

Front Porch

Distributed to the Greater Stapleton Area

STAPLETON

DENVER, COLORADO

MARCH 2007

Stapleton School A National Model

DSST Awarded \$500,000 Grant to Explore Growth



Bill Kurtz, DSST head of school (left) and Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien look on as DPS superintendent Michael Bennett announces the \$500,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and an additional grant that would make DSST a demonstration site for teachers and administrators from 35 high schools that are part of the Texas Science Technology Engineering Math Initiative.

Stapleton's Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to explore expansion of the highly successful school's program to a secondary school model serving grades 6-12 and systemize programs that may become the foundation for new schools elsewhere in the nation.

For the second year in a row, the public charter high school's students have outscored their counterparts in the Denver Public Schools and statewide on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP). The combination of DSST's outstanding performance on state assessments, an extraordinarily diverse student population, and a highly innovative school culture has made the school a promising model for advocates

of education reform throughout the nation, particularly for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) schools. Over the past year DSST has hosted educators from over ten states including Texas, Ohio, California, New York, Pennsylvania and several countries including Australia and Nigeria.

"We started out to demonstrate that all kids, regardless of background, could excel in math and the sciences," said DSST founder David Greenberg. "Thanks to the remarkable work of the faculty and staff, DSST is now a national model for STEM teaching in urban schools."

Expansion explored

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant will enable DSST to explore expansion to a secondary school serving grades 6-12, subject to the approval of the Denver Public School Board. The Stapleton Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities has also contributed \$25,000 to support the exploration of the expansion. The school recently received over 400 applications for next fall's freshman class, demonstrating the strong demand for the school's program. Building a 6-12th grade program would allow DSST to provide the continuity and consistency to increase students' core academic foundation and generate better learning results in grades 9-12. The new model would also immerse students as early as possible into DSST's highly acclaimed "learning culture," with its emphasis on academic rigor, high expectations and shared core values. The success of those efforts would help the school realize its mission of having 100% of its students meet state standards and graduate from a four-year college.

"We share a mission with DSST to prepare all students for college, work, and citizenship," said Jim Shelton, program director of education for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "We are proud to (continued on page 4)

Stapleton's New Firehouse Dedicated



Mayor John Hickenlooper and City Council President Michael Hancock join Lt. Charlie Karl of the Denver Fire Department Honor Guard saluting the flag as the ceremony begins for the dedication of the new Station 26 fire station at Stapleton.

See story and photos on page 23 about life in the new firehouse.

Westerly Creek and Roberts to become separate schools School Board Approves Plan



Jennifer Shouse, with Kelly Anolin, address the DPS School Board about their concerns on the reconfiguration of Westerly Creek and Roberts schools at the the February 15th Board meeting.

See story on page 8 for answers to your questions about the new school configuration.

Printed with soy ink.

Mark Your CALENDAR

FOR STAPLETON EVENTS



Assistant fire chiefs line up at the dedication ceremony for the new Stapleton fire station.

EVERY MONTH

Every Tuesday

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

Third Tuesday

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

Third Tuesday

Stapleton Cultural Arts Committee
6 - 7pm Coral Room

Fourth Tuesday

Stapleton Cultural Arts Committee
6 pm - 7 pm call for location
[Jenifer Graham 720.249.5104]

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 Wednesday

New Resident Orientation Meeting.
[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.
[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]

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

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

MARCH

Tuesday, March 6

North Stapleton General
Development Plan Public Forum
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
8340 E 49th Ave, Suite 200 (Main Street)

APRIL

Saturday, April 28

Spring Festival
Founder's Green, time tba

MAY

Saturday, May 26

Pools open

JUNE

Every Sunday

Farmers Market
29th Ave Town Center 8:30am - 12:30pm

Friday, June 8

Stapleton Movie Night
Founders' Green ~8:30pm

Saturday, June 16

Central Park Grand Opening
Central Park, time tba

Friday, June 29

Stapleton Movie Night
Founders' Green - Starts at dark

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www.StapletonFrontPorch.com

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Fitzsimons Company Pursues Approval of Genetically Targeted Drug

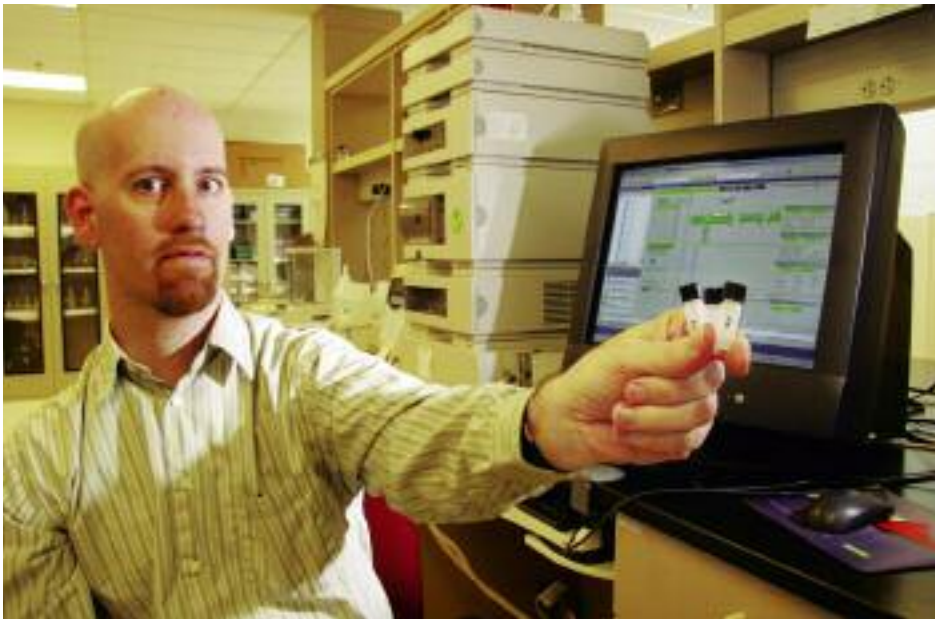
“Colorado Biotech Is Now Squarely on the Map Nationally”

Stapleton's neighbor, Fitzsimons, is becoming nationally known for its growing biotech industry. The Fitzsimons Bioscience Park opened in 2000 and currently has two buildings. The Fitzsimons Development Authority selected Forest City as a development partner to complete the buildout of the

160-acre bioscience park, and growth of bioscience companies in Colorado is expected to increase exponentially with that new development. The first companies are expected to take occupancy of the new space in approximately 2008, and the full buildout is projected for approximately 6.5 million square feet of office and research facilities.

The most recent biotech headline news focuses on Fitzsimons-based biopharmaceutical company ARCA Discovery, Inc.'s new drug application that could gain FDA approval as soon as 2008. ARCA received FDA clearance in early 2006 to submit a new drug application for Bucindolol, potentially the first genetically-targeted cardiovascular drug. That clearance enabled ARCA to attract \$15 million in venture capital financing which will allow ARCA to continue the research required to complete the filing of the new drug application.

The company also attracted a new CEO/President,



Bryce Keen holds vials that go in the high performance liquid chromatography machine behind him

that analyzes blood plasma and looks for certain markers that correlate with genetic heart problems.

former chief scientific officer of Myogen, one of Colorado's biotech success stories. Bristow serves as ARCA's Chairman and Chief Science and Medical Officer. He also is a Professor of Medicine and former Head of Cardiology at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center.

Bristow and Brewer, who have overseen two of the biotech industry's most celebrated success stories, further increase Colorado's reputation in the biotech field. Bristow stated that Brewer's move from the biotech "hotbed" of California to Colorado "means that Colorado biotech is now squarely on the map nationally. That we can attract someone of the caliber of Richard Brewer shows that the state is moving forward. It's another data point in the Colorado success story."

By identifying key genetic factors underlying heart failure and response to Bucindolol, ARCA's new drug, patients can be identified who will benefit most from Bucindolol treat-

ment. When prescribed genetically, Bucindolol is projected to be the most advanced treatment for a majority of U.S. heart failure patients.

"The results in the favorable genetic subsets are better with this drug than for any other drug in the class," Bristow said. He said what distinguishes Bucindolol from two competitor drugs is pharmacogenetic targeting. "That's our value-added. It's nice to know upfront just who is going to benefit from a treatment."



ARCA CEO/President Richard Brewer, M.D.

For more information visit www.arcadiscovery.com.

PUBLIC FORUM

North Stapleton General Development Plan*

Tuesday, March 6, 2007
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

8340 E. 49th Avenue, Suite 200
Main Street in the Northfield Retail Center
Sponsored by the City and County of Denver and Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

*The GDP is the master land use and infrastructure plan for the Stapleton area north of I-70 to 56th Avenue and from Quebec to Dallas Streets.

- Directions:
- North on Quebec Street to 49th Avenue
 - East on 49th Avenue to Verbena Street (2nd Stop light)
 - Right on Verbena to 8340 E. 49th Avenue (Building on the right with the Travel The Rails mural)

Ample free parking (including handicapped parking) is available in the lot between Old Navy and Main Street Northfield. Enter the "Forest City Guest Services Offices" on the south end of 8340 E. 49th (adjacent to Claire's)

For additional information: Contact Tom Gleason at tgleason@stapletondenver.com

Architects Selected for New Stapleton High School

Photo courtesy of LOA Architects



Rendering of one of the academic wings in the design concept submitted by the winning architectural firm.

By Brian Weber

Luis O. Acosta Architects (LOA) of Denver has won the competition to design the next public high school in Stapleton. The Denver school board made the selection in mid February. Preliminary plans call for construction to begin in 2008 on the first phase of the school

that would open in the 2010-2012 timeframe. The 20-acre school site is north of I-70, south of 56th Avenue and east of Spruce Street. The site adjoins a 15-acre park complex that the school will share with the public.

Denver Public Schools, however, must first pass a bond issue to finance construction. The (continued on page 6)



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New Charter School To Open at Lowry in Fall 2007

Photo courtesy of Vanguard Classical School

Parents looking for school options in the Northeast Denver area now have one more choice – the new Vanguard Classical School. A charter school to be located in Lowry, Vanguard is tuition-free and will open with grades K-6 in the Fall of 2007, adding grades 7 and 8 in consecutive years. Vanguard is conducting presentations at various locations in the Lowry area; parents may check this schedule and contact the school founders directly by visiting the website at www.vanguardclassicalschool.com.

The deadline for the first-round lottery was February 21, but the school is continuing to take applications. Interested families should contact Vanguard about space availability. Because Denver Public Schools denied Vanguard's charter application, this school is officially part of the Aurora Public Schools system and gives first priority to Aurora students.

Vanguard Classical School will offer a rigorous, content-rich, inclusive learning environment. Because of a unique relationship with Cerebral Palsy of Colorado, an organization which initially helped champion the rights of kids with disabilities to gain access to public education and has since broadened its commitment to strengthen public education for all kids in an inclusive environment, Vanguard is able to accommodate children with disabilities. It expects to serve a student population that reflects the general community.

Judith Ham, President and CEO of CP of Colorado, and Rob Miller, who will serve as Director of Vanguard, presented to a group of area parents their vision for Vanguard in a public meeting in Lowry the evening of February 13. A nationwide search is currently being conducted for the role of principal.

Mr. Miller explained that Vanguard will take a similar "classical education" approach as the two highly successful charter schools with which he has previous experience, Liberty Common School and Ridgeview Classical School, both in Ft. Collins. Ridgeview has been ranked as the No. 1 public high school in Colorado for 2 years in a row, based on results from the Colorado School Accountability Report, which grades schools primarily on student CSAP scores and performance on the ACT examinations.

"A classical education adheres to a time-tested combination of foundational knowledge and virtue," explains Mr. Miller. "It begins with students acquiring knowledge



Architect's rendering of the Vanguard Classical School at 801 Yosemite in Lowry, scheduled to open in the Fall of 2007.

through a wide familiarity with literature, history, science, math, music, arts, people, and places. We believe that a solid, specific, sequenced and shared body of knowledge is necessary for all students to prepare for success in higher levels of education and to become informed, productive citizens and future leaders."

The key programming components of Vanguard will include Core Knowledge, Singapore Math, Core Virtues character development, and Riggs' Reading and Writing.

Vanguard Classical School will offer a rigorous, content-rich, inclusive learning environment.

As a Core Knowledge School, art and music are automatically a part of the curriculum. A P.E. program is also included. The school intends to offer Latin in the upper grades at a future point.

Vanguard will open the Fall of 2007 in a new building located at 801 Yosemite in Lowry. For more information, visit www.vanguardclassicalschool.com or contact Rob Miller at rmiller@vanguardclassicalschool.com. Call 303-691-2384 for more information.

DSST Grant *(continued from page 1)*

continue this partnership to reach students even earlier and help them get the support they need to thrive in a culture of high expectations."

"With the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, DSST is excited to be able to further develop the systems and practices that have defined our unique approach to high school education and look towards applying them in a full secondary school model," added Bill Kurtz, Founding Head of School at DSST.

Stapleton school a national model

Additionally, DSST is anticipating a grant from The Texas High School Project/Communities Foundation that would make the Stapleton school an exemplar school for the Texas High School Project's T-STEM Initiative (the Texas-Science Technology Engineering Math Initiative). Under this agreement, DSST would serve as a demonstration site for 35 newly created Texas STEM high schools to explore best practices for instruction and school culture beginning in the summer 2007. T-STEM teachers and administrators would learn alongside DSST master teachers, administrators, and students.

Since its opening in the

fall of 2004, the percentage of DSST 9th graders scoring at proficient or advanced levels in the CSAP tests has grown to 55%, compared to 17% in DPS and 38% statewide. The percentage of DSST 10th graders scoring at proficient or advanced levels is 64%, compared to 15% in DPS and 31% statewide. DSST 10th graders were the 5th highest in math and 21st highest in writing statewide. DSST was recently rated as an "Excellent" school on the State Report Card for last year's student learning results. The only other DPS school to earn that rating was the Denver School of the Arts, a highly-selective magnet school located just west of Stapleton.

Award winning design

The Denver School of Science and Technology was also chosen by the American Architectural Foundation as the featured school this year for the "Great Schools by Design" video series sponsored by Target and the KnowledgeWorks Foundation. The video was just released and highlights how the DSST state-of-the-art design provides a learning environment that matches its academic commitment. Designed by the Denver-based architectural firm Klipp, the school is located on a 10-acre site in the Stapleton neighborhood that is being redeveloped by Forest City in northeast Denver. DSST currently serves grades 9-11 and has been adding a new class of freshman each year since it opened in 2004. It will be fully enrolled with 425 students in grades 9-12 in the fall of 2007.

Additional information about DSST and the admission process is available on the school's web site at www.scienceandtech.org.

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**New Park Hill Preschool
Denver International School
Opens Language Immersion
Program for 3-Year-Olds**

Denver International School has opened the metro area's first language immersion preschool program for 3-year-olds. "We know that 80 percent of brain development happens before the age of five. We also know that children exposed to a second language before the age of seven gain native-like pronunciation," said Adam Sexton, Executive Director of Denver International School. "We believe this program is the best of both worlds – giving our students a head start on education, language and cultural exposure."

The opening of the preschool program was made possible by Denver City Council's rezoning of Park Hill in June, 2006. Based on public demand, the zoning was changed, which allowed Denver International School to offer a preschool program.

Founded in 1977, Denver International School is an independent, nonprofit school offering full immersion education in French, Mandarin Chinese or Spanish at the preschool and Kindergarten levels. Grades one through five offer bilingual French-English, Mandarin-English or Spanish-English programs. Denver International School will celebrate its 30th anniversary during the 2007-2008 school year. The school is located just east of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and the Denver Zoo, at 1958 Elm St. For more information, call 303.756.0381 or visit www.dischool.org.

St. Elizabeth's Now Taking Kindergarten & 3rd Grade Enrollments

St. Elizabeth's School, housed on the Clayton College campus located on the northwest corner of Colorado and Martin Luther King Boulevards, is currently enrolling kindergarten and third grade students for the 2007-2008 school year. The school will grow to K-5 in three years and will begin adding middle school grades in year six.

The school's mission is to improve children's opportunities by providing them with an education that forms the whole person: academically, socially, spiritually, and artistically. The school aims to break the injustices of poverty and social segregation and to transform the lives of children. Art and music, particularly choral singing and visual arts, are taught to cultivate beauty and hope in their lives. One of the school's goals is to instill in students the desire to contribute to their communities as well-founded individuals.

The school belongs to two national education associations, the National Association of Episcopal Schools and the NativityMiguel Network of Schools. The Nativity Network of Schools began over 30 years ago by Jesuit priests as an effort to address the dwindling educational opportunities for inner-city children by offering tuition-free education in a faith-based, academically challenging, nurturing and safe school environment. The network now includes over 60 schools throughout America, encompassing both elementary and middle schools. While each NativityMiguel school has its own distinct identity, common characteristics are: small class size and small school communities,



St. Elizabeth's School on the Clayton Campus at Colorado Blvd. and MLK Blvd.

extended day, extended year, parent/family involvement, graduate mentoring and

college counseling. The values that inspired the Episcopal and Nativity models include a respect for the dignity and potential of each person, a responsibility to assist the poor and those in need, a strong sense of community, and the obligation to promote a society characterized by social justice. St. Elizabeth's students are enrolled without regard to race, color, religion or ethnicity. St. Elizabeth's mission is to enroll a balanced mix of full, partial and non-tuition paying families. For more information, please visit: www.stelizabethsdenver.org, or call the school at 303-322-4209.

New Odyssey Head of School Named

The Odyssey School in Stapleton has a new head of school, Lisa Arrastia, who was hired in mid-February to replace current executive director, Nelson Chase, beginning in July. Mr. Chase, who led Odyssey for five years, will become the executive director of School Year Abroad, a Massachusetts-based organization that sends students overseas for one year of high school while living with a host family.

Ms. Arrastia stood out among the candidates based on her instructional expertise, energy, vision, professional and educational background and commitment to students.




New Odyssey head of school, Lisa Arrastia



"Odyssey is a place of quality, passion, and stability," stated Ms Arrastia. She said she was impressed with Odyssey's culture of intellectual curiosity, character development and commitment to "wrestle with the tangled complexities" of a diverse world.

Ms. Arrastia is completing a Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Minnesota. She has a masters in education from Antioch University and a bachelors in sociology from SUNY Empire State College in New York. For the past two years she taught at U of M and the College of St. Catherine. Previously she founded and directed the City as Classroom School in Chicago and was director of the office of public purpose at Francis W. Parker (K-12) School in Chicago.

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Architects Selected for Stapleton High School

Photo courtesy of LOA Architects

(continued from page 3) district will decide by August about the viability of a bond issue in the November election.

LOA bested three other firms to win a six-month design competition. The competition also included the design for a high school in Green Valley Ranch. The DLR Group won the Green Valley Ranch project.

The LOA concept is a campus with four small schools in separate classroom buildings ultimately for up to 1,600 students. The first phase would accommodate 400-500 students and feature common facilities such as a gym, athletic facilities, music rooms, theater, cafeteria and library.

The design competition was a joint effort by DPS, the Stapleton Foundation and the Foundation for Educational Excellence, which works on education issues in Green Valley Ranch. The foundations proposed the competition as the best way to build the next generation of high schools. The foundations and DPS were seeking school concepts focused on flexible use of space for programming and instruction for individual students. They wanted alternatives to the traditional, large comprehensive school model that, in large part, is designed mainly as the most economical way to get the greatest number of students in a building. Research clearly shows that

smaller high schools in the range of 400-500 students are better at helping young people stay interested in school, tackle core subjects and prepare for post secondary education.

A committee of approximately 20 people was convened to select the architects. They included representatives from the Stapleton and Green Valley Ranch communities, DPS, the sponsoring foundations and educators.

Luis O. Acosta's clients have included DPS, Aurora Public Schools, the Jefferson County School District, the city of Denver, Colorado State University, University of Colorado and Kaiser Permanente.

The initial design drawings can be viewed on the DPS web site.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Student Parking | 12. Plains Academic Wing |
| 2. Baseball Field | 13. Gymnasium |
| 3. Soccer Field | 14. Main Administration Suite |
| 4. Softball Field | 15. Cafeteria |
| 5. Basketball Courts | 16. Auditorium |
| 6. Tennis Courts | 17. Music |
| 7. Student Parking | 18. Library |
| 8. Practice Field | 19. Track/Synthetic Field |
| 9. Montane Academic Wing | 20. Visitor/Staff Parking |
| 10. Foothill Academic Wing | 21. Drop Off Area |
| 11. Riparian Academic Wing | |



Site plan submitted by LOA has four small schools sharing a larger campus.

Saturday School Pays Off

Fourteen students from the Bill Roberts School in Stapleton won bikes for perfect attendance and showing progress in the first six-week session of Saturday School that was conducted at Roberts from mid-November to early January. The bike incentive will also be offered in a second, six-week session that runs from mid-January to the first week of March. The bikes were donated by the nonprofit Bicycle Recycle Program, which refurbishes donated bikes for students and children affiliated with various nonprofit organizations. Bicycle Recycle has given away more than 5,500 bikes in 12 years.

Saturday School is a tutoring program in reading, writing and math. Students are given an hour of instruction in each subject from 9 a.m. to noon. The program was developed by Principal Trich Lea and managed by Tracy Schoneman, a teacher at Roberts. Tutors included Westerly Creek Campus teachers and Stapleton residents. The program was sponsored by the Stapleton Foundation and Stapleton United Neighbors. SUN board member Bernard Douthit spearheaded the effort.

For information or to donate a bike or financial support to Bicycle Recycle call program director Bruce Lien, 303-908-7982 or visit www.recyclebicycles.net.




Twenty five students chose to attend the Saturday sessions. Ten winners are pictured in the front row, left to right: Lavenio Watson, Indira Munoz, Camille Moore, Lennay Howse, Gisela Perez, Nahom Asmerom, Beatriz Sanchez, Beatriz Casillas, Abesalom Asmerom, and

Jose Casillas. The four winning students not pictured were Lela Rice, Tiana Nelson, Dreion Dearing, Luis Lozoya-Castillo. Tutors in the back row are Amanda Reed, Julie Maraschky, Tracy Schoneman, Jenny Wilson and Jean Garvey.

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Westerly Creek Campus Reconfigured into Two Separate Schools

By Brian Weber

The Denver school board, on February 15th, approved the reconfiguration of the current two-school Westerly Creek campus into two separate schools starting in the fall of 2007.

The Westerly Creek Elementary School will serve early childhood education (ECE starting at age three) to grade one. Enrollment is projected at approximately 230. Plans call for at least two classes per grade next year. The school will add one grade each succeeding year to form an ECE through grade 5 school.

The William Roberts School will become an ECE through grade 8 school. There will be two classes in ECE through first grades in 2007-08. Enrollment is projected at roughly 485. Final classroom numbers at both schools, however, will depend on ultimate enrollment in the fall.

For the 2007-2008 year both schools will follow their current education programming. They use the curriculum prescribed by Denver Public Schools, which is grounded in academic rigor and differentiated instruction. They incorporate additional emphasis on the arts, Spanish and after school programs. They also follow the principles of the Professional Learning Communities, which calls for building a culture of excellence through collaboration and staff development. PLC schools stress:

- A focus on learning,
- Collaborative culture, i.e. working interdependently to achieve common goals,
- A focus on results,
- The use of timely and relevant data and information to drive instruction and learning.

The district, with community partners, the school's staff and Collaborative School Committees (CSCs) and parents, will conduct a planning process later this year to develop any new specific educational programming that the community determines is appropriate for either school. For instance, district officials see the opportunity at Stapleton to create innovative choices at both schools. In particular, they would



Brian Weber of the Stapleton Foundation, and Westerly Creek parents thank the school board for the opportunity to participate in planning the reconfiguration of the schools at Stapleton.

like the community to craft a program for Westerly Creek that will create its own identity to better distinguish it from the ECE through grade 8 program at Roberts. Specifics about that process will take shape later this year and the community will be informed of opportunities to participate.

The two schools were combined as one K-8 in two buildings this year. Westerly Creek, which was originally designed to be an ECE through grade 5 school, was set up as a primary center (ECE through grade 3) this year to better serve Stapleton's large population of younger children. Primary centers are proving to be an effective option for younger students nationally. Grades 4-8 were placed at Roberts, which was designed for 750-800 students in ECE-grade 8. The decision to separate lower and upper grades was also prompted by concerns about competition for resources and students between two schools relatively close together.

Unexpected growth in the number of students and its strain on space at Westerly Creek, and the school district's change of support for a primary center

caused the change for 2007-08.

The Westerly Creek building was specifically designed to house the elementary school and the K-8 Odyssey Charter School. Odyssey recently received a five-year renewal of its charter. The co-occupancy has worked well for both DPS and Odyssey. DPS and Odyssey officials have been clear that they intend to keep that arrangement in place well into the future. At this time more than 30 percent of Odyssey's 220 students live in Stapleton. Odyssey officials expect that percentage to increase each year as more residents enroll in kindergarten and first grade.

Some key information related to the reconfiguration:


- The two schools will be known by their current names in 2007-08.
- Denver Public Schools intends to place a principal in each school. Current Principal Trich Lea will remain at one of

the schools; which one was not decided at the time of this printing.

- The process for hiring a second principal has not been decided.
- At this time, DPS intends to draw no enrollment boundaries within Stapleton for each school. They will be "choice" schools with the following basic, enrollment priorities: currently enrolled students, siblings of those now enrolled, non-attending Stapleton residents and new residents, other DPS students.
- The enrollment policies may change as the schools get a firm handle on enrollment demands later this year.
- Call either school for more information on registering timelines.
- Each school will have its own PTA and Collaborative School Committee (CSC).

For more information call or visit the schools: Westerly Creek, 8800 E. 28th Ave., 303-320-5877; William Roberts, 2100 Akron Way, 720-424-2640.

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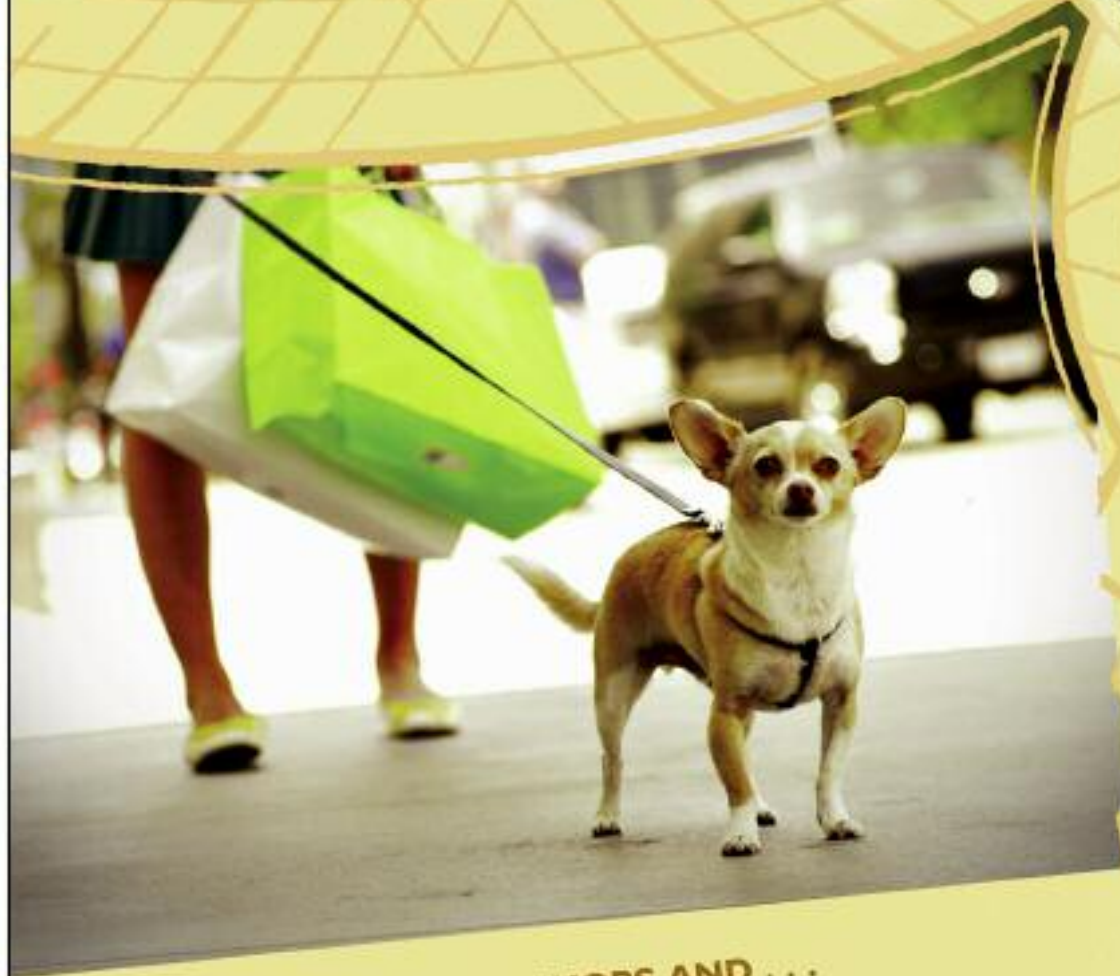
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Patriotic Hearts at Stapleton – Hubert L. Jones American Legion Post #87 Rejuvenated

When Bill Bell of Mosaic Consulting learned that the Hubert L. Jones American Legion Post #87 located at 1475 Elmira in Aurora was in need of building improvements, it didn't take him long to rally the Stapleton community to spring into action. The post has served veterans of WWII, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, the Dominican Republic Conflict, Desert Storm and the Iraqi conflict who have used the building as a gathering place where they meet and assist other veterans with problems. Members of the Post also stay involved with the community by donating baskets to local needy families at Christmas, holding Halloween parties for neighborhood children, and taking part in Boys State Oratorical contests resulting in scholarships for the students.

When Mr. Bell learned of the need to address a number of maintenance problems that had been deferred over time due to the age or disabilities of the Post's members, he

enlisted the help of a number of contractors and businesses at Stapleton. Jim Riney of Guarantee Electrical Contracting and his crew rewired the building and corrected electrical problems to bring it to code. They also installed new ceiling fans, lights and heating units in the bathrooms. M.A. Mortenson sent a volunteer paint crew to give the interior of the building a fresh new look with paint provided by Home Depot in Quebec Square at a reduced cost, and Forest City Development made a monetary contribution to offset the cost of other

supplies. Winston Davis of Personnel Plumber Inc., installed new bathroom fixtures, a garbage disposal and other necessities. Brian Routzon of Guy's Flooring in the Stapleton Business Center put in a wooden dance floor and carpet and tiled the entrance walk way and kitchen. Mr. Bell estimated the cost for all the improvements to be in excess of \$20,000. Following the completion of the improvements, the American Legion Post held an award ceremony to thank the hardworking contractors for their help.

2nd HomeStart Conference To Be Held March 24



Denver City Council President Michael Hancock spoke at American Sunrise Communities HomeStart Conference on Feb. 10th that had 35 attendees. Eight people preliminarily prequalified for an affordable home at Stapleton. The remaining atten-

dees will work one-on-one with Northeast Denver Housing Center to help them on the path to home ownership. Another conference will be held on March 24 at Northfield. Call 303-321-7100 to reserve or visit www.americansunrise.org for more info.



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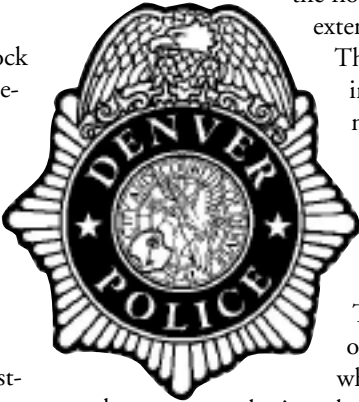
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Denver Police District Two

Officer Phillip Coleman Named Top Cop for Jan.

The District Two Top Cop Citizens Committee has selected Officer Phillip Coleman as the "Top Cop" for January 2007.

On January 9, 2007, Officer Coleman observed a traffic violation in the 1500 block of northbound Quebec Street. Officer Coleman initiated a traffic stop and contacted the driver who was found to be driving on a suspended driver's license. In addition, a passenger in the vehicle had a warrant for his arrest. Officer Coleman noticed that the vehicle did not match the plates that were attached to it, which raised the question of whether or not the vehicle was stolen. Officer Coleman requested a cover officer prior to arresting the passenger and



the driver was subsequently removed from the vehicle. After two bags of methamphetamine were observed on the floorboards of the car by another officer, a more extensive search of the vehicle was conducted. The search located a loaded .380 handgun inside, along with a scale and the crystal methamphetamine. Both parties were arrested.

The Citizens Committee applauded Officer Coleman for displaying the patience and confidence of a more senior officer and exhibiting great instincts for police work. The Citizens Committee also commended all of the Denver Police Department Officers who protect and serve the citizens on a daily basis and provide the highest level of professionalism.

Writer/Actress Joan Collins Autographs Books at Borders



Joan Collins, bestselling author and Broadway and television star, recently autographed her new book at the Borders bookstore in Northfield. The book, *The Art of Living Well: Looking Good, Feeling Great*, describes how to look and feel great at any age, and how to build self-confidence and enhance beauty.

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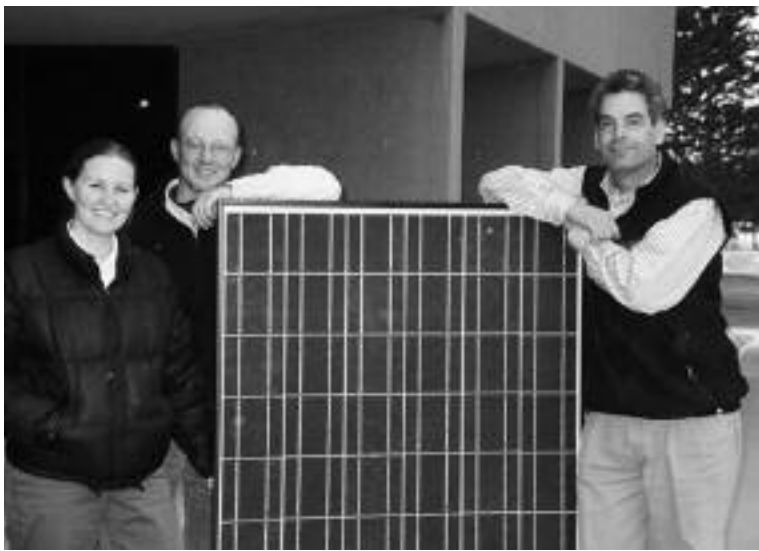
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Harvard Communities to Make Solar Standard in Stapleton Homes

Harvard Communities has announced that all Architect Collection homes in Stapleton will now come with photovoltaic (PV) solar power as a standard feature. Called the *Harvard Solar Advantage*, the initiative is groundbreaking for Colorado.

“Harvard is the first homebuilder in the state to announce the use of solar PV as a standard feature, and we believe this bold decision will create the consumer demand that inspires other builders to follow our lead” said John Keith, President of Harvard Communities. “We’ve made a conscious choice to standardize solar panels in our homes because buyers are much more concerned about resource conservation and frankly, it’s the right thing to do.”

“Stapleton is excited to have an innovative builder demonstrating strong leadership by launching a solar program at Stapleton. The fact that Harvard Communities is making solar standard on their Architect Collection homes at Stapleton is a huge step forward and reinforces the



Amanda Bybee and Jonathan Ernst of Namaste Solar and John Keith of Harvard Communities with a solar panel.

meter spins backwards to provide retail credit for the electricity the solar home produces. At night or during cloudy weather the home pulls power from the grid as normal, thereby spinning the meter forward again.

The solar PV panels being installed in the Architect Collection homes are much leaner than their predecessors - just 1.81 inches thick. These homes will include state-of-the-art triangular panels which conform closely to the roofline, creating a sleek, elegant aesthetic.

Current Architect Collection homes already use 40% less energy for heating and cooling than an average new home

importance of sustainability to the Stapleton community,” said Melissa Knott, director of sustainability for Forest City Stapleton.

The solar PV panels on Architect Collection homes will provide approximately 30% of each home’s electrical power needs. The solar PV system will integrate seamlessly with the home’s electrical service, allowing excess power produced to be sold back to the utility company. When this happens, the electric

built to code. Adding solar PV panels to these already energy-efficient homes makes them another 10% more efficient, so they will be 50% more efficient than the average newly built home. The *Harvard Solar Advantage* initiative, combined with the energy efficient home building measures already being incorporated, will result in the reduction of approximately 12,000 pounds of excess carbon dioxide (6 tons per Architect Collection home annually).

Architect Collection buyers will be able to take advantage of new incentive programs for renewable energy sources. Voter-approved Amendment 37 required that the state’s largest utility companies establish a standard net metering system for homeowners with small PV systems to connect to the power grid. Because of Amendment 37, Xcel Energy has established a buy-back program called Solar*Rewards that provides incentives based on the size of the system installed. In addition, solar installations qualify for a one-time tax credit from the federal government as part of The Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Harvard Communities is partnering with Namaste Solar Electric, a solar design and installation company operating in Denver and Boulder, for the *Harvard Solar Advantage* program. “Since Amendment 37 passed, we’ve been flooded with interest from home owners, office buildings and local governments about how to utilize solar power,” said Blake Jones, President of Namaste Solar. “Utilizing solar energy in new home construction just makes sense when you live in a state that gets as much sun as we do in Colorado.”

For more information visit www.harvardcommunities.com or www.namastesolar.com.

Consider Combination of 401(k) and Roth IRA

By Natalie Robbins

Your 401(k) plan is unquestionably a great vehicle for building retirement savings. You typically fund your plan with pre-tax dollars, so your contributions can lower your annual taxable income. Plus, your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. So, you should always put in as much as you can afford to your 401(k), right? Not necessarily.

Why? Because you may be able to get more “mileage” out of your retirement plan dollars by putting some of them into a Roth IRA. As you may know, Roth IRA earnings have the potential to grow tax-free, provided you’ve held your account at least five years and you don’t start taking withdrawals until your reach age 59 1/2. Furthermore, when you invest in a 401(k) or a similar plan (such as a 403(b) or 457 plan), you may be required to take minimum distributions when you reach 70 1/2, but you can let your Roth IRA keep growing until you decide when to take withdrawals.

Do you have to choose?

Clearly, both a Roth IRA and a 401(k) offer significant advantages to you as you build funds for retirement. And, fortunately, you don’t have to choose one of these vehicles over the other. So, how should you divvy up your contributions?

Here’s one suggestion: Put as much as necessary into your 401(k) to earn your employer’s matching contribution, if one is offered. Then, fully fund your Roth IRA. If you “max out” on your Roth IRA, and you still can afford to set aside more funds for retirement, increase your 401(k) salary deferral. (In 2006, you can put up to \$4,000 into a Roth IRA, or \$5,000 if you are 50 or older. You can also defer up to \$15,000 to your 401(k), or \$20,000 if you are 50 or older.)

Of course, this strategy may not be applicable if your income is too high to contribute to a Roth IRA. If you are a single filer, you can put in the full amount to your Roth IRA if your modified adjusted gross income (AGI) is less than \$95,000 per year, and you can make partial contributions if you earn between \$95,000 and \$110,000. If you are married, and filing jointly, you can contribute the



Natalie Robbins

maximum to your Roth IRA if your AGI is less than \$150,000 per year; you can make partial contributions if your AGI is between \$150,000 and \$160,000.

Keep diversification in mind

If you can contribute to both a Roth IRA and a 401(k), you’ll need to carefully choose the investments that make up these respective retirement plans. You won’t want to “duplicate” your holdings by choosing virtually identical investments in your Roth IRA and 401(k). Instead, seek to diversify as much as possible. For example, if your

401(k) is made up mostly of aggressive growth vehicles, you may want to fund your Roth IRA with somewhat more conservative investments. Your individual asset allocation should depend on your risk tolerance, long-term goals and time horizon. Just keep in mind that your Roth IRA and 401(k) are two pieces of a bigger picture.

By wisely integrating your 401(k) and your Roth IRA into your overall investment strategy, you can go a long way toward achieving your ultimate goal - a comfortable retirement lifestyle.

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 Natalie.Robbins@edwardjones.com.



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New Rapids Stadium Opens April 7th

The brand new Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City will open on April 7th when the Rapids host D.C. United in the first game of the MLS season. The 1:30 p.m. kickoff will be televised live on ABC. Dick's Sporting Goods Park is an 18,000-seat stadium that is surrounded by a 24-field, fully-lit professional soccer complex and is considered the biggest and most state-of-the-art professional stadium and field complex in the world. It is located north of I-70 on the east side of Quebec.

Numerous special events are planned in the new stadium this summer. On the 4th of July the Rapids will host the Columbus Crew for their traditional fireworks extravaganza. ESPN2 will broadcast their MLS Primetime Thursday game twice from Dick's Sporting Goods Park, on May 10 and Aug. 16. The stadium will host the 13th MLS All-Star Game on July 19 at 7 p.m. – and on August 26th International Soccer



Superstar David Beckham will make an appearance at the new stadium. The Rapids Academy will host soccer summer camps for youth including goalkeeper and team camps. Visit the Rapids website at www.coloradorapids.com for more information or to purchase tickets. Check www.dicksportinggoods.com for information on summer events at the stadium, including concert announcements. (Note: Information was not yet available at this website when this paper went to press.)

Denver Zoo March 17 - 18 St. Patrick's Day Serpent Festival

Legend tells the tale of St. Patrick driving all of the snakes out of Ireland and into the Sea. On March 17 and 18 the luck of the Irish is with snake enthusiasts as Denver Zoo showcases several slithering snake species during its second annual St.

Patrick's Day Serpent Festival. Meet serpents up close and discover a bit o' blarney about this highly-misunderstood animal, the snake. Enjoy holiday entertainment and create a signature snake souvenir to take home for good luck. Holiday activities will be held from 10 am to 4 pm and are free with zoo admission.

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April 28, 2007— The Urban Farm's Spring Stroll Stapleton Home and Backyard Tour

The Urban Farm at Stapleton will host its first annual Spring Stroll Stapleton Home and Backyard Tour, on April 28, 2007. The Spring Stroll is a community fundraiser event to benefit The Urban Farm, and will offer opportunities for homeowners, volunteers, and businesses to participate in the event.

The tour will feature some of Stapleton's most unique homes and yards, allowing "stroll-ers" to see how owners of new urban homes are customizing their homes and landscaping their yards. It's the perfect chance to get creative interior design ideas, as well as garden and hardscaping ideas – all just in time for warm-weather projects.

With a full day of self-guided home and backyard tours and children's activity booths, the Stroll will include something for everyone. It's also a great opportunity for the community to show its support for The Urban Farm. The Urban Farm at Stapleton offers innovative and engaging programming for roughly 3,000 urban children each year.

Children from pre-school to high school learn about agriculture and the environment at The Urban Farm. Programs include 4-H, Children's Garden, and Embracing Horses, as well as school-farm partnerships and a preschool literacy program. Approximately 60% of The Urban Farm's funding for these and other programs comes from donations by individuals, corporations and foundations.

The Spring Stroll was conceived by Stapleton families whose children have benefited first-hand from the programming offered at The Urban Farm, and who want to help The Urban Farm raise much-needed funds to continue that programming.

As we continue our planning for The Spring Stroll, we are looking for more homes and yards to feature on the Stroll, as well as volunteers to help with the event. If you know of any homes or yards that you would like to see on the tour, would like to help with the event, or would like your business to participate as a sponsor, please contact Ginny Creighton at vmcreighton@mac.com or 303.316.4150.

Coming in April Special Feature on Kids' Summer Camps

Email kathy@fineprintco.com with suggested camps to include in our list. We're starting with the Denver Zoo's popular Summer Safari program in this issue, since it fills up early.

Denver Zoo – Summer Safari:

Africa! 2007

Come spend a week with Denver's wildest residents! Summer Safari is a fun-filled educational

experience for animal lovers from preschool to those going into fifth grade. Campers participate in hands-on activities, animal visits and observations, crafts, games, stories, projects, and zoo tours. Activities are designed specifically for each age group. Campers enjoy nutritious snacks and receive a Summer Safari 2007 t-shirt.

Programs are for pre-school/age 4 kids (half-day sessions); grades K and 1 (half- and full-day sessions); grades 2 and 3 (full-day sessions); and grades 4 and 5 (full-day sessions).

For more details and to see which sessions are still available, visit www.denverzoo.org/education/summerSafari.asp. Call 303-376-4888 option 2 or email safari@denverzoo.org for more information.

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St. Patrick's Day Festivities at Casey's on March 17th

Photo courtesy of Caseys

Planned festivities include:

- A face painter for the kids on St. Patrick's day
- Free giveaways all day
- 2 sets of pipers and 2 sets of Irish dancers Fri. & Sat.
- All Irish food menu all day
- Jameson promo girls from 7-9pm on the 16th, and promos during the 2 weeks leading up to St. Patricks Day
- A full calender of events will be posted in Casey's Casey's Bistro and Pub is located at 7301 E. 29th Ave. in Stapleton. Call 720.974.7350



Casey's staff at the 2006 St. Patrick's Day event.



Kids & Maternity Consignment Sale March 16-18

Childrens', teens' and maternity clothing, toys and books, baby equipment, strollers, cribs and furniture. High quality merchandise at very affordable prices. Think ski swap format, but for children's and maternity items. Grand Opening Events including children's contests, giveaways and safety fair.

Private preview sale March 15
Friday, March 16, 9am-530pm
\$2 admission Friday only
Saturday, March 17, 9am-5pm
Sunday, March 18, 1:30pm-5pm,
1/2 price admission Sunday

Unsold items at the end of the sale are donated to Catholic Charities of Denver, which puts them to use within their organization. There will also be a collection box at the sale for donations such as diapers, food, and formula. There will also be a canned food collection drive on Friday and Saturday for the Greater Park Hill Food Bank.

The sale will be held at the New Hope Baptist Church, in the Family Life Center, 3701 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, 80205.

For more information visit www.jbfsale.com or contact Tracey Gifford at tracey@jbfsale.com.

Aurora Fox Theater March 30-31

The Birth of Rock and Roll Show with The Velvet Elvis and Guests



Chris Barber (The Velvet Elvis), standup bassist Michael Baird, and lead guitarist Pascal Guimbard take the audience on a tour of the music *before* rock and roll became a household word, going through all the released Elvis Sun Studio recordings and the music of the early pioneers such as Johnny Cash, Buddy Holly, Carl Perkins, and Bill Haley. In celebration of 50 years of rock and roll, Elvis will take the audience through the songs that defined the genre that was to become Rock and Roll. The styles of Blues, Hillbilly Boogie, Bluegrass, Gospel, and Country music will all be represented, and the audience will be treated to a

history lesson of how these styles fused to forever change the landscape of popular music.

Norm Clarke (Las Vegas Review Journal) said, "not only sounds like The King but couldn't resemble him more...and I'd give [him] two thumbs up!" Dave Flomberg of The Rocky Mountain News wrote: "Chris Barber, who is, hands down, the best Elvis I've seen (save for that Costello guy) live." The show is being presented by *Colfax Avenue.com*, an updated monthly website and magazine dedicated to improving and preserving the longest commercial street in the USA, Colfax Avenue. For more information email chris@colfaxavenue.com or call 303- 525-5840.

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University of Colorado Medical Building at Stapleton

New Alternative Healthcare Practice Opens Offering Chiropractic, Acupuncture and Massage



Left to right: Natalie Brunson, massage therapist, Megan Moon, acupuncturist, Jonathan Gans, massage therapist, and Dr. Jessica Young, chiropractor are the practitioners at Natural Balance Wellness, an integrative wellness clinic that recently opened in the University of Colorado medical building located at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Roslyn Street.

A new integrative wellness clinic came to Stapleton in February with the opening of Natural Balance Wellness, located in the University of Colorado medical building. Working together in this clinic are chiropractor Dr. Jessica Young, acupuncturist Megan Moon, and massage therapist Jonathan Gans. Jessica and Megan also offer nutritional guidance to their clients.

The goal at Natural Balance Wellness is to provide a single central location where residents of Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, and other nearby neighborhoods can easily access alternative and complementary healthcare options. “This is the first time this group of practitioners will be working together under one roof,” says Dr. Young. “We were brought together by our genuine desire to provide this community

with something it has been lacking. Our providers see the value of conservative care and are ready to provide residents with another option for their health and wellness needs.”

Dr. Jessica Young is a native Coloradoan and sports enthusiast. “My experience with athletic training for high school level football, soccer and volleyball has made me familiar with the treatment of many sport related injuries,” she says, “and I enjoy working with individuals who are active and motivated to improve their health.” Dr. Young received her Doctor of Chiropractic degree and is Nationally Board Certified and licensed in Colorado. In combination with chiropractic adjustments, Dr. Young provides myofascial release therapy, exercise retraining, and community education.

Growing up in a military family, Megan Moon has lived all over the world and now resides in Stapleton. She received her Masters in Oriental Medicine and is Nationally Board Certified to practice Traditional Chinese Medicine, including acupuncture and herbal therapy. She also provides services for anti-aging and allergy elimination treatments. “While I specialize in women’s health and dermatological issues,” Megan says, “I can also treat a wide range of other conditions. I provide quality health care with sincerity and compassion for each patient. My treatments not only target the symptom, but also the root of illness, and thus restore balance of the mind and body.”

Completing this trio is massage therapist Jonathan Gans, originally from New Jersey. He and his wife Dana moved from Florida to Stapleton two years ago. “With a background in computer engineering,” Jonathan says, “I felt it was time for a change that would be more directly beneficial to the health and well-being of the people around me and decided massage therapy would be the best way.” He graduated at the top of his class from the Denver School of Massage Therapy and attained National Certification in Bodywork. Jonathan provides a variety of massage therapies, including Swedish, Deep Tissue, Hot Stone, Trigger Point, Sports and Structural.

Multicultural Church to Open in Stapleton on March 25

Colorado Community Church to offer services in English and Spanish

Colorado Community Church, a multi-cultural church offering services in English and a bilingual English/Spanish format, plans to open its doors at Stapleton on March 25th in the William Roberts Elementary School at 2100 Akron Way. The church will have a women’s ministry, children’s ministry, E Groups (Encouragement Groups), short-term missions, and activities throughout the week.

“Our philosophy is to serve the



Hugo Venegas, pastor of Colorado Community’s Stapleton Campus

community. We want to provide a place where individuals and families are cared for and loved,” said Hugo Venegas, senior pastor of Colorado Community’s Stapleton Campus. “Denver is a diverse city. It is our hope for the church at Stapleton to meet the needs of varying cultures and help transform the community in the process.”

Services will be held at 9:00 am in English and 11:00 am in English/Spanish. Child care is provided. For more information, call 303-788-3838.



Spirit Talk in Stapleton

Join us for a safe non-threatening open discussion about spirituality. Do you have questions, concerns, ideas, thoughts you've wanted to share but have kept to yourself? We'd like to respectfully listen and dialogue with nonchurchgoers and churchgoers alike. SPIRIT TALK IN STAPLETON meets monthly at Panera Bread, 3700 Quebec St. See you Tuesday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. For more information about us, call 303-699-3401 or 303-366-1373. Discussion led by Pastor Barb. No one person has all the answers, but we can question and discover together.

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Stapleton Rocks!



The Mitch Lehn FolkTrio played recently at Kyle's to a packed house.

A group of Stapleton residents who formed a band that calls itself the "Mitch Lehn Folk Trio" recently played to a packed house at Kyle's Saloon and Eatery, located at 39th and Ulster, across the railroad tracks from the Quebec Square Wal-Mart on Smith Road. The band was formed when one of the band members received a guitar for Christmas a couple of years ago. The band made its debut at the 28th/Uinta/Valentia 2006 Spring Block Party and has been growing in popularity ever since.

Members of the band include Mitch Lehn (guitar/bass), Matt Azer (bass/guitar) and Randy Stevens (drums). Also performing in the band are Jen London (guitar), Nadine Rasmussen (keyboards), Jason Thomas (trumpet) and Sarah Thomas (flute). Nearly raising the roof of the small neighborhood bar with the strength of their crowd-pleasing vocals were Katy Hoops and Russ Perez. For information about future appearances of the Mitch Lehn Folk Trio, contact Mitch Lehn at mitchlehn@msn.com.

Stapleton and Infinity Win National Recognition

National Sales and Marketing Council honors community and builder with awards of excellence

The Stapleton master-planned community, at the site of the former Stapleton International Airport in Denver, and Infinity, one of its residential builders, were recently recognized with awards by the National Sales and Marketing Council.

Forest City Stapleton, the master planner for Stapleton, was honored with the "Best Radio Commercial for a Master-planned Community," for its commercial highlighting the community as the third option between urban and suburban life. The ad was created by Strada Advertising, a Denver-based firm specializing in real estate.

"We wanted to capitalize on Stapleton's unique community in the advertising campaign," said David Lancaster at Strada. "This radio spot has a sense of humor about the differences between urban and suburban life, and the new third option – Stapleton."

The Infinity Home Collection at Stapleton was recognized with three gold awards for the Sky Terrace homes: the "Attached Community of the Year," "Best Interior Merchandising of a Model Priced \$400,000 to \$650,000" and "Best Attached Home Plan Priced \$500,000 and Over."

The Sky Terrace homes at Stapleton

feature unique design aspects and incorporate courtyards, expansive great halls, indoor/outdoor interaction areas, as well as other contemporary highlights. Infinity has been recognized repeatedly for its design, including being honored with the prestigious Home Builder Association of Metro Denver's "Home of the Year" in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006.

"Our Sky Terrace homes are a perfect fit with the diversity of homes at Stapleton," said David Steinke, general manager for Infinity. "At Infinity, we challenge ourselves to go above and beyond in our home designs, and customers have told us that the Sky Terrace Collection does just that."

The awards were announced recently in Orlando at the National Association of Home Builders' annual International Builders' Show.

About Stapleton

Stapleton's 4,700 acres, or 7.5 square miles, represents the nation's largest urban redevelopment. Stapleton is planned for more than 12,000 homes and apartments, 3 million square-feet of retail and 10 million square-feet of office/research and development/industrial space.

For information visit www.StapletonDenver.com or visit the Stapleton Visitor Center, located at 7480 East 29th Avenue in Stapleton's East 29th Avenue Town Center, 303.355.9600.



Resident Pool ID Cards

The Stapleton Master Community Association currently operates two community pools here at Stapleton. Both pools are designated as public pools for the surrounding community and neighborhoods. Stapleton residents are allowed to access any of the Stapleton pools free of charge as long as they possess a valid Stapleton Resident Pool ID Card. Please read the following information to determine if you need to obtain or renew a Pool ID card for anyone living in your household. Residents from neighborhoods outside of the Stapleton boundaries are subject to the daily fee and are not eligible to obtain a resident pool ID card.

Stapleton residents are eligible to purchase additional guest passes that are tied to their card that allow non-resident guests to accompany residents to the community pools. These punch cards can be purchased at either pool during the pool season and are only good for the season in which they are originally purchased. Please see the website for program details or call the MCA office.

If you are a resident over the age of 10 and purchased or updated your ID card during 2006, you have a current barcode sticker for the 2007 summer season. Therefore, you do NOT need to update your ID card. Only residents one and older requiring a new ID should attend an ID session!

All residents one year of age and older need to have a photo ID to use the pool. ID cards for children between one and ten years of age shall be valid until they turn ten years of age. However, each year until they reach the age of 10, the child must have an updated photo taken for the computer system. Photo ID's for residents ten years old and older are good for five years as long as you are a current resident.

Where and when can I get my ID before May 26? Prior to the pools opening, all ID sessions will be held at the new MCA Office located at 2823 Roslyn St. when it opens (currently scheduled for April 2007).

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Mon – Fri | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Sat, April 28 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. |
| Sat., May 5 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. |
| Sat., May 12 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. |

What are fees associated with getting an ID?

New ID cards are \$10 each. Replacement cards are \$25 each. Please bring small bills. Residents must be in good standing and current with MCA dues.

What do I need to bring for proof of residency?

- Current Photo ID (Driver's License) with a current Stapleton address or current photo ID (Driver's License) with closing documents.
- A utility (Xcel), phone or credit card statement with your name and current Stapleton address.
- Individuals under 16 years of age must provide a birth certificate to provide proof of age.

What if I am a renter?

Renters must have the following:

1. A copy of your lease
2. A photo ID (Driver's License)
3. A utility bill, phone bill, or credit card statement with your name and a current Stapleton address.

Where do I go to get my ID beginning after May 26?

New ID cards will NOT be issued opening weekend of the pools (May 26 - 28). Rather guest fees must be paid at the pool gate to gain entry if an individual doesn't possess a current resident ID card.

Beginning Tuesday, May 29 ID cards will be issued ONLY on-site at either pool.

Summer ID Card Hours (New ID cards will be issued ONLY during the following hours at the pools):

Puddle Jumper: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Daily
Aviator: 1 – 6 p.m. Monday-Friday;
12 – 5 p.m. Saturday & Sunday

New ID cards will NOT be issued at either pool on the following dates (Guest Fees will be charged for entry and will not be applied to the cost of a new ID card) Please plan accordingly.

Saturday, May 26 - Monday, May 28 (Opening Weekend)
Sunday, June 17 (Father's Day)
Wednesday, July 4 (Independence Day)
Monday, September 3 (Labor Day)

For further information about resident pool ID cards or any other Stapleton community information, please contact the Stapleton MCA Office at 303-388-0724 or visit www.stapletoncommunity.com.



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New Jaguar Arrives at Denver Zoo



A sixteen-month-old female Jaguar, named Caipora (Ky-pour-uh), arrived at Denver Zoo in December and is now on public exhibit. Zookeepers say she is very curious and likes to watch her fellow feline neighbors, the tigers and servals. During chilly weather zoo keepers have tried to keep the zoo's warm-climate animals entertained in their indoor exhibits. Caipora has, among other activities, been fishing for minnows in her indoor exhibit. The warmer weather will allow Caipora to go outside and explore her outdoor exhibit in the Feline House.

From October 1 to March 31 the zoo is open from 10 am to 5 pm and admission gates close at 4:00 pm. Through March admission is \$9 for ages 12-64, \$7 for age 65 and up, \$5 for ages 3-11, and free for ages 2 and under.

Starting April 1 the zoo is open from 9am to 6pm and admission gates close at 5pm. Admission is \$2 more than the prices listed above for ages 3 and up starting in April.



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Sustainability at Stapleton

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

Stapleton Sustainability Challenge!

By now you have probably heard or read about the global warming report issued from Paris in early February. The report itself was produced by scientists from over 100 countries working with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme. The role of the IPCC is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change. The IPCC does not carry out research itself, but rather bases its assessment on peer-reviewed and published scientific and technical literature.

The IPCC's basic assessment is that global warming is caused by humans, and is likely to continue for centuries regardless of how much humans control their pollution. Scientists are now more than 90% certain that global warming is caused by man's burning of fossil fuels. The overall temperature of the earth is predicted to rise and wilder weather will be more prominent.

While the overall report is disturbing and it is easy to become overwhelmed by the findings, there are small changes that

all of us can make to help.

Take the Stapleton Sustainability Challenge! The concept is simple. Encourage your friends, neighbors & co-workers to "trade" one sustainable habit. In the Forest City office we have two employees who decided to introduce each other to a sustainable habit and inspired this idea. Take a look at the examples below, find someone to challenge, and see if you can support each other in establishing new habits. Some examples of habits to "trade" are:

- Use reusable dishes instead of paper plates.
- Use the stairs instead of taking an elevator.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- Turn your thermostat down by 1 degree.

Sharing simple, easy changes and supporting each other while making those changes does make a difference! Send your Sustainability Challenge stories to me at mknott@stapletondenver.com and we will include some of the best ones in future issues of the *Front Porch*.

IPCC will be issuing additional reports later this year, including one that will address the most effective measures for slowing global warming. We'll keep you posted!

Congress extended Daylight Saving Time by one month starting this year as part of the

Energy Policy Act of 2005. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour on **Sunday, March 11th** and set them back one hour on **Sunday, November 4th**. Congress has changed Daylight Saving Time at various points in history when it was crucial to save energy. In future years, Daylight Saving Time will begin on the second Sunday in March and run through the first Sunday in November.

Energy use and the demand for electricity is directly connected to when people go to bed since that is when we turn off lights, televisions, computers and other appliances. That's why Daylight Saving Time saves energy. In the average home, 25% of all the electricity used

Daylight Saving Time Extended to Save Energy

is for lighting and operating small appliances which are more likely to be turned on in the

evenings when families are home. When the country observes Daylight Saving Time, the period between sunset and bedtime is reduced by one hour, so less electricity is used.

Federal law does not require states to observe Daylight Saving Time, but does require states choosing to observe it follow the starting and ending dates set by law. And, just to clarify, the correct term is singular – Daylight **Saving** Time, not Daylight **Savings** Time.

For more information on Daylight Saving Time see the March issue of *New Leaf* at www.stapletondenver.com/sustainability/newleaf/new_leaf.asp.

The Colorado New Energy Summit
Saturday, March 24, 2007

Wells Fargo Theatre, Colorado Convention Center, Denver

Join top business, scientific & government leaders and members of Colorado's energy community for an update on developments in renewable energy, emerging technologies, evolving state & national energy policies & opportunities for tax incentives & financing

options for residences and businesses. Co-Sponsored by: United States Senator Ken Salazar, Governor Bill Ritter, Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, Colorado Senate President Joan Fitz-Gerald & Colorado Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff.

For more information & online registration visit <http://salazar.senate.gov/contact/newenergy.cfm>

Maximize Space in Your Recycling Cart

Denver Recycles, a program of Solid Waste Management, has heard from a number of Stapleton residents about two issues: 1) That residents are frequently filling their recycling carts before their collection day, and 2) That Denver Recycles staff does not pick up excess material placed outside of the recycling cart.

The new recycling program is a fully **automated** collection system. The truck itself picks up the cart and automatically empties it into an opening on the top of the truck. The system was designed to make it easier for residents to recycle by using wheeled carts instead of bins, and to make routing more efficient and less expensive by picking up recycling from more homes per route.

The use of new trucks operating the automated collection system and the need to complete hundreds of pickups per day means that **Denver Recycles cannot collect material left outside of your recycling**

cart. Any recyclable materials not placed in your recycling cart – especially cardboard – will be collected by the trash collection crews.

Please use these helpful hints to maximize space in your cart:

- Crush aluminum cans & plastic bottles.
- Breakdown all boxes – paperboard and cardboard.
- Ensure that materials do not create unnecessary pockets of air in your cart. (For example, a glass bottle that stands upright underneath some paper.)

- Work with a neighbor who doesn't fill their cart to add your extra material.
- Order a second cart. If you consistently

fill your cart every two weeks, let us know. We'll evaluate your collection and, if needed, we can issue a second cart.

- Do not put cardboard in your cart until your collection day. After you set your cart out, place the flattened cardboard on the top of the cart and close the lid on it.
- Do not place cardboard on top of the lid.



For more questions or information about the recycling program call 3-1-1, e-mail denverrecycles@ci.denver.co.us, or visit our web site at www.denvergov.org/DenverRecycles.

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Family Kicks

by Mike and Karen Giles
Mike Giles Family Karate



Is There a Solution?

Lately we’ve been surrounded with an issue that plagues our country, yet most Americans attempt to sweep it under the rug – the issue of childhood obesity. *Childhood obesity* is a serious epidemic that we all need to understand to some degree in order to be part of the solution. Some known facts recently published about this disease:

- Obesity begins between the ages of 5 and 6 and during adolescence.
- Childhood obesity is defined as weighing more than 10% more than recommended for a particular body type and weight.
- Obesity occurs in 16 to 33% of children and adolescents
- Studies have shown that a child who is obese between the ages of 10 and 13 has an 80% probability of becoming an obese adult.

There are many causes such as binge eating, low self-esteem, medical illnesses, stress, life-changing events, and a big one, depression or emotional problems. The physical effects to a child’s body and well-being are devastating and can be deadly. There is no simple solution – this problem really does “take a village,” including children, parents, and the entire community. Children who are obese need to be accepted until they can make changes in their lives. This means as parents we might have to teach our children to empathize and not react negatively by staring or making hurtful comments about an obese child in the classroom.

While sewing, creating art, reading a good book, playing chess and just relaxing are all rewarding activities, all children should participate in some type of physical activity. So why aren’t we biking, swimming, skiing, playing football, dancing or doing martial arts with our children? If your lifestyle is sedentary, you teach your children the same. And if we pacify our children with the wrong types of food, we will make this problem larger.

We meet hundreds of children, and when we look into the eyes of a child who is obese, we see that same need to be accepted, but we also see a cry for help. As an educational institution we have pledged to offer a program that will help children “fight the fat” through exercise and the mental attitude! Martial arts is a great strategy against childhood obesity because, at its essence, it helps develop a balanced child – someone who knows how and why to limit TV and video game time and to avoid fatty and sugar-rich foods and give his body the exercise it requires for good health. Martial arts traditions develop discipline and character that give children improved self-esteem, self-control and the skills to make wise decisions.

Children are our “future treasures,” so please join us in dedicating ourselves to preserving this future by reversing this trend of *childhood obesity*.

Mike Giles Family Karate will be holding their Grand Opening of their new Family Fitness Center on Saturday March 17th – St. Patrick’s Day – their permanent location is: 7506 E. 36th Ave. #480 – facing Sam’s Club in Quebec Square. For more information: mikegileskarate.com or (303) 377-(KICK)5425 or e-mail us at mikegileskarate@comcast.net.

Teachable Moments

by Tom Downey
Children’s Museum of Denver



Knock the juice out of them!


Knock the juice out of them! No, not your kids. Oranges. Making orange juice with your kids is fun and educational. Breakfast is always more of a rush than it should be, but making fresh squeezed orange juice only takes fifteen minutes. It may even make the morning less anxiety ridden by helping the kids to better moods.

The ingredient/equipment list is quite simple: oranges, a juicer . . . and plenty of napkins. Little oranges are easier for small hands, and Clementines are even better. All you need to do is slice a dozen of them in half, show the kids how to do it a few times, and then let the children go. It’s best to use wide-based glasses so the kids are less likely to knock their glasses over. This activity can help support developmental skills for children of all ages. The fine motor development of younger children can be strengthened by the use of traditional juicers, while the five and up crowd can take a shot at using hand-vise juicers (they give the best results, but they are harder to handle and easier to cause spills). Two year olds can even join in the fun by simply squeezing the orange-half over the glass. The little ones might not get much juice from their efforts, but they will love it. Be prepared that kids will be incredibly inefficient with the oranges. So, flip the half inside out and bite the rest off the peel with obnoxiously loud growling tiger sound effects. The children will soon catch on. First, they’ll join you in your feast. Later, they’ll enhance their own problem-solving skills by learning to squeeze more of the juice out before discarding the rind. You might also pretend to get some in your eye, so they can see that it’s not a big deal.

Use the opportunity to talk with them about nutrition. Exaggerate how good the fresh squeezed orange juice tastes, especially compared to the pre-made kind at the store. Explain that fruits are full of natural sugars and nutrients, which are good for you and taste even better than the kind added to sweets. Let them use their own creativity to ask about other fruits to make juice from: Apples need a press; lemons and limes need to be greatly diluted; pineapples can work; strawberries are tough and bananas are an absolute failure, but fun to try.

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. 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. He lives at Stapleton with his wife, Lori Fox, and daughters Cate and Ella.



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4 Paws News

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

Dog’s Itchy Skin Can Indicate Allergy

Just like people, dogs can suffer seasonal skin allergies to environmental allergens such as pollen, dust mites, and insect bites. Luckily, there are effective ways to diagnose and treat skin allergies.

Allergic reactions occur when the immune system overreacts or responds inappropriately to an otherwise innocuous substance. Often there is no sign of allergy the first time an animal is exposed, but after that first exposure, the immune system builds up a reserve of antibodies to react to that particular allergen. The next time the animal encounters the same allergen, the immune system reacts strongly.

Predisposition to skin allergies is inherited, and many breeds, such as terriers, Dalmatians, golden retrievers, schnauzers, and poodles, are more prone to allergies. Some geographical regions also predispose both humans and dogs to allergies, since certain environments harbor a wider variety of allergens.

Many things in the environment can cause allergies, and combinations of allergens can result in an additive effect; for example, a dog reacting to a food allergy plus a dust mite allergy plus a ragweed allergy will have more severe symptoms than a dog allergic to only one substance.

Skin allergies usually show up as problems involving the ears, feet, face, armpit, and genital regions that have thin skin or a lot of contact with the environment. Skin reactions involve inflammation, itchy irritation, and moist secretions.

This moist, inflamed skin attracts many microorganisms, so often a skin allergy can lead to bacterial infections. Smelly yeast infections in the ear are commonly associated with allergies. Scratching can also lead to rashes or sores that become infected. Once a skin infection sets in, a vicious cycle begins: the infection causes more inflammation, which attracts more bacteria, which causes more inflammation, and so on.

An itchy dog can be tested for allergies through blood or skin tests. Once an allergy is diagnosed, there are several strategies for treatment. Avoidance of a specific allergen may be difficult, but some household changes are feasible, such as keeping a dog away from down pillows if it is allergic to feathers. Since environmental allergens are usually absorbed through the skin, weekly bathing can prevent itchiness, washing allergens away before they get a chance to penetrate the skin.

If an allergen cannot be washed away or avoided, fatty acid supplements in the diet can help reduce skin problems. Many drug treatments, such as antihistamines, corticosteroids, and immunosuppressive drugs, can reduce the symptoms, but these drugs generally come with side effects. Another option is immunotherapy, which involves desensitization to the allergen by a series of allergy shots.

For more information about environmental skin allergies, contact your local veterinarian. 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.

Cooking Up Fun

by Rich Marks
Beyond Parsley
Chef & Catering Service



Say Cheese!

I recently read in a cooking magazine that cheese is the number one food Americans have a difficult time giving up while dieting. As a cheese lover, I don’t find that fact hard to believe; what I do find troublesome is that people would even think about denying themselves the pleasure of eating cheese.

In Defense of Cheese – Contrary to many diets which recommend abstaining from cheese, Mireille Guiliano points to statistics in her 2005 bestseller *French Woman Don’t Get Fat* that nearly one in three Americans is obese, yet only about one in 10 French women is - and they’re living on cheese, wine, chocolate, and pastries. While Madame Guiliano is not a nutritionist, her method of weight loss – portion control, eating regular meals, treating yourself to indulgences, increasing fruits and vegetables, and drinking plenty of water – has been “proven” by millions of slim Frenchwomen for hundreds of years.

Although cheese does contain plenty of fat, there are a number of misperceptions about what type and how much is present. When a cheese is said to be 50% butterfat, most consumers incorrectly believe this means that one-half of the cheese is fat. Fat content in most cheeses is calculated based on the percentage of solids in cheese, excluding liquids. Since most cheeses are between 50-70% water, an easy rule of thumb is to divide the percentage of butterfat by two to get the fat content. So a 50% butterfat cheese would contain about 25% fat (which is about 14g for a 1oz serving). Most cheeses are 35-45% butterfat. When a cheese reaches between 60-74% butterfat, it is called a double-crème and triple-crèmes is a category of cheeses with 75% or more.

All Cheese is Not Created Equal – When it comes to buying cheese, it is best to remember you typically get what you pay for – artisan cheeses from small producers taste worlds above the factory-made block varieties. You don’t have to shop at a cheese specialty store since many larger grocers, such as King Soopers and Whole Foods, have an excellent selection of great cheese. Avoid the coolers of mass-produced cheese and find those that offer a smaller but more varied selection. Ask the deli manager for guidance in selecting the right cheese and how to serve it. Many shops will often allow you to taste a cheese before buying it.

The age of a cheese also plays an important role in its taste. Young cheese lacks flavor and cheese that has been aged too long is excessively sharp in taste. Eating cheese at room temperature, rather than cold out of the refrigerator, brings out the flavor. In our dry climate, leave the cheese wrapped until it has been at room temperature for about an hour. When cooking with cheese, it is best to use low heat to melt it. High heat and overcooking will cause the cheese to become stringy and tough. When used for a topping, add cheese during the last 5 to 10 minutes of the cooking time.

Personally, I believe cheese is best eaten alone but it is also an indispensable staple in gourmet cooking. Below is a recipe for one of my all-time favorites.

Stapleton resident Rich Marks is a classically trained chef and owner of Beyond Parsley, a personal chef and catering service with an ever-changing weekly menu. Contact Chef Rich at 303-717-5451 or chefrich@beyondparsley.com or visit www.beyondparsley.com

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We're Looking For A Few Good Neighbors

- Are you new to the neighborhood?
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 - Do you have talents and skills that could be put to good use in planning future development in Stapleton?
 - Are you a current resident who has been looking for an opportunity to get involved with neighborhood issues?
- If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, please consider running for a leadership position in the Stapleton United Neighbors Board of Directors.

The first Board of Directors of SUN was elected in the spring of 2004. During the past few years, much has been accomplished. SUN developed By-laws and established non-profit status. Several community forums have been held and a neighborhood watch program has been started. SUN has also supported alternative transportation planning and active living in the community. SUN now hosts regular forums with Forest City representatives and officials from the City to help keep Stapleton residents up to date on the state of our neighborhood. SUN also organizes the annual Block Party Day and the Kickball Tournament, to help bring new neighbors together, and build the bonds that are critical to strong communities.

Now it is time to make plans for another year of progress with the election of members of the SUN Board of Directors. Of the 14 seats on the SUN Board, seven are up for election this year. As Stapleton is always growing, SUN is committed to including new residents on the Board.

A nominating committee will be formed in the next few weeks to identify members of the Stapleton community who are interested in becoming more involved in the effort to organize the neighborhood. Please consider sharing your voice and experience...by joining the nominating committee, submitting names of interested neighbors or by becoming a candidate for the SUN Board of Directors.

Stapleton United Neighbors Board Election FAQs

What is SUN, and what role does it play in the neighborhood?

The mission of SUN is to work for the betterment of the Stapleton neighborhood and the City and County of Denver by providing:

S.U.N. Meetings are open to the public
Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of the month
in the Stapleton Development Corporation
Large Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 7350 E. 29th Ave.

- (i) a forum for residents living within the boundaries of SUN to discuss and resolve issues,
- (ii) a network of communication,
- (iii) a means of acting on matters of importance to the community as a whole.

What do SUN Board members do?

SUN board members are responsible for helping bring the mission of SUN to life through work in the community. That entails at least the following responsibilities:

- Attendance at 9 or more of the 11 SUN board meetings each year (currently scheduled at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of January through October and the fifth Thursday of November)
- Chairing or serving on a SUN committee (transportation, education, outreach, safety, and smart growth), serving as a SUN liaison on a Stapleton Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB) or Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) committee (parks advisory group, zoning and planning, housing diversity, community communications and design review) or serving as a SUN liaison to InterNeighborhood Cooperation (INC)
- Authoring at least one article per year for the SUN Spot section of the Front Porch and Tower Ledger
- Attending and helping out with SUN-sponsored community events and forums
- Promoting the work of SUN and the ethos of SUN's mission in the community

What is the time commitment involved?

Monthly board meetings typically last an hour and a half to two hours. SUN, CAB and SDC committee meetings are usually once a month and run about an hour to an hour and a half and INC meetings are the second Saturday of the month for three hours. Beyond that, keeping up with voice mail, email, authoring a SUN Spot article and attending other events and meetings can add as little as a few minutes to as much as several hours per week. Board members should also monitor Grapevine postings on StapletonOnline.com weekly for issues relevant to the committees they are a part of or attend. As a general rule, SUN will involve about 10-15 hours a month of time commitment, and potentially more depending on the calendar of events.

What do I need to do to officially run for the Board?

The application process entails submitting a 200 word statement of interest and bio to Mark Mehringer (mehringer@gmail.com) by April 1, and attending the SUN Forum and Election in mid-May. The statement of interest and bio will run in the May issue of the Front Porch and Tower Ledger and be posted online.

How are the elections determined?

In the past, there have been just enough candidates to fill each slot, but in the event of more candidates than slots, each voter has 7 votes and the top 7 vote gatherers are elected to the board.

Views on the S

Who do you think will b



Melinda Sigle

"I'm not sure about the Republican party, I haven't paid that much attention.

As for the Democrats I'd like to say Barak Obama and Hillary Clinton. If I had to choose I would like to see Hillary, I think she's proven herself over and over. My daughter told me, though, that she thinks a "one-eyed, blue skinned, buck tooth alien will be elected before a woman will be elected," and I tend to agree with her. I would like to see Hillary elected but I don't think that will happen. Of course Barak Obama would be wonderful too, so it's a hard choice between the two for me."



Chris Sigle

"As far as the Republicans are concerned, probably John McCain stands about as reasonable a chance as anybody, but he's realigned himself with some failed policies so I'm not too sure about that. I would say with regard to the Democrats, more than likely it's a split between Barak and Hillary – leaning more toward Hillary. Possibly a split ticket with Hillary and Barak on the ticket together and he may be a vice presidential contender."



Denise Davenport Chew

"Seeing Obama announcing his candidacy and also having Hillary Clinton running, I think the Democratic ticket is quite interesting. I think Obama has a better chance of winning the

nomination, although I think Hillary Clinton is a more well-rounded politician. I like the fact that Obama is very strong on unity. He looks as if he's representative of all nations. Unfortunately I don't think Hillary can get elected because she's a woman but, having a daughter, I would love to see it. Having a woman president for the first time in history would be absolutely phenomenal.

As someone who was a Republican at one point, I have to say I'm not too concerned about who's running because I know I'm not going to vote Republican this year. For me it's who's going to be running on the Democratic ticket."

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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ll be the presidential nominees?

Lisa Jensen



“I think it’s most likely to be Hillary for the Democratic party, mainly because she has the most experience behind her and the most groundswell. And I think Obama is just too inexperienced and young to get the nomination. I’m personally not real thrilled with Hillary. I’m in the health care field and I thought she handled that so poorly. I know she has a reputation of having done good things as a senator but I don’t know what her message is as a candidate. Whether she’s electable I think it depends on what happens on the Republican side. I think so many people are dissatisfied with Republicans right now. It’s been one thing right after another with Bush, even the Republicans I know are pretty discouraged about the whole scene. For the Republican nominee, I think McCain is the most level headed, but I don’t know very much about the Republicans, so I can’t speak on that.”

Henrik Pedersen



“I think the Democratic nominee will be Hillary Clinton and for vice president typically the Democrats would try to get someone from the South to win over the swing voters. The big question is whether a woman can be elected, I don’t know, but I think she has a good chance. Also actually perhaps a person of color like Obama, but I think we’ll see a female president before we’ll see an African American president. I think the Republican nominee will be John McCain. Rudy Guiliani might be a dark horse but I think John McCain has a wider appeal – he has a lot more experience, especially in international politics. Where John McCain is weak, I don’t really see Guiliani being any stronger, which is with the so-called “conservative Christian right.” What people are saying about McCain is that he doesn’t have any rapport with those guys, but I don’t think Guiliani has any stronger footing with that group.”

James Thompson



“On the Democrats’ side I think would probably be Obama. Maybe Hillary Clinton could give a good run for it. But it seems a lot of people are still declaring themselves coming into each party. I think there will be a lot of changing faces. Between Hillary and Obama, only time will tell. I think Hillary is a household name, but I believe Obama comes with some fresh ideas. Truly, in my opinion, people are looking for fresh new ideas to consider. I think we’re now beyond the point of promises, since a lot of things are starting to affect everyone, not just certain classes or income groups. The wants and needs of the American Dream – that touches everybody – so I think whoever can touch that the most will probably be the front runner.”

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“My Fotobooks” Gets Digital Photos Off Your Disks and Into Your Life

By Kathy Epperson

The seed was planted for Maricris Doolan's home-based business when she found a way to organize and print digital photographs in a hard-bound album after the birth of her children. “Friends and family started seeing my albums, and I soon realized that most people with digital cameras never printed their pictures,” she says. “They downloaded them on their hard drive, left them on their memory cards or placed them on discs, never to be seen or enjoyed. When I would suggest to them to make these photo books, the response would be ‘I don’t have the time,’ ‘I don’t have the creativity to organize them,’ or just ‘It’s too overwhelming!’ I started to realize that as my children get older, I have the time, the creativity and the love for making these Fotobooks.”

In the summer of 2006, Maricris started researching and planning her business. She officially launched her My Fotobooks business in October with an open house at her home.

Maricris works with each client to determine a theme of their Fotobook, such as event, travel, or chronological. “Some clients will give lots of details on the event, but most hand me a disc and give me total creative control,” she explains. “The theme mostly decides the style of the book. After completing a draft of the album, I provide a proof of the whole album. At this time, the client can make any changes and add all their captions that I put in after the review.”



Maricris Doolan's home business, “My Fotobooks,” creates beautiful books from the digital photos her clients would otherwise leave on disks hidden in closets.

Prices vary depending on the size and style of the Fotobook.

Originally from the Philippines, Maricris moved to Detroit in 1979 where she graduated with a mechanical engineering degree and test drove vehicles for Ford Motor Company. She and her husband Rob moved to Denver in 1999 for his medical residency and moved to Stapleton in 2002. Maricris and Rob have two children, Connor (age 6) and Christina (age 4).

To inquire about creating a custom made hard bound Fotobook, contact Maricris at maricrisdoolan@msn.com or 303-722-6369.

New Northfield Starbucks Welcomes Community



Christine Brown, manager of the new Starbucks at Northfield

The latest Stapleton Starbucks celebrated its Grand Opening on Feb. 3rd by hosting a standing-room only crowd that enjoyed face-painting and craft activities, a visit from the Montbello High School Youth Choir and a slew of live animals from The Urban Farm @ Stapleton. The new store, located at the intersection of I-70 and I-270, also welcomed Dr. Brandon Davidson-Tracy from Stapleton Pediatrics – who provided about 50 parents with some expert medical advice during the event. Store manager Christine Brown, a four-year Starbucks partner (employee) started her career as a barista. She invites all Stapleton Front Porch readers to visit the store during the annual Starbucks Brewing Sale, which runs March 13 – April 2, as well as to stop by for a free cup of coffee during the annual Starbucks Coffee Break on March 15 from 10 a.m. - noon. The store is open from 5 a.m. - 10 p.m. every day and has a drive-thru window.

Consulting Runs in the Family



Doug Gertner and his wife Maggie Miller run their respective consulting businesses from their home, where they can co-parent their 8 year-old-son Jordan.

By Kathy Epperson

Stapleton residents Doug Gertner and his wife Maggie Miller have made productive use of their Parkwood Homes loft. After Doug was laid off by a local software company and Maggie was cut to half-time at a local non-profit, each started a new consulting business in their shared loft space.

Doug's company, Emu Consulting, is focused on involving people and improving groups. His work entails workplace learning, training, team building, conflict resolution and facilitation to assist managers, supervisors and employees. Another aspect of Doug's work is in support of what he refers to as ‘involved fatherhood’ and includes everything from direct service with dads to training human services and educational staff to better understand and serve fathers. “Emu Consulting is named for the large, flightless Australian bird known as one of the best fathers in the animal world,” Doug explains. “The male emu incubates the eggs, raises the young, and fiercely protects them from harm. As a working father, I strive to nurture both my family and my clients with the same commitment as the emu.”


Maggie previously worked as an adult educator and program planner in the field of Jewish education. After having her job cut to half-time, Maggie saw an increase in demand for her consulting work and created a full-time business of her own. Through Maggie Miller Consulting, she helps staff in non-profit organizations plan and evaluate their programs to clarify their

ideas, bring out the best in their people, and align their actions with their goals so that they may best fulfill their agency's mission. Maggie counts among her clients such organizations as Mountain States Employers Council and the Allied Jewish Federation.

Starting their own businesses has been a goal for Doug and Maggie for many years. “Self-employment and calling my own shots was always in the back of my mind,” Doug says. “It was not until I was given the gift of a layoff that I really moved forward with my own work. I began by using my unemployment and severance checks to engage the services of a personal coach. We met three to five times a month for most of the year after I lost my job, and it was through this coaching that I conceived and launched my business.”

Doug and Maggie look to artist friends of theirs as mentors, a couple who share their studio space and model a similar working relationship. “With a 500 square foot attic, we only had to buy another desk and laptop and Maggie was in business,” says Doug. They appreciate being able to support each other and share their expertise. Working from home also allows them to co-parent their son, 8-year old Jordan. “With three laptops and a wireless network,” they say, “our whole house is an office, yet we balance the time we spend working with plenty of family playtime.”

For more information, visit Emu Consulting at www.emuconsulting.com or visit Maggie Miller Consulting at www.maggiemiller.org.



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Living and Working in the Stapleton Community

A Look Inside the New Fire Station

By Kathy Epperson

The 30 firefighters assigned to the new Firestation #26 in Stapleton are clearly proud of their state-of-the-art firehouse. “This is like the crown jewel of fire stations and the envy of all firefighters in the district who see it,” says Captain Eric Tade. While the station was designed in a more traditional architectural style to fit the neighborhood, the interior design and functionality is modern, efficient and built green.

Skylights allow natural light to illuminate the space, and each area is designed to serve multiple functions. Instead of a large sleeping area where all crew members sleep, this facility offers energy-conserving dorm-style sleeping rooms with three beds each. The assignment of one crew member across three different shifts to each room allows not only for privacy but for the easy accommodation of the station’s two female firefighters as well.

The tower also is designed for multiple uses, with a pulley system to let the fire hoses hang dry, a stairwell that allows the firefighters to run drills up and down the stairs, and a rappelling system at the top for high-angle rescue training. “On a clear day, the views from the top of the tower are incredible,” Captain Tade says. “You can see all the way to Pike’s Peak.”

With 8 firefighters on duty at all times, this busy crew responds to an average of 10 calls per day. While there are typically 2 working structure fires each day in Denver, the majority of the time they respond to medical calls. Vehicular accidents are among these medical calls, and with the proximity to several area freeways, this crew is well trained.

During down time between calls, the firefighters take turns cooking meals in a kitchen any chef would love to work in or gather around a large table to eat or converse. A great room area allows for relaxation and entertainment in theater-style recliners and enjoyment of their plasma TV. The crew takes advantage of a workout room and game room in the basement, plus a running trail around the station that mimics the walking paths in the neighborhood.

The camaraderie among the firefighters is obvious. Not only do they enjoy their new home away from home, but they like being part of this active community. “We go to a lot of block parties here,” Captain Tade says, “and really like meeting the kids and parents and feeling like part of the neighborhood.”



Left to right firemen Charlie Vigil, Eric Tade, Nick Harper, and Chris Medina at the new fire station.



Above: Using a pulley Captain Eric Tade feeds the fire hose to Charlie Vigil at the top of the tower to dry out the hoses.



Each bedroom has three beds, so with three shifts, firefighters have a private room when they are on duty.

Below: Firefighter Charlie Vigil looks from the fire tower to the old airport tower.



The long table in the kitchen is the main gathering place for the firefighters when they are not responding to a call.



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