

Front Porch

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

Pull-Out
Election
Guide

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

OCTOBER 2008

Unrest Brings Somalis to New Life in Stapleton



Rasulo Rasulo, holding his son, Abdilahi Aahamud, 2, and his wife, Habiba Talasow, with their daughter, Asha Mahamud, 4, stand in their plot at the Stapleton community garden near their home at the Parkside Apartments.

By Nancy Burkhart

Rasulo Rasulo is of Somali Bantu ethnicity, and was born in Somalia, but because he spent 12 years in

Kenyan refugee camps, he says he considers himself to be Kenyan.

Rasulo, his wife Habiba Talasow, and their 4-year-old daughter, Asha Mahamud, have

been in Denver just over three years. A son, Abdilahi Mahamud, was born two years ago. Rasulo and Habiba met and married while they were in the Kenyan refugee camps. They

came to Denver with their Somali Bantu community of 66 people in 45 families. Originally, the group had applied to Canada, but the United States (continued on page 23)

Kites Fly for International Peace



Jane Parke-Ambrose with one of her huge kites that will be flown at this month's "One Sky One World" event being held at Stapleton's Central Park on October 12th from 10am to 4pm.

By Nancy Burkhart

It was 1985, before the Berlin wall fell and before glasnost, when former Stapleton resident and kite artist Jane Parker-Ambrose traveled to the Soviet Union on an educational tour and decided that a kite could make a difference in international peace.

"She decided she wanted to make a kite and fly it in Red Square, and then present it

(continued on page 4)

League of Women Voters

Pull-Out Election Guide

Following page 12, The Front Porch has reprinted the League of Women Voters' nonpartisan guide to the issues on the Denver ballot. With 18 amendments and referenda to be decided, the ballot is unusually long this year. We hope you will save the enclosed election guide in order to make informed decisions when you vote this fall.

If you want to get involved in a campaign...



For those who want to get involved, contact information for the Republican and Democratic campaigns is listed on page 21.



Printed with soy-based ink. Paper contains 40% postconsumer waste.

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Technology
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Stapleton
Public
Forum
Oct. 14

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Delaney Stephen, "almost 5," rides her bike past trees that are showing their fall colors.



CALENDAR

Events in or near Stapleton that are free and open to the public or charitable fundraisers. Additional events are listed on page 10.

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 2

Free Stop Smoking Seminar 7pm
MCA Community room, 2823 Roslyn St
Brenda Kaye 720-261-4558

Thursday, October 2

Stapleton Education Forum 6-8pm DSST, 2000
Valentia St. [juliat@milehighlaw.com]

Saturday, October 4

Free first Saturday
Denver Art Museum, 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy
720-865-5000 www.denverartmuseum.org

Monday, October 6

Free – Active Minds Seminar "Putin's Russia"
Sponsored by the Stapleton Foundation, 7pm
7530 E. 29th Ave., #300, 303-468-3223

Saturday, October 11

Fall Festival, Founders Green, 2 - 6pm
Hay rides, games, inflatables, pumpkins, music
and more. Jennifer Graham [303-388-0724
info@stapletoncommunity.com]

Saturday, October 11

Fall Planting at Bluff Lake 8am-12:30pm
Includes breakfast & lunch; Register at:
mevans@blufflake.org or 303-344-1836

Sunday, October 12th

Stapleton presents the One Sky One World
International Kite Festival (see pages 1&3)
Central Park 10am - 4pm

Tuesday, October 14th

SUN/CAB/Forest City Forum, 7pm
Bill Roberts School
Tom Gleason TGleason@StapletonDenver.com

Sunday, October 26

Women Build Expo
Colorado Convention Center, 1-5 pm
\$10 Benefits Habitat for Humanity
www.womenbuildexpo.com (see page 18)

Monday, October 27

Free – Active Minds Seminar "Buddhism"
Sponsored by the Stapleton Foundation, 7pm
7530 E. 29th Ave., #300, 303-468-3223

Friday, October 31

Trick or Treat at the Police Academy
Central Park Blvd & Montview 5:30 - 8pm
720-913-1095

More Halloween & Fall Festivities

See page 10

The Front Porch welcomes
submissions of upcoming local
events (deadline is the 15th) and
story ideas for future issues.
Email TGleason@StapletonDenver.com
or Carol@FinePrintCo.com

RECURRING EVENTS

2nd Friday

Story time & craft for young children & caregiver
Westerly Creek Elementary library 9:15 - 9:45 am
[303-322-5877]

1st Saturday

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

Periodically

Meet Stapleton Residents
If interested in upcoming events contact
Meighan at meighanm@aim.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]

Every Wednesday

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

1st Tuesday

Breast Cancer Support Group 5 - 6:30pm
AFWilliams Family Medicine Clinic
Conference Room (west entrance)
3055 Roslyn (corner of MLK) 720-848-9000

3rd Tuesday

Greater Stapleton Business Assoc. 8am
MCA Community Room, 2823 Roslyn Street
[303.393.7700]

1st Wednesday

"1st Wednesdays" Home-based businesses
[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 E. 29th Ave. – 7:30 – 9am 303.393.7700

4th Thursday

SUN Board Meeting – 6:30pm
MCA Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St
[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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Front Porch

www.StapletonFrontPorch.com

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Stapleton presents the "One Sky One World" International Kite Festival

It's a whole day of good, clean, wind-powered fun.

**Sunday,
October 12,
at Stapleton's
Central Park.
10am-4pm**

Stapleton is proud to host the 23rd annual "One Sky One World" International Kite Festival – featuring kite-building and flight demonstrations by internationally recognized kite artists from a dozen countries and five continents.

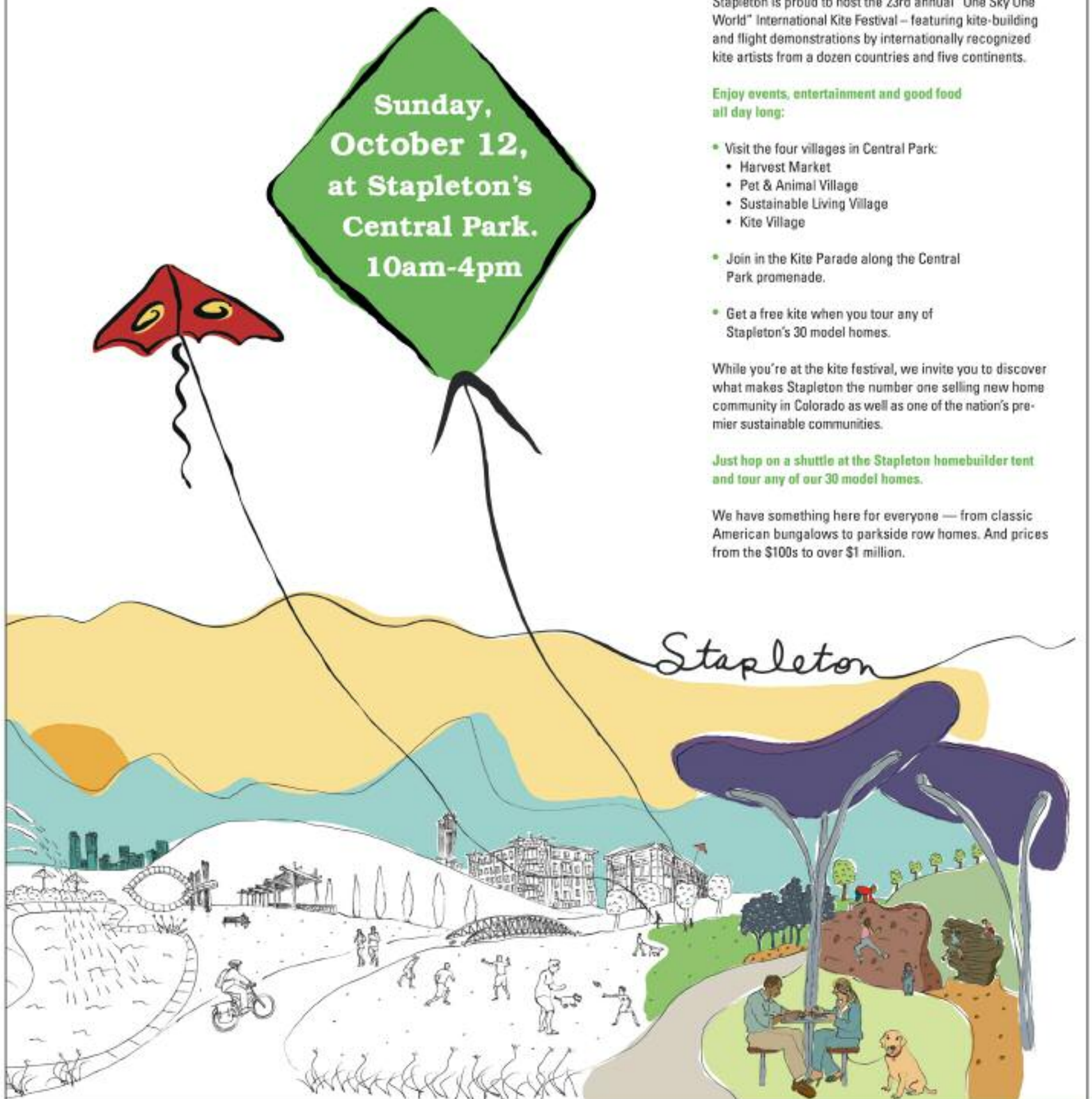
Enjoy events, entertainment and good food all day long:

- Visit the four villages in Central Park:
 - Harvest Market
 - Pet & Animal Village
 - Sustainable Living Village
 - Kite Village
- Join in the Kite Parade along the Central Park promenade.
- Get a free kite when you tour any of Stapleton's 30 model homes.

While you're at the kite festival, we invite you to discover what makes Stapleton the number one selling new home community in Colorado as well as one of the nation's premier sustainable communities.

Just hop on a shuttle at the Stapleton homebuilder tent and tour any of our 30 model homes.

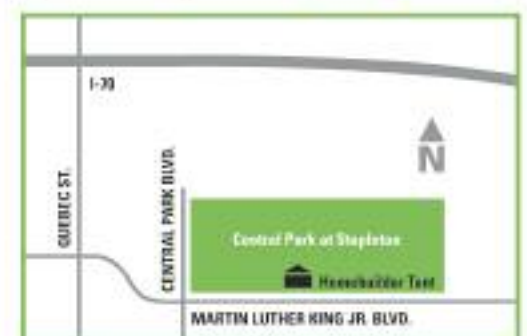
We have something here for everyone — from classic American bungalows to parkside row homes. And prices from the \$100s to over \$1 million.



Getting here:

From I-70, go south on Quebec, east on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and look for the kites in Stapleton's 80-acre Central Park.

stapletondenver.com



Kites Fly for



Larry Ambrose, husband of Jane Parke-Ambrose, founder of the event, holds one of the kites to be flown at the “One Sky One World” International Kite Festival for Peace. Shown from left in the background are Chirala Pillay, Edi Peay, Greg Rood and Jane Parke-Ambrose.

(continued from page 1) to the Russian people,” explained Jane’s husband, Larry Ambrose. “Everybody told her she was going to wind up in the gulag (jail). It was quite controversial.”

At the same time that Jane was making a kite with both the United States and USSR flags on it, a summit meeting was announced involving President Ronald

Reagan and then-General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and subsequent USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev. It was thought that the summit would “change

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www.westerracu.com/join

International Peace

the whole scope of U.S.-Soviet relations,” Larry said.

Ultimately, Jane presented the kite to the Soviet Women’s Peace Committee exactly 23 years ago this month. Today, that kite, along with a letter regarding peace that carries 200 names from all over the world, has a place in the now-called Russian Women’s Peace Committee Museum in Moscow.

“After Jane left the Soviet Union, the Soviet Women’s Peace Committee suggested that she had to do something more for peace in the world,” Larry explained. “There was a need to fly kites all over the world on the same day to represent peace.”

Thus, the second Sunday of October was chosen for the international kite flight. In 1986, more than 10,000 people participated worldwide.

In Denver and at Stapleton, the 23rd Annual One Sky One World International Kite Fly for Peace will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 12, at Stapleton Central Park. Families are asked to bring their own kites to fly or be prepared to make one at the event. Pets, too, are invited.

“Now, it’s millions out flying kites in more than 35 countries,” Jane said. “There are 15 states within the U.S. that participate. During that time period it has been amazing the support that ‘One Sky One World’ has received. For me it’s overwhelming. NASA took a kite into space in commemoration of the event. We have an incredible list of people and organizations involved.

“If you look at commercial advertising on TV, you will find that the kite is represented in many commercials,” Jane explained. “I love the symbolism associated with peace. It’s a positive, upward feeling when you see a kite fly. People always get a smile on their face. It has a magical quality to it that I sometimes call a universal language that does not require a universal language. I have been on every continent flying kites. I have been with people I couldn’t talk with, but by flying a kite there was communication.”

In celebration of the International Kite Fly for Peace, One Sky One World has an exhibit at the Cherry Creek Mall through Oct. 13 which features a display of miniature kites, some just two inches high, and educational display panels of kite history developed by the Smithsonian Institute.

The Kite Fly will offer kite making, live music, a farmers’ and crafts market, contests and food, as well as a parade with prizes for costumed pets. There also will be three villages focusing on conservation and sustainable living, animals and kites. There will be open kite flying all day.

For information about the One Sky One World International Kite Festival for Peace, call 720-490-4991 or visit www.oneskyoneworld.org.

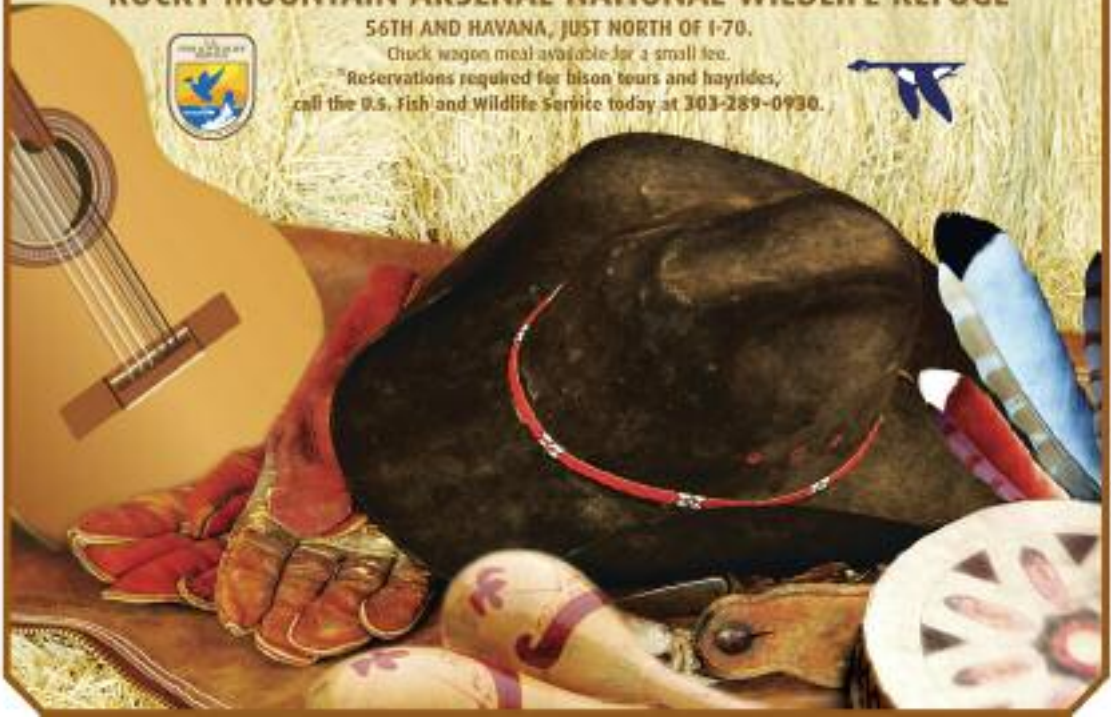
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Read All About It... Progress on Stapleton Recreation Center!



Tracy Dixon asks a question during City Council President Michael Hancock's forum held in September 11th at the Bill Roberts School.



Mayor Hickenlooper, left, listens as Michael Hancock answers questions from the audience.

By Michael B. Hancock

The City of Denver and Park Creek Metro District announced September 11 during my annual Town Hall meeting that the District board had agreed to add \$9 million (\$1.5 million already spent on design) to the city's \$10 million bond proceeds to build the Stapleton Recreation Center. Mayor John Hickenlooper joined me in making the announcement and to answer resident questions. The City and Park Creek are currently putting the finishing touches on an Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) that will guide the collaborative effort.

The design of the recreation center is currently being estimated by a contractor to ensure the center can still be built for the budgeted price. The last estimate was close

to two years ago. Barring major surprises from this exercise, the Center, as it is currently designed, will go out to bid for construction later this year or early 2009. Any substantive changes to the design due to inflationary impacts will be discussed with Stapleton residents prior to implementation. If we are fortunate to stay on schedule, the recreation center should be ready for use



SUN President Mark Mehringer speaks at the Hancock Forum.

in mid to late 2010.

During the announcement there were several questions regarding the progress of the Library. The Library Commission is working closely with Forest City Stapleton to identify the most suitable lot for the future library. I will provide more updates on the library as we make progress on the selection of a site.

Though it has taken much longer than anyone expected to come to terms on the recreation center, there are many stakeholders to thank for helping us get to this point. The Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board, Stapleton United Neighbors Board, the Park Creek Metro District Board of Directors, Dick Anderson, former President/CEO of SDC, Forest City Stapleton, Mayor Hickenlooper, Amy Mueller, Mayoral Deputy Chief of Staff, Bar Chadwick, City of Denver Project Manager, my office staff and, last but not least, the residents of Stapleton for your perseverance and leadership on the issue.

Denver City Councilman Michael Hancock represents portions of Northeast Denver, including Stapleton and adjacent neighborhoods.



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October 2008

6

Stapleton Front Porch



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v.



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Shop Renewable and Make Your Home Sustainable

By Nancy Burkhart

“Sustainability” and “eco-friendly” are two words that are rapidly becoming essential to today’s lifestyle. For those who are looking for ideas on how to foster a personal plan for care of the environment, All Things Renewable at Northfield, owned by Sean McVay and his wife, Julie Gleason, offers aid.

“We were looking into starting a solar installation business and we saw that there was no place that a consumer could go to ask questions about solar,” McVay explained. “That was the inspiration for our business.”

The All Things Renewable shop sells and installs solar energy systems and residential wind systems, earth-friendly and sustainably made goods. Workshops and seminars are conducted by McVay and other experts in the field. Homeowners and small businesses can get eco-friendly energy efficiency consulting services there, as well.

“We try to keep the seminars on a monthly basis,” McVay said. “They’ll be relevant to the time of year. Composting will be in the spring and early summer. Energy efficiency seminars are held mid-summer and early fall. Solar seminars will detail what’s involved in installing solar in your home, and we will discuss why wind systems are practical for some people and not for others.”

Fun eco-friendly items fill the Northfield shop.

Smart Glass Jewelry offers smart looks for the woman who wants to make a statement.

“We did research to find it,” McVay said. “One of the things I ask all the people who work for me to do is research to find products that aren’t in all the stores. Where possible, we support local craftspeople.”

Green Guru Gear in Boulder is represented with tote bags made of recycled billboards and old bicycle inner tubes. Another Boulder firm, Lumia Organic, has soy wax candles that don’t



Sean McVay, owner of All Things Renewable in Northfield, stands by a wind generator and holds a portable photo-voltaic panel for charging electronic devices such as cell phones and PDAs. The solar panel folds up to the size of a small notebook. The store sells items for sustainable living.

release smoke into the air, for a healthier interior environment.

There are different baby products made for tots to gnaw on, including an organic cotton teething ring from Under the Nile Co. And, pampered pooches can be treated to hemp and organic cotton leashes and collars.

“Hemp is incredibly durable and doesn’t require any pesticides or watering to grow,” McVay explained.

Natural flooring consultation is available with items for sale and installation. Flooring in cork, bamboo and corkoleum is available. The bonding agent is linseed oil. Thus, the flooring becomes resistant to acids and staining, McVay said.

“We install both solar electric and photo-voltaic systems and solar thermal systems. We also sell solar panels and inverters if customers

would like them,” McVay said. “We strongly recommend that, unless you have done it yourself before, you have a professional install them in order to qualify for energy rebates.”

All Things Renewable also carries products to aid in the reduction of energy consumption, such as smart power strips that help manage phantom loads from appliances like

computers and televisions in stand-by modes.

For more information visit www.allthingsrenewable.com. The website offers online shopping and shipping anywhere in North America, as well as a gift registry. All Things Renewable is located just south of 47th Ave. on Main Street in the Shops at Northfield. They can be reached at 303-307-1317. See page 11 for free seminars.

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The Bock Lecture Series

Join us Friday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m. as we present Dr. Pamela Eisenbaum and her lecture, “Reading Paul as a Jew.” Prof. Eisenbaum is a Jewish New Testament Scholar who specializes in ancient manuscripts and in Paul’s letters. It will be very interesting to learn more about her perspective on Paul. \$10/person

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Make Crepes A Family Experience

By Nancy Burkhart

Northfield Stapleton has a new experience in family dining – Crepe Expectations.

Owners Steve and Amy Schacht and Al Arcila together have about 70 years of restaurant experience between them. This is Steve's fifth restaurant and first crepe establishment. The others included a gourmet shop, sandwich shop and a hamburger joint at a ski area.

Crepe Expectations has been in the works for about two years, but Steve and his wife, Amy, have been in Denver about eight years. They live in northeast Denver. The Schachts and Arcila have worked together in the past, and have known each other about seven years.

"Actually we wanted to open a fondue restaurant, and it kind of morphed," explained Steve. "I went to school in Paris. There's a place in Paris that I loved, a fondue place that was a mom-and-pop joint. It was very 'neighborhoody.' We had an eye on

doing that, and were looking for a location. More than a few people came up with the crepe idea. In the long run, we were happy to go past the original idea."

Crepe Expectations offers everything from all-day breakfast to dessert. They do not serve alcoholic drinks. Crepes can be ordered off the menu, or you can choose to build your own from an extensive



Steve Schacht, owner of Crepe Expectations, displays a freshly made dessert crepe. Northfield's first crepe restaurant also makes crepes that are a complete meal such as a club wrap, breakfast or crab cake crepes.

list of ingredients. "Traditionally, crepes break down into two different varieties: sweet and savory," said Steve. "You can do chocolate or more of a meal. You can pick any three items from our list of ingredients. You could do a club wrap with turkey, ham and bacon. My favorite is Maryland crab cakes with chipotle aioli, mixed wild greens and Roma tomatoes blanketed in a rosemary crepe. It's only \$7, the most expensive thing on the menu.

"For a dessert crepe, you can do your own or one of our suggestions. The Crepe Gatsby has peanuts, chocolate sauce, caramel, peanut butter chips and Snickers pieces. We call it "the richest crepe ever." We also offer fresh fruits and nuts. We have things geared to vegetarians, as well, although crepes are made with eggs and milk. The Crepe of the Sabine Women is mozzarella, avocado, Roma tomatoes, virgin olive oil and fresh basil. It's not all heavy stuff," Steve said.

Reservations are not necessary at Crepe Expectations. There are inside and outdoor tables, but take-out is possible, and free delivery within the Northfield mall.

The Northfield Crepe Expectations is just the first restaurant of its kind.

"We are considering franchising Crepe Expectations," Steve said. "We'd love to see at least five in the next few years. It's not Subway or Quiznos. It's not Chinese. It's sort of new. We hope there will be enough of a need for several stores."

Crepe Expectations is located across from the movie theater at Northfield Stapleton.

"We liked the Northfield location because we have the shoppers all day and the movie theater at night," Steve said. "We're actually open all day into the late evening."

Crepe Expectations' hours are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Contact Crepe Expectations at 303-371-9742.

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Performances & Events in October

Through Nov. 1, Aurora History Museum, Juried exhibits of paintings, photography and miniatures by local, regional and national artists. 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy. 303-739-6666, www.auroramuseum.org.

Thru Oct. 15, "I Hate Hamlet," Aurora Fox – Broadway hit comedy in which life and art clash with idiosyncratic characters, including the ghost of famed actor John Barrymore. 9900 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1970

Through Oct. 25, East End Applied Arts – Contemporary works, including paintings, drawings, jewelry, and tableware/sculpture in silver and porcelain. 1556 Florence St. www.eastendarts.com, 720-203-3575

Through Nov. 2 – Denver Botanic Gardens Paintings by students of the Gardens' certificate program will be displayed and offered for sale to benefit the Botanical Art and Illustration program. 1005 York St. 720-865-3500, www.botanicgardens.org.

Oct. 5 – Nov. 9, Aurora's Power of One Program – Oct. 5, 2 p.m. "Colorado True Crimes" with mystery writer Mario Acevedo and Aurora Police Lt. Tim DuFour. Oct. 26, 2 p.m. "Did You Ever Want to Write Mysteries?" with mystery writers Christine Goff, Robert Greer, Manuel Ramos, Margaret Coel and R.T. Lawton. Nov. 9, 2 p.m. "Of Maggots and Murder" with forensic entomologist Dr. Fred Baxendale. 303-739-6600, www.auroragov.org/powerofone.

Oct. 6-28, Active Minds – Oct. 6, 7 p.m. "Putin's Russia," Free, Stapleton Founda-

tion, 7530 E. 29th Ave., #300, 303-468-3223; Oct. 13, 11:30 a.m. "Putin's Russia," \$1.00, Heather Gardens, 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way, 303-751-1811; Oct. 14, 12:30 p.m. "Lebanon," Free, Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax Ave.; Oct. 21, 12:30 p.m. "Venezuela," Free, Tattered Cover LoDo, 1628 16th St.; Oct. 22, 1:00 p.m. "The History of Denver," \$1.00, Heather Gardens, 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way, 303-751-1811; Oct. 22, 2:30 p.m. "Colorado Ballot 2008," Free, Cherry Oaks, 6800 Leetsdale Dr., 303-331-9963; Oct. 27, 1:00 p.m. "Putin's Russia," Free, Windsor Gardens Center Point Room, 597 S. Clinton St.; Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m. "Buddhism," Free, Stapleton Foundation, 7350 E. 29th Ave., #300, 303-468-3223; Oct. 28, 5:30 p.m. "Health Care," Free, Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax Ave. www.ActiveMindsForLife.com.

Oct. 7-11, Children's Museum – First Free days Oct. 7, Nov. 4, 4pm - 8pm. Oct. 11, 1 p.m. "Yuck Parasites" with an animal expert. Oct. 4 and 5 get bargain portraits from photographers helping raise funds for the museum; 2121 Children's Museum Dr. 303-433-7444, www.mychildsmuseum.org.

October 9, Imagine Peace Paint-In – 10 am-6 pm. Celebrate John Lennon's birthday with hundreds of artists, bands and peace groups in Civic Center Park. www.paint-in.org.

Oct. 11, St. Thomas Chili Cook-Off and Auction – 4:30-8 p.m. Chili cook-off and auction to benefit St. Thomas Church. 2201 Dexter St. 303-979-7924

Oct. 11, Bluff Lake Nature Center "Fall Planting" – 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with breakfast and lunch. Plant native grasses and shrubs in impacted areas. 303-344-1836, www.blufflake.org.

Oct. 11-29, Art Students League of Denver "Demo & Dialogue with Michelle Torrez" – Oct. 11, 1:00-3:00 p.m. \$5. 200 Grant St. 303-778-6990, www.ASLD.org.

Oct. 11 & 18, Aurora Symphony Orchestra – Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. "A Tribute to the Silver Screen." Oct. 18, 7 p.m. "The Chamber Concert Mostly Mozart." Gateway High School Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 S. Sable Blvd. 303-873-6622, www.aurorasymphony.org.

Oct. 16, Digital TV Transition – An FCC Commissioner will address a town hall meeting to education citizens about the February, 2009 transition to digital television. Call 720-913-8888 or visit www.denvergov.org/telecom for specific times and locations.

Oct. 18, 2009 Refugee Roundup (story page 10)

Oct. 19, Denver Marathon – 7am. Marathon, half-marathon and four-person marathon relay starting at Civic Center Park, West Colfax Avenue and Broadway. For info and to register visit www.denvermarathon.com.

Oct. 20-25, "Big Dig" – Tree planting (see story page 19).

Oct. 25, Western Fantasy Gala for Volunteers of America – 5:45 p.m. cocktails, 7:00 p.m. dinner, auction and concert with country western singer Dierks Bentley, National Western

Events Complex. 303-297-0408, www.westernfantasy.com.

Oct. 28, Aurora Potters Guild Pottery and Quilt Sale – 9 am to 4 pm. Hand-made pottery and quilts created by local artists. Aurora Senior Center, 30 Del Mar Circle. 303-344-1776

Fall Festivals/Halloween Events

Oct. 4, Four Mile Historic Park, "The Great Pumpkin Harvest Festival" – 10 am-4 pm. 715 S. Forest St. 720-865-0800, www.fourmilepark.org.

Oct. 29-31, Children's Museum, "Trick or Treat Street" – with trick or treating opportunities. Call for Family Showcases and daily programming. 2121 Children's Museum Drive. 303-433-7444, www.mychildsmuseum.org.

Oct. 12, 11th Annual Fall Fest – Games, food, music, children's activities, farm animals, pumpkin carving hosted by Original Aurora Renewal. Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax Ave. 303-739-7930.

Oct. 26, Trick or Treat Open House – Bluff Lake Nature Center – Take guided tours at the Trick-or-Treat Open House and see the HawkQuest raptors. Afterwards, head over to Morrison Nature Center for more Trick-or-Treat Nature Trail fun. Call Morrison Nature Center for information, Bluff Lake 303.344.0031; Morrison Nature Center 303-739-2428.

Oct. 26, Halloween Tales from 3-4:30 p.m. with storyteller Erica Sodos at DeLaney Farm, 170 S. Chambers Rd. 303-739-6666

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2008 Refuge Roundup Oct. 18th, 9am - 3pm
Free Celebration of Western Heritage

Rocky Mountain Arsenal
National Wildlife Refuge to
showcase mounted cavalry,
bison tours and more as part
of National Wildlife Refuge
Week

By Sherry James
Fire up the time machine because
Refuge Roundup is back. This free
event at the Refuge on Oct. 18 will
feature activities for the entire family
including rip-roaring musical per-
formances to bison tours and
hayrides to the very popular bison
chip toss to western crafts and games
for children of all ages. Visitors can stop
by to enjoy performances throughout the day by the
Wild Coyotes Western Band, Calico & Boots Square
Dance Exhibition Team, Chimaltonalli Aztec Dancers,
and Ron Ball – The Singing Cowboy.
In addition Refuge Roundup 2008 will feature a
historical re-enactment by the Buffalo Soldiers of the



Buffalo soldier reenactment

American West, live raptor presenta-
tions by the Colorado Hawking Club,
and a taste of pioneer life on the
plains courtesy of the Colorado His-
torical Society and Plains Conserva-
tion Center. Cowboys from An Open
Range Experience will teach visitors
to become a cowhand for the day by
teaching rope and wrangle lessons.

Visitors can participate in most ac-
tivities at Refuge Roundup 2008 on a
drop-in basis, meaning no prior reser-
vations are required. **Because of lim-
ited space, however, visitors must call
the Visitor Center in advance at 303-
289-0930 to save a spot on the
hayrides and bison tours.**

A chuck wagon meal will be available

for a small fee.

Refuge Roundup 2008 takes place at the Rocky
Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Saturday,
Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To get to the refuge, take
I-70 and exit north on Havana St. The public entrance
to the refuge is at 56th and Havana. For more informa-
tion, call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 303-289-
0930, or visit online at
<http://www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/>.

Supervisory Park Ranger Sherry James has worked at the
Refuge for 18 years. She can be reached at 303-289-0659.

October 4th
Denver Tour of Solar Homes

The 2008 Denver Tour of Solar Homes will take
place on Saturday, Oct. 4th from 9:00 am to 4:00
pm. This year on the tour there will be five homes in
Denver and five homes in the Golden area. The cost
is \$20 per carload of people and tickets may be pur-
chased online at www.cres-energy.org/events/tour/ or
at the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) in
Golden or at the First Universalist Church of Denver
at Colorado Blvd. and Hampden. There will be ex-
hibitor displays and brief renewable energy/efficiency
talks at NREL and the First Universalist Church of
Denver. A guided bus tour may also be purchased on-
line for \$45. The bus tour will include lunch and a
stop at the Governor's mansion to see the Gover-
nor's Carriage House solar panel system.

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All Things Renewable is offering two free seminars in Octo-
ber to learn how to reduce energy usage, increase comfort,
and be kinder to the environment. Seating is limited; email
info@allthingsrenewable.com to reserve a spot. All Things
Renewable is located just south of 47th Ave. on Main Street
in the Shops at Northfield.

Saturday, October 4th, 10am, Solar Basics

This 90 minute workshop presented by Brian Matzen,
master electrician and solar PV installer, will provide an
overview of the basics of solar installation for a typical home.
There will be time for questions & answers after the initial
presentation and interested attendees can set up site evalua-
tions. Included will be: What's involved in a site evaluation •
What makes a home good or not good for solar •
How systems are sized • How the Xcel Energy solar rebate
works • How the Federal tax credit for solar works

Saturday, October 18, 10am, Energy Efficiency in your Home: How
to lower your utility bills and be more comfortable in your Home

This 90-minute workshop by Paul Kriescher of Lightly
Treading, Inc. will detail how Colorado homeowners
typically use energy and provide guidance on how to make
homes more comfortable in the summer by cutting annual
energy consumption by 10 to 50 percent, depending on the
home. Participants can ask specific questions about their
homes. In addition, Mr. Kriescher will (as time allows)
compare one or more person's bills to that of a "typical"
Front-Range homeowner's energy consumption, so
participants are asked to bring their utility bill.

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Sizing Up the Pet Food Aisle

Dog and cat owners are bombarded by countless brands--Purina, Hills, Eukanuba, Iams, and the list continues. How do owners decide between lamb and rice, prime cuts in gravy, or all natural? What about a \$7 generic feed, or a premium brand for \$20?

One helpful hint in choosing your next bag of food is to look for AAFCO on the label. All complete foods marketed for dogs and cats must meet the minimal AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials) requirements, which should satisfy the needs of most pets. Although agencies such as the FDA regulate the sale of pet foods, AAFCO guidelines are followed by most state regulators. Technically speaking, every pet food on the shelf at the grocery store should be adequate for the average, healthy dog. Of course to every rule there are exceptions.

If your pet has a medical condition and your veterinarian has prescribed a specific diet, you don't have to waste your time debating over whether Fido should be dining on duck or chicken for supper tonight. Puppies should be fed puppy food; cats should never be fed dog food. Although dogs are similar to omnivores, cats are strict carnivores and need much more protein and have special requirements for other nutrients such as vitamin A, niacin, taurine, and arachidonic acid.

The difference in food pricing can be drastic. I believe in general the higher the price, the greater the digestibility of the food, so the less the animal will need to be taken out for bathroom breaks. For a Pekinese living on the 15th floor of a penthouse in Lodo, it is convenient to feed the animal a more expensive, highly digestible diet. On the other hand, a farm dog in Keenesburg that is free to roam hundreds of acres probably won't mind being fed a less expensive, less digestible feed. Either way, both feeds should meet the dog's nutrient requirements.

Although pet foods are highly regulated by federal and state laws, anything labeled as a "treat" does not have to meet AAFCO nutrient standards. For both feeds and treats, as long as you stay within the major brands you should be safe. Another caveat within labeling regulations is the terms premium, super premium, or gourmet. Don't be fooled by the hype; legally speaking they mean nothing.

In short, feeding any name brand dog food should keep your pooch happy and healthy. Despite last year's large-scale recall in pet foods contaminated with melamine (a toxic product used to increase protein levels), the biggest issue in companion animal nutrition is not regulation--it's obesity. With the majority of dogs and cats in the U.S. overweight, most animals need a run around the park much more than that bag of gourmet dog food!

For more information about feeding your pet, contact your local veterinarian.

Dr. Smith's clinic, 29th Avenue Animal Hospital, is located in the East 29th Avenue Town Center at Stapleton in the courtyard next to Fantastic Sam's. Dr. Smith also appears regularly on the KUSA Channel 9 Noon News. Call (303) 394-3937 for more information.



A Tooth Friendly Halloween

Halloween is upon us and who doesn't love Halloween candy! Trick or treating with your little ghost or goblin is fun but what to do with all those treats can be a nightmare for parents. Treats containing high sugar content, decay teeth due to the presence of bacterial acids. Acids are capable of demineralizing tooth structure for twenty minutes after the introduction of a product containing sugar, so one little piece of candy has the potential to cause a cavity for a 20 minute window. Sticky candy is the biggest culprit. These candies can stick to the chewing surfaces of teeth for up to an hour. Here are a few things you can do to ensure a cavity creep free Halloween.

Serve a hearty, healthy dinner before trick or treating. Filling their little bellies with healthy food leaves less room and less of an appetite for sugary treats. Don't let your children gorge on sweets all night. Moderation is key. Of course, do inspect treats before letting them have at it at their stash. Set up a rewards system. Allow your kids 2-3 pieces of candy and then establish times over the next month when the kids are allowed access to their loot. Good behavior may lead to a tasty treat for example. Make sure candy is age appropriate. Hard candy has a greater tendency to chip or crack teeth and can also be a choking hazard. Drinking water throughout the day can help get rid of sugar on tooth surfaces. Think of other snacks to give out in lieu of candy. No toothbrushes or floss please! Depriving kids of sweets only makes them want them more. Substitute with healthy alternatives like popcorn, trail mix or sunflower seeds. The jury on chocolate is out. Yes, chocolate contains tannins which inhibit plaque formation, but the high sugar content negates this. Give your kids sugar free gum to chew. Also, gum or candies that contain xylitol help stimulate salivary flow limiting the time of contact of candy to tooth structure. Offer your child a new toothbrush as a final treat. A good brushing and fluoride rinse is a must before bedtime.

What to do with all that candy? Throw away all the hard ones. They are most likely to promote decay since they remain in the mouth for an extended period of time. From a dental point of view, a pound of soft candy that doesn't stick does less damage than a few pieces of candy that do. Nevertheless, limit the quantity. Brush immediately after eating. Candy for dessert is acceptable but don't include treats in lunch boxes. Your child may not have access to a toothbrush in school. Halloween doesn't have to give you the chills. These tips hopefully will scare away cavities and let kids still have fun!

Dr. Preet Clair's dental office is located in Stapleton at 35th and Quebec. Meet the staff at www.qsfamilydentistry.com or call 303-322-2081 to make an appointment!



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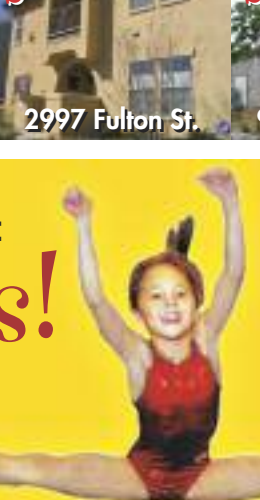
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Colorado League of Women Voters BALLOT ISSUES 2008

12 page
pull-out
section

League of Women Voters of Colorado Education Fund • 1410 Grant Street, Suite 204-B • Denver, CO 80203-1855 • info@lwwcolorado.org • www.lwwcolorado.org • VOTER HOTLINE 303-863-VOTE (8683)

The League of Women Voters of Colorado Education Fund has prepared this as a public service to promote civic responsibility by providing nonpartisan information about the issues that citizens will be asked to vote on at the Nov. 4, 2008 election.

ELECTION CALENDAR 2008

October 6 – Last day to register for General Election.
October 20 - 31 – Early voting for the General Election.
October 28 – Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot to be mailed.
October 31 – Last day to apply for mail-in ballot in person.
November 4 – General Election.

THE BALLOT

Issues are placed on the ballot by:

Referendum

A proposal by the Legislature which is referred to citizens for a vote.

Initiative

A proposal by citizens who have gathered the required number of signatures (five percent of the total number of votes cast for Secretary of State in the previous general election).

Statewide issues appearing on the ballot may be of two types:

Amendments to the Colorado Constitution

May be referred to the voters by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Colorado General Assembly or may be proposed by citizens using the initiative process. Only the voters (not the legislature) can change the constitution.

Amendments to the Revised Statutes

May be referred to the voters by a majority vote of both houses of the Colorado General Assembly or may be proposed by citizens using the initiative process. Although approved by voters, amendments to the Colorado Revised Statutes may subsequently be changed by the legislature.

Local or regional issues may also be on the ballot for a vote of the citizens.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Identification is required for voting at all polling places. One of the following is required:

- Valid Colorado driver's license.
- Valid Colorado identification card.
- Valid U.S. passport.
- Valid U.S. military card.
- Copy of current utility bill or paycheck or government check showing name and current address.
 - FAA photo pilot's license.
 - Certified naturalization document
- Valid Medicare or Medicaid card
- Certified copy of birth certificate
- Valid student ID card with photo

If you have difficulty voting at your polling place, see an election judge about obtaining a provisional ballot.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund of Colorado promotes the informed participation in government by providing non-partisan educational information on topics of public concern and on the processes of government. Contact the League's VOTER HOTLINE at 303-863-VOTE (8683) for: Voter information, Ballot information, and

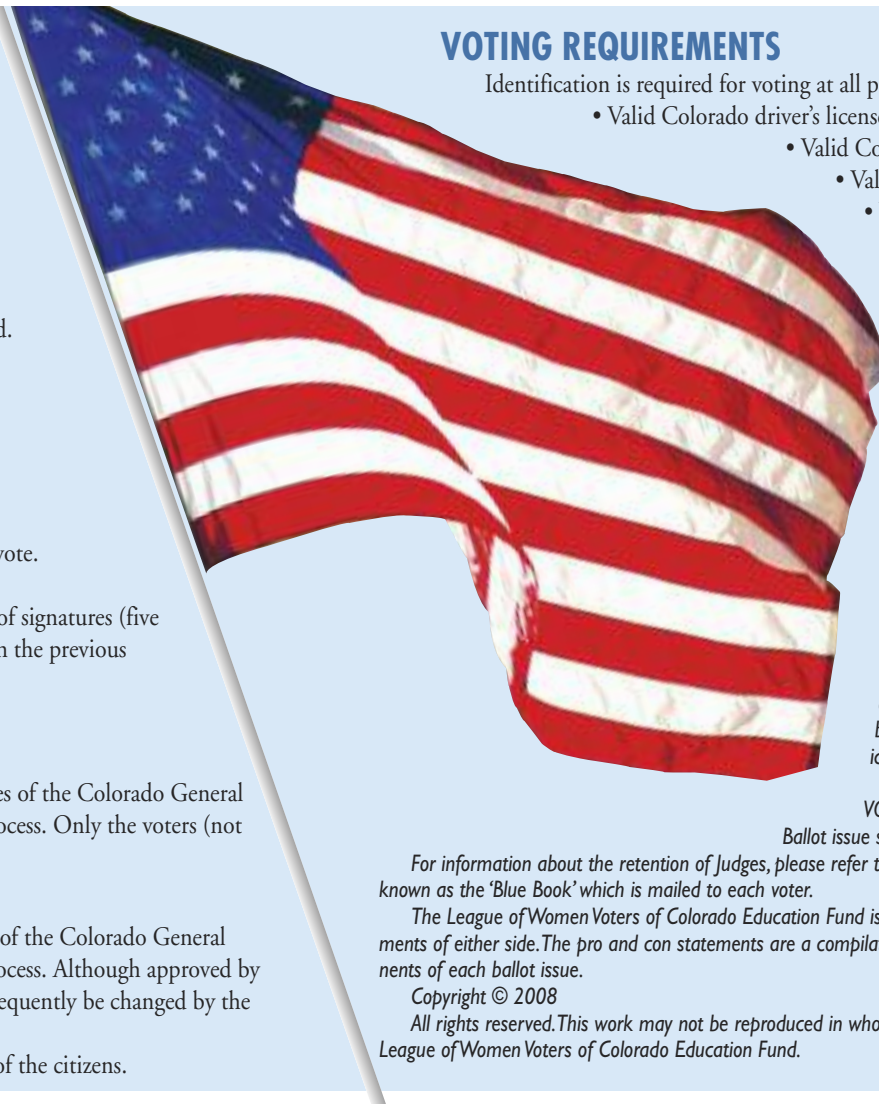
Ballot issue speakers.

For information about the retention of Judges, please refer to the 'Legislative Analysis of the Ballot Issues' commonly known as the 'Blue Book' which is mailed to each voter.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado Education Fund is not responsible for the accuracy or fairness of the arguments of either side. The pro and con statements are a compilation of the material submitted by proponents and opponents of each ballot issue.

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INITIATED PROPOSALS

AMENDMENT 46 DISCRIMINATION AND PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BY GOVERNMENTS

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Article II of the Colorado Constitution adding a new section prohibiting the state from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any individual or group.

Major Provisions:

- Forbids the state from discriminating against or giving preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, education, or contracting.
- Exempts the following:
 - Legitimate qualifications based on sex that are reasonably necessary (such as female prison guards);
 - Court orders or consent decrees currently in force;
 - Federal programs requiring such action for establishment or eligibility to avoid loss of funding for the state.
- Defines 'state' as all levels of state government including higher education, agencies or departments of the state, any public subdivision or governmental instrumentality in the state.
- Provides for the same remedies as in current Colorado anti-discrimination law.

Background:

Although this proposal does not define discrimination or preferential treatment, the

definitions are important. Typically, discrimination is defined as granting or denying privileges to individuals or groups based upon race, sex, or age, and preferential treatment refers to programs or policies aimed at disadvantaged groups or individuals to remedy past discrimination or to promote diversity or inclusion.

The U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection Clause protects against discrimination by governments but allows them to consider race and gender when choosing among qualified individuals or firms under plans to correct discrimination or promote diversity. Colorado law does not define discrimination or preferential treatment but there are some programs that target assistance to a particular race, gender or ethnicity, such as obtaining financial aid for college, starting a business, or developing skills.

The measure does allow for Federal programs, especially in public contracting related to transportation, which provide assistance to minority/women owned businesses to compete for federal projects. These programs would be allowed as they are required to receive federal funding.

Remedies for discrimination usually relate to employment discrimination and consist of payment of lost wages, hiring or reinstatement.

Those in favor say:

1. This proposal assures that every person—regardless of race or gender—will have equal access to outreach programs now aimed at minorities or women.
2. Because the proposal applies only to public education, hiring or contracting, private organizations can still provide targeted outreach programs.

Those opposed say:

1. Similar proposals enacted in other states have resulted in dramatic negative consequences for minority/women owned business with regard to public contracts and for minorities in higher education attendance.
2. The proposal fails to define "preferential treatment" or "discrimination" leaving these terms open to interpretation and to lawsuits funded at taxpayers' expense.

AMENDMENT 47 PROHIBITION ON MANDATORY LABOR UNION DUES

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Article XVIII of the Colorado Constitution adding a new section concerning participation in a labor organization.

Major Provisions:

- Prohibits requiring a person, as a condition of employment, to be a member of a labor union and pay any dues, fees, assessments, or charges of any kind to a labor union or other party.
- Allows any person to voluntarily belong to or provide financial support to a labor union.
- Creates a misdemeanor penalty for violation of this law including the highest level misdemeanor fine (currently between \$500 and \$5000).
- Applies to all union employment contracts entered into, renewed, or extended after the effective date of passage.

Background:

Passed in 1943, the Labor Peace Act (current Colorado law) is unique in state labor law. It requires a special second employee vote before a workplace becomes a union shop.

Federal law gives private-sector employees the right to join a workplace union as a means for negotiating with their employer over issues such as pay, benefits, and working conditions. The decision to be represented by a particular union must be approved by a majority vote of the employees. When a union is formed, membership and payment of dues is voluntary.

Neither federal nor state law regulates the formation of unions for public employees, such as teachers or government workers.

Once a union is in place, state law allows employees in Colorado to seek an all-union agreement. Under an all-union agreement, all employees, including those who choose not to join the union, must pay their share of the cost of collective bargaining as a condition of employment.

Those in favor say:

1. This amendment will stop the unfair practice of forcing workers to pay dues that support union activities without their consent.
2. It will strengthen Colorado's economy, create jobs, and make our state more competitive. States with amendments similar to this have seen an increase in economic productivity and job growth.

Those opposed say:

1. This proposal would dramatically change the current relationship between business and organized labor as governed by the Labor Peace Act. The current structure provides balance in Colorado and allows the greatest amount of flexibility in economic development.
2. This proposal reduces the choices of employees such as nurses and firefighters to work as a group to advocate with their

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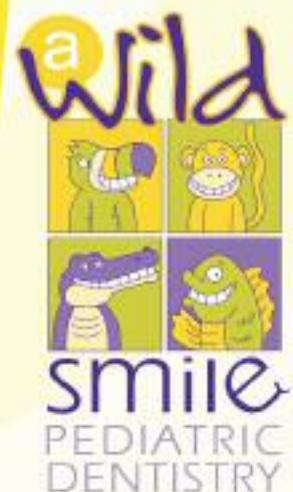
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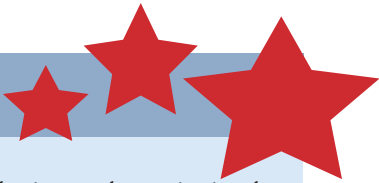


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AMENDMENT 48
DEFINITION OF A PERSON

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Section 1, Article II of the Colorado Constitution defining a person or persons as a human being from the moment of fertilization.

Major Provisions:

- Defines the term ‘person’ to include any human being from the moment of fertilization.
- Applies this definition of ‘person’ to those sections of the constitution dealing with inalienable rights, equality of justice, and due process of law.

Background:

Since 1873, the year the federal Comstock laws were enacted prohibiting all distribution of information or devices for birth control or abortion, groups have argued vehemently about the fundamental right of privacy in reproductive health. At both state and federal levels, there have been many attempts to effect women’s rights to birth control and abortion. In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout our country with the Roe v. Wade decision which has been under steady attack but remains in effect today.

Those in favor say:

1. This measure would define ‘person’ in Colorado’s constitution and provide the foundation for protecting every human being at all stages of life including a human being from the moment of fertilization.

2. Under this amendment Colorado voters would have the opportunity to inform courts and legislators that they believe every human being has value and should be protected with equal rights.

Those opposed say:

1. Defining the term ‘person’ and granting full constitutional rights from the moment of fertilization simply goes too far.
2. A woman should have the right to make decisions about her own health care in consultations with her doctor and family without government intrusion. This proposal could ban the most widely used forms of birth control. Abortion would most likely be restricted.

AMENDMENT 49
RULES FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PAYCHECK DEDUCTIONS

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Article XXX of the Colorado Constitution prohibiting deductions from governmental payroll systems except for those purposes specifically stated in this proposed amendment.

Major Provisions:

- Prohibits public payroll systems from taking any payroll deductions from public employees payroll checks with the exception of the following:
 - Deductions required by federal law (example: social security, Medicare);
 - Tax withholdings;
 - Judicial liens and garnishments, including court-ordered child support, domestic support and maintenance obligations and payments;
 - Deductions for individual or group health

- benefits or other insurance;
- Deductions for pension or retirement plans or systems; and
- Charitable deductions.
- Directs that provisions will supersede conflicting state constitutional, state statutory, local charter, ordinance or resolution and other state and local provisions.

Background:

Currently, state law regulates the type of deductions state employees may have withheld from their paychecks. Payroll deductions or money withheld from an employee’s pay include types that are mandatory (taxes), offered as an employee benefit (health insurance), charitable contributions or those established as an agreement with an organization or with labor.

However, each local government or municipality may set its own policies on the limits or types of payroll deductions. As many as twelve counties in Colorado have adopted similar limitations on allowable payroll deductions from public employees’ paychecks as those outlined in this proposal.

This amendment would apply the same limits to all governmental payroll deductions in Colorado regardless of what agreements are currently in place.

Those in favor say:

1. This amendment establishes “ethical standards” prohibiting Colorado governments from bundling money from public employees’ paychecks and delivering the funds to special interest groups, like unions. It is unethical for government to be the banker, accountant, and collection agent for special political interests or other political organizations.
2. In an era of automatic transfers and electronic transfers, there is no reason why

political contributions and organizational dues should go through the people’s payroll system at taxpayer expense.

Those opposed say:

1. The proposal precludes every public employee from making decisions about organizations they want to support through paycheck deductions. In addition, the measure is inconsistent because it permits employees to contribute to some private groups, while prohibiting contributions to others.
2. This proposal will not produce any real cost saving for government. With automated payroll systems, most governments experience little or no cost impact because employee deduction choices are paid by the groups being given the donation.

AMENDMENT 50
LIMITED GAMING

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Section 9, Article XVIII of the Colorado Constitution allowing local elections to revise gaming limits.

Major Provisions:

- Implements a local vote for residents in Black Hawk, Central City and Cripple Creek to extend the current maximum single bet to \$100, to add roulette and/or crap games and to extend casino hours.
- Mandates that additional gaming tax revenues will fund financial aid and classroom instruction in Colorado community colleges.
- Requires statewide approval by voters of any tax increases if new limits are adopted by any of the gaming towns.

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- Exempts the additional revenue from the state and local revenue and spending limits.

Background:

In 1990, Colorado voters approved a constitutional amendment allowing limited gaming in Cripple Creek, Blackhawk and Central City. Gaming is limited to a maximum single bet of \$5 on black jack, slot machines and poker games. Hours of operation are restricted. Last year, the state of Colorado received \$112 million in revenue from gaming. After paying for the enforcement of gaming regulations, one-fourth of the remaining revenue went to preservation of historical structures and one-fourth to the gaming communities and one-half went into various state programs.

Those in favor say:

1. Colorado gaming limits have remained the same since the 1990 initiative was passed with no adjustment for inflation. This measure will make Colorado more competitive with other gaming states and continue to benefit the tourism industry.
2. The revenue generated by any increase in gaming limits could make a real difference for the community college system. The new revenue would be used for student financial aid and classroom instruction. It would also have a positive impact on Colorado's economy and the state's quality of life.

Those opposed say:

1. Around the clock casino operations and an increase to \$100 bet limits may lead to an increase in problem and pathological addiction. Research also shows a strong correlation between gambling addiction and domestic violence, child abuse, divorce, crime and bankruptcies.
2. Gaming revenue for funding community colleges is an unstable source and

is dependent upon economic conditions. The benefit of any additional funding source to community colleges does not outweigh all the negative aspects of this proposal.

**AMENDMENT 51
STATE SALES TAX INCREASE FOR SERVICES
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

☐ Yes ☐ No

An amendment to Article 10 of the Colorado Revised Statutes to increase funding for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Major Provisions:

- Increases Colorado sales and use tax by two-tenths of a cent over a two-year period.
- Ends the wait list for services for developmentally disabled individuals.

Background:

Developmental disabilities arise from conditions such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism and mental retardation. Some individuals are able to live independently and hold jobs with training and supervision, while others require intensive care and equipment all of their lives. Types of assistance include:

- Supervision and residential services for adults living outside their family homes
- Specialized medical equipment such as wheelchairs or computers for communication
- Skilled nursing, medical and dental services, behavioral and mental health services
- Specific programs for autistic children, especially if at risk for institutionalization
- Support for families to enable them to care for the disabled individual, especially when 24 hour care is needed

Currently, Colorado's sales tax is 2.9%. This proposal would increase it to 3.1% over a period of two years. At this time, 11,800 developmentally disabled individuals receive services. Total spending from all sources is

about \$400 million/year with the state's share about \$184 million. With federal and state funding for disability programs declining for a decade, the state has roughly 9700 adults and children on waiting lists; a number that is expected to grow to over 12,000 by 2012. Due to funding pressures on the state budget, full funding for persons with developmental disabilities has not been met.

The new sales tax will raise about \$186 million in 2011. It is anticipated that it will be sufficient to provide services to all developmentally disabled persons and their families who are on the waiting list. The new money may only go toward services for the developmentally disabled. The increase would cost a three-person household making \$55,000 annually an additional \$20 in the first year and will increase to \$40 in the second year when the tax increase is fully in place.

Those in favor say:

1. Research shows that a lack of funding for developmentally disabled people is at the point of crisis. Wait times can last as long as ten years and the demand will grow as aging parents are no longer able to care for adult children.
2. This need is so great that it cannot be met without a new source of funding unless other necessary programs are cut. This proposal is a modest solution that can be changed by the Legislature when the state adopts comprehensive fiscal reform.

Those opposed say:

1. This proposal earmarks general sales tax for a specific purpose. Traditionally sales tax money has gone to the state General Fund to be used for all state programs.
2. Sales tax is a regressive tax. In difficult economic times, it will hurt Colorado's poorest citizens the most.

**AMENDMENT 52
SEVERANCE TAX – TRANSPORTATION**

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Article X of the Colorado Constitution concerning the allocation of severance tax revenues to a Colorado Transportation Trust Fund.

Major Provisions:

- Divides the severance taxes imposed on minerals and mineral-fuels (except oil shale) between the local government severance tax fund and the state severance tax fund.
- Credits any monies in the state severance tax fund in excess of a calculated amount to a newly-created Colorado Transportation Trust Fund.

(The calculated amount is based on the previous year's amount plus an inflation adjustment or the highest amount beginning on July 1, 2007 whichever is greater.)


- Makes available the monies in the Colorado Transportation Trust Fund for the construction, maintenance and supervision of highways "giving first priority to relieving congestion" on the I-70 corridor

Background:

In 1977 the Colorado General Assembly imposed a severance tax on nonrenewable natural resources removed from the state and sold for private profit. This tax—an attempt to recapture a portion of this lost wealth for the state and its political subdivisions—was to be levied on metallic minerals, molybdenum ore, oil and gas, coal, and oil shale.

Currently, severance taxes are divided 50/50 between the department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). DNR's half—the State Severance Tax Trust Fund—is divided equally between two accounts: one used for loans for state water projects; and the other used for programs within the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, the Colorado Geological Survey, the Division of Minerals and Geology, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

The Local Government Severance Tax Fund - DOLA's half - is divided 70/30. Seventy percent is made available for discretionary loans and grants to impacted local governments.



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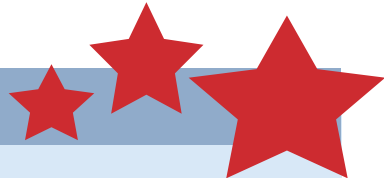
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Thirty percent is distributed directly to local governments based on the proportion of severance-related employees in their areas.

Several bills passed during the 2008 session of the General Assembly modified the laws concerning severance tax, but did not change the basic distribution of monies described above.

Note: Since severance tax provisions are statutory, the General Assembly has, in the past, used the money for purposes not delineated in current law, e.g., species conservation and addressing Colorado's budget shortfalls.

Those in favor say:

- 1. This proposal provides additional funding for maintaining our transportation infrastructure without raising taxes or creating tolls.
- 2. Placing this language in the constitution protects a funding source for transportation and ensures that other severance tax monies will go to local governments.

Those opposed say:

- 1. This proposal diverts severance tax money from necessary statewide water projects. Colorado's water needs are continually growing and this proposal would divert half of the money currently available for loans and grants for water projects to transportation.
- 2. This measure removes highway construction projects from the statewide planning process which is currently being done by an independent commission. This process would become politicized if the Legislature took over the selection of transportation projects.

**AMENDMENT 53
CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR
BUSINESS EXECUTIVES**

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 18, extending criminal liability

ity of a business entity to its executives.

Major Provisions:

- Extends the criminal liability to a business executive if the official knew of a failure to perform a duty required by law. The provisions apply to an officer, director, managing partner, managing member or sole proprietor of a business.
- Allows an executive official who discloses to the attorney general all facts known to the official concerning a business's criminal conduct to use that disclosure as an affirmative defense to criminal charges.

Background:

Colorado law criminalizes certain acts committed by or on behalf of a business. When laws are violated, companies may be assessed fines.

Businesses are subject to a wide variety of state and federal laws including environmental protections, securities regulations and consumer protection guarantees. Existing criminal penalties for violations include fines, imprisonment or both.

Those in favor say:

- 1. The proposal would make heads of companies pay out of their own pockets if they commit criminal fraud, and requires that CEOs and executives report criminal fraud if they know about it. Fraud is costing taxpayers and workers billions of dollars every year while corporate criminals walk free.
- 2. The proposal addresses a gap in state law whereby business entities themselves can be prosecuted while executives can avoid responsibility for their businesses' failure to follow state law. It will hold executives accountable when they know of a legal duty their business failed to perform.

Those opposed say:

- 1. This proposal unnecessarily criminalizes traditionally civil and regulatory conduct. Colorado law already allows for the prosecution of individuals who break the law on behalf of a business. The proposal

could lead to higher insurance costs for executives and could hurt Colorado companies' ability to recruit top talent.

- 2. This expansion of current law may cause unintended consequences because it allows immunity from liability of all criminal conduct attributable to any executive official as long as that person notifies the Attorney General prior to being charged with a crime.

**AMENDMENT 54
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM
CERTAIN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS**

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Article XXVIII of the Colorado Constitution concerning restrictions on campaign contributions by contractors who are awarded no-bid government contracts or public employee unions who have collective bargaining agreements.

Major Provisions:

- Prohibits companies, unions and their officers including their spouses, children, in-laws, nieces, nephews, guardians, domestic partners, and other family members from making campaign contributions to a political party or a candidate if they have been awarded a sole source (no-bid) contract by either the state or a local government or its sub-entity. This restriction remains for the duration of the sole source contract and for 2 years afterwards.
- Prohibits a person from making a contribution to a ballot issue if they enter into a sole source contract with a government entity as a result of the subject of the ballot issue.
- Requires the executive director of personnel to publish and maintain a list of all sole source contracts. All sole source contract holders will supply the director with

details of the project to be performed.

- Requires any company, union or individual who intentionally violates this provision to be ineligible to hold any government contract for 3 years. An individual would be ineligible for any public employment for this duration.
- Removes from office any appointed or elected official who knows of a violation and fails to report it within 10 days to the Secretary of State.
- Extends the enforcement of this amendment to any registered voter who may file a complaint.

Background:

There are no laws which prevent individual contributions to a political campaign of any kind. State law regulates how government entities purchase goods and services from the private sector. With few exceptions this requires the use of the public and competitive bidding process soliciting at least three bids. Only occasionally are no-bid contracts awarded. These contracts occur when equipment or replacement parts must be compatible, where the item is needed for trial use or testing, or public utility services are needed. Under current law, collective bargaining agreements are not considered no-bid contracts.

Those in favor say:

- 1. This proposal encourages clean and open government by ensuring that those who receive a no-bid government contract will not influence the political process with campaign contributions.
- 2. This measure increases government transparency so that the public may more closely watch over the way government does business. It will force government to re-evaluate its no-bid policy, creating a market place, which will lower the cost of doing business, thus saving taxpayer money. The measure discourages reliance on existing relationships and partnerships and puts all companies on an equal foot-

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ing by requiring all contracts to be bid out.

3. The measure holds elected and appointed officials accountable for receiving campaign money from an entity that receives a no-bid contract.

Those opposed say:

1. This measure is overreaching and interferes with an individual's right to donate to campaigns. For example, an individual with a local government sole source contract would be forbidden from donating money, not only to a local candidate, but also to a state candidate with whom he has no dealings. Because political parties and candidates would need to know who was related to whom before accepting any donation this measure would be almost impossible to monitor.
2. This proposal will allow political insiders to manipulate the system and to overturn valid elections. Special interests should not be able to unseat elected officials by luring them into technical violations of the law, using a step-parent or a brother-in-law who has nothing to do with the government contract and may not even live in Colorado.
3. Currently unions are not considered contractors of private services and, therefore, are not required to bid. This measure would require 3 bids. Unions are usually industry specific and there exists only one in a particular industry. Only one may have interest in organizing workers in that field. For example, getting a bid from the truckers union to represent office workers is both inefficient and impractical.

AMENDMENT 55
ALLOWABLE REASONS FOR EMPLOYEE
DISCHARGE OR SUSPENSION

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Article XVIII of the Colorado Constitution by adding a new section establishing a requirement that an employer must have just cause for discharge or suspension.

Major Provisions:

- Requires an employer to provide written documentation to a full-time employee who has been discharged or suspended with the reasons justifying the discharge or suspension.
- Defines "just cause" as: incompetence; substandard performance; neglect of duties; repeated violations of the employer's written policies and procedures; gross insubordination; willful misconduct; conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude; filing of bankruptcy by the employer; or due to specific economic circumstances that directly and adversely affect the employer and are documented by the employer
- Affects full-time employees who have worked for at least 6 consecutive months for a private sector employee and are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement.
- Affects employers with at least 20 full-time employees.
- Excludes any governmental entity or any nonprofit association that employs less than 1000 employees.
- Allows an employee who feels he/she was discharged or suspended without just cause to file a civil action. If the discharge or suspension is found to be wrongful, the

court shall award the employee reinstatement to their former job, back wages, damages or any combination thereof. It allows the court to award attorney fees to the prevailing party.

Background:

Current Colorado labor laws allow most employers or employees to end the employment for any reason, known as "at-will employment." At-will employees may be terminated for any reason so long as it's not illegal, such as firing an employee for discriminatory reasons. In Colorado, there are two exceptions to the at-will rule based upon the legal principles of "public policy" and "implied contract": (1) an employee cannot be fired for refusing to perform an illegal act, and (2) a binding employment relationship may be found to have been created by an implied or an express contract. The contract theory usually arises in situations in which procedures outlined in personnel handbooks are construed as a contract between the employer and employee.

Those in favor say:

1. This proposal allows employees to work without fear of being terminated arbitrarily without notice or reason. The measure will still allow businesses to fire bad employees for incompetence, neglect of duties, or if the company faces difficult economic circumstances, but companies cannot fire employees arbitrarily.
2. This proposal puts into law business practices that are already followed by good employers. Most companies document issues that result in firing or suspending an employee. This measure requires private sector companies to pro-

vide their employees with the same protections available to most government employees and employees protected by collective bargaining agreements.

Those opposed say:

1. This proposal imposes severe restrictions on businesses in our constitution that will devastate Colorado's economy. By preventing businesses from making basic economic decisions, such as eliminating unnecessary employees, automating operations, or reorganizing to improve efficiency, the measure places them at a competitive disadvantage with businesses in other states.
2. This measure will hurt the people it is intended to help by discouraging employers from hiring full-time employees. Instead businesses will convert full-time employees to part-time employees, and hire independent contractors. Companies are also likely to reduce their workforce to fewer than 20 employees to avoid the measure's impact.
3. Currently unions are not considered contractors of private services and, therefore, are not required to bid. This measure would require 3 bids. Unions are usually industry specific and there exists only one in a particular industry. Only one may have interest in organizing workers in that field. For example, getting a bid from the truckers union to represent office workers is both inefficient and impractical.

AMENDMENT 56
EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEALTH
INSURANCE

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Article XVIII of



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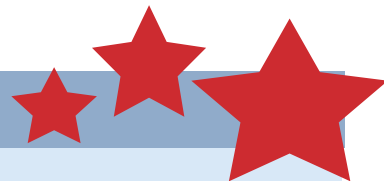
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the Colorado Constitution adding a new section requiring every private Colorado entity that employs 20 or more people to provide, major medical health care coverage for its employees.

Major Provisions:

- Requires that employees pay no more than 20% of health insurance premium cost for themselves or more than 30% of the premium cost for their dependents.
- Directs the state to establish a health insurance authority to administer this coverage.
 - Requires employers who do not directly provide health care coverage for their employees to pay premiums to the state authority.
 - Directs the state authority to use the premiums collected both to fund operations and to contract with health insurance providers.

Background:

At this time, Colorado law does not require employers to provide health insurance for their employees. However, federal information shows that most of Colorado's employers who have more than 20 employees provide some type of health insurance. Employers may offer health insurance to their employees but they aren't required to pay any portion of the premiums. Currently, more than half of Coloradans obtain their health insurance from their employer. Other sources of health care insurance include Medicare and Medicaid and individually purchased health care coverage. Currently, approximately 17% of Coloradans are uninsured.

Those in favor say:

1. Employees enable a company to make a profit. Healthy employees lead to more productivity and fewer days lost to illness.
2. Too many workers cannot afford health in-

surance and too few employers provide health care insurance.

Those opposed say:

1. The costs of this proposal to employers are prohibitive. The measure increases the costs of production without increasing productivity. Not only would current employers be unable to afford this mandate, but it could discourage new businesses from coming to Colorado.
2. This proposal could lead to lower wages, more out-sourcing, more automation, the hiring of ineligible workers, and significant non-compliance.

**AMENDMENT 57
ADDITIONAL REMEDIES FOR INJURED
EMPLOYEES**

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to the Colorado Revised Statutes, Part 1 of Article 2, Title 8, allowing injured workers to sue employers outside the Worker's Compensation system.

Major Provisions:

- Mandates that every employer with 10 or more employees provide a safe, healthy workplace.
- Allows an injured employee to bring action in District Court against a non-complying employer while retaining any rights the employee may have under the Worker's Compensation Act of Colorado.
- Gives the injured employee the right to a jury trial. The court or jury may award damages provided that the employee has not already been compensated under the Worker's Compensation Act.

Background:

Under current law, federal and state safety standards ensure safe working conditions for employees. The employer assumes liability for work-related injuries irrespective of fault, and in return employees may not seek damages in court.

Worker's remedies are statutorily limited to medical benefits, temporary wage replacement benefits, awards for disfigurement and permanent disability, vocational rehabilitation and death benefits for surviving dependents as defined within the workers compensation system.

The Worker's Compensation Act bars a worker's access to District Court for claims of personal injury, disease, or death arising from the employment relationship, and defines the exclusive and comprehensive remedies available to the worker.

Those in favor say:

1. When workers are injured, their choices for medical care are limited, and temporary wages paid to them are often far lower than their regular pay. This proposal allows the courts to consider individual cases, and therefore creates another option for workers to sue for compensation beyond the benefits provided by the worker's compensation system.
2. This proposal encourages employers to maintain a safe workplace. A safe workplace makes workers more productive and saves employers money. This proposal penalizes those employers who are indifferent to the safety of their employees. The proposal punishes employers monetarily for neglecting workplace safety.

Those opposed say:

1. This dual system of recovery will be costly to small businesses which are the backbone

of Colorado's economy. Employers will pass this cost of doing business on to consumers through higher prices and a reduction in the quality of goods and services, and through a reduction in the number of employees or lower wages. This proposal will create legal paralysis. It does not define the terms safe, healthy or workplace. Employers cannot know how to comply with the law.

2. Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace for their employees. Injured workers are already compensated under the Worker's Compensation Act which has worked effectively for decades and do not need to prove that the employer was responsible for the injuries.

**AMENDMENT 58
SEVERANCE TAXES ON OIL AND GAS
INDUSTRY**

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Section 39, Article 29 of the Colorado Revised Statutes eliminating the property tax credit given to oil and gas producers, and reallocating severance tax revenues to scholarships for higher education, wildlife habitat preservation, clean energy production, and other purposes.

Major Provisions:

- Eliminates the severance tax credit currently given to oil and gas producers for most of their property taxes.
- Increases the number of oil and gas producers subject to a severance tax upon gross income.

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- Creates a severance tax stabilization trust fund.
- Directs the total severance tax revenues from oil and gas production as follows:
 - 22% to state severance tax trust fund
 - 22% to local government severance tax fund
 - 56% to severance tax stabilization trust fund
- Allocates 90 % annually of the severance tax stabilization trust fund as follows:
 - 60 % scholarships for higher education
 - Lesser designated percentages to wildlife habitat preservation, clean energy production, transportation, and drinking and wastewater projects.

Background:

In 1977 the Colorado General Assembly imposed a severance tax on nonrenewable natural resources removed from the state and sold for private profit. This tax—an attempt to recapture a portion of this lost wealth for the state and its political subdivisions—was to be levied on metallic minerals, molybdenum ore, oil and gas, coal, and oil shale.

Currently, severance taxes are divided 50/50 between the department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). DNR's half—the State Severance Tax Trust Fund—is divided equally between two accounts: one used for loans for state water projects; and the other used for programs within the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, the Colorado Geological Survey, the Division of Minerals and Geology, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

The Local Government Severance Tax Fund - DOLA's half - is divided 70/30.

Seventy percent is made available for discretionary loans and grants to impacted local governments. Thirty percent is distributed directly to local governments based on the proportion of severance-related employees in their areas.

Several bills passed during the 2008 session of the General Assembly modified the laws concerning severance tax, but did not change the basic distribution of monies described above.

In 2005-2006, both DNR and DOLA received approximately \$111 million from the severance tax. The total amount was \$234.3 million with interest. The changes proposed by this initiative are projected to increase severance tax revenues by approximately \$300 million.

Those in favor say:

1. This initiative will end Colorado's \$300 million subsidy for the oil and gas industry—a subsidy greater than that given by any other state.
2. By repealing this subsidy for companies that are currently making record profits, this will provide additional benefits for Coloradans without raising taxes or increasing costs.
3. Scholarships that make college more affordable for working families are critical to ensuring a highly trained workforce and the state's long term economic health.

Those opposed say:

1. The prices of food and fuel will rise, and utility bills will increase because the added costs of gasoline, diesel, and natural gas production will be passed along to consumers.
2. Current severance taxes are directed to the communities where the resources are extracted—enabling them to build infrastructure and address the impacts of production. This proposal reverses this priority and sends more money to state government.

3. The scholarship program to be funded by this initiative is directed toward individual students and does not provide critical operating capital for Colorado colleges and universities.

**AMENDMENT 59
REBATES AND EDUCATIONAL FUNDING**

☐ Yes ☐ No

An initiated amendment to Section 17, Article IX of the Colorado Constitution concerning the funding of Pre-K-12 education.

Major Provisions:

- Requires all tax rebates that would be refunded to the taxpayers will instead be spent on Pre-K-12 public education. This requirement will begin in the 2011-12 state fiscal year.
- Removes the requirement that Pre-K-12 per pupil funding be increased by at least the rate of inflation.
- Creates an educational savings account as part of the State Education Fund.

Background:

Currently, the constitution limits the amount of money that the state may spend each year. Any money collected by the state over the spending limitations must be rebated to taxpayers unless voters allow the state to spend the money. For the next few years, the state does not project that the tax collections will result in rebates to the taxpayers. Beginning in 2011, this proposal would eliminate all future rebates and instead put the money in the State Education

Fund. In addition, the proposal would eliminate the constitutional requirement that per pupil funding be increased by at least the rate of inflation each year after 2011. This proposal creates an educational savings account as part of the already existing State Education Fund. Currently, a portion of state income taxes are deposited into that fund. The proposal would require that 10% of the state income tax monies that are put into the Education Fund would be deposited into the educational savings account until a specific threshold is reached. Monies from the savings account could be spent only if two-thirds of the legislature agrees and only on Pre-K-12 education.

Those in favor say:

1. This measure creates an educational savings fund guaranteeing a permanent source of funding for Pre-K-12 education and thereby protecting education from budget cuts during economic downturns.
2. A well-educated workforce is vital for attracting new businesses, generating new quality jobs and retaining Colorado's existing jobs. This proposal will invest in education and provide children with the skills they need for the jobs of the future.
3. This proposal frees up money in the general fund by fixing inconsistencies that exist in the Colorado constitution. These inconsistencies make it difficult for government spending on public services to keep pace with changing economic needs. This measure creates a permanent source of funding for education, therefore creating a rainy day fund by freeing up money within the general fund for other necessary programs.

Those opposed say:

1. This proposal will permanently eliminate all future taxpayer rebates. It is a tax increase that will grow the size of state government.

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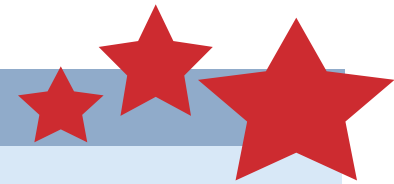
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Adding this new funding source will allow existing education monies to be used for other programs, thereby allowing other state programs to grow as well.

2. This measure will allow money that is currently used to maintain the state's deteriorating buildings to be spent on Pre- K-12 education. Maintenance and construction needs will be further reduced and the states infrastructure will continue to deteriorate.
3. Guaranteed funding for education will be eliminated by the passage of this proposal. Legislators could reduce educational spending by less than inflationary growth in order to pay for other state programs.

REFERENDA

REFERENDUM L QUALIFICATIONS FOR SERVING IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE

☐ Yes ☐ No

An amendment to Section 4, Article V of the Colorado Constitution concerning age qualifications for serving in the state legislature.

Major Provision:

- Lowers the age requirement from 25 years to 21 years to be eligible to serve in the Colorado General Assembly.

Background:

Since 1876, the state constitution has had the requirement of 25 years of age for members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Additional requirements are that a person must be a US citizen and have lived in the district he/she represents for at least 12 months prior to the election.

All 50 states have age requirements ranging from 18 to 30 years of age. Twenty-six states require senators to be at least 25 years of age with seven states having a higher age requirement.

Those in favor say:

1. Twenty-one is considered an adult under the law. Voters can judge the merits and qualifications of a candidate for public office.
2. Younger candidates can provide a different perspective on issues that are debated in the General Assembly. They can offer legislation that pertains to their age group.

Those opposed say:

1. Younger candidates may lack the maturity and life experience to be an effective legislator. Legislators face policy decisions and political pressures from lobbyists that are better handled by someone who is older with more experience.
2. Twenty-five years has been the state standard since 1876 and strikes a balance between age and experience. It is also the same age requirement as for the US House of Representatives.

Obsolete Provisions

At every general election, six articles of the Colorado constitution may be amended for the purpose of removing provisions that are outdated or expired. Language is deleted relating to deadlines that have already occurred, laws that no longer exist, and language which is gender specific.

REFERENDUM M REPEAL OBSOLETE PROVISION: LAND VALUES

☐ Yes ☐ No

An amendment repealing Section 7, Article XVIII of the Colorado Constitution concerning outdated, obsolete provisions regarding land value increase.

Major Provision:

- Removes language in the constitution which is no longer used when considering property exemptions for planting orchards, hedges or forests.

Background:

Included in the Colorado constitution in 1876, this provision was meant to encourage private land owners to grow more forests. Since 1876 other legislation limiting the types of property tax exemptions have passed that the legislature can adopt. An exemption for planting trees or forests is not presently included in legislation.

Those in favor say:

1. This proposal removes a tax exemption from the Colorado constitution which is not currently used in the valuation of property. A future tax exemption for planting trees on private land is not likely.

Those opposed say:

1. Removing this measure could limit the power of the state legislature to provide a tax exemption for planting trees on private land. Future circumstances may lead to a desire to encourage a tax exemption for reforestation, so limiting the legislature is not wise.

REFERENDUM N REPEAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS: REGULATION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

☐ Yes ☐ No

An amendment repealing Section 5, Article XVIII and Article XXII of the Colorado Constitution concerning the sale, distribution, manufacture and purity of alcoholic beverages in Colorado.

Major Provisions:

- Removes obsolete provisions that address the sale, distribution, manufacture and purity of alcoholic beverages in Colorado.
- Removes a prohibition on the establishment of saloons in Colorado.

Background:

Before national liquor prohibition in 1919, Colorado had adopted an amendment which prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. After passage of the 21st Amendment in 1933 and liquor prohibition was repealed, an amendment was passed in Colorado requiring the state to regulate the manufacture, sale and distribution of all alcoholic beverages within Colorado. The amendment also required that all licensed drinking establishments offer some type of food or meals. At the present time the manufacture, sale, distribution, safety, content and labeling of alcoholic beverages is regulated by the state and federal governments.

Those in favor say:

1. This proposal removes outdated restrictions that will not affect the ability of the Legislature to regulate alcoholic beverages within Colorado. The quality of alcoholic beverages is also regulated by the federal government.



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Those opposed say:

- 1. All provisions in the Colorado constitution have historical value. Removing them may diminish the historical character of the constitution and make future research of the constitution more difficult.

REFERENDUM O
CITIZEN INITIATED STATE LAWS

☐ Yes ☐ No

A referred amendment to Section 1, Article V of the Colorado Constitution amending the initiative and referendum process.

Major Provisions:

- Decreases the number of signatures required to place a statutory initiative on the ballot.
- Increases the number of signatures required to place a constitutional initiative on the ballot.
- Requires that eight percent of signatures for constitutional initiatives be gathered from each congressional district.

- Requires that drafts of proposed constitutional initiatives be submitted for review earlier in the year.
- Extends the time period for collecting signatures for statutory initiatives.
- Increases the number of votes required to 2/3 of both houses for the legislature to change a statutory initiative for five years after the statute takes effect.
- Allows the public and state legislators to comment on a proposed initiative at a public meeting.

Background:

Colorado has a long history of allowing citizens to propose new state laws or to change existing laws through the initiative process. These initiatives can either address statutory or constitutional changes. The constitution may be changed only with approval of the voters at an election and therefore is a more permanent set of laws. Statutes are more easily changed because they may be amended by the legislature, amended by the legislature and referred to voters, or amended by an initiative proposed by the voters.

Over the last fifteen years, a number of

initiatives have passed adding categories to the Colorado Constitution, making it a large document which is very difficult to change. There has been concern that statutory initiatives are too easily changed by the legislature. The issues being addressed by initiatives have become more complex and citizens are not always as well informed about the impact the initiatives might have if they are passed.

Those in favor say:

1. The constitution should be protected from massive changes. It should be concise and pertain to policy, not everyday law. The constitution should be more difficult to change.
2. This proposal protects voter-approved statutes and permits the legislature to address problems that may arise. A required two-thirds vote in the legislature for the first five years to change a statute will protect voter intent.
3. By providing a geographic distribution for the collection of signatures, more voters from all over the state will be encouraged to become informed on issues before the proposal come to the ballot.

Those opposed say:

1. This is an attack on the petition process and undermines people's right to petition. It is a betrayal of public trust and could potentially muzzle citizens and their ability to amend the constitution. Even with a two-thirds majority in the legislature to change a statute, this proposal may not be sufficient to preserve voter-approved statutes from change by the legislature.
2. By requiring signatures from each of the congressional districts, this proposal would make it harder for grassroots groups to get an initiative onto the ballot. This measure could make it mathematically impossible for citizens to place constitutional initiatives on the ballot if the state's population grows larger.
3. Requiring constitutional initiatives to be filed half-way through the legislative session, limits the ability of citizens to respond to action or inaction by the legislature on issues of importance to the voters. This change puts citizens at a disadvantage because the legislature can still propose competing alternatives or bills that weaken an initiative after it has been filed.



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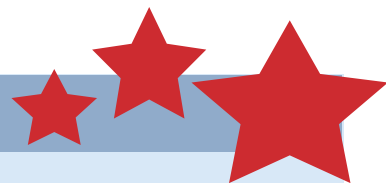


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INITIATED PROPOSALS

Amendment 46
Discrimination and Preferential Treatment
by Governments

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 47
Prohibition on Mandatory Labor Union Dues

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 48
Definition of a Person

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 49
Rules for Public Employee Paycheck Deductions

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 50
Limited Gaming

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 51
State Sales Tax Increase for Individuals with
Developmental Disabilities

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 52
Severance Tax – Transportation

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 53
Criminal Accountability for Business Executives

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 54
Campaign Contributions from Certain
Government Contractors

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 55
Allowable Reasons for Employee
Discharge or Suspension

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 56
Employer Responsibility for Health Insurance

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 57
Additional Remedies for Injured Employees

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 58
Severance Taxes on Oil and Gas Industry

☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 59
Rebates and Educational Funding

☐ Yes ☐ No

REFERRED PROPOSALS

Referendum L
Qualifications for Serving in the State Legislature

☐ Yes ☐ No

Referendum M
Repeal Obsolete Provision: Land Values

☐ Yes ☐ No

Referendum N
Repeal Obsolete Provision: Alcoholic Beverages

☐ Yes ☐ No

Referendum O
Citizen Initiated State Laws

☐ Yes ☐ No

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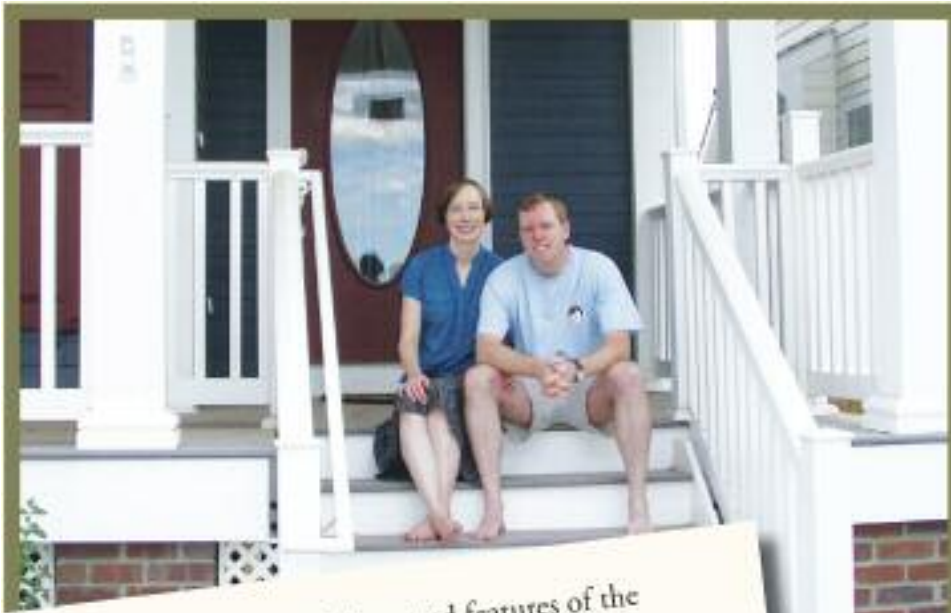
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by Melissa Knott
Director of Sustainability for Forest City Stapleton, Inc.



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Beekeeping Changes Proposed for Denver

Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann has proposed an amendment to allow domestic honey beekeeping, with reasonable requirements in consideration of neighbors, in the City and Country of Denver. Current regulations prohibit the keeping of bees in Denver.

The proposed zoning code language amendment would remove the current prohibition on apiaries and allow 2 domestic honeybee hives per zone lot. Hives would be required to be in rear 1/3 of yard; have a setback at least 5 feet from side and rear zone lot lines; be screened so that bees would have to fly over a 6-foot barrier before leaving the zone lot; and extra hive material and beekeeping paraphernalia would not be allowed to be stored outdoors.

Honey bees are an important but fragile part of our ecosystem. Bees are critical pollinators of urban gardens and agriculture and one-third of our food supply is pollinated by bees. Denver has a goal of being a Green City, and backyard beekeeping is a good fit. Allowing do-

mestic honey beekeepers in more cities will help bring back the feral bee population and improve the genetic diversity of the honeybees, which is critical to the survival of this important natural resource. The proposal allows for two hives, which is enough for a hobbyist beekeeper to manage in a typical backyard setting. This also allows the keeper to rebuild if one of the colonies collapses.

The proposed bee ordinance will be discussed at a Blueprint Denver Committee meeting on the 8th of October; have its first reading and introduction to City Council on the 20th of October; and have its Public Hearing on November 17th.

If you'd like more specific information, including how to participate in the Public Hearing, please contact Gretchen Williams at the City Council Office, Gretchen.williams@denvergov.org or 720-865-9341.



Celebrate International Walk to School Day, October 8th

Back then, it was simply a day to bring community leaders and children together to create awareness of the need for communities to be walkable.

The event was established as "International" in 2000, when Canada and the UK joined with the US to celebrate. By 2002, children, parents, teachers and community leaders in all 50 states joined nearly 3 million walkers around the world to celebrate the second annual International Walk to School Day.

Communities use the walk or bike to school as the first step to change community culture and create environments that are more inviting for everyone, young and old. Reasons to support walking and biking to school include enhancing the health of kids, improving air quality and the environment and creating safer routes for walking and bicycling.

To learn more and get involved visit www.walktoschool-usa.org.

International Walk to School Day is celebrated in the United States on October 8th. Last year all 50 states held Walk to School events for an estimated total of 6,000 schools. Over half of the events are part of ongoing activities to promote walking and bicycling throughout the year.

In 1997, the Partnership for a Walkable America sponsored the first National Walk Our Children to School Day in Chicago, modeled after the United Kingdom's lead.



The Stapleton Farmers Market season ended on September 28th. Thanks to the community for your support throughout the 2008 season! Hope to see you next year!

October 11th - 12th Denver Botanic Gardens' Pumpkin Festival

Thousands of pumpkins will be ripe for the picking the weekend of October 11th and 12th at the Denver Botanic Garden's annual pumpkin festival at Chatfield. Come search for the perfect pumpkin pie gourd for all your Halloween and fall festivities! Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield will be filled with exciting children's activities and vendors selling handcrafted gifts. Explore the myriad of animals at the

working farm, tour the historical ranch, and enjoy the carnival rides.

The festival runs from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day. Admission varies from \$2 - \$5. Children ages 3-12 in costume are admitted for free. Please bring your own wagon for your pumpkin purchase.

For more information visit www.botanicgardens.org/content/pumpkin-fest.

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Forest City Breaks Ground at Colorado Science + Technology Park at Fitzsimons

By Claire Fisher

The Forest City Science + Technology Group recently demolished the old Fitzsimons smokestack Sept.3, to make way for a new Hyatt Place hotel and conference facility. The demolition signified the start of development for the Colorado Science + Technology Park at Fitzsimons, a 184-acre business park dedicated to life science focused companies.

“The Colorado Science + Technology Park at Fitzsimons is an important part of a grand vision to bring science and business together in one square mile that is fast becoming one of the most advanced life science communities in the world,” said Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer. “According to our latest economic study, developments at Fitzsimons and the Anschutz Medical Campus will yield 20,000 on-site jobs by 2013 and more than 43,000 on-site jobs when fully developed.”

Mayor Tauer added that an updated economic study predicts \$3.5 billion in annual economic output in 2008 and up to \$4.5 billion in annual economic impact by 2013 will be produced from the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, which now includes the Colorado Science + Technology Park, the Anschutz Medical Campus,



A wrecking ball demolishes the old smokestack at Fitzsimons to make way for the Colorado Science + Technology Park.

The Children’s Hospital and Research Center, and the future Veterans Affairs Hospital.

Forest City plans call for an initial life science building that will accommodate the growth of the region’s existing life science industry as well as existing incubator tenants on site. Announcements for an approximately 175,000 square-foot office building for University Physicians, Inc. and Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union were also made.

“We’re inspired by the incredible concentration of brainpower and the important partnerships that will be possible between academia and private industry as

companies locate to the Colorado Science + Technology Park at Fitzsimons,” said University of Colorado President Bruce Benson, who also spoke at the groundbreaking event.

(Editor’s note: The Forest City Science + Technology Group operates a portfolio of more than 2 million square feet of life science/technology office space with more than 8 million square feet in the planning or development stages. For more information, visit www.forestcityscience.net and click on “Colorado Science + Technology Park.”)

Spice Up Your Cooking

By Nancy Burkhardt

If you love inviting your friends and business acquaintances to your home for dinner, now you can create an eating experience with new cuisine capabilities you will gain at one of Johnson & Wales Chef’s Choice Recreational Cooking Classes.

Johnson & Wales University, 7150 Montview Blvd., is known for its College of Business and College of Hospitality, where professional chefs learn their trade. However, due to popular request for cooking classes for the public, these classes were formed, according to Stapleton resident Jorge de la Torre, Dean of Culinary Arts.

The classes are being held from 9 a.m. to noon on two or three Saturdays each month through Dec. 13. Participants sign up for one class at a time, at \$80 per class. Subjects include: soups and sauces, home-style stews, Southern Italian cuisine, pastabilities, easy chicken dishes, vegetarian cuisine, pies and mixology.

“These classes are not going to have a professional bent,” explained de la Torre. “All these classes are designed for somebody who’s interested and wants to hone their skills.

“So, you want to learn about how to build the proper cocktail. It’ll give you the basis so that you aren’t afraid to give it your own twist. All these classes are ones that you will be able to reproduce at home. We’re not going to use kitchen gear that you won’t have at home,” he said.

“It’s also for family meals and get-togethers with friends,” said Gloria Picinini, Chef’s Choice Coordinator. “With these classes, you will have skills to show off.”

Denver Public Schools Expo for Families Nov. 3

Denver Public Schools (DPS) will bring families together with principals, teachers and students from more than 50 of its schools at an Expo from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 3, at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd.

The exhibition will include elementary magnet schools, middle years programs for students in grades six through eight and high schools, including traditional, alternative and charter schools.

Families will have an opportunity to talk with school teachers and principals, as well as attend sessions on how to work in the DPS choice process.

DPS department representatives from Transportation, Gifted and Talented, Special Education and English Language Acquisition will be available to meet with attending families.

For information, contact Lisa Schiff at 720-423-3885, or e-mail her at lisa_schiff@dpsk12.org

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A close-up photograph of a white ceramic bowl filled with a light-colored soup. The soup contains several green, leafy vegetables and some darker, possibly seaweed or mushroom, pieces. A small sprig of green herb is garnishing the top. In the background, another similar bowl is visible but out of focus, resting on a white saucer. The entire scene is set against a plain white background.

To register for one of Johnson & Wales Chef's Choice Recreational Cooking Classes, call Gloria Picinini at 303-256-9694 or e-mail her at Gloria.Picinini@jwu.edu. For Johnson & Wales University information, go to www.jwu.edu/denver.



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E.L.K. Participants Visit Sen. Salazar



Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) participants visit Sen. Ken Salazar (white shirt). Sen. Salazar helped get the ELK program started in 1996. ELK co-founder Scott Gilmore is 2nd from left, back row.

By Kirsten Pasha

Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) was founded in 1996 by Scott and Stacie Gilmore. The Gilmores say that ELK was able to get started because Sen. Ken Salazar, then executive director of Colorado’s Department of Natural Resources, headed up the Youth in Natural Resources (YNR) program more than 15 years ago. As participants in the YNR program, Scott Gilmore said, “We saw the need for introducing youth of color and females to Colorado’s natural resources.” And because of Salazar, ELK exists, Scott Gilmore said.

ELK primarily works with minority groups who are often under-encouraged to study science

and enter science-related fields. Besides providing hands-on and educational activities, ELK also mentors youth and helps them apply for college and scholarships. ELK is able to reach 17,000 Denver-area youth annually, thanks to grants and donors. The high school graduation rate for ELK students is 98 percent, which is compared to the 50-percent rate for Colorado students in the same demographic group, black and Hispanic.

For more information about ELK, visit www.elkkids.org or call Kim at 303-291-7554. To make a donation e-mail KPasha@elkkids.org or call 303-291-7503. Kirsten Pasha is the Development and Marketing Director for Environmental Learning for Kids.

Carousel Rides Help Kids Go To Zoo Camp



By Matt Wagner

With the help of Foresters (a member-based life insurance organization) and KOSI-FM, Northeast Denver residents from Stapleton, Park Hill and Lowry helped raise money for the Denver Zoo’s Red Apple Fund. The Fund covers costs for children to attend Zoo camps. Foresters offered free carousel and train rides on Sunday, August 24 to anyone who presented a free voucher that was found online at KOSI101.com. For each voucher presented, a donation was made by Foresters. For more information about the Red Apple Fund, visit www.foresters.com and www.denverzoo.org.

Matt Wagner is a Stapleton resident who helped organize this year’s event.

Left: Stapleton’s Ben Wagner, with his mom Katie, is shown enjoying his free carousel ride, which helped raise \$2,000 for the Red Apple Fund and send 30 children to Zoo camp in the summer of 2009.

Since You’ve Asked...

Q. What is happening with the 35th Avenue Bridge planned over Westerly Creek, the extension of the Stapleton streets south to Aurora and the extension of Martin Luther King Boulevard to Peoria? Also, when will Central Park Boulevard be extended to Northfield and the Westerly Creek Trails completed to Sand Creek? (question submitted by Stapleton United Neighbors Transportation Committee)

A. The 35th Avenue Bridge over Westerly Creek is designed, but work is on hold pending the realignment of Westerly Creek, a process that is nearing completion. An additional factor in construction of the bridge is the City of Denver’s completion of environmental remediation in the area and north of the bridge.

The extension of Central Park Boulevard to Northfield will be coordinated with the development of a new interchange on I-70 the City of Denver and the Colorado Department of Transportation have targeted for late 2010.

According to the terms of an inter-governmental agreement between the cities of Denver and Aurora, the streets scheduled to connect Stapleton with the Aurora neighborhoods to the south include Fulton, Iola, Dayton/Emporia (one connection), Lima and Kingston. Moline street will be reconstructed and a future connection is envisioned in the area of Oswego. The extension of the streets is determined according to the City of Denver’s environmental cleanup in Filing 16 (Iola to Peoria, 26th Avenue to Martin Luther King Boulevard.). Completion of that environmental remediation also dictates the timetable for the extension of Martin Luther King Boulevard east to Peoria where it will connect with the Fitzsimons Parkway.

Q. When will the Westerly Creek Trails be completed to Sand Creek?

A. The extension of the trails is subject to the completion of environmental remediation in the area of the 35 the Avenue Bridge location. The plan is to make an interim trail connection along the western edge of the Westerly Creek Open Space once that remediation is complete although that interim trail will close occasionally depending on construction activities on the west side of the open space, which include water line construction, grading and bridge work. The trail connection will become permanent with the park improvements that come with the completion of the realignment of Westerly Creek. The City of Denver has not released a definitive schedule for completion of the remediation work in that area.

Responses provided by Derek Brown, director of engineering for Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

Q. Is it safe for my dog to drink the reclaimed water in the pond in Central Park?

A. Recycled water is produced by taking treated wastewater that otherwise would be discharged into a river or stream and treating it again so it can be used for non-drinking purposes. Although there are no known cases of people getting sick from ingesting it, recycled water doesn’t meet drinking water standards. Pets probably won’t suffer ill effects from occasional contact or ingestion, however, consuming large quantities could cause vomiting and diarrhea.

Response provided by Dr. Michele Smith of the 29th Avenue Animal Hospital in Stapleton’s E. 29th Avenue Town Center.

Q. How can I report construction traffic that is speeding through my neighborhood along 35th Avenue?

A. Call the Denver Police Neighborhood Enforcement Team at 720.913.7400 to report speeding. Another recommendation is to call the E. 29th Avenue Town Center COP Shop at 720.865.2356.

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40	\$11	\$17	\$29
45	\$16	\$27	\$47
50	\$22	\$39	\$69
55	\$31	\$58	\$106
60	\$44	\$83	\$158
65	\$70	\$135	\$257

Monthly Rate for Males			
Age	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
35	\$9	\$14	\$24
40	\$11	\$18	\$31
45	\$18	\$31	\$52
50	\$25	\$45	\$83
55	\$42	\$80	\$141
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Dance Became Her Passion and Her Life

By Nancy Burkhart

When she started dancing at the age of 9 in order to improve her posture, Park Hill resident April Charmaine had no idea that dance would become her passion and her life. But it did.

"I don't remember that moment when it clicked that I actually loved dance," Charmaine said. "I just knew that I felt better when I did it. I felt grumpy when I didn't."

Today, Charmaine is a choreographer, dancer and artistic director for her Sol Vida Dance Theatre, a mobile dance company that performs and teaches at various venues, including schools and theaters. It includes a youth "tribe" and the Sol Vida Dance Ensemble which is made up of adults.

Charmaine, herself trained with the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Training Group, the Denver School of the Arts, Ghana Dance Ensemble, and the Tanniobe Brazilian Music & Arts Ensemble.

"I was fortunate to be one of the first-year students at the Denver School of the Arts in 1991 and 1992. I auditioned and became part of the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Training Group," she said. "I had intensive training with really good teachers. I became a stronger modern dancer, and African dancer as well. Cleo is pretty much my idol. She has an enlightening spirit. She lifts you up with a smile."

Charmaine has taken her experience with a variety of international dance forms and melded them into the Sol Vida Dance Theatre.

"We're dedicated to fusing international styles of dance and performing arts," she said. "I take a little bit of everything that I've learned along the way and put it together. That includes African, hip hop, Latin, and Egyptian. We do a lot of improvisation. We blend the best of everything. The dance that I teach as well as perform is a reflection of the fusion of forms of dance."

Charmaine also is the premier choreographer for the Catchpenny Kids Theatre and Denver East High School. Every summer she works on two musicals produced by Catchpenny.

"In the summers, we audition the kids," she explained. "It's a musical theater camp. Within the choreography, my ultimate goal and philosophy is to bring out the dancer in everyone, finding out what works well with people's bodies and giving them challenges to grow."

Charmaine also works with East High School students.

"I started with 'West Side Story,'" she said. "It's by audition. Some of the kids are in love with theater and that's their life. I've choreographed a cabaret show and a pop show. It's a ton of fun working with those kids."

Charmaine describes the dance moves she uses as "eclectic moves, heart-pounding, soul-stirring music fusing dances of the African and Latin diasporas, ballet, modern, jazz and more."

Part of the bonus to Charmaine from teaching dance comes in a student's reactions to dance.

"I think so much of it has to do with that spark in your eye, that passion in your soul," she explained. "It's an innate desire. I'm a pretty perceptive person who can see that in individuals. So, when I recognize that, I know that I can push that person to higher levels, higher achievement and goals for themselves."

"We had a couple of really strong and amazing seniors at East High last year," she said. "I'm very excited to see what becomes of them. I'm confident that some of these kids will go farther. I see that Broadway light in them and want to watch it unfold."

As much as dance can become a dancer's life, Charmaine advises her students to foster well-rounded lives.

"I would advise them to lead a very balanced life and to pursue as many opportunities as they can in the performance art world," she said. "I think those are some of the experiences that have shaped my being – performance art camps, traveling the world. They need to get as much exposure as they can to every aspect of the arts, and do their schoolwork."

"A lot of people coming up get so into it that they forget to play. You need to have down time in your life. Learn as much as you can about everything. That, ultimately, is going to build you as a dancer."

Charmaine does projects at various schools, and does various workshops, including some for people who do not plan to be professional dancers. She also advises parents on dance programs for their children.

Contact April Charmaine at 303-564-7009 or e-mail her at solvidadance@hotmail.com. Information is available at www.myspace.com/solvida.



April Charmaine, shown leading her students in a dance class, is the founder of the Sol Vida Dance Theatre, which offers an eclectic combination of dance including African, hip hop, Latin and Egyptian.

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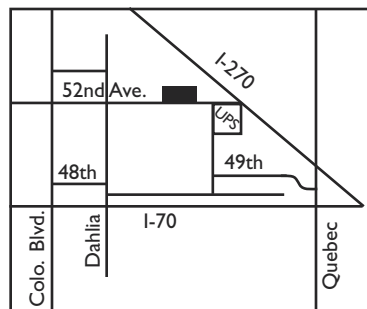
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Top 10 Ways To Avoid an Unwanted Cesarean Delivery



Bettyann Heppler

By Bettyann Heppler,
MSN, CNM

After falling in the early 1990s, the cesarean rate in the US has been steadily climbing over the past decade. In 2006, almost one of every three babies born in the US was delivered by a surgical procedure. Yet most pregnant moms and their partners go into labor expecting a normal vaginal delivery. Here are suggestions that may help achieve a normal birth.

Choose Your Care Provider Thoughtfully

Choose a caregiver that has a low cesarean section rate and a high vaginal birth after cesarean section (VBAC) rate. The United States Department of Health and Human Services set objectives for improving the health of the nation in its report; Healthy People 2010. The report recommends a cesarean rate of 15%. In 2006, the US had an all time high cesarean rate in of 31.1% (CDC). This number has risen steadily over the past decade. A study by Public Citizens Health Research Group found that births attended by nurse midwives were 50% less likely to end in cesarean sections.

Choose Your Place of Birth Carefully

Visit the hospital or birth center where you plan to give birth. Does it feel comfortable to you? Ask questions about common practices such as whether all women are continually monitored or do they have an intermittent monitoring policy? (Continuous monitoring has been shown to increase cesareans without improving outcomes).

Do Not Schedule a Medically Unnecessary Induction of Labor

The last few weeks of pregnancy can be very uncomfortable and the offer by a provider of artificially inducing labor can be very tempting. However, inductions are associated with in-

crease fetal distress, cesarean sections, and heavy bleeding after the baby is born.

Have a Constant Companion With You in Labor and Consider Hiring a Doula

Every laboring woman should receive continuous support, not only from those close to her but also from trained caregivers. In 2007, The Cochrane Database of Systemic Reviews found that laboring women who received continuous labor support were less likely to have an epidural or any pain medication; were less likely to give birth with vacuum, forceps or by cesarean; and less likely to report dissatisfaction with their experience.

Prepare Emotionally and Psychologically for Pregnancy and Childbirth

Past experiences can influence the progress of labor such as history of physical or sexual abuse, prior traumatic birth experience, or overwhelming fear of labor or birth. Your provider, doula, childbirth educator or a mental health professional may be able to help. There are also some very good books available on this topic.

Stay Active and Fit During Pregnancy to Be Physically Prepared for Labor and Birth

Moderate exercise can help build the stamina needed for labor and also relieve common aches and pains of pregnancy. Swimming or water aerobics, prenatal yoga, walking and other exercise classes designed for pregnant mom's are your best bet.

Eat Healthy During Pregnancy and Gain the Recommended Amount of Weight

Gaining too much or too little weight can cause problems for you or your baby. Your diet should have adequate protein, a variety of fruits and vegetables, and plenty of water. If you begin your pregnancy at a normal weight you should gain 25 -35 lbs total. This means adding about 300 calories a day to your usual intake or one healthy snack.

Don't Be Admitted to the Hospital Before You Are Dilated to Four Centimeters

The first four centimeters of dilatation are usually the slowest and labor can start and stop during this time – especially for first time moms. So stay at home and be as comfortable as possible until labor becomes more active.

Eat and Drink in Early Labor to Maintain Your Energy

Don't arrive at the hospital for the hard work of labor hungry or dehydrated. This can interfere with labor progressing. Eat to appetite and be sure to get adequate protein and fluids for the athletic event of labor and birth.

If You Are Planning to Use Epidural Anesthesia for Pain Relief, Wait Until You Are at Least Four Centimeters Dilated to Have it Placed

Epidurals placed after four centimeters of dilatation are less likely to slow progress. Try other comfort measures to get through the early stages of labor like massage, showers or baths, position changes and walking. Remember to stay in the present moment with your labor and take one contraction at a time.

Bettyann Heppler, MSN, CNM is a Nurse-Midwife with the University of Colorado. She recently opened a midwifery practice in Stapleton: AF Williams Family Medicine, 3055 Roslyn Street. Appointment line 720-848-9000, free initial consults. For more information about midwifery or the birth center at University, link to:

<http://www.uch.edu/conditions/pregnancy/midwifery/index.aspx>. Midwifery Practice Director, Erica Schwartz: 303-241-6872; Erica.Schwartz@uchsc.edu.

Resources

1. Cesarean Sections: http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/news/sharewithwomen49_2.pdf
2. Difference between Nurse Midwife and Doulas: http://www.mymidwife.org/nurse_midwife.cfm
3. Midwifery Care in the United States: http://www.midwife.org/media_kit.cfm
4. Midwifery, Pregnancy & Women's Health: <http://www.mymidwife.org/>
5. University Nurse Midwives: <http://www.uch.edu/conditions/pregnancy/midwifery/index.aspx>

Women Build Expo Oct. 26

The Women Build Expo, a tradeshow to promote awareness of locally-owned, women-friendly home improvement businesses, will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Colorado Convention Center.

Exhibitors from various home improvement and design disciplines, such as general contractors, interior designers, educators and artisans, will be present. Tool demonstrations will be offered, as well as tips for finding contractors and getting home improvement ideas.


The \$10 entrance fee will benefit Habitat for Humanity. For information, visit www.womenbuildexpo.com.

Thai Chi For Arthritis Pain Relief

The Aurora Center for Active Adults is offering Sun Style Tai Chi taught by Arthritis Foundation certified instructors to improve the quality of life for arthritis sufferers. During one-hour-long classes, participants will do exercises that may improve mobility, breathing and relaxation. Persons at all fitness levels will be able to participate in the classes.

The Arthritis Foundation says that, among other benefits, Tai Chi reduces pain and stiffness, improves ability to cope with stress and depression, and improves concentration and memory. For more information, call the Arthritis Foundation at 800-475-6447.

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Are you a healthy, overweight male or female, ages 20-45, with a body mass index of 30-39 kg/m2 (<http://www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi/bmi-m.htm>)? The University of Colorado Denver is conducting a research study on the effect of weight loss on metabolism. Volunteers must be able to easily access the Anschutz Medical Campus for daily food pick-up for 11 weeks. **Research visits include: 2 morning screening appointments and 3 overnight stays on**

the CTSC research unit at University Hospital. Study procedures include IV testing with infusion of glucose and insulin, a muscle biopsy from the thigh area of the leg, and an MRI of the lower leg muscle. Compensation will be provided upon completion of study. **Please call Karen at 303-399-8020, ext. 3535, for more information.** (PI: Boris Draznin, MD, PhD; COMIRB #07-1203). Approved 6/10/08

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I-70/Central Park Blvd. Interchange Update

A new interchange at Central Park Boulevard is currently being evaluated as a future connection to the Stapleton Redevelopment Area. The need for this project results from the following issues: Increased transportation demand; limited transportation capacity; poor local mobility and poor access for pedestrians and bicyclists; and safety.

Currently, an Environmental Assessment is being prepared for the proposed project area which extends along I-70 from Quebec Street to Havana Street. Through the Environmental Assessment process, the City and

County of Denver will engage the corridor stakeholders in the planning process, including the residents and business owners in the neighborhoods of the Stapleton Redevelopment Area. A public scoping meeting was held in June of this year and a public meeting is anticipated later this winter to discuss the project. Comments on the project are still welcome and a comment form is available on-line at: <http://denvergov.org/CentralParkBoulevardInterchange/tabid/431817/Default.aspx>.

Information provided by Jess Ortiz, jess.ortiz@denvergov.org or 720-913-1781.

Stapleton online goes offline

StapletonOnline will be going offline at the end of October and will go through a complete redesign over the next six to nine months. We understand that this will be an inconvenience for those of you who currently use StapletonOnline to exchange information on the Grapevine and to access current community information. During the redesign we encourage residents to use StapletonCommunity.com as their primary source for Stapleton information. If you are currently signed up for email alerts, those will continue. However, new residents will need to sign up through StapletonCommunity.com

Why are we doing this? StapletonOnline was originally designed and funded by Forest City as a community connection site with the intention that it would eventually be transferred to and managed by the MCA. As with many older sites designed years ago, it lacked the flexibility to adapt to the changing needs of the community.

What's next? As we look down the road, it is critical to take this time to wrap together the current functionality with the anticipated future needs of the community and roll it into a single, user-friendly site. As we go through the redesign process, we would like to include as much information as possible from the community - features you currently use in addition to features that you would really like to see incorporated into the redesigned site. These would include everything from registering for community activities like swim lessons, reserving facilities and



Keven A. Burnett, Executive Director

maintaining our community database. Please send your comment in regards to any and all web issues to online@stapletoncommunity.com.

Stapleton District Delegates for 2009

The Stapleton MCA is seeking nominations for individuals willing to serve as District Delegates for 2009. It is the responsibility of the property owners located within each of Stapleton's seven districts to elect a delegate who will represent their interests to the Stapleton MCA Executive Board. Throughout this annual commitment, Delegates will meet monthly, attend quarterly board meetings, and ratify the 2010 MCA budget. In addition, delegates serve as the primary advisory committee to the MCA Board and

Executive Director providing input on community events, programs and capital improvements. Delegates also serve on the Stapleton Design Review Committee for renovations and remodeling. Individuals wishing to be nominated as potential delegates should send a letter of interest to the Stapleton MCA Executive Director by October 20th. Email letters to delegates@stapletoncommunity.com.

The Stapleton MCA is a 501(c) 4 Non Profit Community Organization whose mission it is to create and sustain a sense of community at Stapleton through comprehensive parks & recreation management, supporting community events, programs and cultural facilities. The MCA is located at 2823 Roslyn St. and can be reached by phone (303-388-0724) or email (info@stapletoncommunity.com). Community information is continually updated at www.StapletonCommunity.com

Volunteers Needed for The Big Dig Oct. 25

Almost 500 trees will be planted in northeast Denver in an effort to improve Denver's urban forest. The Park People has teamed with Esurance and Tree by Tree - The Mile High Million to bring volunteers together for the "Big Dig" to plant trees from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 25.

The re-greening effort will provide 200 trees on north Monaco Parkway, 100 along Martin Luther King Boulevard and nearly 200 trees on other streets. "We are excited to be working in several pockets of

town that have historically been overlooked in terms of focusing on the urban canopy," said Paige Heydon-McCrary, The Park People Executive Director.

The Park People and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado also will plant 62 trees in City Park on October 18 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., as part of Saturday @ the Park's Community Forester Project. These events are part of National Neighborhoods Month.

For more information or to get involved, call Kiran Obee at 303-722-6262.

Central Park Realty Fundraisers — Run For Westerly Creek School

Twelve participants in the October 19th Denver Marathon (including the 1/2 marathon and the relay) will be running to benefit the Westerly Creek PTA. Central Park Realty has organized a team with the goal of raising \$3,500. The participating runners have committed to raising \$500 for running the marathon, \$350 for the 1/2 marathon and \$250 if participating as a member of the relay team. To contribute to the team's fundraising efforts or inquire about joining Team Central Park as a runner, contact John Carranza at jmcarranza@comcast.net.

In addition to the marathon fundraiser, Central Park Realty will credit every buyer or seller a portion of their real estate transaction (up to \$500) for every closing completed during the remainder of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009. By law, Central Park Realty cannot directly contribute to the PTA on behalf of a buyer or seller, but will encourage any client receiving this credit to consider making a donation to the Westerly Creek PTA. For more information contact John Carranza at jmcarranza@comcast.net.

24 Hour Vigil for POWs/MIAs Held at Lowry

To commemorate National POW/MIA (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) Recognition Day, military and civilian employees held a 24-hour vigil at the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Lowry on Sept. 19 and 20. Volunteers from the Air Reserve Personnel Center and

the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, over a 24 hour period, read the names of more than 10,000 people still listed as POW/MIA from the Cold War to current operations. The vigil concluded with a formal retreat ceremony with two military formations and one civilian formation.

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S.U.N. Meetings are open to the public
The SUN Board meets at 6:30pm
on the 4th Thursday of every month at the
Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn Street.

Wildlife in the City

By Ashley DeLaup

Today in the city and county of Denver we're at a new age in how we view wildlife. We've come to understand that different animals have a role to play in keeping our ecosystems balanced. As people develop more understanding and respect for our natural world our tolerance for living around wildlife increases. Urban wildlife, or animals that are able to live and thrive in close association with people, has become a part of our lives here in Denver. Watching a red tail hawk perching over the freeway, hearing a prairie dog call out a warning, chasing a flicker away from the side of your home, spotting a red fox weaving through tall grasses and ducking into a drain are our indicators that our urban wildlife populations are here and thriving. But as our encounters increase, we now need to learn the new rules of coexistence. Learning how to coexist is a process that will benefit wild and human residents of Denver.

Coyotes are a common sight in many areas around our city. As most North American predators have decreased in

population size and range in the past hundred years, coyotes have adapted to fill these empty niches. In our urban environments they have discovered an abundance of food, water and shelter that has created an oasis for expanding coyote populations. Coyotes are now found in every major city in the United States, and Denver is no exception. As one of the most intelligent and adaptable species in North America, they require special care in order to create and maintain healthy and safe coyote and human habitat.

While naturally coyotes have an innate wariness of humans, our actions can lessen that fear, and lead to increasingly dangerous encounters. So here are the "rules" to creating a safe environment while coexisting with coyotes in the city.

1. NEVER feed a coyote, purposefully or accidentally. While coyotes rarely attack people, (approximately 10 bites a year throughout the country), a majority of attacks are directly related to human fed coyotes. They associate us with food and lose their fear of people. Keep all food waste inacces-

sible. It is illegal in Colorado to feed a coyote.

- keep trash tightly covered or safely inside until pick up
- cover compost
- pick up garden fruits and vegetables off the ground
- keep cats inside
- keep small dogs inside or closely attended

2. Respond EVERY time you see a coyote. Coyotes feel increasingly comfortable when they see humans without incidence. Blow a whistle, yell, and wave your arms. When you ignore their presence they will get braver. It's not cruel; it's saving their lives and keeping your neighborhood safe.

3. Install motion activated light sensors around home. Maintain fence so they can't slip underneath. Keep areas around fences relatively clear so coyotes won't have vegetation they can hide in.

4. NEVER let your pet play with coyotes. They are intelligent and playful and may initiate contact with large dogs. This greatly reduces their natural fear. During mating season they will defend their territories. Large dogs become competition and small dogs may not be objects of play, but of prey.

Ashley DeLaup is a Wildlife Ecologist with the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation's Natural Areas Programs. Her job is to support and manage urban wildlife living in Denver and to educate the residents and children of Denver about the animals we live with. The goal of the Natural Areas program is to restore disturbed and undeveloped land into sustainable, natural ecosystems to benefit both the residents and urban wildlife. She can be reached at 303-455-0785 or ashley.delaup@denvergov.org.

Stapleton Public Forum

Tuesday, October 14th, 7 - 8:30 pm

William Roberts School (2100 Akron Way) Doors open at 6:30

Receive an update and ask questions in regard to the redevelopment of Stapleton

Sponsored by Stapleton United Neighbors/ Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board/Forest City Stapleton, Inc.
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The following information was provided by the Republicans and Democrats for volunteers to contact them.

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Greenwood Village, CO 80111
303-486-2008 www.cologop.org
(same contact for McCain campaign)

The Democratic Party of Denver
789 Sherman Street, Suite #145
Denver, Colorado 80203
303.830.8242
info@denverdemocrats.org
www.denverdemocrats.net
For the Obama campaign send name, address and email to:
addme@Denver4Obama.com

Letter to the Editor – One DNC Delegate’s Experience

My long-term interest in politics began 48 years go when, as a teenager, I campaigned for JFK. My more recent interest in this convention began two years ago when I learned the DNC would be in Denver. At last, I felt, I had earned the role of a crazy woman who could wear the hats and the buttons, just like I’d seen on TV as a child. Then I undertook a serious analysis of the candidates which led to a growing conviction that Barack Obama should become the next President of the United States. I began organizing for Obama in East Montclair and eventually was elected at the precinct caucus in East Montclair to be a delegate to the Denver County Convention. Then I was elected as a delegate to First Congressional District Convention (where I lost) And finally, running as a delegate at-large at the State Convention—I won! Winning what?

A seat at the Democratic National Convention—a front row seat, as it turned out. But more than that, I won the power to cast a vote for Barack Obama as the Democratic

nominee for President of the United States!

It was a little like being an extra in a movie, but without the pay. We dressed the part, were handed signs and told when to raise them. It was a couple of TV interviews, a microphone stuck in my face asking me to react to Michelle Obama’s speech. It was a little like a rock concert. Dancing in the aisle while Melissa Ethridge belted out “Born in the U.S.A.”

But on the morning that it mattered, when I was asked to sign my name and check a box to select my candidate for the Presidency, it was more solemn. I was not even at the convention. It was outside of the breakfast room at the Grand Hyatt where we lined up to finally do what we’d been elected to do. I asked someone to snap a photo with my little Nikon of me, doing what I’d been elected to do, had been working toward for almost a year. Outside of all the hoopla, the party, the fireworks, the music and the stagecraft, at last I got to do what we all get to do in November. I got to cast my vote. It felt great!

—Jackie St. Joan

MCA Seeks Aquatics and Recreation Director

The Stapleton MCA is still accepting resumes for Aquatics and Recreation Director. The purpose of this position will be to oversee all community pool operations and

aquatic programming. Interested individuals should review the complete job description posted online at www.StapletonCommunity.com. Call 303-388-0724.

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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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RESEARCH STUDY VOLUNTEERS needed: Are you healthy, overweight and pregnant? We're looking for healthy women < 15 weeks pregnant. Age 18-35, BMI between 30-40 (<http://nhlbisupport.com/bmi/>), Willing to attend 6 study visits. Qualified volunteers will receive financial compensation, Labwork & Diet analysis. If interested: 303.315.9089, EATS.STUDY@uchsc.edu

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DISPLAY ADS: Space reservations are due the 10th of the prior month. Artwork is due the 13th. Rates are listed at: www.StapletonFrontPorch.com. Call 303-333-0257 or 303-526-1969 to obtain an ad contract.

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Views on the Street – What do you think of the political ads?



Doris Harris

Doris Harris: I think the ads are insulting to us as voters and we shouldn't have to see the presidential candidates putting each other down. We can decide on our own without them being rude to

each other and we as voters are smart enough to know who we want to vote for without these ads.



Cameron, Riley (18 mo.) and Amie Cox

Amie Cox: I do not feel that the political advertising influences me at all. It is actually frustrating to me because I feel that most of it is very negative and rather than understanding what the candidates are really for or against, it has become a lot of bashing back and forth.

Mia Rollins, age 13: I don't really like the commercials on TV because I don't think people should choose who they vote for based on what they see on TV. I don't like how they are always talking



Mia Rollins; Madeline, Joelle, and Sofie Appel

about how bad the other candidate is. I think that if it is a commercial, they should only talk about what they are going to do and not what the other person is doing wrong. The negative ads might work for some people but I think that someone that's smart wouldn't believe them. If you are going to watch TV, you should probably watch the debates too.

Madeline Appel, age 13: I think some of the commercials on TV for Obama talk about how he is going to change the United States and the world in a positive way. But both parties have run insulting commercials with statements that distort the truth. This confuses me about their true intentions.

Joelle Appel: I have made my voting decisions based on newspaper and other media and I am not inclined to change my vote based on a commercial. I don't appreciate the badgering of the candidates that are found on these commercials. I always hope that these ads don't influence other people's vote but I have a fear that perhaps they do. I think the negative ads are in hopes of digging up some dirt on the opponent to make them look bad in order to persuade undecided voters.

Unfortunately, I think there are people in our society that thrive on negativity and gossip instead of the facts or what they think will improve society.

Sofie Appel, age 9: I think sometimes they are lying and you can really hear what is not true and what is true.



Shaun, Mila (age 4), Marley (19 mo.) and Chelli Seaholm

Chelli Seaholm: Political advertising is horrible. It has the potential for influencing many people who are undecided or unknowledgeable about the real issues in the election, which is disturbing, since it is frequently inaccurate. I think many people base their votes on the advertising alone, which is scary in such an important election.

Shaun Seaholm: Unfortunately, I think these ads do influence people and the people that they are trying to influence are not educated

on all the issues and are looking more at the surface of things. I don't think it has a huge impact on people who are aware of the issues and where the candidates stand, but the people who are going to decide the election are those who are undecided and don't know a lot about the issues at this point. I think the campaign ads can actually swing the election and that is what they are trying to do in this election and we have seen this in the polls recently.

Peter Han: I do think that political advertisements are effective and that is why so much money is spent on them. But I certainly wish they would go away. They don't generally influence me because I know there's more to the story than the ads claim.



Peter Han



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Somali Families Settle Happily in Stapleton



Abdikadir, 8, Hussein 11, and Hajia, 16, Muya live at the Parkside Apartments with their father, Hamadi Muya and mother Rukia Chivala. Hajia plans to be the first woman in her family to go to college and Hussein loves playing football in the Police Athletic League.

(continued from page 1) opened doors for a number of Somali emigrants that allowed all of them to move together.

Rasulo and his family live in Mercy Housing's Parkside Apartments at Stapleton.

Rasulo was 11 years old when his parents, five brothers and three sisters left Somalia. The country's political unrest was worsening every day. There were no schools and no opportunities, Rasulo explained. The family's goal was to save their lives.

"It was a good thing that my father was smart," he said. "When things were changing every minute, he said, 'We can't live here anymore. Let's go.'"

The family made their way to Kenya. There, although life was not easy, Rasulo graduated from high school and took two years of college. Quality of life still left a great deal to be desired, he said. He is grateful to be in the United States.

"It's a different life, a different future," Rasulo said. "In Somalia we were denied education for political reasons. Here, whatever you do to help yourself, you can do. My children can go to school. I can go to school. In Somalia, you can't. There is no school there."

Mercy Housing, a national non-profit organization with headquarters in Denver, provides quality housing for people with low incomes. They also provide programs and services that include financial management, after school activities for kids, computer training, computer access and linking them into community activities and resources.

Rasulo began thinking of his future while he was growing up in Kenya.

Although the Muslim faith allows Somali men to have more than one wife, he chose to have only one.

"Habiba is the only wife I have and ever will have," he grinned. "I knew that I would be in another country."

His hopes and dreams for his family are centered on the culture and opportunities offered in the United States and the Free World.

"For myself and my family – I want to stay here," Rasulo said. "I want to make my little ones grow up. They have the best chance here."

Rasulo attends Everest College and plans to graduate in February as a medical assistant. He is hoping that the college will place him in a good job that will support his family.

Some day, Rasulo hopes to visit Somalia. But, that cannot happen until there is peace in Somalia, he says. He

would like to travel to Kenya to see a sister who remains in the refugee camps there.

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Sixteen-year-old Hajia Mayangi also lives in Mercy Housing's Parkside Apartments with her father, Hamadi Muya, and mother, Rukia Chivala. Hajia has three brothers and a sister and relatives in New York and Pennsylvania.

Hajia, now a beautiful young woman of 16, had just been born when her family left Somalia. "Mom had to work all the time. My brother (Ali, 19) worked and cooked for the kids. Dad was gone a lot, working and caring for other family members," says Hajia.

Hajia, a sophomore at South High School, has a goal to be the first girl in her father's families to graduate from high school. She plans to attend college and wants "to help families and give girls choices." As a Muslim, Hajia has been unable to do things such as go to movies because it is against the Muslim culture, she said.

"I want to make choices. It's not like at home (Kenya). Here, you've got to try to fit it (the lifestyle)."

One of Hajia's brothers, 11-year-old Hussein, was only 7 years old when his family came to the United States. However, he has Americanized himself quickly.

"I love sports – soccer, football, basketball. I love school – reading, writing and sometimes, math," he said. "My goal is to be a kicker for South High School."

Today, Hussein plays football in the Police Athletic League and is in the sixth grade at Bill Roberts K-8.

Hussein was too young to experience the Kenyan refugee camp tents, he said. He remembers the family living in housing. There, he went to school and played soccer with his friends, but he says that life in the United States is much better for him.

"Here I can go to school and learn," he said.

"There is more time with the teachers. They give you more ideas, and there is lots of homework. I can learn more.

"I like the U.S. I might go back to see Somalia, but I haven't been there yet. I was born in Kenya."

The two Somali-Bantu families, like many Stapleton residents, take part in a community garden where they can grow vegetables or flowers. Habiba Talasow, especially, has demonstrated a green thumb in the community garden at Stapleton.

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Saturday, November 8th
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Pastabilities

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9 a.m. – noon
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