

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JUNE 2009

## Roberts Kids Recreate Colorado Characters



Can you guess who these third graders from Roberts K-8 School are portraying? Answers on page 19.

### New Senator Wants Feedback, Participation



Michael Johnston and his wife Courtney feed their 19-month-old twins Emmet and Seamus.

By Nancy Burkhart

Michael Johnston has added Colorado State Senator to his name. He took on the title last month when the members of the Democratic Senate District 33 Vacancy Committee chose him from a list of four candidates to fill the seat left empty when then-State Senate President Peter Groff was chosen to head the faith-based initia-

tives center for the U.S. Secretary of Education.

The 34-year-old state senator has been working as director of the Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts, but he is leaving the position and his successor has been chosen.

Johnston, his wife, Courtney, and their 19-month-old twin sons, Emmet and Seamus, have lived at (continued on page 4)

### Looking for an Inexpensive and Close-to-Home Summer Adventure?

Would you like to take a summer trip that's inexpensive and close to home but has the feel of an adventure? How about a bike ride through Colorado from Wyoming to the

New Mexico border? Or maybe settle for just a portion of that. At this time there is not a continuous bike path but a series of trails that will someday (hopefully) be connected to form the Colorado Front Range Trail (CFRT). From Stapleton you can ride out of your driveway and link up to a portion of the Colorado Front Range Trail.

Stapleton resident Sarah McGregor recently rode much of the CFRT from the Wyoming border to Security, just south of



Sarah McGregor, riding on the Westerly Creek trail, ends her second day of a 200 mile bike trip from the Wyoming border to Security, south of Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs, over a period of four days. Following are excerpts from her journal, her photos, and a map of her trip:

"My 'training' consists of com-

muting to work, going to the grocery store, library, and so on, Denver's light rail and buses allow bikes, so I usually cycle 10 miles to the station, put my bike on the train and ride 8 miles, get off, cycle another mile, change, and go to the office.

"My bike trip approximated the route shown on the map (see page 26). The Front Range Trail roughly parallels I-25, although usually at least a few miles away from it. My tour started at the (continued on page 26)



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Doctor  
Honored

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Residence  
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History

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Schools

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# CALENDAR

Events in or near Stapleton that are free and open to the public or are charitable fundraisers.

## JUNE

NOTE: Battle of the Bands has been rescheduled for Aug. 15. Deadline for entries is June 30th (see page 25).

### Every Saturday through Oct.

Northfield Stapleton Farmers Mkt 9am - 2pm  
Between Bass Pro and Super Target  
simmons03@att.net

### Tuesday, June 2

Target Tues. - Children's Museum Free 4-8pm

### Friday, June 5

Northfield Concert - Chase N' The Dream 6pm

### Saturday, June 6

Concert, Opie Gone Bad, Founders Grn 6-8:30pm

### Saturday, June 6

For Kids By Kids Health Fair, 10am - 2pm  
By Children's Museum & 9Health Fair  
2121 Children's Museum Drive,  
www.cmdenver.org 303-433-7444

### Saturday, June 6

SCFD Free Day Denver Art Museum

### Monday, June 8

Stapleton New Resident Orientation  
MCA Community Room, 6:30 pm  
www.StapletonCommunity.com 303-388-0724.

### Tuesday, June 9

Feast on the Fax 5-9pm advance tickets online  
\$20 or day of event \$25 feastonthefax.com

### Wednesday, June 10

SCFD Free Day  
Denver Museum of Nature and Science

### Thursday, June 11

Bluff Lake Fireside Chat - Creek Tour 6pm  
www.blufflakenaturecenter.org (see p. 13)

### Friday, June 12

Movie Night - Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa  
Founders Green, At Dusk

### Fri. and Sat, June 13 - 14

A Taste of Puerto Rico, music, food, festivities  
Sat. 12 - 7pm & Sun. 10am - 7pm  
Central Park, www.atasteofpuertoricofestival.com

### Every Sunday, starting June 14

Stapleton Farmers Market Kick Off  
Founders Green 8:30 - 12:30 (thru Oct. 11)

### Thursday, June 18

Active Minds - Afghanistan, 1:30 - 2:30pm  
Windsor Gardens (CenterPoint Room)  
597 S. Clinton 303-364-7485  
activemindsforlife.com

## JUNE

### Friday, June 19

Northfield Concert - Conjunto Colores, 6-8pm

### Saturday, June 20

Summer Concert Series, The Hazel Miller band  
Founders Green, 6-8:30pm

### Saturday, June 20

Charity Chase Fun Run and Walk  
Stapleton Central Park  
Register by June 16 at www.ccdenver.org

### Saturday, June 20

Park Hill Family Bike Ride 10 - 11:30 am  
Joseph's Southern Food 2868 Fairfax St. 303-388-0918 or 303-393-1963 (see page 15)

### Tuesday, June 23

Active Minds - Japan, 5:30 - 6:30pm  
Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax  
activemindsforlife.com

### Wednesday, June 24

Active Minds - OPEC and the Oil Economy  
2:30 - 3:30pm, RSVP 303-331-9963  
Springbrooke, 6800 Leetsdale Dr.  
activemindsforlife.com

### Thursday, June 25

Bluff Lake Fireside Chat - Eating Your Way  
through the Prairie, 6pm  
www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

### Friday, June 26

Summer Movie night, Iron Man  
Founders Green, At Dusk

### Fri. - Sat., June 26-27

Relay for Life to Fight Cancer,  
starts 6pm. Fri, Smiley Middle School  
www.nedenverrelay.com  
(see page 15)

### Saturday, June 27

Sweet William Market 9am-2pm  
Founders Green, last Saturday of the month  
thru September, info@sweetwilliammarket.com

## JULY

### Friday, July 3

Northfield Concert - Opie Gone Bad, 6-8pm

### Saturday, July 4

Pancake breakfast 8:30 - 10:30am  
Parade starts 10:30  
check website for location & details  
www.stapletoncommunity.com

### Saturday, July 4

SCFD Free Day Denver Art Museum

### Tuesday, July 7

Target Tuesday - Children's Museum Free  
4pm-8pm (recurs first Tuesday of the month)

(See page 16 for recurring monthly events and meetings)

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

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# Front Porch

www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

The Stapleton Front Porch is published by Forest City Stapleton, Inc., 7351 E. 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80238. Typically 30,000-35,000 papers are printed. The free paper is distributed during the first week of each month to homes and businesses in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax.

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**v.**



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# Former Gang Member, Now a Community Activist, Encourages Mayor to Redevelop Holly Shopping Center

By Nancy Burkhart

Terrance Roberts grew up in northeast Denver near East 33rd Avenue and Holly Street. His family still lives in the neighborhood and his grandmother runs a restaurant, A & A Fish Market, at East 28th Avenue and Fairfax Street.

The Holly Shopping Center was the community's center, the hub

for all communication and daily life. Many things happened in the neighborhood during the nearly 27 years that Roberts lived there. While he was growing up, Roberts was a member of a gang known as the Bloods. He and his friends frequented the shopping center.

"That was where everybody in that community, gang members included, hung out," explained Roberts.

About a year ago, the Holly Shopping Center went up in smoke. Roberts said that law enforcement "alleges that members of the Crips gang burned down the shopping center" in an effort to get back at their so-called enemies, the Bloods.

Today, Roberts is a community activist. He is executive director of The Prodigal Son Initiative, Inc., a non-profit association with an after-school program in northeast Denver that works with traumatized youth. Roberts goes to public schools and talks with kids about making positive life choices.

And, Roberts also serves on the Denver



Terrance Roberts, Executive Director of The Prodigal Son Initiative gives an emotional talk at the one year anniversary of the fire that destroyed the Holly Shopping Center. The pillars seen behind him are all that remain. Mayor John Hickenlooper, Michele Wheeler, President of the Northeast Park Hill Coalition, Denver Councilwoman Carla Madison and Aaron Miripol, President & CEO of the Urban Land Conservancy also addressed the crowd. The Urban Land Conservancy, in partnership with the City of Denver, has purchased the land for redevelopment. Right: Mayor Hickenlooper sprinkles water on the new garden that will be part of the Holly Center redevelopment project. The gardens are sponsored by the Feed Denver Urban Farms & Markets organization.



Mayor's African-American Advisory Commission. This provides him with a forum to encourage the community to redevelop the Holly Shopping Center site to benefit the neighborhood.

"I give my ideas and tell them pretty much what people want to see there at Holly," he said. "I grew up over there and I'm working with hundreds of kids in northeast Denver. We're like a focus group. We're just helping give suggestions and gathering community support."

In April, the Urban Land Conservancy (ULC) bought the Holly site. Funding was provided by the Denver Office of Economic Development, a Community Development Block Grant and a loan from the Office of Economic Development's Business Improvement Fund. Until the ULC finds the perfect use for the property, it will work with Feed Denver Urban Farms & Markets to develop a community-involved garden to make fresh food more accessible in the neighborhood.

ULC is talking with two organizations re-

garding the potential development of a charter school on the Holly site.

"If we have a chance to put a school there, that area could go from one of the roughest areas in the city to an area where we can work with our youth," Roberts said. "With positive adults right there, we think it's a win-win situation for everybody," Roberts said.

"If our kids could go there and learn and it wouldn't be a closed school, I think it would be a great idea," he said. "Not only would it accept kids from the neighborhood, but it would improve on the achievement gap, be sustainable and not close down in the next five years. I definitely support a school being there first and foremost."

A stakeholder group of community members and neighborhood property owners is being formed. The Denver Foundation's Strengthening Neighborhoods Program will facilitate the group.

For information about the Holly site, call the Urban Land Conservancy at 303-454-5369.

## Johnston – New State Senator

(continued from page 1) Stapleton for six years. Johnston plays both indoor and outdoor soccer in the area.

The new state senator is not a political newcomer. He sat on Gov. Bill Ritter's transition committee and helped build then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama's education platform and served on President-Elect Obama's transition team. He wrote speeches, gave surrogate speeches and talked to the press. He has given the Obama Administration "informal advice" on the stimulus package.

"I helped support Sen. Groff," Johnston said. "Then I got more and more involved in state policy in education. Only 7 percent of education funding comes from the federal government and 73 percent comes from the state. The state senator seat felt like it was a great opportunity to get involved in the issues I care about."

Johnston actively went after the state senate seat when he learned that Sen. Groff was leaving.

"The things that I thought made me a good fit for this seat are that I have experience, and as a practitioner I've been working on the ground as a teacher and a professional. I have a deep understanding of the needs and issues faced by our kids in the hardest communities. I've had the opportunity to stay very involved in policy over the last years. I went to law school because I wanted to use the law in policy. I've tried to stay very involved in policy.

"After Katrina, I went down to New Orleans and worked to bring educators back to the city. With Obama, I worked on policy issues, so I have a sense of how legislation is written and passed," he added.

Colorado Senate District 33 is one of the state's most diverse districts. Sen. Groff was the first African-American to be elected President of the Colorado State Senate. Many people thought a person of the (continued on page 26)

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## Public Art at the New Rec Center

By Barbara Neal

The good news about plans to move forward with construction of the Central Park Recreation Center is good news, too, for public art at the new facility. We are now able to collaborate with the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs to provide an enhanced art project jointly funded by the Park Creek Metropolitan District funding from the Denver Urban Renewal Authority and the Better Denver Bond program.

In May, a new Project Selection Committee made up of Stapleton residents, artists, the architect and landscape architect, representatives from Forest City, the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs and Denver Parks met to develop criteria for artwork to be installed at the Recreation Center. The criteria will be distributed to artists via the CaFÉ digital application system in June and available also on Stapleton websites. We'll keep the public posted on this project as it develops.

Anyone interested in obtaining information about Stapleton's Public Art Program should contact me at [barb-neal@mindspring.com](mailto:barb-neal@mindspring.com).

*Barbara Neal is the public art consultant for Stapleton.*

By Nancy Burkhart

Dr. Henry N. Claman has been surrounded by people in the medical field all his life. Both his parents were doctors and his wife, Dr. Janet Stewart Claman, is a pediatric clinical geneticist. Therefore, it is no small wonder that the immunologist has made history with his immunology and AIDS research and is being honored for his work with a Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Award for excellence in science and medicine.

At the age of 78, Claman says he has retired from research. However, it was his research that found that the human immune system must have two lymphocytes, T-cells from the thymus and B-cells from the bone marrow, in order to form the antibodies that give us immunity from infectious diseases. It was Claman's research that led to the development of ways to reduce allergy symptoms and prevent the HIV infection of T-cells.

"Colorado is home to some of the country's most accomplished and talented individuals, and the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Awards recognize the Centennial State's very best," said Dorothy Horrell, president of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. "We're honored to recognize Dr. Henry Claman for his pioneering work in the field of immunology, and for his contribution to the new field of medical humanities."

Claman headed the Allergy and Immunology Division at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center for 25 years. He still holds the post of director of the University of Colorado's Medical Humanities Program.

This is the program that has given Claman the ability to influence the future in a non-traditional manner. He takes a medical student who is in the middle of science and medicine and shows him or her how to incorporate art and literature in a way that will give the ability to really hear and see the patients.

"We look at literature in terms of how it portrays the doctor and the patient," Claman explained. "I take my class down to the Denver Art Museum and I show them how to not so much 'look' as really 'see' because they are going to be 'seeing' their patients for the rest of their career."

"For the whole first-year medical school class, I make a presentation where we look at famous paintings, starting



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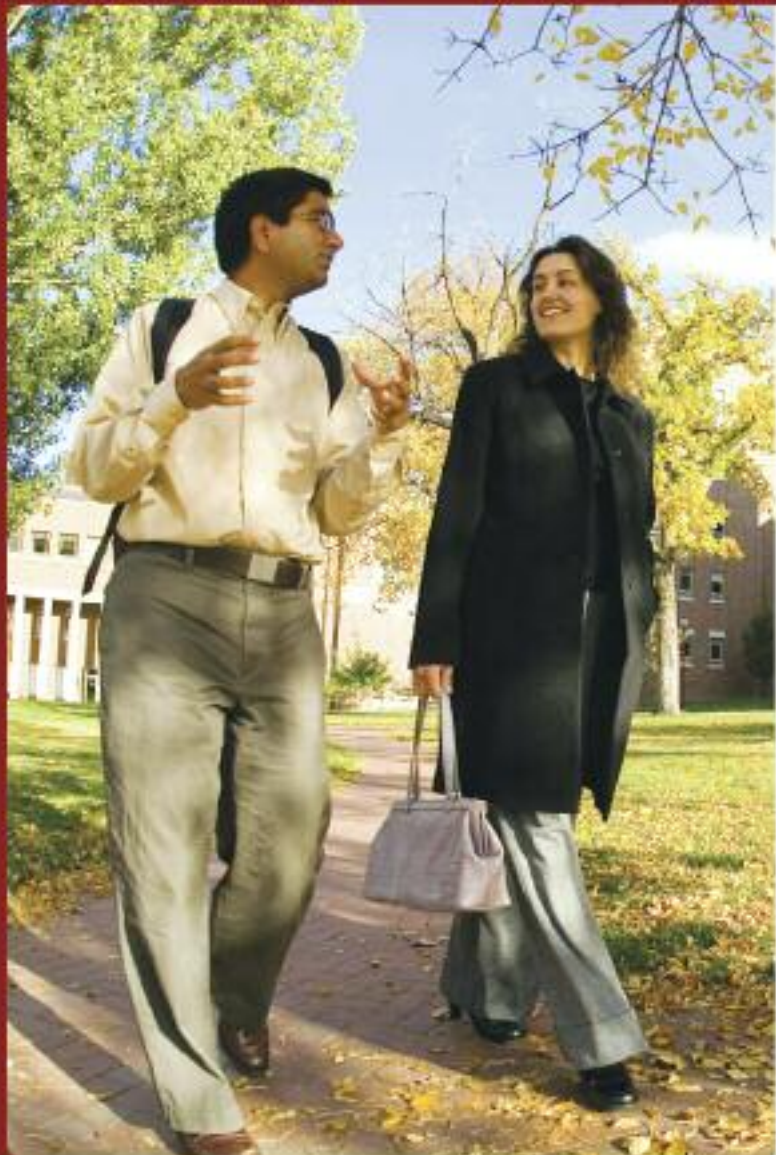
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Dr. Henry Claman in his office at Anschutz Medical Campus, with a painting that he concedes is not great art but it “says a lot about the practice of medicine.”

## Dr. Claman Recognized for Contributions in Both Medical Humanities & Research

with Rembrandt’s “The Anatomy Lesson,” he said. “We spend about 20 to 25 minutes looking at that painting, discussing what’s in it and discussing what’s not in it. I say, with a quizzical look that is all put on, ‘You know, a good psychiatrist pays attention to what the patient *didn’t* say.’

“As a doctor, it also means what you might not hear. You have to be cognizant of what they (patients) haven’t told you.”

Most of Claman’s classes are small, with only about a dozen students. He has the doctors in training read books by authors such as Anton Chekhov, who also was a doctor.

Claman has been so successful with the medical humanities classes that he says he “stole” from the Yale Medical School that a new full-time humanities teacher, Therese Jones, is joining the University of Colorado Medical School staff. And,

Claman is expanding his focus with his own goal to set up a film series. His first film choice, he said, is “Wit,” the Pulitzer Prize-winning story of a woman with Stage IV ovarian cancer. The 2001 film was a television production directed by Mike Nichols and starring Emma Thompson.

Although basically retired, Claman still is working to expand the medical humanities program into more of the schools on the Anschutz campus to include nursing and pharmacy. As an amateur historian, he has written a book on medieval art history called “Jewish Images in the Christian Church,” and has started another which he says hasn’t worked well. There may be another book in the offing. In his “spare” time, he also gives talks on everything from basic science to modern art.

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UC Dental Students Reach Out to the Community



University of Colorado at Denver is working with school districts throughout the metro area including Denver and Aurora Public Schools, to expand and improve educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Students from UC Denver’s School of Dental Medicine provided Dental Education Days at Paris Elementary School. They suggested that students consider a career in health sciences, especially dentistry, while educating them on the importance of taking care of their teeth.

As part of its effort to support the community, University of Colorado Denver’s Anschutz Medical Campus, Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, The Children’s Hospital and University of Colorado Hospital organized the year-long outreach program with nearby Paris Elementary School.

Left: Kirsten M. Hoffman, Dental Assistant at University of Colorado School of Dental Health, shows the class one of the dental offices on the bus that brings dental service to Colorado’s rural areas.



Oscar Sanchez, foreground, with his mother Alma and his father Eluterio at his right, poses with his sisters, Nancy, Lucy, and Alma and their families.

Park Hill Resident Refuses to Knuckle Under to ALS

By Nancy Burkhardt

Less than a year ago, 34-year-old Oscar Sanchez was handed a shock. The Park Hill resident was studying for his dream career at the Yale School of Architecture when he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The neuromuscular disease attacks the nerve cells that control muscles and usually means that people, on the average, have a life expectancy of three to five years after they are diagnosed with it.

Sanchez’s family, which includes his mother, father and three younger sisters, emigrated from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. His parents have lived in Park Hill about 15 years. Sanchez recently gave up his own Park Hill home to live with his parents when the disease progressed.

“As ALS progresses, I am more and more unable to continue at my old ‘fast pace’ of life; however, because ALS makes one’s activities into what is truly important and what is less important, some ‘productivity’ is saved just from time management,” Sanchez said. “Remaining able to read and write using augmentative and alternative communication devices

and computers can be tools to help one stay productive.”

Now that a career in architecture appears to be out of the picture, Sanchez plans to use his teaching skills to act as an advocate for ALS and the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). MDA supports two clinics in the Denver area at The Children’s Hospital and the University of Colorado Anschutz Center for Advanced Medicine.

Sanchez believes that it is important to make people aware of ALS. He wants to be “a good example to others of a person living with ALS.” And, he hopes that telling others his story will make them see that “arbitrary barriers alone are not what determine a person’s fate.”

“While receiving an ALS diagnosis is a punishing blow, it is by no means a sentence for immediate execution,” Sanchez cautions ALS victims. “Find some reason that is important for you to live and understand that every extra hour and day are bonus time to be thankful for. Make the bonus time count.”

For information about Lou Gehrig’s Disease, visit [www.als-mda.org/media](http://www.als-mda.org/media)



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June 2009

8

Stapleton Front Porch



# New Town Builders to Make Solar Systems Standard

3-Kilowatt Systems Expected to Reduce Electricity Bills By 50%

By Tom Gleason

New Town Builders, one of Stapleton's most successful residential builders, recently announced it intends to include high-efficiency solar systems by SunPower in all of its new single family homes in the Denver metro area.

Gene Myers, chief executive officer of New Town Builders, announced the solar power systems will be available on homes that will sell for as little as \$354,000. He said the "mini-solar plants" worth over \$20,000 will generate an instant return to home owners in the form of lower electric bills, mortgage subsidies from the state, tax credits from the federal government, and a sense of satisfaction for anyone concerned about preserving Colorado's environment.

"We believe this commitment to solar energy makes so much sense that eventually all home builders will make these solar power systems standard features on new homes," Mr. Myers said. "In the meantime, New Town Builders is proud to offer solar on all of our single family homes in

the Denver metro area."

New Town Builders already qualifies each of its new homes for an Energy Star Efficiency Rating. According to the home builder, the SunPower solar panels, which it said are the most efficient on the market today, will reduce home owners' energy bills by about 50 percent, depending upon the time of year. Buyers purchasing the homes with the solar systems are eligible to receive a 30 percent net tax credit equivalent to up to \$3,900. The solar systems can be monitored remotely via Internet and make it likely the home will enjoy a higher resale value.

"Congratulations to New Town for making solar systems a standard on their new homes, just as they have with energy efficiency features," said Gov. Bill Ritter, a proponent of renewable energy development. "This is a great example of how we are bringing the benefits of the New Energy Economy home by saving consumers money and investing in our local communities. We are leading Colorado forward by creating sustainable energy industries that provide clean power, good jobs, and help us be better stewards of the environment."

# New Town Builders to Host Solar Competition for Children June 20th

Children up to age 18 throughout Denver who design, build and showcase solar-powered experiments may win a share of more than \$1,200 in awards for their schools if they compete successfully in a June 20 event at Stapleton hosted by New Town Builders. Entries such as home-made solar-powered ovens, solar hot air balloons, displays about the sun's effects on ocean currents, solar-powered propellers atop hats or anything else

relating to the sun are eligible to win during a Summer Solstice Science Fair at a park at East 35th Avenue and Wabash Street. Children may set up their displays beginning at 8:30 a.m., and judging will begin at 10 a.m. Participants must register by June 16, and entry forms and additional information are available via email at [summersolstice@new-townbuilders.com](mailto:summersolstice@new-townbuilders.com) or by calling 303-707-4444.

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## New Homebuyers Event at Stapleton – Homes from \$100s to \$300s



Tasha Jones (2nd from right), director of marketing for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. briefs potential first-time homebuyers Ben Schnurr and Cori Millen on the range of housing choices available to them at Stapleton. The recently passed Federal Stimulus Bill provides qualifying first time homebuyers with an \$8,000 federal tax credit, making the purchase of a home, in many cases, a more attractive option than renting.

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Upon stepping inside the Governor's residence, a visitor sees hundreds of reasons to preserve this beautiful home. In addition to the architecture there is a stunning array of historic treasures in every room. The residence is more than the governor's home, it's a museum about Colorado's history. Mrs. Ritter has launched a campaign to make the Governor's Residence more inclusive and relevant to young people and provide programs for learning about Colorado history. Here, in a nutshell is how it came to be built and furnished with many of the items we see in it today, and how it became the Governor's residence.

In 1861, 23-year-old Walter S. Cheesman traveled by ox cart from Chicago to Denver. He had come to join his brother in the drug-store business, but his brother returned to New York, leaving the business to Walter. Walter lived in a small, sparsely furnished room above his prosperous store, which he subsequently sold and pursued other business opportunities. He was a partner in forming a railway company to connect Denver with the east-west lines stretching across the U.S. He also became president of the Denver Union



## Governor's Residence Offers a Look into Colorado's Past

Left to right: First Lady Jeannie Ritter on the front porch of the governor's residence; above, in the palm room (solarium); above right is the drawing room; and below right is the library, looking into the drawing room. These rooms are on the ground floor, which is open to the public.

Water Company, a forerunner of Denver's municipal water system, and spent much of his own money toward the construction of the Cheesman Dam, which he thought was necessary for Denver's safety.

At age 46 he met Alice Foster Sanger, a charming widow who was visiting her sister in Denver. According to the Denver Post, "How Walter Cheesman ever got the courage to propose to the dazzling widow was a mystery that furnished the tea tables with gossip..." After they married and had a child, Walter purchased land at 8th and Logan and started making plans for a grand mansion. He hired architects and approved a plan, but the house was never built, probably due to his health problems.

In 1907 Walter Cheesman died, leaving his wife Alice and daughter Gladys as joint owners

of his estate. Alice and Gladys donated \$100,000 toward the beautification of Congress Park, where they had the Cheesman Memorial built. The architects who designed the memorial also designed the 27 room mansion that now stands at 8th and Logan, using the same column design in the house that they used on the Cheesman memorial. Alice lived there until she died in 1923. After removing family items, Gladys sold the house with it's remaining contents to Claude Boettcher.

Claude Boettcher had become a millionaire from a humble beginning with a little hardware store. By 1947 the Boettcher financial empire had radiated into sugar, livestock, cement, potash, steel, securities, utilities and transportation, as well as the hotel and theater business. Boettcher paid \$75,000 for the property, a fraction of its initial cost. During the twenties

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wealthy Americans flocked to the Continent to acquire antiquities that appeared on the market as impoverished Europeans dismantled villas and palaces. Many of the current furnishings of the mansion were acquired by Claude and Edna Boettcher in their travels during this time.

Not all the furnishings came from Europe. New residents of the White House were refurbishing and disposing of their predecessors' belongings. In this way, a great sparkling chandelier that was in the White House ballroom during Grant's presidency eventually made it's way, years later, to the Boettcher's home.

Claude and Edna lived in the mansion for 35 years until Claude died in 1957. The Boettchers had formed a family foundation with the mission that the people of Colorado should benefit from their gifts. Edna offered the fully furnished mansion as a gift to the State to be used as a Governor's residence. The state rejected the offer and the Boettcher Foundation prepared to

raze the home and auction the contents. At the last minute Governor Stephen McNichols announced he would accept the offer if the Boettcher Foundation would provide a maintenance fund of \$15,000 a year for three years. In 1959, Stephen McNichols became the first governor to occupy the home.

Mrs. Ritter has established a Preservation Fund to obtain private funds for long-term historic protection while also supporting the greening and modernizing of the Residence, and offering more programs to the public. In addition to the free activities listed, there are historical lectures the 2nd Monday of each month (\$15, see website below for information). In the past year, geothermal heating and cooling, solar panels, and insulation were added and the home received LEED certification for energy efficiency, making it the first governor's residence in the country to obtain this status. The Governor's Residence Preservation Fund (GRPFund) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. To learn more, visit [www.coloradoshome.org](http://www.coloradoshome.org)

*Source: "Queen of the Hill, The Private Life of the Colorado Governor's Mansion," by Jean Walton Smith and Elaine Colvin Walsh. Published by The Volunteers of the Colorado Historical Society with the support of the Colorado Historical Society, 2nd edition, 2006.*



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## AURORA EVENTS

6/14 Sunday- Fiesta Aurora, Celebrate Latino culture with live music on two stages, dance, a mercado, food and lots of kids activities! Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E. Colfax Ave between Havana and Yosemite in Aurora. 12-6pm, FREE.

## BOTANIC GARDENS

Through Sept 30th - Jurassic Gardens Exhibit Denver Botanic Gardens. The Gardens' York Street location will feature life-sized, realistic dinosaurs from the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods. Plant fossils and a dinosaur dig site for kids. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

## CLASSES AND CAMPS FOR KIDS

6/01 thru 6/12 & 6/15/ thru 6/26 - Mountain Day Camp. Outdoor and play based camp at Cherry Creek State Park. Activities include: hiking, camp songs, nature education, bouldering & rock climbing, crafts and more! \$680 for 2-week sessions, Call 720-249-2997, e-mail [info@mountaindaycamp.com](mailto:info@mountaindaycamp.com), or visit [www.mountaindaycamp.com](http://www.mountaindaycamp.com) for more info.

6/08 through 8/21- Childrens House of Stapleton Summer Camps. 3-week sessions that focus on exploring the natural world through hands-on discovery. Each program takes an element from nature and teaches how to translate the experience into an art form. Ages 3 to adult. [www.childrenshouseofstapleton.com](http://www.childrenshouseofstapleton.com) or [beth@childrenshouseofstapleton.com](mailto:beth@childrenshouseofstapleton.com) or 303.379.9239 for additional information

6/15-19 British Soccer Camp hosted by Schlessman YMCA at Central Park in Stapleton. Ages 3 through 14 visit [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com) to register and for more information.

6/15 & 7/20 - Stapleton Guitar & Piano Group Class. One week sessions. An introductory musical experience for ages 6-13 by Natasha Olson (guitar) and David Ross (piano), performers and teachers in Stapleton. Beginning training in both piano and guitar, as well as rhythm/theory/ear training/improvisation. Students will be able to jam and play duets by the end of the week. Cost: \$150 per student 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. (6 to 9 years old) and 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (10 to 13 years old). David Ross (303) 507-0906, [pinomanross@yahoo.com](mailto:pinomanross@yahoo.com) or Natasha Olson at 303-318-9542, [natashaolson@yahoo.com](mailto:natashaolson@yahoo.com).

6/28 - 7/3 - Arsenal Summer Soccer Academy at Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Five days of intensive soccer coaching by Arsenal coaches from the UK. Register interest at [www.playthearse.nalway.com/USA](http://www.playthearse.nalway.com/USA), call 303-727-3648 email [USA@arsenal.co.uk](mailto:USA@arsenal.co.uk).

June and July - Summer art classes at the Art Students League of Denver for children and adults. View catalogs online at [www.asld.org/download-catalogs.asp](http://www.asld.org/download-catalogs.asp)

Summer art camps. "Dinosaurs Galore" (3-6 year olds) and "Building Green" (4-8 year olds) for the developing architect/builder. Please contact Kerry Armbruster at 303-399-1800 or [karmbruster@sewallchild.org](mailto:karmbruster@sewallchild.org) 1360 Vine Street

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

6/09 Tuesday 7:30 pm. Release Anxiety! Experience the benefits of hypnosis to create calm. Free class presented by Hypnotherapy for Women's Wellness, LLC. Also offered Sat., June 13 at 3pm. [www.womenswellnesshypnosis.net](http://www.womenswellnesshypnosis.net) or call Jennifer Welch, 303-393-1062.

6/17 - Wednesday, Kabbalah Experience summer classes begin. Open to those of all denominations seeking awareness about the authentic self--through text or film study and lively discussions. [www.kabbalahexperience.com](http://www.kabbalahexperience.com), [admin@kabbalah-experience.com](mailto:admin@kabbalah-experience.com), 303-321-7729

June and July - Summer art classes at the Art Students League of Denver for children and adults. View catalogs online at [www.asld.org/download-catalogs.asp](http://www.asld.org/download-catalogs.asp)

## CONCERTS

6/07 Sunday- City Park Jazz presents Cocktail Revolution 6 - 8pm, Bandstand by City Park Pavilion on Feril Lake in City Park. FREE. [www.cityparkjazz.org](http://www.cityparkjazz.org) for additional info.

6/14 Sunday- City Park Jazz presents Teresa Carroll and the Big Swing Trio 6 - 8pm, Bandstand by City Park Pavilion on Feril Lake in City Park. FREE. [www.cityparkjazz.org](http://www.cityparkjazz.org) for additional info.

6/21 Sunday- City Park Jazz presents Jon Romero y Amanecer 6 - 8pm, Bandstand by City Park Pavilion on Feril Lake in City Park. FREE. [www.cityparkjazz.org](http://www.cityparkjazz.org) for additional info.

6/28 Sunday- City Park Jazz presents The Michael Friedman Jazz Quintet 6 - 8pm, Bandstand by City Park Pavilion on Feril Lake in City Park. FREE. [www.cityparkjazz.org](http://www.cityparkjazz.org) for additional info.

7/18 - 7/19 - 2nd Annual Mile High Music Festival Headlined by Tool, Widespread Panic & The Fray, at Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Tickets on sale now at [www.tickethorse.com](http://www.tickethorse.com), by phone at 866-461-6556 and at [www.milehighmusicfestival.com](http://www.milehighmusicfestival.com)

Through Aug. 30, Acoustic Sundays - Live music by local artists, 3-6pm, Sundays on the patio of the Tavern Lowry 7401 E. First Ave. 303-366-0007

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DENVER EVENTS

6/06 Saturday and 6/07 Sunday- CHUN Capitol Hill People's Fair The CHUN Capitol Hill People's Fair, a celebration of the diverse Denver urban community and its residents. Colorado's Premier Arts and Crafts Festival offers great family fun, culinary delights and fabulous entertainment. Civic Center Park at Broadway and Colfax, Saturday 10am to 8pm, Sunday 10am to 7pm. [www.chundenver.org](http://www.chundenver.org)

6/06 Saturday and 6/07 Sunday- 5th Annual La Piazza dell'Arte on Larimer Square. Come celebrate the 5th annual La Piazza dell'Arte on Larimer Square. Professional, amateur and student artists will transform Larimer Square into a beautiful street museum of bright and colorful chalk art images over the course of two days. Music, Italian food, and beverages. Sat 10-10, Sunday 10-7, [larimerarts.org](http://larimerarts.org)

6/13 Saturday and 6/14 Sunday- The Art Students League of Denver's Summer Art Market - showcasing the work of over 250 local artists involved in studying, teaching or supporting the arts at the Art Students League of Denver. 10am-5pm both days, The sale will be held at the Art Students League of Denver, 200 Grant Street in West Washington Park. [www.ASLD.org](http://www.ASLD.org).

6/13 Saturday - The Ballpark Market - 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Ballpark Market is an open-air, European style flea market with distinguishing urban flair. Larimer Street between 21st and 22nd streets. [Ballparkmarket.com](http://Ballparkmarket.com). 303-589-2800 Also 7/11, 8/8, 9/12 and 10/10

6/20 Saturday- 27th Annual Highlands Street Fair- 32nd and Lowell. Attractions include a children's area, classic car show, food courts and beer gardens, live music on 3 stages and vendors featuring everything from jewelry, photography, paintings, ceramics, leather goods, and clothing. Free. [www.highlands-square.com](http://www.highlands-square.com)

6/20 Saturday- Denver Juneteenth Celebration. Come celebrate and share the beauty and richness of African American culture in Denver's Five Points Neighborhood. The event will kick off with a parade and a full day of entertainment. Free. At 26th and Welton in Downtown Denver. [www.denverjuneteenth.org](http://www.denverjuneteenth.org).

6/24 Wednesday- Denver Bike to Work Day 2009. [www.drcog.org](http://www.drcog.org) to register

6/27 Saturday and 6/28 Sunday- Cherry Blossom Festival. Experience Japanese dance, drum performances, art exhibits, Asian marketplace, food and more at this annual Denver event. Free. denver Buddhist Temple, 1947 Lawrence St in Downtown Denver.

6/27 Saturday and 6/28 Sunday, Denver PrideFest 2009. Denver's PrideFest is a celebration of community and culture. Parade, rally, music, entertainment, food and much more. Sunday parade begins at 9:30am. Civic Center Park at Broadway & Colfax. [www.denverpridefest.org](http://www.denverpridefest.org).

6/27 Saturday, Great-West Life Bike MS, Colorado's Ride 2009 Presented by Sam's Club. The two-day, 150-mile fundraising ride from Westminster to Fort Collins and back is for cyclists of all abilities. Food, entertainment, multiple rest stops, and full support are provided. Limited registration. [www.bikeMScolorado.org](http://www.bikeMScolorado.org)

6/27 Saturday- Green Valley Ranch Business Expo. The Green Valley Ranch Business Relationship Action Group (B.R.A.G.) will hold their 2nd annual Business Expo at the Green Valley Ranch Rec Center from 11-3 pm. Get to know your local merchants and small business owners! Free, food, fun and refreshments for the whole family! Call Lydia at 720.935.0306 for additional information or to volunteer or sponsor a booth.

7/03 Friday through 7/06 Sunday- Cherry Creek Arts Festival. Colorado's signature, award winning cultural event! Enjoy visual, culinary and performing arts, and interactive activities for the whole family. Cherry Creek North Shopping District. [www.cherryarts.org](http://www.cherryarts.org).

KIDS' AND FAMILIES' EVENTS

6/01 Monday through September 7- Junior Jobsite Learn the nuts of bolts of construction in this kid-sized jobsite! Hard hats, blueprints and safety vests, a real conveyor belt, plumbing and the basics of electricity, 2121 Children's Museum Drive, off of I25 and 23rd ave. [www.mychildrensmuseum.org](http://www.mychildrensmuseum.org)

6/03 Wednesday- Firehouse Tales for Tots- At the Denver Firefighters Museum 11:00-11:30am. 1326 Tremont Place, downtown. [www.denverfirefightersmuseum.org](http://www.denverfirefightersmuseum.org)

6/06 Saturday, For Kids By Kids healthward- Free health fair for children and their carnegies. Booths including dental health, nutrition, and exercise, in a fun and creative way, 10am-2pm. 2121 Childrens Museum Drive [www.my-childsmuseum.org](http://www.my-childsmuseum.org)

6/05 Friday- Bluff Lake Nature Center Parents Night Out (6-9pm) Kids will explore the wildlife refuge, looking for nightlife, including bats, beavers, owls, foxes, raccoons and many more, finishing the night with a marshmallow roast, storytelling and star gazing. Children can be picked up between 8:00 and 9:00pm. For ages 5-12, \$30 Members and \$40 non-members. Bluff Lake is located off of Havana at Sand Creek. [www.BluffLakeNatureCenter.org](http://www.BluffLakeNatureCenter.org) to register.

6/11 Thursday- Bluff Lake Nature Center Fire-side Chat & Creek Tour. Bring sandals and enjoy a splash in the creek, as we learn about all of the critters that call Sand Creek their home. Then enjoy a campfire and marshmallow roast. 6:00pm. \$1.00 per person for non members. Located off Havana along Sand Creek. [www.blufflakenaturecenter.org](http://www.blufflakenaturecenter.org)

6/13 Saturday- Free Mighty Machines on the Plaza- Climb up into the driver's seat and explore monstrous construction equipment! Kids can check out jobsite vehicles like a skid steer, backhoe, and forklift. 10am-2pm. 2121 Children's museum Drive.

[www.childsmuseum.org](http://www.childsmuseum.org) 6/13 Saturday- National Get Outdoors Day, City Park, Denver. 9am-3pm. Free. Nature Exploration, Discovery & Outdoor Recreation Adventure. Learn to rock climb, mountain bike, Ski in the park, fish, canoe, track wildlife, read a map and a compass. Take the President's Fitness Challenge! Become a Jr. Ranger, meet Smokey Bear. Prizes, Food, Fun! Event will happen rain or shine. Bring water. [www.fs.fed.us/r2/go-day](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/go-day)


(continued on page 14)

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(continued from page 13)

**KIDS AND FAMILIES**

6/13 Saturday- Volunteers needed for National Get Outdoors Day, City Park, Denver, 9am - 3pm. Shifts: Morning 7am - 12:30pm, Afternoon 12 - 4pm, or all day. Event will happen rain or shine. Bring water bottle & work gloves; wear comfortable clothing, sun hat & sunscreen. Park at East HS. Volunteer hotline 720.913.0330; Call Tim Hutchens at 303-370-6668 or email timothy.hutchens@denvergov.org.

7/4 Saturday, Four Mile Historic Park's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration 10am - 4pm. Visits from Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and Uncle Sam; performances by the Denver Concert Band. Enjoy traditional music and games, children's crafts and horse-drawn wagon rides. Traditional summertime food and refreshments will be available. 715 S. Forest St. Adults \$7, Students, Seniors \$4, <5 Free. Free Parking.

June, Colorado Fusion Soccer. Early registration for Fall 2009 season is underway. Registration forms can be obtained by contacting the Fusion offices at 303-399-5858, or from the Fusion website: [coloradofusion.org](http://coloradofusion.org). Colorado Fusion follows the Positive Coaching Alliance™ or "PCA" coaching philosophy. PCA attempts to reign in the aggressive behavior by parents and coaches seen at some youth sports events. Fusion has received grants to provide Positive Coaching training to its coaches and parents. The emphasis is on using sports to teach important life lessons, and also make it fun. "Losing is just as important as winning. Both teach different lessons, and every game should be a good experience."

**LIBRARY EVENTS**

6/20 Saturday- The digital bookmobile will be across the street from the Schlessman Library in the COPIC parking lot at 1st & Quebec from 9-5. Learn how MP3 players work, get a

hands-on demonstration of downloading books from the library, and enter to win a new MP3 player! 100 Poplar Street, Lowry

June through August- Denver Public Library Summer of Reading. Read to Me, a new program to promote early literacy for children from birth to age five. Kids going into kindergarten thru 5th grade may register for Be Creative. Teens going into 6th grade thru 12th grade may register for Express Yourself. Registration and program information online at <http://summerofreading.org/> or at any Denver Public Library location.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EVENTS**

Reservations are required for these programs. Call 303-289-0930 to register. To get to the Refuge, take I-70 and exit north on Havana St. The public entrance is at 56th and Havana.

6/02 Tuesday and 6/06 Saturday - Free Fishing (6:00 AM to 5:30 PM) Stop dreaming about landing those lunker northern pike and trophy size largemouth bass and get to the Refuge and fish for FREE!

6/06 Saturday - Family Bike the Refuge (8:00 to 10:00 AM) Naturalist-led, leisurely family bike ride that meanders through prairie dog towns and woodlands and along lake edges. Stops will be made along the way to see and learn about the Refuge's amazing wildlife. Water, sunscreen, and puncture-proof tires are recommended. Helmets required.

6/09 Tuesday and 6/20 Saturday - Prairie Blooms Spring is bustin' out all over the wildflowers that create a vivid landscape of color. Join us for this relaxed guided hike to see these magnificent native blooms. 9:00 to 11:00 AM

6/21 Sunday- Father's Day Hayride (1:00 to 3:00pm) Get dad out of the house for a relaxing afternoon in nature on this slow, easy hayride. Make a special keepsake to give to dad.

6/23 Tuesday - Twilight Photo Tour (5:00 to 8:00 PM) Explore the Refuge with your camera during this unique twilight opportunity. Capture photos of remarkable summer wildlife and breathtaking views. Bring your camera and zoom lenses.

6/27 Saturday - Animals of the Marsh (1:00 to 3:00pm) Wander through the marsh with wonder and waders! On this animal search adventure you might get wet discovering the wild residents that live in marshes. Try your hand at some critter trapping techniques. Waders will be provided.

6/28 Sunday- Summer Snap Shots (8:00 to 11:00 AM) Photographers - capture some hot and wild photos for your collection! Pack your camera and zoom lens and head out to the Refuge to get those awesome summer shots!

**THEATRE**

6/16 Tuesday through July 2- The Aurora Fox presents A Little Princess This beloved children's classic tells the story of a little girl bravely facing adversity while remaining a true princess on the inside. Tickets are \$4.50 to \$7. Shows are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. 9900 E. Colfax Ave. 303-739-1970 or [aurorafox.org](http://aurorafox.org)

Through 6/14- Shadow Theatre presents Oscar and Felix by Neil Simon. America's comic mastermind has updated his classic comedy The Odd Couple, setting the trials and tribulations of Felix Unger and Oscar Madison in the present day. Performances Th, Fri & Sat at 7:30pm & Sun at 3pm. June 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13 & 14th. Tickets \$21-\$26 call 720.857.8000 or [www.shadowtheatre.com](http://www.shadowtheatre.com) for tickets and additional information. 1468 Dayton Street in Aurora.

Through 6/20 - Don't Drink the Water, by Woody Allen. John Hand Theatre in Lowry. Walter and Marion Hollander take their young daughter on vacation to a Eastern European country behind the Iron Curtain. The trip turns sour when Walter accidentally takes pictures of a missile silo and sends the family running for the American Embassy. Hoping to avoid an international incident, Axel and the Hollanders pull out all the stops to sneak out of the country unharmed and unscratched. But of course, nothing goes according to plan in this zany, madcap comedy! [www.johnhandtheater.com/](http://www.johnhandtheater.com/)

**URBAN FARM CAMPS**

Family memberships (required for camps) are \$35/year and run Jan - Dec. Send registration and payment to The Urban Farm 10200 Smith Road Denver, Co. 80239. For more info e-mail [info@theurbanfarm.org](mailto:info@theurbanfarm.org). Payments can be made through Paypal to [info@theurbanfarm.org](mailto:info@theurbanfarm.org) and registrations emailed. Registration is not confirmed until full payment is received.

6/15 and 7/13 - Fun On The Farm Summer Workshops for ages 7 - 10. 5-day camps, 9am - 12pm. Participants will learn first-hand about sheep, goats, chickens, turkeys, horses, donkeys, and pigs. The Farm's learning gardens will provide children with ample opportunity to get dirty and wet while tending the fruits, vegetables, and flowers. They will even learn how to make homemade jam and pickles. \$175

6/15 and 7/13 - Storybook Farm Summer Workshop for ages 4 - 6. 5-day camps, 9am - 12pm. Each morning begins with a story. From there, the children proceed to the farmyard where literature is transformed into real life. For example, after reading about a horse farm, participants will actually groom miniature horses, feed and ride a horse, and climb on hay bales. \$175

7/24 - Sleepover at The Farm for ages 8 - 11. Campers will: help with the evening feeding, help put the animals to bed, listen to the coyotes, roast marshmallows around a campfire, tell "scary stories;" sleep under the stars; have an early morning riding experience; and help with the morning feed. Bring your own sleeping bag and insect repellent. Dinner, s'mores, and breakfast included. Registration limited to 10 children. 5pm - 9am. \$75

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### Congress for New Urbanism in Denver June 10-14

The 17th annual Congress for New Urbanism returns to Denver June 10-14 and will include a walking tour of 3 new urbanist neighborhoods, including Stapleton! Learn about opportunities in the reurbanization of America at the premier gathering for urbanist education, collaboration and networking.

CNU 17 will be held at the Sheraton Denver Hotel, 1550 Court Place, Denver, CO 80202. For information about registration, call 800-788-7077, email [convene@aol.com](mailto:convene@aol.com), or visit [www.cnu.org/cnu17](http://www.cnu.org/cnu17)

### Park Hill Family Bike Ride June 20

Free Family Bike Rides are held the third Saturday of the month through October (except for a Sunday in July). Each 5 mile ride begins at 10am and ends at about 11:30 am. The June ride will start at Joseph's Southern Food at 2868 Fairfax St.

Helmets are required and young riders must be accompanied by an adult (no training wheels). Each ride will end with drawings for prizes and the chance to win a free bicycle, donated by The Bike Depot. Free loaner bikes are available, with 7-day advance notice. For more information, contact the GPHC at (303) 388-0918 or the Park Hill Bike Depot at (303) 393-1963.

### Relay for Life, June 26-27

Celebrate with cancer survivors and carnegies and remember those who lost their battle with cancer at Smiley Middle School. At nightfall, participants will light hundreds of luminaries to honor cancer survivors as well as friends and family lost to the disease. Events start at 6pm. The NE Denver Relay for Life includes Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Hilltop and Crestmoor. Teams and sponsors are still needed. Activities for children of all ages. [www.nedenverrelay.com](http://www.nedenverrelay.com)

### June 12, 5-9pm Summer Art Walk

Visit Aurora's historic original downtown for the East End Arts District's 2009 Summer Art Walk on June 12 from 5 to 9 p.m. The art walk is a self-guided tour that showcases galleries and artist studios in Aurora's 16-block arts district.

The event includes exhibits of pottery, painting, photography, jewelry, prints, sculpture, fiber arts and performing arts. Member galleries and artist studios have refreshments, demonstrations and artists on site.

Start at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library/Municipal Services Center, 9898 E. Colfax Ave. to pick up a map and grab a free pedi-cab to guide you through the district.

Events during the art walk include: the Aurora Symphony Orchestra Wine Social silent auction and tasting; Red Delicious Press' popular "Steamroller Printmaking;" Downtown Aurora Visual Arts' outdoor fashion show at 7 p.m. and roving reports by Cool Lew Gaiter, host of "Friday Night Jazz" on KUVU.

Enjoy free appetizers at La Cueva restaurant and close the evening at the Zephyr Lounge's 2 for 1 happy hour from 5 to 7 p.m. and from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The summer art walk is sponsored by the generous donations from Citywide Bank, Community College of Aurora and Aurora Art in Public Places.

To learn more or obtain a map of the art walk route, call 720-276-2335 or visit [www.eastendartsdistrict.org](http://www.eastendartsdistrict.org).

### Charity Chase Fun Run & Walk To Benefit Catholic Charities

Saturday, June 20  
Stapleton Central Park

Register on-line by June 16th  
[www.ccdenvver.org](http://www.ccdenvver.org)

## Odyssey Students Improve Their Community



Photo by Doug Pensinger

Above: Odyssey students paint tree trunks with a mixture of sand and paint to deter beavers at the confluence of Westerly and Sand Creeks near Stapleton. Odyssey student Elizabeth Hailu is painting the tree in foreground.

First, fourth, sixth and eighth grade students from The Odyssey School recently worked on stewardship projects along Westerly and Sand Creeks and at Bluff Lake Nature Center. The older students worked on protection measures in a mature cottonwood grove and a planting project at Bluff Lake Nature Center. Younger students cleaned the water and banks of Westerly Creek. They all met near the creeks' confluence to celebrate their accomplishments. More than 100 students and eight Odyssey teachers participated. The day was coordinated by Donny Roush, Odyssey's advancement director, who says, "Odyssey kids really understand how they can impact their own environment and they think this work is really worthwhile. And, they love being outside."

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## RECURRING EVENTS

**4th Monday**  
SUN Board Mtg 7:30pm, MCA  
Comm Rm, 2823 Roslyn St  
stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

**Every Tuesday**  
Stapleton Rotary Club – 12pm  
Stapleton Radisson Plaza Hotel  
3333 Quebec St  
Michael@KearnsTeam.com

**Every Tuesday**  
AA Open Discussion Mtg 7:30pm  
MCA Community Room, 2823  
Roslyn Street 303.912.7075

**1st Tuesday**  
Breast Cancer Support Group 5 -  
6:30pm AF Williams Family Medi-  
cine Clinic, Conference Rm  
(west entrance) 3055 Roslyn  
(at MLK) 720-848-9000

**3rd Tuesday**  
Greater Stapleton Business Assoc.  
8am MCA Comm Rm, 2823  
Roslyn Street 303.393.7700

**Every Wednesday**  
Weekly Weeders, Bluff Lake Na-  
ture Center 9am-12pm,  
303.945.6717

**1st Wednesday**  
“1st Wednesdays” Home-based  
businesses. Location at Stapleton-  
Life.com Most mtgs 11:30am-  
1pm

**2nd Wed. (Odd numbered  
months)**  
SUN Transportation Committee  
6:30pm MCA Conference Rm,

2823 Roslyn St.  
stapletonneighbors@msn.com

**Every Thursday**  
(when school's in session)  
Bill Roberts Elementary School  
Tour, 10am., 2100 Akron Way,  
720-424-2640

**First Thursday**  
Bill Roberts Middle School  
Tour, 10am  
2100 Akron Way,  
720-424-2640

**3rd Thursday**  
Stapleton Citizens Advisory  
Board Mtg, Stapleton Develop-  
ment Corp (SDC)  
7350 E. 29th Ave.  
7:30 – 9am 303.393.7700

**2nd Friday**  
Story time & craft for young  
children & caregiver Westerly  
Creek Elementary library  
9:15 - 9:45am. 303-322-5877

**1st Saturday**  
Bluff Lake Birders, Nature  
Center 7-9am  
[BluffLakeNatureCenter.org]

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

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## Father's Day Reflections Dads Aren't Perfect, “They All Can Screw Up”



Tom Downey with Meg, 18 months, on his shoulders, takes an evening stroll with daughters Ella, 4, and Cate, 8, in the pocket park across the street from their Stapleton home.

By Nancy Burkhart  
Stapleton resident Tom Downey, 44, is president of the Children's Museum. In his position, he helps to create teachable moments techniques for children with the museum's exhibits. And, when he goes home, he tries to use these techniques on his three daughters, Cate, 8 years old, Ella, 4, and Meg, 18 months.

But even with Downey's daily experiences of working with children, when he goes home to be “dad,” he has the opportunity to “screw up.”

“We've got to get that message out,” Downey said. “We're all in the same boat. We've got to be good to ourselves. Everybody makes the same mistake.”

One weekend last month, Downey demonstrated his ability for parental mistakes when “I found out I brought the wrong kid to the birthday party. I brought the four-year-old to the eight-year-old party,” he said.

That wasn't the end of the mistake experience. Downey said he asked his neighbor, who also has a four-year-old daughter, if he would like to have the two little girls go to the party together and be picked up together. However, the neighbor replied that his daughter hadn't been invited to the party.

“I had to ‘out’ myself with Craig,” Downey said. “I had to say, ‘Your kid isn't a loser. My kids' dad is the loser.’”

Then the weekend moved on to give Downey another “screw up” chance.

“I hate yard work,” he said. “My wife (Lori Fox) loves it. She goes out to pick up Ella from the birthday party. I pulled bushes that she didn't like, but I went one row too far. I pulled up the rosebush Cate had just planted. And, I had to tell Cate I took Ella to the party she was supposed to have gone to.”

Kids don't come with instruction books, and no one can be a perfect parent,

Downey insisted. “I think that dads should have a philosophy and an approach for their kids' understanding that there's a short life span in fatherhood,” he said. “Babies – we're completely enamored with them and the process and we move through that when they're little kids, and they adore you. My message is that we have to wallow in it because it's going to end pretty darned quickly. Then they're going to be teenagers and our purpose is going to be to embarrass them. Then they're going to hate us.

“We have to treat them right now because eventually these kids – these little beings that can't find the shoes they had on a few seconds ago – are some day going to decide whether we're going to see our grandkids. They're going to decide what nursing home we're going to go into. So, we're going to have to take advantage of this now. They're going to remember this. “We need to maximize the fun because it's the only time in our lives and they're the only people in our lives that are going to adore us,” he added.

Downey recommends taking the children to the Children's Museum for Father's Day. There are fun, interactive exhibits. Dad and the kids can climb all over a real fire truck while the kids wear fireman jackets and hats. And, there is a 911 call center that helps parents teach their children how to make a 911 call. The Children's Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Father's Day. High quality, cheaper, grab 'n go, organic food is available for lunch or dinner.

The Children's Museum is located at 2121 Children's Museum Drive. For information, visit [www.Mychildsmuseum.org](http://www.Mychildsmuseum.org) or call 303-433-7444.

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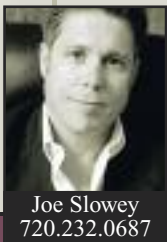
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Living with Our Shy Visitors



Editor's Note: Two Stapleton residents emailed us with photos of foxes, so we asked our neighbors at the National Wildlife Refuge for information on living with foxes.

By Sherry James and Scott Quayle

The grasses on the plains have turned bright green, the tiny tree buds burst into leaves on the tips of their branches and wildflowers erupt in vibrant spectrums of colors. And, the wildlife babies have arrived—it's almost summertime in Stapleton!

Some of the local wildlife include birds, prairie dogs and foxes, which you may have recently seen in the neighborhood. While there are four species of fox in Colorado, the most common to the Stapleton area are red fox.

Often when people see fox out and about, the foxes are looking for food to take back to their den for their young kits. Red foxes typically eat rodents, rabbits and birds. Smaller foxes mainly eat insects, though small rodents are possible. They are most actively seeking food from dusk until dawn.

Foxes will normally try to avoid contact with humans, when possible. It is best to reciprocate that behavior, as well. Sometimes people find young animals left alone in woods, backyards or along roads. Though the young may appear to be abandoned, the mom is often out finding food for her young. Trying to help the wildlife can actually be so stressful on their small hearts that you can literally scare them to death. Watching them from afar is a much better option.

The best way to deal with fox in your neighborhood, recommended by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, is to keep garbage secure and not to feed them. Clean up fallen fruit in your yard, have an enclosed composting system and don't let your pets roam freely through the neighborhood. A fox preying on pets is the number one urban conflict. If you see a fox while you are out walking your dog, cross the street to give it, and yourself, a little extra room. Luckily, rabies cases involving fox are rare in Colorado.

If you are interested in seeing wildlife babies, such as bison, deer and prairie dogs, you can visit the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. For information about nature and educational programs, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 303-289-0930 or visit www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/.

Scott Quayle is a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Visitor Services manager Sherry James has worked at the Refuge for 18 years.



The top photo was taken by Micah Lang of a fox seen in the 8100 block of E. 25th Drive. The lower photo was taken by BJ Sullivan of a fox inside the fence at the swimming pool at 28th and Hanover.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
Wildlife Refuge Helps Halt Decline in Avian Species

Local bird-watchers can view hard-to-find species in natural habitat

By Sherry James

Did you know one of the nation's hot-spots for bird-watching is right in your back yard? The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is home to several species of birds that are increasingly hard to find elsewhere in the region, according to the first comprehensive report on U.S. bird populations published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The State of the Birds report shows an alarming decline in avian populations across a variety of climates. The report documents an almost 40 percent decline in grassland and native prairie birds, including many of the species found in Commerce City and the Colorado grasslands.

Many of the state's avian species are experiencing perilous times due to intensified development, agriculture and climate change. One place where grassland-dependent birds are thriving is the Refuge. The Refuge sustains a substantial population of grassland birds, such as the western meadowlark, that are mentioned in the State of the Birds report.

Refuge Manager Steve Berendzen states, "The Refuge has a multitude of birds, including species of concern such as the bald eagle and burrowing owl. The diverse habitat offers an opportunity to see the birds in their natural setting."

Birds have the ability to respond quickly and positively towards conservation actions, such as the environmental restoration occurring at the Refuge. More

than 300 different species of birds use the Refuge during various seasons. Over the winter months, bald eagles can be seen nesting in a line of cottonwoods trees along the eastern shore of Lake Lower Derby. The Refuge was established largely due to the discovery of a communal winter roost of bald eagles here in 1986.

Bird-watching is the fastest-growing outdoor activity in the United States, according to a 2001 survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Refuge offers a variety of nature programs and guided tours for people of all ages to learn about local species and their amazing habits. In fact, the Refuge has become a prime destination for bird-watchers, who can witness the quirky behavior of burrowing owls or view Colorado's state bird, the lark bunting.

The Refuge is a great place to learn the fast-growing hobby of bird-watching. Visitors can take tours guided by knowledgeable U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff. (Binoculars are provided.) A new innovative program, "Birding by Ear," employs the use of iPods to identify birds by sound.

As the State of the Birds report shows, conservation efforts like the habitat preservation taking place at the Refuge are critical to the survival of avian species. Show your support by visiting the Refuge and participating in one of the nature and environmental programs. To see a complete listing of the birds living at the Refuge or to find out more about the nature and environmental programs, contact the Visitor Center at 303-289-0930 or visit online http://www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/.

Visitor Services manager Sherry James has worked at the Refuge for 18 years. She can be reached at 303-289-0659.



Lark bunting on a thistle

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## Westerly Creek Celebrates Successful Kindness Program

The Kindergarten through 2nd grade students at Westerly Creek celebrate growing their "chain of kindness acts" to 400 links since late February. As part of their character development program, the students accepted Rachel's Challenge to show more kindness, compassion, respect and inclusion toward their classmates, teachers and staff. When a student performs an act of kindness the teacher or fellow student writes that act on a small paper link and adds it to the chain of kindness. The kids pledge to fill the whole school with more links next year.

## Bill Roberts Service Learning Project on Sustainability



Middle school students at Bill Roberts chose a sustainability theme for their service learning project to teach younger students as well as those in the neighborhood about the importance of sustainability. Above: Shaderia Blake, 7, raises her hand to answer a question about storm water pollution at an exhibit that was sponsored by the "Keep it Clean from Drain to Stream" campaign.

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## Denver Pre-School Program Provides Tuition Credit Vouchers

By Kathy Epperson

The Denver Preschool Program is something every parent of a Denver pre-kindergartener should know about. The result of a voter-approved initiative to provide tuition credits for parents, the Denver Preschool Program (DPP) reduces the cost of pre-K tuition for parents and provides quality-improvement grants to preschools.

The program is open and voluntary for all Denver children for the school year prior to kindergarten, and a Denver family may use the tuition credit with any preschool provider who is licensed by the state and enrolled with the Denver Preschool Program, regardless of where that preschool is located. The average tuition credit varies depending on the length of the child's school day but averages about \$255 per month for part-day programs and \$545 per month for full-day programs. DPP anticipates that sales tax revenue will generate about \$11 million per year in support of pre-K children and their families.

"At the Denver Preschool Program, we have a multitude of reasons to be optimistic about 2009," says CEO James Mejia. "In only our first 16 months, we have enrolled more than 5,000 children into quality preschool programs around Denver, a milestone we were hoping to reach only by our fifth year of operations! We can all agree that the slumping economy has forced many to alter their financial priorities. At DPP, we take pride in the fact that even in challenging

times like these, Denver families will not be faced with the tough decision of whether or not to send a child to preschool."

The Denver Preschool Program offers a viable means of making early childhood education more accessible for all families. "More than 40 years of research shows that early childhood education provides significant educational and social benefits for children, families and communities," says Mejia. "Almost 80 percent of brain development occurs before the age of five. It is critical that our children grasp basic and fundamental abilities early so they are prepared to learn when they enter kindergarten."

DPP is open to all provider types, including for-profit, non-profit, public and private providers. The only requirements are that preschools be licensed by the state and agree to participate in a three-part quality improvement system. Preschool programs will be eligible to receive technical assistance and funding to help develop and achieve their quality improvement plan.

To apply, parents or guardians should complete a DPP application (which can be printed from the website or picked up at area preschools), provide proof of their child's age and of residency in the City and County of Denver, and provide documentation of family income for the most current month. Families typically hear back regarding their tuition credits within about 2 weeks of application.

To learn more about the Denver Preschool Program, visit [www.dpp.org](http://www.dpp.org).

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## Roberts 3rd Graders Are Colorado Characters

Bill Roberts 3rd grade teachers Jamie Trumbull and Cheryl Beckwith have been presenting lessons on Colorado history and encouraging their students to learn how people's dreams and hard work can make a difference. The students researched Coloradans, both past and present, who had an impact on the state's history. As a culminating activity the class participated in a Colorado Day Celebration, Voices from the Past. The students created a story board, wrote a script, designed a costume, and became the character. Ella Noble said of the event, "This is the best day



Caroline Reynolds as Rachael Noel, the first African American DPS school board member



Melana Uceda as Clara Brown, a former slave who became a prominent community leader



Maddie Sorenson as Chipeta, a Ute Indian who married Chief Ouray. Together they worked to create peace with the settlers.



Hannah Curran as Charlotte Perry, founded a world famous dance and arts Academy



Drew Felsher as Ben Stapleton, former mayor of Denver



Anthony Farmelo as John Denver, famous singer



Macguel McClain as James Beckworth, an African American mountain man



Jackson Adams as Alfred Packer, cannibal



Katy Boehm as Baby Doe Tabor, the 2nd wife of Horace Tabor and the subject of many books and even an opera



Ella Noble as Emily Griffith, founder of the Emily Griffith Opportunity School



Justice McClain as Emily Griffith, founder of the Emily Griffith Opportunity School

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# New Montessori-Inspired Full-Day Kindergarten Program in NE Denver

By Carol Roberts



Linda Alston

Stapleton residents Linda Alston and Devin Dillon have teamed up to offer a new DPS kindergarten program in NE Denver. Ms. Alston, who has over 25 years teaching experience, and Ms. Dillon, principal of Greenwood K-8 School in the Gateway community, have planned a Montessori-inspired kindergarten program for accelerated students at Greenwood school. Prospective students will be tested for readiness to function in an accelerated class. The program will cover the DPS kindergarten curriculum, but will go beyond it, offering enrichment using educational practices from the Montessori and the Reggio Emilio approaches, among

others. "The program will offer an emphasis on the arts as well as an expeditionary approach to get the students out into the community," says Ms. Alston. "Children will learn to see themselves as contributors, those who make a difference in the world, and the program will nurture the qualities of giftedness in these young learners."

Ms. Dillon points out the value of placing accelerated students together. She says research shows that "Gifted students benefit from learning together, and need to be placed with similar students in their areas of strength."1 She referred to a recent article in the Arizona Republic discussing gifted education, since Arizona schools are required to provide opportunities that allow gifted students to grow and learn appropriate to their exceptional abilities. The article quotes Dina Brulles, the director of gifted education in an Arizona school district, "When gifted students are purposefully clustered into otherwise diverse classes, rather than split up with one or two in each class, teachers can more easily tailor learning to the needs, strengths, learning styles and interests of individuals, so that all students have the opportunity to learn at their full potential."2

Ms. Dillon says Greenwood school was one of four DPS schools to receive the Title 1 Most Distinguished Award for High Growth. Her school offers a gifted program for 4th - 8th grade, and the kindergarteners in this new program will be able to move along in the first through third grades as a cluster, until they have the opportunity to be tested for the gifted program in 4th - 8th grades.

The new kindergarten will have a full time teaching assistant and the class is expected to be 20-25 children. "It offers a culturally rich program for parents looking for an educational setting with intentional diversity," says Ms. Dillon.

Ms. Alston has 14 years experience teaching with the Montessori method, and received her AMI Montessori Degree from the Midwest Montessori Institute in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In addition, Ms. Alston earned a Master of Arts Degree in Language, Literacy and Culture and the Teaching of Reading from the University of Colorado at Denver. Among her professional awards are: Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award, 2007, Bethune Legacy Award 2007, National Excellence in Teaching Award/NCNW/1996, and Denver Distinguished Teacher Award/1994.

For more information on the new kindergarten program at Greenwood K-8 School contact Greenwood principal Devin Dillon at [devin\\_dillon@dpsk12.org](mailto:devin_dillon@dpsk12.org).

1 - (Hoover, Saylor, & Feldhusen, 1993; Kulik & Kulik, 1990; Rogers, 1993)  
2- [www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2009/01/18/20090118edpeck0118.html](http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2009/01/18/20090118edpeck0118.html)

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# A Radical Equation: Algebra for Middle School Students by 8th Grade

By Gregory Diggs

As a parent of children who attend DPS schools, I am aware of recent concerns about math instruction and policy. Some parents are concerned with supporting their students who are below grade level in math achievement. Others have “gifted” or high performing students who seek to maximize exposure to advanced math in preparation for a grand future. Most are interested in equal educational opportunities for their children. Dr. Robert Moses argues that algebra for all students by the end of eighth grade is the Civil Rights issue of the 21st Century. Why?

The answers are rooted in the parent concerns I mentioned. Think in terms of Math Literacy. For ambitious students who dream of careers in medicine, biomedical sciences, physics or engineering, access to advanced math instruction (geometry, trigonometry, calculus, etc.), algebra by the end of middle school, is key. And as the entire nation moves towards a new era of a technologically-driven economy, many citizens who do not have a strong understanding of mathematical concepts such as algebra are destined to be tracked into low paying, minimum wage jobs. If female and minority students are educated in schools where algebra instruction (real algebra, not just “algebra concepts”) is absent, then their education will be separate and unequal to that which is provided in many public schools. As an African American parent, I have an expectation that students of all races, genders, orientation and yes...even mathematical ability...be offered the opportunity to receive algebra instruction, for credit by the end of 8th grade. Math Literacy is a justice imperative for all American citizens.

I worry that we underestimate the intelligence and talents of our children. A few years ago, when my daughter entered (public) middle school, the school identified more than 40 sixth graders (mostly female, some minority) who were advanced in math. Seventh grade math was offered. And most competed successfully with their 7th grade peers. And yet the DPS answer to this superlative performance was to offer these students a repeat of 7th grade math. Fortunately, a new principal allowed these students to move forward in math. The students continue to do well. As 8th graders, several of these students have successfully completed 9th grade math, fewer (including my daughter) will enter high school taking math courses that are offered to juniors. And while I love to think that these children are just the exceptional, cream of the middle school crop...I urge you to look around: increasing numbers of public school students are becoming exceptionally literate in mathematics.

We will have plenty of time to argue about which math is “real” or “better”. But I hope that we will come to agree that our public schools should be prepared to offer algebra for credit by the end of 8th grade. I am not quite arguing that advanced math meets the academic needs of every child. I am confident, however that we can do a much better job of supporting math literacy than we currently do today.

Yes We Can.

*Gregory Diggs is a Stapleton Resident. He is the parent of two children who attend DPS schools. Dr. Diggs is a Professor of Education at the University of Colorado, Downtown Denver Campus. He can be reached at 303.525.5813*

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By Tom Gleason

One of the most important choices any parent makes is the school he or she chooses for their children. The following information about Denver Public Schools at Stapleton is designed to provide an explanation of options for parents currently involved in that decision process.

What are Stapleton’s current DPS schools?

**Westerly Creek Elementary School (WCE):** Originally opened in 2003 as a K-5 school that shared a building and common library and “cafetorium” facilities with The Odyssey Charter School, WCE was reconfigured in the fall of 2007 as a school that served 3 year olds enrolled in Early Childhood Education (ECE) through first grade students. The school adds a new grade each year until it becomes ECE through 5th grade in 2011. (www.westerlycreekpta.com) The land for WCE was conveyed at no cost to DPS via The Stapleton Development Corporation with the approval of Forest City.

**The Odyssey Charter School:** Odyssey is a K-8 Denver Public Schools charter school offering an “Expeditionary Learning Community” to 224 students in the Westerly Creek Campus building it shares on E. 28th Avenue with the Westerly Creek Elementary School. Odyssey moved to that site, which was donated to DPS via The Stapleton Development Corporation with the approval of Forest City, in 2003. (www.odysseydenver.org)

**William “Bill” Roberts Elementary School:** Roberts Elementary opened in 2006. It serves students enrolled in Early Childhood Education through 8th grade in a new campus located at Akron Way and Central Park Boulevard. (bill-roberts.dpsk12.org). The Roberts school site was donated to DPS by Forest City.

**The Denver School of Science and Technology:** DSST is a Denver Public Schools Charter High School located at Valentinia and Montview Boulevard. Opened in 2005, DSST is a college preparatory liberal arts program with a science and technology focus. DSST is the only “Distinguished” rated high school in Denver. One hundred percent of its two classes of graduates have been accepted into four year colleges. (www.scienceandtech.org). The DSST school site was donated by Forest City.

**The Denver School of Science and Technology Middle School:** The DSST Middle School opened on the campus of its senior high school in 2008. The DSST Middle School has a college preparatory focus, with an emphasis on developing core liberal arts skills in reading, writing, mathematics and science to prepare students for the rigorous high school program at DSST. (www.scienceandtech.org/middleschool) The Middle School is on a site donated by Forest City.

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DPS Schools at Stapleton

Stapleton Property Taxes

I’m often asked how Stapleton property taxes are utilized in regard to Stapleton schools. As with all Denver residential property tax bills, approximately two-thirds of the property taxes Stapleton homeowners pay based on the “standard” mill levy of 66.783 mils are collected by the City of Denver for the Denver Public Schools. Those funds, however, are primarily used for operational purposes in DPS, not the construction of new schools, which are typically funded through the issuance of bonds. The “additional” mill levy (currently set at 55.038 mils) paid by Stapleton homeowners is designated for “local” improvements such as residential streets, utilities and parks, but not for the construction of schools.

What is being planned to accommodate projected overcrowding in south Stapleton?

There is sufficient classroom space at Westerly Creek and Bill Roberts schools to accommodate all children anticipated to enroll for the 2009-2010 school year, but there is also a projection that approximately 165 more students will want to enter those schools for the 2010-2011 school year than can be accommodated. At this time there are two DPS charter school proposals that, if approved by the DPS School Board, would alleviate the overcrowding projected for the fall of 2010:

**The Denver Language School (DLS):** This proposed DPS Charter School would be a full Mandarin Chinese/Spanish immersion school whose mission is to boost student achievement through language immersion. If approved, DLS would open in the fall of 2010 with 100 kindergarteners and 50 students in grades 1 and 2 and would grow one grade each year through 8th grade. The school intends to locate in central northeast Denver although a site has not yet been determined. DLS is also now accepting intent to enroll forms. Sixty families from Stapleton have expressed interest in enrolling their children.

**National Heritage Academy (NHA):** This school would be operated by a private company with 13 years experience running 57 kindergarten - 8th grade schools in six states, serving over 35,000 students with a rigorous academic curriculum. National Heritage Academy has been in negotiations with Forest City for a possible Stapleton location for their school, if it is approved by DPS. The school would offer a college prep curriculum that would accommodate approximately 700 students. It would also open in the fall of 2010 as a K-5 school, adding an additional grade a year until it reaches K-8.

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**DPS Board to vote on charter school proposals on June 18th.** The Board of the Denver Public Schools is scheduled to vote on both charter school proposals at its June 18th meeting. Support for one or both proposals may be sent to the Board in advance of that meeting by email (board@dpsk12.org). Fax (720-423-3216) or hard copy (DPS Board of Education, 900 Grant St., Denver, CO 80203).

**Additional capacity at Westerly Creek Campus:** Another development that could create additional classroom space here at Stapleton is the interest of The Odyssey School’s Board to explore the possibility of another location that would enable them to have their own campus in Stapleton. If Odyssey decides to move, that would open up space for roughly 250 students in the Westerly Creek Building now shared by The Odyssey School.

Once the decisions about the two charter schools soon to be considered by DPS and the future of The Odyssey School are made, it will provide a better picture of the need for additional DPS schools at Stapleton, both north and south of Interstate 70. Please see the article below by Marc Waxman, executive director of the Office of School Reform and Innovation for Denver Public Schools, in this edition of The Front Porch for information about an **August 5<sup>th</sup> community meeting to discuss Stapleton schools.**

Additional information about the public and private schools in the neighborhoods surrounding Stapleton may be obtained from Brian Weber, Vice President – Education and Workforce Initiatives at The Stapleton Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities (bweber@stapletonfoundation.org).

*Tom Gleason is Vice President-Public Relations for Forest City Stapleton, Inc. He may be reached at [tggleason@stapletondenver.com](mailto:tggleason@stapletondenver.com).*

DPS to Engage with Stapleton on School Space Issues – August 5th Meeting Planned

By Marc Waxman

On August 5th (6:45 p.m.) at William Roberts School, Denver Public Schools will engage with the Stapleton community regarding the need for additional school space in the next several years. The district is aware that the school age population in Stapleton is growing quickly. DPS is working diligently to understand the demographic pressures on the existing schools within Stapleton due to this growth.

Initially a third DPS School was planned to be built in Stapleton south of I-70 around the 2010 school year. Due to the economic climate, there are insufficient funds available through the Tax Increment Financing (the funding method that pays for public improvements at Stapleton) to currently cover the costs of that project as originally planned. Therefore, other potential solutions need to be developed and implemented.

DPS is taking this issue seriously and working on a number of possible scenarios to address growing enrollment with Forest City, the Stapleton Foundation and the administrations of Westerly Creek and Bill Roberts schools.

*Marc Waxman is the Executive Director of the Office of School Reform and Innovation for Denver Public Schools*

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**Jeff & Jen Jorgensen** with Lily, 7 (above)

"We think the concession building in Central Park would make a great concession stand/restaurant like you would find along the boardwalk in a coastal town. It should be a casual place to get a coffee, ice cream or a burger while enjoying the park."



**Jill Bruner and Brad Young**

It would be cool to have a kid friendly place with "bar" type food (sliders and fried food) and wine and beer. It would

be more about the atmosphere and a place to gather with friends than the food itself. If there were a place to eat and drink here we'd come once a week. But we also like the idea of it being rentable.



**Darla Ruff** with grandchildren Kiara, 3; DJ 1 1/2; and Kaleah, 5 and daughter-in-law Reneca Ruff

I think they should make the space a combination space that could be rented for special events with a concession that would be open most of the time. I'd like to see healthy food for the kids, like fruit juice (instead of soda), and coffee and latte for the adults.

# Views on the Street

*What do you think the city should do with the concession building in Central Park?*

**Gert and Almut Grenz** Joelle, 4



In Germany we had a coffee shop in a park that sold coffee, ice cream and snacks and it was run by the Down Syndrome organization. It gave people with Down Syndrome a place to work, and it became a self-supporting program. We think something like that would be a good idea here.

**Rob Baughman**



"I'd like to see a grill type place where you could get fresh products or something like a chicken sandwich -- light food that you order at the counter (no wait staff), and kid friendly. Also it would be nice to have with vending machines for after hours or in the winter."

# Spring Forum Provides Stapleton Update

By Tom Gleason

About 100 people turned out for the annual Spring Public Forum at the Denver School of Science and Technology Middle Academy to hear updated information about development at Stapleton from officials from the City of Denver and Forest City. The Stapleton Public Forum was cosponsored by Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN), The Stapleton Development Corporation's Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) and Forest City. Among those in attendance was Denver City Councilman Michael Hancock.

Jess Ortiz, the City of Denver's project manager for the new Central Park Boulevard Interchange on Interstate 70 opened the meeting with an update on the project. The Stapleton interchange has received \$50 million from a variety of federal, state and city funding sources. While the interchange is scheduled to be completed by 2013, there is the potential for an early phase opening by the end of 2010.

Jim Chrisman, senior vice president Forest City, Stapleton, Inc., provided the forum with a project-by-project update in regard to development already underway at Stapleton or anticipated for the future. Among the topics he addressed were the new Denver Public Library that is scheduled to be built in the E. 29th Avenue Town center at the southwest corner of E. 29th Drive and Roslyn, where it would have access to several hundred existing on-street and off-street parking spaces. He also provided brief updates on the 4-story office building that is being constructed at 35th and Ulster as a regional headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the 92 units of affordable rental housing that will be developed by Mercy Housing Colorado north of the planned Eastbridge Town Center. Mr. Chrisman said he believed that Forest City is getting close to signing a grocery store to be the anchor tenant for the Eastbridge Town Center, but construction of the center will also require pre-leasing

of at least half of the retail space before work commences.

Charlie Nicola, senior vice president – construction for Forest City, said the Park Creek Metropolitan District plans to begin construction on the long-awaited recreation center on the eastern end of Central Park in the early fall of this year. Denver City Councilman Michael Hancock said the current plan is to construct the 57,000 square foot center according to the design shared with the public on numerous occasions, including previous Stapleton public forums. The councilman said any significant change required in that design would not be incorporated unless it was first brought back to the public. Councilman Hancock said the "place holder" name for the recreation center is the Central Park Recreation Center to distinguish it from the City's Stapleton Recreation Center that already exists at 51st and Broadway. The formal naming of the Central Park Recreation Center will follow a public process already established for such city facilities.

Heidi Majerik, director of development for Forest City, then briefed the audience on the state of residential development at Stapleton, including new products that are being offered by Stapleton home builders. When asked about the schedule for completing sidewalks in areas that have not yet been developed, Ms. Majerik said she would work with Stapleton United Neighbors to respond to requests related to the safety of pedestrians, particularly in the area of schools.

Barbara Neal, public art consultant to Forest City and The Park Creek Metropolitan District, concluded the formal program by providing an update on public art scheduled to be installed this year. Locations for the art include the ellipse on 35th Avenue at Xenia Street, the community garden near 23rd and Spruce, and the Central Park Boulevard parkway just north of Montview Blvd.

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# The SUN Spot

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**S.U.N. Meetings** are held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm in the Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn Street. For information about S.U.N. visit [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com). To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com) or call 720-840-8492.



## Affordable Housing Vision Coming to Fruition in Stapleton

The Stapleton Development Plan, or Green Book, as it is called, was created in 1995 with three primary goals- Economic Development, Environmental Responsibility and Social Equity. All three of these goals are exemplified in how the Denver affordable housing program is thriving in Stapleton even in today's tough real estate market. There are currently over 500 people living in Stapleton, who would not have had the opportunity to do so were it not for these goals and the efforts and guidelines created by the City of Denver and Forest City in Developing Stapleton.

These homeowners and renters are a big part of the fabric of our Stapleton community with a big percentage of them working in and around Stapleton as teachers, nurses, retail employees, school bus drivers just to name a few occupations. They are folks just getting started in life like med students, interns and nannies, as well as retirees downsizing to be close to their grandkids here in Stapleton. This program was designed to help break down the barriers that rising home costs create. These homes also create a great opportunity for people to be in our great school and park system, have short commutes and business infrastructure. Together we all make Stapleton thrive and become the community we have envisioned.

The Affordable Housing plan with the City of Denver promotes both for-sale and rental homes. The agreement requires that 10% of the for-sale homes in Stapleton be sold to buyers that make less than 80% of the area median income (AMI); this number is based on the household size and currently ranges from \$42,550-\$60,800. Right now these homes are being sold from

\$110,000 to \$170,000 for new, and re-sales are just below and above those numbers. New Town Builders is currently selling the 29th Drive Row Homes under the affordable program. Re-sales are available at both Roslyn Court and Syracuse Village. There was a steep learning curve as Forest City introduced the affordable program at Stapleton and keeping up with booming sales from 2003-2007 put them far behind expectations. Sales in 2008 however, represent over 10% of the total sales within the affordable market at Stapleton. The recent \$8,000 tax credit for first time home buyers as well as a tighter housing market has led to a great start for sales in 2009 as well. The affordable program at Stapleton recently eclipsed the 200 home mark, which is shy of the requirement for total homes but many issues have been ironed out and the future looks bright.

Forest City agreed to provide 20% of all rentals as affordable to households between 30% and 60% of AMI with rents on a sliding scale. Rents range from approximately \$300 to \$1,000 a month. Currently affordable rental units exceed the requirement due to a slower building market but demand is still very high with wait-lists of over 100 people and a wait of up to 12-months. 92 new units will be added in 2011 in a new Mercy Housing development, bringing the total affordable rentals to 278.

Although the affordable program has had its challenges and set backs the community should feel very proud of the accomplishments. Forest City, The Citizens Advisory Board, SUN and the City of Denver have all worked proactively to ensure the success of this program and its continuation. The affordable housing program is big part of what makes Stapleton a such a great community!

## Race and the Political Landscape

By Michael B. Hancock

Since the election of Denver City Councilwoman Carla Madison to replace Elbra Wedgeworth in the "historically safe African-American" seat in District 8, the thought has been that the glory days of safe seats for African-Americans were over.

At the statehouse this week, a Democratic vacancy committee's selection of Mike Johnston to replace Peter Groff as state senator for District 33 has further exacerbated the perception that African-Americans are losing ground politically in Colorado.

Though I supported another candidate for the seat, I believe Johnston will represent all citizens of District 33 well. He is capable and committed. I agree that paradigm shift is occurring, but I do not necessarily agree it is a negative for the African-American community.

As Generation X comes of age, we have ushered in a new way of managing the political landscape, not counting seats based on geography but counting opportunities based on preparedness. African-American candidates who speak to the bread-and-butter issues of the American people can compete for any office, anywhere. The outlook for African-American candidates has never been brighter. President Barack Obama's election is the most obvious example of the possibilities.

African-American members of the baby-boom generation and their predecessors fought successfully for basic civil rights, including the right to vote and to live wherever their financial capacity could get them. Generation X is reaping the benefits of those battles for upward mobility. While there is still much work to be done, this generation is enjoying income levels their parents only dreamed of, greater access to higher education, and protected access to the ballot box.

(continued on page 26)

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Letter to the Editor

Off-Leash Dogs

Recently our family had 2 bad experiences with off-leash dogs in a single weekend. The first incident took place at 25th and Alton ct. A dog ran across the street in front of our car, and we hit it, well actually the dog sort of hit the side of our car. The dog seemed to be injured so we stopped to see if it was OK, but the dog's owner picked up the dog and left in haste. We were only doing about 15-20 mph because this is the section of

25th where the street is sinking and the man-holes are sticking out. The second incident took place while walking our dog (on a leash!) to our block party. This was at 23rd and Yosemite. A very aggressive Doberman (off leash) ran at us and nearly bit our dog. We were terrified. This dog is approx. 85 pounds. The reply from the dog's owner was "that's just his aggressive nature" followed by laughter. Is there anything you can do to get the word out that this is not acceptable. Not only is this inconsiderate and a nuisance, but a danger to our children and everyone in our community.

—Dan Winchell

Stapleton Rocks....

A Concert for a Cause

Our response for the "Battle of the Bands" has been phenomenal! This has forced us to reevaluate the date and time of the event. Originally phrased as a "battle", the new format will be a concert showcasing Stapleton area bands titled "Stapleton Rocks...A Concert for a Cause". This event is open to any local band that is interested in participating. The event is intended to showcase the local amateur talent. It will be a full day event on Saturday, August 15th on The Green. Deadline for entries is June 30th and space is limited to the first 16 bands to respond. Please contact events@stapletoncommunity.com or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

Stapleton Sustainability Camp

We are piloting a new program this summer for children that have completed Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grades. It is a one week camp, August 3rd-7th that will feature a variety of sustainable elements. One day you will spend exploring healthy habitats, the next you might investigate how things grow, and you may even get to discover why recycling rocks!! This camp will be limited to the first 30 students who sign up. For registration information please go to www.stapletoncommunity.com or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.



July 4th Activities

A favorite day in the community will be here before you know it!! We plan to start the day off with a BANG!! We will

be hosting a pancake breakfast from 8:30-10:30am, prior to our annual parade which will begin at 10:30am. Bring your bicycles, tricycles, wagons, or scooters decorated for the parade. It is a festive way to begin your 4th of July. Following the parade, the pools will be open. Music and water activities are planned throughout the day.

The site for our annual parade and pancake breakfast is still in the confirmation process at the time of this paper heading to print, so please check the website, www.stapletoncommunity.com for all the details of the day.

Pool Updates

Private swimming lessons are now available. Please go to the pools and sign up for these classes. If you have questions about the lessons, please call 303.388.0724.

Private parties and birthday parties are available at the pools this summer. For more information about either one, please go to www.stapletoncommunity.com or call 303.388.0724.

Diane Deeter,  
Director of Programming and Events

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State Senator Michael Johnston

(continued from page 4) same race should be chosen to replace him, but Johnston is white. The communities within the district reflect very different incomes and ethnic groups. And, while Park Hill is an older community, Stapleton is a developing one.

"I wouldn't have gotten into this race if I didn't have a passionate commitment to represent all races and all economic levels," Johnston said. "I was surprised and impressed at how common the issues were across all the conversations we had. I felt like there's a deep commitment for the issues that are tied to all of us.

"It's not that I think there's no disagreement. It's that I think there's a greater sense of urgency. Maybe there is more political courage right now than there was before. I think now the economic crisis forces us to examine things that were too political and volatile. Now there is more of a sense that there is a dramatic problem that calls for a dramatic solution. I think there's a willingness for things that were unpalatable in the past."

Johnston hopes to engage the constituents of Senate District 33 to work with him on issues facing the State Legislature. He doesn't consider the job to be one where he votes and then explains to the voters why he voted the way he did. He wants the district's residents to tell him why he should vote a certain way.

"I'm just launching a whole series of policy advisory committees, people with expertise or passion that want to get involved," Johnston said. "I'm also starting outreach committees to bring passion into a true dialogue, getting more input. It feels like a true two-way street of conversation to get everybody involved and interested."

To get information about State Sen. Michael Johnston's committees or to offer opinions, e-mail him at: MCJohnstonian@yahoo.com.

(continued from p. 1) Wyoming border, just north of Virginia Dale, Colorado, with stops in Ft Collins, Denver, and Parker, and it ended in Security. South of Security, the trail is only a plan; nothing is complete at present.

Friday, May 15th, Drove to Laramie

Altitude at the state line must be around 8,000 and at Ft Collins around 4900. Wow. So in spite of those long hills we saw, it should be a net downhill, right? Now if the wind will just hold off. Colorado, here I come.

Saturday May 16th, 45 miles, Wyoming border to Ft. Collins (4 hours riding time)

When I told people I planned to ride U.S. 287 from the Wyoming line to La Porte (10 miles north of Ft. Collins), I got several warnings about how bad it was--heavy traffic, lots of trucks. But it turned out great. There is a nice wide shoulder, which makes all the difference. However it was 32 miles and I wouldn't recommend it for people unaccustomed to riding on busy roads.



Here I am at the Wyoming/Colorado State Line at 7:45am on Saturday. It's 35 degrees and windy, although it is very pretty country and really green, since we've had a fairly wet spring.

At La-Porte I picked up the Poudre Trail. Had a nice stop at Vern's Place



The Poudre Trail

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Hancock

(continued from page 24) This has resulted in an increased number of African-American elected officials all over the country and, yes, increased mobility to outlying communities. In Denver, there is no geographic community that is predominantly African-American. In fact, Aurora has experienced the greatest growth in African-American population in the state, while Denver saw the greatest flight. That shift should not be seen as a negative but as an opportunity borne from the efforts of our ancestors.

Madison's election and Johnston's selection are not indications of a problem. Rather, they are indications that it's time for the African-American community to broaden its reach and political vision.

The opportunity to compete for any office in the country has been earned, and now we must take full advantage of it. The Colorado electorate has proven that when electing officeholders, it is more concerned about a candidate's qualifications than his race. To focus on so-called "traditionally safe" seats misses the point of what so many people have fought for.

President Obama has said "our time has come." Nothing could be truer for African-Americans in Colorado who desire to serve the public.

Michael B. Hancock is a city councilman for District 11.

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Sarah McGregor riding the trail in Douglas County's Hidden Mesa Open Space about a mile north of Franktown.

restaurant and bakery that sells monstrous— and monstrously delicious—cinnamon rolls. (Nice thing about cycling the Front Range is the wide variety of fine eateries.)

The Poudre Trail is lovely, and goes all the way to the southern border of Ft. Collins (approximately 20 miles of bike trail with no roads).

**Sunday May 17th, 71 miles, Ft. Collins to Denver (6 hours riding time; total so far—116 miles)**

Had to ride along roads for about 50-55 miles from Ft. Collins to Thornton, but at least there was a nice view of Long's Peak. At Riverdale Road and 96th Ave. in Thornton I picked up the Platte River Trail. The Platte River Trail connects with the Cherry Creek Trail at the downtown REI, and the two combined cover about 45 miles through Denver and all the way to Franktown, making it the longest finished section of the CFRT.

But I headed off on the Sand Creek Trail to spend the night in my own bed at home in Stapleton. The Sand Creek Trail runs through an old industrial area, complete with



The Cherry Creek Bike Trail

**(3 hours riding time; total so far—154 miles)**

It takes about an hour and a quarter to ride approximately 15 miles on the streets from Stapleton to Cherry Creek State Park (be sure to pick up the “Bicycling Metro Denver” map from a bike shop for finding the best bike routes around the city). The Cherry Creek Trail through the park (which is free for bicyclists) is beautifully green this year, with some great wetlands. After exiting

the Cherry Creek State park there's a short interruption of the trail where you ride along Jordan Road. There are some detours on dirt roads—nothing a hybrid bike can't handle. (Apparently some landowners haven't signed on. Note to those landowners: please get with the program. Trails are good for everyone.)

This is a great stretch of the Cherry Creek Trail, and it goes 20 more miles to Franktown, where it ends in a cow pasture; just stops right there.

(Can you believe that when I was a child living in Park Hill we used to ride a quiet country road to Franktown?

huge refineries. It will eventually connect directly to the Westerly Creek Trail in Stapleton, but for now I had to get off at Smith Road and Xanthia and ride through the neighborhood.

**Monday, May 18th, 38 miles, Denver to Franktown,**

The quiet ride we took was on Parker Road!)

**Didn't ride Tuesday May 19,**

**had to work. Wednesday, May 20th – 47 miles, Greenland Trail to Security (5 hours riding time; total—201 miles)**

I skipped the 20-mile stretch between Franktown and the Greenland Trail (which starts at exit 167 off I-25) because there is no bike trail and I couldn't figure out a good alternate route. Today's route is actually a combination of four trails: The Greenland Trail, which connects to the New Santa Fe trail, which connects to the Pikes Peak Greenway, which connects to the Fountain Creek Trail.

Much of the first 7 miles of Greenland is rough and would require a mountain bike or hybrid and is uphill to Palmer Lake. Then the rest of the day (40 miles) was downhill. It was very wooded through the Air Force Academy, and a diverse group of people were using the trail – I saw several walkers, lots of dogs,

parents with kids in strollers, and cyclists. And I saw lots of wildlife including two snakes- I think one was a rattler and the other a bullsnake. The scenery was beautiful.

Sarah's website is posted on: CrazyGuy-OnaBike -> search for Sarah McGregor -> Choose Journal 4, Muffins on the Range. For more information about the Colorado Front Range Trail and maps that show which sections of the trail have been completed visit <http://parks.state.co.us/Trails/ColoradoFrontRangeTrail>.

*Sarah McGregor is a retired teacher and a Denver native who grew up in Park Hill about 3 miles from her current home in Stapleton. She works part time as a Spanish translator/interpreter to help fund her crazy adventures. She can be reached at [sarahmcg@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahmcg@yahoo.com).*



A creek along the New Santa Fe Trail



Not sure if this was a rattlesnake or a bull snake

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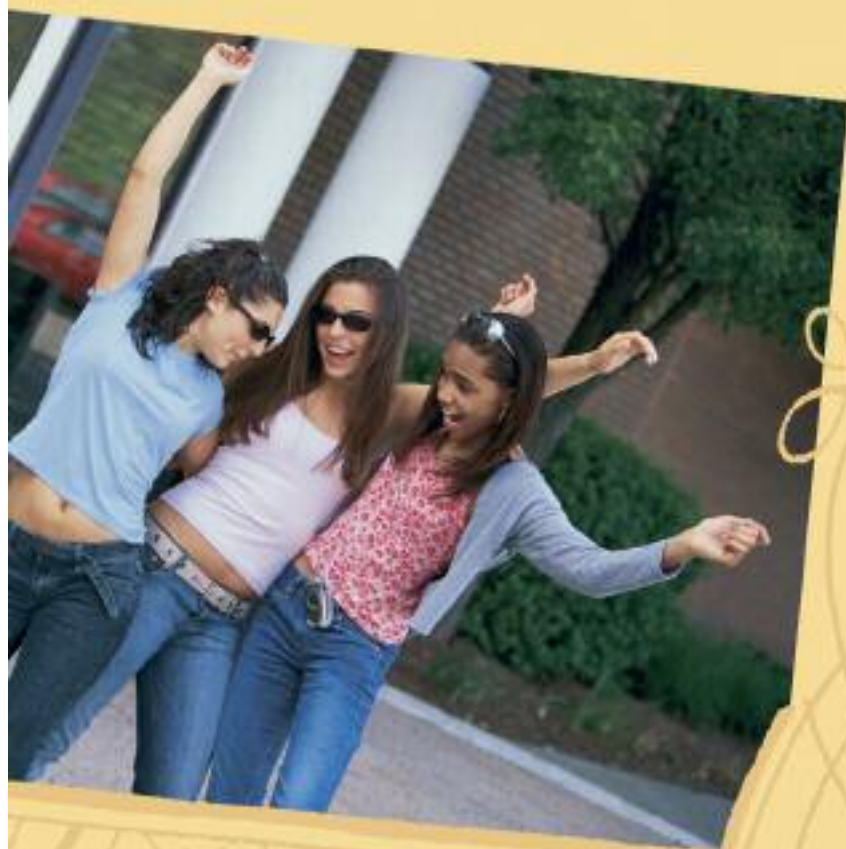
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