

# Front Porch

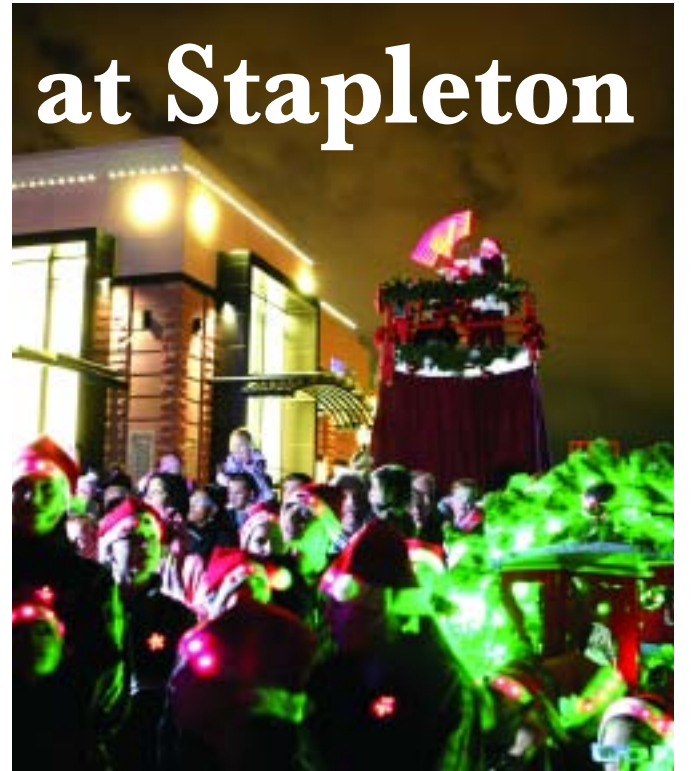
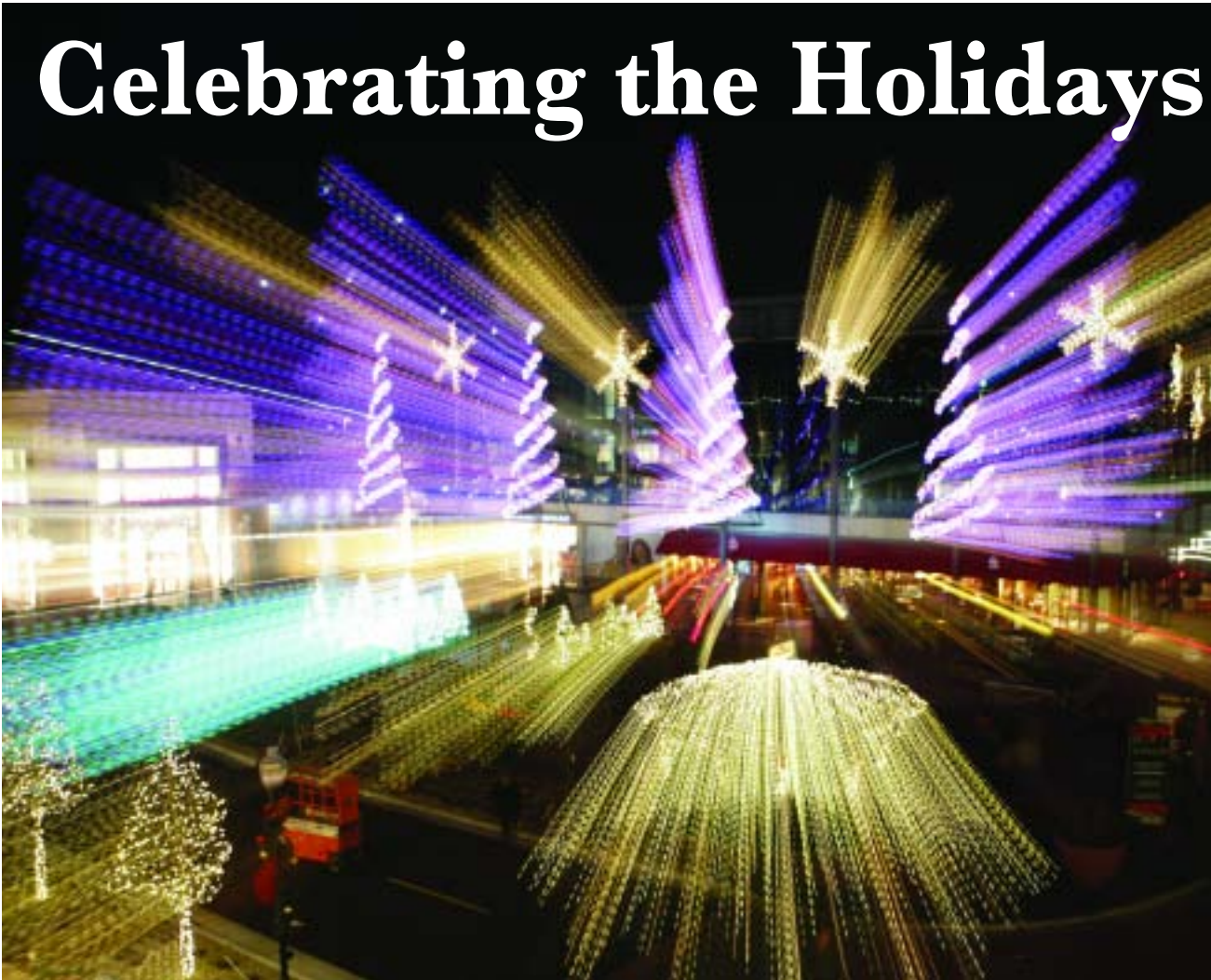
Distributed to the Greater Stapleton Area

STAPLETON

DENVER, COLORADO

DECEMBER 2006

## Celebrating the Holidays at Stapleton



**Left:** Northfield's holiday light show opened to a large crowd on Saturday Nov. 18th with 250,000 twinkling, sparkling and fading lights. The light show was choreographed to music of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. High-efficiency LED lights allow this show to use an electrical service similar to that of an average American home. **Right:** Santa rose above the crowd to act as the "symphony conductor" of the light show, as the crowd watched through special glasses to magnify the effects of the lights. (The photo at left was created by zooming the lens during a long exposure.)

### New Bookstore in 29th Ave Town Center Simon Says Read!

By Kathy Epperson

Stapleton resident Jon Blessing realized his dream of creating an independent children's bookstore with the opening of Simon Says Read! in early November. An avid reader himself, Jon recently completed his MBA and applied his education toward serving an obvious niche. "All one needs to do is look around the neighborhood to see that most everyone has a 2 year old and is expecting another!" Jon says. "I wanted to put my MBA to use and thought this was the perfect opportunity to bring something special and unique to the Town Center."

While Jon continues to hold down his current job, he has taken great pleasure in creating a children's bookstore to match his vision. "One of the toughest but most

enjoyable parts of all of this has been the design of the space," Jon explains. "I looked at traditional bookstore fixtures and shelv-



Jon Blessing shows a favorite pop-up book in his new children's bookstore, Simon Says Read!, in the East 29th Avenue Town Center.

ing and did not like what I saw. I did not want the store to look like a strip mall bookstore." Then he came upon a picture of a children's bookstore in Beijing, China, that was colorful and fun. He had custom shelving built by a friend in Colorado Springs, then

(continued on page 22)

### New Public Art Projects Underway

Fort Collins artist, Tim Upham, has been selected to begin working with the design team for the planned Recreation Center at Stapleton. He and the design team will identify art opportunity zones in the reception area and/or exterior spaces of the Center. He will then design proposed artwork for those spaces. His proposal will be reviewed by the Recreation Center Project Selection Committee, the Public Art Advisory Committee and the Board of The Park Creek Metropolitan District.

Once the proposal is approved and funding for the Center is confirmed, Tim can proceed with creation of the artwork.

The selection process for artwork to be integrated into the Havana Town Center began in November. Artists can access the announcement of this public art opportunity on CaFÉ, the electronic application system at [www.callforentry.com](http://www.callforentry.com).

If you're interested in being appointed to a Project Selection Committee or are an artist wanting to be (continued on page 24)



Artist Ilan Averbuch sits in front of his completed sculpture, *The Eye and the Horizon (After Monet)* at East 29th Avenue and Xenia Street. Photos of the installation process are on page 24.

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Column

Guide to New  
Northfield  
Restaurants

6

S.U.N.

20

Food  
and  
Wine

22





2005 Holiday lights in the East 29th Avenue Town Center.

# Mark Your CALENDAR FOR STAPLETON EVENTS

## EVERY MONTH

### Every Tuesday

AA Open Discussion Meeting  
Bladium 7:30pm  
[Joe Mc at 303.912.7075]

### Second Tuesday

New Resident Orientation Meeting  
[Call Jenifer Graham at 720-249-5104  
for time and location]

### Third Tuesday

Stapleton Business Assoc. 8am  
Call for location  
[Stapleton Foundation 303.393.7700]

## EVERY MONTH

### First Wednesday

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

### First Wednesday

"1st Wednesdays"  
Home-based businesses  
[Check StapletonLife.com for time &  
place—most meetings 11:30am - 1pm]

### Second Wednesday

(odd numbered months only)  
S.U.N. Transportation Meeting  
3126 Elmira Ct 6:30 - 8:30pm  
[Paul Frohardt stapletonneighbors@msn.com]

## EVERY MONTH

### Third Tuesday

Stapleton Cultural Arts Committee  
6 - 7pm Coral Room

### Third Thursday

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

### Fourth Thursday

SUN Board Meeting at 7:00pm  
Stapleton Development Corp,  
large conference room  
7350 E. 29th Ave.  
[stapletonneighbors@msn.com]

### 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]

## DECEMBER

### Saturday, Dec 2nd

Sweet William Holiday Market  
at the Urban Farm 10am - 5pm  
Karen Pardue 303-355-6168]

### Sunday, Dec 3rd

Holiday Festival  
Founders' Green 3-5pm  
Town Center Lights 5 - 5:50pm  
[Wild Iris 720.529.9911]

## SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

of scenes that portray life at Stapleton for the Front  
Porch calendar. Email to carol@fineprintco.com..



2005 Stapleton Holiday Festival

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# Front Porch

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# The ABCs of SDC

by Andy Hamano and Alice Kelly

As Stapleton continues to develop, it is good occasionally to look back and remember from whence it all began. The planning for the development that is bustling today with young families, empty nesters, and singles from all walks of life began more than fifteen years ago when the site was still a bustling airport. While the airport was still functioning, countless individuals and organizations were meeting to help plan for the future of the 4700 acres of land that would be vacated when the airport moved east.

The planning has always been grounded in partnerships, both public and private, and between agencies of city government that had never worked together on a single project such as this. Denver’s Mayor Federico Peña established the Gateway/Stapleton office to begin the planning process. The Stapleton Tomorrow Committee, composed of thirty-five civic leaders, conducted many community meetings to seek input from citizens. The result of this effort was the Stapleton Tomorrow Concept Plan that was adopted by Denver City Council in 1991 and became part of the Denver Comprehensive Plan.

Next came the Stapleton 2000 Committee, appointed by Mayor Wellington Webb. This group of thirty plus community leaders worked with the Stapleton Foundation and the City and County of Denver to draft the Stapleton Masterplan known fondly today as the Green Book. Adopted by the Denver City Council in 1995, the Green Book and its principles have been and continue to be the guide for quality development at Stapleton.

The Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) was formed to “make it happen.” The Board of Directors of SDC is composed of eleven voting members and five non-voting members. The Mayor of Denver appoints nine of

the voting members and the Denver Urban Renewal Authority appoints the remaining two voting members. The five non-voting members are the Denver City Councilperson representing District 11; a representative of the City of Aurora; a Councilperson from Commerce City; a representative from the Department of Aviation from Denver International Airport; and a representative from the Citizens’ Advisory Board of the Stapleton Development Corporation. The SDC Board was charged

with developing the property in conformance with the Green Book. Soon this group of volunteers and civic leaders decided that a master developer would be the best way to develop the property and the Mayor of Denver agreed. To find a master developer who embraced the Green Book and could front end some of the infrastructure was key. With the help of the community, the SDC Board selected Forest City.

The work of the SDC Board is (continued on page 21)



Alice Kelly



Andy Hamano

## Santa’s Best Xmas Trees



29th & Roslyn

Starting Nov. 24th

Hours:

Mon-Thurs 2-8pm

Friday 2-9pm

Saturday 10am - 9pm

Sunday 10am – 8pm

Tree purchases help support Montessori Academy of Colorado

Tree buyers will receive discount coupons to Stapleton businesses

Delivery is available

## Santa Needs Help

By Donna Kettenbach

The Denver Santa Claus Shop is requesting help from the community – they need donations of new and gently used toys for more than 15,000 needy children. King Soopers at Stapleton, as part of a massive city-wide toy drive, will have collection boxes for toy drop-offs now through Wednesday, December 20. “Timeless toys” appropriate for children up to age 11 are needed, such as cars, trucks, dolls, books, balls, games, etc. Infant and toddler toys are especially needed. (No battery-operated, electronic or violent toys, please.) Businesses can also help by holding toy drives. For more information about holding a company toy drive, please call 303-668-9779.

The Denver Santa Claus Shop has served needy children since 1931. What makes The Denver Santa Claus Shop different from other charitable groups is that parents and guardians actually choose the appropriate gift for their children,



(continued on page 23)

## Holidays at the Square



STORES	#	PHONE
<b>Restaurants</b>		
Arby's	10	303-996-1897
Country Buffet	17	303-325-1955
Fireman's Brew BBQ	18	303-399-0100
HOPE	11	303-594-6966
Wu Jiao	23	303-393-0300
McDonald's	9	303-321-7499
Panda Express	18A	303-331-6409
Parsons Street	14	303-398-8200
Papa John's Pizza	23	303-320-1717
Subway	23	720-889-1567
Subway (in Wal-Mart Supercenter)	6	720-944-7315
Thurman Brothers Coffee	24	303-399-7334
Wingz, Inc.	23	303-323-9484
<b>Clothing &amp; Dry Goods</b>		
3Day Blinds	18	303-394-2272
Denver's Character Warehouse Outlet Store	20	
Forever Footwear	3	303-333-4822
Lovers N' Things	2	303-321-8650
Playtex Shoes	19	303-333-7944
Real Dress for Less	21	303-320-6034
Wal-Mart Supercenter	6	720-944-1041

STORES	#	PHONE
<b>Health &amp; Beauty</b>		
A Day Spa	24	303/809-0001
Carl's Color (in Wal-Mart Supercenter)	6	303-321-8591
Doc's Hair Works	23	303-330-0222
Executive Tans	24	303-316-3359
GHG Visions Salon	23	303-388-0383
Great Clips	24	303-996-0064
Lolita's Hair Salon	24	303-333-3232
Nails of the World	24	303-316-4400
Quebec Square Family Dentistry	24	303-322-3081
Rapid Nails (in Wal-Mart Supercenter)	6	303-377-6266
Sally's Beauty Supply	24	303-320-4718
Spa's Clip	14	303-399-8200
Stems Beauty Supply & Salon	6	303-321-1818
<b>Services</b>		
Academy Bank (in Wal-Mart Supercenter)	6	303-388-0177
Alliant Credit Union	24	303-398-4720
America's Family Insurance	24	720-944-3702
Baby Power/Tween Kids	24	303-377-8855
Check Into Cash	24	303-321-5040
Colorado Contemporary Dance Studio	24	303-331-1865
Countryside Horse Loans	20	720-944-6280
Excuse Me! Dry Cleaning	24	303-321-6752
Frederick's Health Care	22	303-322-1512

STORES	#	PHONE
<b>Services (cont.)</b>		
Mike (Mike's) Kiosk Studio	24	303-377-3425
Money Tree	16	303-323-7000
Norwest Urgent Care	20	720-944-2902
Safe Home	24	303-377-5433
TCP Bank	12	303-889-4330
Taxi Plus	13	303-322-5312
UPS Store	14	303-996-5660
Wetco Bank	15	720-947-8230
Wal-Mart Portrait Studio	6	720-944-1400
<b>Wine/Beverages/Retail</b>		
ABT (2 regular Winebars)	18	303-322-1810
Baby Power/Tween Kids	24	303-377-8855
EB Games	24	720-944-1200
Home Depot	7	303-320-3739
Instant Inkjet	24	303-780-7838
Office Depot	23	303-320-8521
Okamoto Liquors	28	720-944-1702
Party America	3	303-323-4424
RTW40	24	303-363-4156
Radio Shack	23	303-321-9379
Scoti's Club	1	720-944-14180
Spirit House Store	6	303-398-3800
Volunteer Rate Lockers (in Sam's Club)	1	303-388-4067



## Shop Quebec Square this holiday season.

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# Steve's Snappin' Dogs A Crowd Pleaser

One of the favorites at Stapleton events is Steve's Snappin Dogs. When not at events, Steve's Snappin Dogs can be found at 3525 E. Colfax, Denver.

Steve considers his dogs, brought in from a New Jersey supplier, to be the best hot dogs made. Steve's Snappin' Dogs is also known for freshly squeezed lemonade and limeade. In addition they offer veggie dogs, vegetarian garden burgers, and vegetarian green chili. For more information visit [StevesSnappinDogs.com](http://StevesSnappinDogs.com).



## Sustainable Politics Stapleton Stapleton Residents Consider Going Solar

By Mark Mehringer

On Thursday, November 16, the Stapleton Foundation hosted a forum on home solar technologies, which was organized by Jessica Brody, Jake Calabrese, and Mark Mehringer of the community group Sustainable Politics Stapleton. Over 30 residents and homebuilder representatives nearly filled the Stapleton Development Corporation Conference Room to learn how to utilize energy from the Sun to save money and help improve the environment. John Dallapiazza of Sun Electric Systems explained the what, how, why, and how much of systems that convert sunlight to electricity and Dave Kreutzman of Next Generation Energy detailed how solar thermal systems can turn solar energy into heat and hot water.

According to Dallapiazza, the typical total cost to install a 3 kilowatt (kW) solar electric system, which would provide about 50% of the electricity for the average Denver home, is \$24,000. To help with these costs, Xcel Energy offers rebates and credits totaling up to \$13,500 for a 3 kW system, bringing the cost to the typical homeowner down to \$10,500. Further, the federal government allows a tax credit of 30% of the cost of a solar system, up to a maximum \$2,000 for households. This further reduces the cost to \$8,500. The federal 30% tax credit is not capped for corporations. Solar panel manufacturers warranty the panels for 25 years, while other key components have warranties of 7-10 years,

and there are virtually no maintenance costs. These systems are connected to the regular electric grid, so homeowners always have electricity available to their homes at the same rates available to everyone else, when their solar system does not produce enough electricity.

Both Dallapiazza and Kreutzman noted that solar thermal systems designed to provide household hot water are even more cost effective than solar electric systems, paying for their initial installation costs (which start as low as \$1,000) several times over during the life of the system. Solar thermal systems are also eligible for a federal tax credit of 30% of the cost, up to the \$2,000 cap. Solar thermal systems can also provide an economical way to heat homes, especially if they are installed as part of the original home construction.

A list of certified solar energy contractors can be found at [www.coseia.org](http://www.coseia.org), while information on the Xcel Energy rebates and credits can be found at [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com).

The event was organized by the community group Sustainable Politics Stapleton (SPS), which also organized the first annual Stapleton Sustainable Bike Tour to Bluff Lake this past June, as well as a holiday pot-luck fundraiser to benefit the Food Bank of the Rockies. This year's pot-luck fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, December 17. To find out more about home solar systems, or Sustainable Politics Stapleton, please contact Mark Mehringer at [Mehringer@gmail.com](mailto:Mehringer@gmail.com).

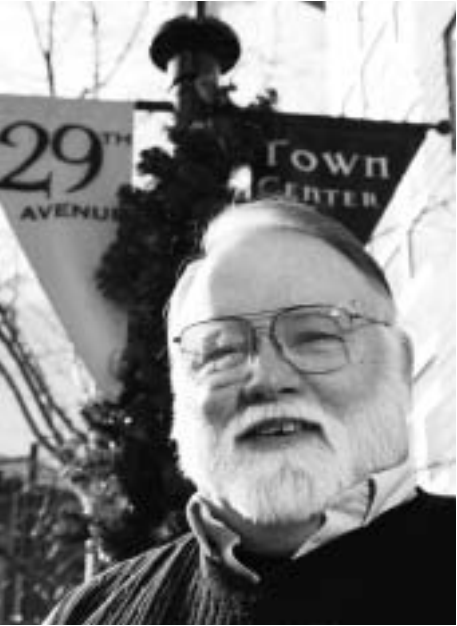
## A Year With A Lot of Change

By J. Mel Harris,  
President GSBA

This time of year all of us tend to take stock of our progress during the year and set some goals for the next year. The Greater Stapleton Business Association (GSBA) is no different. So, what have we done? This was a very hectic year for us, with a large turn-over in board members, a formal reorganization as an independent not-for-profit organization, all the turmoil that causes, and our required first annual business meeting.

In addition to these important steps, we did get other good things done this year. We co-sponsored the first Recycle it @ Stapleton day. We featured hard-to-recycle materials (antifreeze, oil, paint, tires, batteries, computer, and other office electronic equipment). We collected cardboard moving boxes and featured a very large document shredding truck. We are looking forward to repeating this event in late April 2007. We co-sponsored the Stapleton Car Show, which was a benefit for Stomp Out the Silence of Autism and Disabilities, a support group for families of children with autism. For the third year, we assisted with the Denver Police Department's Halloween Haunted House Party held at the Denver Police Academy in Stapleton. We have started representing the Stapleton businesses at many of neighborhood organization meetings. (SDC-Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) and some of their sub-committees, Stapleton United Neighborhood (SUN), and other groups). Our members and others attending meetings enjoyed presentations of local subjects from:

- Michael Hancock – City Council
- Tom Gleason – Forest City
- Dick Anderson – Stapleton Development Corporation
- Ann White - Office of Economic Development / Division of Workforce @



J. Mel Harris,  
President GSBA

- Stapleton
- Cynthia Starks – Bluff Lake Nature Center
  - Mercedes Martinez - America on the Move
  - Denver Police Dept District 2 and 6 – Crime updates
  - Angie Malpiede – Quarterly Stapleton Transportation and Traffic Issues
  - Diane Deeter – Monthly Stapleton Updates
- One more year

has passed; they go fast! Next month, we will cover what we hope to accomplish in 2007. Until then, think about attending our monthly informational/networking sessions on the third Tuesday of each month from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Stapleton Development Corporation's conference room on the third floor of their offices at 7350 E. 29th Avenue in Stapleton's Town Center. To find more information about membership, please go our website at [www.stapletonbusiness.com](http://www.stapletonbusiness.com) or contact me at [jmel@jncd.com](mailto:jmel@jncd.com) or by phone at 303-355-1452.

**Support your local businesses!**

This month's featured business is E2 Business Gifts. E2 is a distributorship of all manner of personalized promotional products and business gifts. Some general examples are trade-show give-away items, direct-mail incentive products, sales-goal rewards & gifts, privately-branded retail stock, corporate apparel, and 4th-quarter holiday business gifts for your clients, vendors, customers & employees — everything from American Express gift cards to I-Pods, to 2007 agendas & calendars, to holiday food gifts and baskets again, and all personalized with your company's logo and tagline. Give E2 a chance: [www.e2businessgifts.com](http://www.e2businessgifts.com) Joanna F. Johnson Phone 303.522.3686 Fax 270.513.3686

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Community Food & Toy Drive\*

**Donation Centers:**

Westerly Creek Elementary cafeteria  
(every Sunday morning in December)

IntaJuice at Quebec Square  
(Saturday, December 23rd )

\*ALL contributions will be given to local families in need  
and to local charitable organizations assisting the needy.

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

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Westerly Creek Open House  
Hundreds of Local Families Get  
Info About ECE & Kindergarten

It was a full house at the Westerly Creek ECE and Kindergarten Open House the evening of November 14. Principal Trich Lea updated parents on registration processes and timelines, when to expect confirmation and class assignments, and shared current projections of growth in student population in ECE and Kindergarten. Parents also had the opportunity to tour the classrooms and talk with ECE and Kindergarten teachers.

Registration opens for Fall of 2007 on January 9, and parents are strongly urged to complete registration no later than January 31. While families in Stapleton have a guaranteed spot for their child in half-day Kindergarten, those that wait to register until February have lower priority for a full-day Kindergarten option and for ECE (ages 3 and 4). To register, parents or guardians must provide proof of residency (such as a deed, mortgage statement, lease agreement or builder contract), the child's birth certificate, and immunization records. Half-day Kindergarten is free, and full-day Kindergarten and ECE are tuition-based with need-based scholarships available (a financial aid application is part of the application packet).

For the ECE 3 program, children must turn 3 by October 1, 2007. For the ECE 4 program, children must turn 4 by October 1, 2007. For Kindergarten, children must turn 5 by October 1, 2007.

As half-day Kindergarten is guaranteed for all Stapleton neighborhood children, registration during January is not required. However, to assist with hiring needs, Trich Lea strongly urges anyone interested in half-day Kindergarten to complete a pre-enrollment form and provide the documentation mentioned above during the month

of January. With a booming population in Stapleton in these younger ages, Trich is relying on the best and earliest available projections in making staffing decisions and working to hire the best talent possible.

Those wanting to choice-in to Westerly Creek should also complete their registration during January in order to be included in the 'first round' of applicants. All parents will be notified of confirmation of assignment at the end of February and will have only 4-5 days to secure their spot. Assignments of AM or PM spots in the ECE program (ages 3 and 4) will not be decided until late spring or early summer. Actual class assignments will be posted in the month of August.

Anyone interested in Kaleidoscope/Kadoodles care for their ECE or half-day Kindergarten student must register separately with Kaleidoscope. Visit <http://kaleidoscope.dpsk12.org> for more details.

With the number of Kindergarten and ECE classes expected to grow in 2007-2008, Principal Trich Lea and the Westerly Creek Collaborative School Committee recently recommended to DPS that the campus be reconfigured to serve ECE through grade 1 at the Primary Building and grades 2-8 at the Roberts Building. DPS is expected to make a decision on configuration by the end of December.

For more details on registration as well as new programs and enrichment opportunities, visit the Westerly Creek Primary Bldg. office at 8800 E. 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. (303-322-5877) or the Bill Roberts Bldg. office at 2100 Akron Way (720-424-2640). Also visit the Westerly Creek website at <http://westerlycreek.dpsk12.org> and the Westerly Creek PTA website at <http://westerlycreekpta.com>.

New Program at Quebec Square Business  
Parents' Night Out

Parents' Night Out is now open at Baby Power & Forever Kids in Quebec Square. For a flat rate of \$20 per child (discounts for siblings), parents can drop off their children for three hours of play, crafts and fun on a Friday or Saturday night. For groups of families that are planning a special event, Baby Power will host a group of children together (minimum 10 kids).

A Parents' Day Out version of this program is also being offered in the coming weeks to make holiday shopping easier. Beginning the first of the year, Baby Power & Forever Kids will offer a number of drop-off classes in their winter schedule. Reservations are required as a limited number of slots are available. Dates are: 6 - 9pm Friday, 12/1, 12/8 and 12/15; also 6-9pm Saturday, 12/2, 12/9 and 12/16.

For more information on Parents' Night Out or the Winter Schedule, call Baby Power & Forever Kids at 303-377-8855 or visit online at [www.babypower.com/denver](http://www.babypower.com/denver).

Westerly Creek Raises  
Funds Through Recycling

Westerly Creek Elementary PTA has joined an exceptional 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 (w/power cords)

Please save your used or discarded items and drop off in the recycling box at the front office at Westerly Creek Elementary. Contribute to sustainable living and help the school earn extra funding! For questions, please contact Allison Tomaselli at [kat@wire-trip.com](mailto:kat@wire-trip.com).

Local Support  
Group Forming  
for New Moms

By Rachel Loudon

The birth of your first child can be a magical and wonderful time. It can also be a stressful time. Often women go from working full-time to being home full-time. Our relationship with our partner can change in ways we never anticipated and conflicts can arise. New mothers can feel trapped by their newborn baby and then feel guilty for resenting the limitations of motherhood.

This newly forming therapy group will meet for six weeks to explore these issues in a safe, confidential and therapeutic environment right here in Stapleton. Bring your baby, meet other women, get support and explore the emotional issues that new mothers experience. Find solutions to managing new challenges. Improve communication in your relationship. Explore ways to regain your individual identity. Balance the needs of your relationship, baby and yourself. Understand how the way you were parented is impacting your experience of motherhood.

Give a gift to yourself this holiday season – the gift of emotional and personal growth.

Rachel Loudon, LCSW is a psychotherapist with 15 years' experience in private practice in downtown Denver. She is a resident of Stapleton and will host the group in her home. She has extensive clinical experience working with women's issues, relationship issues, couples/marital therapy and infertility. She is also a mother of two-year old twin girls. She can be contacted at her office at (303) 629-6399.

VENI, VIDI, VICI.



BUT I'M NICE ABOUT IT.

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From left, Shane Santi, bar manager; Brian Zych, corporate trainer; and Jamey McMullen, district partner, of Bar Louie, toast their opening with Broncos-colored drinks.

## Ling and Louie’s Asian Bar and Grill ►

Ling & Louie’s Asian Bar and Grill at Northfield, offering authentic Asian food, is the first of these restaurants in Colorado. The folklore behind the restaurant is based on an American boy named Louie who met a woman named Ling while traveling in Asia. Ling, a formidable cook, and Louie, a veteran in the restaurant business, fell in love and opened a restaurant— combining the best of Eastern and Western flavors and traditions. The restaurant uses only fresh ingredients and cooks with non-trans-fat oils. Guests can request vegetarian, vegan or gluten-free selections. Entrée specialties include Evil Jungle Princess Beef made with beef tenderloin mixed with long beans, vegetables, mint and Thai basil covered in a zesty peanut red curry or Evil Jungle Prince Chicken covered with a fragrant green curry sauce.

Steve Halliday, a Lowry resident and President of Ling and Louie’s of Denver, LLC, first started working in restaurants just out of high school to make money for college. That plan was interrupted when he got drafted in 1972 (the last year of the draft for the Vietnam war). After serving in the military he went to college and got a degree in management and finance and went right back to work in the restaurant business. “I love the energy and the long hours. I’m an old marathoner – I can handle it – though I just do half marathons now,” he says with a laugh.

Jeromy Krug, Operating Partner of Ling and Louie’s of Denver, LLC, has also been in the restaurant business since his high school days. An expert in Asian foods, he has worked as both manager and chef in other restaurants. His father owned a wine wholesale business, and Jeromy’s extensive knowledge of wines can be seen in Ling and Louie’s large, yet affordably priced wine selection.

Ling and Louie’s is located at 8354 E. 49th Avenue in Northfield. Happy Hour is from 4-7 p.m Monday - Friday with drink specials and half-priced appetizers. Ling & Louie’s is open daily from 11 am to 10 pm Sunday through Thursday and 11 am to 11 pm on Friday and Saturday. For information, call 303-371-4644.



Steve Halliday and Jeromy Krug of Ling and Louie’s sit in front of the 28 foot long waterfall wall that separates the kitchen from the dining area.



Melissa Rossback-Bates, manager, and William Sax, kitchen manager at TGI Fridays.

## ◀ Bar Louie

Chicago-based Bar Louie, a “casually cool neighborhood restaurant and bar” is now open at Northfield. Bar Louie’s menu includes a variety of signature sandwiches, unique appetizers, deluxe burgers and hearty entrees.

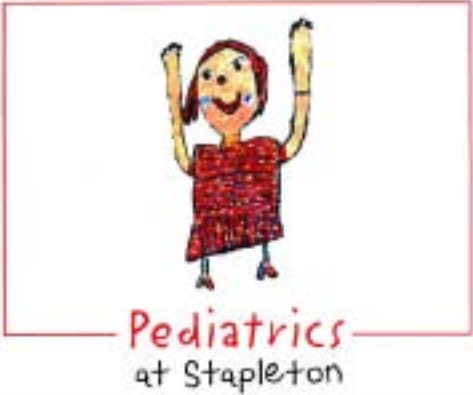
An array of “Small Plates” includes Cheeseburger Sliders with cheddar and pickles, Sweet & Spicy Tempura Shrimp in a tempura batter, fried and tossed in a spicy-sweet sauce, and Buffalo Calamari served with celery, carrots and blue cheese dressing. Larger appetites might want a signature sandwich like their Luigi Steak and Vesuvio Melt, their Southwest Burger and Blue Louie burger, or a “Large Plate” like their Pepper Steak or Blackened Salmon. Children’s selections are also available.

Bar Louie offers specialty cocktails, martinis and mojitos. Beer lovers can choose from over twenty domestics, imports and microbrews, while wine enthusiasts can order from an interesting assortment of Californian, Italian and Australian selections available by the glass or bottle.

The surroundings, which have an urban feel, include contemporary photography, hand-laid mosaic tiling, hardwood floors, retro light fixtures and plasma televisions. Bar Louie offers a variety of seating options from high-top bar tables to circular booths as well as a patio seating nearly 100 when the weather is warm.

Bar Louie is located at 8332 East 49th Street. Hours are Sunday-Saturday from 11:00am-2:00am. Reservations are not accepted. For more information, call 303-457-5900 or visit [www.barlouieamerica.com](http://www.barlouieamerica.com).

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La Sandía ▼

La Sandía Mexican Kitchen and Tequila Bar is the newest addition to chef Richard Sandoval’s restaurants that include Tamayo and Zengo in downtown Denver. La Sandía uses authentic Mexican ingredients and contemporary cooking techniques to create what Richard calls Modern Mexican cuisine. The result is lighter dishes with contrasting flavors inspired by Richard’s memories of family meals and growing up around his father’s restaurants in Acapulco. “I am still most driven by the fond memories of family meals at my Grandmother’s house and I hope that guests at La Sandía will share these feelings,” says Richard.

The menu at La Sandía features a mix of Chef Sandoval’s signature dishes as well as Mexican comfort food. Favorites include Build Your Own tacos, chips with guacamole made at the table, and a broad range of meat, poultry and seafood dishes perfect for sharing. A full bar serves an array of margaritas and other drinks.

Guests will enjoy the vibrant colors and traditional folklore images of Mexico in the restaurant. “La Sandía is in many ways a step to my beginnings where I have tried to embrace anew the food and warm spirit of my homeland,” says Chef Sandoval. “The people of Denver have embraced Tamayo and Zengo, and I am especially happy to share my food and these experiences with La Sandía.”

From November 29 through December, La Sandía will serve as a drop-off location for Toys for Tots. Each month, La Sandía also gives out three \$50 donations to various charities for use in auctions and charity benefits.

La Sandía is located at 8340 East 49th Avenue in Northfield. For more information, call 303-373-9100 or visit online at [www.modernmexican.com](http://www.modernmexican.com). Lowry resident Jared Schwartz serves as General Manager. Hours are Sunday-Thursday from 11:00am-10:00pm and Friday-Saturday from 11:00am-11:00pm.



La Sandia manager Jared Schwartz, General Manager and Ernie Galvez, Sous Chef at La Sandia Restaurant



Evandro Caregnato, culinary director for all Texas de Brazil restaurants, and Candyce Hedlund, the local events manager for Texas de Brazil.

Texas de Brazil ▲

Combining the tradition of a South American churrascaria with an upscale ambience, Texas de Brazil’s décor incorporates rustic design elements like heavy wrought-iron doors that push open like horse stalls, riveted metal that adorns the bright walls and ceiling, and copper bowls of fire outside the entrance way. The music is lively, and there are floor-to-ceiling floral arrangements and original works of art.

Texas de Brazil’s menu features 15 grilled meats prepared in the traditional Brazilian method over an open flame. Before the meats arrive, guests are treated to cinnamon-sprinkled sweet fried plantains and garlic mashed potatoes. Following the Brazilian custom, guests are given a two-sided coaster to signify their preferences by which side the coaster is on – green means go, and red means no, to the 25 or more gauchos roaming the restaurant with the ready-to-slice meats on skewers they carve for guests directly at each table.

In addition to its meat skewers, Texas de Brazil’s salad area offers seasonal Brazilian cuisine. Immediately after being seated, customers can help themselves to a 40-60 item salad area to complement the meats or to provide a substantial meatless alternative to the standard menu. An extensive wine list, dessert menu and full liquor bar round out their offerings.

“Denver is a strong and vibrant market, and we’ve eagerly anticipated this location becoming a reality,” says Salim Asrawi, chief operating officer of Texas de Brazil. “What we offer is a continuous dining experience unlike any other that will fit right in with the distinctive atmosphere of Northfield Stapleton.”

A family-owned and operated business, Texas de Brazil opened its first locations in Texas, and the Denver location in Northfield is its ninth restaurant. Texas de Brazil offers private rooms for business functions, rehearsal dinners and other events. Watch for their grand opening in January, in partnership with a charity fundraiser.

Texas de Brazil is located at 8390 E. 49th Ave. Phone 720-374-2100. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 5:00-10:00pm, Friday-Saturday from 4:00-10:30pm, and Sunday from 4:00-9:00pm. Lunch hours coming soon. For more information, visit [www.texasdebrazil.com](http://www.texasdebrazil.com).

◀ TGI Friday’s

Recently added to the line-up of family-friendly restaurants in Northfield Stapleton is T.G.I.Friday’s, located just northeast of Target. Originally opened in 1965, the T.G.I. Fridays restaurants have recently been redesigned with updated exterior and interior design as well as a new menu. In addition to a wide selection of burgers, quesadillas, pasta and other favorites, they offer low-fat/low-carb fare as well as a Jack Daniel’s Grill menu with grilled entrees served with their original or new spicy sauce blend of smoky maple and bold chipotle flavors.

T.G.I.Friday’s is located at 8104 E. 49th Ave. Call 303-371-8840 for more information or check out the full menu selection online at [www.tgifridays.com](http://www.tgifridays.com). Hours are Sunday through Tuesday from 11:00am-midnight, and Wednesday through Saturday from 11:00am-2:00am.



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## Qdoba Mexican Grill

Qdoba Mexican Grill opened in late June 2006 next to Harkins Theater. Qdoba serves nouveau Mexican food, made fast, fresh and right in front its patrons. The menu includes burritos, taco salads, quesadillas, nachos, and their newest addition, Mexican Gumbo, which includes rice, beans, tortilla soup, salsa, and cheese and is topped with tortilla strips.

Serving as general manager is Shelly Ellis, a veteran with over five years' experience managing other Qdoba locations. A native of Colorado, Shelly is a sports enthusiast and proud owner of Canyon, a German Shepherd, and Henry, a Retriever/Lab mix.

Shelly and her Qdoba team have already been active participants in the community, serving as a Gold Sponsor of the Relay for Life event in August and working with the Stapleton Master Community Association to donate chips and taco bars for various community events. Upcoming holiday events include donating prizes, chicken burritos and gumbo for the Stapleton Master Community Association Holiday Party on December 3, where donations for their food will go to the Denver Battered Women's Shelter. They are also the sponsor of the "Best Block" prize in Stapleton's Christmas Lights Contest in December.

Check out the Qdoba Card loyalty program, with a free entrée on a patron's 11th visit. And for upcoming company, family and community events, Qdoba offers a Q-To-Go catering line that now delivers hot taco bars.

Qdoba is located in Northfield Stapleton at 8286 E. 49th Ave. Call 303-286-7337 or visit online at [www.qdoba.com](http://www.qdoba.com).



General manager of Qdoba, Shelly Ellis, will likely be the one to welcome you when you eat at Qdoba.

## Heidi's Brooklyn Deli

If you have an uncontrollable craving for a Reuben or a Philly Steak sandwich, head to the new Heidi's Brooklyn Deli in Northfield Stapleton. With a menu that includes everything from pastrami to corned beef to prime rib sandwiches, plus fresh salads and cheesecake, Heidi's Brooklyn Deli brings "a taste of old school Americana" to the Stapleton neighborhood.

Located across from the Harkins Theater, Heidi's Brooklyn Deli is the latest location in the growing empire of Heidi and Steve Naples. Originally from Brooklyn, Heidi and Steve came to Colorado in search of a place to "feed their spirit." After 5 years of being surrounded by fast food chains and "kind of" deli food, Steve and Heidi were longing for real deli food and opened their first Heidi's Brooklyn Deli. Customers loved their authentic deli menu, and in 1999 they opened their second location. Several more locations are in the works in the metro area and they now have plans to expand nationally.

Heidi and Steve pride themselves on using only the best ingredients and make their sandwiches from their own fresh-baked breads. For customers that want to take home that deli flavor, Heidi's also sells all their deli meats by the pound.

Heidi's Brooklyn Deli is located at 8270 E. 49th Ave.. For more information, call 720-374-4821 or visit online at [www.heidisbrooklyndeli.com](http://www.heidisbrooklyndeli.com). Hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00am-9:00pm, Saturday from 10:00am-9:00pm, and Sunday from 10:00am-6:00pm.



Kevin Hunter, manager of Heidi's Brooklyn Deil, shows off one of their famous deli sandwiches.

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## A Day Spa

Anita Zimmerman and her son Joe Zimmerman started their A Day Spa business in Quebec Square in July 2003. With Anita's massage therapy experience and certification and Joe's Masters in International



Joe Zimmerman and his mother, Anita Zimmerman, own and manage A Day Spa, located in Quebec Square.

Business and Marketing, they have found a way to combine their skills to run this and two other massage businesses in the Denver International Airport. They chose their Stapleton location because it has the components of a small community located in the heart of a big city.

"We try to market to the middle income family that has little time for themselves," Anita says. "We provide both Swedish and deep tissue massage, manicures, pedicures, facials, waxings, body wraps and scrubs, and hair cutting and styling."

In addition to trying to provide the best customer service possible, Anita says they try to promote the benefits of continual care and pampering. "We encourage our customers to just take an hour a week to take care of themselves," Anita says. "They then are better equipped to take care of their families and responsibilities."

For the holidays, Anita suggests gift certificates for loved ones. She offers custom packages, filling gift certificates with the benefactor in mind.

A Day Spa is located at 7505 East 35th Ave. #390, next to Thomas Bros. Coffee. Phone 303-780-9000. Monday-Friday they open at 11:00am and take their last appointments at 6:00pm. Saturdays they open at 9:00am and take their last appointments at 5:00pm. Sundays they open at 11:00am and close at 4:00pm.

## Okkasions Liquor



Okkasions Liquor store manager, Yolanda Edwards

For Okkasions Liquor manager Yolanda Edwards, customer service is a matter of pride. Through a change of ownership in late October to new owner Dave Nelson, Yolanda has strived to maintain a smooth operation and treat customers like she would want to be treated. Originally working in personal banking, Yolanda was recruited to Okkasions Liquor by former owner Byron Johnson, and continues to be co-owner with Byron and manager of the Wingz! store next door in Quebec Square.

The Okkasions Liquor store continues to operate much the same as always, carrying a variety of wines, spirits and beer as well as placing special orders for customers. They run monthly specials and plan to continue offering holiday baskets this season ranging in price from \$10.99 to \$79.99. "Anybody that comes into our store will tell you we have awesome customer service," says Yolanda. "We go out of our way for customers and treat them just like we would want to be treated."

A single mother of 3 boys (Andrew, Albert and Anton), Yolanda involves her sons in the Wingz! restaurant next door to teach them how to run a business as if it were their own. "Being a single parent, I just try to be a mentor for my boys, give them the right guidance," Yolanda says. "They do know that nothing is easy, that you have to fight for what you want."

Okkasions Liquor is located at 7305 E 35th Ave, next to Wingz! on the south end of Quebec Square across from the United Training Center. Hours are 9:00am-11:45pm Monday- Saturday, closed Sunday. The phone number is 720-941-7024.

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# Citizens Committee Names Top Cops for October

On October 10, 2006, Officer Casados and Officer Laughlin were dispatched to a residence on a family disturbance. The dispatcher advised the officers that the complainant had advised that a family member who was asked to leave the residence and not to return was at the residence and refused to leave. The dispatcher further related that this individual had possessed firearms in the past but it was unknown if this party was armed at the present time.

Upon arrival at the residence, the officers contacted the complainant who informed them that this party was acting very strange lately and this complainant was afraid of this individual. The homeowner advised Officer Laughlin that she had changed the locks on the residence earlier in the day and when the party arrived this individual found the residence locked and climbed through a kitchen window to gain entry to the house. The officers contacted this person in the basement of the residence. Officer Laughlin called down to the basement and requested that the person come upstairs and this person refused and stated that it was his residence and he did not need to come upstairs. Officer Laughlin went down the stairway and observed the party at the bottom of the stairs. This person was carrying a long hard black case which appeared to Officer Laughlin to be a rifle case. Officer Laughlin ordered the party to put the case



Officer Larry Casados and Officer Michael Laughlin are the "Top Cops" in District Two for October 2006.

down and come upstairs to talk. The individual came up the stairway to a landing, and Officer Laughlin attempted to control this person by applying a departmental control maneuver to search for possible weapons on his person. The person broke free of this maneuver and Officer Laughlin placed his hand upon the person's chest and felt what appeared to be a bullet proof protective vest. Officer Laughlin asked this party if he was wearing a protective vest and he replied that he was and that it was his right to do so. Officer Laughlin and Officer Casados took control of the person's arms and attempted to control his movements. The

individual then pushed the officers away. This party continued to resist the officers attempts to place him under control and broke away and struck Officer Casados in the face with a closed fist and stated to him that he was going to break Officer Casados's arm. Officer Casados took the party to the ground to attempt to arrest him and he continued to struggle violently against the officers. Officer Laughlin utilized his departmentally issued baton to attempt to control this individual and struck his legs and forearms to gain compliance. The suspect did not seem to be affected by the application of the police baton and threw Officer Casados off his back region and got to his knees and reached in his waistband. Other District Two Officers arrived on the scene to assist Officer Casados and Officer Laughlin with the suspect and further methods were utilized to attempt to place him under arrest and apply the handcuffs to this party. This suspect struggled with several officers attempting to hold him on the ground. A District Two officer applied the departmentally approved Taser gun to this party twice and finally the suspect complied and stated that he was done and surrendered to officers and was placed in custody.

The suspect was searched by the officers and they recovered a loaded 9mm handgun from his front waistband and a loaded .25 caliber handgun from his right front pants pocket. The officers located a loaded SKS assault rifle and a shotgun that bore a pistol grip stock from the case located at the base of stairs initially carried by the suspect.

The Citizens Committee believed these officers used exceptional tactics, appropriate force in restraining this individual, and showed great restraint in the face of tremendous danger. They could easily have been wounded or killed by this individual during this encounter that could have resulted in a deadly force situation.



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# Promoting Safety

Our autumn leaves have changed to their glorious colors and have fallen, and the holiday season is upon us. With the change of seasons we are now experiencing colder weather and we must deal with inclement weather, difficult driving conditions and slippery roadways.

During the morning hours as we prepare for work and getting our children to school we must remember not to leave our vehicles running and unattended. This behavior is very problematic and there is a city ordinance which prohibits this. Leaving a vehicle running, even with the doors locked, can allow the vehicle to be stolen by simply breaking the window and driving the vehicle away which takes only a few moments. Stolen motor vehicles are often used to commit other crimes such as burglaries, robberies and other offenses. We experience a large increase in the number of stolen motor vehicles in the city with the colder temperatures and these vehicles are referred to by the Denver Police Department as "Puffers."

Car insurance companies strongly discourage this practice and leaving the vehicle running and unattended can affect the coverage of the vehicle by insurance companies who may not pay the claim of the insured if the vehicle was left running, with the keys in the ignition and unattended. Please do not leave your vehicle running and your children or pets in the vehicle as you run in to pay for gasoline or purchases at stores or restaurants. We have had vehicles stolen in the past, with children in the vehicle which is extremely hazardous and can lead to tragic consequences.

Please have your vehicle inspected and keep it in good running condition for the upcoming winter months. Examine your tires and their condition and tread surface, inspect your windshield wipers to assure they are working properly and take the time to clear your windows of snow and ice prior to driving to assure that you have the visibility necessary to safely operate your vehicle. Check your coolant level and hoses to assure that your vehicle is prepared for sub-freezing



temperatures. Drive safely for the road conditions, and on icy and snow covered roadways, slow down, and maintain control of your vehicle. Remember that four wheel drive provides traction in snow and ice but does not provide skid control. Most accidents that occur are due to motorists driving too fast for the weather conditions.

If travel to out of town destinations are in your families plans this holiday season please check road conditions prior to departure and plan accordingly. Carry an emergency kit in your vehicle, a shovel, some gravel or kitty litter for traction to assist if your vehicle is stuck in snow or on ice. Pack heavier clothing and dress in layers and pack some non-perishable food items in the event you are stranded due to weather conditions. If you have to shelter in place in your vehicle, leave the windows cracked and run your vehicle for short periods of time, and clear the area around the exhaust system of your vehicle.

For further information on Crime Prevention topics, please feel free to contact your Community Resource Officers Technician Reyes Trujillo at 720-913-1094 and Technician Michael Rappe at 720-913-1095. The Denver Police Department wishes you and your family a blessed and happy Thanksgiving.

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Downtown Aurora Visual Arts

Cosmic Visions: A Holiday Show and Sale at DAVA

Cosmic Visions, Downtown Aurora Visual Arts' (DAVA) annual holiday show and sale of art will be open to the public from December 7th, 2006 to January 9th, 2007 with the opening reception from 4 to 8 pm on Thursday December 7th. DAVA is located at 1405 Florence St., one block south of Colfax Avenue in Original Aurora. Proceeds will support art education for city kids in DAVA's programs.

A multicultural mix of art by kids and professionals will offer a fun destination for thoughtful holiday shoppers who will find a unique selection of original artworks including bean boxes, candles, tin objects, Japanese tea bowls, incense burners, pottery, acrylic jewelry and more.

Artist Mario Prieto Lopez combines traditional and popular Mexican culture through a series of light boxes. Nigerian artist Moyo Ogundipe composes colorful paintings reflecting traditional Yoruba Design. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 11 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday or by appointment. E-mail [davagallery@qwest.net](mailto:davagallery@qwest.net)

*Downtown Aurora Visual Arts is a nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to strengthen the community through the arts with youth as its primary focus. For more information about our programs, visit [www.davarts.org](http://www.davarts.org), or call DAVA at 303 367 5886.*

Upcoming Productions at DSA

Denver School of the Arts performances in December:

- Wed, Dec 6 and Thur, Dec 7 - Vivaldi's Gloria
  - Friday, Dec 8 - Winter Concert featuring the middle school choirs, Allegro Voce & Treble Choir
  - Friday, Dec 8 - Film Festival featuring original student movies with both live actors and animation. Admission of \$10/adults and \$5/students/seniors includes food & drink
  - Wed, Dec 13 - Sinfonia
  - Wed, Dec 13, Thurs, Dec 14, Friday, Dec 15 - One Act Play Fest.
- Wed will feature 8 ten minute one act plays at 12:30pm - 5:40pm, Thur will feature 5 ten minute one act plays from 4:30pm - 7:40pm and Friday will feature 8 ten minute one act plays from 7:50am - 2:20pm in the Black Box Theatre. Admission is by donation at the door. Some acts may contain mature content.
- Thur, Dec 14 and Fri, Dec 15 - 'Take Me Away, Winter Band Concert' featuring the Concert Band, Wind Ensemble & special group performances. Both performances will be at 7:00pm with general admission seating at \$5.00 each. Friday's performance will include a silent auction.

Tickets can be purchased through the DSA box office at 720-424-1713 on Mon, Wed & Fridays from 7:30am - 3:30pm.



Zoo Lights

5 - 9 pm, Dec. 8 – Dec 31

With more than 35 acres of lights, added animal viewing opportunities, and a visit with Santa Claus, this year's holiday tradition will shine brighter than ever. Festivities will also include carolers, instrumental groups, dancers and the Conservation Carousel. Warming stations are located throughout the zoo offering roasted nuts, hot chocolate, cider, soft bread pretzels and steamy cappuccino.

The Denver Zoo also celebrates Kwanzaa beginning at 5 pm on December 26 plus a Zoo Year's Eve party that begins at 5:30 pm on December 31 with festivities leading to an early 9 pm countdown to the New Year.

Ticket prices for members on members' Zoo Lights preview night and throughout Zoo Lights are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$2 for children ages 3-11. For more information on Zoo Lights, call the Denver Zoo at 303-376-4800.

Rose Medical Center

Community Chanukah Celebration

Free and open to the public

Sunday, December 10, 2006 11 am – 3 pm

HealthONE Rose Medical Center is organizing one of Denver's largest annual community Chanukah celebrations. Chanukah is a festival of dedication and a time to celebrate our many freedoms. In addition to embracing and building community, Rose will be dedicating its new medical office building, the Rose Founders Building, to the hospital's founders. This year's community Chanukah celebration includes the Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado Entertainment Tent featuring performances by Steve Brodsky (of Mah Tov) and Friends, the Borscht Brothers, Los Lantzman, the Kaplanskiy, and children's choirs from local Jewish day schools, including Herzl/RMHA Lower School and Denver Academy of Torah.

The celebration includes music, traditional Chanukah food, storytelling, carnival games and children's arts and crafts in the Melvin and Elaine Wolf Foundation Activities Tent. The event is open to all members of the community. Admission, food and all activities are free as the celebration is a gift to the community from Rose Medical Center Rose Activities will be in the Founders Building Parking Lot at 9th Avenue and Dahlia. For more information, call 303.320.2819 or visit [www.jewishcolorado.org/events](http://www.jewishcolorado.org/events).

Sunday, December 10 from 12 - 3pm

Stapleton Kids Corner Holiday Open House

Stapleton Kids Corner, a newly organized cooperative effort of four family-owned and youth-oriented businesses in the southeast corner of Quebec Square, invites families to their first Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 10 from 12:00-3:00pm. Participants in the Stapleton Kids Corner Open House include Lollilocks, Mike Giles Karate, Baby Power & Forever Kids, and Colorado Contemporary Dance Academy. Together, these merchants offer everything from kids' haircuts and styling, to Singing Chef classes, to hip-hop dancing and Tae Kwon Do.

During the Holiday Open House, each participating merchant will open their doors for a festive holiday party, featuring crafts, singing, dancing, holiday hair teasers, gym time, and even an appearance from Santa. Parents are invited to enjoy tasty morsels from local restaurants while looking through their holiday goodie bags (courtesy of local stores). So load up the family sleigh and head over to the Stapleton Kids Corner in Quebec Square to take part in this first ever holiday celebration.

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# A Closer Look — Angie Rivera-Malpiede

## Executive Director, Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association

Angie Rivera-Malpiede is absolutely relentless in her drive to make it convenient for commuters to drive less. Since being named the first executive director of the Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association in July of 2002, Angie has worked tirelessly to provide Stapleton area residents with information about public transportation, carpooling and other alternatives to traveling in single occupant vehicles. She developed one of the Denver region's first bilingual transportation guides and a bilingual interactive website ([www.stapletontma.org](http://www.stapletontma.org)) to promote alternative transportation and provide helpful information such as transportation maps, bus schedules from the Regional Transportation District (RTD) and information about bike routes, as well as assistance in arranging carpooling through the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). Angie has also been an energetic supporter of the Denver region's annual Bike to Work Day.

In her efforts to promote public transportation, Angie Rivera-Malpiede has played a key role in breaking new ground to expand the opportunities for commuters to obtain easy access to bus schedules and purchase bus passes. She worked with RTD and King Soopers and Wal-Mart to develop the first RTD kiosks to be placed in their stores. The RTD kiosk in Stapleton's King Soopers is the most heavily used in the region.

Angie places a special focus on helping employers and employees solve their transportation needs. Under her guidance in 2003, the Stapleton Area TMA worked with RTD to create a Master Eco Pass Program for Quebec Square, the Quebec Street hotels, the King Soopers in Stapleton's East 29th Avenue Town Center, Forest City and the Stapleton



Angie Malpiede, Executive Director of the Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association

Foundation, as well as the Stapleton Development Corporation and Bluff Lake Nature Center. Her efforts received a national honor when the Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association was named by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency as one of the "Best Workplaces for Commuters District" in the nation.

"The Stapleton TMA has given me an amazing opportunity to make an impact on my community," says Angie, who also serves as the Co-chair for the RTD Citizens Advisory Committee for the FasTracks regional expansion of rail transportation. "As a Denver resident, it has truly been an honor to be involved with this important effort."

Prior to being named the executive director of the Stapleton TMA, Angie served as the director of public relations and development for the Mi Casa Resource Center for Women. Her previous professional experience also includes her role as the public affairs coordinator for the Rocky Mountain News and the development director for the Denver Victims Service Center. Angie has two daughters, Karly, a Denver staff member for U.S. Congresswoman Diana DeGette, and Jennifer, a senior at the Denver School of the Arts. In her free time, Angie loves to travel to Italy and Mexico (particularly the Caribbean side), as well as historic places in Europe. Few people know that she comes from a musical background and once played guitar in an all-female Mariachi group. She is a former voice major who also enjoys her work in theatre.

*A Closer Look is a regular feature of The Front Porch that turns a spotlight on people who make a special contribution to the quality of life in the Greater Stapleton Area.*

## Westerly Creek Students Name Police Horse

Denver Police Officer Trista Turney shows Westerly Creek students the newest member of the Mounted Patrol. The students will name the horse.



## Odyssey Students View "Mercury Transit"



On November 8th, Mercury passed between the Earth and the Sun – and Odyssey students were out with parent and amateur astronomer Rick Bieser looking through telescopes to observe the event. The planet was visible as a tiny black dot moving slowly across the Sun. Though the entire transit took five hours, students were able to observe changes in its position against the Sun by watching for just a few minutes.

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## New Pediatrics Office to Open at Stapleton



Pediatricians Brandon Davison-Tracy (left) and Noah Makovsky raise their arms to mimic the sculptures of children built into their new medical facility in the E. 29th Avenue Town Center.

Pediatricians Noah Makovsky and Brandon Davison-Tracy will be opening “Stapleton Pediatrics” in January 2007. Both are assistant professors of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and have over 15 years of combined experience. Notably, Dr. Noah was just named one of “5280’s Top Doctors,” and recently Dr. Brandon received the University of Colorado’s Young Teacher of the Year Award. “As parents ourselves, we understand how important your child’s health is, while at the same time realizing

how anxiety-provoking seeking health care can be,” stated Dr. Brandon. The building’s unique architecture was designed by M.O.A. and was created to be a fun and welcoming environment for kids, as well as being a beautiful and dramatic addition to the Stapleton community. Because this is the first pediatric medical building in the neighborhood, they hope that it will not only serve the children, but the entire community as well. Call 303-399-7900 for more information or to make an appointment.

## Hey Kids! Join Micro Moo as She Travels the World

Photo courtesy of United Airlines

My name is Mua Mua (pronounced Moo-ay Moo-ay) Holstein and I’m a Micro Moo from the Denver Cow Parade. On November 17, I took off from DIA on an United airplane headed for Beijing, which is the first stop of my journey around the world. I have never been on an airplane and I have been excited to travel around the world, visiting new people and places as well as learning about new cultures.

Globetrotting will be exciting. I really want to share my travel experiences with all of you. So I’ve set up a travel blog for anyone to visit to learn more about all the places I’m going. Through this travel blog, you can talk to me and all my new friends from United Airlines who will take me around their amazing cities and teach me about where they live. I will post journal entries and photos to share my adventures.

Please visit me weekly at [www.micromuamua.com](http://www.micromuamua.com) to learn about the cities I visit beginning on November 17. Due to the holidays, I will not travel



United Airlines’ traveling cow, Mua Mua

during the week of Christmas as I want to go home to visit my parents Buttercup and Fred. Otherwise, you can send me messages every week and ask me questions. Don’t miss out on the travel fun. Each new place will be a surprise and you can submit your “guess” as to where I’m going next on the blog too.

Moms and Dads, your school-age children will learn a great deal about the world from my travel blog. I look forward to reading and answering all of your questions.

- Mua Mua

## Because You See... Art Magnetism

By Kathy Epperson

Stapleton resident Cassie Moskowitz has achieved through her Because You See... home-based business what most entrepreneurial moms only dream about. Her primary product, Art Magnetism, was originally conceived in the summer of 1993 while studying art history in Italy but did not come to life until she was on maternity leave 4 years ago with her first child. “I realized that I had never been introduced to art as a child, and I wanted to create a product that would allow my children to grow up with art,” Cassie says. “Art Magnetism gives parents a way to introduce their children to famous works of art, color, composition and artistic style. Parents can open up a whole new world to their children while playing.”

Starting with a famous masterpiece as the foundation, Cassie selects certain elements and objects to remove from the original image and turns them into moveable magnetic pieces. A child can explore each element individually, recreate

the work of art, or move the pieces to create his or her own individual masterpiece. The Art Magnetism line currently consists of works by Vincent van Gogh, Edgar Degas, Georges Seurat and August Macke. Cassie hopes to add another 3-4 masterpieces to the product line in the coming year.

Though Cassie continues to work as the marketing director of a local law firm and parent her two daughters, Maisie (age 4) and Willa (age 2), along with husband Adam, she has made remarkable progress with her product line. “The response has been amazing and very emotionally rewarding,” Cassie says. “Art Magnetism has been featured in The Metropolitan Museum of Art magazine, momready.com and Museum Tour. They are used in hundreds of Montessori schools across the nation, and Oprah expressed interest in featuring them on the ‘O list’ in O Magazine.” Cassie sells her Art Magnetism products online and in over 200 museum gift stores, specialty toy stores (such as Red Carpet Baby in Denver), and art supply stores.

The biggest challenge for Cassie is staying focused on her already successful business. “As a parent, you realize that there are so many things you wish existed,” she says, “and I want to create something new every week.” She is proud of her creation and enjoys seeing her Art Magnetism toys in museums and local stores when she travels. “I think I created a really original and innovative toy that does not require batteries or make any noise, which is important in our house.”

For more information, visit online at [www.becauseyousee.com](http://www.becauseyousee.com) or email [becauseyousee@aol.com](mailto:becauseyousee@aol.com). Art Magnetism is priced at \$14 each or \$50 for a set of 4, plus shipping (free delivery to Stapleton customers).



Cassie Moskowitz and her daughter Maisie enjoy rearranging a Van Gogh painting.

## Front Porch

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### Help Wanted

The Front Porch is looking for an outgoing, organized person with basic computer skills to contact advertisers and maintain an ad database.

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# Real Estate Corner

Information of interest from local real estate professionals

## Will Finishing My Basement Pay Off?

By Shana Lurie

Stapleton homeowners commonly ask about how finishing the basement will affect the resale value of their homes. Since finishing your basement is generally an expensive proposition, most people would like to know in advance what to expect when they go to sell their home.

According to a recent survey by the National Association of Realtors, home sellers in the West recouped an average of 108% of the actual cost of finishing the basement. “That’s great,” you say, “but how does Stapleton compare?” In most cases, Stapleton homeowners have been able to recoup their investment, as long as they followed a few simple guidelines:

1. *Keep the finishes up to par with the rest of the house.* As with the rest of the house, most buyers in Stapleton prefer, and are willing to pay for, a high level of finish. Don’t cut corners. Expect to invest some money.
2. *Keep the layout simple.* A simple layout will have the broadest appeal when you go to sell your home. Make sure you include a bedroom and a bathroom with at least a shower.
3. *Be careful about the money you invest in a home theater.* We have found that homeowners may not get a 100% return on investment here, so make sure you



Shana Lurie

plan to enjoy it yourself if you decide to put in a home theater. Also, be aware that moving the mounted plasma display is difficult (and costly), and many sellers find they prefer to avoid the hassle and end up leaving the plasma display in the home. Consider putting your plasma display on a stand.

4. *Hire professionals.* Now is not necessarily the best time to learn about home improvement. If you want to do some of it yourself, you should consider at least hiring licensed electricians and plumbers. Finished basements that look “homemade” do not garner the same price. Be sure to get the proper permits. Not only will you be following the law, it saves you a lot of hassles when you go to sell.

Keep in mind that each home is unique. As such, in order to determine your own home’s value, seek the advice of a professional REALTOR who can provide you with an individualized property valuation.

*Shana Lurie is a Realtor, licensed attorney (inactive) and Stapleton resident. She works as a team with her husband Richard at New Avenues Real Estate Offices in Stapleton’s East 29th Avenue Town Center. You can reach her directly at 303-946-9662.*

## Boost College Savings With A 529 Plan

College costs are high - and they’re going up. So if you’re a parent with young children, when should you start saving? How about today?

It’s never too soon to start saving for college. Consider the numbers: For the 2000-2001 school year, the average cost for tuition, fees, room and board at a four-year private college is \$22,541 per year, according to the College Board. For a four-year public school, the corresponding cost is \$8,470 per year. If college costs rise just 4 percent a year for the next 18 years, today’s newborns will face a four-year bill of about \$194,000 for an average private college and \$73,000 for an average public school.

Those are big numbers, but you can make them more manageable if you start saving early. One of the better savings vehicles you have available is a 529 plan, named after the portion of the IRS code authorizing these accounts.

You can establish a 529 plan for your children or grandchildren, and you can choose from two types of this plan:

**Prepaid tuition programs** — In a prepaid tuition plan, you buy future tuition credit - at today’s prices - at an in-state public school.

**Savings plans** — Under these plans, your earnings are not taxed as they accumulate. Qualified withdrawals are federal-ly income tax free.

Of the two arrangements, the savings plan is far more popular because it doesn’t restrict students to certain colleges in specific states as does the prepaid tuition plan. In other words, you can invest in any state’s plan. Also, you’ll receive several other significant benefits, including the following:

You can contribute varying dollar amounts. Generally, you can contribute



Natalie Robbins

as little as \$15 per month or, in many cases, up to \$200,000 over the life-time of the 529 plan. Contribution limits vary by state. You may want to consider applicable gift tax rules.

You control withdrawals. If you’re the account owner of the 529 plan, you’ll manage all withdrawals for the life of the account. The stu-

dent doesn’t automatically take control of the assets at the age of majority. You can even change beneficiaries, including another family member, if you choose.

You’ll minimize the initial impact on financial aid awards. Because the money in a 529 plan is held in your name, it won’t significantly jeopardize any federal financial-aid packages your child or grandchild may receive. Financial aid may require students to contribute 35 percent of their assets to pay for school compared to less than 6 percent for parents. Withdrawals, however, are considered income for future applications for financial aid.

The 529 plan offers some important benefits, but make sure you use your plan strictly for college. If you make a withdrawal for anything other than qualified higher-education expenses, you may have to pay taxes and a 10 percent penalty on the earnings. Also, keep in mind that different state plans choose different money managers, so research the organization that’s investing your money.

If you’re satisfied that you’ve found a good 529 plan, give it some careful consideration. It can help you cope with the high costs of higher education.

*This information was provided by Natalie Robbins, a Stapleton resident and an Investment Representative for Edward Jones in the Stapleton area. She may be reached at 303.320.7752 or at [www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com).*

## Temple Micah Brightens Chanukah!

By Elaine Lee

For adults seeking a glimmer of pre-Chanukah enlightenment, Temple Micah recommends its Sunday Shiur discussion on “Chanukah: The Holiday Chameleon,” led by Rabbi Adam Morris at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 at the Denver Campus for Jewish Education, 2450 S. Wabash St. The program is free and open to the greater Denver community.

Kindle first-night candles during a Chanukah/Shabbat Family Service with Rabbi Morris, singer-songwriter David Ross and congregants of Temple Micah. This warm Reform Jewish congregation at 2600 Leyden St., Denver, will delight all ages with a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, directly before the illuminating family-oriented service at 7:00 p.m.

Members and guests are encouraged to bring a festive dish to share — and a chanukiah (9-branched candelabra) to add to the communal glow. Attendees born in December win a birthday blessing just for showing up.

The synagogue is collecting new toys, games, puzzles and books for ages 5-14 through Thursday, Dec. 7. The Micah community’s drive will boost provisions for Chuck’s Kids, which gives gifts annually to about 1400 children needing smiles, among other necessities. Volunteers are sought to sort, wrap and deliver the gifts. Micah’s Social Action Committee urges people to pledge at least an hour this year in helping with collections of food, toys and children’s books, by donating blood or by supporting home-building projects for people without adequate shelter. “When you give an hour of time, chances are you’ll realize that you can do more,” says Howard Belon.

To learn more about Temple Micah, contact Elaine Lee, public relations coordinator and office manager, 303-388-4239, [office@micahdenver.org](mailto:office@micahdenver.org), or visit <http://www.micahdenver.org>.

## Holiday Shopping Supports Cancer Foundation

Allison Saltzer created “Swanky Swag” to not only help busy Stapleton women get their Christmas shopping done easily, but also to raise money for Breast Cancer

research, prevention and awareness. “Since people are so busy, I thought it would be convenient if there was a place close by where they could make a private appointment to do holiday shopping — and they could help raise money for a good cause at the same time.” Allison created a private boutique in her unfinished basement where she features designer gift items at discounted prices and donates 10% of her net proceeds to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Allison has raised funds for charitable causes in the past, including donating



\$35,000 for an underprivileged youth program in Chicago. “I had gotten away from volunteering for about a decade and I really missed it. I thought this would give me a great opportunity to get back into it.” Allison

works full time for

Microsoft Corporation, and Microsoft offers a charitable donation match for employees of up to \$12,000 annually. “With Microsoft’s generous match, I am excited about the potential to raise up to \$24,000 for charity.”

Allison can be reached at [SwankySwag@hotmail.com](mailto:SwankySwag@hotmail.com) to make a private appointment to see Swanky Swag at her home, which includes designer items at discount prices and the unique Beijo Bags ([www.BeijoBags.com](http://www.BeijoBags.com)) which are exclusively sold through home-based consultants.

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M.C.A. News

Holiday Lights

December at Stapleton is truly a magical experience. The community and Town Center come alive with abundant holiday lights that illuminate Founders' Green and the 29th Town Center with thousands of lights and decorations that transform it into a wonderful holiday experience. The lighting of Stapleton coincides with the Annual Holiday Lighting Festival that is scheduled to take place in the



Keven Burnett  
Stapleton MCA  
Executive Director

Founders' Green on Sunday, December 3rd. The Holiday tree, which this year will be located in the West Crescent, will be lit at 5:30 pm and will stay lit through the New Year's holiday. Along with our holiday tree and lights there will also be the community Menorah located at Founders Green. We would like to encourage all residents to enjoy the lights, sounds and experiences throughout the holiday season at Stapleton.

Neighborhoods throughout the community are invited to join in with their own holiday lighting displays at their homes, condo, and lofts. Residents are encouraged sign up for the 2006 Stapleton Holiday Lighting contest. This year's contest will be conducted differently than in years past, so please be sure to read all contest information carefully. Any home wishing to be considered in the voting process must register their address online at [www.stapletononline.com](http://www.stapletononline.com) by Friday, December 8th at



should have their lights on and luminaries lit from 6-9 p.m. each night of the week. This year residents will be voting online for their favorite lighting displays, helping the judges pick winners in each category. So we encourage everyone to spend an evening looking at the various entries and vote for their favorites.

- The holiday lighting contest categories include:
- Best Overall Single Family Home (sponsored by CTM)
  - Best Overall Multi-Family Home (sponsored by The Metro Brokers at New Avenues Real Estate Office)
  - The Clark Griswald Award
  - Best Block
  - Front Porch Award (sponsored by Forest City)
- Winners will be posted online at

[www.stapletononline.com](http://www.stapletononline.com) and also will be recognized in the January edition of the Front Porch. When registering your home for consideration in the contest, please list in which category you want to register. For Best Block category, we need to have the Block Captains register the addresses to be considered.

Happy Holidays!  
*Keven Burnett is the Stapleton MCA Executive Director. He can be reached at the MCA office by phone at 303-388-0724 or by email at [kburnett@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:kburnett@stapletoncommunity.com)*

5:00 p.m. The voting will begin Monday evening, December 11th and continue throughout the week ending on Friday evening December 15th. All participants

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\*Based on a March 2005 report of 2005 billed premium of all Advantage program members.

Harvard Communities and Parkwood Homes in Stapleton Named 2006 Bar Award Finalists

By Sarah Gore  
The Bar Awards are presented by the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver to those who raise the bar and set a new standard of excellence in the home building industry. Judged on overall exterior and interior architectural appeal, creative use of interior space and functionality of the floor plan in relation to the target market, the Tower by Harvard Communities and the Oxford by Parkwood Homes are both one of only five finalists in their corresponding categories. The homes are "built smart" for efficiency, safety, performance and lasting value. Each home meets the stringent energy-saving standards of the Environmental for Living Program (EFL), and is 40 percent more efficient than the average home. Both have model homes, open to the public.

The Tower model is a four-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home with over 3,100 square-feet. Its architecture was inspired by the teapot designed by Michael Graves for Target whose creations have proven there is a mainstream market for contemporary design; neither designs follow tradition-



The Harvard Tower model (above) and the Parkwood Homes' Oxford model both won awards from the Home Builders Assoc. of Metro Denver.



al rules but both are enjoyably functional — it is clear where the tea pours and where to enter the home. The model home is located at 9716 34th Avenue. For more information on the Architect Collection, visit [www.thearchitectcollection.com](http://www.thearchitectcollection.com) or call Sheri Ogilvie at 303.789.4440.

The Oxford model by Parkwood Homes has four bedrooms, four-and-a-half baths and over 3,000 square feet. It is colonial style architecture with an entry foyer flanked by a parlor and formal dining room. The model is located at 2795 Emporia Street. For more information visit [www.parkwoodhomes.com](http://www.parkwoodhomes.com) or call 303.320.4938.

Both models are open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday and noon to 6 p.m. on Monday.

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## Behind the Scenes The People Who Make Stapleton Work

### Elizabeth Garner, Co-Chair, Citizens Advisory Board

Stapleton resident Elizabeth Garner has more than just a layperson's interest in the growth taking place at Stapleton. For the past two years, she has been the "State Demographer" for the State of Colorado.

A Denver native, Elizabeth received her undergraduate degree in business from the University of San Diego. She later received a Masters Degree from Colorado State University, where she is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the field of

Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Elizabeth and her husband Greg moved to Stapleton in 2003. A former board member of Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN), she now serves as the co-chair of the Stapleton Development Corporation's Citizens Advisory Board where she tries to bring a "resident perspective" to deliberations involving a wide range of issues related to the development of Stapleton. She is one of the people committed to the fulfillment of the Stapleton Development Plan, often referred to as "The Green Book." Elizabeth describes Stapleton as "awesome, a great metro area, exactly what I thought a neighborhood would and should be!"

Elizabeth and Greg Garner have two children, a son Jack (6) and a daughter Taylor (8). Elizabeth is a co-leader in the Girl Scouts. Greg, who has also served on the SDC Citizens Advisory Board, has two interesting and very diverse occupations. He is involved in the field of computer technology (search engine optimization) while also operating a business as a guide specializing in hunting trips to Colorado's eastern plains.

### Tammi Terrell Holloway SDC General Counsel

Tammi Holloway chose an unusual major for the undergraduate degree she obtained from Clark Atlanta University prior to entering law school—she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in physics! Tammi once credited her success in that challenging field to the excellent training she received as a student at Denver's East High School.

Today, as the General Counsel for the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC), Tammi provides the non-profit entity that oversees the sale of Stapleton's assets with legal opinions involving real estate sales and leasing activities as she also manages day-to-day in-house legal matters. Tammy is also responsible for monitoring internal compliance with a variety of contractual and legal requirements originating from federal, state and municipal legislation.

Prior to being named an associate attorney for SDC in July 1998, Tammi served as the Corporation's Manager of Community Relations, responsible for communications with key community groups interested and involved in the redevelopment of Stapleton. Tammi's diverse professional experience also includes roles she filled as an engineering associate for General Motors Corporation and a research associate for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. She also served as a liaison to the Assistant Vice Chancellor of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Tammi received her law degree from Cumberland School of Law of Samford University in May of 1995 after earning an undergraduate degree in physics from Clark Atlanta University in 1992. Tammi and her husband Dr. Dwaine Holloway, a chiropractor, have two boys, Breylen (4) and Landen (4 months)



### Angel Hill, Forest City Receptionist



As a native of Denver, Angel Hill enjoys having an up-close vantage point to witness one of the most ambitious redevelopment projects in the history of her city.

About a year-and-a-half ago, Angel came to work at Stapleton after gaining experience as a customer service rep for Qwest. In her role as one of the receptionists in the headquarters office of Forest City Stapleton, Inc., Angel is one of the key front office people at the crossroads of a

steady flow of planners, architects, builders and developers involved in the creation of one of the nation's most widely acclaimed new urban communities.

A graduate of Denver's George Washington High School, Angel plans to move into the field of information technology. She is currently enrolled in College America to pursue a degree in compute technology and networking.

Like most working parents, Angel tries to balance her time at the office with time spent with her family. Angel has a son Keith (6) and daughter Taleeya (2). One of the family's favorite activities is to spend time in the park playing basketball.

### Mark Peternell, Forest City Development

Mark Peternell prefers to work behind the scenes as a Development Associate for Forest City Stapleton, Inc., but he was recently required to step in front of the cameras covering the opening of Main Street at Stapleton's Northfield Retail Center to be acknowledged for his successful role in promoting the "green development" of that retail project. He was also one of the key people responsible for earning a Bronze Environmental Achievement Award from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for Northfield's commitment to the reduction of water use, the promotion of energy savings and the use of renewable energy.

Mark's work on Northfield's Main Street retail resulted in the project securing certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" for the sustainable development features of the "core and shell" development of that retail business district.

A native of a northern suburb of Chicago, Mark graduated from the University of Colorado in 1997 with a degree in Environmental Studies. He also holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration. His goals include becoming a project manager for Forest City.

Mark and his wife Sara spend their free time in outdoor activities that include white water kayaking and skiing. The couple lives in a 1900 era home with their ten year old dog, Amber.



# Season's Greetings

We have a lot to be thankful for during the holidays because of you, our friends and neighbors. It is a pleasure to serve this community. *Enjoy the season.*



**Natalie Robbins**  
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# Sustainability at Stapleton

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

## Stapleton Builders Helping Define National “Green” Standard for Homes

Four residential builders at Stapleton are currently participating in the U. S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Homes Pilot Project. The four Stapleton builders – Harvard Communities, McStain Neighborhoods, New Town Builders and Infinity Home Collection – are the only production homebuilders participating in the pilot program in Colorado.

“By participating in the pilot program our builders have the opportunity to help define the LEED-Homes national standard,” said Melissa Knott, Stapleton Director of Sustainability. Because of Stapleton’s focus on sustainability and Forest City’s history of supporting the builders in producing high performance homes and utilizing green building techniques - to qualify for the Colorado Built Green standard and now the new Energy Star standards - participation in this pilot program is a natural next step. “LEED-Homes is breaking new ground in the residential market by developing this

important tool for builders ... we hope to position Stapleton to be among the first communities in the country to adopt this standard. Being a part of the LEED-H pilot program helps us start to make this goal a reality.”

Stapleton is the only development in the country with multiple homebuilders participating in the pilot program.

LEED for Homes (LEED-H) is a voluntary initiative currently under development to actively promote the transformation of the mainstream home building industry towards more sustainable practices. LEED-H will provide a much-needed tool for homebuilders, homeowners, and local governments for building environmentally sound, healthy, and resource-efficient places to live.

Based on the lessons learned from the pilot program, the USGBC hopes to roll out the final LEED-H program in June 2007. For more information, visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

## Where to Find Your Stapleton Farmers Market Vendors

Did you know that you can get some of your favorite items from the Stapleton Farmers Market this time of year? Many of the vendors can be found throughout the city at the locations listed below. Enjoy!

**Bavarian Sausage Express** will be at the Christkindl Market (an authentic German Christmas market) in the Cherry Creek Shopping Center Courtyard behind Elway’s from November 24-December 22.

**Ted the Fish Guy** takes phone orders and arranges deliveries for wild Alaskan salmon, wild Alaskan halibut, Alaskan king crab and much more! Call Ted at 303-456-6272 or email him at [redski7@hotmail.com](mailto:redski7@hotmail.com) for more information.

**Biker Jim’s Gourmet Dogs** is usually downtown at 16th and Arapahoe. You can also check out his website at [www.bikerjimsgourmet.com](http://www.bikerjimsgourmet.com).

**Adagio Baking Company** is located in the Park Hill neighborhood about 2 miles west of Stapleton at 4628 E. 23rd Ave. Call (303)388-0904 for directions and hours.

**Pasta Bella** has a new store location at 345 S. Colorado Boulevard which features Pappardelles pasta on Saturday’s from 9-6. Call 303-322-5504 or e-mail [pastabellallc@aol.com](mailto:pastabellallc@aol.com) for more information.

**Perri’s Gourmet Beef Jerky** sells products online at [www.yummyfoods.biz](http://www.yummyfoods.biz) and at a new retail store, Perri’s GoGo Gourmet, located at 8795 Sheridan Boulevard in the Rocky Mountain Shopping Center at the southwest corner of 88th Avenue & Sheridan Boulevard.

The **Colorado Honey Company’s** honey can be found at Perri’s GoGo Gourmet, 8795 Sheridan Boulevard.

**Amber Bath** will have products at the Crème de la Chrome 10th annual car show at the National Western Complex November 24-26, at the Mile Hi Church Art Show on December 2. Call 303-641-2227 for more information.

## Recycling in Stapleton is Changing!

By Charlotte Pitt,  
Denver  
Recycles/Solid Waste  
Management

In an effort to make recycling easier for you, and at the request of some of your neighbors, Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Solid Waste Management, is moving recycling collection to the alley throughout Stapleton. Effective immediately you should place your recycling cart in the alley, directly behind your home, on your collection day. Your recycling collection day will not change.

Please follow the directions that you received in the mail or by viewing your address specific information on the Denver Recycles website. The instructions above are applicable to most residents in Stapleton, however, there are a few exceptions. For residents who live on Central Park Boulevard and have dead-end alleys, please pull your cart to the primary north/south alley. Denver Recycles trucks are unable to maneuver into a dead-end alley. Also, for residents who do not have an alley, collection will remain at the curb.

### Reminders:

- Carts must be placed behind your property in the alley.
- Do not block access to your neigh-



Make sure there is at least four feet of space on either side of your cart.

bor’s property.

- Make sure there is at least four feet of space on either side of your cart.
- Set recycling out no later than 7 a.m.
- Carts must be returned to your property on non-

collection days. Carts left in the alley invite unwanted scavengers into your neighborhood and invite trash contamination in the recycling.

- Please recycle only the acceptable materials. For a complete list, see your cart lid, the brochure that accompanied your cart on delivery day, or visit our web site at [www.denvergov.org/denverrecycles](http://www.denvergov.org/denverrecycles). Placing unacceptable items in your recycle cart may result in an entire load being rejected.

If your sub-association has concerns about recycling cart storage, please contact Denver Recycles to work together to identify appropriate places to locate carts.

**Recycling is important. Since the City of Denver switched from bins to carts, Denver Recycles has measured a 24% increase in the amount of materials collected.**

Please call us at 3-1-1 or e-mail us at [denverrecycles@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:denverrecycles@ci.denver.co.us) with any questions you might have or with suggestions on how we might serve you better.

## Sustainability Tip – LED Holiday Lights

Did you know that replacing standard holiday lights with Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights reduces energy use by 90%?

LEDs generally are more expensive initially, but they are a clear winner over incandescent C7 lights when you compare the cost to purchase and operate a system for five years. Costs can vary substantially by color because, rather than painted bulbs, the color is produced by the chemical make-up of the bulb. Because LEDs use less energy, you can also connect more strings together

end-to-end without overloading an electrical circuit. Look for them when you are shopping for holiday lights this year!

For more information on LED Holiday Lights, see the December issue of New Leaf at [www.stapletondenver.com/sustainability/newleaf/](http://www.stapletondenver.com/sustainability/newleaf/).



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# Family Kicks

By Mike and Karen Giles  
Mike Giles Family Karate

# Teachable Moments

by Tom Downey  
Children's Museum of Denver



## Gift Giving That Lasts a Lifetime

The holidays are here again, an exciting time for children, a hectic time for parents, and just a great excuse for some time off for others. For most it's time to buy those toys that break, cool electronic gadgets, brand new cars, beautiful holiday attire, musical decorations, Christmas trees, candles and tasty turkey dinners. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, or none of the above, we'd all agree that all of these items, no matter when they are brought into our lives will only last a short while.

As our children get a little older, and more expensive, we realize that buying quality gifts that last longer, makes more sense. One lifetime gift, music, in the form of an instrument or singing lessons, will help develop bi-lateral thinking as your child learns how to move his fingers and read music. Bi-lateral thinking can be important in the case of an emergency, if your child has to respond to a stressful situation. Singing can help develop a child's sense of hearing, and tone recognition, which again can be very important in an emergency situation, where a child has to distinguish sounds. Creative activities, such as the many forms of dance and art can also be a lifetime gift, developing a child's thought process, intricate movements and eye-hand coordination.

What lifetime gift could martial arts possibly give a child? Is it to teach them to always be aggressive and fight their way through life? That's what some parents believe. But actually the martial arts gives your child a sense of awareness of his environment, which could save his life, manners and respect for himself and others, a sense of pride and confidence in his abilities to accomplish his goals in life, and the never-give-up attitude we all need throughout our lifetime. Their physical and mental abilities are challenged each day, empowering, yet humbling them, so that they are able to appreciate what they have and what they will have in the future.

I know we all work hard everyday to make sure our children get the best in life, but we should also make sure that their environment is the best. Make sure your children have a positive, nurturing, motivating and fun experience in what ever endeavor they choose by monitoring the results. You can always give the cool Elmo, Nintendo DS, the Bratz and Barbie collection, a cool fire engine or if you're brave, a cell phone. But if you really want something that won't break or get lost, consider the gift of martial arts. Studies show the qualities learned actually do last a lifetime.

*Mike and Karen Giles own Mike Giles Family Karate in Stapleton's Quebec Square at 7505 E. 35th Avenue across from the United Air Lines Flight Training Center. Call (303) 377-KICK for more information or visit [www.mikegileskarate.com](http://www.mikegileskarate.com).*



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*Barb Martens, Pastor*  
*Michelle Sisk, Stapleton Outreach*



## The Holiday Season

The holiday season is upon us, and often the tension of errands and travel overtakes the joy of these celebrations. It's easy to understand why families find it difficult to maintain regular routines this time of year, whether it is the interruption of a short ride to run an errand or a long road trip to see the in-laws. And while it's hard to avoid the drudgery of holiday madness, you can take advantage of this extra time spent in the car and in shopping lines and maybe even experience some holiday magic yourself.

When standing in a checkout line, see if your child can count the number of different types of gum or sodas that are in the aisle. For older children, use this experience to work on reading labels. Another great learning opportunity is to teach your child about money. Allow your child to count your dollar bills while standing in line and let them give the cashier your payment. This enhances not only number skills, but also helps to develop social and daily living skills.

Time spent in the car is a great learning opportunity for children of all ages. If your toddler likes trucks, look for trucks as you drive along and see who can yell out "truck" first. Or listen to what your toddler says and repeat their words, adding new words or rhyming with words they say. These games help children learn to watch carefully and to categorize. When driving by a stoplight or street signs, ask your preschooler to name the colors and shapes they see. You can also utilize this time to talk about your child's day. It helps to ask specific questions ("Did you color a picture in school today?" or "Did you play outside on the slide?") rather than general ones ("How was your day?") because they are easier for young children to answer. This will help prompt your child to talk about past experiences which enhances memory. You can also talk with your child about where you are going in the future ("We are going to the grocery store on the way home") to help him or her develop thinking and planning skills.

Parents have hundreds of these "teachable moment" opportunities everyday with their kids. Some are obvious, and some take a bit of explanation. Now, thanks to incredible research and efforts by Civitas, the Ad Council and United Way of America, these Born Learning Techniques are available to parents in simple forms. Nationally, they are promoting the Born Learning concept through public service announcements and a wonderful website: [bornlearning.org](http://bornlearning.org). Here in Colorado, Mile High United Way, Anna Jo Haynes of Mile High Montessori, the Children's Museum and others have partnered to spread the Born Learning concept in our community.

*Tom Downey is the Executive Director of the Children's Museum of Denver, [tomd@cmdenver.org](mailto:tomd@cmdenver.org). He lives at Stapleton with his wife, Lori Fox, and daughters Cate and Ella.*

## Stapleton Merchants —

## PostNet



Matt Richards, general manager, works with his father, Dennis Richards, owner of the PostNet in the East 29th Avenue Town Center.

For owner Dennis Richards, the decision to start the PostNet business, located in Stapleton's 29th Ave. Town Center, was a family one. Dennis had worked as an executive in the rail transportation industry for many years and left after a series of contract buy-outs. After a brief venture working in residential development, Dennis decided to look at franchise opportunities. "After some research," Dennis says, "I decided that my interest really was in a franchise that offered business support services, and I felt that PostNet offered the broadest range of services in this area."

After discussing the decision with his family, Dennis and his wife decided to locate their new business in Stapleton. Their son Matt is the general manager of the store, strengthening their business as a family operation. "That's really been special, without question," Dennis says. "This was an opportunity for him to learn about running and owning a business – that was by design. That's also my exit strategy!"

PostNet offers a range of services, including a full-service copy and print shop and the capability to do blueprints, signs, posters and banners, business cards, stationery, business forms, stickers, labels, flyers, brochures, and custom printing and design. A full range of finishing services are available, including binding, lamination, cutting, folding, stapling, and booklet making. In addition to offering private mailbox rentals, they also offer professional packaging and shipping services with all major carriers, including UPS, FedEx, DHL and the USPS. PostNet will offer a holiday discount of \$2.00 off any packaging service and \$3.00 off any UPS or FedEx Air shipments from November 27 to December 31.

PostNet is located at 7476 E. 29th Ave., across from the fountains in the 29th Ave. Town Center. Phone is 303-321-3646. Hours are Monday – Friday from 8:00am-6:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am-3:00pm. Closed Sunday. Email is [CO137@postnet.com](mailto:CO137@postnet.com).





## Keeping Pets Healthy

by Steve Rubin, D.V.M.  
Banfield The Pet Hospital

### How To Prevent Ear Infections in your Dog or Cat

Ear infections in dogs and cats are very common problems. In young cats, mites are often the cause. In dogs, allergies, or the structure of their ears is often the problem. Also, many people bath their dogs in anticipation of the holidays: if you don't dry your dog's ears, then the potential for an ear infection rises. Wet ears are also a problem for hunting dogs and dogs that enjoy recreational swimming at local reservoirs and parks.

In young cats, we should all pay attention to debris seen in the outer ear. The simplest and best solution is simply to visit your local veterinarian. Our vet will let you know if they suspect ear mites, bacteria, or yeast, and then they will show you how to clean your cat's ears and then apply an appropriate medication. Left alone, your cat's infected ears will only become more irritated and the infection will become worse and harder to control.

With dogs, certain breeds are simply more prone to ear infections: retrievers and cocker spaniels are good examples. Nevertheless, you can still control the outbreak of infections with regular ear cleanings. Also, an individual's personal resistance to ear infections will vary whether or not he or she is a susceptible breed; just being a cocker spaniel is not a certainty of chronic ear infections.

Dogs can also manifest ear infections due to allergies. If an allergy can be controlled simply through basic, over-the-counter medications, then you're in luck. With simple cleaning and inexpensive medications available at the local drug store, chronic ear infections causing pain and discomfort can be avoided. Occasionally though, greater effort is needed to control allergies and associated ear infections. Blood testing or intradermal skin testing (such as would be done by your allergist) may be required, followed by allergy shots. Often this leads to allergy control and control of ear infections that are closely related.

Hormone problems in dogs can also lead to chronic and possibly severe ear infections. For example, if thyroid levels are low—and they commonly are in middle-aged to older dogs—then thyroid supplementation will be an integral part of controlling ear infections. This is very simple to do: you give a small, inexpensive pill twice a day. Your veterinarian will supply these, and perform regular blood tests to determine if the dose is correct.

Whether you have a dog or cat, the most important thing to know is how to properly apply ear cleaner and medications. Your veterinarian will show you the proper way to do this. More than anything, failure to properly administer the medications is the most common cause of chronic ear infections. Again, a simple visit to your local veterinarian will help you determine the likely cause and then cure for chronic ear infections in your dog or cat.

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

## Dental Tips for Tots

by Jesse Witkoff, DDS  
A Wild Smile Pediatric Dentistry



### How to Keep Decay at Bay

Did you know that the number one reason why children have unplanned absences from school is due to dental emergencies? In May 2001, the office of the Surgeon General released its first ever report on oral health in American. The findings revealed that...a) tooth decay is the single most chronic childhood disease and b) millions of school hours are lost each year to dental related diseases. So how can we help our children avoid dental problems? Just follow these easy guidelines and make dental health an enjoyable habit in your household:

1. Brush and floss 2x's per day. Starting this routine at the earliest age possible is the key to this becoming an assumed habit in life rather than a struggle to conquer. Begin as soon as the first tooth erupts (about 6 months of age) by massaging the gums with an "infadent" or finger toothbrush. If your child is beyond this age and you haven't started this routine, don't worry, it's never too late. Set the example yourself as our children love to mirror us. Flossing can begin at the age of 3-4 in order to institute the behavior as a habit. You can make it fun by using "animal flossers" and singing a funny song while teaching your child to floss.
2. Visit a dentist regularly for semi-annual check-ups, cleanings and preventative care. Preventative dentistry means a healthy smile for your child. Children with healthy mouths chew more easily and gain more nutrients from the foods they eat. They learn to speak more quickly and clearly. They have a better chance of general health, because disease in the mouth can endanger the rest of the body. Preventative dentistry means less extensive, and less expensive, treatment for your child.
3. Keep frequent snacking down to a minimum. The basic element where decay begins is from carbohydrates left on the teeth. Carbohydrates include more than just sticky candy. Decay may begin from breads, juice, or even fruits. We are not recommending giving up these great healthy foods, just limiting snacking to twice a day and follow up with a cup of water. This will lower the chances of bacteria growth and wash away unwanted "cavity bugs."
4. Have sealants applied to your child's molars as soon as the permanent molars erupt. Sealants are a plastic coating painted on the chewing surfaces of the molars to protect this statistically common location of decay. If you don't have insurance, the act of having these placed acts as an "insurance policy" against decay of its own. So you can't lose.

Good luck. Before you know it, your child will be making this great dental behavior as habitual as eating and sleeping.

*Dr. Jesse Witkoff's and Dr. Julie Vuong's pediatric dental practice, A Wild Smile, is located in the 29th Avenue Town Center. For more information call 720-945-1234 or visit their website at [www.jessewitkoffdds.com](http://www.jessewitkoffdds.com)*

## Making the Holidays a Little Easier

### Thomas Bros. Coffee & Chai



Cheryl Hughes, manager of Thomas Bros. Coffee and Chai shows holiday gift ideas from their store.

Sam Thomas, owner of Thomas Bros. Coffee and Chai in Quebec Square, is on a mission. Sam is passionate about serving his customers the highest quality coffee and chai in "Stapleton's neighborhood coffee shop." "A good percentage of our customers appreciate that we are organic and fair trade," Sam says, "but the rest we are educating and introducing to the qualities and points why it is important."

Thomas Bros. serves gourmet coffees, espressos, and chai lattes, as well as panini sandwiches, bagels and pastries. Their most popular drink is their chai latte, a traditional Indian drink Sam makes using an authentic recipe of black

tea imported from his native India, plus milk, spices and cane sugar. Sam says this heavenly concoction they are known for is not overly sweetened as what traditionally has been offered in the U.S. market.

While Sam already works only with organic, certified fair trade suppliers, he eventually wants to have closer relationships with the actual growers. Soon he also hopes to implement a program of giving a percentage of his profits back to coffee and tea growing regions in India, Africa and South America. His first charitable focus will be on the orphanage in southern India created and run by his Christian missionary parents that is home to over 40 orphaned girls. "It's more than just a commercial enterprise," Sam says. "We believe in giving back."

Previously employed as a customer service agent and manager for United and then as the general manager in Denver for Jet Blue Airways, Sam enjoys creating a business that is an active member of the community. To "connect with the community as more than just a local coffee place," Sam offers free wi-fi and a computer workstation as well as live music on Saturday mornings from 9:30-11:30am. He plans poetry readings and open-mic nights soon.

For the holidays, Thomas Bros. also offers prepackaged gifts ranging from \$20-\$40, including options such as organic coffee beans, organic chocolates, coffee mugs and prepaid gift cards. Their chai drink is not ready to be bottled just yet, but Sam plans to make that available.

Visit Thomas Bros. Coffee and Chai in Quebec Square at 7505 E. 35th Ave, #395, on the southwest corner of the building where PetSmart is located. Hours are Monday-Friday from 6:00am-6:00pm, Saturday from 7:00am-6:00pm, and Sunday from 8:00am-4:00pm. Call 303-399-7334.



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## Year in Review

by Mike King, SUN President

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

In the past 12 months, SUN has:

- Worked aggressively with Forest City, the MCA, and the City of Denver to (1) iron out growing pains with our parks, pools, traffic flow, and builders, and (2) proactively engage in planning for the continued growth and development of Stapleton;
- Co-hosted with CAB a series of public forums to ensure open communications between neighbors and key leaders in government and Forest City/Stapleton, including the Recreation Center Forum and the recent Havana Town Center Forum that garnered input from residents and stakeholders through the effective use of focus groups;
- Acted as “convener” and/or mediator of dialogue and information among residents and stakeholders on hot topics, including the greenbelt water retention ponds, the Shurgard facility, Northeast Denver Housing, and other pressing concerns;
- Engaged in neighborhood and regional transportation planning and dialogue, including (1) taking a lead role along with leaders of other RNOs in tackling the tough issues we face in the “Quebec Travel Shed,” such as the pressing need to accommodate more person trips along Quebec, (2) participation in dialogue around planning for FasTracks, (3) potential changes to the I-70 Corridor, and (4) leading ongoing pedestrian and traffic safety issues, such as the need for safe pedestrian access from the current neighborhood to Northfield and other planned amenities north of I-70;
- Hosted a public dialogue with City of Denver transportation planning officials focused on unique challenges presented by the Stapleton development;
- Established a first-of-its kind neighborhood-wide safety program, including obtaining and publishing our neighborhood’s quarterly crime statistics and continually training neighbors in the Denver Police Department’s Neighborhood Watch Program, resulting in certification of over 33 blocks so far;
- Requested and obtained women’s safety classes for residents provided by the DPD and the Police Academy, and organized grass-roots lobbying efforts to increase resources for safety at the Stapleton, District 2, and citywide levels;
- Made progress toward implementation of a “Cop Shop” at both Northfield and Quebec Square to provide increased law enforcement presence and deter crime;
- Organized our second annual neighborhood-wide Block Party Day, with over 50 blocks and hundreds of

**S.U.N. Meetings are open to the public**  
Meetings are usually the 4th Thursday of the month in the Stapleton Development Corporation Large Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 7350 E. 29th Ave. There will be no meeting in December.

residents participating in another neighborhood-building event that builds on the “know your neighbor” tenets of Community Policing and Neighborhood Watch;

- Hosted our third annual Neighborhood Kickball Tournament, attracting 12 teams and over 200 participants in this neighborhood-building “active living” event;
  - Reached out to surrounding neighborhoods by (1) actively engaging with leaders of our surrounding neighborhoods at Councilman Hancock’s quarterly RNO forums and in the Community Roundtable (convened by the Stapleton Foundation), (2) procuring over \$40,000 in grants to build a much-needed new playground at the neighboring Ashley Elementary School and (3) assisting in a citywide “Dictionary Drive” to provide dictionaries for students most in need;
  - Engaged the City of Denver, Forest City, and various stakeholders in hopes of obtaining a public library at Stapleton; and
  - Maintained our SUN newsletter, “The SUN Spot”, as a page in the Front Porch, with plans to send electronic newsletters on an opt-in basis covering interim news.
- SUN could not exist without the donation of countless hours of volunteer time and financial resources from neighbors and stakeholders. We appreciate the continued support of the entire Stapleton community and our friends in our surrounding neighborhoods in working to make Stapleton the very best urban infill development in the nation: an attractive, pedestrian friendly, vibrant, diverse community with a strong neighborhood culture.

## SUN Block Captain Network Reorganized, Reenergized

by Mark Mehringer, SUN Communications Facilitator

Over the past couple of years, SUN Block Captains have been meeting monthly to discuss the top issues facing Stapleton and to plan for SUN events, including Block Party Day and the Kickball Tournament. As Stapleton has grown, so has this Block Captain network. To help accommodate this growth, the SUN Outreach Committee has gradually reorganized itself over the past several months, transitioning from a meeting for all Block Captains, to one for a new group of community leaders - Region Captains. Region Captains will coordinate and meet with Block Captains in their part of Stapleton, continuing the two-way communication channel that the Block Captain network provides SUN. Starting in January, Region Captains will meet on the second Monday of every month. All Block Captains and interested community members will still be welcome and are invited to join. This grassroots network functions best when it involves all of us. To sign up to be a block captain if you don’t already have one for your block, or to learn more, contact SUN Outreach Co-Chairs Susan Hadinger at schading@hotmail or Bill Fulton at civilconversations.org

## Views on the

### What are your unique or



**John Glazer and Mary Ann Reaume**

The perfect gift is always matching the individual’s interests with a unique item. There’s no one perfect gift for all. The thing about a bookstore is that it covers all the topics. And so if you’re looking for the perfect gift, you gotta ask, “What’s this kid interested in?” It could be trucks, it could be princesses, it could be anything. The goal of a parent, friend or relative in buying a book as a present for a kid is to take interests that they already have and match the age-appropriate level of book to their interests. And that pushes the kid further and makes him or her love what they’re doing more — so that makes the perfect gift.



**Lea Meyer**

I always prefer hand-made gifts. And even starting from something that somebody else has begun and adding a hand-made touch, or here at the store (Miss Talulah’s) we have a lot of hand-made items if you’re not in the position or have time to make something. Personally for me it’s a political choice where you’re supporting somebody’s art instead of somebody’s work in a factory.

## SUN Launches New Website and Email List

by Mark Mehringer, SUN Communications Facilitator

By the time you read this article, SUN will have a new web presence, as the website [www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org](http://www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org) will be up and running. This public internet site will allow SUN to communicate more easily with the Stapleton community, as well as surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to a website, SUN will develop an email list and newsletter, to keep Stapleton residents up to date on SUN’s efforts and activities. The non-profit group Civic Canopy, which seeks to increase civic engagement in Colorado by fostering community dialogue and promoting communication and coordination among neighborhoods and other communities and organizations, will host these online services for SUN.

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Street  
creative ideas for gift-giving?

Leah Darling

When giving a gift, I think the most important thing is to remember to keep it personalized. I personally enjoy getting gifts that are old and have already been used but they apply to my life in some way. One idea would be to give flowers in an heirloom vase.



Tim Wieland

Michael, age 2  
Gift ideas for the kids are based on their interests. This year for us it's trains for little Michael and outer space for big Ben.



James Wheeler  
(with Shari Wheeler)

This is the story of the best gift I ever gave.  
I met Shari in the summer of 2002. Times were very difficult in those early days when we had just gotten together. I had just come out of a messy business failure and, as you can imagine, money was tight. At the same time I received an inheritance from my father's sister — two one-carat diamonds that my grandfather had given to my

grandmother in the 1920's. They were very beautiful "mine cut" diamonds that were a link to two people I had never met but were part of my history.  
In the fall of 2005 I married the love of my life and best friend. We really didn't have the money for the typical things that people give each other as a sign of their love and fidelity, such as wedding rings. But with the help of a very good friend (who was also a part time machinist) I was able to fabricate our wedding rings. The ring that I made for myself was fine, and I still wear it today. But the one I made for my wife was rough and not what I imagine she would have wanted (though she would never admit it). I promised her that I would get her a proper engagement and wedding ring one day.

My career took off again soon after we were married. But we spent money on other things such as a house, a car, and things we had done without over the years. The rings were put on a back burner for all the other things in life. I decided that that the only way I could make good on my promise was to secretly siphon off money out of our budget and save towards the rings that I had promised her (though she periodically questioned me about why I couldn't stay within our agreed-upon budget).

A couple years passed before I was able to initiate my plan. I had a hard time trying to find just the ring that I felt would reflect how unique and special Shari is. While looking through a book on classical jewelry design, I found the ring I had been searching for. The only problem was I needed to find someone to make the ring. I took one of the diamonds that I had inherited and I traded it for another diamond that was larger — and the person I traded it to gave me the contact information for a jeweler in California who did custom work. I was able to meet with her while on a business trip and she agreed to design the rings from the picture I had found in the book. The ring was to arrive before our anniversary — which it did. Shari was thrilled and quite surprised. I'm happy that she has a ring that truly reflects her and is an enduring symbol of my love.

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The ABCs of SDC (continued from page 3)

three-fold: Manage the property; Dispose of the property; Be the protector of the Green Book. (There is no legal document for this item as it is an expectation.)

This September the SDC Board held a retreat to focus on where we have been and what we need to focus on in the future. In the past couple of years the SDC Board, with the help of the Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB), has focused on diversity issues and better communication with Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) and the surrounding communities. In the past few months SDC hired a consultant to give the Board a Performance Audit for Principles 2 and 4 of the Green book (these are social equity principles), did a fiscal impact study of the development at Stapleton, and worked with Forest City on drafting a snapshot view of affordable housing at Stapleton.

The Board also reaffirmed its role in looking at the “big picture,” for instance, advocating for a library, the recreation

center, and other community needs. The Board continues to be the advocates for the principles of the Green Book. The Board also recognizes that working with

the community on issues that are important to residents of Stapleton as well as the surrounding community is a pivotal role of the Board. The SDC Board and CAB are also trying to become more visible to the residents of

Stapleton by attending community meetings and gatherings.

The SDC Board welcomes all people to their meetings that generally occur the fourth Thursday of each odd month at 7:30am in the Stapleton offices, located at 7350 E. 29th Ave.

Andy Hamano is Chairman of the Stapleton Development Corporation Board of Directors. Alice Kelly is a member of the SDC Board and Co-Chair of the SDC Citizens Advisory Board.



One of the jobs of the SDC is to be the “Protector of the Green Book,” the principles that guide the development of Stapleton.

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Holiday Wines
Thinking Outside the Box

by Jeff & Carol Carr

The holidays are here and so is the food, glorious food and wine! This is the time of year we turn to the comfort foods, the tried and true recipes that make our family celebrations complete and uniquely our own. Selecting the proper wines to go with a dizzying array of foods and people can be challenging, and if you are like most you will take the path of least resistance and stick with the "usual suspects" – something white (Chardonnay/Riesling) for turkey/white meat and something red (Merlot) for beef/dark meats. Why not shake things up a bit this season and break out some lesser known but no less appreciated wines that will truly complement your holiday menu and may even score some points with your in-laws?

Pairing a great wine with a favorite dish is much like valuing the qualities of a great wait staff at a five star restaurant – subtle and unstuffy, approachable yet not overbearing. For the traditional, straightforward Thanksgiving meal, consider white wines that are relatively light with good acidity like a Fumé Blanc, which is Sauvignon Blanc wine that has been aged for a short period of time in oak. Or consider some of the lesser known whites such as Viognier or Roussanne to impress your guests.

Another classic seasonal choice for any holiday menu is the festive Beaujolais Nouveau. This unique wine arrives every year in the US from France on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. Beaujolais Nouveau is a light, fresh and fruity style of red wine (yes, I said, "Red") that pairs beautifully with turkey, ham or even heartier fare. Beaujolais Nou-

veau is considered a celebratory wine that marks the first wine of the season from the annual harvest, and is produced as a salute to a successful harvest. Beaujolais is a young wine by design, so if you prefer red wine with your roast bird and are looking for a holiday pairing, Beaujolais is the perfect choice. And finally, don't forget the bubbly! Sparkling wine or champagne can be an excellent food pairing for your holiday menu because it is a wonderful palate cleanser and very refreshing during a multi-course dinner.

For the cost conscious, look for Cava, the Spanish equivalent of champagne, with more bubbles for the buck. There are literally thousands of different kinds of wines in the world, so this year think outside the box and try something new with your holiday meal.

Consider these Holiday Wine Selections:

- Garfield Estates Winery – 2005 Fumé Blanc - Colorado —100% Sauvignon Blanc – fermented in oak
- Rosenblum Cellars - 2004 California Côte du Bone Blanc, Château La Paws - California – White blend of Chenin Blanc, Viognier, Roussanne
- Bouchard Aîné & Fils - Beaujolais Nouveau 2006 – France – Holiday classic!
- Cordiniu – Classico Brut – Spain Sparkling Spanish Cava

Carol Carr and her husband, Jeff, are Stapleton residents and the owners of Garfield Estates Vineyard & Winery located in Palisade, Colorado. They can be reached at info@garfieldestates.com, or visit their website at www.garfieldestates.com.



Jeff and Carol Carr, owners of Garfield Estates Winery

Simon Says Read! (continued from page 1)

brought in a lot of color with lighting and paint. Simon Says Read! carries a large inventory that mostly serves kids ages 0-12, including picture books, early readers, non-fiction, bestsellers, and educational toys and games. There is a small adult section with bestsellers and magazines plus a large section focusing on child and family development; special orders can also be made for any book in print. There is a stage at the back of the store for regular story times and other programs. Jon also plans to have puppet shows, crafts, children's musical acts and other fun activities in the near future. "I want the store to be a resource for the

community," Jon says. "I want it to be a place that customers in our community can turn to for support on the challenges of growing strong, smart kids in an increasingly challenging world. I hope the store will help build a sense of community." Simon Says Read! is located at 7349 E. 29th Ave in the Stapleton Town Center. Hours are Monday-Saturday 9 am-7 pm and Sunday 9 am-5 pm. Call 303-333-READ (7323). Teachers and home-schoolers always receive a discount. In January, Jon will hold a grand opening celebration with children's authors and characters.



Tim Wieland reads to his son, Michael, 2, in the reading area at Simon Says Read!

The Season to Be Jolly with Simple Entertaining Ideas

By Rich Marks

'Tis the season to be jolly – or is it? Too many of us are so busy preparing for the season that we hardly enjoy it. While I can't offer suggestions on how to avoid the long lines at the malls, the impossible to read instructions for putting together the latest "must have" toy, or how to avoid receiving yet another brandied fruitcake, I have listed below some ideas to make your holiday entertaining simple and, most importantly, jolly.



Rich Marks

is to honor our country's diverse cultural customs in the menu planning by suggesting favorite holiday items such as a hardy chicken stew for Kwanzaa, potato latkes for Hanukkah, and bread pudding for Christmas.

Festive Finger Foods

Forgo the sit-down dinner and opt for a variety of heavy appetizers instead. Further minimize your time in the kitchen by serving items that can be kept at room temperature throughout the event. It is a good rule-of-thumb to anticipate guests will eat 10-12 appetizers per person if dinner isn't served and 4-6 if dinner will follow. For variety, I recommend serving both sweet and savory items, like the two recipes below.

Stapleton resident Rich Marks is a classically trained chef and owner of Beyond Parsley, a personal chef and catering service. Denver residents enjoy free delivery of meals selected from Beyond Parsley's ever-changing weekly menu. Contact Chef Rich at 303-717-5451 or chefrich@beyondparsley.com or visit www.beyondparsley.com.

Fresh Fruit Skewers with Dip

Ingredients
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1/2 c. lemon yogurt
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 c. coconut, toasted
3 tbsp. milk
Fresh seasonal fruit (frozen fruit chunks will also work)

In a small mixing bowl, beat together the cream cheese, lemon yogurt, and vanilla until smooth. Stir in the coconut and milk. Cover and chill in the refrigerator until cold. Serve with slices of fresh fruit placed on skewers.

Baba Ghanoush/ Eggplant with Tahini

Ingredients
Salt to taste
3 large eggplants
1/2 c. tahini
2-4 cloves garlic
Juice of 3 lemons
2 tbsp. finely chopped parsley
A few black olives or 1 tomato, thinly sliced, to garnish

Cook the eggplants under a broiler (sear until skins are black and start to blister, rub skins off under cold, and gently squeeze out as much of the juice as possible). Crush the garlic cloves with salt. Mash the eggplants with a potato masher, add the crushed garlic and blend with an electric blender to a smooth, creamy puree. Add the tahini and lemon juice, blending well. Garnish with finely chopped parsley and black olives, or with a few tomato slices. Serve with hearty, hard bread or crackers.

RTD Kiosk at Wal-Mart

The RTD Electronic Information Kiosk is now up and running at the Wal-Mart at Stapleton. Customers and employees can check bus route and schedule information, view maps, get information on RTD bus pass programs and other services plus plan a trip using the RTD Itinerary Planner. The kiosk can also print the information for users to take with them. "The kiosks are a great convenience

for bus riders. The kiosk located at the King Soopers at Stapleton gets the highest use of all the RTD kiosks in the system. We expect the Wal-Mart kiosk to be very busy also," states Angie Malpiede, the Executive Director of the Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association (TMA). "We hope the convenience will encourage more people to ride the bus during this high pollution season."

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# Home Décor Decorative Painting

By Kathy Epperson

Stapleton residents Larry and Carma Snapp are already well-known in the neighborhood for the lush garden they created in front of their Parkwood home on Spruce Street. What many people may not know is that their interior decoration is every bit as lush. One step into their home reveals decorative painting on walls and ceilings throughout the house in ornate designs primarily of Italian and African motifs.

“Carma and I realized early in our marriage that we both had a great love for color and design, a passion for what was visually interesting and moving,” Larry says. “Carma had worked in the fashion industry and in Hollywood as a wardrobe stylist. I had a long history of expressing myself through home landscape design.” They first experimented with interior design and decorative painting in their previous home, a restored Victorian in Curtis Park. With interior walls that were white and exterior painting that hid the best detail of the home, they began to transform the house. “It was with this house that we started to realize how a home can be changed from plain to eye catching through the use of paint,” Larry says. “We learned that paint could be used to create wonderful illusions, to provide detail and interest where none existed before and can hide flaws that would otherwise be the most noticeable feature.”

When Larry and Carma moved into their new home in Stapleton three years ago, they realized that while they had some large art pieces, they still had a significant amount of wall space that was plain and uninteresting. “As we considered how to inexpensively make our home a greater expression of ourselves, we decided that faux painting would be the path we would try,” Larry explains. “Carma brought home ‘how to’ books on faux painting and showed me the ones she wanted me to try. She picks the overall colors and I do the painting. Each room became an opportunity to create something visually and emotionally stimulating.” Larry does some of his designs freehand and some by drawing the pattern first and filling in with paint.

Larry often gets inspiration from accessories such as pillows or something from nature, but especially loves African art and wildlife. A pair of giraffes adorns the archway of their great room, and a zebra motif is painted on the ceiling around the light fixture in their eating nook. “We enjoy having people in our home and decorating and painting in such a way that purposely makes them feel special, stimulated, and loved,” Larry says. “We believe a house should communicate something important about the family who lives there. Our guests often express surprise and enjoyment of what we have done and just like to look around.”



Larry and Carma Snapp in their Stapleton home decorated with the theme of African art and wildlife.

In the back yard a garden is revealed that is just as lush as the front. “Our yard is simply a different medium of expression,” Larry says. “Flowers and other plants are a wonderful tool to celebrate life and creation. Growing up on a farm kept me close to nature and very observant of the perfection of something as fragile and fleeting as a flower. I plan our yard to be an ever changing palette of color and texture, a celebration of being alive.”

Larry is a licensed counselor and works for a church in Aurora, while Carma works in interior design, decorating and home staging. They have two children, Sheridan (age 8) and Ethan (age 6). Both Larry and Carma see their work

and their home décor and landscaping as a way to make a difference in the world. “We receive great joy out of knowing that there are many of our neighbors who enjoy our efforts,” Larry says. “It is a way for us to share our lives with the people of Stapleton, those we know and those we don’t.”

## Upcoming Home Décor Series Finished Basements

Email [FrontPorch@fineprintco.com](mailto:FrontPorch@fineprintco.com) to let us know about finished basements that might be of interest to readers — whether for décor, efficient use of space or other design ideas.





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## Santa Needs Help *(continued from page 3)*

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information, call 303-988-2465, or visit [www.denversantaclaus.shop.com](http://www.denversantaclaus.shop.com).

Donna Kettenbach is the principal of Kettenbach & Company Creative Marketing/ Public Relations. She may be reached at [dkettenbach@att.net](mailto:dkettenbach@att.net)



# Stapleton's Newest Public Art Takes Shape



Sculptor Ilan Averbuch spent several days at Stapleton last month installing his latest work, *The Eye and the Horizon (After Monet)*. After completing the work in his New York studio, the artist disassembled it, numbered the parts, and shipped them to Stapleton.

After installing the foundation and steel support structure in the ellipse at East 29th Avenue and Xenia Street, Averbuch guided the process of placing each stone back in its place.



## New Public Art *(continued from page 1)*

considered for a public art project or a Stapleton resident simply wanting to learn more about the public art program, please contact Barbara Neal at [barbneal@mindspring.com](mailto:barbneal@mindspring.com). The *Front Porch* and Stapleton Online will provide updates about the public art as well as activities and opportunities in the public art program at Stapleton.



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