

# Front Porch

Distributed to the Greater Stapleton Area

STAPLETON

DENVER, COLORADO

APRIL 2007

## Anchor Students Get in “Touch” with Their New School



Above: Anchor students, most of whom can sense light, touch plastic sheeting that covers a large opening at the construction of their new school at Stapleton. Above right: Alma Rodriguez (left) and Deyannira Villa-Cazares explore their new school.



**A**nchor Center for Blind Children's new home is scheduled to open at Stapleton in mid-August. Students and teachers made a recent visit to learn how a building comes together. The sounds, smells, and feel of construction came alive as the children explored their new school.

When completed the building will be a teaching tool itself and is designed to provide optimum learning opportunities for young children with vision impairments. Visitors will be impressed with the directional acoustics, the specialized lighting and the textures throughout the building. *(continued on page 23)*

## A Guide to Local Summer Programs for Kids

See page 8 for our 2nd annual list of nearby activities that will keep your kids active and happy this summer.



A Bluff Lake Nature Center summer program offers campers an opportunity to explore aquatic wildlife.

Photo courtesy of Bluff Lake Nature Center

## Stapleton Community Forum



At a community information forum on March 20 at Denver School of Science and Technology, City Councilman Michael Hancock and other speakers updated residents on subjects including future development, transportation and law enforcement issues, schools and libraries.

## Presidents Leadership Class – CU Students Study Stapleton

By Tom Gleason

**M**embers of the Presidents Leadership Class (PLC) from the University of Colorado at Boulder recently visited Stapleton to learn about economic development from a team of officials from master developer Forest City, all of whom are alumni of the university.

The students met top development officials who included Melissa Knott, director of sustainability for Forest City Stapleton, Inc., Mark Peternell, a Forest City Stapleton, Inc. development associate, and Brian Levitt, vice president – development for Forest City Fitzsimons, Inc., the entity that has entered into a partnership with the

Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority to build a 160 acre bioscience park adjacent to the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center campus at the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center east of Stapleton.

Ms. Knott, who holds an MBA from the CU Leeds School of Business, began the session with a description of sustainability issues that include working with Stapleton homebuilders to move beyond their initial obligation to meet “Built Green Standards” to achieve the higher energy efficiency stan-

dard of an “Energy Star Rating” from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She also discussed a pilot project now underway at Stapleton in which four homebuilders are working with the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program to set a new standard for residential green building throughout the nation.

Following Melissa Knott's presentation, Mark Peternell described the role he played in successful efforts *(continued on page 3)*

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for  
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# Mark Your CALENDAR

FOR STAPLETON EVENTS

## 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]

### 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]

## APRIL

### Friday, April 13

Odyssey School Auction  
DSST, 6-9pm

### Saturday, April 14

Baby & Kid Stuff Sale  
Westerly Creek School, 8-10am

### Saturday, April 21

Westerly Creek Cleanup sponsored by  
Bluff Lake Nature Center, 303-468-3246  
blufflakenaturecenter.org

### Saturday, April 28

Bluff Lake Vegetation Restoration Day  
Bluff Lake Nature Center, 303-468-3244  
blufflakenaturecenter.org

### Saturday, April 28

Spring Festival  
Founder's Green, time tba

## MAY

### Saturday, May 26

Pools open  
Sweet William Market opening day

## JUNE

### Friday, June 8

Stapleton Movie Night  
Founders' Green ~8:30pm

## JUNE

### Saturday, June 9

Stapleton Charity Chase

### Saturday, June 16

Summer Concert

### Sunday, June 17

Farmers Market Opening Day  
(through Oct. 14)  
29th Ave Town Center 9am - 1pm

### Friday, June 29

Stapleton Movie Night  
Founders' Green - Starts at dark

## JULY

### Wednesday, July 4

4th of July Festivities (TBA)

### Saturday, July 14

Community wide garage sale

### Sunday, July 15

Summer concert in the Park

### Friday, July 20

Relay for Life

### Friday, July 27

Stapleton Movie Night

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# Front Porch

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

The Stapleton Front Porch LLC is published by Forest City Stapleton, Inc., 7351 E. 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80238. A minimum of 35,000 papers are printed. The free paper is distributed during the first week of each month to homes and businesses in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry and Green Valley Ranch.



First in a series – an ongoing conversation about

# Public Education at Stapleton

*Editors Note:* It doesn't take long, as you wander the neighborhoods of Stapleton, before you'll start hearing strong opinions about schools and educational philosophy. Go to the meetings that are being held to make decisions about schools and you'll hear a lot more. Some feel the subject is becoming too polarized to discuss.

But it's too important not to discuss. The need for new approaches in education is being addressed on a national level, as evidenced by the National Commission that wrote the "Tough Choices or Tough Times" report discussed in our February issue. That report triggered a response by Colorado legislators to start a series of town hall meetings across the state to plan for the future of education in Colorado. One of these meetings is scheduled for April 9 at East High School (see article on page 4).

In an effort to stimulate a positive dialogue on the subject of education in the Stapleton community, The Front Porch has asked two members of the community to write an

essay describing their vision for the public schools at Stapleton. The ground rules for the discussion are that it be "positive," "forward-looking" and "realistic" within the realm that we exist – the Denver Public School System and the guidelines outlined by the Stapleton Education Master Plan. The Stapleton community has an abundance of interested and motivated people willing to work to be sure Stapleton has strong schools. The community has an opportunity to be known as a place where lots of motivated people are working for the common goal of having great schools – and where differences of opinion can be seen as an opportunity to broaden the choices available in our community.

We hope this can be the start of a continuing series and invite anyone interested to submit their ideas (to [frontporch@fineprintco.com](mailto:frontporch@fineprintco.com)) – written in a forward-looking and positive way. We especially thank our first contributors, Bernard Douthit and Chris Adams for starting this discussion.

## Education at Stapleton – One View



Bernard Douthit

By Bernard Douthit

Even before the draft of the first Green Book was written, education was a central focus of planning for our community. Recent and past debates around school choices and configuration have only served to reinforce the importance of education to those who now call Stapleton home.

My son has gone to Westerly Creek since it opened in 2003. Now our daughter also goes to Westerly Creek. My wife and I

have been very involved in the schools. This article serves to illustrate a vision for education at Stapleton, and should by no means be thought of as definitive or final. I see education at Stapleton as being built around three main ideas – strong

(continued on page 20)

## Fulfilling Stapleton's Educational Promise

By Chris Adams

The Stapleton Education Master Plan, a document created in 2003 by hundreds of individuals and organizations in order to articulate a vision for education in our community is a wise and inspiring document that is worth revisiting at this time of reflection on the first few years of education at Stapleton.

It contains several strategies for educational excellence. Perhaps the clearest and most obvious is "ensuring quality programs."



Chris Adams

Stapleton has made great progress on this, fulfilling it through Westerly Creek, Odyssey, Bill Roberts, and the nationally acclaimed Denver School of Science and Technology.

But when it comes to another strategy, "ensuring choice of

(continued on page 20)

### How to get involved with Stapleton's schools...

(see page 17 for names, websites, contact information, etc.)

## CU Students Visit Stapleton



Melissa Knott, Forest City's director of sustainability, talks to CU students about working with builders to achieve higher energy efficiency standards.

(continued from page 1) to earn a LEED Silver Certification for the "Core and Shell" construction on Main Street in Stapleton's Northfield Retail Center and create a public information program about environmental design and construction. Mr. Peternell received his undergraduate degree from CU in 1997 and earned an MBA from the Leeds School of Business in 2006.

Wrapping up the presentation on real estate development, Brian Levitt described the work he has overseen as the project developer for several Forest City retail centers. Mr. Levitt received his undergraduate degree from CU and was recently promoted by Forest City to oversee the development of the bioscience park at Fitzsimons.

Under the PLC program, top freshmen receive merit-based scholarships and undergo four years of intensive training. The curriculum includes weekly lectures given by business and community leaders. More information about the Presidents Leadership Class is available at [plc@colorado.edu](mailto:plc@colorado.edu).

Tom Gleason is Vice President-Public Relations for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. and a 1973 graduate of the University of Colorado.



### Correction

ARCA founder Michael Bristow, MD was incorrectly identified in the March issue. Our apologies to Dr. Bristow for this error.



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# Federal Govt. Seeks Developer for FBI Offices at Stapleton

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) has solicited proposals from developers interested in constructing a “build-to-suit” office building at Stapleton that could be open as early as January 2010. The building would house offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The new facility, which GSA would lease for twenty years, would be situated on approximately ten acres bounded by the Quebec Square Regional Retail Center on the west, Ulster Street on the east, 36th Avenue to the north and 35th Avenue to the south. The building is proposed to have approximately 175,155 square feet of rentable space, and will include an attached, 175-space parking garage, with an additional 45 spaces of surface parking elsewhere on site.

This past February, GSA executed an assignable Option Agreement for the purchase of the acreage with FC Stapleton II, LLC, an affiliate of Forest City Stapleton, Inc. The land is north of the former airport’s 5,000 car parking structure in an area zoned for office and other commercial uses and envisioned for a “corporate campus” development. The GSA parcel will have convenient access to the Smith Road rail corridor that will be served by the FasTracks commuter rail in 2014 linking Downtown and Denver International Airport. The rail service is anticipated to have at least one stop at Stapleton.

“Stapleton is ideally situated to serve the needs of corporate users or other tenants such as the GSA. It offers office space that is within walking distance of homes affordably priced for a range of incomes, beautiful parks, new schools and a wide variety of retail that will enhance the quality of life for employees,” said John Lehigh, chief operating officer for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. “Stapleton is just minutes from Downtown on the west and Denver International Airport on the northeast and within easy reach of some of the world’s best skiing and outdoor recreation.”

## Volunteer Librarian Needed

Dick Anderson, President of the Stapleton Development Corporation, is looking for a volunteer librarian to help organize documents and correspondence related to the history of the planning and development of Stapleton. Interested candidates contact Dick at 303-393-7700.

## Citywide Election Forum

Mark your calendar for April 14

Denver’s coalition of neighborhood groups, Inter-neighborhood Cooperation (INC), in conjunction with the Denver League of Women Voters, will conduct an election forum for all contested municipal races. Up for election this May 1 are the offices of Mayor, Auditor, a possible new Election Clerk and Recorder, as well as all city council seats. There are open city council races in districts 7 and 8. Candidates for all contested races will be included. The election forum will be Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in place of the regular monthly INC meeting. Hosting the election forum will be the Whittier Neighborhood Association at its community center at 29th Avenue and Downing. The election forum will be taped and re-broadcast on Denver’s Channel 8. Go to the [Denvergov.org](http://Denvergov.org) website in March for broadcast times. Call 720-941-8026 if you need more information on the election forum.



## Gently Used Baby & Kid Stuff Sale

A Westerly Creek PTA Fundraiser

**Saturday, April 14th, 2007**  
**8am - 10am**

**Westerly Creek Cafetorium**  
enter through north doors  
8800 E. 28th Ave.

Donations accepted on Thursday, April 12th and Friday, April 13th between 9am and 3:45 pm at the WCE Front Office – 8800 E. 28th Ave. (Akron St. entrance)

Event contact: Meg Yoder • 303-394-1975

## Statewide Conversation On Education in Colo.

The public is invited to participate in a town hall meeting on Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. led by the Speaker of the House, Andrew Romanoff, and Senator Peter Groff at East High School. Speaker Romanoff and Senator Groff are spearheading an effort to have a statewide conversation about education reform. Representative Romanoff and Senator Groff initiated this conversation after the introduction of the controversial national report, “Tough Choices or Tough Times” (see [www.skillscommission.org](http://www.skillscommission.org)). Their immediate goal is to listen to the people of Colorado about how to make Colorado’s public education system one of excellence, and one which prepares our children for the 21st century global economy.

Please come and be a part of this discussion. It’s the future of our state! Help in spreading the word is greatly appreciated.

## Denver Museum of Nature & Science Plans for the Future

Denver Museum of Nature and Science Vice President of Research and Collections Dr. Kirk Johnson will discuss the museum’s plans for the next 25 years, Sunday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m. at Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. Since late 2004, the museum has developed a 10-year strategic plan for its programs and a facilities plan for the next 25 years. Included in the facilities plan are health and safety improvements as well as an education center to increase science literacy. The forum is free and open to the public.

## Odyssey Auction

*The Odyssey School’s 3rd annual Silent Auction and Gala will be held Friday, April 13th, 2007, 6-9pm at the Denver School of Science and Technology. Come enjoy food, drinks, fun, and great deals!*

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# Montview Cooperative Preschool & Kindergarten Annual Carnival

The Montview Preschool and Kindergarten annual carnival will be held Saturday, May 5, 2007 from 11am-4pm. Attractions include a Bounce House, Train Rides, Cookie Decorating, Cake Walk, Hay Rides, Stories and Crafts. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the carnival go directly to fund programs at Montview, including the tuition assistance program to help Montview be accessible to all Denver families.

The nationally accredited program has operated since 1964 in Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Park Hill. The 180 children enrolled represent a cross section of cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. Montview Presbyterian Church is located at Montview and Dahlia in Park Hill. All-you-can-play wristbands are \$5 per person in advance /\$7 at the door. For more information email [info@montviewpreschool.org](mailto:info@montviewpreschool.org) or call 303-322-7296.

## Officers Share District 2 Top Cop Award

On Jan. 22 at 11:12 pm Officers Stacy Shantz and Kisha Pinder initiated a traffic stop for lighting equipment violation on the vehicle. The officers were assisted by Officer Curtis Franklin.



Left to right: Officer Curtis Franklin, Officer Kisha Pinder, and Officer Stacy Schantz shared the District 2 Top Cop Award for February.

The officers conducted an identity check of the occupants and the driver was identified but the passenger appeared to be giving a false name. Two of the officers were standing on the passenger side of the car and asked the passenger to step out of the car, but he would not comply. As the officers attempted to take the party out of the car the individual yelled at the driver "GO" and attempted to place the gear shift into drive.

When Officer Shantz saw the other officers struggling with the passenger, she ordered the driver out of the car and began to assist the other officers. The struggle continued as the suspect was determined to escape and tried to put the car into drive. When the officers were able to extract the suspect from the car, he continued to struggle violently. Finally the suspect was subdued and placed into handcuffs, at which time it was discovered he was armed and had been attempting to pull a loaded 9mm handgun

from his waistband. None of the officers were injured during the struggle and the suspect sustained superficial injuries. The suspect was arrested and further investigation revealed that he had an extensive criminal history including multiple charges for 2nd Degree Assault on a Peace Officer, guilty plea for 1st Degree Assault, and Threats to a Peace Officer with a Deadly Weapon. The District Two Top Cop Citizens Committee joined the three officers' superiors in applauding the professionalism and composure that prevented serious injury to the officers and the suspect and prevented the escape of a violent felon.



January Top Cop, Officer Phillip Coleman (photo was not available for prior issue)

## Relay for Life Stapleton Community Rallies to Support American Cancer Society



Cancer survivors kicked off the event in 2006 by joining together for a "survivors lap."

The American Cancer Society invites individuals who want to honor cancer survivors and caregivers, or pay tribute to those who have lost their battle with cancer to join its Relay For Life, scheduled for July 20-21, on the Founders' Green in Stapleton. In 1985, Relay For Life began with one man who walked and ran around a track for 24 hours, raising \$27,000. This year, Relay For Life is coming to America in more than 4,200 communities.

Families, caregivers, cancer survivors, schools and companies get together for a rally to kick off the Relay For Life season, and begin preparing for the August event.

The Relay for Life is an overnight community celebration where individuals, families and teams camp out, barbeque,

dance, and take turns walking around a track relay-style (in Stapleton's case, the Founders' Green) to raise funds to fight cancer. At nightfall, participants will light hundreds of luminaries around the track in a moving ceremony to honor cancer survivors as well as friends and family lost to the disease. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life represents hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

The Stapleton Relay For Life Kick-Off Party will be held at the Coral Room in Stapleton on Tuesday, May 8, 6-8 p.m. To learn more, and join the Stapleton Relay For Life, visit [www.acsevents.org/relay/co/stapleton](http://www.acsevents.org/relay/co/stapleton)

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# Scientists Search for Secrets to Diseases in Order to Find Cures

By Mitzi Schindler

The 900 NMR is a beast of a machine. At its heart, is a large superconducting magnet. Weighing in at 11 tons, it costs \$5 million and contains 198 miles of superconducting wire, which is immersed in liquid helium kept cold at 2 degrees above absolute zero, or minus 456 Fahrenheit. The magnetic field is 210,000 times greater than the earth's magnetic field and has the stored energy equivalent of a 40 ton truck cruising along at 30 miles per hour.

This is just one of the many tools scientists are using to understand disease and subsequently to create medicines, treatments, cures and vaccines.

When scientists put molecules such as proteins or DNA into the NMR machine, the atoms in these molecules behave like little bar magnets and align with the magnetic field, which allows them to absorb radio waves. The frequency of the radio wave tells them about the environment the atom is in. In short, it tells how each atom in the molecule is interacting with the other atoms in the molecule.

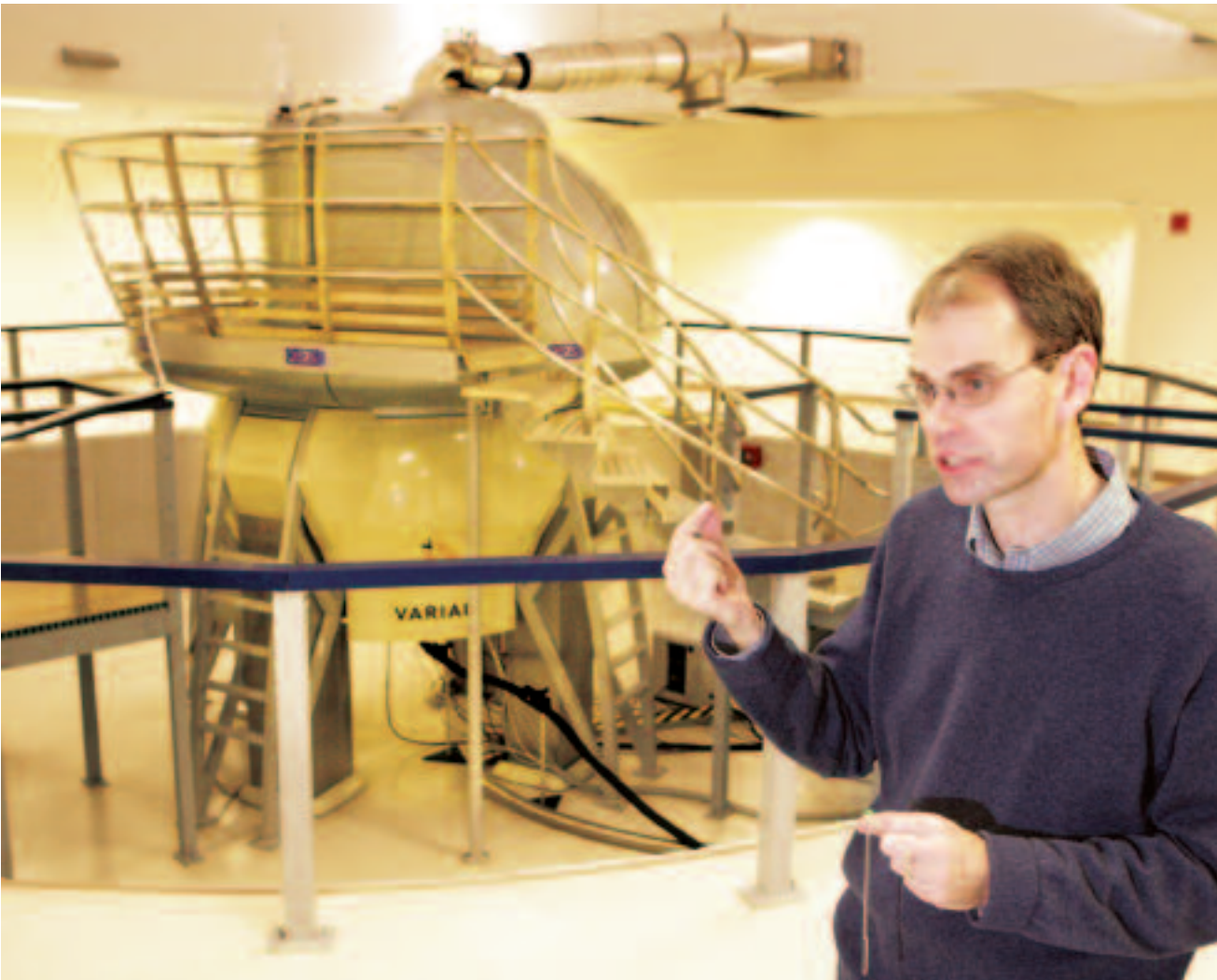
“This tool allows us to look at complex biological systems, in order to understand how proteins function,” said David Jones, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center’s Anschutz Medical Campus. “Through tools such as the NMR 900 we can further understand molecular events that lead to a disease.”

By using NMR spectroscopy, Jones hopes to better understand how a molecule’s three-dimensional structure defines its biological function, and then he can start designing pharmaceutical drugs to target disease.

Jones compares the process to a lock and key. “We end up with a picture of the molecule from which we can look at how the atoms are interacting – this is like being able to see inside a lock, so that we can design the key to open that lock.”

Jones’ areas of research include looking at how alcohol affects protein structure and determining how insects smell. Although most people would not think that these two are related to each other, for Jones it was the first that led to the second – which then became his scientific passion.

Jones was working with fruit flies in the alcohol research. One of the proteins, LUSH, has a unique alcohol binding



Dr. David Jones, Associate Professor of Pharmacology, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, talks about the 900 NMR machine that he uses to help understand molecular events that lead to disease.

function in fruit flies. It was the realization that many of the proteins that control how mosquitoes are attracted to humans were very similar to LUSH that led Jones to focus on how mosquitoes smell – specific chemical cues in human foot odor attract the mosquitoes that transmit malaria.

“We know that the chemical cue is the smell, which stimulates the nerve cells, stimulating their feeding behavior. We need to know how the odor and the

protein interact in order to develop strategies to interfere with the transmission of malaria.”

“Science is often serendipitous,” said Jones. “Something along the way can take you along a different path. That is part of the appeal of science.”

The other factor for Jones is the phenomenal array of tools available to scientists, allowing them to “think about doing things we couldn’t previously do. The NMR 900 is just one of those tools.”

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## COLORADO RAPIDS 2007 HOME SCHEDULE



DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (MST)
Sat.	Apr. 7	DC United	1:30pm
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS PARK OPENING DAY!			
Sun.	Apr. 15	Chicago Fire	6:00pm
SUBWAY YOUTH NIGHT + DICK'S SPORTING GOODS PARK INAUGURAL SEASON HONOR RATCH!			
Sat.	May 5	Houston Dynamo	7:30pm
RAPIDS HISPANIC HERITAGE NIGHT + ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS FAMILY NIGHT!			
Thu.	May 10	Real Salt Lake	7:00pm
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CUP MATCH + COLLEGE NIGHT + HAPPY HOUR PRT PACK!			
Sat.	May 19	Kansas City Wizards	7:00pm
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS FAMILY NIGHT + CHRIS HENDERSON HALL OF FAME NIGHT!			
Sat.	May 26	Los Angeles Galaxy	6:30pm
MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT!			
Sat.	Jun. 23	FC Dallas	7:00pm
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS FAMILY NIGHT + TEAM POSTER NIGHT + RV NIGHT + NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE!			

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (MST)
Wed.	Jul. 4	Columbus Crew	7:30pm
ALL DAY FESTIVAL + COLORADO'S BIGGEST & BEST FIREWORKS SHOW!			
Sun.	Jul. 8	New York Red Bulls	6:00pm
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS FAMILY NIGHT + RAPIDS ALL-STAR SEND-OFF + CELTIC HERITAGE NIGHT!			
Sat.	Aug. 11	Houston Dynamo	7:00pm
RAPIDS YOUTH NIGHT + RAPIDS DOG DAYS OF AUGUST!			
Thu.	Aug. 16	New England Revolution	8:00pm
COLLEGE NIGHT + HAWAIIAN NIGHT + HAPPY HOUR PRT PACK!			
Sun.	Aug. 26	Los Angeles Galaxy	5:00pm
BEDKHAN NANA! DAVID BECKHAM'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN COLORADO!			
Sun.	Sep. 16	Chivas USA	1:00pm
RAPIDS EL DITO CELEBRATION + ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS FAMILY NIGHT!			
Sun.	Oct. 7	Toronto FC	6:00pm
RAPIDS YOUTH NIGHT + RAPIDS OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION!			
Sat.	Oct. 20	Real Salt Lake	7:00pm
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CUP MATCH + ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS FAMILY NIGHT + FAN APPRECIATION NIGHT!			

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS FAMILY NIGHTS**  
Four Tickets, Four Hot Dogs, Four Sodas for \$89.

**YOUTH NIGHTS**  
One kid 16 and under FREE with one paid adult admission.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

For tickets visit [ColoradoRapids.com](http://ColoradoRapids.com) or



TICKETHORSE.COM  
1.866.461.6556

Or visit the Dick's Sporting Goods Park Box Office - hours are M-F  
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



# A Guide to Local Summer Programs for Kids

Photo courtesy of the Children's Museum

By Kathy Epperson

For families looking for great programs for kids this summer, check out this summer 2007 resource guide. Whether your child is into gardening or golf, crafts or karate, there's something for everyone. Registration has begun for many of these programs, so contact these organizations directly for updated information.

Readers may submit additional summer program ideas to [kathy@fineprintco.com](mailto:kathy@fineprintco.com).

### Baby Power and Forever Kids

Gym time, crafts, music & snacks and special activities including Spanish, drama, science, cooking, dance

1 week sessions June 11 - August 13.  
Ages 3-7, 12:30-3:30pm, \$125/week

303-377-8855

[www.babypower.com/denver](http://www.babypower.com/denver)  
Quebec Square at Stapleton  
7505 East 35<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 330

### Bienvenidos Spanish Language Camp

Children will play, sing, cook and eat their way through gentle Spanish immersion. Meals will be tasty Latin dishes. Preschoolers (age 3-6).

Session 1: June 18-28  
Session 2: July 30-Aug 9  
10:00am-1:00pm, Monday – Thursday  
\$300/session, lunch is included  
6 kids per class. *(continued)*

Liza Buddenhagen  
Stapleton resident, teacher and mom  
303.393.1459, [bienvenidos@4edisp.net](mailto:bienvenidos@4edisp.net)

### Bladium Sport Club

#### Youth Inline Hockey Camp

June 4-7 and July 9-12  
9:00am-1:00pm, \$75 per player  
Registration starts in May, Ages 6-14

Kids will be divided by age. No experience needed. Bring own inline skates, but other equipment may be rented.

[www.bladium.com](http://www.bladium.com)  
303-320-3033  
2400 Central Park Blvd.

### Bluff Lake Nature Center Junior Naturalist Program (ages 6-12)

9am to noon (see dates below)  
\$95 for members and  
\$105 for non-members  
Explore Bluff Lake trails and learn about natural history. Each session offers lessons, crafts and snacks.

**Bluff Lake Outdoor Club:** June 25-29  
Build forts, wade in the water, search for hidden treasures and just plain have fun!

**Bug Camp:** July 9-13  
Catch bugs, identify them and learn how they fit into the ecosystem.

**Tree Dwellers:** July 23-27  
Learn about trees and other plants, animals and humans that depend on them.

**Water Warriors:** August 6-10  
Wade through Sand Creek and Bluff Lake and learn about aquatic wildlife.

[www.blufflakenaturecenter.org](http://www.blufflakenaturecenter.org)  
Go to Public Programs  
303-468-3240  
To register call Sue at 303.468.3245

Photo courtesy of Bluff Lake Nature Center



Bluff Lake campers carefully observe a creature in their bug container.



Children enjoy activities at the Children's Museum.

### The Children's Museum of Denver

Wide array of summer programs, including The Blue Man Group exhibit running June 2-September 24. Every Friday in July, Mighty Machines such as fire trucks, bulldozers and helicopters are displayed on the plaza for children to explore. Also Storytime, Super Science Sunday, Playscape Escape, ARTS a la Carte and more.

[www.cmdenver.org](http://www.cmdenver.org), 303-433-7444  
2121 Children's Museum Drive,  
off I-25 and 23rd Avenue

### City Park Golf Course – The First Tee

Golf instruction, plus year-long free access to junior course. Groups range from novice to experienced. Call for advice on choosing a group for your child.

6-week sessions for kids ages 4 and up, starting June 11th:  
Younguns (ages 4-6)  
Pars (ages 7-13)  
Pardies (ages 7-13)  
Birdies (ages 7-13)  
Eagles (ages 14 and up)  
Players Club (play in weekly tournament)  
Kids' golf clubs provided free.

Schedule and registration online at [www.thefirstteeofdenver.com](http://www.thefirstteeofdenver.com).  
To register, contact Liz Estes at 303-370-1554 or [liz.estes@ci.denver.co.us](mailto:liz.estes@ci.denver.co.us).

### Colorado Contemporary Dance

Various dance classes for preschoolers (ages 2-4) in tap, jazz and ballet; a mini program (ages 4-8) in ballet, hip-hop, and more; plus various classes for teenagers. Week-long dance camps for students of all ages and abilities in July. *(continued)*

7505 E. 35th Ave. Suite 340 (in Stapleton's Quebec Square) 303-333-1885  
Schedule and registration details at <http://coloradocontemporarydance.com>.

### Colorado Fusion Soccer Club

**Summer Soccer Camp** - camps held at Denver School of Science & Technology  
June 18 - 22, 9 - 10:30 am  
Ages 4 - 8 (boys & girls), \$75

July 16 - 20, 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
Ages 4 - 8 (boys & girls), \$75

July 23 - 27, 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Ages 8 - 18 (boys & girls), \$90

Call or check online for additional soccer camps schedules and Fall 2007 registration information. Call or check online for soccer camps scheduled at Denver area parks.

[www.coloradofusion.org](http://www.coloradofusion.org)  
303/399-5858  
[info@coloradofusion.org](mailto:info@coloradofusion.org)

### Crestmoor Learning Center

Range of activities on a drop-in basis for ages 2.5 -12, including outdoor play, movies, arts and crafts, swimming, and field trips for older kids.

Contact Molly at 303-321-1655

### Dardano's School of Gymnastics

Ongoing gymnastics classes for ages toddler through 12 are listed online.

#### Kids Summer Adventure Camp

4-week sessions, check for updates online or call to get pricing and session dates.

2250 Kearney St., 303-355-0080  
[www.dardanosgym.com](http://www.dardanosgym.com)

*(continued on page 10)*

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Dr. Kristine Walsh

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305.695.7702

**Orlando, FL**  
407.355.0355

**Fairfax, VA**  
703.352.4111

**Richmond, VA**  
804.750.2003

**Aruba**  
297.586.4686

**Coming 2007**  
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Las Vegas, NV  
Chicago, IL









City Park Golf Course offers golf lessons for children in it's "The First Tee" program.

Mike Giles Karate Studio

Offering Safety Awareness Classes, Childhood Obesity Programs (An Active/Healthy lifestyle program), Karate for Kids (Tae Kwon Do/Kung Fu/Capoeira for Ages 7 -13), Lil Dragons Karate Fun (Ages-4-6), (S.E.T.) Self Empowering Teens (Self Defense for Teenagers)

303-377-5425  
mikegileskarate@comcast.net  
7506 E. 36th Ave. #480, in Quebec Square

Mizel Museum Summer Camps

(For preschoolers to age 12)  
Morning, afternoon and full-day camps in art, drama, dance, enrichment and multi-cultural activities. Weekly camps run throughout the summer with professional camp leaders. Five half-days: \$85; Five full days: \$175, scholarships available.

400 South Kearney  
Denver, Co. 80224  
303 394-9993, Ext. 3  
education1@mizelmuseum.org

Music Together

Discover the joy of music and movement with your child. Visit the website for the upcoming summer schedule at various NE Denver locations, including the new Stapleton location (as of April '07) in the Colorado Contemporary Dance studio located in Quebec Square at 7505 E. 35th Ave. Suite 340.

Vocal Motion, LLC  
www.vocalmotionmusictogether.com  
303-333-1474

**Project YES Art in the Community Program at Stapleton**  
A three-week arts-based program for 4th - 9th graders. June 11th - 29th, 1:00-4:00pm. Project YES (Youth Envisioning Social change) provides innovative arts and service-learning, youth leadership, community building and the beautification of the Stapleton community. Students will work with professional artists to create a publication with creative writing, art and photography based on a theme of their choice. The program will culminate with a youth-planned unveiling event. Shelby Dennis sheldben@hotmail.com.

**Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge**  
Free programs (reservations required) include Tuesday Tots, Kids Photo Basics, Evening Under the Stars, Home on the Range (Bison tour), Family Bike the Range, and Owls Underground. Visit online for more details.

A catch-and-release fishing program will be offered every Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday starting April 15.

Drop-in visitation Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 6:00am-6:00pm.

www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/index.htm  
Visitors Center 303-289-0930  
Enter at 56th and Havana.

**Spanish is Fun**  
Spanish immersion program to learn and practice through fun activities. Morning session: vocabulary and correct pronunciation; cook, dance and play sports; explore nature around campus. Afternoon session: craft projects from Latin America, verbs, new vocabulary and more. Ages 4 to 12 years old  
Students may take the half day morning session or both morning and afternoon sessions for a full day of Spanish immersion. Students who have attended Spanish is Fun in prior years may take the afternoon half day session without attending the morning session.

June 4 - 15 at Westerly Creek School  
Half Day: Morning or Afternoon, 9-12 am or 1-3 pm  
\$230 + \$35 Registration Fee  
Full Day: 9am - 3pm  
\$360 + \$35 Registration Fee  
Westerly Creek Elementary School, 8800 E 28th Ave Denver, CO 80238  
www.spanishisfun.net  
Check website for camps at other locations.

**The Urban Farm**  
**Embracing Horses** (ages 5-18)  
Various Summer Workshops and Classes June 4-August 17. Contact The Urban Farm for pricing.

**Fun On The Farm Summer Workshop** (Ages 6 - 9)  
A hands-on experience that incorporates the work of the farm with learning about sheep, goats, chickens, turkeys, horses, donkeys, and pigs. Campers participate in growing tasty and healthy things to eat.

9:00 – 12:00 Monday - Friday  
\$150 per session  
June 18-22 & July 9 – 13

**Storybook Farm Summer Workshop** (Ages 4-5)  
A farm experience designed to introduce children to the excitement of farm animals and plants through engaging books and experiences in the farmyard.

9:30 – 11:30am Monday thru Friday,  
\$150 per session  
June 25 – 29 & July 23 – 27

www.theurbanfarm.org  
10200 Smith Road,  
Denver  
303-307-9332  
info@theurbanfarm.org

**Wild Iris Recreation - Aviator Pool in Stapleton**  
Swim lesson sessions  
June - July.

Register at  
www.wildirisrecreation. com.  
Email  
kim@wildirisrecreation. com  
or call 720-529-9911.  
www.wildirisrecreation. com/stapleton.htm.



Colorado Fusion offers summer soccer camps for ages 4 - 18 at the Denver School of Science and Technology at Stapleton.

**YMCA of Metropolitan Denver**  
Visit website for program, schedule, cost and location details as well as information about a variety of sports camps.

**Summer Fun Bunch** - preschool – K  
**Day Camp** - ages 5-12  
**Adventure Camp** - ages 9-12  
**Discovery Camp** - ages 10-14  
**Leaders in Training** - 7<sup>th</sup> gr. - age 14  
**Counselor in Training** - age 15

The Schlessman YMCA plans to organize youth sports teams that would play in Stapleton. For details, contact Sean Monaghan, 720-524-2750 or email smonaghan@denverymca.org.

http://www.denverymca.org/  
Go to Day Camp link.  
720-524-2700  
generalinfo@denverymca.org

Don't miss our **Spring Cleaning Sale!**

**April 10 to April 22**

Save up to 50% during our annual Spring Cleaning Sale! Save on floor model furniture, in-stock bedding, accessories and more. Shop early for best selection!

www.fireflyfurnishings.com

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Photo Day with Lucy Darr Photography

Saturday, April 16. Call or stop by the store to schedule your child's appointment!

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**Learn to Skate**

Whether you want to introduce the basics for recreational skating, or a solid foundation for achieving a high level of success in either figure skating or ice hockey... Learn To Skate is the best place to start!

**Next class...**begins the week of April 30th, 8-week series, 2 – 30 minute sessions per week

**Information and Registration...** Maureen McLoughlin, National & International Coach &Trainer, mmcloughlin@bigbearice.com 303-343-1111 ext 119

**Youth Learn to Play Hockey**

A great way to introduce your child to the game of hockey where learning the basic fundamentals and having fun is the name of the game.

**Next Classes...**April 7th 2007, May 26th 2007, July 21st 2007 an 8 Week Super Session

**Information and Registration...** Dan Williams, 303-343-1111 dwilliams@bigbearice.com

**Adult Hockey 101 Skills & Drills**

No experience necessary...HOCKEY 101 is the perfect place to learn the game of hockey. We cover everything from how to stop to how to play the game.This 10-week course involves six weeks of instruction with 4 weeks of complete hockey game.

**Next Session...**May 14th to July 23rd 2007

**Information and Registration...**Peter Ziltz (720) 938-1103 or Rich Valdez (303) 359-3118

And so Much More year round programs, a great facility to host your next party! www.bigbearicearena.com

April 2007

11

Stapleton Front Porch



# Stapleton Spring Stroll Postponed

In order to accommodate participation from a number of interested sponsors, the Spring Stroll Home and Backyard tour has been postponed until next spring. The all-volunteer event committee continues to review home nominations, and welcomes new volunteers who would like to participate. For more information, contact Ginny Creighton at 303-316-4150 or via email at [springstroll@mac.com](mailto:springstroll@mac.com).



Visit [www.StapletonDenver.com](http://www.StapletonDenver.com) to see the deals and discounts offered by these Stapleton merchants.

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- Stranz Beauty Supply/Salon

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- RE/MAX City Horizons, The Kearns Team, LLC
- Renaissance Denver Hotel
- S. Sanderson Photography

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- Stapleton Realty, LLC
- Tires Plus
- Town Center Apartments
- UPS Store
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### MISC. RETAIL

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- Graham Taylor Photography
- Instant Imprints
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### RESTAURANTS

- A Taste of Asia
- Anthony's Pizza and Pasta
- Character's Sports Bar & Grill (at the Doubletree Denver)
- Cold Stone Creamery®
- Copper Canyon Grill & Bar at the Renaissance Hotel
- Coral Room
- Doubletree Denver Café
- Inta Juice
- Kyle's Saloon and Eatery
- Noodles and Company
- Panera Bread
- Radisson Hotel, Quebec's Bistro
- Thomas Bros. Coffee & Chai
- Wingz ETC!

Purchase your Club Card at the Visitor Center, 7480 E. 29th Avenue, 303-355-9600. Present your Resident Pool ID/Stapleton Club Card for discounts at these businesses. Offers may change monthly.

# APE-ri! at the Zoo

April 28 – 29, 9 am – 5 pm

Climb, swing or knuckle-walk to Denver Zoo and enter the wonderful world of apes! Experience what it's like to move like a gorilla, compare your arm span to an orangutan and try to talk like a gibbon while learning what apes eat, what types of families they live in and how you can help protect them. Free with admission. For more information call 303-376-4800 or visit [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org).

# Free Night at Children's Museum

The first Tuesday night of each month, the Children's Museum of Denver will open to the public for free from 4-8 pm through a generous sponsorship from Target.

# Colorado Romance Writers Conference Romancing the Rockies

Have you dreamed of writing that book playing in your head, but have no idea where to begin? The 2007 Romancing the Rockies Conference is your chance to learn about getting a book published or meet published authors. The conference, sponsored by Colorado Romance Writers Conference, will be held at The Renaissance Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street on May 11-12th. The conference registration fee of \$205 includes Friday afternoon booksigning, cocktail and dinner, Saturday continental breakfast, awards luncheon, workshops – and the opportunity to network with authors, agents, editors and other aspiring authors.

The public is invited to the book sale and autographing on Friday, May 11th from 4-6 pm. Visit [www.coloradoaromancewriters.org](http://www.coloradoaromancewriters.org) to see a complete listing of workshops and to download a registration form, or email [Diana@dianarowe.com](mailto:Diana@dianarowe.com) or 303-422-6903 for more information.

## Upcoming Events

# Denver School of the Arts

April 4 at 7pm. DSA Orchestra department's Vanguard Ensemble - \$10 adults/\$5 students and seniors.

April 12, 13, 14 at 7pm. DSA Dance and Movement Dept presents APRIL SHOWERS - Lower Level seating - \$12 adults, \$8 students/seniors; Upper Level & balcony seating - \$10 adults, \$6 students/seniors.

April 29th, 11am - 5pm. 2nd Annual JEWELS OF HIGHLANDS home tour - Tour starts at the Lumber Baron Inn at 37th/Bryant - \$10 in advance - \$15 at the door.

April 28 - May 4. Senior Art Show - Art Students League at 2nd/Grant St - free admission; opening reception on May 3rd from 5:30pm - 8:00pm.

# Groundbreaking Ceremony for Stedman Elementary's New Learning Landscape

The public is invited to a groundbreaking ceremony outside of Stedman Elementary School, 2940 Dexter Street, on April 24 at 10:30 a.m.

## Botanic Gardens through June

# Big Bugs Exhibit

Get a bug's eye view of the world when you encounter a 1,200-pound praying mantis, a 7-foot assassin bug and nine other enormous natural sculptures at the Big Bugs exhibit at Denver Botanic Gardens, March 24-June 24, 2007. A swarm of events and educational activities that celebrate the world of plant and insect relationships will highlight the three-month exhibit. All of the bugs will be displayed in natural settings throughout the Gardens, including in the Monet Garden pool. The roster of 11 bugs includes three ants, a praying mantis, two dragonflies, a spider in its web, a grasshopper, a damselfly, an assassin bug and a lady bug. Education programs and special events for children and families will include learning about the fascinating world of insects and discovering their beneficial roles in our environment. Guided tours of the exhibit will be offered every Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m.

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## There's a new school in town!

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# PASSPORT TO Healthy Living 2007



## FREE HEALTH FITNESS CLASSES

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All classes are FREE, open to everyone 15 & up and are geared towards beginners. All sessions are facilitated by licensed and trained professionals.

### CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

<b>Cardio Kickboxing</b>	An aerobic class that combines general aerobics with kickboxing elements that will give beginners and the more advanced a kick in the butt.
<b>Fitball Fitness</b>	Develop your body's core muscles to improve daily activities and add variety to your fitness routine. Balance, strength and flexibility all in one class.
<b>Funky Dance</b>	A challenging aerobic workout combining hip-hop, salsa, hula, latin dancing and more.
<b>Karate/Self Defense</b>	Self defense and safety skills that will give your body a complete workout while teaching you how to protect yourself in a dangerous situation.
<b>Yoga</b>	Relax your mind, body and soul while improving your health using slow, gentle stretching techniques.

### SCHEDULE BY CLASSES

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<b>MONDAYS</b> at 6:30pm <b>Northwest Aurora</b> Martin Luther King Library 9890 E. Colfax Avenue	<b>Funky Dance</b> April 16, 23, 30 6:30pm	<b>Karate/Self Defense</b> May 7, 14, 21 6:30pm	<b>Fitball Fitness</b> June 4, 11, 18, 25 6:30pm	<b>Yoga</b> July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 6:30pm	<b>Cardio Kickboxing</b> August 6, 13, 20, 27 6:30pm
<b>TUESDAYS</b> at 5:30pm <b>Park Hill</b> Martin Luther King Recreation Center 3860 Newport Street	<b>Yoga</b> April 17, 24 5:30pm	<b>Cardio Kickboxing</b> May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 5:30pm	<b>Funky Dance</b> June 5, 12, 19, 26 5:30pm	<b>Karate/Self Defense</b> July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 5:30pm	<b>Fitball Fitness</b> August 7, 14, 21, 28 5:30pm
<b>THURSDAYS</b> at 6:30pm <b>Stapleton</b> A.E. Williams Family Medicine Center 3095 Roslyn Street	<b>Fitball Fitness</b> April 18, 25 6:30pm	<b>Yoga</b> May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 6:30pm	<b>Cardio Kickboxing</b> June 6, 13, 20, 27 6:30pm	<b>Funky Dance</b> July 11, 18, 25 6:30pm	<b>Karate/Self Defense</b> August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 6:30pm
<b>FRIDAYS</b> at 6:30pm <b>East Montclair</b> Montclair Recreation Center 729 Ulster Way	<b>Cardio Kickboxing</b> April 19, 26 6:30pm	<b>Funky Dance</b> May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 6:30pm	<b>Karate/Self Defense</b> June 7, 14, 21, 28 6:30pm	<b>Fitball Fitness</b> July 5, 12, 19, 26 6:30pm	<b>Yoga</b> August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 6:30pm
<b>SATURDAYS</b> at 9:30am <b>Park Hill</b> Hawthorne Davis Recreation Center 3334 Holly Street	<b>Karate/Self Defense</b> April 21, 28 9:30am	<b>Fitball Fitness</b> May 5, 12, 19 9:30am	<b>Yoga</b> June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 9:30am	<b>Cardio Kickboxing</b> July 7, 14, 21, 28 9:30am	<b>Funky Dance</b> August 4, 11, 18, 25 9:30am

**WHAT:** A series of free 1-hour beginners exercise classes in the Northeast Park Hill, Greater Park Hill, East Montclair, Northwest Aurora and Stapleton neighborhoods.

**WHEN:** Classes begin April 16, 2007 and will go through August 30, 2007

**WHO:** All classes are open to everyone 15 and older regardless of where you live.

**HOW:** No prior registration is required. Sign in on site. Come to any or all sessions

**MORE:** For questions and additional information contact Alisha Brown at 303.468.3222 or by e-mail at [abrown@stapletonfoundation.org](mailto:abrown@stapletonfoundation.org)

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# Stapleton & Infinity Win National Recognition



Infinity Home Collection's Sky Terrace Homes at Stapleton received awards for "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."

Forest City's redevelopment of Stapleton and Infinity, one of its residential builders, were recently recognized with awards by the National Sales and Marketing Council. Forest City Stapleton, Inc. 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 in Orlando at the National Association of Home Builder's annual International Builders' Show.

# Spanish is Fun

Learning and understanding Spanish and having fun while doing it – these are the specialties of the Spanish is Fun language school. In its 7th year, this Spanish language school provides enrichment programs for several Denver-area elementary schools (including Colorado Academy, Westerly Creek, and Lowry Elementary) in addition to summer camps.

The owner of Spanish is Fun, LLC, Silvia Velez, is from Columbia and speaks several languages. Her teachers are native speakers and are skilled in presenting the Spanish language using interactive and motivational techniques. Believing strongly that each student should get as much personal attention as possible, class size is limited to 12. Students hear Spanish that is beautifully spoken and learn to imitate the correct pronunciation. Exposure to another language at a young age will stay with a child forever; they soon discover that it is easy to learn another language, and they gain confidence which translates to other areas of their lives as well.

Adult education is another big part of the expertise of Spanish is Fun, LLC. Adult Spanish opportunities include: Spanish happy hour, museum lectures, all-day intensives, immersion weekends, immersion cruises, group classes for all ages and levels, and private classes (even in your own home). The school also has experience in teaching Spanish for company employees, gearing the language to meet industry-specific needs. Additionally, Spanish is Fun, LLC provides translation services for government, business, and private clients; their translators work in many languages.

Also available is an on-line Spanish-English program which is suitable for all members of the family and is effective in combination with group or private classes. Call 303.200.0622 for information on Spanish is Fun classes.



Children learn Spanish words playing Word Bingo at a Spanish is Fun class at Westerly Creek School.



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## Primrose School Students Donate Books to Children's Museum



Tom Downey, Director of the Children's Museum of Denver and a Stapleton resident, lifts Sam Brown, 5, to help him look over some of the books donated to the museum by Primrose School. Beth and Bill Letzsch, owners of Primrose look on. Arriving on four buses with 25 boxes full of books, more than 60 preschoolers from Primrose School donated hundreds of books to the Children's Museum of Denver to help give other children the opportunity to experience the joy of reading with their loved ones. The book donations were made to honor grieving father Frank Bingham's wish that parents spend more time with their children and that book donations would be made in honor of his family.

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Stapleton's Neighbor to the North

# Bison Herd Released at Arsenal



The first Bison to be released at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge north of Stapleton cautiously exit a trailer.

## Denver First Class Nannies

Tabitha Taylor, owner of Denver First Class Nannies, has a solution for parents in the greater Stapleton area who are looking for personalized childcare by experienced and talented professionals.

As a mother of a five year old, a former preschool teacher and nanny herself, Tabitha understands the needs of young families looking for child care and goes to great lengths to accommodate those parents. She visits potential clients' homes to meet with them and their children and get a good idea of their needs. She also offers extended hours to take phone calls or schedule appointments late into the evening and on weekends when it works best for busy families.

"The nannies I look for are the best in the business," Tabitha says. "I have a great network and get many nanny referrals by word of mouth. I also work with college career service departments at all the universities in Denver and utilize several online nanny databases, newspaper ads,



Tabitha Taylor, owner of Denver First Class Nannies, and her daughter, Mikayla, age 5.

bulletins and more to find nannies for my clients."

Tabitha notes that many families in Stapleton have a part-time need or want to share a nanny, so she helps them network with each other to give a nanny a full-time schedule. Nanny-share arrangements are very common these days and can offer a very competitive salary for a nanny while giving a child (especially an only child) a playmate. Both families save money plus get high quality, individualized care in the comfort of

their own home.

A new service Tabitha is introducing is Wedding Nannies. She has a team of fully-prescreened nannies who can accompany families to weddings and other events to watch children and keep them entertained so parents can fully participate in the occasion.

"I have excellent professional references," Tabitha adds, "and I look forward to many years of serving the Stapleton area."

To obtain more information about Denver First Class Nannies, call 720-280-3111 or visit [www.denverfirstclassnannies.net](http://www.denverfirstclassnannies.net).

# How to get involved with Stapleton schools...

### Westerly Creek and Roberts Schools

Currently the Westerly Creek/Bill Roberts campus has one PTA and one Collaborative School Committee (CSC). In the coming months they will be creating separate PTAs and CSCs for each building. Everyone in the community is welcome to join the PTA. For PTA information go to <http://westerlycreekpta.com>.

The Collaborative School Committee makeup is dictated by DPS. It is usually made up of the school principal, four teachers, one other staff member, 4 parents of students currently attending the school, and one community member. If you are interested in being a community representative for one of the CSCs send an email to [Audrey\\_Douthit@yahoo.com](mailto:Audrey_Douthit@yahoo.com). Everyone is welcome to attend CSC meetings and give input. We also welcome input given directly to one of the representatives. Contact information for the current CSC members can be found at <http://westerlycreek.dpsk12.org/CSC>.

Trich Lea will take the position as principal of Bill Roberts for next year. The search for a principal for Westerly Creek is beginning now. The makeup of the Principal Selection Advisory Committee is governed by DPS policy. Beth Biggs will head up the process for DPS. Nomination forms to be part of the process were put on Westerly Creek's website and distributed via the Stapleton online email list. The committee will be made up of five staff members and five parents/community members.

The five members of the Principal Selection Advisory Committee were selected on March 21 from 17 nominations for the five parent/community member spots. Those members and their email addresses are posted on the CSC webpage.

### Stapleton's Third Elementary School

Watch for announcements in the Front Porch about planning for the third elementary school at Stapleton.

## Living with Your Wildlife Neighbors

by Steve Norris

Stapleton is laced with a terrific network of greenways and trails. This creates great open spaces, recreation opportunities and outdoor experiences. It also creates habitat for a variety of birds and other wildlife. Although fascinating and entertaining, wildlife can sometimes cause problems for its human neighbors just by doing what comes naturally.

Here are a few tips and resources that might help you live on friendly terms with your wildlife neighbors.

First a few general things that apply to just about every kind of wild bird or animal –

- Unless you have a bird feeder, don't ever feed wildlife
- Don't leave pet food or water outside
- Keep garbage well covered or inside
- Working together with your human neighbors gets better results
- If you think a wild critter has approached too close, be assertive – make loud noises and make yourself look big

Beyond these simple things, you may

want to get familiar with some of the wildlife species you actually see around Stapleton. The Colorado Division of Wildlife and the CSU Extension Service have information on their web sites. See their web sites at <http://www.wildlife.state.co.us> (go to *wildlife species* then *living with wildlife*) and <http://www.ext.colostate.edu> (click on the *natural resource* button). Bluff Lake Nature Center has information and connections. Call us at 303-468-3240. And you can always Google something. For example, if you Google "coyote urban conflicts Colorado" you find many links to the CSU extension materials as well as Division of Wildlife information.

Aurora Parks has developed a program about coping with wildlife on the urban fringe — coyotes, raccoons, etc., and will bring it to homeowner groups. For information, contact folks at the Morrison Nature Center, 303-739-2428.

As with our human neighbors, it helps to get to know your wildlife neighbors.

*Steve Norris is the former executive director of the Bluff Lake Nature Center.*

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# Sustainability: Earth Day & Arbor Day Events



## Tree by Tree Program

During his 2006 annual State of the City address, Mayor John Hickenlooper announced an ambitious tree planting program with the goal of adding one million new trees in the metropolitan Denver area by the year 2025. The public is encouraged to participate in this campaign called Tree by Tree. Every tree planted will contribute to the success of Tree by Tree and assist in improving the city's overall environment.

To kick off the program, the city and other metro partners are coordinating 7,000 Trees in 7 Days, a week-long event during April 21-28, 2007 featuring a variety of tree planting activities. For more information on ways to participate, visit the Greenprint Denver website at [www.greenprintdenver.org](http://www.greenprintdenver.org).

## Free Reading of The Lorax

On Wednesday, April 18th from 4-5 pm enjoy a free reading of Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* at the Pauline Robinson Branch Library located near Stapleton at 5575 E. 33rd Avenue at Holly Street (303-370-1530). After the reading of this beautiful, environmental tale you can decorate your own Loraxian flower pot and plant it with seeds to celebrate Earth Day! (Suggested ages: 3-5)

The event is free and open to the public. For additional information please call 720-865-1306. For a list of other public library branch locations near you visit [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org) or [www.auroralibrary.org](http://www.auroralibrary.org).



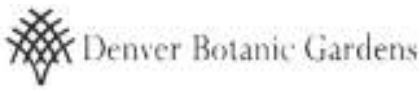
## View National Arbor Day Foundation Posters at Northfield

This year 52 schools from across the state of Colorado participated in The National Arbor Day Foundation's annual poster contest. Over 1,200 5th graders drew posters with the theme "Trees are Terrific and So Are Forests!" Each school selected a winning entry, & out of those entries a state finalist was selected to participate in the national competition. This year's Colorado winner came from a school in Parachute, CO.

All of the 52 winning posters from around the state will be on display the weekend of April 21st-22nd at Borders Books and Music in Northfield. Northfield also donated tree seedlings for each participating student. To learn more about Arbor Day visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

## Earth Day is Free at the Denver Botanic Gardens

In honor of Earth Day, April 22, Colorado residents can enjoy a special free day at Denver Botanic Gardens, thanks to funding from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). The Botanic Gardens are located at 1005 York Street, Denver, CO 80206.




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# Sustainability at Stapleton

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

## A Conversation with Global Warming Activist Laurie David

Thursday, May 3, 7 p.m., Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St.

On Thursday, May 3rd Mayor John Hickenlooper will host and moderate an evening with guest lecturer Laurie David, producer of the Academy Award nominated *An Inconvenient Truth* and nationally recognized global warming activist. Ms. David founded the Stop Global Warming Virtual March at [www.stopglobalwarming.org](http://www.stopglobalwarming.org) with Senator John McCain & Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. that is engaging religious leaders, labor unions, elected officials from all sides of the aisle, business leaders, and other Americans to urge the United States to address the ticking time

bomb that is global warming.

Tickets for this FREE event are available at all Denver Public Library branches or online through Greenprint Denver's website at [www.greenprintdenver.org](http://www.greenprintdenver.org) beginning April 1st.

This lecture is part of the Denver Public Library's and Greenprint Denver's spring series of films, speakers, workshops, crafts and other events about global warming, renewable energy, sustainability and other green topics. For a complete list of activities, visit [www.denverlibrary.org/programs/fresh/](http://www.denverlibrary.org/programs/fresh/).

## Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

McStain Neighborhoods held an open house on Saturday, March 10th to show the public their recently completed LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified home, located at 10101 E. 31st Avenue. Harvard Communities has also completed a LEED home, which is around the corner from the McStain home at 3233 Galena Street in Stapleton.

The U. S. Green Building Council's LEED for Homes pilot project is a voluntary initiative currently under

development to actively promote the transformation of the mainstream home building industry towards more sustainable practices. A LEED home can achieve varying levels of ranking, determined by the number of points tallied on a checklist. The program has mandatory requirements, and then each builder determines which additional energy-efficient features and material conservation techniques to use. For more information visit [www.usgbc.org/leed/homes](http://www.usgbc.org/leed/homes).

## Congratulations to the following Stapleton builders who are voluntarily testing 100% of their homes at Stapleton!

Austin Signature Homes  
Harvard Communities  
Infinity Home Collection  
KB Home  
John Laing Homes  
Latsis Custom Homes  
McStain Neighborhoods  
New Town Builders  
NuWest Custom Homes  
Parkwood Homes  
Wonderland Homes

All builders at Stapleton are part of the government's ENERGY STAR program, which requires third-party testing of building performance to ensure that strict energy efficiency requirements are met. The ENERGY STAR program does not require that every house be tested in order to get an ENERGY STAR label, but instead allows for sampling at 15%. Home energy raters perform the third-party testing and work with builders to measure and evaluate the energy efficiency of a home, providing valuable feedback on houses as they are constructed and completed.

The builders listed have gone above and beyond the sampling protocol by committing to test every house they build at Stapleton. Bravo!

## Stapleton Strollers Starting Again!

Stapleton Strollers by Hot Mamas is an exercise class designed for mothers with children in strollers. The class takes to the streets of Stapleton for a great workout! Classes will be held on Wednesdays this year, starting Wednesday April 4th at 9 a.m. The class meets on the west side of Aviator Pool at East 28th Avenue & Tamarac Street. A single class costs \$12, but the first class is free to Stapleton residents! Hot Mamas also offers discounted packages.

For more information call the Hot Mamas Hotline at 303-296-2609 or visit their website at [www.hotmamasexercise.com](http://www.hotmamasexercise.com).

Women can start taking classes as soon as they have their doctor's permission to exercise. There is no membership fee to join. If you are interested in trying a class you just need to show up at the scheduled location 10 minutes prior to the class time with your baby in a stroller, a beach towel, and water. Hot Mamas trainers offer modifications and tailor the exercises to your ability so that you feel challenged, but not overworked.

## Denver's Water Ranked Cleanest in Country

*Men's Health* magazine recently ranked Denver's tap water as the cleanest in the country. *Men's Health* explained that its ranking was based on "the most recent data on levels of arsenic, lead, halo-acetic acids, and total trihalomethanes (linked to cancer), and total coliform bacteria, plus the number of EPA water system



violations from 1995 to 2005." Like other cities, Denver sends out a water quality report every year to the public showing where its water comes from, how it tests the water, and what substances are found in it. That report is expected later this spring. For more information, visit [www.water.denver.co.gov](http://www.water.denver.co.gov).



Above: Jeff Medanich of McStain Neighborhoods explains some of the features of McStain's recently completed LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) home.



Left: Tankless water heaters provide hot water only as it is needed by heating water directly without the use of a storage tank. They avoid the standby heat losses associated with storage water heaters and save money and energy.

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Education at Stapleton – One View by Bernard Douthit

(continued from page 3) neighborhood schools, options and choices in education, and community outreach to surrounding schools.

Everyone wants strong neighborhood schools regardless of what choices they may make for their own children. These schools increase property values and make educational opportunities readily available for all children living in a particular neighborhood. They also form the foundation for community activities, networks and social gatherings. Social ties are strengthened when community members share in the goals of supporting and improving a local school. Community support for Westerly Creek since its inception and now the Westerly Creek/Bill Roberts campus has been considerable. Without strong community support and volunteers we would not be where we are today. This strong community support has helped to encourage growing enrollment and has enabled the schools to expand offerings from physical education the first year to physical education, visual art, music, drama and Spanish now.

For many living at Stapleton, options in education are as important as the first point above. At times, however these two points, options vs. strong neighborhood schools are seen as mutually exclusive or even opposed. With our community we expect to have choices for our children.

More choices are on the way. Beginning in August, Westerly Creek and Bill Roberts will open as separate schools. A community-based planning process led by DPS will be convened

for the education program at Westerly Creek. The third school will be opened as early as 2009. In advance of that, planning meetings will be held with many opportunities for community involvement.

The good news is that we've already built strong neighborhood schools in Westerly Creek and Roberts. What's more, as a community we can now leverage this experience in working to make both schools great neighborhood schools that serve to address the needs of parents interested in other educational options and themes for their children.

Lastly, I would hope that as we continue to debate what is the best education structure for our community that we would follow the main ideas outlined here and utilize what we've learned from the startup of Westerly Creek and Roberts. We must also not forget the third idea articulated above, outreach to the schools surrounding our neighborhood. The fact is that Ashley, Phillips, Smiley and others can also use our time, energy and focus. Small investments can yield tremendous returns with respect to these schools. As a community we need to look beyond our own back yards or our own schools to what is best for that which surrounds us. Whether it be joint PTA fundraising events, tutoring programs, playground restoration programs or other activities we need to keep in mind the ideas of the Green Book and work to improve educational opportunity for the broadest group possible.

Fulfilling Stapleton's Educational Promise by Chris Adams

(continued from page 3) programs," our community has a lot of work to do. The Master Plan makes the point that, "One size does not fit all – in clothing or education," and we should keep this in mind as we make decisions about the future of our schools.

The plan goes on to say, "The traditional structure of elementary (K-5), middle (6-8), and high schools (9-12) work well for many students. But others need options in public and private facilities." Another section says, "Charter schools and magnet programs that focus on specific themes such as the arts or science and technology will be encouraged to appeal to different learning styles and student interests."

What is the cost to the community of failing to provide a choice of educational opportunities that meet the needs of families? Families leave, and our community is weaker for it.

Yesterday's warm weather brought about a typical Stapleton scene in the alley behind my house: parents chasing after treacherously wobbling kids learning to ride their bikes. In between moments of parental elation when the kids found their balance and terror when they fell, I participated in two very different conversations with fellow parents. One set of parents had recently been told by DPS that their child had qualified for the Polaris Program at Ebert (a gifted and talented magnet program) and that she had been lucky enough to have gotten one of the few available spots through a lottery. These parents were excited and grateful that they would have a choice to make about their child's school.

The other family received word from DPS that their child had qualified for Ebert but had *not* been lucky in the lottery. Their child's spot on the wait list is in the high 20's and they know they may or may not get into the educational program they want for their child.

A few minutes later yet another neighbor walked by and joined the conversation. This dad talked about how expensive it is to send his three kids outside of Stapleton to private school.

Isn't there a missed opportunity here? While the current schools work for many families, they do not for many others. Why can't Stapleton use its many resources and opportunities to create educational programming that will appeal to even more of our friends and neighbors?

The new reconfiguration plan for Westerly Creek and Bill Roberts commits both schools to be "traditional neighborhood schools." But the truth about

our neighborhood is that some of us want a traditional neighborhood school, and some of us are looking for something different. The reasons range from having an affinity for a particular educational approach, like Montessori, to a research-validated belief in the importance of the arts in education, to having children with special needs.

Because the Polaris Program is often mentioned as a possible programming model that would meet the needs of many Stapleton families, it is worth noting that this program was designed to meet the special needs of a particular type of learner, and there is a screening process to be qualified. The principal of the Polaris Program at Ebert has indicated that she turns away scores of Stapleton families who need a program like Polaris because there is no room for them. DPS proposed this year that a Polaris program could have been located here, but the idea created so much controversy that it was withdrawn. However, the need for this type of programming persists, and if it cannot be met here within our community, families will continue to seek educational opportunities elsewhere.

If we are to fulfill Stapleton's educational promise, we need to find a way for the schools to work for all—or at least more—of us, and that means that there needs to be choices available that meet the needs of more of us. DPS has suggested that the way to do this would be to broaden the discussion to a larger context that would include the surrounding neighborhoods. This idea holds some merit, and it makes available some new opportunities to diversify Stapleton in a lot of different ways—not just in terms of educational programming.

One more piece of advice from the Education Master Plan calls for "establishing schools as community centerpieces." In a community this young and vibrant, the schools are critical building blocks of community. This is true whether a family has a child attending the school or not. Westerly Creek and Bill Roberts have done a nice job including all kids and families in extra-curricular activities and events. This is much appreciated.

It is understandable that when we talk about something as personal and important as our children's schools that tempers have flared. But we should work hard to transform that energy into productive dialogue and action. There is an old aphorism in conflict resolution: "be hard on the problem, not on the people." We need to work hard and do our part to fulfill Stapleton's education potential. And, we need to do so as friends and neighbors who care about all of our kids.

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## Family Kicks

by Mike and Karen Giles  
Mike Giles Family Karate



## Teachable Moments

by Tom Downey  
Children's Museum of Denver



### Teenagers - Our Future Leaders

It's springtime again, time to change clocks, watch the flowers blossom and spring forward in our lives! One of the best ways we can think of is to take a new approach to the most misunderstood part of our community, the TEENAGER.

Webster's definition of a teenager: a person between the ages of 12 and 18 that is moving from puberty to maturity. Our definition: a stressed person struggling to learn time management skills, how to take responsibility, filtering new information and knowledge, deciphering and choosing good friends, a person who struggles with their emotions, and one who is constantly making decisions that could effect their entire lives. If this definition sounds like it could be you or another grown-up that's precisely our point.

These younger people that we frown at, group together and make assumptions about, are just miniature versions of ourselves. They are what we think of as reflections of our environment. We could create a more peaceful and understanding atmosphere with our teenagers if we exhibit these same qualities.

What if, instead of the old ways of dealing with teenagers – yelling, talking at them and giving them our final word – we actually listen and evaluate their thoughts?

What if when they hit a bump in the road, we consider respecting their feelings and emotions by allowing them time to heal and work things out through dialogue, sort of like we would do to resolve an issue?

What if, instead of making demands, we teach them through our actions how to communicate their ideas, so that they can make a contribution to their world?

Our children/teenagers need all of our support. Our jobs are to make them feel safe and comfortable by teaching them respect, integrity, perseverance, self-control and leadership skills. In the last 20 years, we have had the privilege to teach hundreds of teenagers all of these qualities, and it's a great feeling to know that they as well as our own teenage son and daughter possess the tools to spring forward and succeed in this life. After all, TEENAGERS are our nearest future.

*Mike Giles Karate and Family Fitness Center is located at 7506 E. 36th Ave. #480 –facing Sam's Club in Quebec Square. For more information: [mikegileskarate.com](http://mikegileskarate.com) or (303) 377-(KICK)5425 or e-mail us at [mikegileskarate@comcast.net](mailto:mikegileskarate@comcast.net).*

### Spring Has Sprung

Pack away your hats and gloves and break out your sunglasses and flip flops because spring has sprung! Embrace spring fever and get outside to enjoy the changing seasons! As warmer weather sets in, trees sprout buds and flowers grow. Take this time to go on a nature walk around the neighborhood and become a nature detective! Observe the signs of spring. Discuss what you see, smell and hear. "The trees are green, the sky is blue. I think I hear birds chirping. Can you find them? There are four trees in our front yard." Take the same walk a few weeks later. "What has changed?" Spring is a new beginning... Ask your child what they would like to do that is new and solicit from them the changes that they have noticed going on all around them.

At home you can start a garden. Planting flowers is a great start and sunflowers are fun and easy for kids to grow. Or choose a spaghetti garden. Plant tomatoes, garlic and herbs such as oregano, basil, and parsley. Throughout the summer you can harvest the tomatoes and herbs and create a wonderful spaghetti sauce with what you've grown right in your own home. April 22nd is also Earth Day. Teach your children the concept of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Ask your children to conserve by turning the water off while brushing their teeth. Find things around the house that can be reused or recycled and challenge your children to find other uses for these items. We always need recycled materials at the Children's Museum for our "Assembly Plant" exhibit. An old milk jug can be used to make a birdfeeder. They can decorate it themselves. Observe which birds live in your back yard. Different feeders attract different types and sizes of birds. You'll also want to find out what types of birdfeed to put in each container. Birds have very different diets and will be picky about what they will eat and be sure to note that it is important to keep the feeders clean to avoid making the birds sick. With these activities, your kids will not only learn lifelong lessons, but you will both get wonderful parent/child engagement time.

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

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

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Above: A sneak preview of the inside of Dick's Sporting Goods Park opening on April 7th. Below: The complex has 24 fully lit fields. Below right: Workers put final touches on the stadium in preparation for the first Rapids game.

By Kathy Epperson

The Colorado Rapids soccer team has a new home, and it's world-class. The new Dick's Sporting Goods Park, located just north of Stapleton and south of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge, 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. Stadium amenities include a total of 22 loge-style luxury suites, a unique open concourse design that allows for 360-degree sightlines to the field, and a world-class grass field with an underground heating and draining system. The stadium also features cutting edge technology, featuring the largest video scoreboard and the most LED boards for a stadium its size anywhere, as well as the only fully-integrated digital signboard system in the world.

Dick's Sporting Goods Park anchors the 917-acre Prairie Gateway site that is a public-private partnership between Kroenke Sports Enterprises and Commerce City. The site also hosts the new Commerce City municipal hall, retail facilities, offices for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a new visitors' center for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge. "When Stan Kroenke acquired the Colorado Rapids in 2003," says Press Officer Kyle Mead, "he envisioned creating a new home for the Colorado Rapids that would be more

intimate, great for families, and allow the team to control their game dates and not work around other stadiums' schedules." Kroenke Sports Enterprises looked at other recently built soccer stadiums and complexes in the U.S. in pursuit of the best design ideas. They employed Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK), architects of Coors Field and recipients of a 2006 Leadership Award by the U.S. Green Building Council, to design the new stadium. The stadium design sports a roofline on the west and east sides that mimics the tectonic plates that created the Rocky Mountains.

The stadium will open its doors for the first time to the public on April 7, when it hosts Major League Soccer's season opener as the Rapids Take on DC United at 1:30pm (MT) live on ABC. Details about the inaugural activities and future concert dates, including Kenny Chesney headlining the Flip Flop Summer Tour on June 30, are posted on the stadium website. On July 4th the Rapids will play a regular season game against the Columbus Crew at 7:30pm, and the fireworks show that has previously been held at Invesco Field will move to the new soccer stadium that evening. The stadium and surrounding fields will also host other sporting events, including lacrosse, rugby, and American football.

Check the stadium website for information about youth soccer camps as well as free guided tours offered year-round from Tuesday-Friday from 10:00am-4:00pm starting May 1 (tickets are required and may be acquired free at the stadium box office).

Dick's Sporting Goods Park is located at 6000 Victory Way in Commerce City. Contact by phone at 303-727-3500 or visit online at [www.dickssportinggoodspark.com](http://www.dickssportinggoodspark.com). Single game tickets may be purchased by calling 1-866-461-6556 or visiting [www.tickethorse.com](http://www.tickethorse.com). Season and group ticket packages can be

purchased by phone at 303-825-GOAL (4625) or online at [www.coloradorapids.com](http://www.coloradorapids.com). There are three main entrances into Dick's Sporting Goods Park: Quebec St. and E. 60th Avenue; Quebec St. and Prairie Parkway (64th Avenue); or 56th Avenue and Valentia Street.



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# Anchor Students Visit New School (continued from page 1)



Above: Teachers and volunteers show Anchor students around the school grounds, which will have a sensory garden for them to explore. Below: Juan Pena enjoys sitting in a bobcat.



Photo courtesy of Anchor School

For example, the hardwood floor changes to tile at the classroom entrances so the children will know they have arrived by both sound and feel. Opportunities outside will allow the children to explore a natural setting that includes a sensory garden. Everyone is looking forward to sharing experiences with the Primrose School neighbors as well as taking walks to the town center where the children will get acquainted with their neighborhood.

There will be a Family Fun Festival on Saturday, September 29th 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Neighbors are welcome to come and tour the building and meet the staff, volunteers and some of the children.

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**S.U.N. Meetings are open to the public**  
Meetings are held at 7pm on the 4th Thursday of the month in the Stapleton Development Corporation Large Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 7350 E. 29th Ave.

## Block Party Day is Coming!

Stapleton's Third Annual Block Party Day will be on Saturday, May 19th starting at 3 PM. This event is sponsored by SUN, but organized by each individual block. Therefore, you can tailor the party to meet the specific needs of your block. It can be a celebration to welcome spring and reconnect with old friends, or a way to draw people out and bring all the new neighbors on your block together. The goal of this event is to build community and traditions - and continue to make our neighborhood a great place to live and raise families.

Even if you don't have a designated "block captain" it just takes one person to get the party started! Please register your block party by contacting Mark Mehringer at [mehringer@gmail.com](mailto:mehringer@gmail.com) no later than May 6. Simply drop Mark a note, let him know what block(s) will be attending your party, where it will be located, and if you are interested in having the fire department stop by.

SUN will coordinate fire department visits, but please keep in mind that emergencies and time may preclude the fire department from making an appearance at all parties. Just in case, you may want to keep the fire department visit "under wraps" for the little ones and have it be a great surprise if they are able to come to your party.

In some of the newer parts of the neighborhood, it may be a good idea to join together with a few other blocks, since space is relatively limited. If you choose to have your party on a street instead of in someone's yard or a pocket park, **you must purchase a permit from the city (the cost is about \$140 per block)**. Please let Mark know if you want to close your block, as SUN will work to get all of the permits approved as a group, rather than one block at a time. Don't forget, as we will be taking all the permit applications in to the city at once, the deadline is May 6.

Here are a few more suggestions as you plan your party:

- Create invitations. Hard copy invitations are easier for some people to track (especially if collecting money for permits) but some prefer Evites, which of course only

work if you have everyone's e-mail address.

- Decide on food/beverages – will it be a potluck, or will you have everyone pitch in and buy food and/or beverages? Remember, the simpler, the better (and the less organizing for the Block Captain to do!).
- Don't forget things like paper products, cups, etc. Name tags and markers are a great idea for newer blocks where not everyone knows each other yet.
- See if anyone on your block owns a business and would be interested in sponsoring part of your block party (cost of the permit, beverages, paid entertainment) in exchange for advertising their business.
- Have a back-up plan for weather. We all know how unpredictable the weather can be in Colorado. One idea is to open up garages on an alley and have people "party hop" between garages.

For more information on Block Party Day, including a "Block Party Toolkit," please visit the newly re-vamped SUN website at [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org) and click on Outreach.

## SUN Transportation Committee Update

### Stapleton Speed Trailer

The Master Community Association and the Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association have jointly purchased an electronic traffic speed sign. The speed trailer sign will warn oncoming motorists if they are exceeding the speed limit, and will record data regarding the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. The speed trailer has been delivered and is being stored at the Police Academy. TMA, MCA and SUN are currently working to develop policies and procedures regarding the use of the speed trailer. Initial use of the speed trailer began during the last week of February 2007. The current plan is to leave the speed trailer at each location for 72 hours and move it around throughout Stapleton. The data gathered will be used to identify areas of particular concern. Officer Jim Pelloni with the Denver Police Department Traffic Operations section spoke to the SUN Transportation Committee at the March 5 meeting. He indicated his willingness to utilize information gathered from use of the speed trailer to help focus his enforcement priorities at Stapleton.

### Stapleton Shuttle

On Friday, December 15, a free shuttle between the RTD Stapleton Transfer Center and Northfield Shopping Center at Stapleton began. The service runs every 15 minutes Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 10 m and on Sunday from 10 am to 7 pm. Use of the shuttle was initially low, but increased substantially in January and February. RTD has agreed to continue the shuttle service through early May, when RTD Route 43 will begin serving Northfield. In addition, the Stapleton Area TMA has initiated discussions with area hotels about the possible of a continuing hotel shuttle that would stop at the 29th Avenue Town Center, Quebec Square and Northfield during the evening hours.

## SUN Safety Committee Is Reinvigorated

The Stapleton United Neighbors Safety Committee works with the Stapleton community to increase awareness around safety in the neighborhood. Whether that means working with the Denver Police Department's Community Resource Officers Mike Rappe and Reyes Trujillo to implement the Neighborhood Watch Program, or working with the Denver Police Academy on providing Self Defense classes for women, we are focused on safety in our community.

Other responsibilities that fall to the Safety Committee include:

- Partnering with the Denver Police Department to help establish programs such as Good Stranger/Bad Stranger (in the schools for children), Speed Check, and Urban Bike Cops;
- Acting as liaison to the Denver Police Academy to organize community workshops and programs;
- Providing a point-of-contact for Stapleton neighbors and the Denver Police Department for working through crimes, as well as issues and concerns throughout the neighborhood.

The Safety Committee is a constantly developing area that is taking new ideas and concerns from the community, and working to develop solutions. One hot topic the Safety Committee is working through

today is the congestion on Halloween, and how to make that holiday safer for the trick-or-treaters.

The Safety Committee meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome!

For more information, to talk about a safety concern or something happening in your area, or if you are interested in being on the Safety Committee, please contact Julie Cameron at [cameroj@comcast.net](mailto:cameroj@comcast.net) (or notify your Block Captain).

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The Community Pools at Stapleton

2007 Pool Hours are posted at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com), choose Pool Operations Update

There has been much discussion over the last month in regards to the operational priorities of the pool facilities here at Stapleton. The master plan for the south side of Stapleton has identified four main community recreational facilities, not all of which must be pools. Currently, the community has two pool facilities in operation (Aviator & Puddle Jumper) and a third (Filing 15 pool) which is under construction south of planned town center near Havana. This summer our capacity will be limited to approximately 600 people at any one time spread between both pools. The total daily capacity with all three pools will be approximately 900. The fourth facility identified for north of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, will go into design phase shortly after the Filing 15 pool is completed.

What makes the Stapleton pools different from other planned community facilities that many Stapleton residents might be familiar with is simply that the funds used to construct the facilities come from a public funding source, the Park Creek Metropolitan District here at Stapleton. This is the reason that Stapleton pools are open to anyone who pays the daily fee, similar to all other public pools located throughout the City of Denver. The pool ID system was designed specifically so that Stapleton residents could be identified as a separate population from the general public and the monthly dues that are paid to the

Stapleton MCA would be accepted in lieu of the daily fee.

During the initial planning phases of Stapleton, it was decided that the pools would be designed and operate with a balance of programming in addition to being open for general use. The design of the Aviator pool accommodates the greatest amount of programming. During the 2007 season, we will accommodate several hundred youth in both swim lessons and structured swim programs. The participants in these programs and lessons are almost exclusively Stapleton residents. The Puddle Jumper pool was designed specifically with the younger swimmer in mind and focused on providing mainly open swimming at a facility that did not have to accommodate any programming. The design of the third pool will blend the operational components of the first two pools. It will be “child friendly” with low depths and fountains on one side, but will have lap swimming and be able to accommodate some swim programming on the other side.

The public nature of our pools also means that we are required to operate all pools under the same guidelines that Denver public pools are mandated to follow. More specifically, this means that we must have sufficient numbers of lifeguards on duty at all times that the pools are open. We are not allowed to operate pools without a minimum level of staffing. The pools could be opened longer if we were allowed to operate without a full life guarding staff. This is the leading reason that the pool season is limited to Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends. Stapleton's pools like other public pools, lose a significant number of the lifeguards when school resumes, which in turn impacts our ability to have both pools open all day during the weekdays. This year we have initiated a community recruiting program for lifeguards who live in the community. We hope that this program allows us to retain a higher number of guards longer through the season.

Please feel free to continue to send us your comments in response to pool operations and programming by emailing the Stapleton MCA staff at [pools@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:pools@stapletoncommunity.com) or the Executive Director at [kburnett@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:kburnett@stapletoncommunity.com).

Sincerely,  
Keven A. Burnett  
Executive Director



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

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Reflections on a 28-Day Yoga Challenge  
Whether you think you can or think you can't, either way you are correct!



Participants from Phoenix Yoga Studio's challenge to do a yoga class every day during the month of February perform a yoga pose in the 29th Ave. Town Center.

By Denise Davenport Chew

I was so excited when I received an email from the Phoenix Yoga Studio about a 28 day yoga challenge – excited for my best friend, it would be perfect for Pam. I talked myself out of it as I talked her into it. Still sold on the fact that it wasn't for me, I brought Pam into the studio as she committed to practicing yoga everyday for the entire month of February, knowing if she missed a class the challenge would be over. Mary Jane, the owner, asked if I would be taking the challenge as well, and I rattled off my long list of why not's. Mary Jane noticed this immediately and called me out... my own challenge began right in that moment... Little did I know, how incredibly life-transforming the next 28 days would be. Each day I focused on my breath, set my intentions, and moved through the asanas, or poses,

and ended the day with a journal entry. The presence of mind and emotions that came from simply shifting my focus to my body and breath was at times overwhelming. I found my self-imposed limitations melting away with the pounds, as my belief systems and bones realigned with grace. I expected to gain strength and flexibility, and I am grateful for the patience, acceptance, newfound focus ability, and peace that grew, like a magnificent flower, through the practice of yoga. Approximately 35 Stapleton/Park Hill residents began the challenge, and an incredible 30 yogis completed it. The community of support that was formed through yoga during the last month was an even greater blessing. New friendships were formed as we celebrated our personal victories and coached each other to success, along with our compassionate instructors; Billy, Celeste, Elizabeth, Lindsey, Neil David,

Cindy, Jessica, Wendy and Amy. Today I believe with every cell of my being that I am able to create and accomplish all things I set my mind and heart to. I ask, I believe, and I receive, and synchronicity happens. Yoga facilitated that path. It is with great gratitude we honor Stapleton resident, Mary Jane Fenex, for her kindness, vision and contributions to our community. Mary Jane is passing ownership to Core Power Yoga, who will continue to carry on what we started and perhaps create a stronger presence here in Stapleton. One thing for sure, Core Power will have huge shoes to fill. Denise Davenport Chew, a Stapleton resident and licensed certified massage therapist, owns Pathways to Wellness, a home-based business providing in-your-home massage appointments & holistic wellness products. She may be reached at 303-956-1912 or at Denise@om-pass.com




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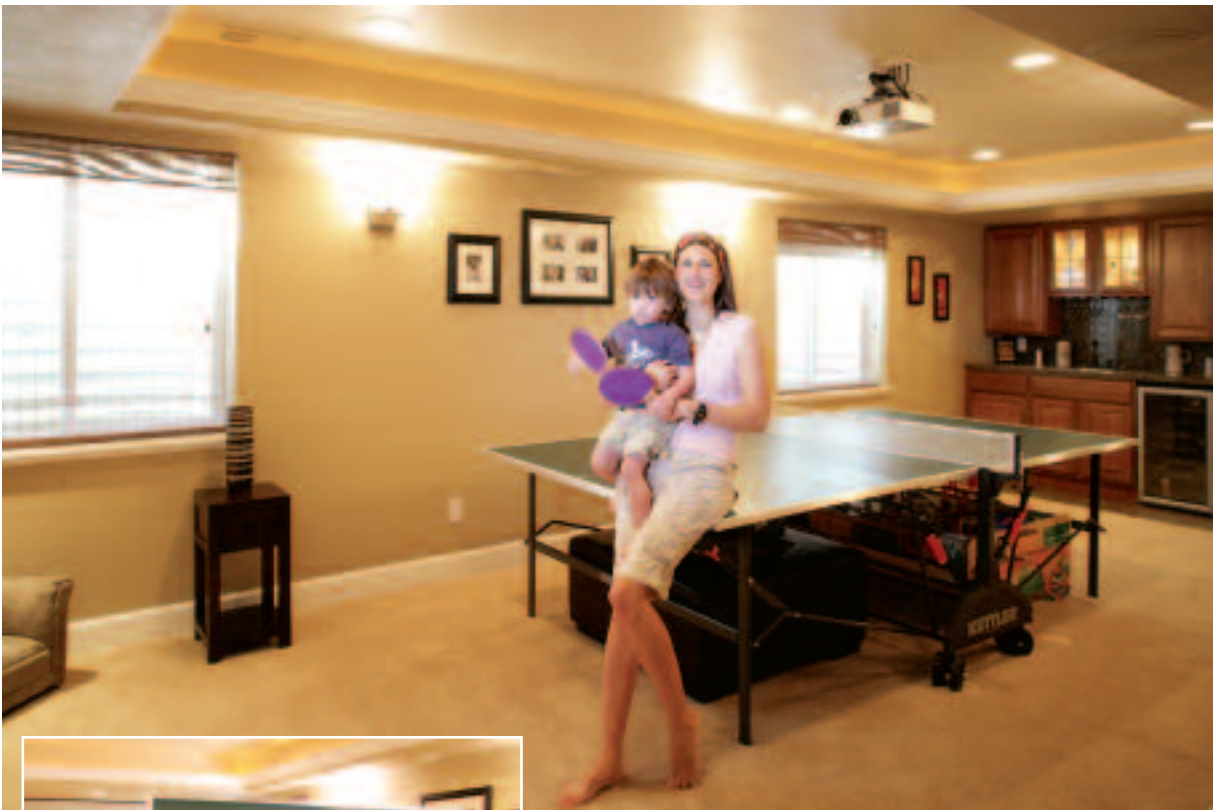
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April 8—9 am



Front Porch Basement Renovation Series:

# Not an Inch of Wasted Space



A play table and large footstool/coffee table stow away under the ping pong table when the arrangement is a rec room.

A play nook decorated as an undersea cave and painted so that it glows under black lights is tucked under the stairwell.

A home office is built into an open hallway that leads to the guest bedroom.



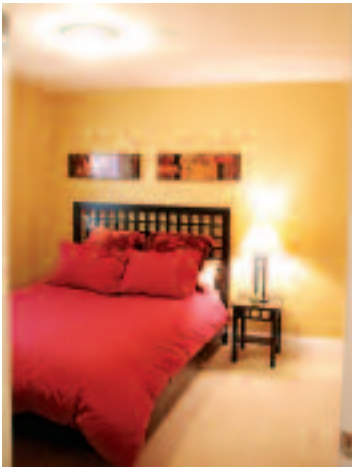
The ping pong table folds up (above) and stores in a closet, and Megan slides in a section of the sofa to create a spacious playroom (right).



Megan slides in the two remaining sofa sections (right) and creates a home theater (below).



The basement renovation also included a guestroom and bath.



By Megan Alpert

Aron and I were reluctant to finish our basement because we weren't sure it was possible to have all that we wanted with our limited space. We thought to ourselves, "How in the world would we be able to accommodate space for a ping-pong table, a bar, an entertainment room, a bedroom, a bathroom, an office, a kid's hideaway space, and storage...all within a 680 sq. foot rectangle?" In addition, we had all the challenges of a typical basement, the water heater right in the middle of the envisioned main room, duct work/piping throughout limiting our ceiling height, and utility access on a number of different walls. I had always pictured basements feeling cramped, dark, and dingy, so I wasn't sure that a basement was even a place where I would spend a lot of time.

After spending a weekend on an inflatable mattress with guests squeezed into every room, we knew that it was time to expand our living space and see just what we could make out of our small space. We spoke to several contractors and companies and decided to work with Basement Partners, Inc. due to their professionalism, full-service approach, attention to detail, and incredible design for our basement. The design not only included all the functional rooms we required but also a storage closet that houses the ping-pong table that can easily move in and out of storage. Now, with the design and layout of our main entertainment room, we can go from watching a movie on the big screen to playing ping pong in a matter of minutes by simply separating our couches.

To maximize space, Basement Partners suggested moving the water heater and using the back part of the large bathroom area for storage space as storage was a premium. In addition, to hide all of the piping and venting, the ceiling has a lighted tray ceiling balancing the entertainment room, which actually makes the ceiling feel higher and adds a nice architectural detail to the space. My favorite part is a custom art niche that was built to display a wall fountain as you come down the stairs. These details, coupled with the fact that all the upstairs trim and finishes were carried down throughout the basement, certainly make it a wonderful extension of our home.

We couldn't be happier with our decision to finish the basement and we actually were able to accomplish our ideal space – a bedroom, bathroom, office nook, kids' hideaway, walk-up bar, entertainment center, storage space and, of course, ping-pong, all under 700 square feet. Pong anyone?



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