

Front Porch

A publication of Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

STAPLETON

DENVER, COLORADO

JANUARY 2006

What's Coming to Stapleton in 2006?

NorthField Main Street



New DPS School



Primrose School



Main Street at Northfield, A New DPS School and Primrose School to Open

Although the New Year has just arrived at Stapleton, it is already apparent that 2006 will bring a lot of exciting new additions to the Stapleton community.

NorthField Retail

At NorthField at Stapleton, where Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Super Target and Circuit City have been magnets for holiday shoppers, construction on nearby "Main Street" is racing toward completion for a grand opening later this year. Main Street will provide pedestrian-friendly retail and offices anchored on the southern end by a Harkins 18-plex state-of-the-art Movie Theatre Complex scheduled to open in the spring and a Macy's Department Store on the north that will open in the fall. In between will be a delightful variety of small shops and restaurants, some of which will be below second and third floor offices like the configuration that adds vitality to the East 29th Avenue Town Center. A public plaza will be enhanced by a performance stage, an interactive fountain and public art.

New Schools

Education has always been a priority in the planning of the redevelopment for Stapleton and the year 2006 will underscore that priority with the arrival

of two new schools. Near the intersection of Central Park Boulevard and Montview Boulevard, a new Denver Public School will open in August of this year. Yet to be named, it will be part of a new "K-8 campus" with the Westerly Creek Elementary School that opened in 2003. Westerly Creek will take on a new focus as a primary center for Early Childhood Education (ECE) to grade three, while the new school will serve grades four to eight.

This year will also mark the opening of the much anticipated Primrose School at Stapleton. Located at 25th and Syracuse, Primrose will bring its nationally acclaimed early childhood educational programs to Stapleton under the direction of owners Bill and Beth Letzsch. Watch for an opening in the spring.

New Public Art

2006 will also celebrate the arrival of two works of public art commissioned under the Stapleton Public Art Program. The first piece, "Eye On the Horizon" will be installed on the Ellipse of the 29th Avenue Parkway at Xenia Street. North of Interstate 70, an untitled work that recalls the aviation history of Stapleton will grace the new public plaza on Main Street of the NorthField Retail Center. See page six of this edition of The Front Porch for details about both public art installations.

Small Businesses Find a Home at Stapleton



Corby Felsher's home cleaning business, which is limited to Stapleton homes, has grown primarily through word of mouth referrals from satisfied customers.

Neighbors Offer a Wealth of Information On Starting a Small Business

Stapleton seems to attract people with an entrepreneurial spirit. If you are looking for information about starting your own business you don't need to look far to find neighbors with experience, and a willingness to share what they have learned. Their enthusiasm for running their own businesses is infectious – you may find yourself starting

up sooner than you had planned.

Ask Corby Felsher about his business, Stapleton Home Services, and his eyes light up as he starts talking. You can see the wheels turning in his head as he describes how he runs his business, giving you the feeling he might come up with a new idea for improving his already-efficient business model right in the midst of your conversation. Corby's business, offering services exclusively in Stapleton, provides house

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Printed with soy ink.

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Above: Forest City employees Mike Tamblin (left) and Kia McBride (center) decorate a Christmas tree at the Denver Children's Home as part of Forest City's community volunteer program. It is the second year the employees have decorated the 100-year-old treatment facility for youth.

Mark Your CALENDAR

2006 STAPLETON EVENTS



Right: Workers unload 100 bales of straw in the north parking lot of the 29th Avenue Town Center. Stapleton Veterinarian Michele Smith and her technician Jessica Lovato procured the straw with the help of Willow Run Feed and Supply Store for free distribution to pet owners whose dogs must be outside in frigid temperatures.

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 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]

Second 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]

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]

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, Feb. 1st

Marketing for Small Businesses
7351 E. 29th Ave.
Forest City Offices, 2nd Floor
6-8pm
RSVP at StapletonLife.com
(space is limited)
Complimentary pizza & drinks

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CFNP

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Denver, CO 80207
(In the Bank of the
West building)

303.426.4525

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Small Businesses at Stapleton (continued from page 1)

cleaning, carpet cleaning and window washing.

One of the first subjects he talks about is the “Mayberry Effect.” Everybody knows each other at Stapleton, so if you offer a high quality product or service, word will spread among neighbors, who are anxious to do business locally. The flip side, however, is the pressure to be sure you don’t disappoint the neighbors who know and trust you. You can’t just be “good,” you have to live up to your own expectations of excellence so you can look your neighbors in the eye when you see them on the sidewalk, at the grocery store, or at your kids’ school. “You have to know you’re offering the best possible product or service,” says Corby. “And when something goes wrong, you especially feel the obligation to go above and beyond what’s required to make it right.”

Anyone who has researched starting a business has seen the list of reasons many small businesses fail. A conversation with Corby, and other small business people at Stapleton reveals what they’ve done to overcome the obstacles that can doom a fledgling business.

Corby started his business in his home until it grew to the point he needed warehouse space and an office to accommodate the equipment needed for his ten employees. He held another job while getting his company started to provide cash flow during start up. He talks about the importance of getting systems set up properly from the beginning, acknowledging how difficult that is when there is just not enough capital to do everything you need to do. He believes that not getting proper expert help to set up accounting, computer and legal structures right at the beginning cost him later. The experts he subsequently hired have become indispensable advisers as his business grows. And though the systems are in place to handle a bigger business, he talks about choosing to grow slowly to maintain the level of quality his customers have come to expect – and that he wants to give. Finally he

talks about the obligation he feels to give back to the community. He has made a commitment to donate to and participate in most of the Forest City Stapleton Charity functions, muscular dystrophy, and food drives.

Corby got his degree from the University of Wisconsin. He has lived in Stapleton for three years with his wife, Andrea Felsher, and his two children, ages 2 and 5.

Like Corby, Geoff Seale is a small business success story. Geoff started Showcase Landscaping 10 years ago. His mother ran a small business, The Artisan Center in Cherry Creek North, so he grew up seeing her commitment to run her own business and to support other small businesses. After graduating from CSU with a major in Environmental Design, Geoff had the opportunity to buy an existing landscape maintenance



Geoff Seale, owner of Showcase Landscaping which has grown at Stapleton through word of mouth referrals.

Ranked One of America's Best Hospitals by U.S. News & World Report

According to U.S. News & World Report's survey of hospitals, the right place to go, from the start, is right next door to Stapleton. Make certain University of Colorado Hospital is part of your health care plan. Call 303-493-8333 for information or to make an appointment.

Watch for more information about University of Colorado Hospital's new family medicine center opening in Stapleton in the fall of 2006.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HOSPITAL
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT DENVER AND HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

List Your Business in a Stapleton Business Directory

The Front Porch will publish a directory of businesses at Stapleton to help residents shop locally. Home businesses are especially encouraged to respond to be sure the community knows about their products and services. Sign up for the directory at StapletonBusinessAssociation.com, which redirects to StapletonLife.com. Be sure to include the following:

- Business Name
- Contact Person
- Description of Products/Services
- Contact info (phone, email and/or address)
- Services specific to events, if applicable (see below)

Does your business provide services that would help residents hold events at Stapleton?

To help Stapleton residents plan gatherings and events close to home (or at home), the Front Porch will publish an article about businesses that offer event-related services. This will include not only businesses that offer physical space to accommodate groups, but also at-home baking or catering businesses, musical performers or DJs, event planning services, or decorating – any product or service that would assist someone planning an event (including children's birthday parties). When signing up for the directory (above), describe event-related products and services offered, number of people that can be accommodated, whether for adults or children, and other relevant information.

business, which consisted of two trucks, two trailers and a list of 300 lawn customers. He feels the challenges of getting started on a limited budget forced him to be “more hands-on and creative,” and he learned from his own experiences how to improve his business. When the maintenance side of the business grew bigger than the design side, he sold off a portion of that business to maintain a balance that allowed him to spend more time doing what he loves most, project design.

Some of Geoff’s tips for running a successful business: “Look into the mind of the customer. Focus on what’s important to them.” Customers don’t like the unexpected. He spends time educating them on what will happen through the course of a landscape project. He calls them regularly to keep them informed. He picks their brain to find out how the job is going and find ways to improve the project. And as the need for changes evolves during a job, Geoff tries, whenever possible, to include them in the project without additional costs. Like Corby, he feels the “Mayberry Effect,” and the need to offer more than the competition in his commitment to excellent services for his customers, who are friends and neighbors.

In a business that has 23 employees during the peak season, Geoff talks about the need for redundancy. Knowing that the chances are good on any given day that an employee will be ill or a piece of equipment won’t work, he has a backup plan: one extra truck, one extra employee, extra equipment, even a back-up computer. He also reminds us of something you’ll find in any book about sales. It is easier to keep an existing customer than to find a new one. Plan your business to have follow up services for existing customers so you don’t have to spend so much time finding new customers. Finally his advice on hiring employees: “They have to be people with a good work ethic. You can teach skills, but people either have a good work ethic



Zac Ryon is a consultant who sets up database systems for non-profits. He also co-founded “1st Wednesdays,” a networking group for home businesses at Stapleton.

or they don’t. You can’t teach it.”

Geoff works from his home, and enjoys the flexibility that offers him in spending time with his family or taking care of sick kids. His wife Anda works at Westerly Creek School. He has two children, ages 4 and 6.

One of the key ingredients to a successful business is knowing your market – providing a service that is in demand. Corby and Geoff have clearly found businesses that are in demand in the Stapleton market.

Stapleton also has a number of residents who may be starting, or wish to start, one-person businesses based on their own creative or intellectual skills. Zac Ryon talks about how he developed his business in which he works as a consultant setting up database systems for non-profits. Zac simultaneously got three graduate degrees from DU: a law degree, a Master’s in Business Administration and a Master’s in International Management. Armed with his three graduate degrees, his first two jobs were as Director of Finance for non-profit organizations. One of his responsibilities was to hire consultants to set up the fundraising and accounting systems that are essential to nonprofit organizations so they comply with the many regulations that govern them. What he learned was that he had the interest and ability to set up such systems himself. From a personal perspective he liked that better, and found it more satisfying, than managing and writing reports. That realization lead him to set up his own business as a consultant. Although his business does not have a lot of direct clients at Stapleton, he has received referrals to nonprofit organizations through his network of Stapleton friends.

Looking around Stapleton, Zac found other one-person home businesses and discovered a common need for contact with others, not just to discuss business ideas and share helpful information, but also to fill the gap left by having no office mates. Together with Ann Norton, a home-based human resources consultant (and the first person to sign a contract for a home at Stapleton), he co-founded “1st Wednesdays,” an informal networking group of home business owners who meet for lunch the first Wednesday of each month. Through these discussions Zac believes one of the big needs of home businesses is to develop marketing strategies. To that end, the February meeting of “1st Wednesdays” will feature a marketing expert. The meeting, listed below, is open to the public, but space is limited and RSVP is required. Zac also set up a website, StapletonLife.com, where home businesses and others can sign up for “1st Wednesdays,” as well as other informal community groups.

Free Seminar at Stapleton

“Marketing for Small Businesses”

Presented by “1st Wednesdays,” a Stapleton group to support home businesses

Wednesday February 1st from 6 to 8pm
7351 E. 29th Ave., Forest City Offices, 2nd Floor

Space is limited
Please RSVP at StapletonLife.com
Complimentary pizza & beverages provided

Presentation by an expert from SCORE, a nonprofit organization that is a resource partner with the Small Business Administration, which provides free counseling and education by accredited counselors to assist in the formation, growth and success of small businesses nationwide. For more information visit <http://scoredenver.org>.

A discussion of small businesses at Stapleton would be incomplete without mention of the Greater Stapleton Business Association (GSBA), which meets the third Tuesday of the month at 8am to “build friendships among members as they work to become successful and contribute to the community,” according to Brad Phillips, former president. For information on times and dates of meetings of the Business Association call Angie Malpiede of the Stapleton Foundation at 303-393-7700. You can also sign up for the GSBA newsletter by joining StapletonLife.com.

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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 (cont')

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 (cont')

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 (cont')

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

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 for participating merchants and program information. Offers may change monthly.

Since You'

Editor's note: A number of written questions submitted at the Fall Forum Forest City co-hosted with Stapleton United Neighbors could not be answered due to a lack of time. The following are some of those questions and the corresponding answers. For a full list of the responses to the questions raised at the Forum, visit the Stapleton Intranet at www.StapletonOnLine.com.

When can we get a stop sign or two between Xanthia and Beeler on 25th?

Decisions on the installation of stop signs are made by the City and County of Denver Department of Public Works according to national traffic management standards. The Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Transportation Committee meets monthly in the Stapleton Visitor Center to discuss those types of issues and make recommendations to City officials. Call the Visitor Center at (303) 355-9600 to confirm the time and date of the meeting.

What is the condition of the old parking garage? It looks like it is crumbling in spots. Will the RTD parking garage ever be updated?

The former airport's parking garage does need rehabilitation before it can be redeveloped to serve commercial office development in the surrounding area. Forest City will be responsible for making those improvements once the RTD park-n-ride now located at the parking garage is relocated north to Smith Road where a new "multi-modal" facility serving bus, auto, rail, bicycle and pedestrian transportation is scheduled to open in the future immediately east of Wal-Mart.



RTD parking garage

Forest City does intend to redevelop the parking garage to serve future commercial office development in the surrounding area, although no specific timetable is available at this time.

Will there be any more pools?

Yes. The next pool is scheduled to open in summer 2007 on 28th Place between Geneva Street and Hanover Street.

Will the East town center be same size/greater/smaller than West?

The design for the town center planned for Havana and Martin Luther King Blvd. has not been finalized, but it is likely to be smaller than the East 29th Avenue Town Center. Forest City hopes to attract a small grocery store, perhaps offering natural foods as the anchor of that center, which will likely open in mid 2007.

What is planned north of the East Town Center? Residential or School?

That is still to be decided. It could be either multi-family residential or a school, depending on a decision yet to be made by Denver Public Schools.

When will the CPB detour at Montview Blvd. end?

The concrete for the road construction north of the intersection of Central Park Boulevard and Montview Boulevard has been poured but the concrete must be sealed before it can be opened for use by the public. That opening is currently scheduled for sometime in this month, weather permitting.

Please get a natural foods store in the East Town Center. Preferably Wild Oats (it's locally owned!)

Forest City would like to attract a natural foods store to the Havana Town Center and is talking to all potential candidates. Stapleton residents can help that effort by urging their favorite natural food stores to contact Forest City's Regional Director of Leasing, Robb Brown, at (303) 382-1800 to discuss retail opportunities at Stapleton.

Is there a plan to be implemented to reduce pesticide/herbicide broadcast spraying in the parks and green space? Currently, Stapleton has very heavy pesticide/herbicide use and causes an inhalation hazard to residents.

Pesticides — actually, larvicides — are used only when necessary for mosquito control and are actually naturally occurring bacteria. Herbicides have been used for weed control in turf, fescue and native plant areas during establishment of that landscape. Their use will be reduced as planted vegetation becomes dominant.

What about new playgrounds?

Among the new playgrounds planned for Stapleton will be a unique playground in Central Park, located just east of the "central gathering place" that will be used for small concerts. The playground should be open for use in the fall of 2006.

Please try to have play equipment for all ages at playgrounds. The playground at the new pool is not really fit for children up to 3 or 4 years. Can you add a swing/slide? Baby swings and other swings are always being used by many children.

Stapleton's pools and adjacent play areas are managed by the

ve Asked...



Playground equipment by the Puddle Jumper Pool.

Park was delayed due to the ambitious size and complex design of the park as well as the need to develop an agreement to convey it to the City and County of Denver upon completion. As of this time, the athletic fields have been planted at Central Park and the land forms for the sledding hills have been created. The landscaped areas south of the “Promenade” (sidewalk) that extends across the 80 acre park will be completed by spring 2006. Although the athletic fields must be allowed to “mature” until fall of 2007 before they can be used, areas of the park will open for limited use in fall of 2006. More information is needed to respond to the question about the “finger parks.” Please contact Tom Gleason at 303-382-1800.

Are there plans to build additional tennis courts (both indoor and outdoor)? The four courts at Montview and Syracuse are great, but are already heavily used by both leagues and walkons. Press releases from several years ago mentioned indoor facilities, specifically.

Indoor tennis courts have never been planned for Stapleton, but additional outdoor courts are anticipated for Stapleton north of Interstate 70, although the creation of those courts is several years away.

What is an emergency number for large public irrigation system leaks?

Call Management Specialists, Inc. at 303.420.4433.

Are there plans for an adult pool (that stays open later than the kiddie pools so working adults can swim after work)?

All of the pools at Stapleton are planned for the enjoyment of all ages, but the Stapleton Master Community Association manages those pools to reflect the needs of the community. Anyone who would like to participate (continued at right)

Stapleton Master Community Association. Anyone who would like to become involved in the planning and operation for those pools should contact Stapleton Community Manager Diane Deeter at: communitymanager@StapletonDenver.com.

Why so long on parks? Finger parks noise?

The development of most parks (Greenway Park, Westerly Creek Open Space, and the pocket parks) has gone generally according to schedule, but Central

Tax Questions Addressed at Stapleton Forum

By Dick Anderson

The fall public forum hosted by Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN), the Stapleton Development Corporation’s Citizens Advisory Board and Forest City produced a lively discussion on a number of topics of interest to residents of Stapleton and the surrounding neighborhoods. As you will note from the question-and-answers section of the adjacent “Since You Asked” column on this page, most questions pertained to non complex issues and could be answered with very brief responses.

At least one question on the minds of people in attendance at the Forum requires a more lengthy response to provide a complete and accurate answer. That question was “Why are taxes at Stapleton higher than Lowry or other adjacent neighborhoods?”

Infrastructure costs

In 2000 dollars, redevelopment plans for Stapleton had projected an infrastructure funding requirement of nearly \$700 million for roads, utilities and open space. That projection has grown with inflation. From the beginning it was clear that the airlines, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the City of Denver would not provide funding for the infrastructure because all land sales proceeds produced by the sale of land at Stapleton by the Stapleton Development Corporation flow to Denver International Airport and are not available for funding infrastructure. In comparison, Lowry is significantly smaller than Stapleton and had some funds available from the City, the Air Force and land sales. Lowry also benefited from the fact that it was a multi-use development with more usable infrastructure in place. Little of the existing infrastructure at Stapleton could be used.

Regional Infrastructure

Financing for Stapleton infrastructure is broken down into two roughly equal funding requirements. The first is for regional (“trunk”) infrastructure which includes major arterials like Martin Luther King Boulevard, Quebec



Dick Anderson is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Stapleton Development Corporation.

Street improvements and Central Park Boulevard, as well as major utility lines and regional parks including Central Park, Westerly Creek and Greenway Park. Funding Stapleton’s regional open space program alone accounts for over \$120 million of the projected cost for infrastructure at the former airport.

These infrastructure improvements are funded by two sources. Stapleton’s master developer Forest City pays a fee of \$15,000 an acre to the Park Creek Metropolitan District over and above the full market value for each acre the company purchases. Those fees are pledged to the development of parks and open space at Stapleton. To date, Forest City has funded over \$15 million of park improvements at Stapleton. Ultimately Forest City will provide over \$44 million for the development of Stapleton’s open space.

Another source of funding for Stapleton’s regional infrastructure is provided through the sale of bonds by The Denver Urban Renewal Authority. Those bonds are retired by the growth of tax revenues (“tax increment financing”) generated by new development. Sources include certain property taxes and sales taxes at Stapleton.

Local Infrastructure

In 2000, alternative methods were considered for funding the local (“In tract”) infrastructure that includes pocket parks, local streets and wet utilities that are not the responsibility of Forest City. One funding method considered and rejected was to fund the improvements by raising lot prices. This method was rejected because it would have increased the price of each lot dramatically and therefore increased the price of each home significantly. This method would not have been consistent with the Stapleton Development Plan commitment to affordable housing.

The method ultimately selected to fund local infrastructure was the State approved Metropolitan District approach that required approval by the City of Denver. We created the Park Creek Metropolitan District (PCMD) and Westerly Creek Metropolitan District (WCMD). PCMD builds the improvements and sells bonds to fund those improvements. Westerly Creek establishes an annual mill levy that is on each City of Denver tax bill. The mill levy is applied to the assessment established by the County Assessor under state law. The mill levy is currently about 54 mills. Increases are limited by agreements with the City and the bondholders.

The advantages of this method of funding the infrastructure includes (1) lower lot prices and therefore lower home prices (2) the ability to finance debt at lower interest rates (3) the application of the mill levy to all property at Stapleton (including Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Super target) and (4) the ability of the taxpayer to deduct the payment on their federal and state tax returns.

At the completion of the development process and the retirement of the Westerly Creek Metropolitan District debt, 97% of the mill levy will go away. The remaining 3% will be used to fund operating and maintenance obligations of the Districts.

Dick Anderson is the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Stapleton Development Corporation. He may be reached at Randerson@stapletoncorp.com.

Since You’ve Asked (continued)

in that process should attend a meeting of the pool planning committee. Contact Stapleton Community Manager Diane Deeter at communitymanager@StapletonDenver.com.

Are there plans for an indoor pool at the recreation center big enough [i.e., 25 meters] for real lap swimming?

There are plans for a pool in the Recreation Center. Details will be discussed at two public open houses in late January. Times and dates to be announced.

When will the bike path connect to the Sand Creek bike path?

Most likely in 2008, following the construction of the 35th Avenue bridge over Westerly Creek and the completion of environmental remediation west of Westerly Creek. There may be some temporary connections by summer 2006.

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Rocky Mountain Arsenal
Repository Houses Rare Artifacts

Rare and coveted, this item can be obtained in only one place in the United States. The waiting list includes more than 3,000 people, and it may take up to three years for an applicant to receive it.

So what is this rarity, and why are people willing to wait so long for it?

They are patiently seeking the feathers of two of the most beautiful and fascinating creatures on earth—the bald eagle and the golden eagle. The lengthy wait list consists of Native Americans affiliated with one of more than 500 federally recognized tribes in the United States.

The National Eagle Repository

For hundreds of years, Native Americans have used these feathers for cultural and religious purposes. In the late 1970s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognized the importance of eagle feathers, and established the National Eagle Repository as a legal means for Native Americans to acquire eagle feathers.

Located at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in Commerce City, the repository is the only one of its kind in the United States. Prior to its location today, the repository was in Oregon and Idaho. Since 1995, it's been in Commerce City, where the staff processes more than 1,500 eagle carcasses each year.

"I like being here at the Arsenal because I enjoy the environment and being in a prairie surrounded by wildlife because that's our mission—to protect the wildlife," said Bernadette Atencio, the repository supervisor.



Dennis Wiist, wildlife repository specialist, evaluates an eagle carcass.

Programs at the National Wildlife Property Repository

Two ongoing programs exist at the repository. The Confiscated Wildlife Property Program houses confiscated wildlife property seized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement officers. Many of these items are confiscated as a result of illegal imports into the United States. They are then donated to public schools, museums, state parks and other agencies for conservation education.

The Native American Eagle Feather Program is specific to supplying eagle feathers to

Photo by Bernadette Atencio

the federally recognized Native American tribes after a detailed application process. The applicant must provide certification of enrollment in a federally recognized tribe and be 18 years of age or older. Applications are submitted and approved by the Migratory Bird

Permit Office and then forwarded to the repository at the Arsenal. The limited supply and high demand means each applicant can only request one bird at a time.

"Most requests we receive are for a whole bird, and the most popular is the immature golden eagle, which can take up to four years to get because we receive the fewest of those," said Atencio.

See for Yourself

The repository provides tours for groups of 10 to 25 people only. All tours must be scheduled in advance. For more information, please contact Bernadette Atencio at the National Eagle Repository at 303-287-2110.

The Rocky Mountain

Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is located on the northern border of Stapleton. Visitors should enter the Refuge at 56th Ave. & Havana. For more information, please visit www.rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov.

Public Art
Two Commissions Awarded at Stapleton

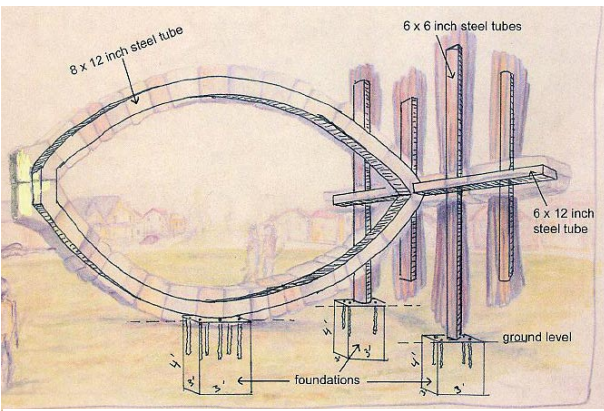
By Barbara Neal

The Board of The Park Creek Metropolitan District has approved proposals for two new sculptures at Stapleton.

Ilan Averbuch's proposed recycled stone and steel sculpture "The Eye on the Horizon (after Monet)" will be installed in the ellipse at the intersection of East 29th Avenue and Xenia Street. Patrick Marold was selected to create and install a sculpture composed of four vertical elements shaped from the tail sections of airplanes in the civic plaza at the NorthField Town Center. Maquettes or models of both artworks are on display at the Stapleton Visitor Center along with the artist's proposal. Each commission, worth \$100,000, will enable the artist to purchase materials, design, fabricate and install his proposed artwork. Completion and installation of both artworks are planned by fall.

Averbuch works primarily in stone and steel. His large unique sculptures have been commissioned and installed in Florida, South Carolina, Connecticut, Illinois, Arizona, and Oregon and in Israel and India. He describes the elliptical sculpture as a gateway or portal. "It also functions as a picture frame, showcasing a view of the beautiful landscape/cityscape that changes constantly as one moves around the ellipse." Ilan Averbuch lives in Long Island City, NY.

A Denver artist, Patrick Marold, works in a variety of materials in his sculptural installations. The artwork he plans for the NorthField Town Center reflects the



Construction sketch of the "Eye on the on the Horizon (after Monet)"

themes of sustainability and the past and present definitions of the area. These kinetic sculptures will be created from recycled vertical stabilizers from the tail sections of salvaged aircraft. The reflective aluminum surfaces of the sculptures will create visual effects with the glass façade of the adjacent building. Solar cells will illuminate the

front edge of the sculptures during the evening hours.

The process for selecting these artists involved a separate Project Selection Committee for each site. Residents, artists and other key interests who were represented on the Committees reviewed applications and selected three finalists for each project. More than 200 artists applied for the two projects. Each Committee received the proposals and inter-

viewed the finalists before recommending one artist for each project to the Public Art Advisory Committee and to the Board of The Park Creek Metropolitan District.

With several new projects in the planning stages for 2006, the Public Art Program will be convening new Project Selection Committees. Watch future editions of The Stapleton Front Porch or visit Stapleton Online.com for updated information on the Stapleton Public Art Program.

Barbara Neal is the Public Art Consultant for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. For more information about these projects or the public art program, she may be reached at barbneal@mindspring.com.



Sketch of Patrick Marold sculpture at NorthField.

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Stapleton's Central Park to be Home to The Alzheimer's Memory Grove and Gardens

Rendering courtesy of Alzheimer's Association



The memory park is designed with a spiraling pathway of four distinct gardens enhanced with seasonal plantings to reflect the Seasons of our Lives.

An extraordinary opportunity exists to honor someone touched by Alzheimer's disease. The Stapleton Development Corp. has joined with the Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter and its research funding auxiliary – AWARE (Alzheimer's Women's Auxiliary for Research and Education) – to create a memory grove and garden within Stapleton's 80 acre state-of-the-art Central Park.

Located at the pinnacle of the park that is now taking shape at the intersection of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Central Park Boulevard, the memory park is designed with a spiraling pathway of four distinct gardens enhanced with seasonal plantings to reflect the Seasons of our Lives. With 167 flowering plum and crab apple trees that embrace the gardens, and benches to sit and relax, the gardens will offer a sanctuary for reflection and healing.

A limited number of opportunities exist now to participate in creating this unique and timeless place of respite and remembrance. Through the purchase of

one of the trees, a loved one's name can be inscribed in the centerpiece of the gardens. This lasting tribute to a family member, a friend, or valued caregiver will create a place of natural beauty and hope.

Each memory tree sells for \$1,000,

which is a tax-deductible donation. The money raised from the sale of 167 trees will provide critically needed funds to foster support and education for individuals and their families who are affected by this devastating disease and to generate essential funding for Alzheimer's prevention research.

The Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter and AWARE hope this remarkable memory grove and gardens will bring

lasting beauty to the Greater Stapleton Community and communicate the hope of one day soon conquering Alzheimer's disease. For more information contact the Alzheimer's Association at 303-813-1669.

With the purchase of a tree, a name will be inscribed in the centerpiece of the gardens. This lasting tribute to a loved one will help create a place of natural beauty and hope.

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The Westerly Creek Elementary School PTA's 2nd Annual Auction and School Dance

Saturday, Feb. 11th, 2006
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Admission \$2 at the door

Auction Fever

Elementary School-aged and younger children are welcome to participate in the chaperoned dance while grown-ups bid on items (all kids must be accompanied by an adult for admission)



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Pre-event online auction opens January 23, 2006 and closes February 9, 2006. Please visit our site! www.westerlycreekpta.cmarket.com

Westerly Creek

Westerly Creek Registration Reminder

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

The following items are required for registration along with a completed registration packet:

- 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.

Westerly Creek Recycles & Earns Funds

Westerly Creek Elementary PTA has joined a wonderful program run by a local Colorado company to recycle and earn dollars for the school for any of the following items: Printer cartridges • PDAs • Cell phones • Laptops (with power cords)

Please save your used or discarded items and drop off in the red recycling box at the front office at Westerly Creek Elementary (8800 E. 28th Avenue). Contribute to sustainable living and help the school earn extra funding!



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Upcoming Introduction Meetings will be held at 6:30pm at the Westerly Creek Elementary School Library on 1/23, 2/6, 3/2, and 4/18. Call 303-753-2363 or visit www.avonwalk.org to RSVP today!

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The People Who Make Stapleton Work

Pat McClearn
Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board



Pat was one of the community leaders tapped in 1996 to donate her time and the experience she gained in two terms on the State Parks Board to help fulfill the vision that Stapleton should be an urban community that would be enhanced by 1,100 acres of new parks and open space. As a past co-chair of the Stapleton Development Corporation's Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) and the current chair of the Parks Advisory Group, Pat McClearn's dedication to that task has helped to shape the natural beauty of the Stapleton parks being enjoyed by all today.

Among the accomplishments in a professional life that has been dedicated to the protection of the environment was Pat's work on the creation of the "Colorado Hospitals for a Healthy Environment" program for Colorado Health and Hospitals. That program encourages medical facilities to be more energy efficient and environmentally friendly in dealing with waste materials and other aspects of their daily operation.

Pat and her husband, well-known attorney Hugh McClearn, have two grown sons, Cam, a consultant in Boston, and Andrew, who works for the U.S. Department of State.

Karen Kingsbury, Forest City Stapleton Sustainability Program Consultant



Now almost 25 years later, she has returned to Stapleton to help create a new community

Anyone who has enjoyed the new parks and open space emerging at Stapleton should include Pat McClearn among the people to thank for that experience.

based on sustainable development principles that protect Colorado's environment and make the wisest use of its natural resources.

Since April 2004, Karen has been working to implement portions of the Stapleton Sustainability Master Plan, including working with builders to help them advance from the minimum Built Green standards Forest City initially required to the higher performance standards of the ENERGY STAR program. She has also overseen the production of the "New Leaf" newsletters that provide environmental tips for adults and children. In addition, Karen coordinates the Stapleton Farmers Market that attracts thousands of people to shop for home grown produce and natural food products.

Karen received her Masters Degree in Business Administration from CU following her undergraduate work in Anthropology and Women's Studies at American University. In her free time she enjoys hiking, skiing and yoga. Karen is engaged to marry Ryan Hultgren, an environmental engineer, in September of this year.

Latrice Norwood, Executive Assistant, Public Art Coordinator



Latrice Norwood has always found an outlet for her creativity in writing poetry, but for the past two years, she has turned her creative interests in a new direction: helping Forest City Stapleton and the Park Creek Metropolitan District to establish and administer the Public Art Program at Stapleton.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Latrice moved to Denver as a child when her father was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base, south of Stapleton. She has worked for Stapleton's master developer, Forest City Stapleton, Inc. for the past six years while simultaneously pursuing a degree in Business Administration from the Women's College of Denver University.

Latrice is the mother of two sons, Antwon (17), a senior at William Smith High School in Aurora, and LA (15) a ninth grader at Overland High School, and a daughter, LaQurrie (13), a student at Mrachek middle school in Aurora. Her stepdaughter, Nya (13) is in 8th grade at Horizon Middle School. Latrice currently serves as the Board Chair of Colorado Single Mothers of Color (SMOC).

Latrice spends much of her free time cheering for her children in their sports and dance activities. She has also enjoyed traveling, including a recent trip to Jamaica. Her future plans include a visit to Paris.

Sentoria Hardiman, Legal Assistant and Design Review Committee Coordinator



Sentoria Hardiman can see "into the future." As the coordinator for the Stapleton Design Review Committee, Sentoria is among the people who get an early glimpse of the design that must be approved for new retail and residential development coming to Stapleton.

A Denver native and a graduate of East High School and Metropolitan State College where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, Sentoria has worked for the Stapleton Development Corporation for seven years. Stapleton Development Corporation is the non profit entity that oversees the management and sale of the assets of the former airport. Prior to coming to Stapleton, Sentoria worked for Metropolitan Life.

Although Sentoria spends her days working on real estate issues, her avocation is to become a personal chef and caterer. If she is successful in that regard, she will be following in the steps of her parents, both of who she notes are "great cooks."

Sentoria has two stepdaughters, Diamond (7) and Jordan (11). She and her husband William are expecting their first child in March.

Shelly Dagata, Bartender, Casey's Irish Pub and Bistro



Not all of the people who make Stapleton an enjoyable community work "behind the scenes;" Shelly Dagata works "behind the bar."

As the popular and outgoing bartender in Casey's Irish Pub and Bistro in Stapleton's Town Center, Shelly is often the first person to extend a friendly welcome to customers who walk through the door looking not only for a tasty menu featuring traditional Irish food and drink, but a great atmosphere for enjoying sports on the big screen televisions. Because Shelly is part of the original crew that opened Casey's, she knows many of those customers on a first name basis. (continued on page 12)

Sustainability at Stapleton

New Town Builders Recognized for Commitment to Energy Efficiency

by Karen Kingsbury

New Town Builders was recently awarded the New Rising Star Builder Award for Metro Denver as part of E-Star Colorado's fifth annual New Millennium ENERGY STAR Builder Awards. These awards recognize and celebrate Colorado homebuilders who demonstrate a clear understanding of the positive effects of energy-efficient construction on their businesses, homeowners, and the state economy. The New Rising Star Builder Award is given to a builder who has recently completed significant work towards producing high performance homes. These homes meet or exceed the energy requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR for New Homes program.

New Town Builders is also participating in ENERGY STAR's new Indoor Air Package pilot program at Stapleton. The EPA has developed specifications to recognize homes equipped with a comprehensive set of indoor air quality measures that go beyond the requirements of the ENERGY STAR program. The EPA has released the Indoor Air Package specifications as a pilot program in a limited number of markets to allow for comprehensive evaluation.

"New Town Builders has been working very hard on indoor air quality components in our homes. Teaming up with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Indoor Air Package pilot program at Stapleton made sense for us because it fits our existing goal of working toward third party validation of indoor air quality. The results of the pilot program will complement our work in this area and be incorporated into our future design and construction plans," said Bill Rectanus, Building Systems and Technologies Manager for New Town Builders.

More than 70 additional home design and construction features are included in the Indoor Air Package to help protect qualified homes from moisture and mold, pests, combustion gases, and other airborne pollutants. Homes that comply with these specifications can use the Indoor Air Package label as a complementary label to the ENERGY STAR label. Homes that earn the ENERGY STAR Indoor Air Package label are designed to have lower utility costs, greater comfort, better durability, and reduced risk of indoor air problems.

Karen Kingsbury (kkingsbury@stapletondenver.com) is the Sustainability Program Consultant for Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

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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.



Sustainability at Stapleton

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

2006 To Be A Great Year for Sustainability at Stapleton

Happy New Year! 2006 is going to be a terrific year for sustainability efforts at Stapleton. This year all of our residential builders will be making the final transition to ENERGY STAR, the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency. We will be highlighting more about the ENERGY STAR for Homes program in future issues.

Already, many of our builders are making great strides in building more energy efficient homes. Be sure to read about the award New Town Builders recently won and the indoor air quality pilot program in which they are participating. The City and County of Denver is working on sustainability issues as well, through its new Sustainable Development Initiative. Be sure to check out the tips from Denver Water to help reduce problems of freezing pipes during the next few months. Finally, keep sustainability in mind when making your New Year's resolutions!

Cold Weather Tips from Denver Water

The same natural forces that trigger cold-weather breaks in Denver Water's 2,500 miles of underground mains can cause pipes to burst in your own household or business plumbing. Here are some tips for avoiding costly damage.

Know the location of your water shut-off switch and test it regularly.

If a pipe breaks, you won't want to have to find it then or, worse, wait for someone to arrive at your place to find it for you. In most single-family homes, the shut-off valve is in the basement or the crawlspace, on a wall facing the street.

During a Deep Freeze (-5 Degrees and Below)

Keep open cabinet doors leading to exposed pipes (such as access doors for sinks), so that household air can warm them. The natural flow of warmer air will

help combat many problems.

If you have an attached garage, keep its doors shut. Occasionally, plumbing is routed through this unheated space, leaving it vulnerable to winter's worst.

Crack a faucet farthest from the place where your water enters the house. A very slow drip will keep water molecules moving, reducing the chance that pipes will freeze. Place a bucket underneath the faucet so the water can be saved for other household uses.

Keep your thermostat set above 65 degrees when leaving your house or business for several days.

If You Think a Pipe Has Already Frozen

Don't wait for nature to take its course: Thaw the pipe as soon as possible or call a plumber for help.

If you do it yourself, shut off the water or test the shut-off valve. You don't want water suddenly gushing from the pipe when it thaws.

Remember: When thawing things, slower is better.

A hair dryer trained at the frozen area of the pipe is appropriate. A blow torch is not. Pipes warmed too fast may break anyway.

Recycle Your Holiday Cards and Envelopes

Don't let the lovely holiday cards and envelopes from your Great Aunt Martha go to waste. **Recycle them instead!** Denver Recycles is now accepting greeting cards and their envelopes in the residential recycling collection program. So, after the holidays are over and you're left with a stack of greeting cards, recycle them in your purple recycling containers instead of tossing them in the trash.

Please **no foil type cards or envelopes** (no paper with a silvery color).

For more information about other materials you can recycle in the Denver Recycles programs call **720-865-6805** or visit **www.Denvergov.org/DenverRecycles**.

City Launches Sustainable Development Initiative

By Beth Conover

You may already know about some of the sustainability initiatives at Stapleton, but did you know that

Mayor John Hickenlooper has launched a program to advance a variety of cost-effective, socially equitable and environmentally friendly programs throughout the City and County of Denver? The Denver Sustainable Development Initiative was launched in April 2005 and has quickly gained traction. The goal of the Sustainable Development Initiative is to focus and catalyze the City's sustainable efforts and to increase public awareness of programs and policies that support the values of sustainable development.

A Sustainability Council comprised of key City managers and staff is engaged in developing a sustainability action plan for Denver, based on "best practices" nationwide. The plan will focus on opportunities surrounding energy and emissions, land use and transportation, natural resource stewardship, community economic development and waste reduction. An annual report card will measure progress toward established goals.

Denver has historically led the nation in many areas of environmental stewardship, including the creation of the first municipal Green Fleet in the nation in the early 1990s and one of the largest inventory of energy and emissions-saving LED traffic lights in the country. The passage of FasTracks, the newly expanded ReThink Recycling program, development of Community Conservation Gardens, and

the commitment to use green building practices for the new Justice Center complex are some more recent examples of Denver's leadership in these areas.

The Denver Sustainable Development Initiative is working with Forest City Stapleton and the Stapleton Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities to support areas of common interest.

For more information about the Sustainable

Development Initiative, please visit www.denvergov.org/sustainability.

Beth Conover is the Director of Denver's Sustainable Development Initiative



Photo courtesy of the City and County of Denver

Mayor Hickenlooper in his energy efficient vehicle.

New Town Builders Receives Energy Efficiency Award



From left: Patty Crow, US EPA Region 8 Energy Star Manager, and Megan Edmunds, Executive Director of E-Star Colorado, award Bill Rectanus, Building Systems and Technologies Manager for New Town Builders, the New Rising Star Builder Award. Story on page 8.

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Family Kicks

By Mike Giles

Parents Most Common Questions About Karate for Kids

Are classes safe?

Karate is a highly supervised activity, in fact, the average student/teacher ratio is only 7 to 1. This ratio is three times less than a public school. The children are never asked to perform any movements that would put them in danger of injury. Our children’s curriculum has been specifically designed to accommodate ages 3 and up. This curriculum has been modified so children of these ages can successfully learn and perform all the moves necessary to excel. The curriculum is never harmful, sometimes a little challenging to build greater self-image, but never too difficult, so that a child won’t experience “failure.”

Will my child have fun?

Karate is good, clean fun for kids...and a great way to give kids a head start on life. It has been our understanding that parents want the lasting benefits of confidence, respect, self-esteem and self-discipline that Karate offers, however, we don’t want a struggle with the children when it’s time to get ready for class. Our instructors have become leaders in the field of motivating children. It is a required part of our instructor training to take seminars that teach “children so they want to learn.” Motivation, excitement and fun are the essential tools we use to increase the learning and performance of our Karate kids. We also offer various school events that teach children how to get along better with others, thus creating a spirit of teamwork and a sense of belonging. In recent months our students have met Martial Arts stars, attended sleep overs, pizza parties, summer fun camp and more. Not only do our students learn the most, they have the most fun too!

Will my child learn to be abusive?

Absolutely not! Karate is self-defense, not self-offense. Every child is taught our “student creed,” which is a necessary part of learning the philosophy of our school. Our creed states... **“I will respect all life.”** Our creed is a commitment students learn in order to maintain the courtesy and integrity of our Art.

How much does it cost and is it worth the money?

Our primary focus is to teach children “life skills.” Because a structure of respect, courtesy and honesty is built into Karate, children develop the ability to listen, learn, and achieve with a highly regulated environment. Most sports don’t build leadership traits. If you have the necessary skills to perform, you’re in the game. If not, you’re on the bench. Karate is different, the program is designed to develop leaders. Each week we teach the children how to develop such traits as confidence, self-discipline, better listening skills, honesty, integrity and much, much more. The classes combine the fun and excitement of Karate training with weekly mental and philosophical lessons designed to strengthen our children mentally and physically. Currently our school offers a great starter program. This program will include 2-semi private classes to get your child started. If you have ever thought about getting your child started in the lasting benefits of Karate - now is the time.

Mike and Karen Giles are the owners of Mike Giles Family Karate in the East 29th Avenue Town Center. They may be reached at (303) 377-KICK (5425) or by email at mikegileskarate@comcast.net.



Home Work

by Kathy Epperson

Rachel Fields, Creative Memories

The holidays come and go in a blur for most of us. Gifts and decorations, a few extra pounds, and more family photos stuffed into a drawer indefinitely. Here to help us keep those family photos from languishing forever is Stapleton resident Rachel Fields. Rachel has recently started her own home-based business as a Creative Memories consultant, hosting



Rachel Fields has started her own home-based business as a Creative Memories consultant,

scrapbooking “get-togethers” to help people organize and preserve their photographs and stories forever.

While Rachel continues her day job as a microbiologist (her husband Josh is also a microbiologist), this is her first time starting her own business. She has, until recently, been scrapbooking with a Creative Memories group in Littleton, but the long drive was getting inconvenient. It was a friend who urged her to put together her own scrapbooking group here in Stapleton. “My friend suggested I just give the business a try and send out e-mails and even fliers to get started,” she says. “I thought, ‘Why not?’ I had nothing to lose. I was pleased to have 13 people on my first get-together on Dec. 2nd. Everyone had a wonderful time and most will be back every month.” At each get-together, Rachel shares scrapbooking techniques, tools and help with organizing overwhelming piles of photographs and memorabilia. The cost of each session (\$8 in advance or \$10 paid that evening) goes toward supplies and the coffee and desserts she serves.

For Rachel, scrapbooking isn’t just a creative outlet. “There are no pictures of me from when I was a baby or child,” she explains. “There was a fire in our home when I was in grade school and all was lost. I feel a huge loss because of it. I want my kids to have baby books and photo albums from their childhood that they can show to their children. Because they are being preserved properly with Creative Memories products, I know they will not turn yellow or fade away.” With her baby due this summer, Rachel can’t wait to get started on her first baby book.

Rachel hosts regular scrapbooking sessions the first Friday of each month in her home starting at 7:00pm. Please call ahead to RSVP since table space is limited. For those interested in having their own scrapbooking get-together for family and friends, Rachel will also bring supplies and her know-how to your home. For more information, email Rachel at fields-creativemem@comcast.net or call at 303-758-1346.

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

Real Estate Corner

Information of interest from local real estate professionals

Your Property Isn't Selling... Why?

By Lana Dardano

Your property is attractive, nicely maintained and has many desirable features. It's well located, within minutes of shopping, neighborhood schools, beautiful parks, and cultural amenities. The real estate market is in full swing and many other neighborhood properties are selling. So why has your property languished on the market for several months? Why, in today's relatively healthy economy (where there's still an abundance of prospective buyers), do some properties simply sit on the market for months while others are quickly snapped up? PRICE!

If buyers and brokers aren't responding favorably to your property, if offers are far below what you're asking, or if the property has remained on the market far longer than other similar properties, then it's time to re-examine the asking price. The Denver real estate market has experienced a "hot" real estate market where properties could be over-priced and sellers were still able to make the sale. Those days are simply gone. With an increase in inventory, buyers now have more properties available to them, the luxury of time to make decisions and buyer brokers to help educate them regarding current market conditions and property values. The

Lana Dardano

internet also makes it tough to be anything but an informed buyer. As a result, buyers can take their time and have little reason to pay more than fair market price for a property.

On the seller side, most sellers want their property to sell quickly and for the highest possible price. Interestingly enough, selling fast is often the key to selling for the most money. Properties that don't sell quickly (within a month or so of hitting the market) are usually over-priced. The longer a property sits on the market, the more likely its asking price will be reduced...and reduced again. Unfortunately, when over-priced properties do sell, they often sell for less than they would have if they'd been priced right to begin with. A realistic asking price will help you sell your property quickly and for top dollar.

A knowledgeable real estate broker will be able to help you determine the proper asking price for your property. Choose your agent carefully; hire someone with experience in your neighborhood, a good track record, and integrity. Then put your trust in your agent and follow his or her advice about how best to maximize the return on your investment.

Lana Dardano is a Stapleton resident and owner of Metro Brokers, New Avenues Real Estate Offices in Stapleton's East 29th Avenue Town Center. She may be reached at 303.331.6700.

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4 Paws News

by Michele Smith, D.V.M.
29th Ave Animal Hospital

Eat Good Food

by Annie Brown



Where Oh Where Has My Little Pet Gone?

I am the proud owner of an escape artist. This skinny, bird obsessed, 2-year-old English Setter has given me more than her share of anxiety by running out the front door and disappearing into the neighborhood. Being a veterinarian, I am all too aware of the many perils that await unsuspecting wayward house pets in the wild, so whenever she pulls one of these stunts, I panic. I have, however, become an expert ready to swing into action when an escape occurs.

When a pet gets lost, many pet owners become very distraught. This is not the ideal time to have to organize a plan to recover the pet. Gathering information about the pet in advance can make locating a lost pet much easier.

One step is to keep a current photo of your pet on file as a print or digital image. It might also be wise to prepare a flyer that describes the pet in detail. Examine your pet carefully and include distinguishing markings or other physical attributes that might aid in identification. You may want to include medical conditions the pet has, your name, address, phone, gender, age, coloring, and any features that might be hard to tell in the photo. While including the pet’s name in the flyer is probably a good idea for completeness, pets that are not used to being outside may not come when called if they are lost and frightened.

Because pets are required to wear a rabies tag when they are outside, it is a good idea to get an identification tag too. Many animals have been reunited with their owners simply because they had an identification tag. Keeping an identification tag on a cat is much trickier, however. If the collar with the tag is too tight and will not give when tugged, then the cat could get stuck somewhere. Cats have been known to get their collars caught on fences and accidentally suffocate. This is why it is important to use collars that will stretch or break when pulled.

Microchipping as a means of pet identification has become more popular recently. The microchip is a small electronic chip that is easily inserted underneath the pet’s skin, usually at the back of the neck. It provides permanent identification about the pet, including the location (animal hospital or shelter) where the pet received the microchip injection. Most shelters and animal hospitals have microchip scanners that will identify the presence of the chip, which can help reunite the pet and owner.

In the event that you do lose a pet, it is important to take immediate steps to find the pet. The longer you wait to try to find your pet once it has been lost, the less likely it is that the pet will be found. One of the first things you should do is to contact your local shelter and leave a description of the pet that has been lost, including the microchip number if the animal has one. Many shelters have a program in place to match lost animals with owners who are looking for them.

It is also a good idea to actually go to the shelter and look for your pet yourself. While the shelter employees will try to match your description with the right animal, you are the one who knows your pet the best.

In addition to these tactics you can also look around the neighborhood and visit places that are familiar to the pet. Ask neighbors to watch for the pet and post lots of flyers with the pet’s “mug shot” and information described above. The Denver Dumb Friends League recommends hanging a worn t-shirt on your front and back doors so your pet can pick up your scent. You may also want to post flyers at local veterinary hospitals.

Without a doubt, the hardest part is waiting to see if you will be reunited with your pet, but if you prepare a little in advance and take a proactive approach to recovering the pet, you can give yourself the best chance possible.

Dr. Smith’s clinic, the 29th Avenue Animal Hospital, is located in the East 29th Avenue Town Center at Stapleton in the courtyard next to Fantastic Sams. Call (303) 394-3937.

Soup... The Answer For Nearly Any Ailment

The eating frenzy of fall has finally come to a close. Whew. For me it all begins in October with my oldest daughter’s birthday. It goes downhill two weeks later with Halloween (I read recently that 88% of all adults “steal” candy from their children’s candy stash. I’m certainly guilty.) And, then of course, the mother lode: Thanksgiving. Followed by, drum roll please: December. The month where it seems every time I turn around someone is either handing me a drink (thank goodness) or a festive cookie or a big slice of gooey cheese. Not to mention my own efforts in the kitchen where I’m pumping out sugar-laden and butter-rich cookies and rum soaked cakes and cheese heavy entrees.

So, when January 1 comes rolling I just can’t wait to go cold turkey on this parade of food. To go from a 2,000+ calorie a day diet to 800 calories a day seems not only like a bad idea, but dangerous. Falling off the diet-wagon is a sure bet. This is problematic. I need to eat lower on the food chain, but I’m desiring something that not only satisfies, but also is really, really tasty. I know that for me nothing truly satisfies like that piece of gently warmed brie on a fresh slice of French bread, or the pink, plump shrimp skewered and dipped in a tangy cocktail sauce, but I have to find something moderately healthy to eat. The idea of thinking that I’ll eat something austere like miso soup for the next week seems like a good idea on paper, but in reality, I need to ease off of the holiday food scene with something a bit more substantial. But, I need to feel virtuous and pure, too.

Where to turn?

Soup. It’s always my answer for nearly any ailment: binge eating, binge drinking, bad colds, too hot days, too cold days. It’s kinda like the egg – it’s perfect food. And, luckily there are so many soup recipes that it’s easy to find at least one that can satisfy you all the way down to your toes.

I created this soup because I love the taste of peanut butter with a spicy kick. I spent some time in various countries in West Africa when I was younger and found this taste combination quite frequently while traveling. Not only do you benefit from the protein and “good fats” found in the peanut butter, but you also come out ahead with the abundance of sweet potatoes which contain high levels of beta-carotene and the tomatoes that are packed with the antioxidant lycopene. In addition, it’s incredibly satisfying and easy to whip-up after work.

The key to this soup is to make all of your veggies fairly uniform in size for quick cooking. I like fairly small diced vegetables in this soup (think slightly bigger than a kernel of corn).


West African-style Peanut Soup

- 1 onion, diced
 - 5 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1/4 cup fresh ginger, peeled minced
 - 1 sweet potato, peeled and diced
 - 2 serrano chiles, diced
 - 1 tablespoon olive oil
 - 1, 28 oz. can crushed tomatoes
 - 1 veggie bouillon cube
 - 1/4 cup natural peanut butter (don’t use peanut butter that has sugar added to it)
 - 2 cups water
 - 1 block of firm tofu or 1 lb. cooked chicken, cubed
 - Sea Salt
- In a medium stock pot, heat olive oil. Add onion, garlic, ginger. Sauté until slightly browned, about 5 minutes. Add sweet potato and chiles, cook for 3 more minutes or until sweet potato starts to soften. Next add tomatoes, bouillon cube and peanut butter. Let cook until peanut butter melts into vegetable and tomato mixture. Add water. If you like a thinner soup, add more water. If you like it thicker, like a stew, add a little less. Still well and bring to a boil. After soup boils, add tofu or cooked chicken. You can eat it right away, or let simmer for up to two hours.

Serve over brown or white rice. Or, plain with a whole wheat flour tortilla warmed up.

Makes 6 hearty servings.

Annie Brown is a Stapleton resident and independent food consultant who is often referred to as “the Food Police” by members of her family, although she prefers to think of herself more as “the Hall Monitor.” Annie may be reached at anniesbrown@yahoo.com.



Be a Good Neighbor!

Hey guys! Some of us are forgetting to put our humans back on the leash when we leave Stapleton’s “Off Leash Dog Park” in Greenway Park. Even when it’s only for a short distance on the way back to the car, it’s against Denver’s leash laws and could result in fines. More importantly, it’s not a very “neighborly” way to treat residents of the nearby homes and apartments who have always been so friendly to us. The next time you enjoy a romp in Stapleton’s dog park, please make sure your owner is respectful of the nearby properties. It will leave everyone’s tail wagging!



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S.U.N. News

The SUN Spot
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My Opinion

New Year’s Resolutions Can Include Good Deeds for Community, Charities

by Mike King, SUN President

Whether you engage in building your community or assisting important charities in need, there are plenty of opportunities to follow through on those ambitious New Year’s resolutions to make the world a better place in 2006. Stapleton United Neighbors (“SUN”) has numerous working committees that require volunteer participation and maximum community involvement for their success. Our committees address transportation, safety, community relations, growth and development at and around Stapleton, education, and neighborhood-building social activities. For more information on getting involved, contact our Outreach Co-Chairs Bill Fulton (civilconversations@msn.com) or Susan Hadinger (schading@hotmail.com).

Specific, immediate needs exist for emerging leadership east of Westerly Creek. Ideally, each block will have volunteers to organize participation in the SUN Outreach Program, social activities like the SUN Kickball Tournament and Block Party Day, and the SUN/DPD Neighborhood Watch Program. Newer areas of Stapleton have historically been more prone to burglary and other crimes, as these areas are often in a state of transition. With construction teams, brokers, prospective home buyers and new residents coming and going, knowing your neighbors and knowing who is coming and going from the area can be challenging. However, Neighborhood Watch has had a proven deterrent effect on crime, even in newer areas of Stapleton - so get your block involved!

SUN’s annual Block Party Day is only six months away! It’s never too early to start organizing your block for this neighborhood building event - getting to know your neighbors during the planning is half the fun! There are plenty of ways that blocks can build their sense of community and connection during the cold weather months. Ideas for winter block activities include progressive parties, game nights, and taking advantage of snow storms with outdoor frolic like snowball fights and sledding.

Charity Volunteerism More Important Than Ever in the Wake of Hurricanes, International Disasters

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters worldwide, traditional charities face a challenging year for fundraising. One of those charitable causes is the

National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society and its mission of ending the devastating effects of MS. Last year, Stapleton had significant participation in the MS Society-Colorado Chapter’s MS 150 Bike Tour and Challenge Walk, including a generous sponsorship donation by Forest City/Stapleton. MS is a disease that effects 7,900 people right here in Colorado, a number that unfortunately continues to grow. Asking for donations is never easy, but fundraising work enables research and programs that are vital to ending the devastating effects of MS. Together, we can build on this partnership for the 2006 Bike Tour and for years to come by joining together as a neighborhood and building on our participation in this event. Whether it be as a cyclist, a volunteer, or through recruiting your neighbors to participate, we invite you to join us and thousands of other dedicated volunteers for this amazing experience. If you are interested in joining Stapleton’s efforts on behalf of the National MS Society, Colorado Chapter, please contact me at mking@bhf-law.com. I hope to hear from you soon!

Residents Participate in Public Focus Groups on Travel Issues in Quebec Region

The City of Denver’s transportation department has undertaken a comprehensive review of travel patterns in several areas, including the region bordered by Monaco on the west, Alameda on the south, Yosemite on the east, and I-70 on the north. The process will include public focus group meetings with residents in the area to solicit their concerns and input. The first focus group meeting was held on December 13 and attracted a wide range of citizens from Stapleton, East Montclair, Park Hill, and Lowry. The meeting was designed to surface issues, and several recurring themes emerged: concerns about the volume and efficiency of north-south, and, to a lesser extent, east-west traffic in the Quebec region, and limited public transportation options. Residents offered up ideas ranging from widening Quebec between 6th and 23rd to maintaining Quebec as is to deter traffic and using trolleys to transport people up and down Quebec. At least one more public focus group meeting will be held in late January or early February, so keep an eye on this space and your email for updates and your chance to let your voice be heard!

Views on the Street

What is an entertaining book for a cold winter day?

Susan Rahe

(with Daniel)

If I had a fireplace and if I had time to read a book in front it, I most likely would catch up on the at least 30 books I have by my bedside, most of which are non-fiction books regarding health and wellness, education, and professional journals. My son and I are reading *Elmer and the Dragon* books right now so we would probably read those in front of the fire if we had a fireplace. *Elmer and the Dragon* is about a little boy who rescues a dragon and is now bringing him back to his home. They are a classic set of books written in the 40s. He just got them for his birthday.



Earl Backman

(with grandson Daniel Palmer)

During these ongoing cold months I like to read Ludlum and Cussler on the fiction side of things and then I’m reading Woodward’s latest book on the Bush presidency right now as well.

Linda Backman

I read mostly nonfiction. I’m reading a combination of books on shamanism and Kabbalah right now and the author is Gershon Winkler. It’s called *Magic of the Ordinary*. Very interesting.



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Behind the Scenes (continued from page 8)

Prior to coming to Stapleton, Shelly worked as a bartender for Walt Disney World in Florida for nine years. After surviving two hurricanes that caused her to lose three months of work, the Florida native decided she “had enough” and headed to Denver where she quickly found work at Casey’s Pub.

Shelly says the Pub’s friendly customers make it a pleasure to go to work each day. She notes that while Casey’s is a family-friendly restaurant, it also features a “Happy Hour” from 10 p.m. to midnight for the late night crowd.

When Shelly is not working, she keeps track of an unusual menagerie of animals that includes her golden retriever, two ferrets and an African Spurred Tortoise.



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M.C.A. News



Emily Brady, 17
(from left to right, three friends, from Denver School of the Arts)
I do not have a book I'd like to read but my favorite poet is Dorothy Parker. I read her short stories and poems. I just love Dorothy Parker. She's like a feminist and I have lots of the same views and values as she does.

Jessica Serowski,18
A book I'd love to curl up with is *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and that's just my all time favorite book. It's a fairly easy read but there's so much family values and everything about life and death instilled into that.

Kelsey Isberg, 18
I'd have to say definitely *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon. She's my favorite author. I've read all of her stuff and it's like this really romantic historical novel. I'm a total romantic so probably any romance novel would do for curling up with some hot chocolate under a blanket and stuff. That would be nice.

Maida Finch
I'm reading *The Night Before Christmas* with my son. I love to read *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* this time of year. It's wonderful for children and early teens. It was written by Barbara Robinson.



I just finished re-reading *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver which I love. My book club is reading *My Antonia* by Willa Cather and I read *Parenting Magazine*.

Roxanne Wilderman
I just read *The World Is Flat* by Thomas Friedman. We're educators and I found that a fascinating book thinking about our children and the brave new world. The charge we have as educators to help children deal with the technology age and how fast the world is flattening. Our book club read it and we assigned a chapter to each

person who shared the gist of what was covered in each chapter. I have a sense that our new superintendent has read this book because he has talked a lot about the urgency of preparing kids, how fast things are moving, getting children ready for college.

CONTACT INFORMATION
As many of you know, Debra Troppman has been the Master Community Association (MCA) Manager from the very beginning of the community. Debra was very involved with the development of the community, helping the MCA evolve from fields and runways to the vibrant neighborhood you are all now part of.

As of December, Debra is no longer involved with the MCA. As many of us often do, Debra decided to pursue other goals and challenges. On behalf of Management Specialists and Forest City, I'd like to thank Debra for the hard work, time and passion she provided to the community over the years.

The MCA is currently in the process of hiring Debra's successor. The Association looks to have this person in place by the first quarter of 2006. In the interim, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Association, please contact me, Garon Duncan, at GDuncan@managementspecialists.com or 720-974-4122.

OUTDOOR FIREPLACES AND FIRE PITS
The popularity of outdoor fireplaces and fire pits is on the rise. Many homeowners are looking to extend their outdoor entertainment season by taking advantage of such products. While the MCA encourages all owners to take advantage of the outdoors and enjoy Colorado's unpredictable weather, owners are also reminded that necessary safety precautions should be taken and proper permits obtained.

The City and County of Denver prohibits the burning of wood or any products other than propane, natural gas, or charcoal briquettes in the outdoor fireplaces or fire pits without the approval of the Environmental Services Division (303-285-4030) and the Fire Prevention and Investigation Division (720-913-3474). Please contact these agencies

to obtain permission to burn wood products if you're interested in using such products.

To be granted permission, the following requirements will need to be met:

The appliance being used to burn wood fuels must be designed for that use and be provided with a spark arrestor and/or noncombustible doors covering all openings.

The appliance should not be located within 10 feet of combustible walls, roofs or other combustible material.

Buckets, shovels, garden hose or a fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating must be readily available for use when burning takes place.

The fire must be constantly attended to by a person knowledgeable in the use of previously mentioned fire-extinguishing equipment until the fire has been extinguished.

The burning of rubbish in any appliance is prohibited.

The City and County of Denver is authorized to require that open burning be immediately discontinued if they determine that smoke emissions are offensive to occupants of surrounding homes.

Please be courteous of your neighbors and take the necessary steps to enjoy outdoor entertainment in a safe and considerate manner.

MCA ASSESSMENT REMINDER
All property owners are reminded that the MCA monthly assessments have been increased for Fiscal Year 2006. The new level of Overall Assessments is as follows:

- For Sale /Market Rate - \$31.65 per unit per month
 - For Sale /Affordable Rate - \$17.89 per unit per month
 - Commercial Unit - \$ 8.81 per unit per month
- The new coupon book you should have recently received reflects this increase. For a complete copy of the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget, visit www.Stapletononline.com; click on Community Associations; then Master Community; then Budget FY2006.

Garon Duncan may be reached at 720-974-4122 or GDuncan@managementspecialists.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

1880 WALNUT BED \$600;
1800's Hoosier cabinet 2 original large metal drawers \$750. 303-377-7793 Negotiable

MOVING SALE 34x56 Oak dining table w/2 chairs, nice.\$150. Platform bed full size w/ 7" Futon.Good.shape.\$200. Oscar de la Renta Gray Blazer.New. \$200.by appt: 720-941-8097 (till 1/30/06)

SERVICES

BEFORE YOU BUY, SELL or refer a friend call the experts @ 303-320-1850.Tim & Richard have over 25 years experience working as Realtors with buyers & sellers. Stapleton Realty serving Stapleton buyers with buyer rebates & sellers with discount commissions since 2003. 303-320-1850 www.SellStapleton.com

HOME REPAIRS NEEDED? Quality handyman, insured - Services include: holiday lights, ceiling fans/light fixtures, closet organizers, assembly, repairs, pictures hung, fence staining, etc. No Job Too Small!! Bob 720-434-3649 - besthandyman@comcast.net

CONSIDERING RENTING YOUR HOUSE/ Townhouse? Full Service Property Management Company. Expert in extremely hot Stapleton market. Will get top \$\$\$\$. Call/email Tom Cummings for free consultation. 303-324-6988 TJCMGMT@msn.com. www.TJCMgmt.com

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CRISP HOME INSPECTIONS - Need an inspection on your Home before your closing date? Still within your 1yr warranty period? Or just have general questions about maintenance, (continued)

SERVICES

(INSPECTIONS continued) up-keep, and repairs? Schedule a Home Inspection or Maintenance Check-Up today! Stapleton Resident and Neighbor. 303-316-3333 www.CRISPIInspections.com

DENVER'S RESIDENTIAL PAINT SPECIALISTS Interior/Exterior. 12 years in Business! Neat, conscientious craftsmanship, color consultations, polite, respectful, and fully licensed/bonded/insured crew (same crew for 3 years), impeccable local Stapleton references. Call John with Premier Paint Works, Inc. at 303-864-9247.

MAKEUP NOW - NEW YEAR, new you! From the latest on-trend colors to the classics, I can help you create a look for every occasion and every new outfit in your wardrobe. Call today for your complimentary color makeover. Denise Zaiontz at www.marykay.com/dzaiontz (303) 355-4612

MARY KAY INDEPENDENT BEAUTY Consultant, Dorothy Hyett. Full inventory on hand. (303) 576-6962. www.marykay.com/dhyett

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EVENTS

JOIN OUR MONTHLY DRUMMING circles and/or drum making workshops. Hand-crafted drums for adults and children on sale at www.handmade-drums.org. Call Rocky Mountain Heart Beat Drums for details: 720-941-1700. Lowry area.

HELP WANTED

LIKE TO SING in the shower? Why not sing in the Choir. St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 16th and Havana has openings for sopranos, altos, tenors, bass and everything in between. 303-366-1373

FOR RENT

CONTEMPORARY URBAN FLATS, above E. 29th Town Center. 1 Bedrooms from \$899, 2 bedrooms from \$1270. Floor-to-ceiling windows, in-suite washer and dryer. Pet friendly. Immediate occupancy. Enjoy all Stapleton amenities. Crescent Flats Apartments Call 1-877-768-2663. Leasing office: 7484 East 29th Ave. EHO

STAPLETON AND LOWRY TOWNHOMES/ Homes available for rent. Have 2, 3, 4, & 5 BR properties available both immediately and for future (30+ days) move-in. 303-324-6988 or TJCMGMT@msn.com. www.TJCMgmt.com

STYLISH CONDO STYLE APARTMENTS next to Founders Green. 1 Bedrooms from \$899, 2 Bedrooms from \$1245. Garage parking and private balcony. Pet friendly. Immediate occupancy. Enjoy all Stapleton amenities. Botanica on the Green Apartments Call 1-877-768-2663. Leasing office: 7484 East 29th Ave. EHO

WINTER PARK: BRAND NEW vacation townhome for rent. Available year round (3 night minimum). Directly across from WP Base - amazing views! 3br/3ba, 1900+ s.f. Sleeps 9. 10% Stapleton discount. 720-937-3970

TO PLACE AN AD

Email ad to frontporch@fineprintco.com. Call 303-526-1969 to pay for classified ads by credit card. Classified ad deadline is the 15th.

The Stapleton Master Community Association Salutes the Sponsors of the 2005 Holiday Festivities:

- Atlanta Bread Company
- Baby Power
- Bladium Sports Club
- Colorado Total Maintenance
- Coral Room
- Dardano's School of Gymnastics
- Doubletree Hotels
- First Bank
- Forest City Stapleton, Inc.
- Management Specialists, Inc.
- Mike Giles Family Karate
- Metro Brokers
- New Avenues Real Estate Offices
- Orten & Hindman
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- Stapleton Home Services
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Denver Brownstones to Grace Central Park

Classic Denver Brownstones are Coming to Stapleton

The traditional exteriors of The Denver Brownstones at Central Park by Touchstone Homes will bring to mind the historic mansions of the 1920s. Combining the best of old world charm and new world amenities, the Brownstones take advantage of being across the street from Central Park, with three private terraces in the front of each home facing the park.

Designed for the ultimate in gracious living, the Manhattan and the Park Avenue include fourteen foot ceilings in the foyer and living room, elegant double French doors in the living room opening onto a spacious outdoor terrace, a formal dining room and numerous art niches and plant shelves.

Both homes also feature amenities for the modern homebuyer including an elevator, roof-top terrace, three-car garage, hobby room and a tech center. There is a laundry room on the bedroom level, in-suite bathrooms for both secondary

bedrooms, and flex space on the penthouse level which can be used for an extra bedroom, exercise room, recreation center or a theater.



Overlooking what will soon be one of Denver's most beautiful parks, the owners of the Denver Brownstones at Stapleton will enjoy outstanding views of Central Park from their many terraces. The 80-acre park is destined to become Stapleton's most important gathering place featuring an urban forest, prairie mounds, a promenade for strolling, numerous open grass areas ideal for soccer matches or picnics, and a stage and seating for concerts and lectures.

Touchstone Homes will begin presales of the Brownstones in early 2006. Potential buyers wishing to add their name to the much anticipated VIP interest list should call 303.853.0989 or visit www.denverbrownstones.com.

New Community Group, Sustainable Politics Stapleton, Kicks Off With FoodBank Fundraiser



Left to right: Jake Sherosky, City Councilman Doug Linkhart, Mark Mehringer and City Councilman Michael Hancock enjoy a lively discussion at the first gathering of Sustainable Politics Stapleton.

by Mark Mehringer and Jake Sherosky.

On Sunday, December 4th, a new and growing community group in Stapleton, Sustainable Politics Stapleton, held its holiday open house and fundraiser for the FoodBank of the Rockies. The event was hosted by Stapletonites Evan Dreyer and Melody Harris at their home. During the open house, the organization's first public event, it raised nearly \$1000 in donations to fight hunger in Denver, with about 80 people attending, including Stapleton's City Councilman, Michael Hancock, and Stapleton residents City Councilman Doug Linkhart and CU Regent Michael Carrigan.

Sustainable Politics Stapleton is working on a range of local issues, including advocating for safe bike and pedestrian access (across I-70, to the planned light-rail station and across many of the busy streets around Stapleton); finding safe alternatives to pesticide spraying in Stapleton parks; improving access to affordable housing throughout Denver; and, working on options for more organic food in the

area. In the coming year, the group hopes to help ensure new residents register to vote when they move to Stapleton, plans to hold forums for 2006 candidates and ballot measures and continue its charitable fundraising efforts. A key focus for the group will be on community education to ensure area residents have the information they need to make decisions.

Sustainable Politics Stapleton was founded this fall by Harris, Jake Sherosky, and Mark Mehringer with the mission of "promoting equal opportunity, social justice, and sustainable living values by using community-based activities to organize, educate and take action" and with a broad goal of providing the Stapleton area with a community-based outlet for political and sustainability concerns. The group has grown quickly, and now includes 58 members who have signed up on the group's website. Sustainable Politics Stapleton can be reached via email at SustainablePolitics@gmail.com to join, for more information or to attend an event.

The authors are Stapleton residents.

Sand Creek Greenway Connections Fundraiser

On Wednesday, January 18, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership will hold their annual fundraiser, *Making Connections*. The Mayors from Aurora (Mayor Tauer), Commerce City (Mayor Ford), and Denver (Mayor Hickenlooper) will all attend to celebrate the spirit of cooperation that has made the Sand Creek Greenway trail possible. Forest City Stapleton, Inc. will be the lead sponsor for the event.

Stapleton residents are encouraged to attend – to find out more about this wonderful Greenway and to show their support for the Sand Creek Regional Greenway in their own backyards. The Sand Creek Greenway stretches for nearly 14 miles, starting at the South Platte River Greenway in Commerce City, bisecting Stapleton, and going east past Airport Blvd. More funds need to be raised to build more trails, parks, and trailheads in all three cities. The Sand

Creek Greenway has been touted as a model for cooperation between the three cities.

The event will be held at the Denver School for Science and Technology at Stapleton (2000 Valentia St.) Tickets are \$50.00. All proceeds go toward making more trail connections in 2006. There will be a silent auction. Please call or email Kate or Laurie at the Sand Creek Partnership or check our web site for more information: www.SandCreekGreenway.org.

Phoenix Yoga

Anyone hoping to lead a healthier, more relaxing life should visit Phoenix Yoga Studio across from the fountain in Stapleton's East 29th Avenue Town Center.

"Yoga is an ancient system of self-care that brings vitality, health, deep relaxation and peace of mind," says Stapleton resident Mary Jane Feenex (lower right) who owns the studio and is one of seven instructors. "We offer different styles of yoga including Vinyasa, Gentle Yoga and our specialty, Hot Yoga, which is a wonderful sequence of postures designed to bring strength, flexibility, and balance to any body at any level of ability." Mary Jane notes that Hot Yoga is practiced in a comfortably heated room to cleanse, release muscles, and prevent injury. "Even people who don't like heat, love yoga in a heated room," Mary Jane says.

Phoenix Yoga Studio also offers therapeutic and pre-natal massage, which provides numerous health benefits as well. Classes are held 7 days a week with morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. Massages are available by appointment 7 days a week. Call 303-377-7444 or visit www.phoenixyogastudio.com.





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Six Steps to Buying a New Home

If you're looking to buy a new home – or just exploring the possibilities – talk to Joni Probst, your neighbor and mortgage loan officer at the Credit Union at Stapleton.



Joni Probst

Jon can help guide you through six easy steps to help make your home buying experience more enjoyable. The first step is determining your budget. Jon can recommend the loan which best fits your situation – and pre-approve you for the loan! When this is done prior to looking at homes, it helps focus and streamline the rest of the process: 2) choose a realtor; 3) select a home; 4) make an offer and contract; 5) have the home inspected; 6) close and move in! Call Joni at 720.921.3036.



The Credit Union at Stapleton is located at 3700 North Quebec, Unit 102, behind Panera Bread.

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303.321.4209 www.dpscu.com

29th Avenue Town Center... Perspectives from the Inside

“Top Cops” Honored in District Two

By Brett Kessler

Two years ago, the greatly anticipated Stapleton 29th Ave Town Center opened. As one of the first businesses to occupy space in the Town Center, it is hard to believe how things have changed. I would like to offer some perspectives on how the 29th Avenue Town Center and the Neighborhood are doing. I can say that things have definitely progressed nicely!



Stapleton Envy

Has anyone noticed that residents from the surrounding neighborhoods have this phenomenon that I lovingly call “Stapleton Envy?” They are in awe of what has been developed here in Stapleton. The careful urban plan, the park designs, the stores and businesses in the Town Center, the fountains; you name it they love it.

Traffic Patterns

There are two distinct traffic patterns that we see outside our office. The first rush is at about 9:30am on weekdays. It looks to me that it is the “stay-at-homers” pushing their strollers or walking their dogs towards Starbucks and Einstein’s (now Udi’s as well!). I assume they are socializing over coffee, pastries, bagels etc.

The second rush is after dinner. This traffic flow is with the dogs, kids, strollers wagons and bicycles going down to Cold Stone Creamery for some ice-cream and family fountain time. I think that the developers had hoped for this to happen, strong neighborly interactions and friendships formed and nurtured.

Community Support

The 29th Avenue Town Center has supported the community in many ways. Contributions to the school and community fundraisers, to the canned food drives, and all of the charitable donations are common-place among the businesses here. The businesses here are all about helping those in need!

The Restaurants

This is a particular area that we are especially happy to partake in. I can’t stop in a restaurant without seeing someone I know. The quality of the menu, the careful preparation and presentation of the food, the outstanding service;

all speaks for itself. I have found this to be consistent at every restaurant in the Town Center.

The Retail

Get your art framed, drop in for a yoga class or a workout, buy some hip new clothes, pick up your dry-cleaning, purchase that perfect gift for a friend, say it with flowers, discuss a potential new real estate deal, find out what is new at the visitor center, locate that perfect bottle of vino for your dinner party this weekend... the possibilities are endless! Two years ago it was pretty lonely, as it took some time for the vacancies to fill. It sure is nice to have neighbors!

The Services

Let’s face it...Where else can you drop your dog off for a teeth cleaning, walk over and get your teeth or your child’s teeth cleaned, and then get your haircut without getting in your car?

The Green

Founder’s day, movies, concerts, fall festivals, spring flings. All are venues to celebrate everything that is Stapleton. The numbers of attendees at these events are increasing every year. What a sight to watch year after year!

Thanks for Your Continued Support

Town Center Dentistry and Orthodontics as well as all of the businesses here in the 29th Avenue Town Center wish to offer a huge thanks to you, the residents of our neighborhood. Due to your continued support, we are still a viable entity here. We will continue to try our best to serve the needs of the community.

Many of the businesses here in the Town Center are owned and operated by your very own neighbors. As business owners as well as residents of our great neighborhood, we want only the best for this community.

While writing this I come back to the “Stapleton Envy” phenomenon that I mentioned earlier. **We have a lot to be proud of!!!!**

Dr. Brett Kessler and his wife Dr. Gina Kessler are Stapleton residents who own the Town Center Dentistry and Orthodontics in the East 29th Avenue Town Center. They may be reached at 303.321.4445.

District 2 “Top Cop” Awards given for outstanding service to the citizens of NE Denver.

October Top Cop

The October award was given to Corporal Doug Moran who recently led a successful search for an 11-year-old boy who was missing from a homeless shelter where he had been staying with his family. The officer was also applauded for his work with the Whittier Neighborhood Association, where he has worked to help citizens make their community safer. Corporal Moran has served as an acting shift supervisor and a Field Training Officer for recruit officers newly graduated from the academy.

November Top Cop

Officer Choice Johnson was nominated for the “Top Cop” Award by his supervisors for the “pro-active” approach he has brought to his police work as a patrol officer in Northeast Denver. Officer Johnson has taken time to ask the residents of the neighborhoods he patrols



October Top Cop Corporal Doug Moran with Anthony Thomas of the Top Cop Committee.



November Top Cop Officer Choice Johnson with Larry Burgess of the Top Cop Committee.

how the police department can best serve their neighborhoods. Officer Johnson conducted numerous pedestrian contacts and traffic stops in the area he patrols, making 39 arrests (7 of which were felony arrests), recovered three stolen vehicles and issued 14 traffic citations during the month of September. In October, he made 24 arrests (4 of which were felony arrests), and issued 10 traffic citations. As a result of Officer Johnson’s efforts, burglaries and auto thefts have decreased in his precinct.

Corporal Moran and Officer Johnson represent the kind of dedication

that sets the highest standards for the Denver Police Department and its goal to “protect and serve” the citizens of Denver.

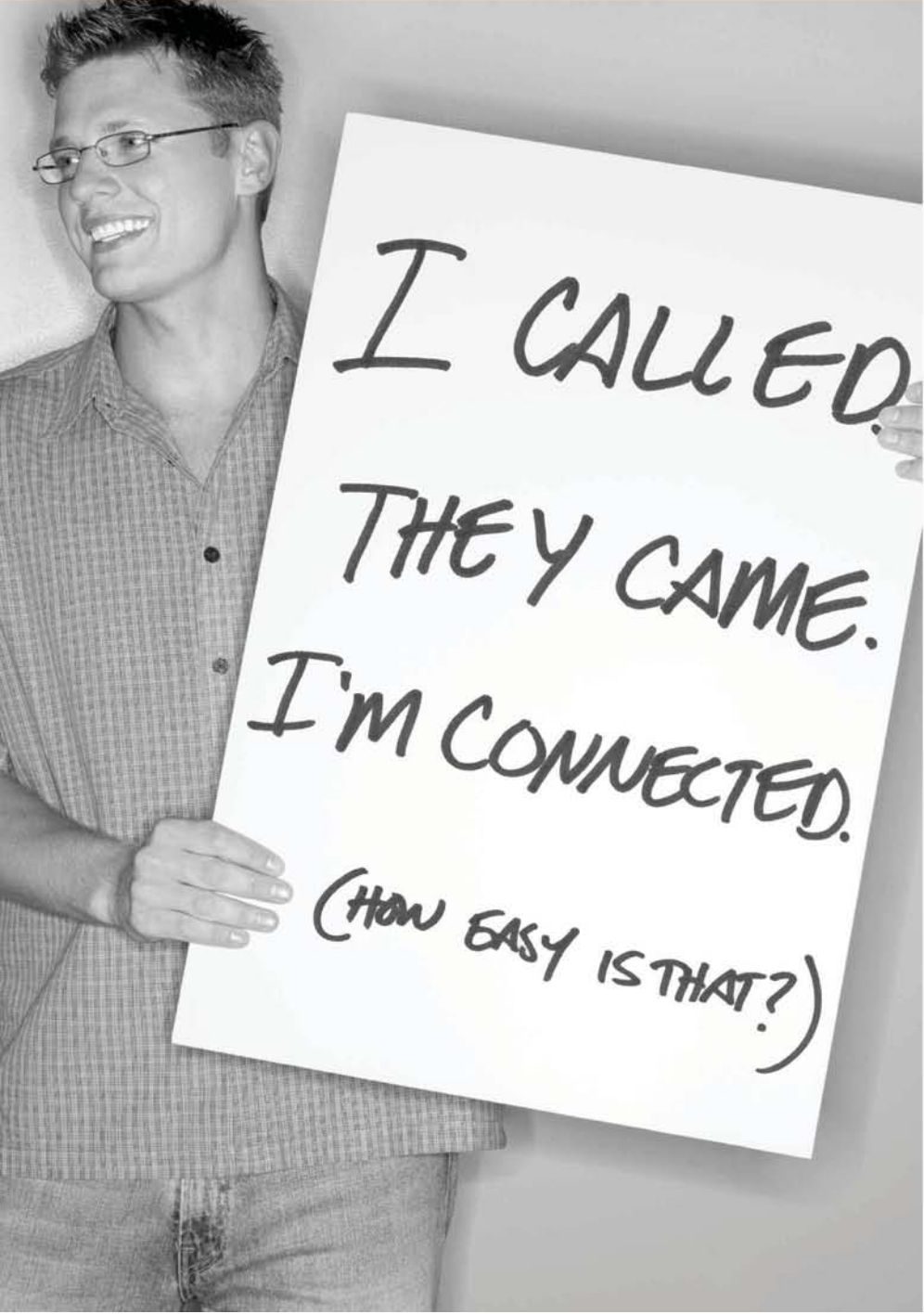
Citizens or civic and business organizations in northeast Denver who would like to nominate an officer from Denver Police District Two for a “Top Cop” Award should email Commander Rhonda S. Jones at jonesrh@ci.denver.co.us.



New Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge

Construction progresses on the new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Sand Creek north of Interstate 70.

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Holiday decor brightens the East 29th Avenue Town Center (left) and Quebec Square (above).



Left: Winner of the holiday lighting contest.



Above three photos: Annual holiday tree lighting party.
Left: Lighting the Menorah on the 29th Avenue Parkway at Xenia Street.