauce.

For the pork tenderloin, heat up a large sauté pan with 2 to 4 tablespoons

of either olive oil or canola oil. Pound the 2 ounce medallions out until they are flat and even in size. Dredge the pork medallions in flour and sear in the sauté pan. Sprinkle with salt and white pepper and cook approximately 2 to 4 minutes on each side or until medallions are cooked to your liking. Do not forget to adjust the temperature while cooking the pork so they do not burn.

To plate, lay pork medallions onto a platter or plate and cover with caramel cream. Sprinkle pecans over plate and add the stewed apples by using a slotted spoon. Enjoy!

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# Harvard Communities Offers First “Environments For Living” Homes in Stapleton

## Homebuyers to Receive Guarantee on Energy Used for Heating and Cooling

Harvard Communities is the first Denver builder to offer homes constructed under the Environments For Living program at Stapleton, which prescribes state-of-the-art specifications for energy efficiency created by top experts in the field of building science. The first homes built under the program will be featured in the upcoming model opening of The Architect Collection at Stapleton in early 2006.

Buyers of the new homes will receive the Environments For Living three-year limited guarantee on energy used for heating and cooling. This provides an estimated annual amount of energy (BTUs) needed to heat and cool the home and, if heating and cooling usage exceeds the estimated usage each year, the homeowner receives 100 percent of the difference in cost. Homeowners will also receive a three-year limited guarantee on “comfort” – promising that the temperature at the center of the room will not vary more than 3 degrees from the thermostat set point for that room.

“Energy costs have risen over the past few years, and we believe homebuyers in Stapleton and Denver are looking more closely at energy efficient features,” said John Keith, President of Harvard Communities.

“We know from talking to home owners that a lot of people have comfort problems in their existing homes, such as rooms that are always too cold or too hot. By offering a comfort guarantee, the consumer knows we have addressed those issues because we are backing a promise.”

The Environments For Living program, which was developed through a collaboration efforts of Masco Contractor Services and Advanced Energy Corporation, uses the principles of building science to help builders construct homes that are more energy efficient, comfortable durable, healthier, and safer than homes not built to the program specifications. The program establishes requirements for tight construction and high performance thermal systems, fresh air ventilation, balanced air pressure, internal moisture management features and combustion safety:

**Tight construction** – providing a tight shell and

air-sealing the thermal envelope, to keep warm/cool air inside and keep out unwanted drafts.

**Fresh air ventilation** – bringing fresh air into the home in a controlled manner, to maintain beneficial air exchange rates and dilute indoor contaminants and everyday pollutants.

**Improved thermal systems** – installing improved insulation systems and energy efficient windows, to enhance energy-efficient performance.

**Right-sized HVAC** – sizing and installing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems to improve the performance of equipment and minimize duct leakage.

**Pressure balancing** – installing returns, transfer grills and/or jump ducts to help make sure all rooms are pressure balanced, to manage air flows and achieve balanced temperatures, and avoid drawing air from unwanted areas.

**Internal moisture management** – selecting and installing materials to help moisture within the building assemblies to dry, and making sure fans vent to outside.

**Combustion safety** – adding CO detectors and making sure all combustion appliances within the conditioned space of the home are sealed or power vented, to address “back drafting” and potential buildup of carbon monoxide.

The Architect Collection, priced from the \$600s and ranging from 2750 square feet to 3450 square feet, offers three homes and a diversity of styles and livability. These designs feature elements from both traditional and contemporary architecture. “The Courtyard” is a main floor master with a study and two bedrooms up. “The Pavilion” is a more traditional plan with all bedrooms on the second level. And “The Tower” offers a unique, two-story library/study with a third floor loft that can be made a home office, artist’s studio or simply a retreat. Some homes face a park, but all homes have a gourmet island kitchen, vaulted ceilings, full basement, formal dining room, breakfast nook, 2- or 3-car attached garage, 3 to 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms and outdoor an courtyard or patio.

For more information about The Architect Collection, call Sheri Ogilvie at 303.789.4440 or visit [www.thearchitectcollection.com](http://www.thearchitectcollection.com).

## Writer’s Corner: Rwanda Journal (continued from p. 13)

because there have been very few informational campaigns that can make it more than half an hour from the cities.

Today I found out about an interesting piece of Rwandan society right now: the gachacha. After the genocide, there was an attempt to deal with the perpetrators with the normal court system. After a couple years, it was calculated that it would take a hundred years to process all of the cases. So, in 2002, the gachacha (traditional village justice) was revived. Every Wednesday around the country, instead of going to work, the whole village meets to discuss the genocide. They are in the third year of these weekly discussions, with everyone giving their account of the genocide to the village. Over the next two years, they are compiling a list with levels of responsibility of each person for the genocide. After that time, those most responsible will be sent to jail, moving down the list until the jails are full. At that point, all others will issue public apologies to their villages. The yard in which the Huye gachacha takes place is right next to our house, so we see and hear the proceedings every Wednesday.

Nov. 12, 2005

Today we went to Rukara... toting a host of malaria education materials. When we arrived, the villagers were dancing and singing, not as a greeting but to kill time because we were late, having made some wrong turns on the network of trails

that lead through the fields. We handed out a deck of cards with potential causes of malaria including drunkenness, eating sugarcane, spirits, rain, working too hard and mosquitoes. All of the groups identified spirits as the cause of malaria, some chose rain and none chose mosquitoes. We proceeded to explain that malaria is in fact caused by mosquitos and suggested some ways to prevent bites like sleeping under nets, draining standing water and clearing brush. We demonstrated the use of mosquito nets, though unfortunately the world’s supply of mosquito nets have been sent to southeast Asia since the tsunami and they will be unavailable in Rwanda for at least another couple of months... (The unabridged version of this journal, which will continue through December ‘05, can be found at: <http://austin-rwanda.blogspot.com>.)

Austin Larson, 22, graduated from Dartmouth College in June 05. While awaiting admission to medical school for the fall of ‘06, he is volunteering with the The Rwanda Village Concept Project (<http://www.rwanda-vcp.org>). The project attempts to reach rural areas in southern Rwanda and improve the health of residents through medical education sessions. Austin’s family expects to move to Stapleton by the summer of ‘06.

The “Writer’s Corner” offers Front Porch readers the opportunity to share their thoughts on subjects of interest to others.

## Community Notes

by Diane Deeter  
Stapleton Community Manager



### Stapleton Holiday Lighting Contest

Judging will take place December 10th between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. Make sure your lights are turned on during these hours for the judges to see.

Categories:

**Best Overall Single Family** - Decorations that make you say “Wow.”

**Best Overall Multi-Family** - Decorations that make you say “Wow.” Includes Trimark Mansion Homes, McStain Rowhomes, John Laing Paired Homes, Roslyn Court and Syracuse Village.

**The Clark Griswald Award** - Decorations that are over the top.

**Best Block** - Not every home has to participate for a block to be eligible. A block is considered to be homes on either side of the street, facing each other, between intersections. For example the 2600 block of Spruce between 26th and 27th.

**Front Porch Award** - Best decorations on your front porch.

Winners will be announced on December 11th at 6:00 p.m. Prizes will be announced on [stapletononline.com](http://stapletononline.com).

### New Resident Orientation – Holiday Break

Enjoy your families and your home at this special time of year. We will resume the meetings February 2006; please call Jenifer Graham 303.355.9600 to RSVP for the group meeting or if you can’t make it, schedule a personal meeting. WELCOME!!

### Reporting Street Light Outages

1. Write down number from light pole
2. Call Xcel’s non-emergency number to report outage: 800-895-4999. The number for residential power outages is 800-895-1999.

Diane Deeter is the Community Manager for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. She may be reached at [communitymanager@StapletonDenver.com](mailto:communitymanager@StapletonDenver.com).

## Westerly Creek School Registration (continued from p. 5)

school year so we can plan ahead to make the school environment the best one for children.”

In addition to ECE and Kindergarten, if you have an older child (Grades 1-8) who will be attending Westerly Creek for the 2006/2007 school year we also urge you to bring in all necessary documentation listed above as early as possible and complete a pre-enrollment form so we can plan on the appropriate class sizes.

Any parent who is not a resident of Stapleton but interested in the “Choice” process, should complete an application during the First Round Choice Period, which runs from January 4th through 31st, and return that application to Westerly Creek Elementary School. Students applying for 1st Round Choice will be entered into a database by the DPS Planning Department and receive a random number placement (lottery) within their priority grouping by grade. The second round of choice will begin February 1st and go through the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year based on space available.



Dr. Lisa Davidson

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A Closer Look

# Town Center Vet at Home in Stapleton

When Stapleton veterinarian Michele Smith was growing up in an Air Force family, she lived “all over the world” but never encountered a community where pets were such a large part of the family as they are at Stapleton.

That may be why Michele and her husband Greg and their two-year old daughter Kamdyn feel so much at home living in Stapleton where Michele also has her veterinary practice, 29th Avenue Animal Hospital in the Town Center, and Greg is a pilot instructor for the Boeing 757/767 fleet at the nearby United Training Center. The Stapleton residents live on East 26th Avenue with their English Setter Charlie and a cat by the name of Minnie. Michele’s parents have retired in nearby Aurora where they find it convenient to make frequent visits to enjoy their granddaughter.

After completing her undergraduate work at San Diego State, Michele received her degree in veterinary medicine from Colorado State University. Following graduation, she received a one year internship at Alameda East Veterinary Hospital before serving on the staff for two years. Greg and Michele later moved to Stapleton in 2003 where Michele opened her veterinary practice in the Town Center the following year. Now in her fifth year of practice as a veterinarian, she says her medical philosophy is based on “personalized risk assessment” that treats each patient as special.

“At 29th Avenue Animal Hospital, we focus on wellness exams rather than

routine vaccination or standardized health care plans,” Dr. Smith says. “We feel this approach leads to a higher standard of care where every pet’s age, lifestyle, and health status are taken into consideration, leading to individualized health care.”

Michele says she and Greg love living and working in a community where she



Dr. Michele Smith and her husband Greg with their daughter Kamdyn and their dog Charlie in their Stapleton home .

finds “the most amazing clients who view pets as family members.” When asked to identify the most enjoyable part of her profession, she readily responds “the puppies and the kittens.”

Outside the hours she spends in her practice of veterinary medicine, Michele can often be found jogging with her dog through Stapleton’s neighborhoods. She and Greg also enjoy helicopter skiing in Canada.

*A Closer Look is a regular feature of The Stapleton Front Porch that is designed to provide more information about Stapleton residents and business owners who play a visible role in their community. Dr. Michele Smith may be reached at 29th Avenue Animal Hospital by calling (303) 394-3937.*

# 3 Stapleton Moms Finish NY Marathon

*Training run at 11,000 feet more difficult than the marathon itself*

“Mom, did you win?” asked 5-year-old Emma when she saw the medal on Nadine Rasmussen’s neck. If Emma doesn’t yet understand the magnitude of running 26 miles, and the concept that finishing is winning, she’ll understand soon enough – her mother plans to do it again.

Nadine Rasmussen had run marathons previously, but after having a baby made a New Year’s resolution in January 2005 to get back in shape. The first day out she could barely run a mile. She joined with Stapleton neighbors Katy Hoops and Kirsti Peterson, who had never run a marathon, and set up a training regimen in preparation for the November 6th New York Marathon. By June they ran a half marathon, “The Slacker,” which is all downhill from Loveland ski area to Georgetown.

The three women put their names in for the marathon in February – slots are given out by lottery. Katy and Kirsti’s names were drawn but Nadine did not get a number. The only way she could participate would be to join a team raising funds for charity. She found a slot on Sloan Kettering Memorial Hospital’s team (called Fred’s Team”), but had to raise \$2,000 to participate with them. Katie and Kirsti helped with the fundraising. They threw a party where they got donations from Udi’s and a wine broker. Stapleton resident Bill Marinelli

donated \$500 from his mortgage company. With the help of family and friends they raised \$2,000 and Nadine got her number for the marathon.

Two weeks before the event the trio did their biggest training run – 21 miles that took them over Boreas Pass at 11,500 feet. Running into severe wind almost at treeline was grueling. “I thought my friends would never speak to me again,” confesses Nadine. On race day, however, they all agreed the training regime had worked. Their legs hurt by the time they got through five boroughs from Staten



(From left) Katy Hoops, Nadine Rasmussen and Kirsti Peterson smile after the successful completion of the New York City marathon on November 6th.

Island to Central Park, but they had no problem with shortness of breath, and crossed the finish line together with hands joined in the air. The weather was a little warmer than they would have wished (72 degrees) but at least it wasn’t humid.

After a brief recovery time, they plan to run three days a week at 5:15am and do a 13 to 16 mile run over the weekends. And, says Nadine, who lost 25 pounds since her baby was born, “We’re ready to ski.”



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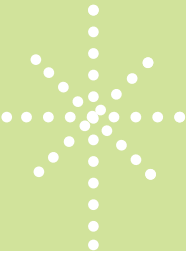
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# Sustainability at Stapleton

by Melissa Knott  
Director of Sustainability for Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

## Simplify the Holidays

One of the best things about the holidays is spending time with family and friends. Try some of these tips below to both reduce your holiday impact on the earth and spend more time spreading holiday cheer!

- Give gifts that you make—bake cookies, write a poem or create a scrapbook of favorite photos.
- Make a gift bag by sewing together scraps of fabric, decorating an old pillowcase or gluing a design on a paper bag instead of wasting paper to wrap gifts.
- Buy rechargeable batteries for gifts requiring battery power.
- Encourage your family to decorate with homemade items using natural and recycled materials. String popcorn and cranberries together to make a colorful garland.
- Make a gingerbread house.

December’s newly redesigned New Leaf newsletter contains more tips on how to make your holiday season more sustainable. You can download the December New Leaf from our website at [www.stapletondenver.com](http://www.stapletondenver.com). While online, sign up to receive New Leaf via email every month! Paper copies are also available in the Stapleton Visitor Center.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and sustainable holiday season!

## Recycling Update

Every few months we hear from residents who are anxious to start recycling, but who live in an area that is not yet serviced by Denver Recycles’ curbside residential recycling program which is available at no charge to Denver residents. Denver Recycles, a program of Solid Waste Management, strives to start service in newly built areas in Stapleton as soon as possible, especially since awareness of recycling is so high in the community. Denver Recycles

regularly sends staff out to Stapleton to assess construction progress within newly occupied areas. Their goal is to start service to an area as soon as it is safe to do so.

Below are some of the issues Denver Recycles’ faces when making the determination about when to start recycling services in new areas.

The City and County of Denver is self insured. When a Solid Waste Management operator gets into an accident not only is the city financially responsible, but the operators are also held accountable. When Denver Recycles makes an assessment of the risk of starting service in an area under construction they have to weigh the potential costs to the city and the potential impact on the employees. Denver Recycles tries to protect their personnel by not asking them to assume unreasonably high risks.

Trash is seen as an essential service and must be collected to protect public health. As such, the city assumes a higher risk when offering this service. Unfortunately, recycling is not viewed as an essential service to protect public health and the amount of risk assumed is lower.

The trash collection system that operates in Stapleton has two or three people on board each truck. If the collection truck gets into a tight spot as a result of construction equipment, construction parking, landscaping, etc. there is always another person who can help guide the truck out. Recycling collection trucks are operated by one person and therefore present more problems in maneuvering through tight spots.

Until your curbside recycling services begins, you can drop off your recyclables at Recycle America Alliance bins located throughout the Stapleton community. There is a recycling bin on the south side of the Odyssey School parking lot on 28th Avenue, another bin on the south side of the Ashley Elementary School parking lot at the corner of Syracuse and Montview, and another bin in the

west Denver School of the Arts parking lot at Olive and 21st. You can recycle all of the materials accepted in Denver’s expanded recycling program at these locations. At Stapleton we are also very close to one of Recycle America Alliance’s main recycling centers, which is located at 3730 East 48th Avenue (north of I-70 between Colorado Blvd. and Vasquez). For more information on these locations, call the Recycle America Alliance at 303-399-6351.

## Tour Denver’s Recycling Processing Facility

**Want to learn more about what happens to your recyclables and how your materials get sorted?** Then schedule to take a tour of the largest materials recovery processing facility in Denver, where all the recyclables collected through Denver Recycles’ residential recycling program get delivered and processed.

More than 350,000 pounds of materials collected each day are sorted and prepared for various markets at this facility. Owned and operated by Recycle America Alliance, a subsidiary of Waste Management, the facility is now open for tours. Currently, tours are offered on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 3:30 PM.

Tours are free and last approximately one hour. Reservations are required, and tour space is allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Residents must provide their own transportation to the facility.

Please note: One adult chaperon is required for every five children under the age of fifteen. Due to safety guidelines, children under the age of seven are not permitted on the tour. Participants are asked to dress appropriately as it is an open-air facility, wear closed toed shoes with non-slip soles (no flip-flops or sandals) and please no “flowing” or overly loose clothing.

For more information, please call **720-865-6810** or email [DenverRecycles@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:DenverRecycles@ci.denver.co.us).

## EAST 29th AVENUE TOWN CENTER



### RESTAURANTS

Anthony’s Pizza  
Chipotle  
Casey’s Pub  
Cold Stone Creamery  
The Coral Room  
Einstein Bros. Café  
Noodles & Company  
Starbucks  
Udi’s Bread Bistro

### HEALTH & BEAUTY

A Wild Smile Pediatric Dentistry  
Curves  
Fantastic Sams  
Phoenix Yoga Studio  
Town Center Dentistry & Orthodontic  
29th Avenue Animal Hospital

### SERVICES

Town Center Environmentally  
Friendly Cleaners  
Commercial Federal Bank

### SERVICES, (CONT.)

FirstBank  
PostNet  
Mike Giles Family Karate  
Stapleton Visitor Center  
US Bank (in King Soopers)

### MISC. RETAIL / CARDS & GIFTS

Amore Fiore Flowers and Gifts  
Art & Framing at Stapleton  
The Grape Leaf  
King Soopers Gasoline  
Miss Talulah’s  
UROK  
U-Sham-Pooch (Opening Late 2005)

### REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Infinity Home Collection  
New Avenues Real Estate  
Town Center Apartments

### GROCERY/DRUG STORE

King Soopers  
Walgreens







# Keeping Pets Healthy

by Steve Rubin, D.V.M.

## Holiday Dangers for Dogs and Cats

By Steve Rubin, D.V.M.  
As the Holidays approach, dogs and cats often run into several holiday hazards. Following are some foods and other items dogs and cats need to avoid.

**Foods dogs should avoid:**

**Chocolate:** We love to send and especially receive good chocolate over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Chocolate contains methylxanthine alkaloids, especially theobromine and caffeine. We humans can tolerate these substances, but it is toxic to dogs. Just one tenth of a pound (a little over one ounce) of baking chocolate can be toxic to a 15 pound dog. Typically, a dog intoxicated with chocolate will shake, seem stiff, and appear weak. Don't guess about this sort of intoxication, just call your veterinarian right away.  
**Fatty food:** Prime Rib is a favorite of humans and dogs everywhere. Unfortunately for dogs the fat in such a meal is potentially harmful to them. Many dogs will suffer pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas – a serious and life threatening situation), gastritis (very bad indigestion that could lead to dehydration), or a debilitating episode of diarrhea. Other foods that have caused such conditions are butter, raw meat, and large meals – many times dogs show up sick at the veterinarian after eating an entire turkey. The best advice is to stick to dog food. If you want to allow some human food, then try a little bit of chicken or turkey with rice or potatoes. Remember to avoid harsh spices and NO ONIONS (this can lead to onion poisoning).

**For dogs AND cats:**

**Foreign bodies:** The holidays bring many trinkets into the house. Small toys and ornaments that suddenly disappear may have been consumed by playful dogs and cats. Many times plastic or wooden objects are splintered as they are chewed and swallowed. These objects can potentially block the stomach and intestines and cause a life threatening blockage. Vomiting and/or diarrhea with or without being lethargic may be the only clues we have. Our advice is to do some extra baby proofing (dog and cat proofing) as your house accumulates presents, toys, and decorations.

**For cats:**

**Plants:** Some plants are poisonous for cats. We all know how they love to chew up plants and leaves, and especially at Christmas time, Poinsettias. This plant is an irritant for cats and can cause irritations around the mouth as well as vomiting, diarrhea and skin problems. Our advice is to simply keep it out of the way of your cats.

We hope your Holiday time is joyous and playful. However, if you think you are having a problem with any of the situations described above, then please contact your veterinarian for any further information and possible diagnosis and treatment.

*Dr. Steve Rubin is partner and chief of staff in Banfield The Pet Hospital at Stapleton. His practice is located in the PetsMart at Quebec Square. Call 303.393.5406 for more information.*



### Information of interest from local real estate professionals

#### Six Steps to Package Your Home for Sale

By Lana Dardano

**UNCLUTTERING** makes every room look larger and feel neater. If a house is cluttered, buyers have trouble imagining themselves in it. By removing or storing things you don't need, you create a roomy, comfortable feeling that will be inviting to prospective buyers. Remember... when in doubt, throw it out, sell it or give it away!

**CLEANING** makes your house easy for buyers to explore and gives the impression that it has been well cared for. Be sure every room smells as good as it looks, paying special attention to pet areas, nurseries and bathrooms. Some fresh paint and a one-time professional cleaning service can make your house look like new.

**REPAIRING** before you go on the market can save money and negotiation stress down the road. Consider a seller's home inspection to eliminate buyers objections before they arise. Decide what you can do yourself and what you'll need the pros to handle. Then schedule projects so everything is complete before your house debut. Look into a home warranty to provide protection for you... and a buyer... against failure of mechanical systems.



Lana Dardano

**NEUTRALIZING** creates a home for any lifestyle and taste. Neutral paint, decor and carpeting help buyers mentally "move-in," while unusual or dated decorating may make it difficult for a buyer to imagine their furnishing in your house. Replace unusual artwork and displays of family photos with a few carefully chosen accessories. and remember, many people are allergic to or afraid of animals. Kennel your pets or take them with you during showings.

**DYNAMIZING** makes the exterior and every room of your house special. Since it is competing with other houses on the market, you need to make it stand out and be memorable. Look in magazines and catalogs for ideas. From the front door to the basement, from fresh flowers to fresh smells, this is the finishing touch.

**SHOWTIME** is the final step before each time your house is shown. Identify jobs and assign them to make this step quick and easy. If you keep up daily, showtime will be easier for you and your family. Plan a fun activity... away from the house... during showings.

*Lana Dardano is a Stapleton resident and the owner of New Avenues Real Estate Offices, which is located in the East 29th Avenue Town Center across from the fountain. She can be reached at 303.331.6700 or by email at clientservices@homesinstapleton.com.*

# Home Work

by Kathy Epperson



## Windowwell Expressions: A Beautiful View

When Stapleton residents Sherree and Todd Totten were remodeling their basement, they never thought it would lead them to start a new business. As the project was progressing, Sherree found herself wondering what they could do about the ugly window wells. Their contractor offered a few suggestions, none of which matched the level of finish they were



Sherree and Todd Totten, Windowwell Expressions

looking for. After a good deal of research, they found a window well liner product made in Utah that has the contour, texture and appearance of real stone. "At first we were skeptical about how realistic it would look, but we had the opportunity to see the product at a home show and were amazed!" Sherree recalls. They knew immediately they wanted it for their own home and kept thinking others would be interested too. "A few days later, our talks turned to, 'How can we bring this product to Denver?'" This past July, Sherree and Todd purchased the

exclusive rights to market and sell this product in Denver, and Windowwell Expressions of Denver was born. The window well liners they sell are made from polyurethane and poured over a mold to make it look like real stone. They come in three different styles – slate, flagstone and river rock – and in any color. In addition to the liners, they also offer window well safety covers in a variety of styles.

While Sherree and Todd have never run their own business before, they each bring valuable experience to this new venture. Sherree, who continues to work as a web project manager for Safeco, handles the scheduling, bookkeeping, marketing, and will soon do a redesign of the manufacturer's website. Todd, who has worked in the construction industry for eight years, handles sales and installation. Helping them juggle their day jobs, this new business, and two boys (Gavin, 3 and Cole, 1) is a live-in au pair, Daria.

So far, Sherree and Todd have promoted Windowwell Expressions through flyers and by renting booth space at home shows and local events. "Our second month in business was HUGE thanks to an ad we placed in the Parade of Homes Magazine," she says. They use their home as a showroom of sorts for anyone who wants to see the product installed. "We also encourage anyone interested to allow us to bring the product to their home. We bring large samples and slip them down into their window wells so they can see exactly what it will look like in their own home."

For more information, contact Sherree and Todd at 303-994-8866.

*Kathy Epperson is a Stapleton resident who writes a monthly column about home businesses. She may be reached at kathyox@yahoo.com.*

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## S.U.N. News

# The SUN Spot

The *independent* voice of Stapleton  
Brought to you by Stapleton United Neighbors



### My Opinion:

#### Many things to give thanks for at Stapleton

by Mike King, SUN President

One of SUN's most important roles involves voicing the concerns of residents with respect to the current and future development of Stapleton. We spend significant time and effort working closely with Forest City, the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC), and other key players involved in the planning and development of Stapleton.

Among other things, the holidays offer us a moment to pause, take stock of the year gone by, and give thanks, including for those things that often "go without saying." In the process of noticing what's behind schedule or off kilter and working to improve Stapleton, all too often it goes without saying that great things have already been achieved by Forest City and SDC, and, in my opinion, congratulations are in order for how far we have come from the abandoned airport that would otherwise still be a blight on the Denver landscape. As we as neighbors continually engage Forest City and SDC to work out the inevitable kinks, we all share a common goal of making Stapleton a truly great neighborhood with all of the qualities that we feel so strongly about: an attractive, pedestrian friendly, vibrant, active, diverse community with a strong neighborhood culture.

Rarely do residents have the opportunity to shape their neighborhood as much as they do in an ongoing development like ours. The SUN/ Forest City Community Forum held in October reflected the energy and depth of interest that neighbors have in Stapleton – energy that we can expect to see throughout the long road to full build-out. While we may not always agree, we have found success engaging in constructive problem-solving with Forest City and SDC rather than merely complaining from the back benches. As long as we all work together to channel and harness our energy toward proactive, productive dialogue, I believe we will reach our goals: our neighborhood will be the unique place we hope for, and Stapleton will stand as a shining example of urban redevelopment.

### What is SUN, and What Does SUN do? The Year in Review...

Neighbors often ask "Is SUN our homeowner's association?" or "So what does SUN do?" We wanted to take a moment in our annual letter to answer these questions and, more importantly, to enlist your help. Stapleton United Neighbors, better known as "SUN," is comprised solely of volunteer neighbors and functions as the registered neighborhood organization for Stapleton, discussing key issues with neighbors, representing your interests, engaging in proactive problem-solving, and organizing neighborhood-building activities. SUN is separate and distinct from Stapleton's homeowner's association, the Master Community Association (MCA), which uses fees from residents to maintain common areas (including the pools), enforce neighborhood covenants, and sponsor seasonal socials.

#### In the past 12 months, SUN has:

Established a first-of-its kind neighborhood-wide safety program, including obtaining and publishing our neighborhood's quarterly crime statistics and continually training neighbors in the Denver Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program, resulting in certification of over 20 blocks so far;

Requested and obtained women's safety classes for residents provided by the DPD and the Police Academy, and organized grass-roots lobbying efforts to increase resources for safety at the Stapleton, District 2, and citywide levels;

Hosted our second annual Neighborhood Kickball Tournament, attracting 16 teams and over 300 participants in this neighborhood-building "active living" event;

Organized a first-of-its kind neighborhood-wide Block Party Day, with 44 blocks and hundreds of residents participating in another neighborhood-building event;

Reached out to surrounding neighborhoods by procuring over \$40,000 in grants to build a much-needed new playground at the neighboring Ashley Elementary School and assisting in a citywide "Dictionary Drive" to provide dictionaries for students most in need;

Worked aggressively with Forest City, the MCA, and the City of Denver to (1) iron out growing pains with our parks, pools, traffic flow, and builders, and (2) proactively engage in planning for the continued growth and development of Stapleton;

Engaged in neighborhood and regional transportation planning and dialogue, including participation in planning for FastTracks and potential changes to the I-70 Corridor and hosting ongoing pedestrian and traffic safety meetings;

Created a "Distinguished Speaker Series" to ensure open communications between neighbors and key leaders in government and Forest City/Stapleton;

Published and distributed our first SUN newsletter – and much more!!!

SUN could not exist without the donation of countless hours of volunteer time and financial resources from neighbors like you. We encourage your participation, as well as your financial contribution (SUN is a registered 501(c)3 organization). Financial donations help offset the cost of implementing safety and other programs, communicating with the neighborhood on issues of concern through printings and mailings, and sponsoring neighborhood-building events.

### DPD and SUN Sponsor Successful Neighborhood Watch Training Program

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. Even with unlimited resources, the most effective policing programs are those in which neighbors take an active and collaborative approach, working with their local officers in a model known as "community policing." On November 9, the Denver Police Department and SUN co-sponsored their sixth Neighborhood Watch Training Program, with well over sixty homes participating. Because neighbors knowing and looking out for their fellow neighbors drives any successful community policing program, residents attending the training program were organized on a block-by-block basis.

Blocks that achieve substantial participation in training programs 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. Over 400 Stapleton homes are now participating in the program, with 25 Stapleton blocks having achieved "Neighborhood Watch" status. However, Stapleton seemingly builds out a new city block each week, and will need even more participation to maximize safety. SUN and the DPD will run this program again in February – details to come!

## Views on the Street

### Please share your suggestions for things to do over the holidays.



#### Kristi and Matt Bord

(with Ava and Isabelle, age 2)

This is a great time to start traditions with the family. One of the things we want to do this year is take them ice skating at North Cherry Creek. It has lots of lights and lots of little kids and families – it's a great time for families to be together. Botanic Gardens is a great activity for families. Again, lots of lights – a part of Denver history and a good tradition to start with your family.

#### Diana Kearns

(with Aydan, 22 months)

We just brought Eden home this year so this will be her first winter with us. We'd like to go sledding or put her in the backpack and go snowshoeing and enjoy the snow. We usually go somewhere pretty close, like in the foothills – Eldorado Springs, Chautauqua in Boulder or up I-70 to the ski slopes. We always do the Zoo Lights on New Year's Eve with my older daughter who is 20 now and she still looks forward to it. She even buys the tickets. We usually try to ice skate at Cherry Creek.



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M.C.A. News



**Debbie Jordan**  
(with Lila, 5, and Addie, 3)  
We love the holidays in Denver. We visit the Denver Zoo and have hot chocolate and carousel rides. The lights throughout the zoo are fantastic but the children really enjoy riding the carousel which is also all lit up. We also like to go to the Botanic lights. Downtown we visit the Market Coffee Shop on 16th and Larimer with the lights and different carol singers which we really enjoy. They have cakes and coffee and drinks. We ride the bus up and down 16th Street Mall and go to Hammonds Candy Factory, they do seasonal holiday activities like making gingerbread houses and a tour. They used to be located on South Colorado Boulevard but I'm not sure of their new address. Sledding at Robinson Park and City Park are just wonderful. The first Day of Hanukkah this year is on December 26 which is unusual because Hanukkah is usually weeks before Christmas. Lighting of the Menorah at the JCC - Jewish Community Center will occur very close to December holiday festivities.

**Karen and Mike Giles**

(with Kellye, 9 and Mikee, 5)  
We like to go to the Parade of Lights. My daughter is a ballerina so we go to Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Center for the Nutcracker. My little daughter was in it last year and played the mouse who got shot so it was very exciting. (For those interested in the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Center call 303-295-1759. It is located at 119 Park Ave. West.) We'll go see "Dancing in the Moon," a play at George Washington High School December 1st - 3rd. My son, who is almost 17, will be starring in it. Hanging out at the Mall to see Santa Claus at Cherry Creek is fun for the kids. We write down our list for Santa and make Santa cookies and a southern dish like gumbo. I was raised in New Orleans. (My sister's house in the French Quarter was not damaged.)



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Stapleton Master Community ASSOCIATION

**Holiday Event & Tree Lighting**

The fourth annual MCA Holiday Event is one your family will not want to miss. It is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 11 from 5-7 p.m. The MCA has many exciting activities planned including visits with Santa, sleigh rides with carolers, hot cocoa and cider, crafts, music and games, and the ever-popular door prizes and lighting contest winner announcements.

**Advance Ticket Prices:**  
Adults (21+) - \$10 (Includes 2 Alcoholic Beverages)  
Must provide a valid Driver's License  
Adults (18+) - \$5 Children (1-17) - \$3

**Advance Ticket Deadlines:**  
Postmarked by Dec. 2nd  
Online by Midnight Dec. 9th  
Stapleton Visitors Center by 5:00 p.m. Dec. 9th

**Event Day Ticket Prices:**  
Adults (21+) - \$20 (Includes 2 Alcoholic Beverages)  
Must provide a valid Driver's License  
Adults (18+) - \$15 (No Alcoholic Beverages)  
Children (1-17) - \$5

Tickets may be purchased by check only via mail or at the Stapleton Visitor Center; or with a credit card online at wildirisrecreation.com.

The difference in ticket prices is to encourage advance ticket sales. Advance ticket sales are extremely important in the planning of the event. The MCA would like to express thanks and appreciation to the following sponsors for their contributions and support of the event:

- Atlanta Bread • Bladium Sports Club  
Colorado Total Maintenance • Coral Room  
Doubletree Hotel • First Bank  
Forest City • Management Specialists, Inc.  
Papa John's Pizza • Van Gilder Insurance
- Pizza, sandwiches and soup will be available for sale from Papa John's and Atlanta Bread Company.

**Annual Meeting Re-scheduled**

The 2006 Annual Meetings for District 2 & District 3 are being re-scheduled. It is anticipated that the meetings will take place in spring 2006. More information will follow, and a notice will be mailed to each member, per Delegate District.

**MCA Assessment Policy Reminder**

As part of the Association's purpose, in operating and managing the Master Planned Community and Common Elements, various assessments are levied to unit owners, based on services received. Residential, Commercial, Retail, Builder & Developer unit owners pay assessments for units owned. The MCA would like to thank those owners who maintain a current status and good standing throughout the year! Assessments are due the first of each month. Payments received after the first are subject to the following policy (in accordance with Article 6, Section 15 of the Community Declaration for the Master Community Association):

- One Month Delinquent: Unit owner will receive Letter with Late Fee & Interest (Late fee \$10.00; 18% per annum)
- One Month & Current Month Delinquent: Unit owner will receive Letter of Intent to File Lien, Late Fees & Interest
- Two Months and Current Month Delinquent: Unit owner will receive notice to File Lien, Late Fees & Interest
- Three Months and Current Month Delinquent: To Attorney for Foreclosure

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Debra Troppman, CMCA Association Manager

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21



# Central Park New Athletic Fields Planted



New athletic fields are visible in Central Park through the construction fence along Martin Luther King Boulevard. The Park Creek Metropolitan District has requested everyone to stay off the fields until the new landscape has a chance to mature for use in the fall of 2007.

## Exempla Brings Women's Healthcare Specialists to Stapleton Community

The Exempla Physician Network has brought its Uptown Women's Healthcare Specialists to the Stapleton Plaza Office Building at 3401 Quebec Street.

Dr. Mark Simon, Dr. Valerie Ginsburg and nurse practitioner Cindy Aspromonte will offer "an integrative approach to meeting women's health care needs" at the Stapleton location. The women's healthcare specialists will share offices with Dr. Kristine Walsh, who already offers full service family medicine that includes gynecology and well woman exams.

"Empowering women to seek and receive the best treatment options for their health care issues is very important," said Dr. Ginsburg. "Whether I am treating a young girl on her first gynecological visit, a woman about to become a mother, or a woman seeking answers to her questions about menopause, I think patients deserve open-minded and compassionate support in order to find the answers that work best for them."

The Uptown Women's Healthcare Specialists will also have answers for people looking for a holistic approach to healthcare, notes nurse practitioner Cindy Aspromonte.

"Patients who come to me for holistic health care know that they can trust me to



From left: Dr. Kristine Walsh, Dr. Mark Simon, Cindy Aspromonte, RN, NP, HNC, and Dr. Valerie Ginsburg.

send them to Dr. Simon or Dr. Ginsburg if they need medical treatment that I cannot provide alone," Ms. Aspromonte said. "And patients know that Mark and Valerie will recommend me if I can provide care that will help patients get well and stay well."

"That's what we mean by integrative medicine," she added.

Dr. Mark Simon has a medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School. He completed his residency at Exempla

St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver.

Dr. Valerie Ginsburg received her medical degree from the University of Colorado Health Science Center (UCHS) in Denver. She also completed her residency at UCHS as well.

Cindy Aspromonte, RNC, NP, HNC, has been a nurse practitioner since 1984. She is nationally recognized as a certified healing touch practitioner and instructor. She is also a certified Arvigo Mayan massage practitioner.

Call 303-869-4888 to schedule an appointment with the Uptown Women's Healthcare Specialists. To reach Dr. Kristine Walsh at Exempla Family Medicine at Stapleton, call 303.467.8900.

—Children's Book Reviews—

## Turn the Page

By Elizabeth Baker

**Grumblebunny and The Wolf**

**Who Cried Boy**

**Author: Bob Hartman**

**Brief Biography:**

Bob Hartman was born to tell stories. Originally from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, he began his storytelling career as a young boy, by writing a script for his 9-year-old brother's puppet show. This rapidly became a tradition for the two brothers, who would go on to create a travelling storytelling performance in later years. Hartman's grandmother, who was also his Sunday School teacher, used to make up some of his favorite stories. Now that Hartman is a professional storyteller, he carries on the tradition that his grandmother shared with him. Upon reading a few of Hartman's stories, you'll be able to see how Hartman is able to wear a second hat as a Baptist minister. His stories are significant tales, into which he weaves a distinct "message." In the same manner as parables, Hartman believes that when stories are told from unique angles, listeners are more receptive to them. When a story is told from the perspective of the bad guy, for instance, the reader or listener will often readily engage... even if he or she has heard the traditional story before. Clearly, Hartman's two careers complement each other. Preaching and storytelling are both born of the same gift with words; and each can provide motivation for the other. Hartman currently resides in England with his wife and two children.



Elizabeth Baker

**Why you would want to share these books with your child:**

Particularly notable in both *Grumblebunny* and *The Wolf Who Cried Boy* is Hartman's ability to convey the perspective of the other in a given situation. Simply put, it's often easy to ignore the

perspectives of others. Both of these stories do a wonderful job showing the reader, in words and pictures, that the same experience is often vastly different when seen through someone else's eyes. Great philosophers have pondered the importance of the other in our understanding of ourselves, but it can be as straightforward a concept as watching a wolf...cry "Boy!"

**Why your child would enjoy these books:**

Although these stories are fairly predictable (you'll be able to guess what's coming next), the real genius is to be found in the *twisting* of the tales. It's almost like reading a familiar story and having no idea what will happen next! Because of this unfamiliar predictability, your child is very likely to get swept up in the story and lost amongst its creative spins. Additionally, the quirkiness of these stories is genuinely funny... be prepared for demands to read them over and over again.

*Elizabeth Baker is an employee of Miss Talulah's in Stapleton's East 29th Avenue Town Center. Her email address is lizzybumpkin@gmail.com*

### Stapleton In Motion

## Understanding How Residents Travel

Are you one of the brave Stapleton residents who ride their bike to work or the grocery store despite the chilly winter temperatures? Is driving to work something you do every day? Have you and your family walked more since moving to Stapleton? The Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association (TMA) is interested in getting to know how you move around, to and from Stapleton. Three years ago, the TMA sponsored a Stapleton household survey to determine how residents traveled, their preferred modes of transportation and what the TMA could do to support providing options for residents. The survey results led to the creation of great programs like Stapleton In Motion where residents were rewarded for using environmentally friendly modes of transportation like biking, walking, using the bus and carpooling. The TMA works to keep these options available to residents as doing so is important for the sustainability of our transportation network and for the quality of life residents at Stapleton demand.

The Stapleton Area TMA is interested in learning more about your travel patterns and how they could improve their services to you. If you are currently one of the over 1800 households

living at Stapleton, the TMA wants to hear from you! A web based survey will be available until December 9th. Everyone who completes the survey will be eligible to win great prizes! Visit <http://www.stapletontma.com/> and click on the survey link!

In addition, the TMA is recruiting residents for two transportation focus groups. This is your time to share your thoughts on the Stapleton In Motion Program, your concerns regarding multi-modal options and your ideas on how Stapleton's transportation networks can be improved. **Focus groups will take place Tuesday, December 6 and Thursday, December 8, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The location of the focus group will be at the Stapleton TMA office, 7350 E 29th Avenue, Ste. 300 in the 29th Avenue Town Center.** These evening focus groups will include a light dinner. To thank you for your time, the TMA will provide each participant with a small cash incentive. As space is limited, please contact Brendon Harrington (720-570-3343 \*104, email [harringtonb@urbantrans.com](mailto:harringtonb@urbantrans.com)) or Angie Malpiede (303 468-3231 [amalpiede@stapletoncorp.com](mailto:amalpiede@stapletoncorp.com)) for more information about participating in the focus groups.

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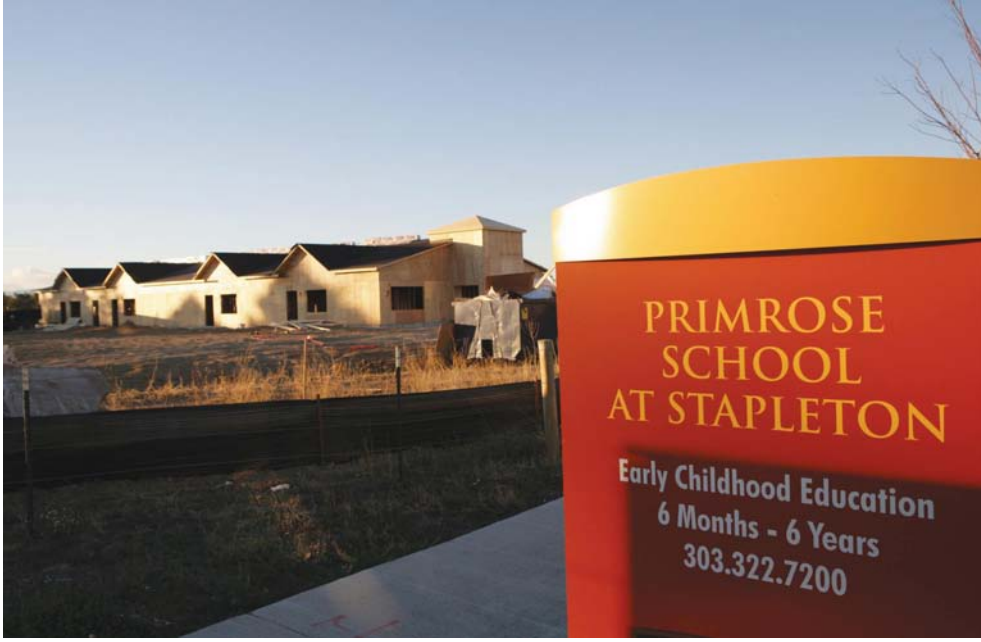
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## Primrose School



The Primrose School at Stapleton is progressing toward an opening early next year at the corner of 25th and Syracuse bringing its renowned educational childcare program to the greater Stapleton community.

## Medical Center Groundbreaking at Stapleton



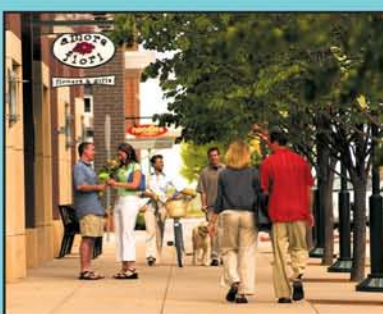
From left: Jeff Raikes, Jon Ratner, Bev Haddon, Dick Anderson, David Graham, M.D., and Alisha Brown participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the University of Colorado Hospital Centers for Healthy Living at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Roslyn in Stapleton.

## The Stapleton holiday lighting contest is coming up. Who will win the Clark Griswald Award?



Eric Cowan says his wife kidded him about going for the Clark Griswald Award in the Stapleton holiday lighting contest as he maneuvered around the roof of his home at Stapleton. See Community Notes on page 15 for information about the holiday lighting contest.

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**Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World at Northfield**

Left: The crowd reaches for free ball caps thrown into the air, one of many festivities at the Bass Pro opening that followed the ribbon cutting by former Broncos quarterback John Elway and Don Watts, general manager of Bass Pro Shops at Stapleton (top right photo).

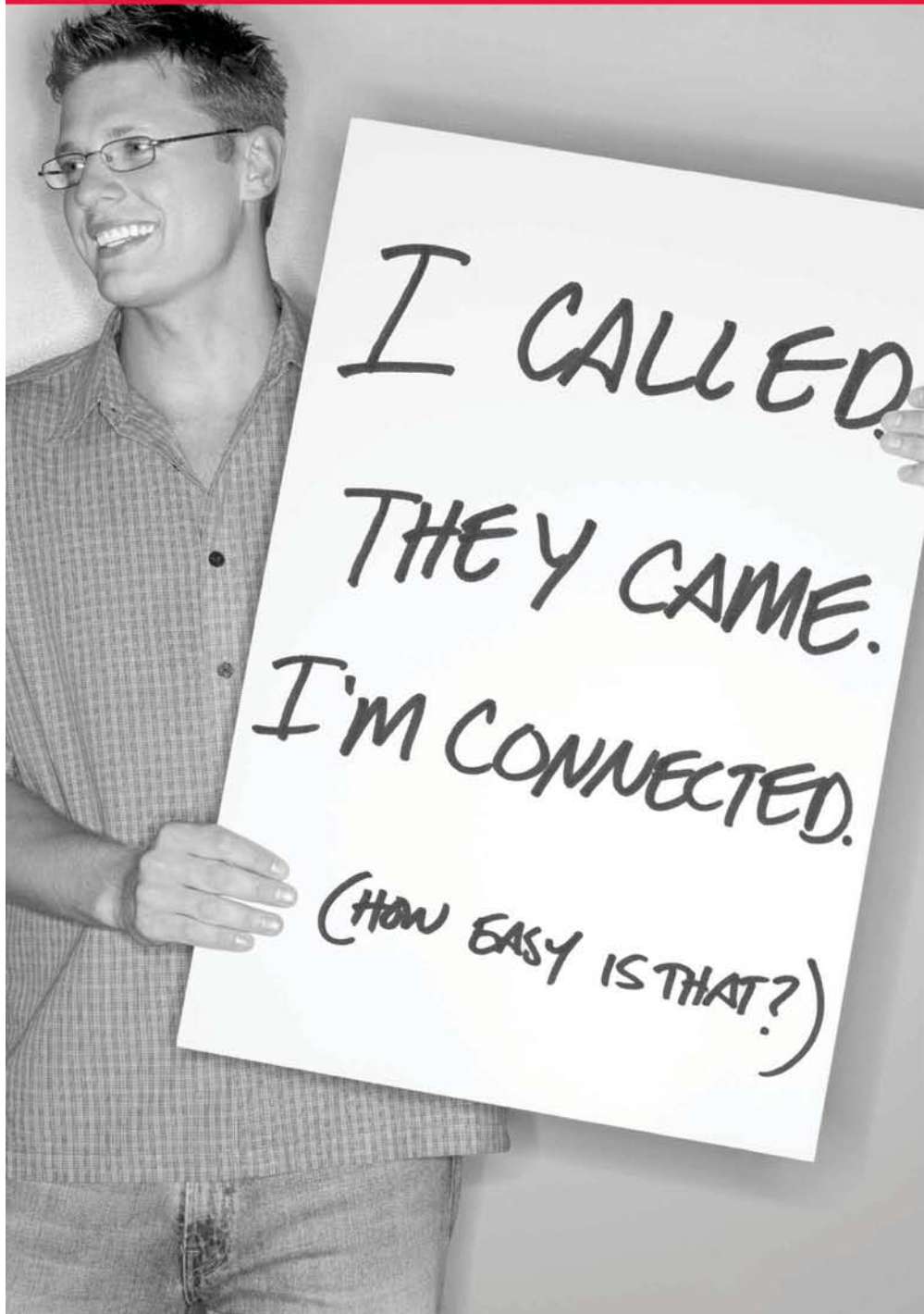
Middle right photo: Jon Ratner (left) and Jimmy Ratner of Forest City admire an elk's antlers.

Bottom photos: A baby reaches for a large bear, one of many life-like wild animals on display in the store. Visitors who missed the opening festivities will still find lots to see and do in the 186,000 square foot store, including viewing a large aquarium and charging buffaloes.



## Gala Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting

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