

Front Porch

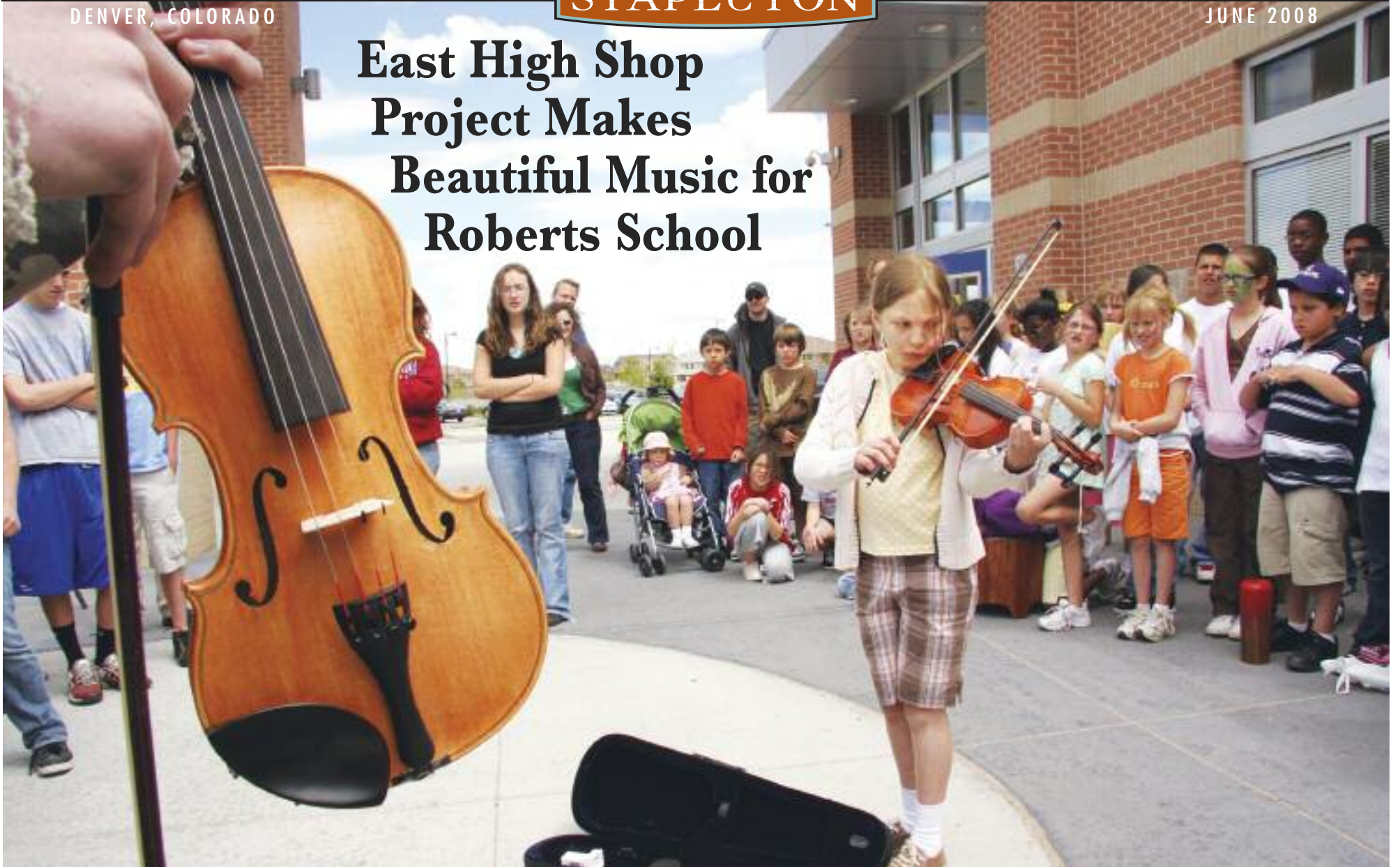
Distributed to the Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, and Mayfair neighborhoods

STAPLETON

DENVER, COLORADO

JUNE 2008

East High Shop Project Makes Beautiful Music for Roberts School



Emma Baer Simon, 10, plays the violin she received from East High School woodshop students who made the instruments for for Bill Roberts School music students. East woodshop teacher Joel

By Nancy Burkhardt

Learning to play a violin is not part of the usual curriculum at most K-8 schools. The cost of the instruments alone often is prohibitive.

So, when East High School pre-engineering teacher Joel Noble, who also teaches a couple of woodshop classes, saw that Bill Roberts K-8 School in Stapleton was going to be drawing kids from neighboring schools

that had been underperforming, he started thinking of ways to help.

"That was the initial impetus," Noble said. "I'm both a Stapleton resident and a DPS (Denver Public Schools) teacher. I don't want to go teach in a suburban school because I want to teach in Denver and give them the best education possible. I thought about what I could do to offer to help."

Although (continued on page 4)

Noble, a Stapleton resident, learned from a student's parent about a possible \$5,000 grant from Lowe's Hardware. Noble applied and got the funds, which covered the cost of materials to build 20 violins.

Opening Day is June 15th

Farmers Market Returns to the Green



File photo from 2004 shows the Farmers Market at Founders' Green. For the 2008 season the stands will be on the sidewalk around the green.

By Karen Kingsbury

The fifth season of the Stapleton Farmers Market opens on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15th at 8:30 am. Based on feedback collected through surveys

at last year's market and on StapletonOnline.com, the market is moving from the parking lot to Founders' Green. The Stapleton Farmers Market will be open every Sunday from 8:30-12:30 (continued on page 5)

Traffic Camera to Be Installed at 36th and Quebec

By Nancy Burkhardt

If you have a tough time getting your foot on the brake when you see a yellow light, you will need to be more alert on northbound Quebec Street at East 36th Avenue.

On June 10th the City of Denver will install cameras to monitor traffic in the northbound lanes, and the yellow light will be extended to five seconds long. When police review the camera footage, if a car is found in the intersection



once the light has turned red, a \$75 ticket will be issued, though for the first month warnings will be sent. Drivers will have an opportunity to contest the tickets.

"The yellow light length is based on a formula that takes the width of the intersection and the posted speed limit into account," said Christine Downs, Media (continued on page 3)



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3

Park Hill
Garden
Tour

S.U.N.

28

Still
Dancing
at 85

30



Stapleton's 4th of July Parade



CALENDAR

JUNE

Friday, June 6

Southenders First Friday, 7 to 9 pm
Art, Music & Refreshments
(see www.southenders.com for updates)

Saturday, June 7

Free First Saturday, Denver Art Museum
Meet Gee's Bend quilters (see page 13)
[www.denverartmuseum.org, 720-865-5000]

Saturday, June 7

Health & Fitness Family Expo 11am - 4pm
24 Hour Fitness 7200 Academy Blvd, Lowry
[Women & Mothers 720.277.8119] see p. 13

Sat. & Sun., June 7 & 8

People's Fair (Free)
Civic Center Park [www.PeoplesFair.com]

Sunday, June 8

Fiesta Aurora, noon to 9pm (Free)
Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax Ave.
[303-326-8FUN, auroragov.org/fiesta] see p. 13

Tuesday, June 10

Feast on the Fax 5-9pm
www.feastonthefax.com (see page 14)

Sunday, June 15

Farmers Market Opening Day
Founders' Green 8:30am - 12:30pm
[www.coloradofreshmarkets.org] (see page 1)

Wednesday, June 18

"Herbal First Aid for the Whole Family"
Stapleton MCA Community Room (see p. 12)
2823 Roslyn St. 6:30-8pm 303-403-6333

JULY

Saturday, June 21

Park Hill Garden Tour 10am - 4pm
2244 Grape Street irxprt@aol.com (see p. 3)

Friday, July 4

Fourth of July Parade
29th Ave. 10 - 11am

Friday, July 18

Relay for Life, Founders' Green

Saturday, July 19

Stapleton Communitywide Garage Sale

Monday, July 21

SCFD Free Day, Denver Botanic Gardens
[720-865-3500, www.botanicgardens.org]

MONTHLY EVENTS

Every Sunday through June

Free class at Core Power Yoga 4pm
7485 E. 29th Place, 303-377-7444

Every Sunday through Sept.

Stapleton Farmers Market 8:30am - 12:30pm
starts 6/15 [www.coloradofreshmarkets.org]

Every Sunday June 1 - Aug. 3

Free - Jazz in City Park 6 - 8pm
[www.CityParkJazz.org] see p. 3

1st Monday

Casey's Irish Pub and Bistro - 10% to charity
E. 29th Ave Town Center

1st Tuesday

Children's Museum 1st Tuesdays Free 4-8pm
Sponsored by Target, 2121 Children's Museum Dr.
303-433-7444 www.mychildsmuseum.org

Selected Fridays

Movies on the Green at Stapleton
Approx. 8pm (see listings below)

Selected Saturdays

Concerts on the Green at Stapleton
Approx. 6:30 - 8pm (see listings below)

1st Saturday

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

Last Saturday

Sweet William Market (through Sept.)
9am - 2pm, Founders' Green
E. 29th Ave, Stapleton
info@sweetwilliammarket.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly

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

Every Tuesday

Stapleton Rotary Club - Noon
Stapleton Radisson Plaza Hotel
3333 Quebec St [Michael@KearnsTeam.com]

Every Tuesday

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

(Calendar continued on page 23)

Movies and Concerts at Founders' Green

Bring blankets and coolers for some great outdoor family fun.
Sponsored by The Stapleton MCA and Forest City Stapleton.

Movies (Approx. 8pm)

Friday June 13th : Back to the Future
Friday June 27th : Hairspray (2007)
Friday July 11th : The Goonies
Friday August 8th : Curious George
Friday August 22nd : Horton Hears a Who

Concerts 6:30 - 8pm

Saturday June 7th : Funkiphino
Saturday June 21st : Hazel Miller
Saturday July 26th : Legendary Nikators
Saturday August 2nd : Something Underground
Saturday August 16th : Opie Gone Bad

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Park Hill Garden Tour Offers Something for Everyone

By Nancy Burkhart
Park Hill lush gardens, thickly planted and stylized, will be featured on a June 21st tour that is ideal for the plant-knowledgeable as well as the beginning gardener and folks who just like to smell the roses.

Some of the 10 homeowners on the tour have included decks and ponds in their gardens. Others have incorporated xeriscaping. Some have done all their own work, while others have hired professional landscaping services.

“The gardeners will be there during the tour,” said Ann Long, Garden Tour Coordinator and founder of the Park Hill Garden Tour in 2001. “Visitors get to talk with the gardeners and share their experiences. Avid gardeners who like unusual plants and shrubs will find some rather unusual plants.”

Artists and sculptors will be doing their respective artwork in eight of the 10 gardens on the tour.

“Some will be painting, doing landscapes, sculptures, drawings and outdoor garden art that could be incorporated in a garden. It adds a little extra ambience,” says Long. The artwork will be for sale.

The Park Hill Garden Tour is a fundraiser for the Greater Park Hill Community, Inc. Long explained that the organization has a 45-year history in the historic neighborhood. It has worked to foster understanding among people of different races and ethnic backgrounds. It has initiated and supported projects to eliminate prejudice and discrimination.



Joanne Blair trims a plant in her Park Hill garden in preparation for this month's Garden Tour.

Park Hill is the area east of Colorado Boulevard, north of East Colfax Avenue, west of Stapleton and north to Denver's city limits.

The garden tour will start at 2810 Clermont St. Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 on the day of the tour, June 21. Seniors over 65 years will pay \$5 at any time. King Sooper's is selling tickets for \$1 more.

Park Hill and Stapleton residents are encouraged to bike the tour. The map is available on the Greater Park Hill Community website.

Volunteers are needed for three-hour shifts. Each volunteer will attend a June 14 training session and receive a free T-shirt and tour ticket.

For information, call the Greater Park Hill Community at 303-388-0918 Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or Ann Long at 303-377-6828. The website is at www.gphc.org.

City Park Jazz

This summer FREE Sunday night jazz concerts will continue in a 22-year tradition in City Park. More than 6,000 neighbors from the surrounding community, including toddlers, couples, seniors and extended families, will thrill to the combination of music, nature and companionship.

The 10 free concerts are:

- June 1 3osity
- June 8 The DKO Jazz Sextet
- June 15 The Hazel Miller Band
- June 22 Buckner Funken Jazz
- June 29 The Michael Friedman Jazz Quintet
- July 6 LC's Latin Groove
- July 13 The Sheryl Renee Band
- July 20 Cocktail Revolution
- July 27 Lisa Bell and Crescendo
- Aug. 3 Funkiphino

All concerts will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Backpacks and strollers are welcome. Food is available for purchase on site. Blankets and folding chairs are acceptable. Roads leading into the park will be closed to vehicles. However there is a parking plan for seniors and the handicapped.

For information, call 303-744-1004, or e-mail info@cityparkjazz.org.

New Traffic Camera

(continued from page 1) Coordinator for Denver Public Works.

Federal guidelines suggest doing a traffic-engineering study and increasing yellow-light times before opting to install cameras. However, Downs said Denver Public Works is going to do their own study. Four intersections across the city, including Quebec Street and East 36th Avenue, will have lengthier yellow light durations along with traffic cameras. Another four intersections will have only longer yellow lights.

The test will last for one year. The object is increased safety, so safety results from these eight intersections will determine future action, Downs said.

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East High Shop Class Donates Violins



Roberts school children hold drums made by East students.

(continued from page 1) Noble's two children, 9-year-old Aidan and 7-year-old Ella, now attend Roberts, they were not Roberts students when talks began about what Noble's classes could do to help.

"It feels a little bit awkward now because my kids go there. But it wasn't for my own children. It was for kids who would be missing out on stuff," Noble said.

A parent of one of Noble's former students keeps him abreast of new grants being offered, and so Noble applied and won a grant from Lowe's Hardware Store for nearly \$5,000. That paid for supplies for about 20 violins.

Noble has been making musical instruments in his classes for years. But, despite the guitars that he makes and plays, violins were a new project altogether. "I didn't know how to make a violin," Noble said. "I make guitars and I teach kids to make guitars, so I was familiar with most of the tooling. I got some manuals and some online support groups, bought a kit from one company, wood from another company.... I got a completed violin from Kolacny Music so that we could take measurements off it."

Noble's two woodshop classes, with 26 students each, worked on the violins. They started out working in groups of two or three, but that didn't work well, Noble said. "We ended up with it being a class project," he explained. "I assigned certain pieces to certain groups. It became more like an assembly line. That way, I didn't have to teach 52 kids every step in the project."

Of all the considerations in making a violin, the resulting tone is the biggest one. "We didn't really know how it would sound," Noble explained. "We expected it to sound really horrible."

The violins were made in different sizes so that students of all ages could learn to play.

"One was really loud," Noble said. "It was a full-size violin that had a unique color on it. Most of it we did with a mahogany varnish or blond varnish. One kid put clear varnish on it. When I put the sound post on and strung it up, it was noticeably louder."

When the first violin was completed, Noble and the entire woodshop class marched into an orchestra class at East High School. The lead violinist tuned it and started playing it.

"It sounded gorgeous," Noble related. "We had ex-

traordinarily good luck because every one of them sounded good."

The woodshop class gave Roberts 10 beautifully completed violins. Noble said there are five or six that remain unfinished, with two having shattered into pieces. Another five or six have minor issues, that Noble plans to have his students repair next year. Then these violins will be given to another school. The violin project will remain in Noble's woodshop classes.

"It's my seventh year as a teacher," Noble said. "I have 22 years before I retire. Maybe I can hit 20 schools with violins."

Dr. Ira Bigelow, music teacher at Bill Roberts K-8, said the new violins will result in a string instrument program next year that will include violins, cellos, violas, guitars and string basses. "Joel's going to build guitars for us," Bigelow said. "There's a large student body here interested in guitars. We only have a handful of guitars, and I would like to expand on that program."

Bigelow lauded the East High students for their work on the violins, but gave special kudos to those who also made drums for his classes. "The students who built the drums designed the drums," Bigelow explained. "It's a very impressive piece of technology."

The violins and drums are a great addition to the education abilities of Bill Roberts K-8, according to Principal Trich Lea. "We had no instruments at all, so we couldn't have any sort of band," Lea said. "On top of it, they're home-made, so it's really special. I hope it will allow us the ability to start a program. It's a great way to begin something. I think it's really great – the bond that it's created between the high school and us. It's really amazing."

To nominate a school to receive East's woodshop class violins, e-mail Joel Noble at: joelnoble@hotmail.com.

Northfield COP Shop Services Offer Safety and Convenience

The Northfield COP (Community Operated Policing) Shop, located at 8216 49th Avenue, Unit 1348 across from the parking lot in front of Super Target, is available to serve the residents and businesses in the Northfield/Stapleton community.

Individuals can make traffic, non-injury accident, and incident reports at the Northfield COP Shop instead of having to go to the police station. The Cop Shop can also provide information about The Denver Police Department, city agencies, victim's assistance, zoning, and crime prevention. The COP Shop has personal Child Identification kits which enable families to record a child's fingerprints and photo. Cop Shop volunteers will gladly assist anyone who needs help with the kits.

Bicycle safety is another service provided by the Cop Shop. Bicycle helmets in sizes to fit children, youth, and adults are available free of charge, although donations to Denver

Health Medical Center are requested to help with the purchase of the helmets. Each person receiving a helmet will be asked to view two short videos on bicycle safety and also complete a bicycle helmet safety agreement for each person receiving a helmet.

For property owners with a graffiti problem, the Northfield Cop Shop will have a limited quantity of supplies and paint for graffiti removal. Waiver forms are also available that allow the city to remove graffiti on private property at the owner's request, free of charge.

The Northfield Cop Shop Office is staffed by an all-volunteer operation in cooperation with the Denver Police Department. It is open Monday thru Friday during limited hours, depending on volunteer availability. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should visit the Northfield COP Shop or call Walt Cross, president of the Northfield COP Shop at 303-371-7548.

Stapleton Recreation Center and Library Updates

By Michael Hancock

Many Stapleton residents have emailed or called my office with the same question: “when will the recreation center and the library be built?” Due to the high level of concern, I want to begin by discussing the complexity of the challenges being addressed as we seek progress on both projects.

First, you should know that the City staff is working hard on both projects; everyone understands the importance of these projects to the community. Nonetheless, the continued build out of Stapleton faces significant challenges that complicate the progress of both amenities.

As we voted to pass the Better Bond projects in November 2007, I learned about the tremendous financial challenges the build out of Stapleton faced. Rising costs for oil, commodities (concrete and steel), and labor increased construction costs for the current infrastructure exponentially, particularly north of I-70. To date, over \$275 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) have been invested at Stapleton. Before additional public investment can be made through the issuance of bonds the capacity to pay back the TIF must exist and you cannot build the capacity without more infrastructure and amenities. *I told you this stuff was complex!*



Michael Hancock

What I did not know was how these challenges ultimately impact the financing of the Stapleton recreation center and library. The November passage committed \$10 million for the center and another \$12 million for the library. The fact that the City had to contribute bond dollars to both projects is indicative of the financial challenges that exist. It was originally thought that both the recreation center and library would

have been funded through TIF. Since additional proceeds are needed to cover construction costs (including land acquisition for the library) it was necessary for the City to expedite discussions with development officials on the future overall financing plan for Stapleton.

Today, senior City staff and Stapleton officials are in dialogue and are making progress on formulating a plan of action on these complex and far reaching financial challenges. Meeting these challenges today will ensure a better future for Stapleton and move both projects forward in a financially responsible and efficient manner.

Now that we have discussed the complex financial stuff I will be back to provide regular updates in future issues of the Front Porch.

Michael Hancock represents Stapleton and surrounding communities in NE Denver on the Denver City Council.

Farmers Market Opens June 15

(continued from page 1) through September 28th.

While not the most picturesque location, the parking lot behind Casey's Pub served as a good home for the market during its formative years.

The Stapleton Farmers Market was moved to the parking lot after the first season at the request of vendors due to the visibility from Quebec Street.

“Now that the Stapleton community is more established, we are moving the farmers market back to Founders' Green. While it will be a little harder to see from Quebec, we hope that word

about the market is now strong enough in Stapleton, Park Hill and other surrounding neighborhoods that people will make a point of shopping at the market regularly,” said Melissa Knott, Forest City's Director of Sustainability. Forest City has been a major financial sponsor of the Stapleton Farmers Market since its inception.

Many of Stapleton's favorite vendors will be returning this year, including Bavarian Sausage Express, La Bella Pasta, Ela Family Farms, Forte Farms, Goodnight Loving Beef, Palizzi Farms, Paz Tortillas and Styria Bakery. They will be joined by exciting new vendors offering products as varied as fresh flowers, lemonade and dog biscuits.

Based on ongoing community feedback, Colorado Fresh Markets, the market managers, have focused on attracting more prepared food vendors to the Stapleton Farmers Market this

year. “We are very excited about the vendor mix for this year's Stapleton Farmers Market,” said Michele Burke of Colorado Fresh Markets. “We know that people who live in

Stapleton and Park Hill want to be able to shop for fresh fruits and vegetables and hang out with their family, friends and neighbors. Particularly now that the Stapleton Farmers Market will be at Founders' Green, we know that people will be hungry for items that they can eat on-site so we have a number of new vendors coming with prepared

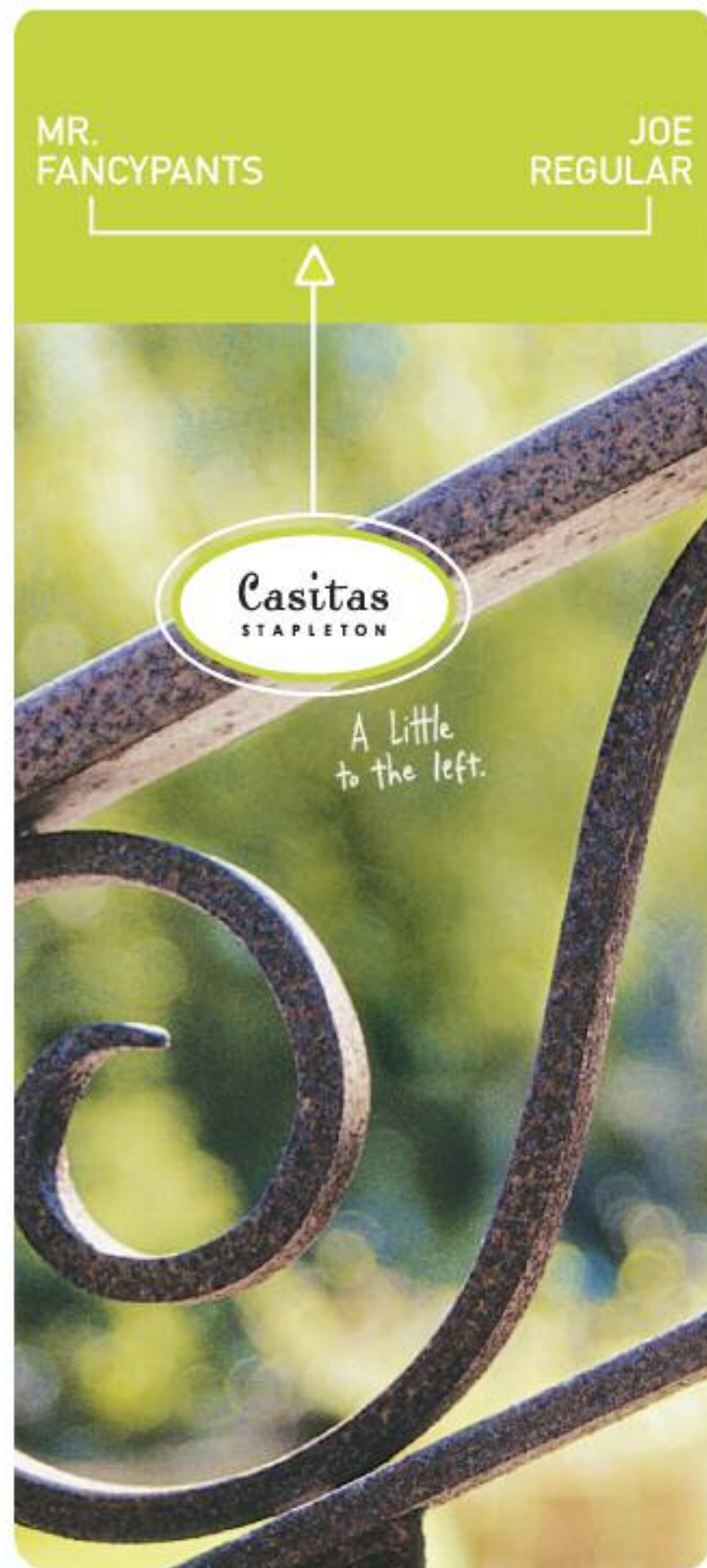
foods such as breakfast burritos, pastries, BBQ and sandwiches.”

Shoppers at the Stapleton Farmers Market are reminded that seasonality of produce determines when specific items will be available at the market. In late June and early July, cherries, sweet peas and greenhouse tomatoes will be in season. By mid-to-late July, shoppers will find sweet corn, carrots and sunflowers. Peaches, field tomatoes and melons generally make their appearance in August. The best way to know when favorite items will be in season is to shop the market regularly and get to know the vendors, who are always happy to answer questions about how an item was grown or raised.

Karen Kingsbury is a sustainability consultant for Forest City Stapleton. She can be reached at kkingsbury@stapletondenver.com.



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Since You've Asked...

Editor's Note: The following questions were posed by people attending the April 22nd community forum cosponsored by Stapleton United Neighbors, the Stapleton Development Corporation's Citizens Advisory Board and Forest City Stapleton, Inc. Additional questions will be answered in the July issue of the Front Porch.

Q. What is the timeline for the third school at Stapleton and the high school?

A. The third school is designed to be an ECE (Early Childhood Education)-8 for approximately 750 students. Its timing is uncertain. The Denver Public Schools planning department expects to have revised enrollment projections by the end of this school year (2007-2008). Those projections will determine when the Westerly Creek and William Roberts schools will reach their capacities, which will influence the timing of a third school. That could be 2010 or 2011.

Stapleton elementary and middle schools are built with revenue from the sale of bonds issued by the Denver Urban Renewal Authority that are backed by tax increment financing generated at Stapleton. The third school will be funded through the next bond issue. It is uncertain when DURA will decide there is sufficient revenue to issue new bonds.

A high school is planned on a site north of the Northfield shopping center. DPS bond money will pay for the school, which is designed to be a campus of three small schools for 400-500 students each. DPS has convened a citizens committee to determine the need for a bond election this year. Existing schools are due for a large amount of repairs and other improvements making it uncertain how much new construction would be on a 2008 bond. If a bond passed this year, the high school could open in the 2010-2012 range but there is no set timeline. *(Response provided by Brian Weber, Vice President, Education/Workforce Initiatives, Stapleton Foundation)*



Board walk to the observation deck at Bluff Lake

Q. What is the timeline for residential north of I-70 (Northfield)?

A. Depending on the strength of the residential market, residential development north of Northfield will not likely occur before 2010, when residential development is projected to be complete south of I-70. *(Response provided by Lisa Hall, Builder Program Director, Forest City Stapleton, Inc.)*

Q. Why can't the entrance off Havana near the employee entrance to Bluff Lake be used, as it is a long walk to main entrance?

A. Bluff Lake Nature Center appreciates our many visitors from the Stapleton neighborhood. We've chosen to funnel all of our visitors through the main parking area, primarily due to past problems with vandalism and non-compatible use (bikes, dogs, etc.). We have, however, been discussing the idea of locating a pedestrian gate on the western edge of our property, not far from the bird blind structure. We will likely leave

the maintenance gate locked so as not to invite any auto traffic, but there is a good chance that we will install a smaller gate sometime in the coming year. *(Response provided by Glenn Fee, executive director, Bluff Lake Nature Center)*

Q. What are the locations for the library that are being looked at?

A. Forest City has proposed a site on Roslyn Street, just south of the pediatric medicine and dentistry building in the E. 29th Avenue Town Center. While there had been consideration by some city officials about co-locating a library in the planned recreation center, that proposal does not seem to have much support.

Q. Is there a possibility for a Kohl's or Chick-fil-a in Northfield?

A. Among the potential retail stores Forest City spoke to about coming to Northfield were Kohl's and JCPenney. Because JCPen-

ney has already opened a store at Northfield, it is unlikely that Kohl's would choose to open a store in the same retail center. Forest City has spoken to officials from Chick-fil-a, but there is no indication at this time that they will be coming to Stapleton.

Q. The plans for the recreation center look quite elaborate, however the number of lap lanes is small. Would it save money to change the pool plan to have more lap lanes (at least 6, preferably 8)? Regular access to lap swimming at 6:00am, everyday year-round (i.e., the indoor recreation center and at least one outdoor pool in summer-time) would be ideal. Is this in the long term plan?

A. The design team chose the leisure pool and lap pool sizes based on the recommendation of both pool managers' and the architects' experience in many other places and the realities of budget constraints. The Park Creek Metropolitan District does not support any changes at this point in the process. The actual recreation center program and pool hours will be set by the operator when the facility opens. That operator is expected to be the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation. *(Response provided by Dennis Piper, director of parks and environment, Stapleton Development Corporation.)*

Q. How about using the library as the anchor of a mixed use public-private development?

A. Over a period of the last several years, Forest City has told officials from the Denver Public Library that we would be flexible in discussing a number of scenarios that might meet their needs at a location we have proposed on Roslyn Street in the E; 29th Avenue Town Center. Ultimately, the decision will be made by Library officials who must also consider operational expenses posed by a new library.

Unless otherwise noted, responses provided by Tom Gleason, Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

npre

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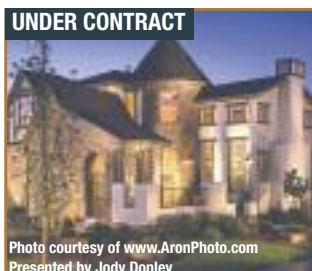


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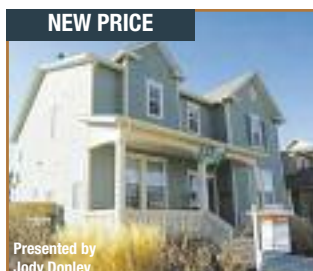
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Town Center COP Shop Open – Volunteers Needed



Cop Shop Volunteer, Julie Cameron, DPD Commander Rhonda Jones, City Council President Michael Hancock and Denver Police Officer Adriel Torres officially open the E. 29th Avenue Town Center Cop Shop during Stapleton's Spring Fling on May 3rd.

By Julie Cameron

The Grand Opening for the Town Center COP Shop was held May 3rd, in conjunction with the Stapleton Spring Fling event. The Shop location is 7484 E. 29th Ave., in Stapleton's 29th Ave Town Center.

The Community Operated Policing Storefront (COP Shop) is a great way for communities to be involved in our own safety. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the concept of a COP Shop, here are a few details:

- Community-Operated means it is staffed entirely by volunteer citizens within the community (it is *not* staffed by the Denver Police!!)
- The more volunteers who are available – the more hours the COP Shop is available to be open
- Denver Police Officers will stop by the COP Shop from time-to-time to file reports, check-in with the community, and help us with current issues
- The purpose of the COP Shop is to give the community a way to help make their neighborhoods safer, and encourage positive working relationships between law enforcement and the public

Following is a list of just a few of the programs that we are planning to organize through the Town Center COP Shop:

- Neighborhood Watch Training

- Reports/referrals to city agencies such as reporting potholes, dark traffic lights, and other 311-types of issues
- Reporting on criminal complaints and activities such as burglaries, graffiti, smashed house and/or car windows, suspicious activities
- Self-defense classes for men, women, and children
- Speed-check/Radar gun training to track speeding in your area
- Bicycle registration program for more effective recovery of stolen bicycles
- Important helmet training for children
- Scheduling Home Visits with the DPD to provide home safety tips
- Provide a resource on where to go for more information such as the Denver Citizens for Crime Prevention, neighborhood crime statistics, and updates on registered sex offenders

Because the COP Shop is staffed entirely by volunteers in the community — hours of operation are determined by the amount of volunteers we have, and the hours they can support the shop being open. Please check the door of the Shop for current hours, or call (720) 865-2356 for more information.

Julie Cameron is the President of the Board for the Town Center COP Shop. She also sits on the Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Board, and is the Safety Committee Chair.

Language Immersion School Proposed for Stapleton Area in 2009

By Brian Weber

A group of Stapleton parents and the Stapleton Foundation have proposed a language immersion school to open in 2009 as one of Denver Public Schools' new Innovation Schools. The district plans to decide on proposals by the end of July.

The E-8 school will offer Mandarin Chinese and Spanish as an autonomous school which frees it from many district and union policies. It's proposed for central northeast Denver but no location has been chosen.

Language immersion offers traditional learning activities in a second language to master that language while reaching high academic achievement. Research shows that students learning a second language from a young age

perform better academically, exhibit greater cultural appreciation, and learn additional languages with greater ease.

Organizers are seeking community support— one factor in deciding the school's fate. Contact the following people more information and to sign up as "interested in attending:"

Kristy Fantz
klfantz@yahoo.com
Camilla Modesitt
kentcamilla@comcast.net
Brian Weber
Stapleton Foundation
303-468-3224
bweber@stapletonfoundation.org

Brian Weber is the Stapleton Foundation's Vice President for Education/Workforce Initiatives.

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Feast on Food and Flicks



Neighborhood Flix owners Melodie Gaul (left), her sister-in-law Michelle Dorant, and her brother Jimmie Lee Smith relax in the theater and feast on their popular sweet potato fries, which outsell popcorn 5 to 1.

By Nancy Burkhart

Did the crowds of teenagers hanging out, the untempting hot dogs and soggy popcorn at the movie multiplexes lead you to take your movie viewing home to your sofa with delivered pizza? Now you can choose to enjoy an offbeat first-run movie, documentary or classic film while enjoying a tasty meal and a glass of wine in a smaller, more intimate setting.

The Neighborhood Flix Cinema opened last November in the Lowenstein Culture Complex, next to the Tattered Cover and Twist & Shout, at 2510 E. Colfax Ave. It features movies and a restaurant that gives you the choice of just watching the movie, ordering food and wine at the restaurant and enjoying it while you get involved in the movie, or enjoying your food in the café before

going to your seat to view the film.

Cinema owners are husband and wife Jimmie Lee Smith and Michelle Dorant, Stapleton residents, and Jimmie's sister, Melodie Gaul. Melodie and Jimmie grew up in Park Hill. Jimmie and Michelle were living in New York City, enjoying the many independent films offered in the Big Apple, when they visited Melodie in Denver. She took them to see Stapleton and its growing community, and Jimmie and Michelle made the decision to move in and bring an expanded independent film selection to Denverites.

"Between the three of us, we loved film and food," Gaul explained. "Jimmie and Michelle are particularly film buffs. When they were in New York, they were exposed to interesting film. Here, there's

room for more."

Neighborhood Flix offers a diverse film selection that includes offbeat, independent films, documentaries, comedies and foreign films. The movie assortment is "art house" type, Gaul said.

Dorant explained art house movies as independent films that are made on small budgets. The people involved truly believe in the film.

"You wouldn't see an 'Iron Man' film (at an art house theater) because those are bigger, blockbuster movies," Dorant said. "The scripts of most traditional Hollywood films don't have the substance (of art house films)."

The theater eschews the feel of multi-plex theaters, instead offering a more intimate setting. "It was important that we created space that was comfortable, inviting and warm," Dorant said. "You have leg room, and you can eat healthy, organic food."

The Flix restaurant offers such delights as meat loaf sandwiches, Indonesian vegetable curry, salads made with organic greens, fish tacos and egg rolls. The owners say that their sweet potato fries already out-

sell popcorn 5 to 1.

The children's menu offers grilled cheese sandwiches, and everyone can choose from such delectable desserts as carrot cake, chocolate mousse cake or Snickerdoodle cheesecake.

"Everything that we serve in the café can be taken into the theater," Smith said. "We don't want the movie theater to be the restaurant. The food that we serve from the café in a to-go container fits into your cup holder (in the theater)."

The restaurant opens at 11 a.m., with lunch and dinner served daily. Sunday brunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Neighborhood Flix Cinema will partner with Twist & Shout on a jazz film series one weekend a month through September. There will be local live jazz bands performing as well.

Seven operas from La Scala in Italy will be offered in July and August. A different opera will be shown each week, and each will be shown three times during the week. They will be paired with brunch or dinner.

For Neighborhood Flix Cinema listings, call 303-777-3549, or go to www.flixonthefax.com.



Bar area adjacent to the Neighborhood Flix cafe.

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Sounds and Actions Offer Kid-Friendly Approach to Reading

By Nancy Burkhart

One of the biggest lessons we all have had to learn is to read. Over the years, there have been many different methods of teaching children to read, and some find it easier to learn than others. Today, kindergarten teacher Darcie Frohardt is offering a fun and active method for children ages 3 to 7 to learn to read the English language with her Butterfly Park Educational Materials.

Children are taught the sounds of letters, rather than letter names. "It's more important than learning letter names," Frohardt said. "Our program is based on actions. For the sound of 'H' they (children) march and 'huff.' It's based on the action, rather than having to know an English word.

"It's really helpful because letter sounds are so critical for learning to read. We do it through action and song, movement. It's multi-sensory. You use your eyes, your voice, your movement. It's not boring either. They learn their letter sounds by standing up. It's much more kid-friendly."

The program is for all children, including those who speak a second-language, those at risk with reading difficulties, and gifted children. Very bright children progress very rapidly, while it may take a bit longer for others, Frohardt said.

Children with learning disabilities work well with the program because letters are pictures of sounds, she explained. "The alphabet is a code for the sounds of the English language. The way you break the code is through the letter sounds."



Darcie Frohardt, founder of Butterfly Park Educational Materials shows cards that help teach reading to young children by linking the sounds of the letters to actions. The H sound is linked hop and the D sound to drumming.

Frohardt and her sister, Mary Forhan, started Butterfly Park Educational Materials in 2003. Forhan is a retired teacher with a Master's Degree in reading.

More than 300 Colorado teachers use the Butterfly Park materials in settings including Head Start, private and public pre-schools and kindergartens.

Parents can use the Butterfly Park materials with their children, rather than waiting for teachers to use them. In the eight-session "J is for Jump" Workshop, Forhan teaches parents and children to use a DVD to

teach the children to read. In the DVD, pre-school children, puppets, a monkey, caterpillar and a voice use letter sounds in a series of stories using the entire alphabet. A train carries everyone through Butterfly Park as it teaches children to put sounds together to form words. Children also are taught pre-handwriting familiarity with letters.

Frohardt is working on a new workshop, called READERS – Reading Effectively Aloud to Develop Enthusiastic Readers.

"We would like to do classes for parents because teachers want them to read at home with their kids," Frohardt said. "We thought it would be fun to have a readers' group for parents where we would demonstrate how to read with their kids."

Educational materials can be ordered online or by calling Frohardt. She also offers them to teachers at their conferences.

Darcie Frohardt can be reached at 303-519-1217 or www.butterflyparkphonics.com.



Children form the letter T with their arms as they learn the sound associated with T.

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New Moms Have Fun Getting Fit

By Nancy Burkhart

So, there you are -- a new mother with the need for specific exercises to get your body into shape for the multi-tasking it will take to be a mom. What can you do?



Erin Johns, with her twins, leads a Stroller Strides class in a session at Stapleton's Central Park.

Park Hill resident Erin Johns has the answer with her workout for moms whose children ride in strollers. It's called Stroller Strides. The franchise is a fitness class for mothers of stroller-age children up to 4 or 5 years old. The kids stay in their strollers while their moms work out in both cardio and strength training.

Johns and her husband, Steve, have 23-month-old twin daughters, Emma and Reese, who join the classes.

"I was an operations manager with a resort company," Johns explained. "I worked

full-time for a year after my maternity leave ended. But I had a hard time being away from my kids.

"I was really, really interested in starting something fitness-oriented with my kids," she said. "I came across Stroller Strides on the Internet."

Stroller Strides has more than 300 franchises nationally, with some 700 class locations, Johns said.

Johns went through a Stroller Strides certification program and garnered certification in pre- and post-natal fitness.

"So many things happen to your body with pregnancy," she said. "With pre-natal, you have to be extra cautious about heart rate and position. With post-natal, you have to be cognizant about what labor and delivery has done to your body (regarding hips and posture).

We do lower back work and shoulder work to keep moms' spines in line and give them healthy posture. There are so many things you do as a new mom, such as toting this new human around... you have to train your body to work in a whole new way."

Stroller Strides classes meet from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Class members may choose a \$55 package that entitles them to unlimited classes during one month. They can choose to pay \$115 for 10 classes at any time during a six-month period, or they may opt to pay \$15 for each individual class they attend.

"The major motivator is losing baby weight, and this will do that," Johns explained. "Kids are only going to get bigger and faster, and the class improves movement and strength. It gives you energy. They see from Day 1 that exercise is a positive thing."

While the moms do their thing, the stroller



Stroller Strides instructors are certified in pre- and post-natal fitness.

kids have their own fun, according to Johns. Singing and counting accompany class workouts, and the children enjoy it as much as their mothers do, she said.

The class also is a networking resource for mothers, Johns said. "At the same time they

work out they talk with other moms. They say things like, 'My child's eating every two hours. Is that normal?'"

Class members are allowed to progress at their individual paces.

"Age doesn't matter. Any exercise level is OK," Johns said. "I've got moms who used to be marathon runners and moms who never exercised a day in their life. The class can work for any level."

New moms are welcome to drop in on a class to try it out -- the first session is free.

Call Erin Johns, Stroller Strides, at 303-507-4388 or e-mail her at ErinJohns@StrollerStrides.net. The website is www.StrollerStrides.net/Denver.

"Extra Space Storage" to Open in June



The new Extra Space Storage will open at Stapleton this month on Martin Luther King Boulevard just east of Denver Fire Station 26. The developer for the self storage facility says it has state-of-the-art security, inte-

rior climate controlled units, and exterior drive-up units that are accessible 7 am-10pm 7 days a week. Call 303-703-3802 Mondays - Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. for more information.

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Teens Take On Quest for Gas Car Alternative



Chris Torres, left, and Jay Wellman chase Alexandra Scherbl in Stapleton's Greenway Park. She is riding in a solar car that the three DSST seniors made as a senior project.

By Nancy Burkhart

Fill-ups at the gas pumps are depleting our wallets, and Mother Nature is complaining about how car emissions are affecting the ozone layer. While talks are taking place at government levels, three 18-year-olds at the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) in Stapleton have taken action with their senior project – designing and building a solar powered car.

Last year, DSST juniors were instructed to think about what they would do for their senior project. Most students went to work as individuals. But Alexandra Scherbl, Christopher Torres and Jay Wellman fell on an idea that would make them a team.

“Over the summer Christopher and I were in engineering programs, and Jay worked in a bike shop,” said Scherbl. “We all had an interest in engineering, so we got together.”

None of the DSST projects were given funds, so the team had to get creative about obtaining construction materials. The University of Colorado at Boulder donated a recumbent tricycle frame from last year's human-powered contest.

“We based our solar car design off of what we had as a frame,” Scherbl said.

“We were trying to figure out where the solar panels were going to come from,” said Torres. “One of our classmates has a neighbor who owns a solar panel company. The company loaned us panels.”

Wellman explained that the company, Starfire Energy, is a solar power consulting company that installs panels.

“Nobody gets a budget, so we borrowed the panels,” Scherbl said. “They (Starfire Energy) have helped us, giving us a lot of advice (and) watching our progress.”

The team started doing project research and obtaining materials in December. Physical work on the project began in late February.

“On the whole, the actual building took 10 weeks,” Scherbl said. “We first had the frame in Jay's backyard. We took off unnecessary parts, took off the rust and painted the frame. Then we worked in the school's fabrication lab.”

“It's a workshop. We have power tools and

welding tools,” Torres said.

“It (solar car) is finished,” Wellman said. “We had a couple of problems. It goes 18 mph for 25 to 30 minutes. Then the power exhausts until it has time to reaccumulate the charge from the panel. We could add more panels, but, since they're expensive, we have a lack of funds for that.”

“We could also add more batteries,” Torres said. “It could have a longer charge.”

The project was not readily accepted as doable by the team's friends and teachers.

“People told us that a solar project would be too big for us,” Scherbl said. “I think we proved to a lot of people that we could do it.”

While proving their abilities and intelligence, each member of the team has decided to go into mechanical engineering.

Next fall, Scherbl will be at Wesleyan in Connecticut. Wellman will attend the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Torres will study at Stanford University.

What will happen to the car?

“We still haven't really decided how we're going to do that,” Torres said. “Since we're all going to different colleges and have to give back the solar panels, we're thinking about donating it.”

Has such a stellar performance with a senior project upped the standards for next year's seniors?

“Most definitely,” said Wellman. “They kind of felt that a small project was more manageable. This solar car project gives the message to kind of do what you want.”

“It impacts interest because we've been working on it in the hallway, so a lot of students saw our progress,” Scherbl said. “A lot of other projects weren't as visible.”

“The project could be an individual one,” Torres explained. “Everyone was supposed to come up with an idea like writing a book or doing an analysis. We all were kind of individual in the beginning.”

“We had to write project proposals and we did a really good job explaining why we had to work with other people,” Scherbl said.

Along with the physical part of the project, each team member had to write a 10-13 page paper. Scherbl's was on solar energy. Wellman's was about the nation's sustainable energy policies vs. those of the states and cities. Torres focused on global warming and how solar powered vehicles could reduce our carbon footprint.

So, what did the team learn from building a solar car?

“I think it is just a big introduction for us in the engineering field – car designs, alternative energy designs, integration in technology,” Torres said. “It wasn't an invention kind of thing. It was learning.”

“The focus was on coming out with a new way to do something, not a new project, but a new way,” Scherbl said.

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FREE - Health Staples at Stapleton: June 18th Herbal First Aid for the Whole Family

"Herbal First Aid for the Whole Family" will offer information about using herbs to treat sunburn, cuts and bruises, poison ivy, mosquito bites, stomach upset, colds and coughs, and also for immune support. The presentation, held on Wednesday, June 18th at 6:30 - 8pm, will be made by Cindy Aspromonte, Nurse Practitioner at Stapleton OB-GYN, in the Stapleton MCA Community Room at 2823 Roslyn Street.

For more information email stapletonobgyn@exempla.org or call Cindy at 303-403-6333. Health Staples is a series of free health/life classes held every 3rd Wednesday of the month in 2008 to help you and your family stay healthy. The series is sponsored by Exempla Healthcare and the Stapleton Master Community Association.

Fitness Walks and Tai Chi Offer Serene Health Conditioning

Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York St., will offer summer family health conditioning opportunities from June 3 to August 26 with Fitness Walks and T'ai Chi.

Tuesdays: The T'ai Chi Project will hold T'ai Chi classes from 7:15 - 8:15 am Fitness Walks will focus on the quiet splendor of the Botanic Gardens from 7 - 9 am.

All fitness levels are welcome. AARP will provide healthy snacks. Admission is free for members of Denver Botanic Gardens, AARP and T'ai Chi. A suggested donation of \$5 is requested from non-members.

For more information, call 720-865-3500 or go to www.botanicgardens.org.

Active Minds Seminars - Free and Open to the Public

Tibet – Tuesday, June 10 from 12:30-1:30 pm at the Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax (2 blocks east of York)

China claims that Tibet has been part of China for centuries, while Tibet maintains that China illegally invaded the independent country in 1949. Also a look at the role of the Dalai Lama.

Bio-Engineered Food – Tues. June 24 from 11am -12 noon. Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi: 303-388-4013 x307

How science has been able to alter the food we grow to enhance productivity, control for parasites, and optimize certain food characteristics, and the potential undesirable consequences for health and the environment.

Brazil – Tuesday, June 24 from 5:30-6:30 pm at the Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax (2 blocks east of York)

Brazilian history and recent events, most notably the Presidency of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and the growing tendency of South American countries to support leaders from the left. Also, key issues in U.S. - Brazilian relations such as trade, energy, and the environment.

Coffee: A Brief History – Wed. June 25, 2:30-3:30 pm. Cherry Oaks, 6800 Leetsdale Drive. RSVP: 303-331-9963.

The history of coffee from its origins in Ethiopia to Starbucks – a fascinating story of politics, power, chance and intrigue.

Germany – Monday, June 30 from 7 -8 pm. Stapleton Master Community Association, 2823 Roslyn St, Denver (east of King Soopers at Quebec & 28th Ave) RSVP: Stapleton Foundation: 303-468-3223. *Sponsored by the Stapleton Foundation.*

Germany's role in the European Union, challenges posed by Islamic immigration from Turkey, and Germany's complex relations with the United States. Also the reunification process nearly two decades after the fall of the Berlin wall.

Performances

June 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 & 27-29, Vintage Theatre – "Crazy Bag"

This heart-warming comedy is the story of a minister's daughter and how she and her alter-ego go from rebelliousness to the rediscovery of home. 2119 E. 17th Ave. Call 303-839-1361 or visit www.vintage theatre.com.

May 2-June 6 – Avenue Theater

"Almost Denver: The Songs and Failures of Jim Aurora"

An outrageously funny show chronicling the life of a forgotten folk singer through side-splitting parodies of a not-forgotten legend, John Denver. 417 E. 17th Ave. Call 303-321-5925 or see www.avenue theatre.com.

Through June 7, John Hand Theater – "Naked Coffee 2"

A combination of sketch, film and improvisational comedy. 7653 E. 1st Place, Lowry. Call 720-985-6886 or go to www.johnhandtheater.com.

Barth Hotel – "HOTL Baltimore"

The story is about a group of older lost souls who inhabit a once-elegant hotel. It is environmental theater staged directly in the hotel lobby. Fundraiser for Senior Housing Options. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays July 17 through August 23. 1514 17th St. Go to www.seniorhousingoptions.org or call 303-595-4464, extension 10.

Empire Lyric Players – "H.M.S Pinafore"

Empire Lyric Players celebrate their 50th anniversary with Gilbert & Sullivan's most popular opera. June 1, 5, 7 and 8. Thursdays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 2 pm Mizel Center for Arts and Culture, 350 S. Dahlia St. Information and tickets at 303-377-4831, or go to www.elps.org.

Neighborhood Flix, June 20 "Sangre de Mi Sangre" & June 27 "Yella"

Art House movies with lunch or dinner from the in-house restaurant. Open 11 am daily, with brunch 11 am to 2 pm Sundays. 2510 E. Colfax Ave. Call 303-777-3549 or go to www.flixonthefax.com.

Ogden Theater, June 10 "Hatebreed" & June 18 "Reverend Horton Heat"

Classic to avant garde movies. 935 E. Colfax Ave. Call 303-830-2525.

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& Events in June

June 7 and 8 – People’s Fair (Free)
Colorado’s largest arts and crafts festival with some 500 exhibitor and food booths. Free admission. Civic Center Park, West Colfax Avenue and Broadway. Go to www.peoplesfair.com.

June 8 – Aurora Fiesta
Celebrate the art and culture of Aurora’s Latino community from noon to 9 pm Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax Ave. Call 303-326-8FUN or go to www.auroragov.org/fiesta.

June 7-September 28 – Botanic Gardens, Story Time in the Gardens SCFD Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens, Monday, July 21
Hear stories about plants, animals and nature on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 to 11am. Entrance to the Children’s Secret Path is included with admission to the Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York St. Call 720-865-3500 or go to www.botanicgardens.org for information.

Through August 3, Museum of Contemporary Art – Jasper De Beijer
Jasper finds inspiration in historical records and photographs that range from Japanese modern and traditional culture to memories of Pacific Island rubber industries and First World War photography. 1485 Delganey St. Call 303-298-7554, or go to www.mcartdenver.org.

SCFD Free Day, June 7, Denver Art Museum
Meet the quilters of Gee’s Bend and let them introduce you to their beautiful quilts. Design a colorful square to add to a paper quilt clothesline. Free day for Colorado residents. 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy. Call 720-865-5000 or go to www.denverartmuseum.org.

Through November 30, Denver Botanic Gardens – Urban Nature
The exhibit features paintings from over a dozen street-style artists including internationally recognized Lady Pink, Mac and Siloette. 1005 York St. Call 720-865-3500, or go to <http://www.botanicgardens.org>.

City Park Jazz – Free Sunday jazz concerts
In City Park from 6 - 8 pm. June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3. Call 303-744-1004 or go to www.cityparkjazz.org.

Barth Hotel Becomes “HOTL Baltimore”

Theater buffs can watch the Barth Hotel morph into “HOTL Baltimore” this summer as the Senior Housing Options facility becomes a play venue.

The lovely, antique architecture hotel will be the site for 18 performances of “HOTL Baltimore” on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from July 17 through August 23.

The play’s story is about a group of older lost souls who inhabit a once-elegant hotel. It is environmental theater because it is staged directly in the lobby of the Barth Hotel, 1514 17th St. This connects the real world of the Barth Hotel with the environment of the play and the theater production.

“HOTL Baltimore” first was performed at the Barth Hotel in Denver in 1991. Director Terry Dodd is returning, as are several cast members. The original producer, John Ashton, will have a walk-on roll July 17. On July 24, bartenders from the Celtic Tavern will do walk-ons.

On July 31, retired KUSA news anchor Ed Sardella will put in an appearance, and Denver Post columnist Bill Husted will participate on a date to be named.

The play is a fundraiser for the Senior Housing Options Year of Safety and Security Fund Drive. Senior Housing Options operates seven assisted living properties and seven independent apartment residences throughout Colorado. The fundraiser will pay for emergency call systems, state-of-the-art fire systems, fire doors and new kitchen equipment.

Tickets go on sale June 2 for \$50 each. They can be purchased online at www.seniorhousingoptions.org or call 303-595-4464, extension 10.

Fiesta Aurora Celebrates Latino Community

The 4th annual Fiesta Aurora will celebrate the Latino community’s culture and art from noon to 9 pm on Sunday, June 8, in the East End Arts District at Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax Ave.

Authentic Latino food creations, a low-rider bike display and live entertainment will lure adults, while children will have an area with inflatable rides, crafts, balloon twisting and more.

The event is free. For information, call 303-326-8FUN or go to auroragov.org/fiesta.

1st annual Health & Fitness Family Expo – A Free Event Promoting Healthy Families

Families are invited to attend a FREE day full of fun, food, and tips on how families can get healthy and stay healthy. The 1st Annual Health and Fitness Family Expo will be held Saturday June 7th 2008 from 11 to 4pm at 24 Hour Fitness Lance Armstrong in Lowry, 7200 Academy Blvd. Women & Mothers, a new organization helping Denver women and families, has partnered with the fitness experts at 24 Hour Fitness to host a free community event to help educate and encourage local families to live a healthy and fit life.

This event is designed for the entire family. Parents will be able to get tips on family health, exercise, fitness, diet and nutrition, as well as information on the local businesses that aim to help families on their journey to good health. Children will participate in face painting, balloons, games, prizes, and many other fun activities that teach kids that fitness and healthy living can be fun!

For more information about this event or about the Women & Mothers Organization, call 720.277.8119 or email kmills@womenmothers.com.



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Starship Headlines "Do at the Zoo"

The popular '80s and '90s band, Starship featuring Mickey Thomas, will headline the annual fundraiser for the Denver Zoo, "Do at the Zoo," in City Park from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 19. Food from more than 45 Denver restaurants will be available.

The event is hoped to raise more than \$500,000 for Asian Tropics, a 10-acre exhibit devoted to endangered Asian species, including elephants, Indian rhinos and Malayan tapirs.

Tickets are \$125 for members and non-members ages 21-29; \$150 for individual zoo members; and \$175 for individual non-members. Call 303-376-4864 or go to www.denver-zoo.org for tickets.

Used Book Sale Denver Central Library

**10 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy.
Saturday June 14th, 9 am - 4 pm
Sunday June 15th, 10 am - 3 pm**

Great Book Giveaway (for Nonprofits)

June 15th, 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Reservations are required to attend the Great Book Giveaway. Please call 720-865-2051 to RSVP. All remaining Used Book Sale items are free during the Great Book Giveaway. The Great Book Giveaway is for nonprofit organizations and teachers.

June 10th - Third Annual Feast on the FAX

On June 10, 2008 from 5 - 9 PM, The FAX Partnership will hold its Third Annual Feast on The FAX, giving attendees the chance to sample cuisines ranging from Moroccan, Mexican, Ethiopian, and American. Participants will enjoy samples at all of the featured restaurants, and may walk, bike, or ride free shuttle buses up and down The FAX.

The Feast on The FAX was created by The FAX Partnership to promote businesses on Colfax while providing residents of the sur-

rounding neighborhoods and beyond an opportunity to become acquainted (or re-acquainted) with the diverse restaurant base along East Colfax, now known as **The FAX**.

Tickets purchased ahead from neighborhood associations cost \$20. Tickets purchased on the day of the event cost \$25. For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.feastonthefax.com or call Jake Flint at 303-321-3212.



Kids chase bubbles from a bubble machine at Stapleton's Spring Fling on May 3rd.

Still Looking for Kids' Summer Activities?

The March issue of the Front Porch listed more than 60 camp and activity options for kids this summer. Visit www.StapletonFrontPorch.com and scroll to "Front Porch

Archives" near the bottom of the page. Click on March 2008 and go to page 21 to view the list of summer camps.

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Empire Lyric Players Celebrate 50th Year with H.M.S. Pinafore



H.M.S. Pinafore characters: Sir Joseph Porter (Guy Williams), Josephine (Kelly Twedt, and Captain Corcoran (David Hodel).

By Nancy Burkhart

The Empire Lyric Players, a Denver theatrical group established to perform solely Gilbert & Sullivan works, will mark 50 years of performances this month with its production of H.M.S. Pinafore.

The Lyric Players was founded in 1958 by people who enjoyed Gilbert & Sullivan productions in high school and wanted to continue with them.

"Gilbert & Sullivan wrote 14 different works," explained Kevin Crandell, an Empire Lyric Players Board member and Stage Director for "H.M.S. Pinafore." "One work

— the music no longer exists. Two are pretty darn bad, so the group has never done those. "Trial by Jury is only 45 minutes long. That leaves you with 10 works, and basically we rotate through them."

The Players' productions are limited. There will be six shows for H.M.S. Pinafore. There have been two performances of Trial by Jury, and A Christmas Carol, featuring words by Gayden Wren and Sullivan's lyrics. The Board of Directors will decide the 2009 schedule this fall.

The Empire Lyric Players is primarily a volunteer group.

"Our cast and crew is strictly volunteer," Crandell explained. "We do not get paid. None of the actors are paid. We do engage a professional

orchestra and pit conductor, and we pay them."

"Personally, I think it's good to go back to the word, 'amateur,' which I understand translates to 'love,'" said Guy Williams, who plays the lead, Sir Joseph Porter in H.M.S. Pinafore and has been an Empire player since 1997. "You get a great deal of satisfaction out of it."

Williams makes his living as a paralegal in the mortgage banking industry. Crandell is an attorney and chairman of the Business Department at the legal firm of Holland & Hart.

"Even though we all do this on an amateur basis, we have a lot of people with professional quality and skills," explained Crandell. "We're always lucky to get these professional people to audition for us."

Erin Bell, who plays Little Buttercup in this month's production, started her career at the Arvada Center when she was in high school. She spent eight years with the Bridge Theatre Company in Boston. Today she is a communications writer for CH2M HILL.

Empire Lyric Players Gilbert & Sullivan productions are not the standard. They are developed to interest young people as well as the Gilbert & Sullivan diehards.

"I think one of the most important things that ELP have done is to introduce Gilbert & Sullivan to a younger generation that may not be familiar with it," Williams said. "We've taken programs to schools. We've got a lot of young people involved

in it now. It's a different sort of experience than what they would get through a standard theater experience."

"There's just enough of the political and social satire that cycles around and becomes applicable over time," Bell said. "If you recognize where it sits in today's events, or something about the social or political situation, (the play) can resonate from it."

Empire Lyric Players is funded by ticket sales and Denver's SCFD grant.

There are about 50 members in the group today; however, the number varies with each production, according to Crandell.

H.M.S. Pinafore performances will be June 1, 5, 7 and 8 at the Mizel Center for Arts and Culture, 350 S. Dahlia Street.

For Empire Lyric Players information and tickets, call 303-377-4831 or go to www.elps.org.

People's Fair June 7 & 8 Brings Food and Fun

The People's Fair will mark its 37th anniversary this year with Colorado's largest arts and crafts festival on June 7 and 8 in Civic Center Park, at West Colfax Avenue and Broadway. Admission is free.

Produced by Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN), the People's Fair started for community unification in urban diversity and neighborhood pride. Some 300 volunteers organize and

facilitate the event that benefits Capitol Hill nonprofit organizations.

More than 500 exhibitor and food booths will fill Civic Center. A variety of food booths will cook up tasty treats to inspire and tantalize taste buds. And, artfully designed arts and crafts booths will present creative selections for purchase.

For an extensive entertainment schedule, go to www.peoplesfair.com

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Left: Marty Gregg with his two sons, Nick, 6, standing and Max, 9, sitting in the spaceship Marty built for them. It will have to be cut apart to remove it from the basement of their Stapleton home because it grew too big to fit through the stairwell.

Below right: Marty, a graphic designer, drew detailed plans for the space ship.

Bottom: The "in progress" photo shows how different sized boxes were attached to make the spaceship.



Above photo & drawing courtesy of Marty Gregg.

Dad Makes Space Travel a Playtime Experience

By Nancy Burkhart

Nine-year-old Max Gregg and his brother, 5-year-old Nick, have taken their Star Wars passion to new heights. Playtime for them involves a 4 foot by 8 foot space ship that their father, Marty Gregg, built for them in the basement of their Stapleton home.

Marty passed huge dumpsters filled with cardboard on his way to work. One day he stopped to examine them and discovered "fresh, brand new, beautiful cardboard."

"It's just fun to play in a cardboard box," Marty said. "I pulled a few of the boxes out and put them in my basement."

Then peer group pressure set in for Marty. He is a graphic designer at the ArtHouse, where they do 3-dimensional designs, logos, etc. When Marty told his co-workers about his cardboard box find, a co-worker told him, "We're expecting something really cool."

"We think in 3-D all the time, and

we're always drawing," Marty explained. "(So) I did (spaceship) drawings. Those got me excited about building. I just started building off of that. Little did I know it would get so complicated."

The cardboard box project was kept a secret from the boys. "I disappeared three hours every night and glued cardboard together," Marty said, lauding the patience of his wife, Polly, who is a staff attorney at the Colorado Court of Appeals.

It took a month and a half of nightly construction work to create a spaceship worthy of fantasy space travel for the boys.

"I built it in the basement," Marty said. "I did it in secret so that I could surprise the boys. It's to the size now that it's too big to take outside. It's like building a boat in the basement."

"I built it in a remote section of the basement. The kids play upstairs more than downstairs. I camouflaged it with other materials right up until the very end," he said.

The boys were "completely snowed by it." Today both Max and Nick fit in the spaceship cockpit. However, Marty gives Max only another six months before he will outgrow his seat. Marty said there has been talk about "flushing it out more," by perhaps building a control panel that one boy could use outside while the other is inside the spaceship.

The boys have devised their own fantasy script for space travel. Marty says that no controls or dials were installed inside the spaceship, but the boys have drawn things in place. "They fly missions. They're shooting guns," he said.

When his sons outgrow the ship, Marty surmises that his sister's two-year-old twin boys might inherit it. He plans to cut off two sides that stick out in order to get the ship out of the basement. Then he will glue the sides back in place.

Marty claims that he is not a handyman, and so he believes that anyone could make a similar craft for their children. By using cardboard salvaged from trash recep-

tacles, Marty's budget was only \$20, which went into paint and glue.

"We always start with the materials," he explained. "Don't do too much design until you have the materials. On the front of the spaceship are guns that hexagon-shaped. Our toner came in them. I just painted them white and they were good to go. The triangle vents on the side are FedEx shipping tubes. Those kinds of great shapes would be really hard to make in cardboard. But you can glue them on and give the spaceship personality. Let what you have drive the personality."

Marty Gregg is at ArtHouse, 303-892-9816.

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Bike Racer Shares His Passion By Encouraging Others



Devin McCune

By Nancy Burkhardt

Stapleton resident Devin McCune has been a mountain bike and road racing racer on his own, with sponsors, for 13 years. But, this year, he decided to form a racing team, Racing Green MTB, in order to further his personal goals of environmental awareness and health benefits.

The 37-year-old biker rides every day. "Training during the week consists of commuting to and from downtown to work, then adding miles on for extra time, then weekends as well," McCune said. He rides about 130 miles a week, with a total of 6,000 miles in 2007.

The bike racing team today has seven members who share McCune's beliefs. "You can be really fast, but if you don't believe the bike is going to help preserve the environment and create better lifestyles...I probably wouldn't want you on my team," McCune said. "I want people to benefit from what I'm doing and from what the team is doing. I want to keep it manageable. I've raced with 30-40 people, and it becomes too much work."

Today the team is all male, but McCune is eager to have women join. "I would be interested in getting women on the team because I want to grow the sport," he said. "I want all people to be interested in riding bikes."

McCune's father, Pat, is a team member. "He definitely fits the hobbyist bill," Devin said. "He's always ridden to work. He's ridden 25 to 30 years. He's never raced, but has ridden. Maybe that's where I get it from."

Devin McCune has sponsors for his racing efforts: Pedal Pushers Cyclery in Lowry, and SouthEnders in Stapleton at East 23rd Avenue and Central Park Boulevard. They have enabled McCune to offer his team members discounts on his favorite mountain bike, Orbea.

"They sponsor because of the community outreach that I want to do with the environmental aspect, plus the racing team," McCune explained. "It's more than a bunch of guys trying to ride their bikes fast. It's engaging the community and sharing something that we enjoy."

Team members benefit from bike safety tips and hints on how to make riding enjoyable.

McCune's son, Seamus, who is 6 1/2 year old, doesn't race, but does ride his bicycle to the swimming pool in the summer, McCune said. He is teaching his son cycling responsibility.

"I think one of the things that intimidates people about riding is knowing how to be a defensive rider, knowing what to look for with cars, with traffic," McCune said. "People have the responsibility to be safe."

Racing Green MTB will have several events this summer, including a back-to-school riding program for kids in August. There also will be a June event to show riders how to get the most out of the June 25 Bike to Work Day on Colorado's Front Range.

For community biking event and team membership information, call Devin McCune at 303-882-9503 or e-mail him at dmcune7@hotmail.com. The Racing Green MTB website is at www.racinggreenmtb.com.



Randy Wittmer of the Mobile Cyclery provided advice and repairs for cyclists at Stapleton's Spring Fling on May 2nd. Randy's mobile bicycle repair shop goes to the customer for bike repairs. For more information visit MobileCyclery.com

June 25th is Bike to Work Day

By Devin McCune

The Denver metro area will be promoting its annual Bike to Work Day (BTWD) on June 25, 2008. The purpose of BTWD is to encourage people throughout the community to give biking to work a try. What might seem like a daunting challenge becomes more manageable with the support of riders and organized events that have been planned throughout the Denver area.

BTWD provides:

- Over 50 breakfast stations in the Denver area

- Maps with paths and roads suitable for riding marked
- Chances to win prizes for participation
- A safer ride since drivers are expecting bicyclists on BTWD

Stapleton and surrounding neighborhoods have the support of many local businesses and organizations to make BTWD a fun and safe experience. From breakfast stops in Quebec Square, the town center, Lowry and Park Hill to a bike repair station at the town center, many opportunities are in place to make BTWD easy.

- Pack your work clothes the night before, or bring them in earlier in the week.

To help prepare for BTWD, Racing Green MTB and the Stapleton TMA will be hosting an event on June 15 at SouthEnders to provide practical tips on commuting to and from the Stapleton area, and a Q&A session followed by a ride from Stapleton to downtown and back to allow participants a practice run. More details will be available in early June at www.racinggreenmtb.com.

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It's Greek To Me...

By Rich Marks

With summer quickly approaching, my mind starts to turn toward outdoor entertaining and light easy-to-prepare meals. I enjoy experimenting with different types of foods from all over the world and I have found one which lends itself very well to summer is Greek food – namely because ingredients are readily available and little indoor preparation is required. While the main ingredients of Greek cuisine are basic and few – the Mediterranean triad of grain, grapes (wine) and olives/olive oil, in addition to honey, yogurt, legumes, lamb and fish – the manner in which they are prepared has an endless variety and taste.

Perhaps the most important thing to know about Greek cuisine is that sharing dinner with family and friends is as important as the food itself. Consider a Greek themed dinner party and involve your guests (and take some of the work off your shoulders) by assigning them certain portions of the meal to prepare in advance – a gourmet twist on the old pot luck.



Mediterranean Herb Grilled Lamb or Chicken

Ancient Greeks rarely ate meat and when they did, it was often lamb that had been sacrificed to the gods. As such, lamb continues to be the primary meat staple in Greek cuisine. Americans don't seem to have the same fondness towards lamb and I have received much praise with the following recipe by substituting the lamb with chicken.

Marinade:

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 lemon (quartered, and squeezed)
- 3 sprigs each of fresh thyme and rosemary - finely chopped
- 4 crushed cloves of garlic.

Place 8 pieces of chicken (bone in or boneless) in a large ziplock bag and add marinade. Shake and refrigerate for up to 24 hours. Grill the chicken over medium heat turning frequently to prevent scorching until internal temperature reaches at least 160 degrees. Arrange the grilled chicken on a large platter and garnish with 1 pint of grape tomatoes (halved lengthwise), 6 ounces of pitted kalamata olives, and crumbles of peppered feta cheese (try Mt Vikos Fetiri with Cracked Pepper).

Fava Bean Puree with Grilled Flatbread

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 cups dried fava beans | Juice of 1/2 lemon |
| 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil | 1/2 cup plain yogurt |
| 1 large onion, finely chopped | 1 teaspoon minced garlic |
| Kosher Salt | Fresh dill for garnish |
| 3 cups water | Lemon sliced for garnish |

Place beans in a bowl, cover with water and soak overnight. Drain and remove skins.

Heat oil in a large saucepan, add onions and sauté until softened. Add beans, salt to taste, and water. Cover pan and simmer for 45 minutes, or until beans are soft. Add lemon juice, simmer for 5 more minutes, and puree mixture in a food processor until smooth. Chill until firm, drizzle yogurt sauce (plain yogurt mixed with lemon juice and garlic), and garnish with fresh dill and lemon slices.

Brush prepackaged flatbread with olive oil and place on grill for 5 minutes.

This dish is similar to hummus so if you are pressed for time, pick up your favorite pre-made hummus (my favorite is the Sabra brand with pine nuts).

Greek Salad

Also called a Village or Country salad in Greece, the classic Greek Salad contains chopped Romaine lettuce, halved grape tomatoes, sliced cucumber, sliced red onion, kalamata olives, and feta. Dress with vinaigrette.

Greek Vinaigrette:

- 1 shallot, diced
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 cup feta cheese, crumbled

Combine shallot, lemon juice, feta, oregano, and salt in a food processor. Gradually add oil with the processor running.

Rich Marks is a Stapleton resident and classically trained chef. His career has taken him through fine kitchens in restaurants, hotels, and catering services. Opting to spend more time with his family than in the kitchen, Rich now works for Atlanta Foods International, a supplier of gourmet and specialty foods to King Soopers, Whole Foods, and other markets throughout Colorado. Contact Chef Rich at 303-717-5451 or ramarks3@gmail.com.

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Let's Talk Teeth

by Dr. Brett Kessler
Town Center Dentistry and Orthodontics



Make Your Smile Great!

"I want a nicer smile," "I wish my teeth were whiter." Dentists hear these kinds of concerns every day. If you are considering a smile improvement, here are some of the options to "make your smile great."

Teeth Whitening (two options): In-office whitening is performed in the dental office. The whitening material is painted on the teeth and then exposed to a light source for a period of time. With take-home whitening the patient wears custom trays with the whitening agent for a certain period of time each day. This method allows you to determine how white you want to go. The clinical research indicates that the home whitening is the more predictable, longer lasting way to go. The in-office method is usually more expensive and is followed up with the take-home trays to achieve the desired results.

Veneers: A Veneer is a thin porcelain facing that is bonded to a tooth to change the size, shape and/or color of a tooth. The advantage of a veneer is that is a very conservative procedure in which the dentist removes less than 1 millimeter of your tooth enamel to make room for the veneer. If teeth are severely worn down or in an incorrect alignment, a crown may be a better choice. The crown is generally stronger than a veneer but more tooth structure must be removed to fabricate it correctly.

Bonding: Bonding is the application of a tooth colored resin to the tooth. It can be used in both the front and back teeth. The aesthetics are close to that of porcelain, but is not as strong or as stable with the color. It tends to stain as a result of foods or drinks that you might ingest. It is ideal for smaller, more conservative smile improvements. It also tends not to be as long lasting as veneers or crowns.

Orthodontics: If teeth are not in alignment, orthodontics is the most conservative way to improve your smile. There are many new options in orthodontics. Invisalign is a series of "invisible" retainers that move the teeth into place in a very controlled fashion. This is ideal for minor tooth movements. If the misalignment is too severe or if there are issues with your bite, traditional orthodontics is indicated. There are new clear brackets that are barely visible that work fast and precisely to get your teeth into proper position. Adult orthodontics can take from a few months to 24 months to achieve the desired results. Veneers, whitening, or bonding may still be indicated after orthodontics.

A smile enhancement can be a significant investment of time, money and effort. Spend some time getting to know your dentist. Ask to see actual photos of his/her work. Ask to speak to patients who have undergone similar procedures. It is imperative that you and your dentist communicate well together so you can be sure that you are getting the result that you want.

Brett and his wife Gina Kessler, DDS, MS are co-owners of Town Center Dentistry and Orthodontics. Dr. Brett is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Colorado, School of Dentistry,

Teachable Moments

by Tom Downey
Children's Museum of Denver



Making Family Fitness Fun

Summer is a great time for families to get fit and stay healthy. There are so many ways families can spend time together while being active and making healthy choices.

Fun is the key to family fitness! If everybody has fun, everybody will want to do it again, so choose activities the whole family will enjoy. Embrace the warm weather and get outdoors! Search your local papers for a calendar of family friendly festivals and events. Consider signing up for a family 5K run or walk. Or go for walks around the neighborhood and play Frisbee in the backyard.

You don't have to go far to stay active. In fact, you don't even need to leave the house! On rainy days, have a scavenger hunt. Call a search party of kids to find a long list of hidden items all around your home. You can turn it into a race, or put the kids in teams; there are many ways to put an extra spin on the hunt. It's not always easy to get moving indoors, so make sure they have to climb the stairs and search the far corners of the house.

Making healthy food choices is just as important as staying active. When you go to the grocery store, bring your children along. This might seem difficult, but challenge them to choose a new fruit or vegetable each time you go. When you get it home to try it out, they have some ownership and are excited about the new food they are about to eat. Be patient with your children, it may take longer than you think for kids to change their tastes. Just keep trying and encourage them to eat colorful fruits and vegetables!

Try holding a fruit and vegetable tasting for your children and their friends. Cut up different kinds of fruits and veggies and ask them all to try a little piece of each. They can even vote on the foods they like best! Blindfold them to challenge their sense of taste! Rather than buying sugar loaded popsicles, make Watermelon Ice. In a blender, place 1 cup of cubed seedless watermelon, ½ cups of cracked ice and a squeeze of lime juice. Blend it well, pour it into a cup and place it in the freezer until it's ready to serve!

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

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

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Community Garden Becomes A Reality

(with the accent on community)

The meaning of “community” became clear, as neighbors gathered and got acquainted while they dug the hard ground, rototilled, and brought wheel barrows full of top soil to the new community garden at 23rd and Spruce near the dog park (far right). With the help of Denver Urban Gardens and lots of donated labor, 37 ready-to-plant garden plots have emerged from what, not long ago, was an empty grassy area.

Right: Lindsey Butters jumps on a shovel to loosen the hard soil in preparation for the rototiller.



Lillian Baldiva hangs canvas banners decorated by local school children to provide a creative temporary fence for the garden.



Witt Young, 3, and his cousin Joe Yoder, 4, help turn the soil in a garden plot.



Dan Barry empties a wheelbarrow of top soil, while his son Cavan, 9, rakes and Xavier Francois, 2 pushes a truck through the garden plots.

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Steve Lawrence and Paul Means will teach a class on how to get a compost bin going.

Lewisite Again Detected at Rocky Mtn. Arsenal

While installing groundwater monitoring wells at the Lime Basins cleanup project, experts detected low levels of Lewisite in the air. Workers have been wearing protective equipment, but work on the project has been suspended.

Air monitoring samples at the project's perimeter are negative, the project site remains secured and regulatory officials have been notified. The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge remains closed.

For more information contact the site's Community Information Line at 303-289-0136 or the Tri-County Health Department's Rocky Mountain Arsenal Information Line at 303-286-8032 or visit www.rma.army.mil.

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Sustainability at Stapleton

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



New Leaf

June's topic:
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June issue at:
[stapletondenver.com/
Sustainability-New-Leaf.aspx](http://stapletondenver.com/Sustainability-New-Leaf.aspx)

Help Rotary Eradicate Polio

Father's Day Pancake Breakfast at Stapleton Farmers Market!

On Father's Day, Sunday June 15th, the Rotary Club of Denver Stapleton will host a pancake breakfast from 8:30-11:30 in conjunction with the opening day of the Stapleton Farmers Market in Founders' Green. All proceeds from this event will go to Rotary's worldwide campaign to eradicate polio.

In 1985 Rotary clubs worldwide committed to end polio, a crippling and sometimes fatal disease that paralyzes children. Today, polio has been eradicated in all but four countries—India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan. To illustrate how far we have come, polio infected nearly 1,000 children every day in 1988, but in 2007 fewer than 200 cases were reported for the entire year.

The Rotary Foundation has received a \$100 million grant from the Gates Foundation with the stipulation that Rotary will raise funds to match, dollar-for-dollar, over three years. All donations received at the pancake breakfast

will help the Stapleton club meet this Gates Foundation challenge.

The Rotary Club of Denver Stapleton was chartered by Rotary International in 1985, and currently has about 15 members. Rotary's motto is "Service above self." Stapleton's Rotary club conducts many community outreach projects in and around Stapleton. Past projects include a pancake breakfast in 2007, multiple clean ups of Westerly Creek, and providing volunteers for annual the Stapleton Recycling Event.

The club also sponsors two teenagers every year for leadership camps in Colorado. RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a life-changing leadership training program for young men and women where leadership skills and principles are learned, developed and enhanced in an atmosphere of trust and respect. The purpose of RYLA is to encourage and assist current and potential youth leaders in methods of responsible and effective leadership. Many past RYLArians have

said, "It was the best week of my life!"

Finally, the Rotary club also helps internationally. Recently the club provided funds for a clean water project in Guatemala and provided shelter boxes to victims of natural disasters around the world (tsunami, typhoon, earthquake, etc). The boxes include a weatherproof shelter, a warm bed, water purification, cooking utensils and a children's pack. The club is currently working on a radio project for emergency services in Papua New Guinea.

If you are interested in helping the Rotary Club of Denver Stapleton and having great flapjacks, then come to the Stapleton Farmers Market on June 15th from 8:30 – 11:30! The suggested donation will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

For more information about the club visit www.denverstapletonrotary.org or contact Matt Ackerman at 720-427-4718. To learn more about the fight to end polio visit www.rotary.org/en/endpolio.

EarthWorks Expo

The second annual EarthWorks Expo is being held June 21-22 at the Denver Merchandise Mart.

The 2008 Expo will feature an estimated 150 exhibitors, dozens of workshops, world-class keynote speakers and special programs for young people. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for youth. For tickets and more info, visit www.earthworks2008.com.

Basketball Hoops Obstructing Recycling Pickup

Stapleton is a very active community, as evidenced by the number of basketball hoops in the alleys! Please remember to pull your basketball hoop back onto your property once your game is finished. Denver Recycles is having difficulty collecting recycling in some alleys because basketball hoops block access to the alley and to recycling carts.



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www.westerracu.com/join

Montclair School Students Learn To Be Creative Problem Solvers

By Nancy Burkhardt

Children who attend preschool to 8th grade at the Montclair Academy in Lowry are encouraged to be creative problem-solvers who are global citizens.

"I think we're successful when we nurture kids who are socially and globally aware, while at the same time embracing self-awareness that leads to positive impact on a global level," explained Esther Tipton, Head of School at Montclair. "We are trying to tie in...everything with the theme of global citizenship."

"You have to understand yourself before you can understand someone else," she said.

Math and science are usually the tough subjects, but at Montclair, students are encouraged to be creative. The instruction for the recent Invention Convention was “What can you invent to make life easier or better for someone else in the world?” Students were graded on their research, data gathered and the model built, as well as their oral presentation and their “sales pitch.”

The winner, 13-year-old 7th grader Molly Casey, daughter of Joe and Sally Casey, invented a way for grocery shoppers to more easily get their shopping bags from the car into the house. She created dowel rods from which the bags can hang. The young entrepreneur is selling what she calls the “Handy Helper” for \$5 each.

Tipton calls Montclair's science and math teacher, Tim Langston, "phenomenal." "He's excited. He spends a lot of time looking for ideas that will spark kids' interest," she said.

Langston's students recently built a model rollercoaster in the Academy's hallways. Students had to figure out physics problems to make it work. They were instructed to enable a marble to travel from the top of the rollercoaster, through the loops, and wind up on a platform touching an egg – without breaking it.

The students also were given crude tools to build an insulator for an egg. Then the insulators were dropped from the top of the building to see if the egg would survive.

Classes are capped at 16-18 students for the upper grades, according to Tipton. “We want to have more



Montclair School students Ryan Floyd, Sonia Bhasin, John Knetemann and Molly Casey inside the planetarium they constructed using black plastic sheeting blown up using a fan. Constellations are visible above their heads.

individual attention.”

Molly Casey also garnered top honors for her entry in the Ruckus Nation Invention competition. Her invention was a video game using a cell phone keypad format called “Txt It!” The game combines texting with exercising in an attempt to encourage teens to adopt an active lifestyle. Molly won \$25,000 for her game’s patent.

The idea for “Txt It!” came to Molly when she and her parents were in Florida where her mother was attending a health conference. “There was a media campaign to get kids moving and active,” Molly said. “That inspired us to come up with a game that gets kids moving. My mind stored it to use later.

“My teachers really inspire me to go out there and think of new, inventive ways to solve problems,” she said.

Students are encouraged to use advanced thinking and creativity. Academy students have Spanish classes from preschool through 8th grade, and Japanese from 4th through 8th grades. Starting

in early kindergarten, students begin learning 12 basic phrases in 12 additional languages, such as Swahili, Hindi, Lakota, German, French and American Sign Language.

Tipton emphasizes global awareness in the Academy's activities, such as a recent 20/20 Challenge, sponsored by the National Association of Independent Schools. The Academy's 6th, 7th and 8th graders partnered with a school in British Columbia, Canada to find solutions to 20 global issues in 20 years.

"Our school worked on global poverty," Tipton explained.

Montclair Academy is accepting registration for fall classes for preschool through 8th graders.

For Montclair Academy
information, call Barbara Raymor,
Director of Admissions, at

303-366-7588, go to the Academy website at www.montclairacademy.org.



Students from Mr. Langston's science class gather outside of the planetarium they built.

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Park Hill Project Works for Bike - Friendly By-Ways

A community project, called the Park Hill Bike Depot, has opened at 2825 Fairfax St., to encourage safe bike riding throughout the neighborhood and increase active lifestyles and healthy living.

Park Hill and surrounding area residents have an opportunity to earn a used bicycle through participation in a variety of programs offered by the Bike Depot. Education classes and services will aid participants in learning biking and safety skills.

The Park Hill Bike Depot was built and is staffed by Park Hill Thriving Communities, a Live Well Colorado initiative, Recycle Bicycles, the Denver City Bike Planner, local business representatives, Denver Parks

and Recreation and Park Hill residents.

“By increasing access to bicycles, more individuals can make healthy lifestyle choices and become more physically active,” said Elaine Borton, Program Manager of Park Hill Thriving Communities. “We want to build the Park Hill neighborhood as a safe, bike-friendly environment and support policies that promote bicycle access and use and ‘complete streets.’”

The Bike Depot is open from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. To volunteer and to learn about bike donations and program participation, call Gabi Tobar at 303-393-1963, or go to www.thebikedepot.org.

The East High School Class of 1988 is Looking for YOU!

The class reunion is set for August 8, 2008 and your help is needed. If you graduated from East in 1988 or know someone who did, please email John Carranza at jmcarranza@comcast.net so you can get on the distribution list.

UN International Day Event to Honor Torture Victims & Refugees

Speeches, Kids Activities at Roberts School June 22nd

The United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture and World Refugee Day will be celebrated by the Rocky Mountain Survivors Center from 3 to 8 p.m. Sunday, June 22, at the Bill Roberts School in Stapleton, 2100 Akron Way.

The Rocky Mountain Football Club will do a soccer exhibition, and the Colorado CLASH will sponsor children's

soccer games. There will be a variety of children's activities, speeches by dignitaries and an international cultural presentation by torture survivors and refugees.

A picnic, adult and children's soccer games and other activities will be from 3-5 p.m., followed by speeches.

For information, call the Rocky Mountain Survivors Center at 303-321-3221.

HomeStart Conference Targets 1st Time Buyers

Qualified buyers may receive up to \$3,500 toward closing costs

By Janeen Cameron

American Sunrise Communities (ASC), a nationwide non-profit organization working with Forest City Stapleton, Inc., is educating potential homebuyers on the affordable home buying process, and urging prospective buyers to register now for a free June 21st conference to learn about affordable home buying opportunities at Stapleton.

The HomeStart Conference will be held on Saturday, June 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Denver Improv Theatre, located at 8246 E. 49th Avenue, across from Borders Books in Stapleton's Northfield Retail Center. The HomeStart Conference will educate potential buyers about Affordability and Deed Requirements, Money Management, and Homebuyer Counseling programs, as well as provide information about Stapleton's 29th Drive Row Homes, which feature all new designs consisting of one, two and three bedroom units with

attached garages. The 29th Drive Row Homes are priced from \$114,400 to \$169,400 (prices and specifications subject to change without notice.) These “income-qualified” homes may only be purchased by individuals whose annual household gross income (before taxes) does not exceed \$40,200 for a household of one person to a maximum of \$66,650 for a household of six people.

In order to attend the free conference, interested buyers must register either by calling 1-888-AM-SUN-CO (888-267-8626) or register on-line at www.stapletondenver.com or www.americansunrise.org. Space is limited and participants must arrive between 9:30 and 9:50 a.m. on the day of the conference to be admitted.

Janeen Cameron is Program Director for American Sunrise Communities. She may be reached at jcameron@amsun.org

CALENDAR CONTINUED (From Page 2)

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Every Wednesday

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

3rd Tuesday

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

1st Wednesday

“1st Wednesdays” Home-based businesses
[see StapletonLife.com – most mtgs 11:30am - 1pm]

2nd Wednesday

(Odd numbered months)
SUN Transportation Committee 6:30pm
MCA Conference Rm, 2823 Roslyn St.
[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 – 6:30pm
MCA Community Room
2823 Roslyn Street
[stapletonneighbors@msn.com]

2nd Saturday

NE Denver/Park Hill MS Self-Help
& Support Group, Dist. 2 Police Station
10:15-11:45am – 3821 Holly St.
[Lillie 303-329-0619]

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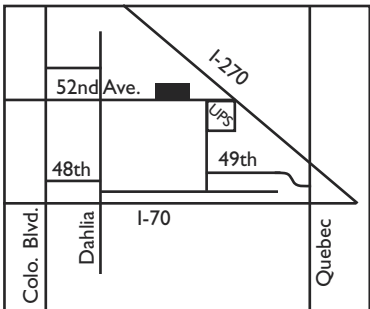


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Charity Chase June 14

Charity Chase, an outdoor run/walk event for the entire family, will be held in Stapleton's Central Park on Saturday, June 14. Different levels offer a place for all members of the family, including a 5k Run, 5k Walk and a 1k Family Fun Walk & Stroll, which welcomes leashed dogs.

The 5K Run/Walk begins at 9 a.m., with the Family Fun Walk & Stroll at 9:45 a.m. Free T-shirts, refreshments and goodie bags go to the participants. Fees range from \$10 to \$30, depending on the event and event group.

Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Centers, which provide food, clothing, rent, medicine and utility assistance to prevent homelessness, will benefit from Charity Chase proceeds.

"We hope everyone takes this opportunity to spend time with their family as well as provide help and create hope for people in need," said race organizers Judy Megyesy and Sharon Teufel.

Go to www.ccdenvr.org/events, or call 303-742-0823, ext. 3551, to register or volunteer for the Charity Chase.

Saturday mornings starting June 7 2008 Story Hour in City Park

Beginning Saturday, June 7 at 10am, local community leaders will read and share stories with children, families and neighbors of all ages in Denver's City Park. After the stories kids can enjoy cookies and lemonade. Each week one lucky family can win a copy of one of the books read.

Story Hours will be held through July 5th, and will last one hour. They will take place outside the historic Graham-Bible House on the west side of City Park at the corner of 21st and York. Parking is available in the Park and along 21st Avenue. The event is sponsored by City Park Alliance, Denver Parks & Rec and the Tattered Cover Bookstore. In 2007, readers included Colorado First Lady Jeanne Ritter, City Councilman Michael Hancock, School Board Member Jeanne Kaplan as well as other local leaders. For more information visit www.cityparkalliance.org

Denver Boards and Commissions Need You!

By Anthony Aragon

A special group of Denverites is hard at work behind the scenes, making recommendations to the City's elected officials and departments. Approximately 1,000 Denver citizens serve on 130 City boards, commissions, task forces and councils, which provide an opportunity for citizens to get more involved with local government and the community.

- Advisory councils are the eyes and ears for the Mayor and the City for key issues in the community.
 - Appeals boards hear citizens' complaints or requests for variances from city laws such as zoning or building codes.
 - Policy commissions act in an advisory capacity to City agencies about management, policies and budget.
 - Short-term task forces research specific issues to make recommendations to the City.
- Mayor Hickenlooper and the Denver Office of Boards and Commissions are seeking qualified and excited applicants for positions year-round. The Office of Boards and Commissions is currently accepting applications for the following vacancies:
- Denver Community Corrections Board
 - Health & Hospital Authority Board of Directors
 - Metro Wastewater Reclamation District
 - Denver Planning Board
 - Stapleton Development Corp. Board of Directors
 - Denver Women's Commission

A member's commitment and scope depends on the specific board or commission, which can meet yearly, monthly or weekly. Most appointments are unpaid, voluntary positions.

If you are interested in applying, please visit the Boards and Commissions Web site at www.Denvergov.org/boards_and_commissions to learn about each board and its qualification requirements, meeting times and locations. Send the one-page application, cover letter, and resume or bio to Anthony Aragon, Director of Boards & Commissions, at Anthony.Aragon@denvergov.org.

For more information, call Anthony Aragon at 720-865-9034.

Design of

Employees from EDAW (the landscape architecture firm that designs Stapleton's parks) and students from the Odyssey School of Denver gathered in Autumn Park at Stapleton on May 2nd to dedicate four new parks. The four "Seasons Parks" are located along Dayton Street north of Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard and provide panoramic views of the Front Range and easy access to trails on Westerly Creek. The design of each park is based on one of the four seasons.

In 2006 Odyssey school students participated in a poetry competition with a "seasons" theme. The parks' architects designed the parks based on the seasons theme, and integrated the poems into the parks' landscaping.

Winter Park

Winter Park on 34th Avenue has a "snowflake plaza" and boulders that frame the winter solstice against the Front Range. The plants were designed to screen the cold wind and provide texture and interest throughout the winter months. A block of "Staplestone" (a remnant of the Stapleton Airport runways) is set into one of the park's small mounds that

can be used as a small sledding hill.

Emma Dean's poem is engraved in a plaque mounted to the stone:

*Snow, a powdery white cloud that lay upon the ground
I look at the snow from my front porch and see two new footprints
And wonder where that will take me.*



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“Season Parks” Inspired by Odyssey Students’ Poetry



From left: Matthew Murdoch, Emma Dean, Maggie Joe Hernandez and Madison Kukucka blow bubbles at the conclusion of the ceremony dedicating the four “Season Parks” in Northeast Stapleton. The four Odyssey students won a contest to write poetry with a “seasons” theme. Their poems were integrated into the design of each of the four parks that depict a season. A line from Madison’s Poem appears on the trellis above their heads at Autumn Park.



Autumn Park

Madison Kuckucka penned the poem for the Autumn Park on 33rd Avenue. The plants are radiant and warm colored during in the fall season. An outdoor fireplace under the pergola welcomes park visitors to enjoy a cool fall evening and magnificent views of Mt. Evans.
*A walk through fall
A breeze in my hair
The crunch underfoot
A crispness in the air
Red gold and brown
Fall is here*

Spring Park

Matthew Murdoch’s poem was fitting for the dedication day as the Spring Park was bursting into bloom, forecasting the approaching change in seasons.
*A single blade of grass
has broken through the snow.
Something so small,
but the beginning of
so much more.*



Summer Park

Maggie Hernandez wrote the winning poem for Summer Park on Emporia Court, where outdoor play is the dominant design element.
*Winter and spring
winnowed away...
Summer is here
and here to stay...
Birds hum
in pure melodies...
Butterflies flap
elegant wings.*





Breast pain is a common problem.

Breast pain is one of the most common complaints in women, especially those of reproductive age. If you are a woman between the ages of 18-45 and have cyclical breast pain and regular menstrual cycles, you may be interested in a clinical research study. Horizons Clinical Research Center, LLC is conducting a clinical research study for women who experience the uncomfortable symptoms of breast pain.

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Deconstructing Anxiety



Hilary Silver

By Hilary Silver

Anxiety Defined

We all experience anxiety from time to time. It is safe to say that we've all been slightly nervous or worried about a specific situation, such as making a speech in front of a crowd, going to work the first day of a new job or watching the value of our homes take a dive due to the downturn in the economy. This would be considered a healthy and manageable anxiety.

The more severe forms of anxiety present as intrusive thoughts, irrational worries and fears. This kind of anxiety is invasive to your everyday functioning. You may go out of your way to avoid certain situations, such as riding in an elevator or attending a social function. You might feel uneasy or even experience a panic attack.

What's behind your anxiety?

What do all of these various forms of anxiety have in common? The truth is, all of these fears and worries share one common fear: the fear that you can't handle the situation at hand- which includes the inability to manage your feelings. If you truly believe in yourself and your abilities, you would know that you CAN handle ANY situation. You would know that no matter what kind of circumstances are involved, you have the inner resources to get through them and come out on the other side just fine.

So where did you learn that you CAN'T handle any situation, or that you aren't capable of making good decisions?? You can find the answer by tuning into your very own

voice...you know, the one in your head that won't stop singing that song, or the one that talks to you all day and night whether you are paying attention or not. This "voice" is you-- and is often a terribly harsh judge and critic. If your thoughts are negative and distorted in ways that are irrational and unbalanced, you will feel lousy and anxious.

The Solution

You can choose to alter your negative and irrational pattern of thinking and create a more balanced and rational perspective. Instead of focusing on the one or two times you may not have had the results you wanted from a situation, shift your attention to the many (I guarantee they exist) positive experiences in your life that you are overlooking. Think about the many times you made a decision that DID work out for you, or the many times you WERE successful in getting through a challenging experience. These are the events and outcomes that will be the evidence you need to support your new perspective. Catch yourself thinking negatively about yourself and offer an alternate interpretation of the very same situation. This is how you can begin to unravel the exhausting effects of anxiety.

If you are suffering from anxiety to the point that you avoid certain situations or have to alter your daily living activities, you would benefit from seeking professional help. Speak to your physician or find a therapist you trust, because medications and/or therapy can reduce symptoms of anxiety to a minimum.


Hilary Silver is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a private practice in Denver. She specializes in anxiety, depression, transitions and adjustments and relationship conflict and intimacy with individuals and couples. She can be reached at 720-935-7393 or www.hilarysilvertherapy.com.

District Two

A citizens' committee in Northeast Denver has selected two police officers to be honored as "Top Cops" in Denver Police District Two, which includes Stapleton and the surrounding neighborhoods.



Selected as the "Top Cop" for the month of March 2008 was Officer Brendon Keefer, who joined the Denver Police Department two years ago. On March 23rd, Officer Keefer responded to a report of a juvenile with a gun. Upon the arrival of Officer Keefer and other assisting officers, 2 juveniles matching the descriptions reported were observed at a bus stop. The two individuals were contacted and frisked, however, no weapon was found. The citizen who placed the call to police was contacted by phone and met at a location close by to prevent the suspects from seeing him. The caller said he had seen one of the juveniles behind a nearby store with a handgun tucked into his waist band in apparent preparation to commit a robbery. When the caller approached the youth and demanded the weapon, the juveniles had run toward a bus stop. A short span of time had elapsed between the time of the call and the two youths were contacted by police, indicating the weapon was hidden close by.

A plan was formulated in which Officer Keefer left and went to a location where he could observe the juveniles from a discreet area with binoculars after the other officers left. Soon after the officers left, Officer Keefer observed one of the juveniles stand up on a bus bench and act as a lookout while the other juvenile went to a



Feeling the pain caused by endometriosis?

If you're a woman age 18 to 49, have a surgical diagnosis of endometriosis, have regular menstrual cycles, and experience pelvic pain caused by endometriosis you're invited to see if you may qualify for the Lilac Petal Study. The purpose of the research study is to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication for the management of pelvic pain associated with endometriosis. Physicians in your area are currently conducting the study. Qualified participants will receive investigational study medication, study-related medical exams, and lab tests at no charge. Financial compensation for time and travel may also be available.



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Better Communication for Dads and Daughters

By Rich Batten

The impact and influence fathers have on their daughters during childhood and adolescence is incredibly long lasting. Research continues to show that girls who have fathers who are positively involved in their lives do better in school, are more likely to become confident adults and less likely to become sexually active at an early age.

But as teenage girls grow older, many fathers find themselves feeling distanced from their daughters. Oftentimes communication can be difficult, strained or even awkward for fathers and daughters, especially as girls reach adolescence. Gary Burns, father of three, created the COM-MU'-NI-CA'-TION game as a way to reconnect with his own daughter. The game is a convenient and practical way for all fathers to spend meaningful time with their daughters.

The COM-MU'-NI-CA'-TION game is designed for fathers with daughters' ages 10 or older. The game begins with father and daughter going to a restaurant. They take cards included with the game that contain thoughtful questions such as, "I'll never forget the time you _____." The bottom of each card says, "I say that because _____," which allows for fathers and daughters to elaborate on their feelings, promoting further conversation. If a father and daughter play the game once a month, they will have enough

materials to cover more than two years worth of activities. To order the game visit www.thecommunicationgame.com/coloradodads/

Fathers have been given an incredible opportunity to show their daughters how men can be positive, loving and respectful individuals in their lives. The relationships we have with our daughters impact how they view not only others but themselves as well.

In October 2006, the Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado Works Division was awarded a \$10 million federal grant over five years to strengthen father/child relationships and improve parenting. Colorado is one of two locations nationwide, including Washington, D.C., to receive this federal community access grant. The Responsible Fatherhood Initiative distributes more than \$1.1 million in community awards to state, community and faith based organizations to assist in providing direct services to fathers and families. Awards of up to \$50,000 are distributed per program per fiscal year. For more information, please visit www.coloradodads.com.

Rich Batten is a family and fatherhood specialist with the Colorado Department of Human Services. He can be reached at rich.batten@state.co.us. Information on fatherhood programs across the state is available through the Families First Support Line 1.877.695.7996

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Police Officers Honored

thick area of juniper bushes directly behind the bus stop. Officers were then instructed to return to the bus stop and re-contact the 2 juveniles. When they returned, Officer Keefer checked the bushes where one of the juvenile had been seen and located a loaded .22 cal revolver which matched the description provided by the caller. The individual was charged with Possession of a Weapon by a Juvenile. Both individuals, who claimed they were members of a violent street gang, were found to have prior arrests for felony crimes.

The April Top Cop for District Two was Officer Jeffrey Jenkins, an eight year veteran of the Denver Police Department, who was honored for making several arrests. On one occasion, Officer Jenkins observed a man trespassing in a closed business lot. Having reasonable suspicion that the party may be



Brendon Keefer



Jeffrey Jenkins

attempting to burglarize the business, Officer Jenkins attempted to contact him and obtain an explanation of his activities, but the man fled on foot resulting in a foot chase. Officer Jenkins was able to clearly transmit his actions and directions, which enabled other officers to respond quickly. The suspect eventually ran into the South Platte River in an attempt to elude the officer. Officer Jenkins was able to get the suspect to exit the river prior to the suspect wading far enough in to get caught in the fast moving and dangerous currents. The suspect was placed under arrest without further incident.

The Top Cop Citizens Committee commended both officers for their excellent police work and their dedication, as well as the dedication of their fellow officers, to serve and protect the citizens of Northeast Denver.

Denver Preschool Program Conducts Community Outreach

The Denver Preschool Program (DPP) is conducting a community outreach program to educate families about preschool education importance. The plan is to hike program enrollment to 3,800 children and 300 available preschool classes by next fall.

DPP offers tuition credits for use at any preschool to families of all income levels. Grants are available for preschools in order to improve the quality of their programs with teacher professional development and new and updated classroom materials and equipment. "In Colorado, kindergarten teachers report that one-third of (all) children come to school unprepared to learn, a trend we aim to change by increasing availability to affordable quality preschool programs for every child in Denver," said James Mejia, DPP Chief Exec-

utive Officer. "The tools... will help us reach families both online and out in the community to educate them about the benefits available through DPP." Denver voters created the Denver Preschool Program with a 2006 ballot initiative that recognized the importance of quality early childhood education. It provided one-twelfth of one percent of sales tax revenues for improvement grants for preschool providers and tuition credits that families may use at the preschool of their choice.



Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, with the help of Hope Center Preschool kids, launches an outreach campaign to raise awareness for the Denver Preschool Program. Behind the Mayor are James Mejia, CEO of the Denver Preschool Program and DPS Superintendent Michael Bennet.

Local Pre-School Starts 1st Grade Program

Primrose Schools has announced the fall inception of a blended classroom for Private Kindergarten/1st Grade on the Reunion campus, after getting a perfect score in their Standard of Excellence accreditation and validation.

The blended classroom will give children who learn more quickly an accelerated learning opportunity in a small class size with a low teacher/student ratio. This will give students more one-on-one time with teachers. Primrose Schools has facilities in Thornton, Stapleton and Reunion. Although the blended classroom will be offered only at Reunion, Stapleton and Thornton students will be provided with transportation to the program. The Reunion campus is located at 17050 E. 103rd Ave., in Commerce City. For information call 303-271-1237.

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Gerie Grimes, Executive Director of the Hope Center, Mayor Hickenlooper and James Mejia, CEO of Denver Preschool Program watch as Hope Center preschoolers tour the "Preschool Express" van which will travel to community events to promote the program.

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The SUN Board meets at 6:30pm
on the 4th Thursday of every month at the
Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn Street.

Thousands of Stapletonites Celebrate Block Party Day 2008

By Mark Mehringer and Heather Baker

Over the past few years, Stapleton has developed some traditions that are only getting better from one year to the next. Block Party Day (BPD) is one such tradition, and it was a great success once again in 2008! On May 17, thousands of Stapletonites across our neighborhood joined in a block party, whether only with people from their block, or in a joint party with multiple blocks. Some blocks chose alternate dates, but the spirit of "getting to know your neighbors" was still part of the festivities.

Here is a rundown of Block Party Day 2008:

- Prior to block party day, a group of terrific SUN volunteers helped organize a postcard mailing to all Stapleton residents to revitalize the block captain network. This effort has helped boost the number of block captains from a low of under 60, to more than 100!
- SUN scaled back some of its give away items and freebies this year, but still had cups left over from 2007 to give to new blocks or blocks who didn't receive their reusable cups last year. SUN also contacted the Fire Depart-

ment to let them know about the parties, and request a truck stop at as many parties as they could reasonably visit.

- One block captain helped arrange for a group discount on bouncy castles - something that may be popular next year.

- Some blocks chose to collect money for catering, bouncy castles for kids, face painters and balloon artists, and others got together in the common courtyard to have a potluck. Most block parties were somewhere in between. A few had bands play - by most accounts at least one band member was a Stapleton resident,

and they provided music for their neighbors for free.

- SUN has also continued the tradition started last year. We will hold our 2nd Annual Block Organizers Appreciation Party, as our neighborhood would not be the true community it is without them and everything they do.

SUN's goal in founding Block Party Day 4 years ago was to encourage such neighborly spirit. One of the best ways to foster better understanding, keep our streets safer, and to generally help each other more, is to get to know each other. Whether your block is 10 units or 24 houses, it is important that you know your neighbors - even if by face. Block maps and directories are also an big part of the getting-to-know-each other process, and keep communication going year round...until you have your next block party! (And you don't have to wait another year to do it).

Now that you have had a chance to get to know or reconnect with your neighbors, you might want to start making plans for the 5th Annual SUN Kickball Tournament to be held in September. Check the July SUN Spot for details.

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Letters to the Editor

The Front Porch will publish letters to the editor as space allows. Please mail your letters to: Tom Gleason, editor, The Front Porch, Forest City Stapleton, Inc., 7351 E. 29th Ave., Denver, CO 80238. Or email: TGleason@StapletonDenver.com

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Keven A. Burnett, Executive Director

Stapleton Pools Are Open! Stapleton residents now have three public community pools to enjoy this summer. All of the pools at Stapleton are designed to work together. Each is designed slightly different to provide different programming; each has specific hours that best meet the needs of the people that frequent the facility.

Aviator Pool Located at 28th and Uinta, has a capacity of 288 swimmers and offers a variety of aquatics programming. Stapleton offers swim programs for youth as well as adults. Most programs require a minimum number of pre-registered participants. The diving well and largest surface area makes Aviator our most versatile pool. Aquatics programming runs from 8am – noon during the week, opening for open swim at 12 noon on weekdays and 11am on weekends.

Puddle Jumper Pool Located at 24th and Xenia, is our children focused pool, with a capacity of 350 swimmers and opens daily at 10am. Puddle Jumper offers a zero entry area and shallow infant and toddler areas. Abundant fountains and spray jets offer a fun experience for our youngest and family users.



F-15 The community’s newest pool, is located at 28th and Geneva in filing 15. This pool will offer two dedicated swim lanes available during all hours of operation. This facility features a capacity of over 300, large lawn areas and a full size playground. The F-15 pool will open daily at 11am. Aquatics programming will run weekdays from 9-11am.

Stapleton pools are public facilities and opened on a “first come first serve” basis. All users are required to pay user fees. Stapleton residents pay their user fees through their monthly assessments and are issued “Stapleton Resident Pool ID” cards. Cards are valid as long as residents are current with their monthly assessments. All other individuals who do not have a current Stapleton Resident Pool ID card must pay the daily use fee. Daily use fees are: children (1-10 years) and seniors (65 & older), \$3 per day. Teens and Adults, \$7 per day.

Stapleton pools often operate at capacity. We are mandated by the State of Colorado not to exceed pool capacity and must abide by all applicable laws for our pools. Pool capacity is roughly 300 – 350 people per pool.

Stapleton pools will occasionally close during the day due to weather conditions or for public health reasons. Please understand that the aquatics staff must follow all rules to protect the public health.

Summer Markets Stapleton features two distinct communities markets to serve the neighborhoods needs. The Sweet Williams Market which occurs the last Saturday each month offers a variety of antiques and home décor items. The Stapleton Farmers Market is a weekly event occurring every Sunday. The Farmers Market features a variety of seasonal produce and other local items. Both markets will be located in Founders Green at the 29th Ave. Town Center.

For a complete list of summer events and all other community information please log onto the Stapleton community website at www.StapletonCommunity.com.

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Harriet Robinson Butcher

By Wallace Yvonne Tollette

Denver native, Harriet Butcher, loves to dance. At age 85, however, she's not quite as agile as she once was, but she continues to share her tap dancing talent with others as a teacher at the Hiawatha Davis, the Martin Luther King and the Red Shield Community Centers. So the gift and love of dance is still very much a big part of her life.

The fact that she has been able to dance at all is something short of a miracle. As a youngster, she was crippled by rickets and had to wear braces and high top shoes for a long time and was about three years old before she could even walk. Her ability to dance was a natural gift but, early on, she was too shy to dance in public and she was ashamed of her legs. Having outgrown both of those handicaps, she has been dancing ever since. Professional opportunities, however, never came her way.

When Harriet was two years old, her mother died and she and her brother James Robinson (now deceased), were raised by their grandmother until she was nine years old. Life for them was not real stable and they moved around a lot—being shuttled between family members. After a time, Social Services got involved and tried to keep the two children together until they were

old enough to take care of themselves.

Early on, they lived with cousins in Cheyenne, Wyoming for a time; returned to Denver, then went to St. Paul, Minnesota and also to Chicago. Harriet's formative years were largely spent in Denver, however, where she attended neighborhood schools—Whittier, Cole and Manual. She eventually graduated from the Emily Griffith Opportunity School in Denver. While Harriet's forte was dancing, her brother, James, mastered the saxophone and clarinet becoming a professional musician as an adult.

Their father, James B. Robinson, Sr., was a tap dancer who worked on the railroad as manager of the club car. He was called a "hoofer," which is the informal name for a professional dancer, especially a tap dancer.

He introduced the latest dances in the different towns where he traveled. Harriet remembers him as a proud man who was very particular about his appearance. He always wore the best suits and kept them clean, pressed and neat with no wrinkles.

Perhaps her father's love and gift of dancing was passed on to Harriet and it especially blossomed during the Depression years. Families were struggling to make ends meet and there was absolutely no money for artistic endeavors, so families became very creative around the

arts, especially dance and music.

She also recalled that now-deceased popular piano teacher, Irene McWilliams, had a daughter, Francelia, who was a dancer and who influenced Harriet greatly. Since there weren't arts and other cultural events for the low-income, members of the community formulated their own entertainment including dance, music and other impromptu arts activities. During this period, Harriet was able to enhance her dancing skills, learned to play piano and to sing.

Her passion for dance, however, was also fueled by activities that were provided for youngsters at school during recess. A lady by the name of Vera Duncan supervised the playground and taught tap dancing at Mitchell Elementary. The students were so talented, they became in demand for community performances. The mothers made costumes and the children performed at schools, lodges, Masonic halls and anywhere else they could. Harriet discovered that she didn't have to buy shoes as often as long as her shoes had taps on them. The taps prevented the wearer from running their shoes lopsided.

When asked about some of the dances of the times, Ms. Butcher remembered that the Charleston was probably among the first of the major dances. Generally in four/four time, it was a lively ballroom dance popular in the 1920s and introduced side kicks from the knee.

On the heels of the Charleston came the Lindy Hop in the 1930s and 1940s. According to the *World Book Dictionary*, "The Lindy" was named after aviator, Charles Lindbergh because of his flying exploits. And the Lindy Hop allowed a lot of on-beat free-style moves. Next, according to Ms. Butcher, was the jitter bug noted for its fancy stepping, swinging the partner out, twirling and acrobatic moves and ultimately having the couple come back together in time with the music.

Then the swing dance was introduced. Also called the Texas Hop, it was off beat and much slower. Ms.



In the early '90s Harriet Butcher organized The Park Hill Tappers tap dance group, shown above in a parade.



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– Still Dancing



With a tape of Count Basie playing, Harriet Butcher shows off her dancing in the gym at the Martin Luther King recreation center.

Butcher recalled that the late, Sammy Davis, Jr. became a master of the swing dance and she remembers seeing him dance at the Roxy Theatre on Welton Street here in Denver “back in the day.”

In about 1990, she organized the Park Hill Tappers tap dance group, a group of seniors who entertained at nursing homes, senior facilities and other venues for over ten years.

Interestingly enough, Harriet’s mother, Agnes Hogan Robinson, had absolutely no connection with the arts. She was a draughtsman (known today as a draftsman) who drew plans for contractors. It is not known how or where she acquired that skill.

In addition to her gift of dance, Harriet became the first Black salesperson at the Denver JC Penney Department Store in 1959. Painful memories still linger from that experience. Management would use Black stock girls to write up a sales ticket, but white sales girls got the commission.

A 50+ year member of the People’s Presbyterian Church, she retired in 1988 from the City and County of Denver, Department of Social Services as a city clerk. She will probably ascend into heaven tap dancing.

Wallace Yvonne Tollette, a resident of northeast Denver, is the author of “Colorado Black Leadership Profiles,” which tells the stories of over 700 notable African Americans from Colorado. She can be reached at westernimages@juno.com or by phone at 303-830-1691.

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