

Front Porch

Distributed to the Greater Stapleton Area

STAPLETON

DENVER, COLORADO

DECEMBER 2007

Already Home for the Holidays



Stapleton's multi-generational families enjoy the ease of gathering without travel arrangements and taking time off work. These families have the luxury of being together, not just for the holidays, but for everyday visits. Multi-generational family

By Kathy Epperson

As many families have become separated by great distances, some are re-inventing the extended family by bringing multiple generations together in the

groupings shown above are (from left): Caroline (3), Ali, Brian, and Katie (10 months) Smits and Barb Smith (Brian's mother). Doug and Sandy Knop, grandparents of Tucker (5), Reagan (7) and parents of Damon Knop (back). Bob and Justine Butts, with

same neighborhood. With the arrival of the winter holidays, these families won't need to travel – they're already together. With its walkable community, park spaces, social events and neo-traditional architecture, Stapleton has attracted many

granddaughter Delaney (23 months) and daughter Karissa and son-in-law Kevin McGlynn. Ryan, Brady (17 months) and Sally Petterson with Ryan's mother, Marie Petterson, and her mother Estelle Dusha.

grandparents who wish to spend time with their adult children and grandchildren. The Front Porch asked some of these multi-generational families to share their stories of how they brought their extended families (continued on page 26)

Sun Shines on Green Affordable Housing



Former City Council President Happy Haynes gets a bird's eye view of the solar panels on the new affordable Central Park Apartments. See story on page 26.

District 11 Benefits from Big Vote!

By Michael Hancock

As Denver voted convincingly on November 6th to approve Initiatives 1A -1I, District 11 scored big with new amenities for the fastest growing part of the City. This was an important election for our neighborhoods, including northeast Park Hill, Stapleton, Montbello, Gateway, and Green Valley Ranch. Our communities are slated to receive two new libraries, a new recreation center, a new 90-acre park and share in the road improvement program. If the bond initiative had *not* passed we may not have the opportunity to address our needs for up to 10 to 15 years. Now the work of organizing the \$550 million of public projects begins.

It is important for far northeast Denver residents to understand the process of moving the (continued on page 6)



City Council President
Michael Hancock

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVERY MONTH

Monthly

New Resident Orientation Meeting
[Call 303.388.0724 for date & location]

Every Tuesday

AA Open Discussion Meeting
MCA Community Room 7:30pm
2823 Roslyn Street
[Joe Mc at 303.912.7075]

Every Wednesday

Weekly Weeders, Bluff Lake Nature
Center 9-12am [303.945.6717]

3rd Tuesday

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

1st Wednesday

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

EVERY MONTH

2nd Wednesday

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

3rd Thursday

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

4th Thursday

SUN Board Meeting at 6:30pm
Stapleton Development Corp,
7350 E. 29th Ave. Lg. conference rm.
[stapletonneighbors@msn.com]

1st Saturday

Bluff Lake Birders, Nature Center 7-9am
[BluffLakeNatureCenter.org]

EVERY MONTH

2nd Saturday

NE Denver/Park Hill MS Self-Help
and Peer Support Group
Pauline Robinson Library 10:15-11:45am
5575 E 33rd Avenue
[Paula Sussman 303.813.6691]

DECEMBER

Nightly

Symphony in Lights—On the hour 6-9pm
Northfield Stapleton's Main Street
Nov. 17 - Dec. 31

Weekend, Dec. 7, 8, 9

Holiday Art Market at Stapleton
7477 E. 29th Place [303.534.1979]
(See page 13 for more information)

Saturday, December 8 & 22

Free crafts, fun and refreshments with Santa
1:30pm Borders Books, Northfield

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 8 & 22

Movie with Santa—3pm
Dec 8 — Elf
Dec. 22 — How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Harkins Theater Northfield, \$5
(See page 13 for more information)

Saturday, December 8

Jewpleton Chanukah Party
Candle lighting 5:15pm, 29th & Xenia
Potluck & games for kids Westerly Creek 5:30pm
Bring a dish to share and beverage
[Tai — gitai@aol.com]

Tuesday, December 11

Greater Stapleton Business Assoc. Holiday Party
Stapleton Visitor Center, 6:30 - 9pm
Members free, Non-members \$5
[Joanna@e2businessgifts.com]

Saturday, December 15

Holiday Hilarity at the Improv Comedy Club
and Dinner Theatre, 5pm, \$20
Adults only [303-307-1777]

Winter
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fx: (719) 442-6523
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Sun: Closed

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Front Porch

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.

HOW TO FIND THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT: TAKE I-70 TO QUEBEC

NOT-TO-BE MISSED HOLIDAY EVENTS

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 8th and 22nd,
1:30pm-2:30pm
Craftmaking with Santa.
Borders Books and Music. Free for kids.

MOVIES WITH SANTA

Harkins Theatres 18
Saturday, December 8th and 22nd,
3:00pm
Tickets \$5, available at Guest Services.
(Limited seats available.)
Ticket proceeds benefit The Salvation Army.

HOLIDAY HILARITY

Saturday, December 15th, 5:00pm
Featuring Josh Sneed of the
Blue Collar Comedy Tour at
Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre.
Tickets \$20, reservations at 303-307-1777.
(Adults 21 and over.)
Portion of proceeds benefit The Salvation Army.

SYMPHONY IN LIGHTS

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through December 31st.
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KWANZAA



Park Hill resident Wallace Yvonne Tollette shows some of the symbols of Kwanzaa. Ms. Tollette, an author, historian and speaker, teaches Kwanzaa customs to groups who wish to learn more about the holiday celebrating African American family, community and culture. Shown in the photograph are some of the important symbols of Kwanzaa: The Unity Cup, The Mat, The Candle Holder, Seven Candles, (three red, three green and one black), Crops (fruits), Corn, and Gifts. Local Kwanzaa events are listed on page 13.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by a California State University Black Studies professor, Dr. Maulana Karenga. After the 1965 Watts riots in Los Angeles, Karenga felt the need to bring African-Americans together through a celebration of African culture and traditions. The name,

Kwanzaa, comes from the phrase “matunda ya kwanza” which means “first fruits” in Swahili. Kwanzaa, a non-religious celebration, lasts seven days, starting December 26. Family celebrations differ but may include songs and dances, African drums, and storytelling. A feast is held on the seventh night. Each night the family lights one of the seven candles on a Kinara (candleholder) and talks about one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The principles are:

- Day 1: Unity (Umoja, oo-MO-jah) To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
- Day 2: Self-determination (Kujichagulia, koo-gee-cha-goo-LEE-yah) To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves.
- Day 3: Collective Work and Responsibility (Ujima, oo-GEE-mah) To build and maintain our community together and make our brother’s and sister’s problems our problems and to solve them together.
- Day 4: Cooperative Economics (Ujamaa, oo-JAH-mah) To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
- Day 5: Purpose (Nia, nee-YAH) To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- Day 6: Creativity (Kuumba, koo-OOM-bah) To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- Day 7: Faith (Imani, ee-MAH-nee) To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Wallace Tollette is the owner of Western Images Publishing Company and has written and published numerous books including, “Colorado Black Leadership Profiles,” published in 2001, in which she interviewed 703 notable African-Americans in Colorado. She makes presentations to groups, primarily on the subject of Afro-American history, including re-enactments of historic black women. She can be reached at 303-830-1691.

Information was compiled by Wallace Tollette from Karenga’s book, from www.history.com, and from www.wikipedia.com.

History and Traditions

CHRISTMAS

Long before Christ was born, there were festivals around the time of the winter solstice celebrating the beginning of longer days and shorter nights. It was the fourth century after Christ was born before church officials designated December 25 as Christmas. The actual date of Christ’s birth is not known, but December 25 was chosen by Pope Julius I. The early Christians wanted to keep this date a solemn and religious holiday, but church leaders understood that pagan Romans would be more likely to convert to Christianity if it shared some of the customs of the traditional winter solstice celebrations. By the Middle Ages Christianity had replaced many of the pagan religions – and on Christmas Day many of the believers attended church, but then partied at raucous, carnival-like celebrations.

Early Christmas traditions included ivy, holly and other evergreens as decorations. Gift giving was practiced during the Middle Ages but it was generally between people like landlord and tenant, rather than among families and friends. Caroling (originally dancers who sang) also became popular during this time, though some condemned it as lewd. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas – which led to pro-Christmas rioting. The ban ended in 1660, but some clergy still disapproved of Christmas celebrations.

The pilgrims in American shared the English reformers views, and they actually outlawed Christmas in Boston between 1659 and 1681. After the American Revolution, English customs, including Christmas, fell out of favor. Congress was actually in session on December 25, 1789, the first Christmas under America’s new constitution. Christmas wasn’t declared a federal holiday



From left Steve Bowen, Luke (5) Polish customs.They describe th

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of the Winter Holidays



Kathy Duda-Bowen, and Nathaniel (9) celebrate the holiday with their family's Christmas traditions on page 5, including setting an empty plate for a stranger, as seen at their table.

until June 26, 1870.

Literature in the 1820's is believed to have revived an interest in Christmas in America. A short story by Washington Irving, *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon*, idealized an old-fashioned Yule celebration at an English country manor. Most of these customs had been forgotten in England, and were revived there and in America after Irving wrote about them. The poem by Clement Clarke Moore in 1822, best known by it's first line, "Twas the night before Christmas," is believed to have made gift giving popular, and seasonal shopping became important economically in America. Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol's* customs of charity and goodwill resonated with Americans and became a part of the American holiday tradition.

Remembering the Nativity is a central way that Christians celebrate Christmas. The Nativity of Jesus refers to the Christian belief that the messiah was born to the Virgin Mary in a stable in the city of Bethlehem.

Compiled from Wikipedia.org, History.com, www.christmas-time.com, and www.holidays.net/christmas/story.htm.

CHANUKAH

Chanukah may be one of the best known Jewish holidays but it is not an important religious holiday. It has become well-known based on its proximity to Christmas, but its religious significance is far less than that of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Passover and Shavu'ot.

The historical events that led to the Chanukah celebration started around 200 BC. At that time Jews were living as an autonomous people in an area controlled by the Seleucid king of Syria. They paid taxes to Syria and accepted its legal authority, but were free to follow their faith and run their businesses. But after Antiochus IV Epiphanes became king in 175 BC, the Temple in Jerusalem was looted, Jews were massacred, Jewish rituals were outlawed and the Jews were ordered to worship Greek gods. In 168 BC, the Temple was seized and dedicated to the worship of Zeus. These actions provoked a revolt that by 165 BC had succeeded and the temple was liberated and rededicated.

The Jewish leader at that time, Judah Maccabee, and his soldiers cleaned and repaired the temple and decided to have a ceremony to rededicate it. Only enough oil remained to light the menorah for one night, but miraculously it lasted for eight days. The eight-day Jewish celebration of Chanukah today commemorates the miracle of the oil lasting eight days when they rededicated the temple.

The religious aspect of Chanukah is in the traditional lighting of the candles in the menorah. Menorahs come in all shapes and sizes. Ancient clay menorahs were small, pearl shaped vessels arranged side-by-side. Menorahs that are commonly seen today resemble the holy Temple's menorah, which started to appear near the end of the Middle Ages.

After lighting the Chanukah menorah, it is customary in many homes to play the dreidel game: The first player spins the dreidel, and depending on which side the dreidel falls on, either wins a marker from the pot or gives up a part of his stash (coins, nuts, candies, etc.) The dreidel options are:

- Nun - nisht - "not" - nothing happens
- Gimel - gants - "all" - the player takes the entire pot



Jaden (4), Jennifer, Talia (2), and Max Schrutts Chanukah celebration includes a special Menorah for the children. They describe their family's Chanukah traditions on page 5.

Hey - halb - "half" - the player takes half of the pot
Shin - shtel ayn - "put in" - the player puts in one marker
The letters on the dreidel stand for "A great miracle happened there" in America and "A great miracle happened here" in Israel. Some believe the Jews played the dreidel game to camouflage the fact that they were studying Torah, which was outlawed by Greeks. If Greek soldiers were spotted, the Jews would hide their scrolls and spin tops, so the Greeks thought they were gambling, not learning.
Chanukah starts on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar, which is November-December on the Gregorian calendar, and is December 4th this year.

Information compiled from history.com, wikipedia.org and jewfaq.com.

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STAPLETON

FOREST CITY DEVELOPMENT

DPS Approves Middle School Expansion for DSST

The Denver Public School (DPS) Board approved adding a middle school next to the existing high school at the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) in Stapleton. DSST currently serves 425 students in grades 9-12. With the approval of the middle school, DSST will admit its first class of 6th graders in the fall of 2008 and will add one class of 6th grade each year until it is fully enrolled with grades 6-12 in the 2010-2011 academic year. The vote was unanimous and the Board granted the school the longest possible charter term of 5 years -indicating the highest level of support for a charter proposal.

DSST has created a high school model that has challenged the status quo and become an exemplar for reform locally and nationally. Information about DSST and the admission process is available on the school's web site at www.scienceandtech.org.



Denver School of Science and Technology students demonstrate a project.

The Big Vote

(continued from page 1) projects forward. Discussions are now being held internally at City Hall on how to roll out the massive infrastructure improvement program in a manner that promotes efficiency and accountability. We want to avoid what happened with the 1998 bond project. There were many cost over-runs and simply a disorganized process for implementation and today, almost 10 years later, the City is still working on completing some of those projects.

As policy makers, the Mayor and City Council are committed to avoiding the problems that plagued the 1998 bond. We are aware that residents want to see projects begin immediately, particularly in their neighborhood. However, now that the bonds have been approved, the City must develop an internal management system (we are talking about \$550 million in projects), prepare for the financial market, review each approved program for soundness and implementation readiness, and develop proper scheduling of projects to promote efficiency and accountability. Again, we will work to deliver projects in a timely manner to avoid inflationary impacts and deliver promised amenities to each neighborhood in a responsible manner.

We should expect our City government to deliver in an orderly and financially responsible manner. At the conclusion of the overall program new world class amenities delivered in an organized, efficient and responsible manner will be the legacy we can all be proud of.

I will return periodically to provide updates as the process moves forward.

Holiday Traditions (continued from page 5)

Christmas Customs of the Duda/Bowen Family

"The heart of a Polish Christmas is a 'Wigilia,' or Christmas Eve. As one would expect, the evening's traditions are steeped with Biblical references. Families come together to celebrate Jesus' birth and extend good wishes to one another by breaking and sharing a blessed 'optatek,' which resembles a large communion wafer. Each household's table is set with an extra place setting as a way to extend their hospitality to any stranger. This serves as a reminder that Mary and Joseph were strangers in Jerusalem. Meat is not eaten, only fish. Historically, there were 12 different types of fish served to represent the 12 apostles. In honor of the Christmas story, candles are lit, and the meal begins after the first star shines bright in the sky."

Chanukah Customs of the Schrutts Family

"Each of the eight nights our family gathers for the lighting of the candles. As many nights as possible we bring in family and friends to share in our celebration. Most importantly we conference call with long-distance grandparents and great grandparents so we can do prayers together. Each night we give small gifts, and on the last night we give a big gift. However, on one night the kids don't get a gift for themselves, instead they wrap a gift they have picked out for a child in need, and we deliver the gifts one day during Chanukah. Finally, every night we read Chanukah stories that translate our history into teaching opportunities. We talk about how the good guys defeated the bad guys and how we need to have the strength and faith to overcome difficulties in our own lives."

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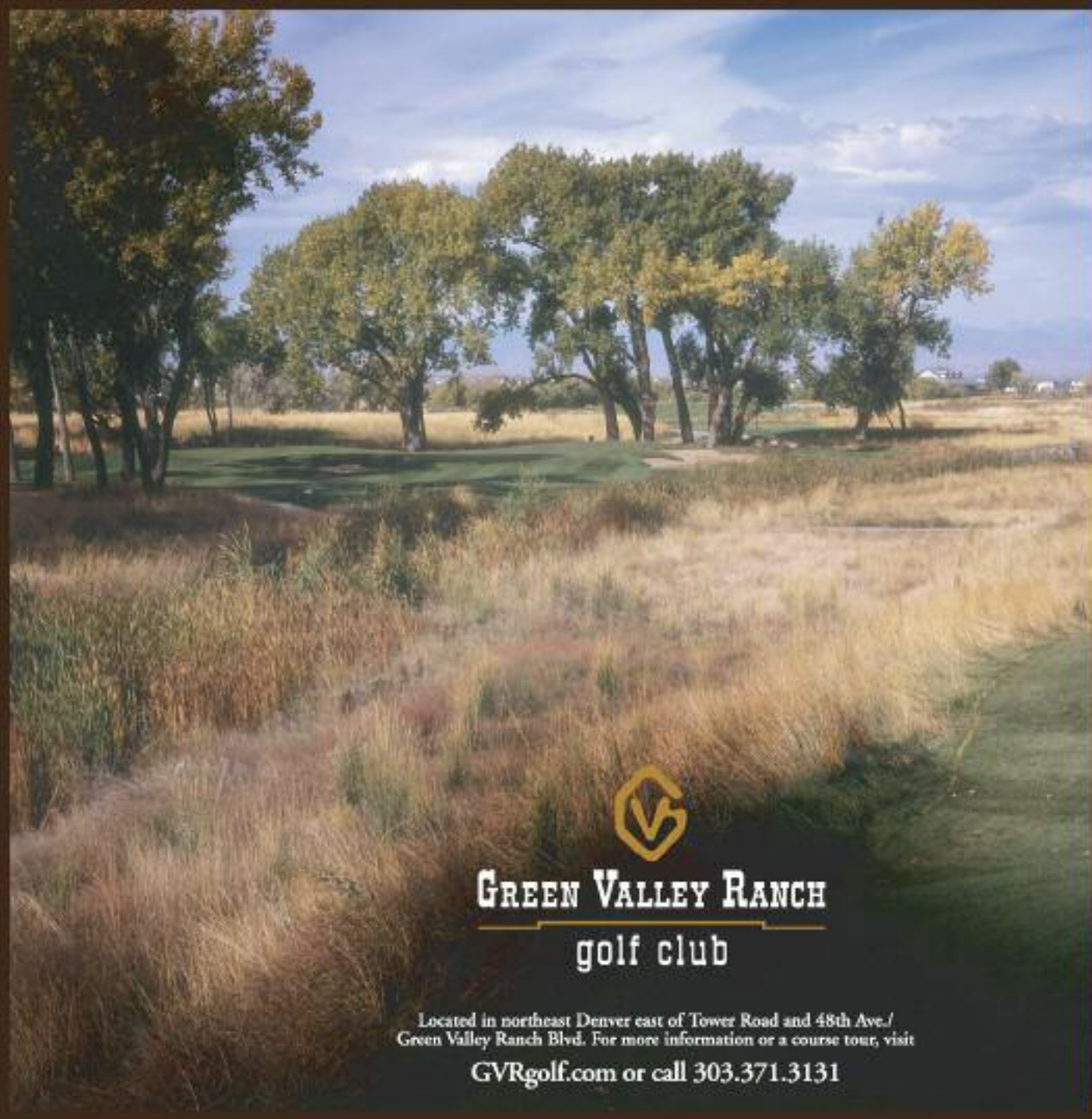
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A FreeMan's Market



Rise Jones and Louis Freeman's store, A FreeMan's Market, located at 23rd and Oneida in Park Hill, carries a selection of items that reflect Black culture. Tables and chairs, visible in the background, offer customers the opportunity to relax, read or talk with one another.

A visit to the nearby "FreeMan's Market" will make you think of far away places. Walls and shelves are filled with a wide variety of hard-to-find merchandise that reflects Black culture. Original fine art, art prints, sculpture, and fabric offer unique accent pieces for any home – and hand made jewelry and seasonal items offer the perfect solution for unusual and artistic gift items.

The store proprietors are Stapleton residents Rise Jones and Louis Freeman. Rise (RE-zuh) is a Denver native; Louis is a native New Orleanian. A year ago, when they knew they would be moving to Stapleton, Freeman began to look for a commercially affordable facility to house a unique gift/bookstore. Rise assessed the market and determined that an Afrocentric-based store would meet a community need and gain cross-section patronage from Stapleton and Park Hill, as well as the greater metropolitan Denver area.

On October 1, 2006 all the pieces came together and the store – A FreeMan's Market – opened its doors for business in the Oneida Park Center at 23rd and Oneida. But the store isn't just about the merchandise. Rise says, "For those who have come, it's been the atmosphere and the leisurely shopping pace that has captured their attention. Folks seem to enjoy familiarizing themselves with our extensive stock while having a biscotti with coffee or tea." Louis adds, "People use the gift shop/book store as a place to engage in stimulating conversation while

getting in touch with the community and its activities. Customers enjoy shopping with us but I think, more importantly, they see a visit to A FreeMan's Market as a respite from the routine business of the day."

Rise and Louis provide a store atmosphere that allows its neighbors and customers a place to get to know each other. "On any given day you are likely to make a new acquaintance, bump into a friend or a friend-of-a-friend from some other part of the country or the world," comments Louis.

A FreeMan's Market also offers a used book exchange. For books brought to the store in good condition, one quarter of the original book price goes toward the next book purchase. Credit can be used for up to half the total price of books purchased. All books are sold at half the cover price or a minimum of \$2. Tables and chairs are conveniently located near the books for customers to peruse the book selection or visit with Louis, Rise, or other customers.

The store is located at 2242 Oneida Street. For more information call 720-988-0279 or 303-399-1349.



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"Lilly Pads" Car Seat Covers



Heidi Humber shows "Lilly Pad" car seats that have velcro seams that fit snugly around the straps but pull off easily for cleaning.

to be an easier way." After talking with friends who reported the same problems with their children having accidents, getting sick, and spilling milk, Heidi searched for a car seat cover but found none on the market.

That original inspiration was three years ago. Now after coming up with the perfect pattern, creating prototypes, finding a seamstress, and choosing fabrications and packaging, The Lilly Pad Company was launched in September of this year at a children's trade show in Las Vegas.

The Lilly Pad Car Seat Cover is a waterproof, washable car seat cover that Velcros over a variety of car seats. "It's easy to put on and easy to take off because it has Velcro seams," explains Heidi. "You don't have to remove the car seat from the car or disassemble the belts to take off/put on the car seat cover for cleaning. When the cover is dirty, you simply pull at the Velcro seams to easily remove it then put it in your washer and dryer. The manufacturer's cover remains on the car seat so you are always ready to go! They are made of beautiful, soft fabrics all with coordinating piping."

After going to an informational meeting on car seat safety and being astounded by the high percentage of people who had their car seats installed incorrectly or had the belts twisted and unsafely hooked, Heidi realized that her new product might have the additional

benefit of increasing car seat safety. "It seemed to me that the car seat should stay securely strapped in the car and not repeatedly taken out for cleaning," she says.

Before launching her new business, Heidi was a registered nurse and then a stay-at-home mom. Originally from Carbondale, Colorado, Heidi and her husband Christopher, an attorney, moved from Washington, DC, and have lived in Stapleton since 2004. Lilly, who inspired mom's invention, is now 5 years old.

Blue Fin Sushi Opens in



Owner and chef, Ben Nguyen, is excited to finally be living his dream of opening his own restaurant.

The Blue Fin Sushi Bar in the East 29th Ave. Town Center at Stapleton opened on November 20th. Owner and chef Ben Nguyen has worked in sushi restaurants for the past 17 years. "I started working in a sushi bar to help pay for college, where I was studying computers. But after working in the restaurant business I discovered that's

The Lilly Pad comes in 10 different fabrics — 7 solids and 3 prints. Right now there is just one style that fits most 5-point harness toddler car seats, and Heidi plans a new style in the near future: seats with the large side-impact panels. The Lilly Pad retails for \$120 each. "It has been a complete whirlwind since launching in September," Heidi says. "There is nothing else out there exactly like my product, so it has been received very well by the retail industry!"

For more information, visit www.lillypadcompany.com or email heidi@lillypadcompany.com.

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29th Ave. Town Center



what I really love, so I dropped out of college and pursued my passion.”

Ben initially started looking at the possibilities for opening his own sushi bar about four years ago. He seriously considered a location downtown, near Coors field, but that didn’t work out. He continued looking around downtown and in Aurora, but had a vision of a modern style that he didn’t find until he saw the Stapleton location. A good friend who is a real estate agent showed him the East 29th Ave space, and he knew he had found what he wanted.

Ben and his wife Linh have a one-year-old daughter, Trinity. Ben’s partner in the business, Kevin Nguyen

is Linh’s brother. Ben is the chef and the face customers will see in the restaurant. “I’ll be here all the time the restaurant is open,” says Ben. Kevin is the business manager. But the brothers-in-law do more than manage the business and prepare the food. Together they made all the design decisions. Ben’s desire for a modern restaurant shows in their plum and tan color scheme, with mirrors and glass in the bright, south facing space.

The menu will be about 75% sushi: sushi rolls (some cooked, some raw; nikiri (raw fish on rice); and sushi sashimi (raw sliced fish – some marinated and some plain). Japanese udon noodles and tempura will also be offered.

Blue Fin Sushi, located at 7303 East 29th Ave., is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and from 4:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. On Friday and Saturday lunch is 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., but it stays open from 4:30 p.m. until 11:30pm. The phone number is 303-333-4006.

“Cheers”-Style Neighborhood Coffee Shop Coming Soon



Justin Ross, Nancy E. Harris and Mel Harris, co-owners of the new SouthEnders Coffee Shop, coming soon to Stapleton.

Scheduled to open mid-December is SouthEnders coffee house, the first retail business in the South End Neighborhood of Stapleton, located on the corner of 23rd Ave. and Central Park Blvd. Catering to the local community, co-owner Mel Harris calls his shop a gathering place where “everybody knows your name.”

SouthEnders plans a phased expansion of its menu and programming, starting with typical coffee-shop fare and later augmenting the menu with a breakfast sandwich and burrito in the morning, simple soups, salads and sandwiches at lunch and dinner, and some hors d’oeuvres, fancy desserts, wine, beer, and cheese into the evening. Mel and co-owners Nancy (his wife) and fellow Stapletonian Justin Ross plan to emphasize healthy, organic, low-additive food and drink items provided by local suppliers.

Friday and Saturday evening entertainment is planned, as well as activities for the kids on Sunday afternoons. “SouthEnders will host several invitation-only parties over the holiday season at which your votes will be used to help select the wines, beers, specialty coffees, and other key service items it will carry,” Mel says. “On our website you can get more details and sign up for tickets to these private events (limited to 50 guests per party).”

Two years of planning have gone into this new neighborhood establishment, including “hiccups” such as the recent forced change from a lease agreement to purchase of the space. “Thanks for all the neighborhood input, support, and encouragement through the two years of challenges to getting this new business open!” says Mel. “SouthEnders is happy to be the first retail business in the South End Neighborhood of Stapleton, and intends to be a major anchor for the community of shops planned for the area.”

For more information, email Mel@SouthEnders.com or see a progress report online at www.SouthEnders.com. Join the SouthEnders members group (online or in-person) and get your first cup of coffee free when the shop opens.

Olive Garden to Open in Northfield

The Olive Garden Restaurant, located along the I-70 frontage road on south side of the Shops at Northfield Stapleton, will open in January 2008.





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Dr. Carrie Dougherty



Hiawatha Davis Rec Center – Nearby and Newly Renovated



Stapleton resident Mary Ellen Buning and Hiawatha Davis pool lifeguard Andrew LeVasseur appreciate the large, well-

Watching Stapleton resident Mary Ellen Buning glide smoothly down the lap lane at Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center’s indoor pool, you’d never guess why finding a close-by year round pool was so important to her. But now that she has found this beautifully renovated facility a few minutes from home, she’d like share this “find” with others. It has a big modern well-lit room full of workout equipment. It has a beautiful gym. And it has an upper level running track around the gym.

But what Mary Ellen likes, and needs, is the big indoor lap pool. “I have lived in Stapleton for almost three years. It’s been great swimming laps at the Aviator Pool in the summer. But swimming is such an important fitness and meditation activity for me, that I wanted a place to swim in the other seasons too.” Walking and running fall short as forms of exercise for a person with a leg amputation – in Mary Ellen’s case it was due to cancer when she was a teenager. So lap swimming, free from her prosthetic leg, offers Mary Ellen a very enjoyable workout option. “I checked out some Denver Parks and Recreation centers with swimming pools but have had the best experience nearby at Hiawatha Davis, a block north of MLK and Holly. The price of a year’s pass is a bargain at

maintained regulation size pool that was originally an outdoor pool but was converted to an indoor facility.

\$150.00 and there is a reduced price for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

“I have spent the last two years swimming laps there. Although I may be changing it with this Front Porch story, lap swim is rarely crowded. Six lanes are available and the pool maintenance is terrific. I have met warm and interesting people who share my devotion to swimming in the process. Meeting people from the Park Hill and Stapleton has made my community seem larger and I feel much more connected. I am planning to add another aspect to my workout because Hiawatha Davis has free weights, elliptical, tread mills and weight machines too.”

Visitors to the pool are likely to meet lifeguard Andrew LeVasseur. Andrew, a Park Hill resident, works full time at the pool, coaches a Masters swimming program and a youth swim team there, lifeguards at the Jewish Community Center, and for 13 years has been the music director at the Littleton First Presbyterian Church. Don’t be surprised to hear music and singing when you visit the pool.

Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center is located at 3334 Holly St. The pool has regular lap swimming times, open swim and family swim times. Call 303-331-4010 for the hours, or for more information about the rec center.

Five Holiday Eating Tips

By William Clabaugh

Once again, it is that time of year when you are faced with the endless amounts of food and treats just begging to be eaten! Many holidays, celebrations, family and cultural traditions are centered on food. By the time the New Year comes around, you may find a few extra pounds show up on your enemy... The Scale! Alas have no fear! There are some simple tips you can follow to avoid gaining weight during the holiday season:

Think weight maintenance. Instead of continuing a weight loss program, a better choice is to plan on maintaining your current weight. If you are on a weight loss program during this time of year, you may be setting yourself up for needless disappointments and anxiety. A better choice is to play it safe and think weight maintenance rather than weight loss.

Eat in moderation. A good rule to follow is to eat what you want...in moderation. Do not over eat! You can always go back for more in a few hours and this is always a better choice than binge eating.

Beware of alcohol consumption. You may find yourself faced with many parties from December through the New Year and many may include alcohol. Remember, alcoholic beverages are full of calories (and often full of sugar). Limit your intake to one or two drinks per occasion and choose water or diet soda as a mixer. Choose lighter wines and beer if this is your drink of choice.

Incorporate a little exercise. After a big meal, grab a friend or family member you have not seen in awhile and go for a walk. This is a great way to catch up on old times, plus the exercise will aid in digestion and burn off those extra few calories.

Do not plan a diet. A big mistake some people make is to plan a big diet after the festivities have passed. This can lead to over eating! It gives you the mind set that ‘Since I am not going to eat this way after the New Year, I am going to eat all I can now!’ Binge eating is very unhealthy and restrictive diets do not work.

Put your diet worries to rest and enjoy your get together with family and friends. Just remember to maintain perspective and a bit of self control. If you do happen to eat too much one day, do not worry, it will not cause you to gain weight. It takes many days of over eating to put on those pesky pounds. And by all means, if your healthcare provider has you on a special diet due to health issues, please abide their suggestions. Lastly, enjoy the festivities!

Dr. William Clabaugh is a chiropractor with a newly opened practice, ChiroHealth and Wellness, in Stapleton Plaza. He can be reached at 303-393-1003.

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Stapleton Public Art Moving Forward on Many Fronts

By Latrice Norwood

As we prepare to close out 2007 and welcome the New Year, the development of public art at Stapleton is moving forward on a number of important fronts.

Four finalists for the Ellipse II project (located at East 35th and Xenia Street) presented their ideas for the site to our project selection committee. Artist Gerald Heffernon of Winters, California was chosen for the \$110,000 commission for the site located north of Central Park. His proposal is a whimsical tableau of four dogs in bronze enjoying a picnic. The Public Art Advisory Committee anticipates installation next fall.

The "call for entry" for public art proposals for the Central Park Boulevard median in the South End Neighborhood of Stapleton between 25th Avenue and Montview Boulevard was launched on October 3rd. Thirty-six artists/artist teams applied for this project, which was limited to Colorado artists only. The commission for the Central Park Boulevard median is \$150,000.

Image review and identification of finalists took place in late November, and site visits for finalists are scheduled this month with proposal reviews anticipated by the end of January 2008. We are looking forward to seeing what our finalists come up with for the site.

In-



Latrice Norwood, Forest City, Inc.

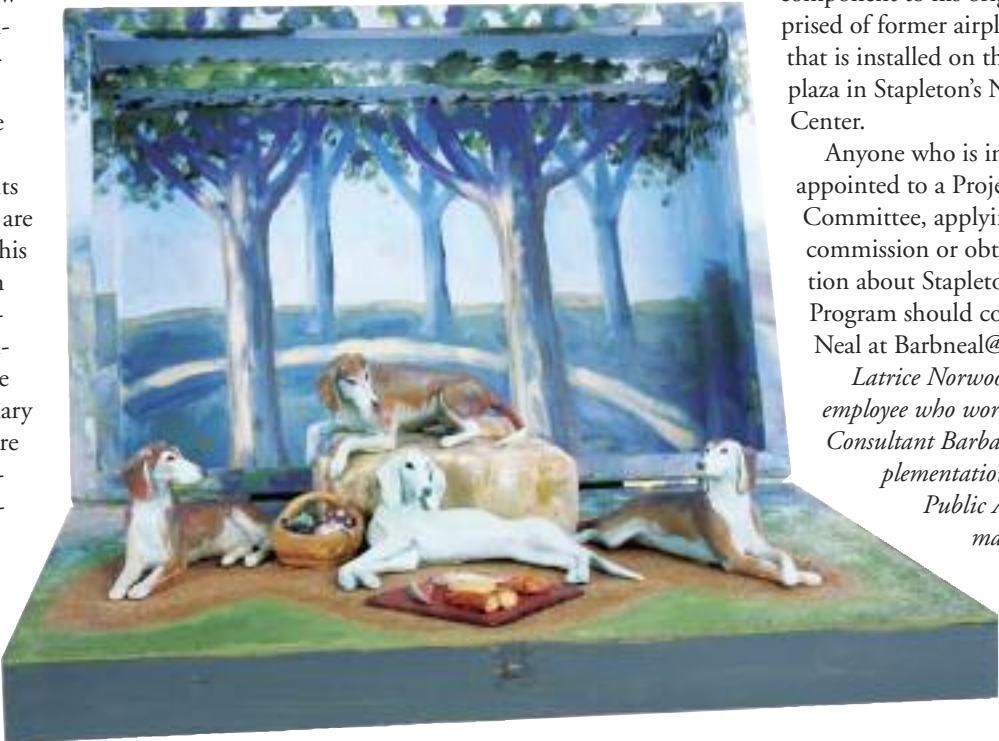
stallation for the artwork commissioned for Stapleton's third pool, located between Geneva and Hanover Streets at 28th Drive, has been accelerated to correspond with the construction schedule for the pool house and pool that will open in May of next year. The final images submitted by artist Jeanine Centuori of Los Angeles have received the approval of the project selection committee, allowing the artist to move forward on design and enable installation to be completed by the end of this year.

The artists selected for the Eastbridge Town Center continue to work closely with the design team for the project. Artist Donald Lipski is proposing a sculpture and Jim Green is working on a sound sculpture for the plaza. We anticipate the opening of the town center to occur in spring 2009.

Local artist Patrick Marold visited the Denver School of Science and Technology in November to conduct a dialogue with students about art and his recent Airfoil installation at the school. The piece was the fourth component to his original work comprised of former airplane stabilizers that is installed on the Main Street plaza in Stapleton's Northfield Retail Center.

Anyone who is interested in being appointed to a Project Selection Committee, applying for a public art commission or obtaining information about Stapleton's Public Art Program should contact Barbara Neal at Barbneal@mindspring.com.

Latrice Norwood is a Forest City employee who works with Public Art Consultant Barbara Neal in the implementation of the Stapleton Public Art Program. She may be reached at lnorwood@stapletondenver.com.



This maquette (model) shows the winning sculpture that is expected to be installed next fall north of Central Park.

Life-Sized Bronze Sculpture Installed at Stapleton Fire Station



District 11 City Councilman Michael Hancock speaks at the dedication of the new firehouse sculpture.


This life-size bronze sculpture of a firefighter and his dog was commissioned by the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs public art program. The artist, Joseph Cipri, is a retired firefighter and a self-taught artist. The sculpture, entitled Tradition, honors "Chief," the last firehouse dog to ride with the firefighters. It includes a life-size firefighter who is in uniform. His right leg rests on a fire hose and he is holding his helmet and his coat. Chief is looking up at the firefighter and wearing a collar from which the Maltese cross, a symbol of protection and honor, hangs. The sculpture incorporates the Denver Fire Department logo on the right side of the fireman's shirt.

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Upcoming Events at the Avenue Theater

All shows listed are at the Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th St., Denver. For more information call 303-321-5925 or visit www.avenuetheater.com.

The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged) – This lightning-paced comedy features Chris Boeckx, Seth Caikowski and Eric Mather, three of Denver's best comic actors playing a wide range of characters to take the audience on a wild, memorable ride through the Bible. The play will run through Dec 31, 2007, Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and select Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20-24.

Radio Avenue (Free and open to the public) The audience participates in a live stage show which is recorded for broadcast the next day on KGNU Radio, 88.5 FM in Boulder, 1390 AM in Denver. This show plays on the Sunday before the first Monday of each month. Upcoming

"Radio Avenue" stage shows will be Sundays, December 2 and January 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Mile Hi-Larity – Improv and sketch comedy. 1st Wednesday of every month. Next show is December 5. 7:30 p.m. \$10 (includes one drink).

Club Sensationzzz – Sketch comedy. 2nd Wednesday of every month. Next show is December 12. 7:30 p.m. \$10 (includes one drink).

Rodents of Unusual Size – Improv and sketch comedy. 3rd Wednesday of every month. Next Show is December 19. 7:30 p.m. \$10 (includes one drink).

Plays Well With Others – Experimental improv comedy. 4th Wednesday of every month. **NO show on December 26.** 7:30 p.m. \$10 (includes one drink).

Children's Museum Events

All programs are included with Museum admission unless otherwise noted.

Saturday Family Showcase

Justin Miera, Dec 1 – 11:30a.m. (\$1)
Children's concert the whole family will love.

Target Tuesdays - Free!

Join us the first Tuesday of the month from 4pm - 8pm!! Upcoming dates are Dec. 4, Jan. 8 (2nd Tuesday due to the New Year's holiday) and Feb. 5

Snack with Santa

Sat., Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th – 10 am - 12 pm
Have a snack and chat with Santa

Noon Year's Eve

December 31st, 9 am - 2:00 pm
Watch the ball drop, make 'fireworks,' see theater performances and do art activities.

Misc. Holiday Events

32nd annual Tuba Christmas Concert – Dec. 9, 1 pm, Skyline Park (16th and Arapahoe). 400 tuba players will perform holiday tunes.

New Year's Eve Fireworks – 9pm and midnight
View from the 16th Street Mall and around the central business district. Arrive early to find a place to watch the display.

Georgetown Christmas Market – Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9
A Santa Lucia parade, homemade foods, crafts, carriage rides, and international shopping markets. Events throughout the day in Georgetown, Colorado.

3rd Annual International Holiday Celebration: An Italian Adventure with the Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14 and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at Gateway High School's Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 S. Sable Blvd. 303-873-6622

Adult Seminars to Continue at Stapleton



Active Minds speaker Sasha Breger gave an information-packed, thought provoking presentation on Al Qaeda to a large crowd at the Denver School of Science and Technology in Stapleton on November 5th.

The Stapleton Foundation is sponsoring a new series of seminars to offer adults stimulating discussions on current events and provocative topics. The Foundation has partnered with ActiveMindsforLife, a highly regarded provider of thoughtful adult programming presented by expert teachers in an objective fashion. They will be held at the Denver School of Science and Technology, 2000 Valentia St. All programs are free

and open to the public. Please RSVP to the Stapleton Foundation at 303-468-3223. Upcoming programs include:

- **The Titanic: From Sinking to Salvage** Monday, Dec. 17, 2007, 7 - 8 pm
- **The Islamic Faith** Monday, Jan. 7, 7 - 8 pm
- **Iran & Global Nuclear Proliferation** Monday, Jan. 21, 7 - 8 pm

Additional programs in 2008 will be announced after the first of the year.

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Dec. 9 Sharing the Joy of Christmas-10:30am
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Dec. 23 Encountering Real Joy-10:30am
Dec. 24 Candlelight Service-6pm



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• Christmas Eve candlelight service: 6pm

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Dental Tips for Tots

by Jesse Witkoff, DDS
A Wild Smile Pediatric Dentistry

Understanding Dental Insurance Benefits

Does it feel like you need a college degree in mathematics and logic to figure out your portion of your dental bill, whose office you can go to, or what procedures are covered by your policy? If you've answered yes, you are not alone. Following are the 'cliff notes' on dental insurance policies and benefits. There are basically 4 types of policies:

Traditional Dental Insurance: This type of policy allows you to go to any dentist in the country (You do not have to pick from a list of dentists provided in a book from the insurance company). These policies are usually structured to cover all preventative dental work 100% (exams, cleanings, xrays) so that there is no expense to the member. A great percentage of operative treatment (fillings, root canals, etc) is covered by the insurance company leaving a smaller portion (commonly 20%) to be covered by the member/policy holder. In addition, they usually require the member to pay a deductible (often \$50.00) towards the operative work. This group of policies usually cost the most to acquire but affords the member the most benefits.

PPO Dental Insurance: In this type of policy, the member has the choice of using a contracted, 'in-network' provider or using an 'out of network' provider. There is usually about a 10% difference in benefits when going to an out of network provider. For example, where the insurance would have covered 80% of 'operative' procedures in a 'in-network' office, it will cover 70% of the cost of the procedures in an 'out of network' office leaving the remainder to be paid by you. Often visits to dental 'specialists' like orthodontists, pediatric dentists, oral surgeons, fall under the "out of network" provision. Realizing that you can still see the specialists and utilize 90% of your insurance benefits is a great asset.

EPO Insurance: These plans mandate that the member use a dental provider on the list only. These plans are commonly structured differently from a PPO plan in that the member pays a specifically identified co-pay for most individual procedures according to a fee schedule negotiated by your employer. At times, these "co-pay" amounts may be greater than the 20% copay (for example for restorative treatment) expected under a PPO plan. It is important to understand this because although the monthly premium may be lower (thus initially making these plans look more attractive to choose), the member may commonly pay more out of pocket at time of service. Since children in general are at greater risk of tooth decay than adults, families with young children may come out financially ahead over the course of a year by "choicing up" to the PPO plan whenever possible.

Discounted Fee Schedule: This newer concept for dental insurance simply provides the member with a percentage discount across the board for all dental procedures (for example 25% off of all fees). The member is responsible for paying the remaining 75% of their dental bill. There is no deductible and no claims are filed with an insurance company. The dental office simply commits to providing the discounted fee. This is often a great solution for 'self-employed' families who do not have access to group dental insurance.

Dr. Jesse Witkoff's and Dr. Julie Vuong's pediatric dental practice, A Wild Smile, is located behind the 29th Avenue Town Center. For more information call 720-945-1234 or visit their website at www.Awildsmile.com.

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by Mike and Karen Giles
Mike Giles Family Karate



Make This Giving Thing a Lifelong Habit

Giving has become a “holiday seasonal event,” so easy to do this time of the year, maybe because the season is so short-lived. We know in one or two months we can all go back to our normal self-serving way of life, but what if from this moment on we make this giving thing a lifelong habit?

Giving is a daily venture, one not always appreciated right away, and sometimes never acknowledged, but as long as we give from our heart we have the opportunity to help someone realize their highest potential. When you think about it *giving* is one of the eas-iest things we can do; it doesn’t depend on our social or economic status, like most things, it simply depends on our heart. Every day giving can be as simple as:

- making a “just wanted to say hello phone call”
- giving a hug
- reading a book to someone
- taking a day off to spend with your children
- eating dinner with your family
- showing up at a soccer game or ballet performance we didn’t think we would make it to
- volunteering some time at your child’s school
- taking a class with your child
- listening to your child even when your favorite show is on

We were recently donating our time at an elementary school where 52 kids were so appreciative to have the opportunity to try out martial arts. After one of our classes we encountered a little girl that made us realize that giving really is what this life is all about. As she waited for her family to arrive we had the opportunity to talk to her. This young lady didn’t appear to be rich monetarily, but very rich in spirit. Her eyes sparkled and her heart glowed with warmth and hope. She reminded us of our 7-year-old, so we asked her “if she enjoyed reading?” She replied “Well I don’t really know how to read yet.” Our hearts dropped as we both thought how we would love to have this young lady as a stu-dent in our karate school, maybe we could add more hope to her life and just maybe we already had.

Our outdoor sign on our building reads “Mike Giles Family Karate,” but more im-portantly through the middle in red letters the kanji symbol says “Courage.” We learn in martial arts it takes courage to accomplish the things we want in our lives and we learn to have a never give up attitude.

In the same sense, it takes a lot of courage to give, *All Year Long....*

But since giving is the key to ensuring the happiness of everyone, we think it should be a year-round priority.

Mike Giles Family Karate offers martial arts and fitness classes for everyone in the family. They are located in Stapleton’s Quebec Square (36th & Syracuse). For more information contact Mike or Karen Giles 303-377-(KICK)5425 or www.mikegileskarate.com.



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Dec.19th at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
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service, and a soup supper before the
6:30 p.m. service at 5:30

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9:15 Sunday School
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Students Plant New Trees and Friendships



Above: First graders from Hallet Elementary School (who are currently studying trees) participate in the Mayor's Mile High Million tree planting initiative. Students are raising their hands to identify their tree-planting groups. The tree planting activity gave students who will be attending Stedman next year, when Hallet is closed, an opportunity to get acquainted with their new school. Below: A Stedman teacher encourages Stedman students to meet the Hallet students who will be their classmates next year. Right: Forest City donated \$5000 to the mayor's tree initiative, and Forest City employees including Diane Deeter, center, helped plant the trees at Smith and Stedman schools.



Forest City Stapleton, Inc. donated \$5,000 to the Mayor's Mile High Million tree planting initiative and designated that the trees go to local schools. On November 9th, Forest City employees helped plant 29 trees at Smith and Stedman schools in an event organized to help students from Hallet School get acquainted with Stedman school. Hallet School is one of the schools closed by the Denver Public Schools in an effort to reduce building costs in under utilized schools and devote the savings to classroom programs to help under achieving students.

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Sustainability at Stapleton

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

Stapleton Recycling Challenge

Denver Recycles (a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management), Forest City Stapleton, and the Colorado Association for Recycling challenged three families from Stapleton to find ways to reduce waste and increase their recycling this fall. Starting October 22nd and finishing on America Recycles Day (November 15th), the Shelton family, the Killinger family and the Hutchinson-Young family received weekly lessons in their homes from Denver Recycles.

To get the Stapleton families started, Denver Recycles conducted a home audit to discover what recyclable items the families might be overlooking in places like the bathroom or laundry room. The families were then challenged to extend their recycling habits from their kitchens to other rooms of the house.

The second week of the challenge focused on organic waste, so the families received a private composting lesson from the Denver Urban Gardeners (DUG) and their very own compost bin. Yard trimmings and food scraps make up about 20% of what Denver residents send to the landfill. Once in the landfill, these organic materials rot very slowly because of the lack of air, creating a powerful greenhouse gas called methane. Composting your food scraps and yard trimmings is good for your yard and garden, good for the environment, easy to do and fun.

The third week of the challenge focused on shopping with the environment in mind. Denver Recycles went with each family to King Soopers to help them learn how to spot earth-friendly purchases and increase their recycling and reduce waste by making smart choices at the grocery store.

The fourth week of the challenge focused on household hazardous waste. Toxic household products such as paint, motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, home cleaners, used batteries, mercury thermometers and fluorescent light bulbs can be harmful to our health and the environment if poured down the drain

or put in the trash. The Stapleton families learned how to dispose of these products properly using the City's Household Hazardous Waste Program and how to reduce their use of toxic products in the first place.

In the end, all of the families reduced their garbage by a total of 34.2 pounds, an average reduction of 11.4 pounds per family! They increased their recycling by a total of 46.8 pounds, an average increase of 15.6 pounds per family! If you would like to learn some of the tips they learned to achieve such great results, visit: DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles and click on the link for America Recycles Day.

To read more about the adventures of the three families who participated in the Stapleton Recycling Challenge, including week-by-week blog entries, visit: http://stapletondenver.com/DenverRecycles_Challenge.aspx.

Photos courtesy of Stapleton Recycling Challenge



On America Recycles Day, November 15th, MARV the Recyclable Milk Jug stopped by the Killinger family home in Stapleton to congratulate them on completing the Stapleton Recycling Challenge. From left to right, back row to front row: Cole, Andy, MARV, Molly, Lexi, Drew and Kyla



From left to right: Keller Young, Nick Hutchinson, MARV the Recyclable Milk Jug, Isabella Ray and Olivia Ray

Recycle Your Tree After the Holidays

It's as easy as can be!

1. Remove all tinsel and decorations from your tree. All artificial or flocked trees, tree stands or trees in plastic bags. Christmas trees only.
2. Manual & Barrel customers: Set your tree out on your trash collection day near your normal set-out location during the two week period starting Dec. 31st. Dumpster customers: Set your tree out for collection on Dec. 31st or Jan. 7th.
3. Be sure your tree is set out by 7 AM and at least 4 feet away from any containers, bags, dumpsters or other obstacles.
4. Do not place trees in dumpsters.

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Holiday Candle Buying Tips

Candles are a common home décor accessory, especially around the holidays, but have you ever thought about what candles are made of? The majority of candles on the market today are made from petroleum-based paraffin wax. Many candles also have metal wicks, are scented with synthetic fragrances and may contain stabilizers to control the way they burn. While these candles look and smell good, they can emit trace amounts of chemicals and lead into the air. Lead wicks were banned back in the 1970s, but there are still candles on the market today with lead core wicks. Follow the tips below this year when you are stocking up

on candle for the holidays:

- Look for candles made from wax from renewable resources. 100% beeswax candles and 100% soy wax candles are good alternatives.
- Avoid metal core wicks. The purpose of a core in a wick is to prevent the wick from falling over and extinguishing itself. While most metal in wicks is now zinc instead of lead, look for safer alternatives like braided cotton wicks or paper/cellulose core wicks.
- If you like scented candles, buy only those scented with essential oils, not synthetic fragrances.

For more information on candles, see the December issue of New Leaf at: <http://stapletondenver.com/Sustainability-New-Leaf.aspx>

Save Energy with LED Holiday Lights!

Decorating with lights during the holidays is a tradition in many families, but many people still use standard incandescent C7 lights or mini-lights. Replacing standard holiday lights with Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights reduces energy use by up to 90%!

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

strings together end-to-end without overloading an electrical circuit.

A LED C7 multicolored bulb uses 0.08 watts compared with 0.48 watts for an incandescent mini-light bulb and 6.0 watts for a standard incandescent C7 bulb. LEDs can last up to 100,000 hours or more when used indoors, and 50,000 hours when used outdoors. Conventional incandescent light bulbs have a lifespan of around 1,500 hours. LED bulbs are cool to the touch, so there is no chance of combustion regardless of how long they are left on and the epoxy lenses on LEDs are virtually indestructible. Look for them when you are shopping for holiday lights this year!

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Not A



Patrick, Austin (age 5), Kristie, and Brooke (age 3) Harris now spend lots of time in their 1,800 square foot basement finished by Patrick over the course of the past year.

could work on the basement during times convenient to us – and not have the disruption of others in our house. Plus we could pay as we go. We could buy a load of lumber, frame a room, then wait until we had saved enough money to buy another load.

The process took a year from beginning to end. My husband and I have full-time jobs that keep us busy during the day and we have two small children, so the hours to work on this project were somewhat limited. Patrick would wake about 5:30 am and work until our children woke up. Then at night after the kids went to bed, he spent many evenings working in the basement. Weekend “nap time” was also a perfect opportunity to get a few hours of work in. The great thing was that since he worked on it during times

that were convenient for him and the family, it did not take time away from me or the kids. The basement project was definitely his last priority, however being persistent with a few hours each day paid off.

Patrick started the process by designing the layout of the basement on his own. To save money he didn’t hire an architect. But Patrick has the ability to visualize – and he knew how it was going to look. And he also has a very handy side. Patrick has been buying old houses since he was in college and learned to “flip” them on his own. When he started framing our basement, he would visit nearby houses in the framing stage. He took pictures of the joints and corners to teach himself how to frame. Then for the electrical work he traded services with a friend. A buddy who is a licensed electrician helped him with the wiring and in turn, he helped his friend paint their house.

Some things would have been too difficult and time con-

By Kristie Harris

There are many reasons people decide to finish their own basements: more space, a play room for the kids, guest room for the in-laws, a bar for entertaining, etc. For my husband, Patrick Harris, it was more than all of these – it was a project waiting to be conquered.

For most people when they decide to finish their basement, the first step is deciding which contractor to use. My husband skipped this step. He decided to finish the basement himself. The reason behind this? To save money. We all want to stretch a buck as far as possible. Hence, when we contemplated hiring a contractor versus doing it ourselves, the decision was easy.

Hiring a contractor would have been much faster. But on the flip side, it would have been more invasive with numerous contractors from every trade coming in and out of our house. Our decision to do it ourselves meant that we



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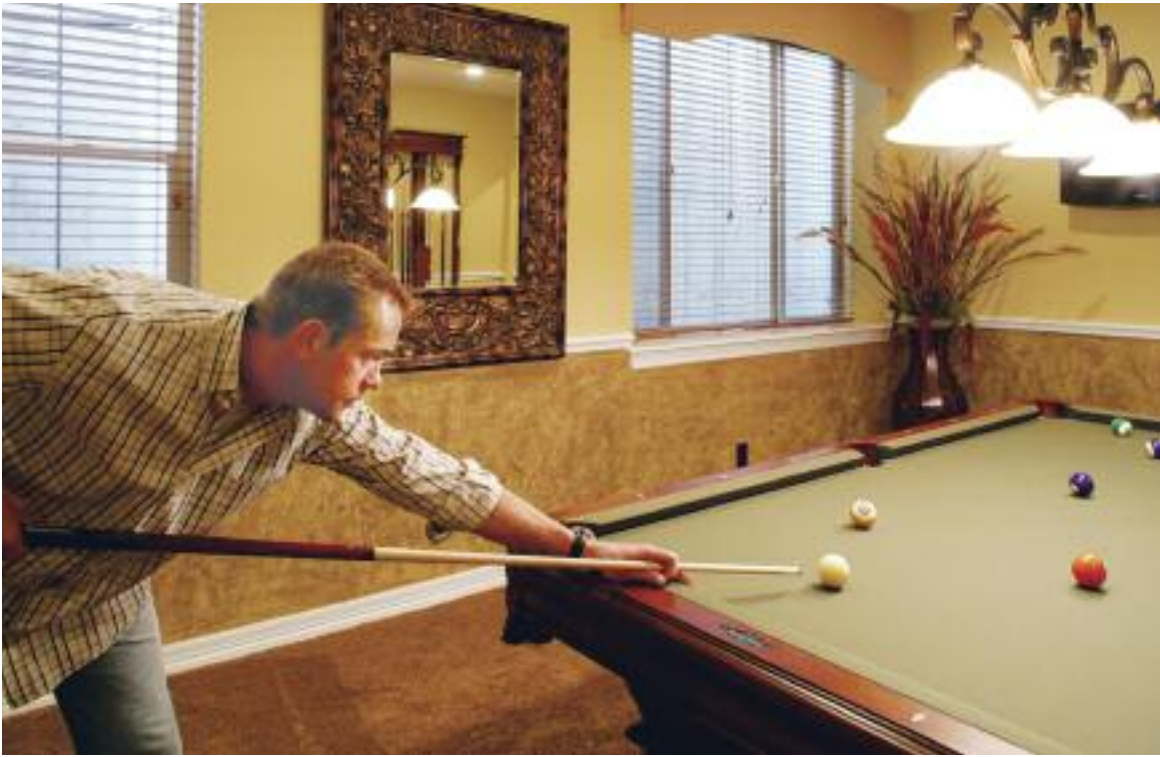
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Typical “Do-it-Yourself” Basement



Above: The stairwell leads to the pool table area. Patrick thought the walls looked tall and bare, so he added the chair rail, and after that added brown over the gold paint for a textured look. Below: Patrick did all the tile work in the new bathroom.



suming, such as drywalling, or required true craftsmanship, such as installing the granite countertops or the stone work around the fireplace, so he used contractors who had worked for us at previous homes. Then Patrick completed all of the finishing touches himself: the travertine tiling in the bathroom and floor of the bar, the walk-in shower and the bar backsplash.

When we started working on these finishing touches we had to determine what color palette we would use. We wanted warm colors to provide a sense of sunlight to the basement, so we spent quite a bit of time selecting tile and carpet colors that would flow well. In addition, it was important that the basement look like a continuation of the main part of the house, not something that we “finished ourselves.” This was something that made us nervous because we chose not to work with a designer in order to save money.

Initially, we were going to finish the playroom (i.e. drywall, carpet, etc.) Instead, we decided to leave it unfinished, but give it all the touches of a finished room.

We painted the cement walls bright cheery colors. We put rubber mats on the floor – and if one gets ruined, we can just pop it out and replace it with a new one. In the end we had a colorful, indestructible fun room for the kids.

One year later, the project is a success. We now spend a lot of time in the basement watching movies and we are starting to entertain there. The gas fireplace warms the room

very quickly and provides great ambience.

Finishing the basement ourselves saved us about 50% of the cost of using a professional contractor, and added about 1,800 square feet to our living space. This was a labor of love for Patrick. He is not only good at these types of projects, but he loves doing them. It brings him satisfaction every time we head down to the basement and he sees what he

has accomplished all on his own. Doing it over the course of a year also helped us curb our societally induced need for immediate gratification. Waiting a year was good for us, and it makes us appreciate the basement that much more. And now begins Patrick’s search for the next project to conquer.....



Bare concrete walls are painted bright colors and interlocking rubberized mats cover the floor creating an indestructible play space.



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Westerly Creek: "Thanks to Auction Sponsors"

With the success of the Masquerade Ball and Auction on November 3, 2007, the Westerly Creek Elementary PTA continues to exceed its 2007-2008 fund raising goals. Money raised provide playground shade structures, library books, PE and art supplies and general school beautification. Thank you to the parents, the teachers and the school administration, the dedicated volunteers, and our sponsors. Without your generosity we could not have accomplished such success.

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Thank you to those who attended the event and for the generous donation of auction items by the community, Westerly Creek families, and local businesses.
 For more information on supporting Westerly Creek visit www.westerlycreekpta.com

DPS "Choice" Registration Jan. 7 - 31, 2008

January 8 - 31, 2008 is the "First Round Choice" period for students who wish to apply to a school not serving their address and who will be in grades Kindergarten - 12 for the 2008-2009 school year. Forms are available at all DPS schools. *Forms may be turned in to any DPS school.* Early Childhood Education (ECE) choice applications are also available beginning Jan. 8 at DPS schools and are due by Jan. 31st. They must be turned in to the *school of choice*. Choice applications for all grades of students who weren't previously enrolled in a DPS school must include a copy of the child's birth certificate, immunization record and proof of Colorado address.

Santa Claus Shop Needs Donations for Children in Need



Starting Thursday, Nov. 15, 70 metro area King Soopers stores including the Stapleton location at 2810 Quebec St. began to provide collection boxes for toy drop-offs. New and gently used toys for children ages newborn through 11 years will be accepted through Monday, Dec. 17.

For 77 years, the volunteer-run, non-profit Denver Santa Claus Shop has collected and distributed free toys to area children who otherwise might not have a toy to open at Christmas. It serves more local disadvantaged children than any other holiday toy drive, and will help 14,000 needy children this year.

The Denver Santa Claus Shop sets up

huge toy stores. Families are referred to The Shop by social service agencies. Parents shop and *choose* toys for their children. Classic toys such as dolls, cars, trucks, books, balls, games, etc. are suggested. Infant and toddler toys are especially needed. (No battery-operated, electronic or violent toys, please.)

Companies, clubs, schools, etc., can help, too, by holding toy drives. Shop volunteers provide collection boxes, posters, promotional announcements, etc. and pick up toys. For more information on company/organization toy drives, please contact BlairWatts1@yahoo.com.

Cash donations are also welcome, and may be sent to The Denver Santa Claus Shop, P.O. Box 102104, Denver, CO, 80250-2104. All donations are tax deductible.

For more information on helping children in need this Christmas, please visit www.denversantaclausshop.com or call 303-988-2465.

Free Diabetes Testing for Those With Family History of Diabetes

Researchers at the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus are participating in a \$1.14 billion international clinical study to learn whether insulin taken orally can prevent or delay Type 1 Diabetes in some people at risk for the disease.

The study, paid for by the National Institutes of Health, provides free testing for diabetes autoantibodies to those with a mother, father, brother, sister or child who has Type 1 Diabetes. Adolescents under the age of 21 will also be tested free if they have a close relative, such as a cousin or an uncle, with dia-

betes. The autoantibodies, which signify an increased risk for developing the disease, can be identified up to 10 years before diagnosis. Screening involves a simple blood test and is free of charge. For those that have a first-degree relative with Type 1 Diabetes the risk of developing Type 1 goes from 1 in 250 to 1 in 20.

The Barbara Davis Center also has opportunities for people recently diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes to participate in studies. For more information on Type 1 screenings and studies at the Barbara Davis Center, contact Lisa Meyers at (303) 724-6893, call 866-613-0012 or visit www.barbaradaviscenter.org.

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Mommy & Me

By Dan Mitzner

There was a time, not long ago, when a new mother was inducted into the sorority of maternal knowledge by joining together with her fellow newbies to talk, empathize, question, and laugh about their new adventure. Some found it therapeutic, some found it informative and some even found it to be a life-saver. But what it wasn't found to be was a necessity by local hospitals and clinics, with the exception of Rose Medical Center, which is why new mom classes are becoming more and more difficult to find around Denver.

Anyone who's had children knows that those first six months with your newborn can sometimes feel like house arrest. You only have a couple hours between feedings and naps, you need to pack a million things just to get out the door, and quite honestly there aren't that many places to go with a newborn. This limits the opportunity to socialize with other new moms and realize that they're not the only tired ones with a head full of questions and no one to answer them.

As a new mom or dad looking for groups or classes to help escape this isolation, you quickly realize that once your child gets a little older,

there's an endless stream of wonderful activities and classes designed to entertain and educate them. But even then, who's looking out for mom and dad? Parenting is a never-ending road of newness and it always helps to know you're not the only ones on it.

Let's face it, being a new parent is hands down one of the most exciting and fulfilling experiences of our lives. It also happens to be incredibly terrifying and confusing. But, as we all know, the more we share and communicate about it the more wonderful the experience becomes.

Dan Mitzner is a dad and owner of Baby Power & Forever Kids, a developmental parent-child play program in Stapleton's Quebec Square. Baby Power has recently launched a new series of classes aimed at providing moms with new babies the opportunity to learn fun ways to interact with baby, do some stretching and movement, infant massage, and meet other moms, all while asking questions and discussing many of the issues new moms run into. For more information call visit www.babypower.com/denver or call 303-377-8855.

New program for kids 18 mos. thru 12 yrs.

Lil' Kickers Program Comes to Stapleton

Soccer is the most popular sport in the world and the most-played youth sport in the U.S. Lil' Kickers is a non-competitive, introductory soccer and movement skills program for boys and girls ages 18 months to twelve years. Lil' Kickers, a nationally recognized youth soccer program, will launch their winter session December 20th at the Bladium, the first arena in Colorado to offer the program.

"In Lil' Kickers we don't just teach soccer to kids, but use soccer as a tool to teach kids about teamwork and cooperation," said Amber Moore, director of Lil' Kickers. "Kids have a blast learning the fundamentals of soccer while building coordination and confidence – a great combination for growing children."

Lil' Kickers was developed by soccer professionals working along side child development experts. The classes promote play in a physically active, social and non-competitive environment while fostering positive self-esteem and accomplishment.



Children as young as 18 months can participate in Lil' Kickers.

The program is carefully geared toward various age groups to maximize skills. For more information call 303.320.3033 or email DenverLK@Bladium.com



The Bladium, at 2400 Central Park Blvd. in Stapleton, is a sports and fitness club in a newly repainted and renovated former airport hangar.

Volunteers Needed to Assist with Income Tax Returns No Experience Required, Bilingual Interpreters Also Needed

The Denver Asset Building Coalition is seeking volunteers to assist low-income families with income tax preparation from January to April 15th. Volunteers help families work toward economic self-sufficiency

by ensuring they claim the maximum level of Earned Income Tax Credits on their returns. No experience necessary – all training is provided. Please contact us at 303.388.7030 or volunteer@denverabc.org.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Closed Until Mid-January

On October 31, workers discovered trace amounts of Lewisite, a type of chemical warfare agent produced at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in 1943, in air samples. The samples were taken during the excavation of a trench to surround and enclose Lime Basins at the Arsenal. An investigation has been completed and no new traces of the chemical were found at the site. The trench excavation project is to build a 45-foot underground vertical

barrier wall and a cover over the site to prevent any future groundwater contamination from the Lime Basins located in a restricted area of the arsenal. The Arsenal will be closed until mid-January. For more information about the Arsenal visit www.fws.gov/rocky_mountainarsenal. Community members with questions about the ongoing cleanup of the Arsenal should call 303-289-0136 or visit www.rma.army.mil.

Stapleton's Relay for Life Fundraising A Success

Stapleton's Relay for Life raised more than \$47,000. Twenty four teams participated and more than 500 attended the event July 20-21.



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Josh Teplitzky – Ceramics Artist



Ceramic artist Josh Teplitzky

“I’m often told that a classic Teplitzky mug is sought after in the morning, and that a cup of coffee just isn’t the same if you can’t find it,” says Josh Teplitzky, Stapleton resident and ceramic artist. “It’s nice to know that my work gives people the opportunity to enjoy beauty in the everyday object — which, I believe, has been lost in today’s fast-paced world.”

Josh’s ceramic work ranges from sculptures to tiles to functional items such as bowls and mugs. His sculpture work includes a series of ceramic fish, some of which are large commissioned pieces that hang on the wall. “I have always been driven to create, to mold, and to shape the world around me into an inspiring and often usable object,” Josh says. “The style of my work is strongly process oriented. Through the textures, lines and added parts, the ‘making’ of the piece is revealed in the finished product.”

A graduate of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Josh went on to work for Tennessee Technological University at Appalachian Center for Crafts. In 1996, he served as assistant to ceramic artist Jun Kaneko and helped man-

age his studio. After later receiving his Master of Science in Art Education, Josh accepted a position as Ceramic teacher in the Visual Arts department at Smoky Hill High School in the Cherry Creek School District in Aurora. Josh has expanded the ceramics program to include Pottery/Sculpture 1, 2, and 3. Now in his 9th year, Josh explains, “I credit my students for helping me become a successful teacher and artist by asking questions and pushing me to take risks with my own work.”

Josh says he has been influenced not only by previous teachers but by all aspects of his life. “My wife Keri, children Zach and Ethan, teaching career, and ceramic training — all shape my ideas and allow me to expand the vision and scope of my artwork,” he says. “I take great pride in knowing that my pottery develops a relationship with the user and that it brings art to a personal and stimulating level.”

Josh’s work has been included in exhibitions across the country and is sold privately and by commission. For more information, contact Josh online at www.teplitzkyart.com.

Valli McDougale –

Following a 25-year career in government and academia, Valli McDougale fulfilled a lifelong dream to study watercolor. She sought out teachers and fellow artists, quickly becoming immersed in the world of art and indulging her passion for colors, textures and design. “This newfound passion grew out of a lifetime of creative activities, including designing needlepoint canvases, quilts and wallhangings, and making art glass, using a combination of découpage and painting on functional glass items,” says Valli.

About a year after Valli began painting she started entering juried shows and began to get awards. Just this past month, two of her abstract paintings were juried into the Colorado Watercolor Society’s Experimental and Traditional Botanic Garden Exhibition, and one of was awarded First Place. The City of Lone Tree also juried a painting into their 6th Annual Art Exhibition in October.

“I love exploring the many facets of watercolor, acrylic and mixed media and revel in the glorious vibrant colors and happy accidents,” Valli exclaims. “One of my favorite quotes is: ‘One of life’s most fulfilling moments occurs in that split second when the familiar is suddenly transformed into the dazzling aura of the profoundly new.’ (Edward B. Lindaman)”

“On March 21, 2007, my husband Tom and I moved into a brand new home here in Stapleton with our beloved cat Patches. Soon after we moved, Patches became very ill with a fast-progressing cancer and we lost her in May, which was very sad. But we have wonderful neighbors with



Watercolor artist Valli McDougale

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Watercolor Artist

children, cats and dogs, so get to enjoy them all vicariously.”
For the past six years, Valli’s husband Tom, a retired United pilot, commuted weekly from San Diego to train pilots at the United Airlines simulators at Stapleton. “We decided that commute wasn’t what either of us had in mind for our retirement years. Tom, along with another commuting pilot trainer, had lived in the Botanica on the Green apartments here in Stapleton for a year and liked Stapleton, the Towne Center, the convenient shopping and the walking trails and open space. So, after considering other locations in the area, we came back to a ranch home at Stapleton that we loved for the floor plan and openness.”

Valli and Tom have four children. In her “prior lives” she has worn many hats. When the family lived in Washington DC, she worked for U.S. Senator Charles H. Percy, a Republican from Illinois for more than 10 years. She was a case worker for three of those years, and ended her Senate career as Senator Percy’s press secretary. “That was an exciting time to be in Washington – in the midst of the Watergate hearings.” When the family moved to San Francisco, she worked for a year and a half as an editorial writer in the Public Affairs Department of KCBS Radio. Then for the next 14 years, Valli worked at the University of California San Francisco. Eight of those years she was on the senior management team for the Dean of the School of Medicine and for six years she worked in Public Affairs.

Valli’s paintings can be seen at Stapleton Art and Framing in the 29th Avenue Town Center, and Valli may be reached at 303-955-8750, valli@mcDougle.com or visit her website at www.McDougle.com.

lli McDougle



Linda Wingate – Glass Artist



Glass artist Linda Wingate

Stapleton resident Linda Wingate’s first work with glass was born of necessity. In the early eighties she was opening a restaurant in Steamboat and needed a window treatment that would allow light in but also allow privacy. “I had always been fascinated by the interaction of light with glass and it’s humble beginnings of sand, soda, and lime. After assisting the artist involved in sandblasting the window, I was hooked,” says Linda.

Linda lived in Steamboat for thirty years but was not able to spend any time pursuing her passion while in the restaurant business, then running her own accounting business there. When her husband, who is a fine wine manager for the largest distributor in North America, was transferred to Florida in 2000, she was finally able to devote full time to her work with glass.


Then her husband was offered another transfer back to Colorado. “Although we were thrilled with the prospect of returning to this beautiful state, we were not happy about living in Denver since we had grown fond of the small town feel that we had enjoyed in Steamboat. But when we pulled into the Town Center both of us, at the same time, said, “this is it.” We loved the diversity, friendliness, and community feel.

Linda set up her studio in the basement and garage, and loves the “commute” to work. She starts with the highest quality, hand-blown crystal from Poland. She wraps each piece in a rubber resist, draws a design on it, and then cuts out the areas that she wants to sand carve. “I refer to my work as multimedia because I use a variety of mediums to embellish the surface. I particularly like using tempered glass chips and glass

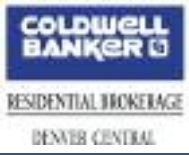
beads to create texture. These are applied one at a time in a very time consuming process. Most of my pieces are one of a kind, or a limited edition and they all make me smile.”

Lin Clark, of Stapleton Art and Framing, where Linda’s work can be viewed, says, “Linda’s interest in pushing the creative envelope in glass art led her to experiment with tempered glass. By embellishing her sandblasted pieces with the small glass shards of tempered glass it created a new dimension to her art. The brilliance of light bouncing off the glass is amazing.”

Linda’s work can be viewed at Stapleton Art and Framing located in the 29th Ave. Town Center. For more information contact Lin Clark at 303.534.1979 or lin@ArtandFramingStapleton.com.



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The next SUN Board meeting will be held at 6:30pm,
Thursday, Jan. 24 at the MCA Community Room.
www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.org

Fighting Crime in Stapleton: Neighborhood Watch

By John Chrisbens

Crime in Stapleton?...the statistics below represent a smattering of the reported offenses within the Stapleton community from the period January 2007 – October 2007.

(Editor's Note: figures and trends up or down as compared to the same period last year are for the City of Denver's "2007 Statistical Neighborhood" that extends beyond the Stapleton Community as far east as Interstate 225)

Aggravated Assault	15	(down 53.1 %)
Robbery	17	(down 45.2 %)
Criminal Mischief	68	(up 30.8 %)
Burglary	96	(up 62.7 %)
Auto Theft	106	(up 23.3 %)
Larceny*	170	(up 78.9 %)

*Theft from motor vehicle

Now considered the most successful anticrime initiative in the nation, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH recently celebrated its 35th anniversary. Originally founded by the National Sheriff's Association, Neighborhood Watch has grown and developed throughout the years, now incorporating terrorism awareness, emergency preparedness and all "hazards" training into the mission. Along the way, they have made "Boris the Burglar" one of the most widely known trademarks throughout the country.

The longevity of Neighborhood Watch is attributed to the fact that the program is flexible to suit the needs of the watch community, and can be adapted to any environment (e.g., Campus Watch, Ranch Watch, Marina Watch). The strength of the program relies on local citizens and local law enforcement agencies.

According to the FBI, over 2 million incidents of burglary were committed in 2004. The Burglary Prevention Council reports that US homes are burglarized every 11

seconds, with nearly 60 percent of all burglaries occurring in daylight hours. Furthermore, 3 out of every 4 houses are expected to be burglarized in the next 20 years. While these statistics are alarming, they remind us of the ever-growing impact of crime in the United States — and that no matter where you reside, you are a potential victim.

Burglary is the crime that is targeted particularly by the National NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Program. While it is one of the most prevalent and difficult crimes facing law enforcement today, it is, at the same time, the one major crime that CAN be effectively resisted by each citizen taking POSITIVE ACTION at home. Burglary accounts for nearly one-third of the index crimes in the United States.

Since most crimes happen in isolation, a Neighborhood Watch team is employed to act as an extra set of "eyes and ears" when a police presence is not always available. But a Neighborhood Watch group does more than canvass its community. In most cases, involvement creates opportunity to get to know those living in your geographical area, helping to open the lines of communication with local police and better overall cooperation among residents in crime prevention efforts. Participating in a Neighborhood Watch group builds confidence and encourages residents to take an active interest in one another's properties and livelihoods.

Neighborhood Watch works if people want to assume a more active role in making their community safer. Since it is impractical to place a police officer on every corner of every neighborhood, it is more practical to have help from the people who live there. The neighborhood residents know who belongs there and who doesn't and what activity is suspicious. The main reason Neighborhood Watch can be successful is that citizens can begin working with, instead of relying on, law enforcement to combat crime in their community.

Stapleton United Neighbors, through the Safety Committee, will be developing a more cohesive Neighborhood Watch program over the next few months. Please don't hesitate to contact your block captain or visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org and click on the safety tab to see how you can participate!

Colorado's Presidential Caucuses: You Must Affiliate to Participate


By Mark Mehringer

In the hope of being part of the action, Colorado has moved up its Presidential caucus date to February 5, 2008. As only a handful of states hold their primaries or caucuses earlier than this date, and about 20 states will vote on this date, February 5th may serve a decisive day in determining who will appear on the November 2008 ballot. There are a few basic requirements to participating in party caucuses in Colorado.

First, voters must affiliate with a specific party at least 60 days before February 5th. To participate in the caucuses on February 5th, then, voters must be registered to vote and affiliated with that political party no later than December 5th.

Second, voters must show up at their precinct caucus location on February 5th at 7pm. Democrats from Stapleton will caucus at Westerly Creek Elementary School. The Republican Party of Denver has not yet set a location for Republicans in the Stapleton area. Once that location has been set, it will be listed on their website at www.DenverGOP.org

To register to vote or change your party affiliation, you can print out the voter registration form at GoVoteColorado.com. This form can also be used to sign up for the permanent mail-in voter list, to vote by mail in all elections, avoiding election day lines.



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Stapleton MCA

2008 Assessment Schedule and Budget Approved

The 2008 Stapleton MCA assessment schedule and operations budget was ratified by the District Delegates at their Annual meeting held on November 13th, 2007. The Delegates ratified the collection and corresponding associated expenses of the Stapleton MCA totaling \$2,492,584. Of which \$2,209,672 will be spent for annual operations and \$282,912 will be transferred to the community funds for future expenses. For a full copy of the 2008 Budget please log onto www.StapletonCommunity.com.

Income forecast

Although 2007 has proved to be a strong year in the development of new units to the market, we have still seen a slowdown in the number of units that are closing each month. We had budgeted 50 new closings per month throughout 2007, as of the end of the 3rd quarter we were down to an average of 36 new closings per month which translates into a 28% drop in anticipated revenue. Budget forecasts for 2008 have been scaled back another 16% and are estimated at 30 new closings per month. It is anticipated that this condition will correct itself as development picks up as housing supply is absorbed and new starts begin to increase once again in 2009.

Expense forecast

Both administration and fixed costs are showing modest increases. Administrative costs are not exceeding 3% of 2007 figures. A majority of this increase is due to MCA moving into it's permanent offices as well as being in the new location for the entire year as opposed to partial year. Grounds maintenance costs will increase 39% due to the transfer of new parks. In 2008 the MCA will go from 8 acres to 18 acres of community maintained parks. This is 130% increase in park maintenance.



nance. The addition of the Filing 15 pool will add approximately \$180,000 in expense. The public nature of the pools and the daily dictates the amount of staff that are required at all time and is a major driver of the pool operation expenses (58%).



Keven A. Burnett,
Executive Director

Programming and events continue to be a major part of the ongoing mission of the MCA. In 2008 net event expense will drop by 16%. This drop is due to a focus on events that are both economical to produce and popular with the community. As the events continue to draw more participants we anticipate being able to generate additional sponsorship dollars, offsetting more of the production costs. Seasonal lighting

throughout the 29th Ave town center continue to be scaled back but still adding much needed lighting during the dark winter months.

Assessment Schedule

The 2008 assessment schedule was ratified by the District Delegates at their annual meeting and will increase to \$36 per month beginning January 1, 2008. This is up 14% from 2007. Income qualified units will increase proportionally to 20.40 per month. Although, the growth rate in the community has been able to absorb most of the costs associated with additional community assets, it has not been fully sufficient.

Sincerely,
Keven A. Burnett, Executive Director

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Stapleton Affordable Housing Goes Solar



Getabecha Mekonnen, developer/executive director of NDHC and Diana DeGette, Denver's U.S. Congressman at the ribbon cutting.

Representatives from the non profit Northeast Denver Housing (NDHC), Forest City, the Stapleton Development Corporation and the City of Denver recently joined civic and business leaders and members of the Greater Stapleton Community to cut the ribbon for the new Central Park Apartments at Stapleton. Central Park Apartments is the first small, multi family rental development in Colorado to receive Gold Certification from the US Green Building Council (USGBC) for its environmentally friendly design and construction that provides higher standards of energy

efficiency and improved indoor air quality with sustainable products.

The 18 unit development, which is planned to serve households making 30, 40 and 50% of area median income, is also the first Enterprise Green Communities funded project of its type in Colorado. Green Communities is a five-year, \$555 million commitment by Enterprise (formerly the Enterprise Foundation) to build more than 8,500 healthy, efficient homes for low-income people and make environmentally sustainable development the mainstream in the affordable housing industry.

"It is what NDHC has been all about, quality, affordable and sustainable solutions," said Getabecha Mekonnen – developer/executive director of NDHC. It has been made possible with the help of the public and private sector. The residents of these units will live in one of the most premier neighborhoods and enjoy a quality of life that comes with a well planned, designed and executed product."

NDHC, a non-profit community development corporation, is the developer and sponsor. The land was donated by Forest City. NDHC has long distinguished itself as the leader in providing products and services that improve the quality of life for its customers and the community it serves.

(continued from page 1) together in the same neighborhood.

Barb Smith

Barb Smith moved to Stapleton in May, 2006, from Austin, Texas, to be closer to her son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Ali Smits, and to spend time with her grandchildren, Caroline (3) and Katie (10 months). "I so enjoy Stapleton," says Barb. "It's really buying into a way of life. A friendly neighborhood that takes you back to the way neighborhoods used to be. At Christmas time, it looks like something out of a Currier and Ives Christmas card."

Marie and Dale Petterson

Marie and Dale Petterson consider themselves pioneers of Stapleton, having purchased their home in January, 2003. Originally from Michigan, they had been living in Lowry when they learned about the new urbanism model Stapleton had planned. "We chose Stapleton because it promised to be a model city, where we could walk, bike, or take public transportation," says Marie. "We liked the idea of front porches, sidewalks, and a town center so we would increase the likelihood of visiting with neighbors on a regular basis."

Their son Ryan was married in 2002, and he and his wife, Sally, also decided to move to Stapleton. "They live exactly two blocks up the alley from us," Marie says. "If we lean out the north side of our front porch, we can see their house! We truly enjoy spending lots of time with them and Brady who is 17 months old."

Marie works as a Kindergarten teacher in DPS, and Dale is a psychologist. "Dale has a Honda Goldwing motorcycle," says Marie. "He would like to meet other people who would like to tour with him."

tine has a knack for interior design and making "amazing" lasagna. Bob and Justine say they were drawn to the great parks and charming home designs. "Everything is so conveniently located. It really affords you more time to recreate!"

Kris and Bill Hanlon

Kris and Bill Hanlon bought a Stapleton home in November 2004 to be closer to their



daughter Jenny Zichterman, son-in-law Tom, and grandkids Ethan (age 5) and Emily (20 months).

While they chose Stapleton primarily to be near their family, they were also intrigued by the master plan and architecture of the community. "About 10 years ago, we visited the Disney town of Celebration, Florida, which is the same type of neo-traditional development as Stapleton — complete with shops and restaurants," Kris recalls. "Since purchasing our Wonderland Garden Court home, I have seen first-hand how the architecture and planning in Stapleton affects daily living. Strong friendships have been formed and a real sense of community exists in our little court yard. Even though we spend seven or eight months of the year in Michigan, I interact with my Stapleton neighbors more than I do our neighbors where we have lived for ten years



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the Holidays *(continued from page 1)*

just because of the design of the community.”

Bill continues working as a patent attorney, so earlier this year they finished their basement to make space for an office. Kris, a ‘mainly retired’ interior designer, also put in an inventive playroom for their grandchildren with a

slide and a loft accessible from the stairway landing.

Kris has taken advantage of the good sized front yard to indulge her love of gardening. “I especially like working in my perennial/shrub garden with my grandson Ethan.”

“We like being able to walk to the Town Center for coffee, dinner, children’s books, ice

cream and groceries. And having a second home in Stapleton where our daughter and grandkids live gives us the opportunity to be a real part of our grandkids’ lives,” says Kris. “We know their friends, their teachers, their dentist. On our front porch is a plaque with “Grandma and Grandpa” on it. The white picket fence is simply frosting on the cake for our Grandparents’ Cottage.”

Sandi Barnes and Doug Knop

Sandi Barnes and Doug Knop moved into their “little blue house on the prairie” in Stapleton in June, 2005. “We moved from Capitol Hill where we lived for 35 years and raised our children in a large 3-story Victorian house built in 1888,” says Sandi. “We were ready to downsize and reduce maintenance after our last child left home. We began looking at the old Elitch’s site because of the sense of community and built-green qualities of Wonderland Homes. Our son and daughter-in-law, Damon and Katie Knop, told us they had purchased a home site here. We looked, found our perfect Wonderland home, and moved here a year before their house was finished!”

Sandi is a registered nurse and works for the State of Colorado in Health Care Policy, and Doug is an architect and works for the Jefferson County Housing Authority, helping the elderly, poor and disabled achieve safe, affordable housing through rehabilitation. “We enjoy playing endless games of crazy 8s and bicycle rides with our grandchildren,” Sandi says, “plus photography, cooking, reading and just walking the dog on the creek!”

“Our two oldest grandchildren, Reagan and Tucker are only blocks away and we love it!” she says. “We eagerly anticipate a new library and recreation center,” she says. “We also enjoy not having to do much yard work or snow shoveling in our garden courtyard!”

Terene and Bob Stewart

Terene and Bob Stewart have come to know Stapleton over the four years their daughter, Kirsten Stewart, son-in-law, and grandson Elliot have lived here. After Terene did an extended 5-month ‘granny-nanny’ stay here earlier this year, she and Bob decided to buy a winter home in Stapleton for themselves. They also continue to live part-time in their home of 30 years on Lake Ontario in Oswego, NY.

Both retired now, Terene worked as a high school English teacher and Bob was a college administrator. They both enjoy travelling, reading and sports. Bob is a sports memorabilia collector while Terene is into gardening, writing and paper crafts.

“We love the convenience of shopping and dining out within the neighborhood, and the health clinic is also a plus,” says Terene. “We plan to use the public transportation to the malls and downtown. I was impressed by Stapleton’s sense of community with the movies on the green, the parks full of all sorts of amusements, and the mar-

ket in the square. I look forward to helping with more programs and events where the generations can mingle and learn from each other.”

Patti Farmer

Patti Farmer had already been living relatively close to her son Beau Vance, daughter-in-law Julie Cain, and grandsons Charlie, Sam and Pete when she decided even the six mile distance was too much. “I moved to Stapleton in 2003, just before the birth of my twin grandsons,” says Patti. “My son and his wife had already bought a home here and, as we had planned as a family, Grammy would try to live as close as possible. With the advent of twins while chasing around a toddler, Beau and Julie encouraged the idea of me living in Stapleton.”

Already impressed with the amenities and easy access to everything, Patti lucked out on her timing. “One day I thought, ‘wouldn’t it be nice if that New Town ranch home next to my kids became available?’” she recounts. “Low and behold, that weekend it went on sale. I purchased it that week and was moved in before I could even think about it.”

Living right next door took some adjustment. “It took awhile for the kids to learn they could not just pop over, as Charlie was wont to do every morning at 7:30,” she says. “A little naked boy would appear on my porch, ring the door bell until I finally, sleepy-eyed, would get to the door. Charlie would yell, “It’s summer, Grammy! It’s time to get up!” The memories of that and little Sam and Pete leaving love letters for me on my door mat, and of them coming to help Grammy bake, or taking my doggie for a walk — for a dollar — will live with me forever. I cannot imagine a life without my little grandsons.”

Editors note: Efforts are underway to plan a holiday gathering of grandparents at Stapleton.



Photo courtesy of Jenny Zichterman

Bill Hanlon “sword fights” with his grandson Ethan using tall grass stems in the courtyard area by their Stapleton home. The have hung a “Grandma and Grandpa” plaque on their home and, with the white picket fence, think of it as Grandma and Grandpa’s cottage.

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