

# Front Porch

Distributed to the Greater Stapleton Area

STAPLETON

DENVER, COLORADO

JANUARY 2007



## Stapleton's Neighbor – Fitzsimons

*Proud Past – Exciting Future*

**Above:** President Dwight Eisenhower's image on the cover of Life Magazine in Nov., 1955, taken on a balcony at the Fitzsimons hospital, reassured the world that he was recovering from his heart attack. **Right:** A radiation therapist positions the linear accelerator at Fitzsimons using laser beams. The machine is used to treat cancer patients with high intensity, precisely focused radiation. One of just a few linear accelerators in the state, this machine is particularly effective for treating brain cancers.



This issue of the Front Porch presents the first in a series of articles about Fitzsimons origin as an Army Hospital and its future as one of the nation's foremost medical centers and bioscience developments. As part of the series we will also profile residents of the Greater Stapleton area who work at Fitzsimons.

### The Proud History of Fitzsimons

In September 1955, the eyes of an anxious world turned to Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Aurora, Colorado and waited for news about the condition of President Dwight D. Eisenhower who had suffered a heart attack while visiting Denver. When *(continued on page 3)*

## The Blizzard of '06



Members of the Reynolds family walk in the snow at the pocket park at 25th and Spruce. Abby Reynolds, right, and her daughters Caroline, 6, far left, and Annie, 3, are joined by Abby's brother-in-law Peter Reynolds. See page 24 for more blizzard photos.

## Free Shuttle Stapleton RTD to Northfield



The Northfield Shuttle is now being operated between the Stapleton RTD Transfer Center (at Martin Luther King Blvd. and Syracuse) and the Northfield Shopping Center. It runs every 15 minutes and it is FREE to all riders. Service is available Monday – Saturday from 9 am to 10 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 7 pm. The shuttle stops at 36th and Rosemary (Quebec Square), 36th and Quebec, and 47th and Uinta. Bike, walk or drive to the Stapleton RTD Transfer Center to catch the shuttle. Parking is free at the Transfer Center. For more information, go to [stapletontma.org](http://stapletontma.org) or call Angie Malpiede at the Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association at 303-468-3231. This shuttle is a partnership of: RTD, Northfield Shopping Center, the Stapleton Foundation and the Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association.

5 Basement  
Remodeling

Future  
Libraries

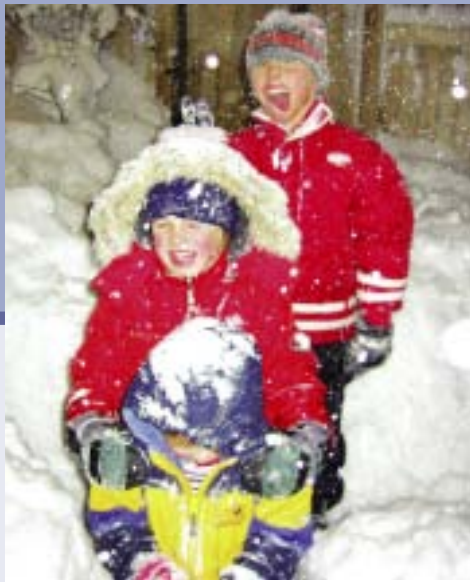
11

S.U.N.

20

Student  
Art

23



Enjoying the blizzard: Nathaniel Duda Bowen, middle is Luke Duda Bowen, and front is Ethan Epperson. Photos by Kathy Epperson

# Mark Your CALENDAR

## FOR STAPLETON EVENTS

### EVERY MONTH

**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]

**Third Wednesday**  
 New Resident Orientation Meeting,  
 7:00pm  
 [Call Jenifer Graham at 720-249-5104 for time and location]

**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.  
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### EVERY MONTH

**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]

### JANUARY

**Tuesday, Jan 9th**  
 Denver Public Schools  
 registration opens for 2007-2008,  
 First choice round through Feb. 28th  
 [See school deadlines box on pg.4]

**Monday, Jan 22nd**  
 Denver School of Science & Technology  
 Completed applications due for 2007-2008. Only accepting incoming 9th graders. [303-320-5570]

### SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

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

### FEBRUARY

**Wednesday, Feb 21st**  
 The Odyssey School  
 Deadline for lottery.  
 [See school deadlines box on pg. 4]  
 [Contact 303-316-3944]

**Saturday, Feb 24th**  
 Westerly Creek Auction  
 Evening, time tbd  
 Roberts Building  
 [Contact Melissa at 720-424-2640]

### APRIL

**End of April**  
 Spring Festival  
 Founder's Green, date tbd



Caroline Purdom plays in the snow.



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# Front Porch

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# Fitzsimons History

*(continued from page 1)*  
the photo of a smiling Eisenhower sitting in a wheel chair on one of the hospital's outside porches was finally beamed around the globe, the free world breathed easier. Altogether, President Eisenhower spent seven weeks at Fitzsimons, slowly regaining his health and resuming his duties as president. One year later, the president's plane touched down at nearby Stapleton Field as the popular leader known as "Ike" returned to thank the men and women of Fitzsimons who had saved his life and nursed him back to health.



Building 500 at Fitzsimons, where Eisenhower stayed, was dedicated in 1941 and almost immediately began receiving WWII casualties.

Originally known as Army General Hospital 21 when it opened in October 1918, the medical facility was renamed by the United States War Department Fitzsimons General Hospital in honor of Lieutenant William T. Fitzsimons, a United States Army officer who is considered one of the first four Americans killed in World War I. Lt. Fitzsimons was killed in a German air raid on September 4, 1917 when bombs fell on Base Hospital No. 5 near Dannes-Camiers in Pas-de-Calais, France. Construction on a new hospital at Fitzsimons (the main building known today as Building 500) began in 1939. The hospital was dedicated in December 1941, the same month the United States entered World War II, and almost immediately began receiving war casualties. Fitzsimons was also the site of a prisoner of war camp for Italian and "anti-Nazi" Germans, but reportedly few Japanese prisoners.

Later renamed Fitzsimons Army Hospital, the facility also served as an important treatment center for wounded from the Korean and Viet Nam wars, including freed American prisoners of war. In the early 1990s, Fitzsimons personnel were deployed as part of Operation Desert Shield. When it was "deactivated" on June 8, 1996 as part of the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure program, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center had proudly served the nation for nearly 80 years.

*Editor's Note: Information for this article has been drawn from "Fitzsimons Army Medical Center: The Life and History 1918-1996" which was produced by the Public Affairs Office of Fitzsimons Army Medical Center.*



President Eisenhower's room at Fitzsimons, where he spent seven weeks slowly regaining his health and resuming his duties as president, has been restored to the way it looked when he was there in 1955.

Photos from Fitzsimons Army Medical Center: The Life and History 1918-1996



Fitzsimons was named in honor of Lt. William Fitzsimons, one of the first four Americans killed in World War I.



President Franklin Roosevelt visited Fitzsimons in 1936 and was impressed by the facilities and the enthusiasm of the staff and local residents.



## Westerly Creek Students Help Set Guinness Record

Third graders at Westerly Creek Elementary School participate in an attempt to set the Guinness record for the most people reading aloud simultaneously in multiple locations. Kids from all over the world began reading the same passage from Charlotte's Web by E.B. White at exactly 10 am Denver time on December 13. The effort was apparently successful, with 547,826 readers in 28 countries, but has to be authenticated by Guinness officials. The event was in conjunction with the opening of the new movie version of Charlotte's Web. Third grade teacher Andrea Johnson organized the event at Westerly Creek. Pictured in the foreground are, left to right, Halley Arnold, Suzu Warrior, and Miranda Whitney.

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# School Registration Deadlines

**Tuesday, Jan 9th – Feb. 28th**  
First round choice registration for all DPS schools

**Tuesday, Jan 9th**  
Westerly Creek Elementary  
Registration opens for 2007-2008  
303-322-5877, 720-424-2640 (Roberts)

**Monday, Jan 22nd**  
Denver School of Science & Technology  
Completed applications due for 2007-2008.  
Only accepting incoming 9th graders.  
[303-320-5570]

**Wednesday, Feb 21st**  
Deadline for The Odyssey School lottery

**Wednesday, Feb 28th**  
Westerly Creek Elementary  
First round choice registration ends  
[Contact Melissa at 720-424-2640]

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## School Events

**Odyssey School Open House**  
9am on Jan. 11 and Feb. 7  
6:30pm on Jan. 30 and Feb. 20  
[Contact 303-316-3944]

**Westerly Creek Auction**  
Saturday, Feb 24th  
Evening, time tbd  
Roberts Building  
[Contact Melissa at 720-424-2640]

# Stapleton Hot Spot

Free wireless internet will be available in mid to late January in the outdoor common spaces of the East 29th Avenue Town Center and Founders' Green to residents and visitors. The wireless service pops up on your laptop when it starts up, and a screen featuring StapletonOnline.com will appear automatically. This new wireless service is available to current StapletonOnline.com users free of charge. Visitors to Stapleton may sign up to use the wireless service as a visitor when the StapletonOnline.com homepage appears on their computer screen. For questions about the new wireless service, please email [info@StapletonDenver.com](mailto:info@StapletonDenver.com).

## Forest City and Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority Partnership

# New Two Billion Dollar Development Will Give Growing Bioscience Companies at Fitzsimons a Place to Put Down Roots

By Jon Pushkin, APR  
Sage Public Relations Group

Not long ago, Fitzsimons was seen as merely a good place for bioscience innovations to germinate. Once viable, the companies and the innovations likely grew elsewhere.

Not anymore. Linking arms with an experienced bioscience park developer Forest City, the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority has taken a big step to ensure that young companies with bioscience breakthroughs can take root and grow to maturity without ever leaving Fitzsimons.

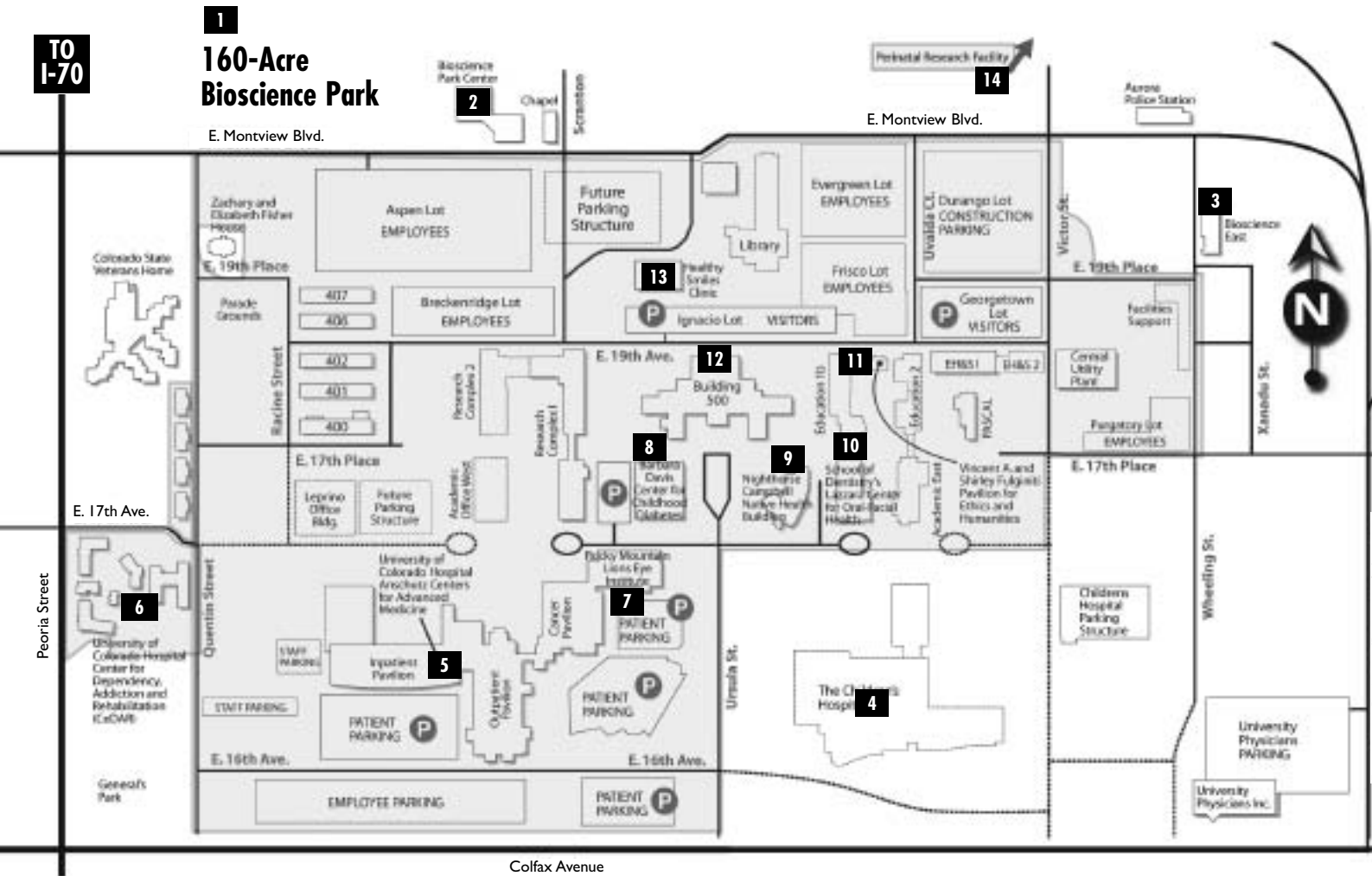
Making sure that facilities in the bioscience park keep growing to stay apace of the needs of companies based at Fitzsimons, the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority recently entered into a 30-year partnership with Forest City Enterprises to develop the \$2 billion, 160-acre bioscience park on the site of the old Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora.

The bioscience park shares the Fitzsimons site with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, University of Colorado Hospital and The Children's Hospital. A new Veterans Administration Hospital is also in the plans. Officials from Fitzsimons, Forest City and the City of Aurora envision a unique atmosphere that will create tens of thousands of jobs and make a compelling case for bioscience

companies from around the globe to relocate to Fitzsimons. "We're very excited," said Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer. "Fitzsimons is a once-in-a-generation chance to help our families and bring excellent jobs to our city." Founded in 1921, Cleveland-based Forest City is an \$8 billion company that is no stranger to life sciences. From University Park at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, to similar projects in Chicago and Philadelphia, Forest City has been developing premier biotech parks for more than twenty years. Each is connected to a major research university in an environment that features significant green space, public common areas and amenities designed to promote social interaction and healthy lifestyles. The area to be developed is six times larger than the MIT project, so it is no wonder that John Lehigh, Chief Operating Officer of Forest City Fitzsimons, sees opportunity around every corner.

"It will take patience and vision because it will happen over time in a planned way, but we are enthusiastic about the long-term opportunities here," said Lehigh. "We will leverage the unique concentration of research facilities and talent at the University of Colorado and Children's Hospital to attract compatible life sciences companies that will develop new treatments and therapies for a wide range of conditions. We will create energy around a town center. As each step brings new growth, Fitzsimons will become the valuable asset that

everyone expects." Lehigh noted that the nearby Forest City Stapleton development, with a projected 12,000 homes and apartments by 2020, should provide the perfect complement to Fitzsimons, where bioscience park employees can live just a short bike ride from work. Jill Sikora Farnham, Executive Director of the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority (FRA), said the selection of Forest City was based on its extensive experience developing life sciences facilities and its commitment to the area through its Stapleton project. "Forest City brings three critical things to the Fitzsimons project — long-term capital, extensive contacts, and specialized experience," said Farnham. "It is a true partnership. Our goals remain aligned and we share in the vision and the success of the development." FRA is responsible for on-going oversight and coordination. It will approve every parcel of land to be developed, as well as master planning and design guidelines. FRA and Forest City will jointly market the project and collaborate to liaison with the University. "This deal will allow the bioscience park to fulfill its potential," Farnham continued. "We expect significant development in the next 10 years, but it is still a long term proposition. Full development of the park could potentially take as many as 20 years."



# PERSPECTIVES ON BASEMENT RENOVATION

*Editor's Note: This is the first of what we expect will be a periodic series on basements. We encourage readers to email [FrontPorch@fineprintco.com](mailto:FrontPorch@fineprintco.com) to share your basement finishing experiences with the many households who*

*are pondering such a project. In this issue we feature comments from a contractor and from an architect, along with two homeowners' descriptions of their basement renovation projects.*

## Q&A with a Contractor

Gregg Schulman of Affordable Home Services is the owner of a local design and construction company that specializes in finishing basements. Gregg started his business when his family moved to Stapleton in May of 2003. While most of his work is in basement finishing, his company also provides landscape design and construction, custom decks and patios, and other home improvement projects. Most of his clients live in Stapleton and Lowry.

*What sort of timeline should people expect when finishing their basements?*

It typically takes 8 weeks from start to finish for most basements. Some projects take up to 10 weeks depending on more custom finishing like built-ins, bars, etc.

*What sort of process do you recommend?*

For any construction project, the more planning the better. I recommend that people go through a thorough process of identifying their unique needs for the space, as well as looking ahead to determine how the space might evolve over time. I recommend having a drawing that is used as a blueprint; and I would suggest using an architect if the scope of the project warrants it.



Gregg Schulman in his basement office with his son Jake playing in the background.

*Do you have general recommendations for folks regarding elements to include in a basement or level of finish?*

Create the space so that flows with the rest of the house. You don't want to think of the space as "the basement" – often you're adding 33% to the space of the house. The elements included reflect the needs of each individual, but it is always good to think about which elements will add a greater value over time such as bedrooms and bathrooms.

*What are some of the best basements you've seen?*

Those that are warm, inviting, and open and that really flow from the upstairs. You can always tell the projects that had solid planning up-front and used

high quality materials. Special elements include play spaces for kids that are super unique and family rooms that integrate some of today's great technology, like a home theater and lights that automatically turn on and off when you enter or leave the room.

*What are some of the worst mistakes people make with their basement?*

Not getting reliable references from current clients and

going to see the work of the contractor they are hiring. Paying too much. Not planning and not having a detailed drawing that thoroughly covers the entire scope of the project.

*Should people make remodeling changes to their main floor when they do their basement as part of thinking through their use of space in their home?*

Absolutely. This is a great time to tackle other projects for a few reasons: 1) the sub-contractors are already in the house so they are more likely to give discounts, 2) the disruption to the house will be lessened if it's coordinated with the basement, and 3) many times you need access to basement ceiling space and crawl space for upstairs projects. Once the basement is finished, that is no longer an option.

*Do basement projects require permits?*

It makes absolutely no sense to complete a major construction project and not obtain the necessary permits from the city. The process of permitting is not at all daunting and will give the home owner an extra level of protection. Most of the issues related to inspections are for your safety and to maintain the integrity of the building process. If your house burned down because of faulty electrical work done by an unlicensed electrician with no permit, your insurance company may decline a claim based on that.

To reach Gregg Schulman call 720-318-7933 or email [gregg@affordablehomeservices.com](mailto:gregg@affordablehomeservices.com).

## The past is the past.

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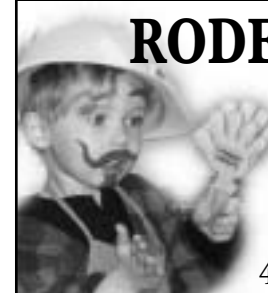
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# An Architect Talks about the Importance of Design



Diane Gordon, M. Arch.



Right: The Gordons' basement renovation features a large family room that picks up architectural details from the main floor to tie the house together.

By Diane Gordon

Basements can be wonderful additional finished space, and many Stapleton residents are choosing to finish their basements. But many homeowners do not know where to begin in planning. So they call contractors initially for bids without having a design in place. This causes two problems: first, it is impossible to get “apples to apples” bids without details up front, and second, design opportunities are being missed.

Without a design, contractors bid off of very basic information. The result will be different types of bids which makes it difficult for a homeowner to compare bids. The first type is a contingency bid with a flat price for all work, but the price will be high due to the assumption of risk for unknown factors and inevitable changes. The second type is a low bid, which will seem great at first but will often include only basic finishes and fixtures, leading to costly change orders later.

Design alternatives should be explored before the building process begins. There are always elements that cannot be changed in a basement, such as columns or ductwork, but they can be incorporated into the design as deliberate-looking elements. I like to surround a room with soffits for a coffered ceiling effect rather than simply box in a long run of ductwork. Structural columns can often be hidden in walls or camouflaged by built-ins. Architectural details from the main floor can be repeated to tie the whole house together. Clever storage areas can be carved out of oddly shaped spaces.

Once the best possible layout is decided upon, the project goes out to bid. I suggest having a bid set with an existing floor plan, new floor plan, electrical and lighting plans, elevations of any walls with important details (such as built-ins or special soffit treatments), and as many materials specifications as possible. Then all contractors bid off of the same set of drawings, and this enables them to provide much more accurate bids. Homeowners can make educated decisions when hiring, and the finished space will be well thought out and flow with the rest of the house.

Good luck with your basement project!



Above: Clever storage and utility areas can be carved out of oddly shaped spaces.

*Diane Gordon, M. Arch., is a Stapleton resident and provides basement space planning services, as well as interior services such as material upgrades, built-in design and color consulting. She may be reached at 303.355.5666 or denvergordons@msn.com.*



Above: There are always elements that cannot be changed in a basement, but they can be incorporated into the design as deliberate looking elements, such as the beams in the guest bedroom.



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# A Homeowner's Design Goals: "Funky and Fun"

What first started out as a long term goal for Kathy Duda and Steve Bowen – finishing their basement – quickly became their immediate goal when they found out they were pregnant with their fourth boy. Kathy describes their experience:

“Steve started putting together floor plans that incorporated a cozy family room, one bedroom, a bathroom, and a craft room. We both felt that the bedroom needed to be a space that could be both private and also open to public use when necessary.

It took us several attempts to get the layout right, and once we had it, we were ready to find a contractor who was willing to embrace our creative efforts as well as work with our budget constraints. As always, fate seemed to intercede and we found James Ripley. He not only encouraged our creativity throughout the process, but enhanced it as well.

I always knew that I wanted to do something funky and fun, rather than a traditional reflection of the house upstairs. I wanted the space to feel unique, both modern and old. I wanted it to be bright, cheery, and warm. I had a vision of a kid friendly space that could quickly be converted into a wine tasting room.

My initial design inspiration came (continued on page 11)

Kathy Duda, with sons Nathaniel, 8, and Luke, 4, enjoy the bright, cheery and warm feeling they created for their basement. The recycled doors (below) hang on sliding tracks they found at a hardware store in Greeley. The bright green craft room features hand decorated light fixtures.



## Your window of opportunity is about to *close*.



That's right...four of the **ten homeowners** taking up residence at Stapleton's NANTUCKET CLOSE have already made their purchases. These fortunate few are poised to experience the **yesteryear charm** of a neighborhood masterfully designed to replicate a true British Isles hideaway. Elegant new homes surround a looping **private drive** and **garden park** within this intimately planned enclave. Unusually **generous lot sizes** and unique floor plans ensure that our **six remaining gems** won't linger for long, so claim your place in this exclusive circle today... before the window of opportunity **closes** for good!

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23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. **Nantucket Close** will be directly ahead on the left.

# A Basement that Looks like a Home - Not a Basement



Removing the walls of the stairwell helped create an open and spacious feel upon entering the basement. The bar and the fireplace built diagonally across opposite corners and unique lighting create a dramatic and sophisticated look. Using the same color palette and carpet as the main floor furthers the effect that the basement is a continuation of the house, and does not feel like a basement. Below: Homeowner Craig Roberts sits at the piano in his remodeled basement.



“We wanted our basement to feel like part of the home and not like a basement. To accomplish this, we knocked out the two solid walls going down the stairs and added railing that matches the railing going upstairs so it didn’t feel like you were going down into a basement. Then we continued with the same carpeting and paint colors.

We added a small bedroom and a 3/4 bath with tile that matches the upstairs bathrooms. We put a door from the bathroom into the utility room where the furnace and water heater are, so the door does not show from the main room and allows for a solid wall that makes the space seem larger. We added a wet bar on an angle in the corner, with glass cabinet doors a fridge and a microwave. We built a fireplace on an angle in the opposite corner and put a free standing bar in front of the wet bar with some unique lighting.

We had all the stereo speakers built in and wired to the main system, added a piano and some comfortable furniture and now have a great basement with plenty of open space, so it does not feel crowded and really doesn’t feel like a basement.”

*Craig Roberts and Chuck Bihum*



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# A Closer Look — Kerry O’Connell

## Construction Executive for M.A. Mortenson

In his role as Construction Executive for M. A. Mortenson, the company overseeing the construction of infrastructure at Stapleton for the Park Creek Metropolitan District, Kerry O’Connell is literally responsible for laying the foundation for one of the nation’s most ambitious urban developments.

A native of Golden, Colorado, Kerry received a degree in Construction Management from Colorado State University in 1979. After spending the first ten years of his career working for smaller construction firms, he joined Mortenson in 1990. Among the projects he has worked on for Mortenson are Coors Field, the Pepsi Center and Concourse B at Denver International Airport.

Kerry believes his role at Stapleton involves more than just being a builder, it requires “being a neighbor.” That cooperative spirit has won praise from officials at Bluff Lake Nature Center and the Sand Creek Greenway who have applauded Kerry’s willingness to schedule work when possible to reduce detours that limit the public’s access to Stapleton’s open space amenities during construction. Kerry’s philosophy reflects the civic spirit of his employers at Mortenson who also pride themselves on being good neighbors



Kerry O’Connell

as they have donated materials and labor to rebuild the playgrounds of four local elementary schools and worked on other projects to benefit the community.

One of Kerry O’Connell’s personal priorities is to introduce more young people to the rewarding aspects of a career in the construction industry. He has been a supporter of the ACE (Architecture/Construction/Engineering) mentor program of Colorado for youth. He also donates his time as a

speaker for the Colorado Coalition for Patient Safety, which works to create a safer environment in the nation’s hospitals and other medical facilities. Kerry became interested in that cause following a personal experience in which he survived a staph infection after being hospitalized for an injury suffered in working around his home.

Kerry and his wife Anne, who runs a clothing store in Evergreen, have been married 27 years and have five children: Brian is serving with the United States Army in Iraq, Adam is an assistant manager with Oakley Sunglasses in San Francisco, Eric is majoring in drug and alcohol counseling at Metropolitan State College and Nicholas and Katie are attending high school and middle school school, respectively, in Conifer.

When asked what he would like to be doing five to ten years from now, Kerry replies that he would like to be promoting business development for Mortenson and continuing his work to encourage young people to consider careers in construction.

“I have too many kids to even consider retirement,” he adds with a laugh.

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## Stapleton TMA and Recycle Bicycles Odyssey School’s Bike, Walk & Roll Project

Photo by Steve Groer



Winners in a drawing for eleven reconditioned bikes given away by the Recycle Bicycles Program included (from front to back at left) Thomas Mudge, 7, Elliot Anderson, 8, and Seamus Peart, 7. At right is Odyssey physical education teacher Chad Harman, who ran the event.

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The Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association, in partnership with Recycle Bicycles, has created the Bike, Walk & Roll program to promote and support the use of alternative transportation options to and from school including bicycling, roller-skating, skateboarding and walking. One of the highlights of the program was a drawing for recycled bicycles. Winners of the bikes also receive a helmet and lock. Philips, Ashley and the Odyssey schools also received a bicycle pump.

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*Jan. 7th through Feb. 24th*  
**Aurora History M**

**“Forever Free - Abraham Lincoln’s Journey to Emancipation.”** The Aurora Public Library, in cooperation with the Aurora History Museum, presents Lincoln’s transformation into “The Great Emancipator” through this American Library Association (ALA) traveling exhibit for all ages. This is the exhibit’s only Colorado stop on its seven-year tour of the United States. Admission is free. The Aurora History Museum is located at 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy. Dates are: Jan. 7th through Feb. 24th. Exhibit hours are: Tuesday-Friday, 9 am-4 pm; Saturday & Sunday, 11 am- 4 pm. This exhibition was made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, created by Congress to plan the national celebration of Lincoln’s 200th birthday. The public is invited to the Opening Reception on Jan. 7th at 2 p.m. for refreshments and a presentation by John Voehl as Abraham Lincoln.

This exhibit reexamines President Lincoln's thoughts about slavery throughout his political career and the conditions that led to the Emancipation Proclamation and features reproductions of rare historical documents, period photographs, and engravings, lithographs, and political ephemera. Sections of the exhibition focus on: young Lincoln's America, the House Dividing, war for the Union, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Role of Black Soldiers in the Civil War, & the Final Months of the Civil War.

**Other activities at the Aurora History Museum will include:**

***Movies*** at 11am every Saturday from Jan. 6th through Feb. 17th (appropriate for ages 12 to adult). This series of highly acclaimed movies is directed by Ken Burns. Subjects include conflicts between the Union and States' rights, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Battle of Gettysburg, Lincoln's presidential campaign, Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and concluding on Feb 17th with *The Better Angels of our Nature-1865*, in which Lincoln dies five days after victory.

***Civil War Crafts & Toys*** for ages 7-12

***Civil War Photography*** for ages 8 to adult on Jan. 21st from 2-3:30 pm

***Angel of the Rockies*** for ages 8 to Adult on Jan. 28th from 2-3:30 pm. This program features Aunt Clara Brown, an ex-slave who came to Colorado in 1859, showing her life and lifelong search for her family, who were sold away from her in the years preceding the Civil War.

Numerous free activities are also scheduled for both adults and youth at various libraries, including Abe Lincoln stepping briefly into the 21st century to speak to visitors and craft activities for children.

For details, visit [www.auroralibrary.org](http://www.auroralibrary.org),  
or call 303-739-6600.



# Martin Luther King Events

**Jan. 13th 2-4pm.**

**"Back to 'Cleanin' - Remembering Memphis!"**  
Presented by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Colorado Holiday Commission. Meet at the MLK Memorial statue in City Park and the group will form teams to clean up the parade route to Civic Center Park. The project honors the sanitation workers of Memphis and makes a statement to Denver about the greater purpose of the MLK, Jr. Commission. Participants receive a commemorative T-shirt to wear at Monday's Parade. Call Jacqui Shumway at 303-744-7676 by Tuesday, Jan 9th, so we can plan for enough shirts and supplies.

Following the event, from 4:30 - 7:00 pm, a reception for all afternoon participants is being scheduled with Dr. Derek King, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s nephew.

Jan. 13th, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Marshals Training will be held at the District 2 Denver Police Station, 39th & Holly. Lunch will be provided. All marshals are encouraged to attend the "Back to 'Cleanin' - Remembering Memphis!" event beginning at 2:00 pm. Call Vern Howard at 720-971-1329.

**Monday, Jan 15th, 2007 Marade,  
"Perseverance, Character, Hope!"**

Presented by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Colorado Holiday Commission. This year's annual event will honor the "Little Rock Nine" with its theme of "Perseverance, Character, Hope!" Entertainment will feature area youth. School Board Presidents from districts in the greater metropolitan Denver area have been invited to lead this year's event. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s nephew., Dr. Derek King, Sr. will be this year's keynote speaker and one of the parade marshals, along with Mayor John Hickenlooper and Governor Bill Ritter (invited.) The event will feature additional musical celebration as songbirds and drummers along the route will be encouraging participants to sing and dance as they make their way down East Colfax to Civic Center Park. (Anyone wishing to be a songleader, please contact Jacqui Shumway at 303-744-7676.)

The festivities will begin shortly before 10 am at the MLK Memorial in City Park and organizers plan a step-off time of 10:45 am. Please be a part of this civil rights celebration by carrying signs that express this year's hopeful message and by contributing to the collection for "The Stone of Hope" - the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.

# Denver School of the Arts AIDA – All-School Play

### January 25, 26, 27 (Cast 1)

### February 1,2,3 (Cast 2)

**DSA Schomp Theatre @ 7:00pm**

***Tickets go on sale on 1/9/07***

**Call 720-424-1713 for tickets**

*starting January 9th.*

***Located at Montview and Quebec***

*Jan. 18th – Feb 16th*  
**Aurora Public Schools Art  
 Educators' Exhibit at DAVA**



Over twenty of Aurora's art teachers will display ceramics, paintings, photographs and other media at Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA) Gallery at 1405 Florence St. in Aurora. The opening of the 6th annual show of teachers' artworks will be Friday Jan. 19th 2007 from 4 to 8 pm.

*“The aim of art educators in creating their own art is to increase their understanding of the creative process and to support why people make and love art. With our hectic lives, many of these artworks are a*

*labor of love. We always have the need to deepen the mystery of life."*

-Beverly Baldwin, Aurora Hills Middle School, exhibition coordinator.

The exhibit offers youth an opportunity to think about teaching as a career choice, and it gives the entire community an opportunity to celebrate arts & education. The exhibit reinforces connections between DAVA's art programs and arts programs in local public schools. The free exhibit will be open to the public from January 18th to February 16th, 2007, from 11 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday or by appointment.

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) , call DAVA at 303 367 5886, or email [davagallery@qwest.net](mailto:davagallery@qwest.net)

## Denver Botanic Gardens January Events

## 18th Annual Blossoms Of Light

Nightly through Jan. 21, 2007. One million colorful lights draped in elegant designs will illuminate the plants and trees on a new path throughout the Gardens. The exhibit features romantic and popular kissing spots and the popular HoloSpex glasses, which magically transform the lights into shimmering 3-D snowflakes. New features include giant waterlily sculptures that will illuminate the Monet Garden Horseshoe Pool and LED lighting.

Additionally, some of the 26 sculptures from the Living Bronze Sculptures by

Robert Wick exhibit will be lighted & will incorporate seasonal plantings. Each night includes seasonal entertainment, and warm drinks & snacks are available at numerous food stations throughout the path.

Ticket prices: Adults \$8, Children \$6. Members receive \$2 off admission. Time: 6-9 p.m. Denver Botanic Gardens is located at 1005 York Street in Denver, Colorado. Visit [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org) or call 720-865-3500 for more information.

**Jan. 15th is an SCFD-sponsored  
FREE Day for Colorado residents  
at the Botanic Gardens**

# Real Estate Corner

Information of interest from local real estate professionals

## Moving On Up!

So, you just found out that the dream home you purchased is going to face a pile of construction dirt for the next 3 years.

How come no one ever told you that the street you live on was going to be one of the busiest thoroughfares in Stapleton?

The builder originally told you that your picturesque views would not be obstructed; now, the neighbor's kid's telescope is pointing at your bedroom window.

These are just a few of the dilemmas that residents often run into at Stapleton.

Often times with new development, there are many questions that a builder cannot answer simply because the master developer has not yet decided what purpose the vacant land will serve. If you find yourself faced with this predicament don't be discouraged, you have options! In fact, a majority of the for-sale signs in Stapleton are residents who have decided to move up in Stapleton.

If you are thinking that moving up may be right for you, here are some things to consider on your next purchase:

### Increasing Size and Style

Moving up will offer you the chance to add space that is more conducive to the way your family lives. It will also allow you to choose the features and upgrades that your current house may not offer.

### Saving Time and Money

Often times using the same realtor to sell your house as to purchase a new one can save you money on both the sale and the purchase. Using a well educated Stapleton realtor can save you from the pitfalls of another bad location, or a house that does not fit your needs. Unlike realtors, builders do not have the advantage of showing you houses other than their own product. Therefore, they rely on realtors to present you, their clients, will all the possibilities



Jon Mauck

that Stapleton has to offer. They attract realtors participation by keeping them updated with their current inventory and the incentives they are offering.

Often buyers feel they will save money by going directly to the builder. This is just not true. The compensation given by a builder to a realtor is a recog-

nized fee that has no impact on the final cost of your new home. In addition, it is also a great idea to have someone acting as an advocate for **your** needs. As accommodating as the builders or builder's agents may seem, they are still acting as a sellers agent with product to be sold.

### Finding Off-Season Steals

When real estate enters the slower season, the bargains begin to surface for buyers. However, as the weather warms up these unbelievable incentives may disappear. Similarly, selling your house in the off-season can be an advantage to sellers as you will not have to compete with the increased number of houses that are on the market in the summer months.

### Appreciating the Important Roles of Parks

The parks at Stapleton will increase the number of parks in Denver by 25%, and with backyards becoming smaller, the location of your house may be crucial in retaining the value of your investment. Some of the best homes in Denver are situated within walking distance of a major park. Perhaps now is the time to look at the housing that will be situated to the North of the new Central Park!

These are just a few things to consider if you are thinking of a change, but don't want to leave beautiful Stapleton!

*Jon Mauck is a Realtor with Dardano & Associates INC. Metro Brokers located in the East 29th Avenue Town Center at Stapleton. He can be reached at 303-246-3953.*

## AF Williams Family Clinic Now Open in Town Center

The University of Colorado Hospital's AF Williams Family Medicine Center is now open at 3055 Roslyn across from Walgreens in Stapleton's East 29th Avenue Town Center, according to Dr. David Graham, medical director of the facility.

Dr. Graham said the clinic opened in late November with an emphasis on full array of family medical services providing pediatric and full adult care, including geriatric care. The women's health services include prenatal and delivery care. A physical therapy clinic is scheduled to open early this month,

A staff of 36 physicians, which includes residents in training for family medicine, and more than 20 registered nurses and medical assistants are available to serve patients of the center. Call 720-848-9000 for information, to schedule appointments or arrange for a tour.

AF Williams Family Clinic in Stapleton's East 29th Ave. Town Center



## Temple Micah Community Outreach Programs

### Blood Drive

Help others by giving blood. A Blood Drive, sponsored jointly by Temple Micah and Park Hill Congregational Church, takes place from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7 at 2600 Leyden St., Denver, where both congregations share space. Bonfils Blood Center will park a bus near the building. To find out more or to schedule an appointment, prospective donors can reach Howard Belon, chair of the Social Action Committee at socialaction@micahdenver.org or through the temple office, 303-388-4239.

### Soup-Cook-off to Support Habitat for Humanity

This volunteer opportunity coincides with other social action efforts planned that day. Temple Micah congregants and anyone interested are invited to roll up sleeves in the kitchen in preparation for a Soup-Cook-off at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27 at 860 Elm St. to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity home-building.

### Lifelong Learning Opportunities

Educational opportunities in life-long Jewish learning, under the tutelage of Rabbi Adam Morris, open to the greater Denver community. Kolel/Adult Study programs start at 9:00 a.m. at Temple Micah, directly before 10:00 a.m. Shabbat services on 2nd and 4th Saturdays of a month. A Kolel class on Jan. 13 will explore Ethical Issues—Everyone's Right?: Assisted Suicide. The conversation turns to other Ethical Issues—Them or Us: Animal Experimentation on Jan. 27, Kosher \$\$: Capitalism vs. Compassion on Feb. 10 and Wild Card: To Be Determined by Current Events on Feb. 24. Temple Micah's Sunday Shiur meets at 9:15 a.m. For more information, contact the Temple Micah office, 303-388-4239, email office@micahdenver.org or visit www.micahdenver.org.

## Get Organized Colorado! "Donate to Organize"

Saturday, January 20th 2007  
10 am until 2 pm

Founders Green Park  
29th and Roslyn Street-Stapleton  
Presented by: The National Association of  
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### Computer and Electronics Recycling

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2007 Stapleton Community Budget Ratified by Delegates

The Stapleton community delegates met on November 8, 2006 to discuss the upcoming 2007 community budget for Stapleton. Keven Burnett, MCA Executive Director, presented in detail the operational and reserve budgets for 2007. The budgets will be based on the current community assessment level of \$31.65 per household per month. Given the continued growth of the Stapleton community, it is anticipated that this assessment levy will generate \$1,545,531 in assessment revenue for the community. Assessments revenue accounts for 75% of the annual community budget. Total revenue anticipated for 2007 is \$2,054,715.

The Community budget must fund the maintenance and operation of developed infrastructure within the Stapleton Community that is not supported through the City and County of Denver. These facilities include community pools, neighborhood parks, landscaped medians, town greens and plazas, pedestrian lighting and community events.

The largest single expense category for the community is the operation and staffing of the two community pools. Together they account for 16% of the annual budget. The Filing 15 pool is not reflected on this year’s budget due to the planned opening date scheduled for Memorial Day weekend 2008. We hope to see construction completed on the playground portion of the pool area by mid-summer 2007.

The Stapleton MCA will be moving into its permanent



facility designed for Stapleton community groups to reserve and use for a variety of functions. The Stapleton MCA continues to take on greater responsibilities for the community events. The 2007 events budget accounts for a continued menu of community concerts, movies, markets and festivals. We will be announcing the complete summer schedule in late spring. Event information will be located and updated on both of the Stapleton websites: [www.stapletononline.com](http://www.stapletononline.com) and [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com).

As a means of keeping the community fiscally strong, the MCA will continue to fund both the community fee fund as well as the neighborhood reserve fund, allocating \$335,586 to future projects and repairs.

The Community Delegates have ratified the 2007 budget as presented and have sent it to the MCA Executive Board with their support to pass it as presented.

The MCA Executive Board Met on November 16, 2006 and unanimously passed the 2007 operational budget.

For more information on MCA activities, events and governance please go to one of the community websites [www.stapletononline.com](http://www.stapletononline.com) or [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com)

*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)*

facility sometime in late spring 2007. The new space will accommodate the MCA Executive Director and staff as well as the Stapleton “Community Room,” a 900 square-foot meeting

Stapleton’s Neighbor Free Exhibit at Refuge Sheds Light on Playa Lakes U.S. Home to 96 Percent of Critical Wetlands Habitat Type

An interactive exhibit featuring a little-known but critical wetlands habitat is on display through February 15 in the Visitor Center at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Called “Playas...Gems of the Plains,” the traveling exhibit describes playa lakes and their importance to wildlife, especially birds. Visitors can watch a documentary and then listen to bird calls and other sounds of the playas through an electronic kiosk. The exhibit includes 20 educational panels and hands-on games and activities. The free display is open to visitors every Saturday and Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Considered one of the most important wetland habitat types for birds, playa lakes are clay-lined depressions in the landscape that fill and drain with water after it rains or snows. Playas are home to diverse plant species, which produce seeds for waterfowl and other animals to eat. More than 200 bird species use playas during the breeding, wintering and migration seasons.

Although playa lakes are unfamiliar to most people, more than 60,000 of them are found in the Great Plains region, which includes Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Playas have attracted large grazing animals and hunters throughout history, and they also serve as the primary recharge source for the largest groundwater

system in North America. “Although we don’t have any playas at the refuge, they can certainly be seen throughout Colorado,” said Supervisory Park Ranger Sherry James of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “The exhibit gives people an opportunity to

learn about this habitat type and its importance to wildlife.”

The award-winning exhibit was developed by the Northwest Texas Museum Association and has been traveling throughout the Great Plains region since 2003. The exhibit was funded in part by the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, which the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service supports.

Since roughly 90 percent of playas are found on private property, educating landowners and citizens about the importance of conserving these wetland areas is a major priority of the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, which has produced online educational materials and kids activities that can be found at [www.pljv.org](http://www.pljv.org).

After viewing the exhibit, visitors can join free guided tram tour or enjoy hiking along miles of trails at the refuge. To find out more about the exhibit and other nature programs and activities at the refuge, call 303-289-0930, or visit the refuge online at [www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal](http://www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal).



Students study information about wetlands habitats

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# Sustainability: Stapleton Builders Recognized

## New Town Builders Rewarded for Increasing Energy Efficiency

As part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 home builders are eligible for a \$2,000 tax credit for a new energy efficient home that achieves 50% energy savings for heating and cooling over the 2004 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with at least 1/5 of the energy savings coming from building envelope improvements. To meet the tax credit requirement, builders must go beyond the requirements for ENERGY STAR.

New Town Builders has spent the last year creating new plans and specifications to increase the energy efficiency, comfort, indoor air quality, and durability of their homes, which already qualify for ENERGY STAR. New Town's goal was to increase the value and comfort of their homes for their buyers, and was pleasantly surprised to find out that the changes they made also qualified them for the new federal energy tax credit. "By meeting this requirement we are now able to provide this improved product to our customers at an even greater value," said Bill Rectanus, Building Systems and Technology Manager for New Town. "So far we have met the tax credit requirements on two of our homes in Stapleton and we expect to achieve the increased level of energy efficiency required for the tax credit on many of our future homes."

The homes that have met the requirement for the tax credit are two of New Town's new model homes, located at 10108 and 10168 28th Ave.



## Stapleton Builders and Raters Win Indoor Air Quality Awards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized six Denver area companies for their leadership in Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) at E-Star Colorado's ENERGY STAR Summit. Four of the six companies have strong ties to Stapleton. The Stapleton EPA IAQ Leadership Award winners included New Town Builders, McStain Neighborhoods, EnergyLogic and Lightly Treading. EnergyLogic and Lightly Treading are home energy rating companies that work closely with Stapleton builders to provide third-party verification of energy performance.

These leading Colorado companies are the first in the country to participate in EPA's new voluntary IAQ initiative, which labels each ENERGY STAR qualified new home that includes EPA recommended features for reducing risks of IAQ problems and related health risks. Americans are increasingly concerned about air quality inside their homes. Asthma, allergies, mold, carbon monoxide and volatile chemicals are just a few of these concerns the new IAQ label addresses. For more information on the ENERGY STAR IAQ program visit [www.energystar.gov/homes](http://www.energystar.gov/homes).

## Harvard & New Town Win New Millennium ENERGY STAR Builder Awards

E-Star Colorado, a statewide non-profit that promotes energy efficiency in housing, together with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR for Homes program, presented the 2006 New Millennium ENERGY STAR Builder Awards to this year's winning homebuilders during the first annual ENERGY STAR Summit on December 4th, 2006. The winners of the New Millennium awards have designed, constructed, and marketed top quality, high-performing homes judged to be some of the best in the state.

Harvard Communities was awarded the prestigious New Rising Star Builder award for the Denver Metro area. The award is given to the Colorado home builder who shows the most improvement and commitment to building energy efficient, high-performance homes. The award presentation noted Harvard's exceptionally energy efficient homes, their commitment to the rigorous testing of every home they build, as well as their on-going commitment to taking energy efficiency to even higher levels. "We have been building ENERGY STAR homes for several years," John

Keith, President of Harvard Communities, said "and we continue to improve the energy efficiency of our homes with our current homes exceeding ENERGY STAR standards by more than 50 percent."

New Town Builders, who won the New Rising Star Builder award in 2005, was recognized this year as the Production Builder of the year for building high-performance market-rate homes in the Denver Metro area. These homes exceed the energy requirements of ENERGY STAR and demonstrate a whole-house or "systems" approach to increasing energy efficiency in the home.

Now in its sixth year, the New Millennium ENERGY STAR Builder Awards recognize and celebrate Colorado home builders and contractors who demonstrate a clear understanding of the positive effects of energy-efficient construction on their businesses, homeowners, and the state economy. The awards program is intended to show the building industry the benefits and advantages of constructing highly energy-efficient homes. The awards also help consumers identify Colorado's leading energy-efficient homebuilders.



(Left to right): Doug Bauman, Kurt Darrow, Mike Stude, John Keith and Jim Florea

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# Sustainability at Stapleton

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

## Sustainable New Years Resolutions

The beginning of the year is often a time when people reflect on past accomplishments and set some goals for the year ahead. One of the goals of the sustainability program at Stapleton is to focus on the practical ways to make sustainability easy to do for anyone. For example, our New Leaf and New Leaf for Kids publications demonstrate simple steps anyone can take each month to incorporate more sustainable actions into daily life.

It's important to understand the big picture when we are making changes to our daily habits. The time for debate about many environmental issues is over – what actions each of us will take is now the question. For example, while some might still debate global warming, climate change is definitely happening. All we have to do is look in our own backyard to the mountains and observe the shrinking ski season to see the impact of adding carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere.

Although we try to make sustainability easy to incorporate into each day, sometimes it is necessary to exert some effort. A recent example has to do with recycling. Denver Recycles received multiple complaints when it switched from recycling bins to recycling carts. Complaints were about the carts themselves and the location of pick-up – with pick-up locations in the street and in the alley both generating criticism! The big picture is that since the City of Denver switched from bins to carts Denver residents are recycling 24% more materials. Keeping these materials out of our landfills is great!

Life is busy with families, jobs & activities, but it is also important to think about our impact on the environment. Sometimes it is going to require a little extra effort, but that's okay. In the larger scheme of things it is worth it...especially when you look around at all of the children at Stapleton and think about the impact on future generations.



## Denver Residents Challenged To Recycle More In 2007

Mayor John Hickenlooper's "Green-print Denver Initiative" has challenged Denver residents to increase recycling in 2007 by 50 percent. With your participation and involvement, you can help us to not only meet this challenge but exceed it!

Three big changes have been implemented during the past year and a half. Conversion to the new larger, wheeled recycling carts has been completed, seven new acceptable recyclables have been added to the program and no more sorting of materials is required by residents. You and many other residents have welcomed these changes and results are evident in the increase in tonnages collected and number of new residents signing up for service. This is a great start, but there is still more to be done.

**Challenge 1: Increase Recycling Participation**  
If you're not already signed up for recycling, join today. If you are signed up for recycling, get your neighbors and friends to sign up too. There are three simple ways to sign up for recycling services: Call 3-1-1, Online at [denvergov.org/DenverRecycles](http://denvergov.org/DenverRecycles), E-mail us at [denverrecycles@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:denverrecycles@ci.denver.co.us)

Whichever method you choose, you'll need to provide your name, address and phone number and we'll take care of the rest. There is no charge to participate in the recycling program. Once signed up,

we'll deliver a recycling cart to you in about 3 to 6 weeks along with all the information you need to get started.

**Challenge 2: Increase Amount Recycled**  
Make sure you are recycling all of these items as you can:

- Corrugated cardboard
- Magazines & catalogs
- Paperboard (cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, etc.)
- Junk mail
- Phone books
- Steel cans & empty aerosol cans
- Brown paper bags
- Plastic bottles
- Office paper
- Glass bottles & jars
- Aluminum cans, aluminum foil and pie tins
- Newspapers

Also, make sure you are not contaminating your recyclables with unacceptable items.

- NO Plastic bags
- NO Plastic tubs or trays
- NO Paper milk, juice or ice cream cartons
- NO Garbage
- NO Styrofoam

For more information about Denver Recycles programs call 3-1-1 or visit us on-line at [www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles).

## Winter Tree Care Tips

While many of us have put our gardening gloves away for the season, it is important to keep an eye out for your trees during the colder months. Follow these tips below to help preserve your trees this winter:

**When to water** - During prolonged dry periods in the fall and winter (October - March), water one to two times per month. Water only when the temperature is above 40 degrees and no snow cover exists.

**Water deeply and slowly** - Apply water so it moistens the soil in the critical root zone to a depth of 12 inches. The critical root zone is also called the dripline, which is the term given to the area under a tree where it sheds rain or irrigation water. If you visualize an umbrella in the rain, the area where the rain falls to the ground would be the dripline. Methods for watering include a deep root fork or needle, soaker hose or soft spray wand. Apply water to many locations under the dripline. If a deep root fork or needle is used, insert the device no deeper than eight inches into the soil.

**Tree roots are not like carrots** - Tree root systems can spread two to three times wider than the height of the tree. Most of the tree's absorbing roots are in the top twelve inches of the soil. Water should be applied within the dripline.

**How much water to apply** - To assure survival of the tree, apply 10 gallons of water for each inch of the tree's diameter. For example, a two-inch diameter tree will need 20 gallons per watering. Use a ruler to measure your tree's diameter.

**Mulch helps retain soil moisture** - Mulch is critical to conserve soil moisture. Apply organic mulch within the dripline, at a depth of four inches. It's best to eliminate turf prior to adding mulch. Leave a six-inch space between the mulch and trunk of trees. Mulch materials may include wood chips, bark, leaves and evergreen needles.

**Moisture is needed to avoid disease** - Stressed trees are more vulnerable to disease and insect infestations and branch dieback. Keep a watchful eye for anything that looks out of the ordinary.

For specific guidelines on how long to water depending on your chosen watering device and the size of your trees, look for the Save our Shade brochure on Denver Water's website at [www.denverwater.org](http://www.denverwater.org).



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### Quality Time

Happy New Year to everyone! The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is finally over, the relatives are all back to their homes, and our lives are almost back to normal. I hope your 2006 was as rewarding as ours; we set lots of goals and we did our best to reach them. As we look forward to a brand new year we are all thinking and writing of new things we'll do and new ways to do it. These things, often called "resolutions" tend to dissipate about March of every year. As a family, one of the goals we set every year is to spend more "quality time" with our children. But what exactly is "quality time?" Is it watching television with our children, or is it playing ball or reading a book together? "Quality time" is when you and your child are able to have a learning experience together.

This learning experience could come from learning to play an instrument together, to gardening, taking an art class, skiing, dancing or many other activities. As adults we sometimes think that buying things for our children is all we need to do to show them we care. But if you ask most kids to tell you about something that made them happy, they will usually describe an experience in their lives, not the toys and McDonald's we bought them. As parents, if we work on finding things we can do with our children, then those golden memories they describe will be things they did with us. What an impact we would have on raising our children if we all allowed ourselves to not just live our lives through watching them, but join in on learning new things together!

In our profession, we see this quality time in watching some of our families take martial arts classes together. They have the opportunity to make mistakes together, encourage each other, assist each other, laugh together and watch each other grow. As each family member's skills, confidence and self-esteem grow, their relationships grow. In learning a life long skill together, they are gathering memories that will never be forgotten, memories that are priceless, unlike the toy we bought for them 3 weeks ago.

As we all work hard to be successful in our endeavors, for all the financial reasons that are necessary, let's not forget how important it is to share some of our time with our children. This year, 2007, let's try and replace our "Oh I'm just too tired," "I'm too old for that," "I'm just too busy," with "Hey, What if we did this together?" Realize that by giving your children this "quality time," you are giving them the best expression of your love they could ever have, and in the future you'll be happy you did.

*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).*

### Let It Snow

"Let it snow. Let it snow. Let it snow." Every parent has faced the situation: You're carrying your little one in January, and she let's out a blood curdling scream, "Nooo!" You freeze in a panic to see what horrible creature has stabbed needles in her eyes, only to discover that she was just really excited to see snow. She's happy as a clam, while you need a moment to get your heart rate down to human levels.

Snow is not only fun for kids, but it can also be educational. Making snow angels can entertain little kids until they are frozen, while also enhancing gross motor and visual-spatial skills. With older kids, talk about how many Eskimo words there are for "snow" and why. How many? Limitless. Why? Because snow is so important to them. Ask your child to look for the different types of snow: Anniu = falling snow; Api = ground snow; Siqoq = smoky (drifting snow); Upsik = wind beaten snow; Mapsuk = overhanging drift; Kaioglaq = sharply etched wind eroded surface; Tumarinyiq = ripple type drift; Kimoaqtruk = snow drift; Pukak = bottom snow layer (depth hoar); Salumaroaq = smooth surface of fine particles; Natatgo-naq = rough surface of fine particles; Quinzhee = snow shelter. This promotes language skills and multicultural awareness.

Take a pot outside and have your kids fill it to the top with snow. Bring it inside and leave it on a table. The snow will all melt, but the water will only take up a fraction of the pot that was filled with snow. Why? Put the pot on the stove and bring it to a boil, until all the water has steamed away. Talk with your kids about the differences between solids, liquids and gases. If they freeze the water instead of boiling it, does it become snow again or merely ice? Can they apply the same experiment to other things, like ice cream?

For older kids, conduct the same activity with a thermometer. Teach them how to read it, and have them use it outside and inside. Decide jointly at what temperature they need to wear their heavy coats and gloves, and when they can sport lighter jackets. See how much the temperature changes from the first light in the morning to the middle of the day, when the sun is the brightest. These activities are entertaining for the kids, but they are also learning problem-skills, planning, daily living and scientific thinking 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.*

## Faces of Fitzsimons

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As part of our ongoing series about Fitzsimons, the Front Porch will profile residents of the Greater Stapleton area who work at Fitzsimons. Please email [FrontPorch@fineprintco.co](mailto:FrontPorch@fineprintco.co) to suggest people for this series.



Dr. Brian Tseng, a pediatric neurologist who has a Ph.D. in molecular biology, poses for a family portrait with his wife Cindy, a Westerly Creek Elementary school teacher, their children Anna, 7, and Greg, 11, along with their pet turtles.

### Brian Tseng, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Brian Tseng, a board-certified pediatric neurologist at Children's Hospital, won't be moving to the new facility at Fitzsimons until it is finished in late 2007, but he knows the precise distance from his Stapleton residence (2.2 miles) because he already runs or rides his bike to a research lab at Fitzsimons where he hopes to develop new treatments to slow the progress of

Muscular Dystrophy in children. Dr. Tseng's research, funded by the National Institutes of Health, Children's Hospital and private sources, focuses on young boys who are vulnerable to a particularly devastating and too often deadly strain of the disease.

Brian and his wife Cindy, a kindergarten teacher at Westerly Creek Elementary School, have two children,

Greg (11) and Anna (7). Brian received his medical degree from the University of Texas at Houston and a Ph.D. in molecular biology from MD Anderson Cancer Center, also in Houston. Cindy was four times an All American swimmer at the University of California at Berkley and an Olympic finalist. The couple lived in Congress Park before moving to Stapleton three years ago.

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A Little Bit of Clean Up Goes a Long Way

Going to the mail box the other night after work, I stepped onto the grass and into a mess – someone was rude enough not to clean up after their dog. Aside from the stink on my shoes and irritation at a lazy pet owner, as a veterinarian, I automatically think of the risk of parasites and zoonotic diseases. In a community full of children, taking the effort to clean up goes a long way towards protecting their health as well as that of our pets.

Picking up after your pet is not only hygienic, lawful and courteous, but also helps to keep the soil free of parasites such as roundworms and hookworms. These parasites are potentially zoonotic to humans, meaning that they are transmissible under natural conditions from animals to humans, in this case via feces and risk of oral-fecal contamination or via the skin, called cutaneous larval migrans. Children due to their play habits are at higher risk of infection than adults.

Prevention of worms can be achieved with good personal hygiene, good environmental hygiene by cleaning up waste on walks and in the back yard, elimination of intestinal parasites in pets with regular deworming and making potentially contaminated areas, such as uncovered sand boxes off limits to children.

We and the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recommend treating puppies and kittens prophylactically to prevent latent infections, fecal examinations two to four times a year, using year-round heartworm/intestinal parasite medications in dogs and enforcement of leash and “pooper scooper” laws. Additionally, cleaning up pet feces promptly and regularly to remove potentially infective eggs before they become disseminated into the environment via rain, insects or the active migration of the larvae.

Feces can also transmit other parasites such Giardia, a very common single celled organism that can cause diarrhea in both people and animals. It can also be transmitted via contaminated water. The same principals of prevention apply as for intestinal worms, but also it helps to prevent your dog from drinking from potentially contaminated water sources – puddles, reservoirs, streams and canals. Giardia is very treatable with medications.

So, pet owners, please grab your bags on the way out the door and clean up after your pets. There’s no place so isolated that you can be sure that your pet’s waste products would not put another animal at risk of catching something or some person at risk of stepping in a noxious surprise. And, make sure to ask your veterinarian what would be the best means of prevention of intestinal parasites for your pet.

Dr. Smith’s clinic, The 29th Ave. Animal Hospital, is located in the East 29th Ave. Town Center at Stapleton in the courtyard next to Fantastic Sams. Call 303.394.3937 for more information.

at Stapleton



Melissa Feig, administrator of the Department of Radiation Oncology, describes the functions of the CAT scan machine behind her, which is used to find abnormalities in the body and assist in procedures by helping to accurately guide the placement of instruments or treatments.

Melissa Feig, MBA, MSHA

Not many people know that when Melissa Feig was an undergraduate student at Ithaca College in New York, she played college rugby for Cornell University. Ithaca did not have a rugby program and because Melissa was determined to play the sport, she secured permission to play for the Cornell rugby team.

Today, the Stapleton resident brings the same personal determination to another “team effort” in her role as the administrator for the Department of Radiation Oncology for the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center at Fitzsimons. For the past six and a half years, she has worked to help CU provide the best care for cancer patients as she oversees budgets

and finance, human resources and other key elements of her department.

Melissa moved to Stapleton in April of 2006 after deciding that it was the kind of neighborhood in which she wanted to raise her 15-month-old son, Max. The Queens New York native says she appreciates a community in which she can get to know her neighbors.

Melissa enjoys riding her bike, snowboarding, playing golf and just spending time with her son. While she finds Colorado almost the perfect place to live, the east coast native admits she misses the beach and is “still looking for the ocean!”

Vegetarian Meal Ideas

So here we are again. It’s January. We’re broke, two pounds overweight, and still craving even more chocolate. What’s needed is a resolution that won’t be too painful to keep. I have a suggestion. Every family should have at least one vegetarian meal that they enjoy and eat on a regular basis. Meat is expensive for your pocketbook and the planet. It is often high in fat and cholesterol and it crowds out healthier food on your plate. Most dietary guidelines recommend only four ounces per day and most Americans eat much more than that. Yeah, I know, it tastes really good and when you want a hamburger, steak, or roast chicken nothing else will do. But sometimes you don’t have a specific craving and you don’t need a heavy meal. So here are some suggestions to get you started:

- Tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwich
- Cheese and crackers and apples
- Pasta with marinara or pesto sauce
- A frittata, omelet, or other egg casserole
- Butternut squash risotto
- Vegetable stir-fry and rice
- Vegetarian pizza
- Quesadillas
- Falafel

As you can see, there are a lot of things you can do that don’t involve tofu or veggie burgers. (I have to confess that I don’t like beans so you’re on your own with those recipes.) Here is a recipe for a hearty vegetable stew that is flavored with bacon (and beer!) but otherwise meat free. It takes a little time to put together but is worth the effort. The combination of vegetables can be changed but it tastes best with a variety. I usually serve this with just a loaf of bread but a green salad is nice too.

**Carbonnade of Root Vegetables, serves 6**

6 slices of bacon, diced

3 medium onions, diced

1 teaspoon dried thyme

1 1/2 tbsp. Balsamic vinegar

2 medium turnips, peeled and cubed

1 small rutabaga, peeled and cubed

1 small butternut squash, peeled and cubed

2 medium red potatoes, scrubbed and cubed

3 medium carrots, peeled and cut in 1 inch lengths

2 Tbsp flour

1 cup beer, preferably ale

1 1/2 tsp. brown sugar

1 tsp salt

1/4 tsp nutmeg

1/2 tsp black pepper

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1/4 cup minced parsley

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a large dutch oven, cook the bacon over medium heat until it is crisp. Drain off all but 3 tablespoons of the fat. Add the onions and thyme and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onions are very soft and begin to color, 10 to 12 minutes. Add 1 tablespoon vinegar and stir up any browned bits from the bottom of the pan. Add the remaining vegetables and the flour to the pot, stirring so the flour dissolves. Stir in the beer, brown sugar, salt, nutmeg and pepper. Cover, transfer to oven, and bake 45 to 55 minutes or until the vegetables are tender. Stir in the mustard, parsley, and remaining 1/2 tablespoon of vinegar. Serve sprinkled with cheese.

Susan Gamble describes herself as an enthusiastic amateur who has cooked tasty and nutritious meals for her family every day for many years. She is a Park Hill resident who has children ages 3 and 5. She can be reached at susanandpark@mac.com.

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## Westerly/Stapleton Foundation/ SUN Tutoring Program Starts Strong – More Volunteers Needed!

While the new tutoring program being organized by Westerly Creek and co-sponsored by the Stapleton Foundation and SUN is off to a strong start, additional volunteer tutors are always needed. The program is focused on improving student achievement levels in grades 4-7. This tutoring program is a very important educational initiative in our community, and volunteers are key to its success. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bernard Douthit at 303-355-3324 or [Bernard.Douthit@trizetto.com](mailto:Bernard.Douthit@trizetto.com).

## SUN Holiday Gift Drive for Mercy Housing a Success

SUN reached its goal of fulfilling the wish lists of the 31 Parkside residents whose holiday wish lists would otherwise go unfulfilled. SUN hopes to get the word out early and often in 2007 to broaden community involvement in this kind of philanthropic activity.

## Denver Facing Pressing Infrastructure Needs *Special from the Denver Infrastructure Task Force*

*Marilyn Miller of the Denver Infrastructure Task Force addressed the November SUN Board meeting, providing facts, figures, and background on the Task Force's work and taking questions and input about capital projects in the Stapleton area and throughout the city. Potential capital needs in the Stapleton area range from much-needed upgrades to the Quebec transportation corridor to a city public library. The below is an excerpt from materials distributed by the Infrastructure Task Force.*

Just as homeowners maintain and update the infrastructure of their houses, the City government must care for the infrastructure of buildings like police stations, recreation centers and libraries.

Currently over 110 Denverites, representing neighborhoods, businesses and nonprofit organizations are working on committees looking at Denver's infrastructure maintenance needs and how to pay for them. Over 300 people came to open houses in late October and early November to give the committees advice about what maintenance was most important and what types 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.

financing mechanisms were possible. Go to [www.denverinfrastructure.org](http://www.denverinfrastructure.org) to learn more and to give your input.

### What is the history behind this effort?

Traditionally, the City has not had a large enough revenue stream dedicated to keeping our capital assets maintained. As a result, periodic "catch-up" bond issues have been submitted to the voters to restore our capital assets to functionally acceptable levels. In 2005, the Mayor's Infrastructure Task Force found that Denver was deferring approximately \$25.4 million annually (in 2005 dollars) in capital maintenance needed to meet reasonable standards.

Some of the main reasons the City's capital maintenance program has fallen behind are:

The City's infrastructure has grown as Denver has expanded, and the dollar amounts committed to capital maintenance have not kept pace with this expansion of the asset stock. In addition, as we have grown, existing assets are experiencing more concentrated use.

The main dedicated funding stream for capital improvements (the Occupational Privilege Tax or OPT) has remained static in nominal dollar terms and therefore the real (inflation-adjusted) buying power of this revenue stream has actually decreased 25% over the past 20 years.

Because Denver expanded rapidly in the post-war boom of the 1950s, some of the City's assets recently have reached or exceeded their useful life of approximately 50 years and therefore need to be replaced or rehabilitated.

A citizens group of finance professionals have been convened to look at ways to solve this maintenance problem in the future. Some of the ideas being discussed are:

Change the dedicated annual capital funding sources to ones that keep pace with the increasing costs of construction. For example, change from the Occupational Privilege Tax to a set proportion of the current property tax.

Ask the voters to approve a three mill property tax increase to fund the gap between currently available and required annual capital maintenance funding.

Commit future revenue streams that result from the sunset of excise tax obligations, completion of existing tax increment financing payments to Denver Urban Renewal Authority, repayment of certain other obligations, and from non-committed revenues of the new Convention Center Hotel. Use these increased revenue streams exclusively for infrastructure maintenance on an annual, on-going basis.

Add staff or contract workers to provide the capacity to initiate (and complete where possible) annually-funded capital projects in the year of funding.

Invest in asset condition management data systems to keep inventory, condition, and other data in real time, as well as keep maintenance records and provide replacement schedules.

Every four years, update and review the City's capital asset inventories and condition assessments to determine if



### Abby Reynolds

Caroline, 6, Gordon, 18 months, Annie, 3

"My New Year's Resolutions are pretty simple: to spend quality time with my family, to exercise and stay healthy, and to be the best person I can be. When I set a resolution or goal I find that it is most helpful to focus on very specific things. Whether the goal is to meet my friends to exercise in the morning three times a week, or to read to my children every night - the best thing to do is be specific with your goals and to share them with family and friends so that they can help you meet your goals."



### Dani Raeburn, M.D.

Sutton, 8 weeks

"I'm a big list maker. I kind of drive myself crazy, but if it's on my list I'll get it done. I want to be more efficient if I can, and free up some brain power! I bought a book called "Getting Things Done" by David Allen and I plan to use it to make better lists. This book promises to free your brain. You know nothing will slip by because you've delegated a time and a place for everything."

standards are being met at the available funding level. Adjust funding goals depending on the results of this quadrennial reassessment.

Continue to use proceeds from sale of property to fund "catch-up" capital expenditures and keep up an aggressive asset disposition program. This could raise between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000 annually, on average. The goal is to allow the City to bring all asset categories up to targeted standards over the next 10 to 12 years and provide a means to maintain them at that level with as little tax impact as possible. The Task Force welcomes your feedback. Please visit [www.denverinfrastructure.org](http://www.denverinfrastructure.org) to join the discussions, and to share your ideas.

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\*Based on a March 2006 report of 2005 billed premiums of all Advantage program members.

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Street

Year’s resolutions... ones that worked, ones you’re making this year.



Lorena Reyes  
Tina Fresquez, 11; Jasmine Fresquez, 9

Three years ago I made a New Year’s Resolution to quit smoking and I did it. I completely quit, cold turkey and I haven’t smoked since.



Dave Ransom  
Alex, 1  
“I don’t think I believe in New Year’s Resolutions. I make resolutions every day and break them. Recently I’ve resolved to keep more on an even keel and not get upset and I’ve done pretty well at it.”

Ron Smith  
Kira, 2  
“The most memorable New Year’s Resolution I can remember is when we spent New Year’s Eve in Hawaii and we were so taken with it, lying on the beach looking out at the ocean, that we made a resolution to go back again with our best friends, and we did.”



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Letters to the Editor – The Front Porch will publish Letters to the Editor as space allows. We reserve the right to edit length. Please mail your letters to Tom Gleason, editor, The Front Porch, Forest City Stapleton, Inc., 7351 E. 29th Ave., Denver, CO 80238 or email: TGleason@StapletonDenver.com



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# Whiz Kids Keep Computers Humming



Holding computers with their own images, DSST Tech Crew members, left to right, bottom row: Paul Weaver, Britta Ulm; middle row: Randy Crock, Colette Lyons, Ian Clanton-Thuon, Lee Semien; back row: Derek Ewald, Will Harris, George Till, and DSST Director of Technology, Mark Inglis.

The students at Denver School of Science and Technology always have someone available to help when they have a computer problem — the Tech Crew. This bunch of computer savvy kids, headed by Marc Inglis, Director of Technology, are a support network that helps students and

teachers keep their computers in working order. At weekly meetings after school the Tech Crew talks about problems they've had and go over ideas for solving them. They also help with the "less fun" tasks such as checking the computers in and out, keeping insurance records, and doing all the paperwork necessary in a school that issues a computer to every student. Paul Weaver describes the most fun part as going on field trips to Microsoft or HP conventions when they are in town and learning about new products.

## Your Family Tree, Your Journals...Your Legacy – WebBiographies.com

Stapleton resident Scott Purcell has an answer for anyone who is interested in creating a family tree or a lasting personal memoir that will be a legacy for future generations: WebBiographies.com.

WebBiographies is a web-based service that enables you to post your family genealogy and/or create an autobiography (which includes a scrapbook) to be shared with family and friends, and to preserve your legacy for future generations. WebBiographies is intuitive and makes it easy for anyone to organize their life-story and to invite friends and relatives to add their comments and observations as they record the details of their lives.

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WebBiographies.com, a series of questions prompts the users (referred to as "Biographers") to establish basic facts. The system then suggests topics that trigger memories and stories which can be posted into any of the pre-defined journaling chapters, including: family, growing up, work, health, romance, life & friends, hobbies, education, travel and adventures, culinary, entertainment, holidays, and advice. WebBiographies provides permanent storage of up to 2,000 megabytes to registered users for as little as a \$99 once-in-a-lifetime fee. The online memoir of a member who passes away is kept online forever.

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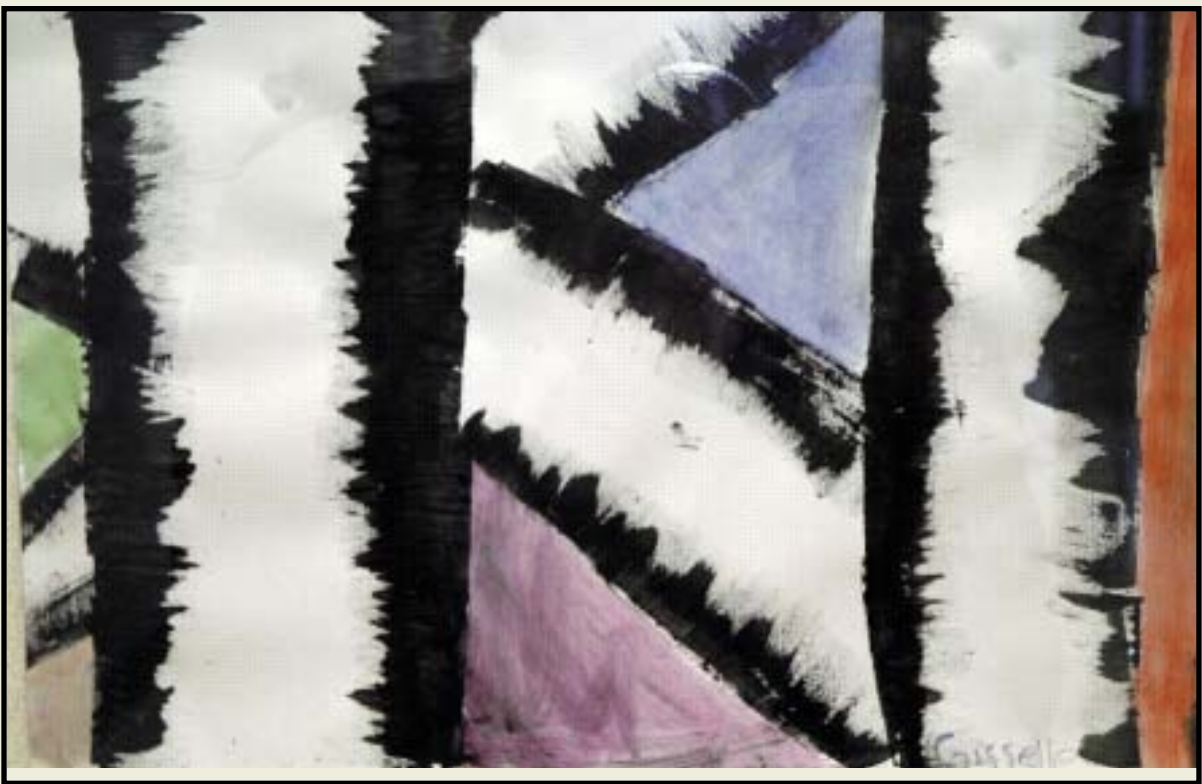
# Young Artists Blossom at Westerly Creek Elementary

*Westerly Creek art teacher Thom Padick gave his students the following assignments and shared their remarkable results with the Front Porch.*

### Amazing Aspens

Students used cardboard in lieu of paint brushes to create these aspen tree images. They then added color in an effort to make their pictures “sing” about color and rhythm

Amazing Aspens by Gisselle Lucio, 6th grade, Roberts Building, Tempera paint & watercolor on paper



### Self Portraits

Nahome Samuel Asmerom, 6th grade, Roberts Building, created a self portrait in pastel chalk

Destiny Litt 5th grade / Roberts Self portrait in Pastel chalk

### Falling Leaves

Our youngest artists drew trees that were losing or had lost their leaves. They included a trunk, primary and secondary branches. They first drew their pictures with oil pastels and then used watercolor paint.

\*Fall Tree Rhythms Kaylea Chidester Kindergarten / Westerly Creek Oil Pastel and watercolor on paper.



### Self Expression With Hands

Students made compositions using only their hands and fingers dipped in paint to create a personal self expression, as in this artwork entitled, “Hand Prints” by Melisa Luna 6th grade, Roberts Building, mono print on paper.



### Collage

Students looked at art by Frenchman Henri Matisse & African American Romare Bearden, two of the most famous collage artists in modern history. Collage is art made of cut and glued paper and pictures. The student’s assignment was to tell a story using only colors and shapes. They were also instructed to try to create a rhythmic or musical pattern in their imagery.

Rhythmic Collage by Anthony Farmelo, 1st grade, Westerly Creek, Collage




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## The Blizzard of '06



## Digging Out and Having Fun

**Above:** Francisco, 4, foreground, and sister Paulina, 6, help their father Mark Koester dig out the family car.  
**Top right:** Katy Boehm (front) and Abby Edinger ride a sled from a backyard fort into the alley.  
**Far right:** Cameron Shook, 11, hunkers down in his snow fort and fires a snowball at the photographer.  
**Right:** Sarah Batt skis down 25th Street.



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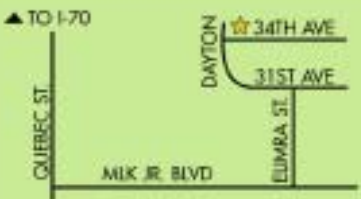
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