

# Front Porch

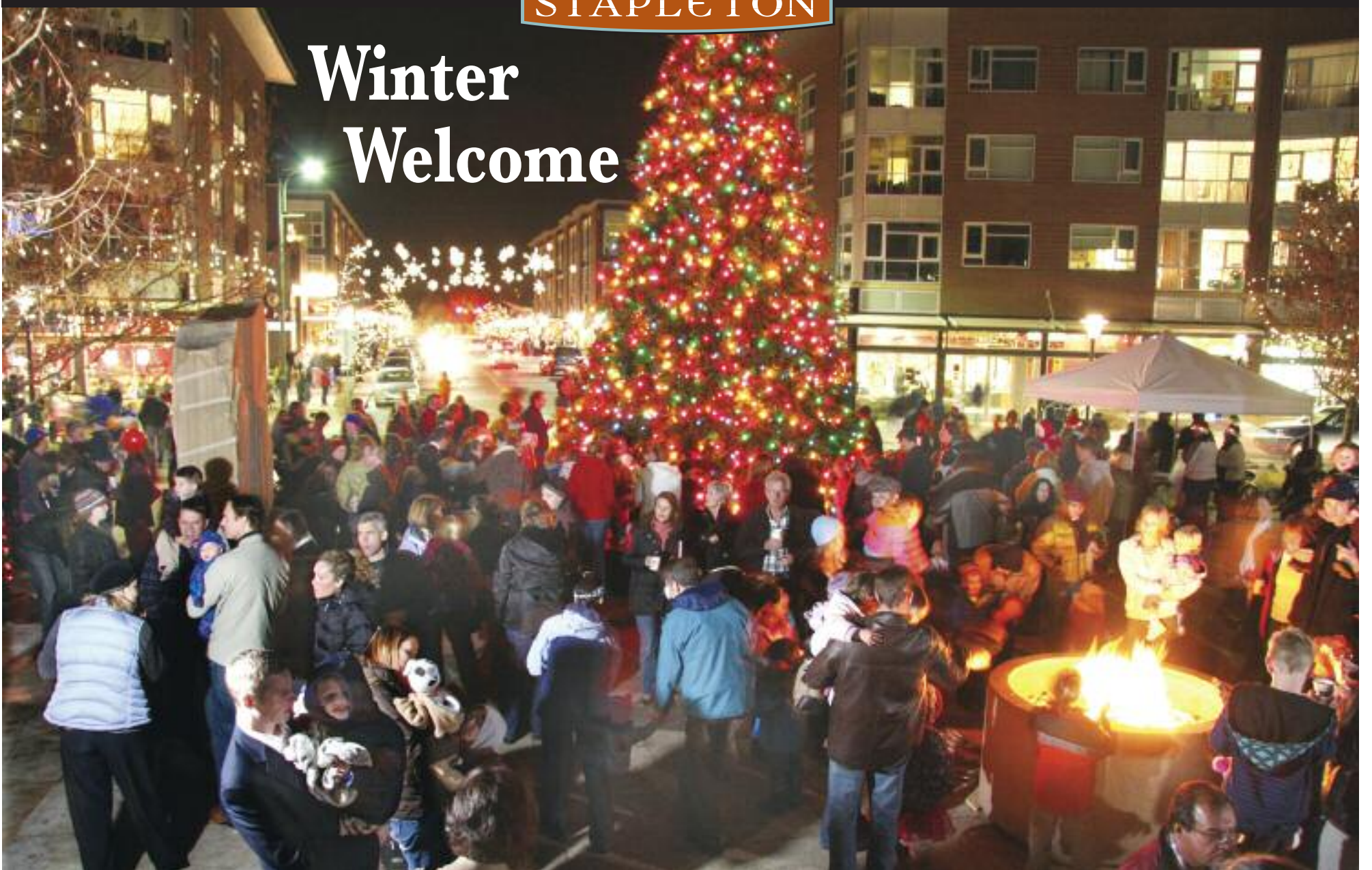
Distributed to the Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax neighborhoods

DENVER, COLORADO

DECEMBER 2009

STAPLETON

## Winter Welcome



At Stapleton's "Winter Welcome" on November 20, families gathered in the 29th Avenue Town Center for the annual lighting of the tree and all of the holiday lights. The event was complete with a brass quintet, multiple fires for warming up, and treats that included s'mores, hot roasted almonds, hot cider, hot chocolate and cookies. All the lights are LED except the big tree (which will be LED next year).

## Plans for Stapleton's Third School Move Forward; Short Term Solutions Identified

*Editors Note: On Nov. 30, after the Front Porch has gone to press, the Board of the Denver Public Schools (DPS) votes on the recommendations described in this article. These recommendations cannot be considered final until they are approved by the board.*

By Carol Roberts and Steve Larson

In a textbook show of cooperation among the public and private sectors and grassroots community groups,

solutions were found to solve the short- and mid-term overcrowding problems projected for Stapleton's schools. DPS staff presented their recommendations to the school board

and subsequently explained them, point by point, to the Stapleton community on November 10 at Bill Roberts School. Those recommendations (continued on page 8)



Scott and Regan Peterson (right), whose baby is due Christmas Day, listen to DPS proposals for managing the projected overcrowding in Stapleton schools. A survey by Stapleton United Neighbors showed the trend of many young children in the neighborhood is likely to continue in the future.

## Local Pilots Were Pioneers for Women in U.S. Aviation

By Carol Roberts

Emily Howell had just graduated from high school and, like many 18-year-olds, didn't know what to do with her life.

She thought she'd like to be a stewardess, but she wasn't old enough. And she'd never flown—so she booked a flight to Gunnison and watched the stewardesses closely. On the way home,



Photo courtesy of Emily Howell Warner

Emily Howell in 1973, the year she became the first woman pilot of a scheduled airline in the US.

she boldly asked if she could see the cockpit. She not only (continued on page 26)



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Northfield's Symphony in Lights will run hourly from 6 - 9pm through December 31. See page 6 for new Northfield businesses.



## CALENDAR

Events in or near Stapleton that are free and open to the public or are non-profit events.

### DECEMBER

#### Through December 31

Symphony in Lights, hourly 6 - 9pm  
The Shops at Northfield, Stapleton  
NorthfieldStapleton.com

#### 2nd Fridays

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

#### 2nd Saturdays

Free women's self defense course at  
Mike Giles Family Karate, 1-2pm  
7506 E. 36th Ave. #480 (Quebec Square)  
303-377-KICK (5425)

#### Tuesday, Dec. 1

Target Tuesday Night, free from 4-8pm  
Children's Museum

#### Thursday, Dec. 3

5th Annual Greater Stapleton Business Association  
Holiday Party, Radisson Hotel Denver  
Stapleton Plaza 5:30-8:30pm.  
RSVP: Loretta R. Sanchez 303-329-2778

#### Fri., Dec. 4 & Sat., Dec. 5

Craft Fair - Benefitting Colorado  
Coalition for the Homeless  
Friday noon-6pm; Saturday 10am-5pm  
7300 E Severn at Quebec  
(Blue Spruce Townhomes)  
303.297.4063; ahesson@coloradocoalition.org

### DECEMBER

#### Saturday, Dec 5

Denver Waldorf School's Holiday Fair 9am - 3pm  
940 Fillmore St  
www.denverwaldorf.org

#### December 5

SCFD Free Day, Denver Art Museum

#### Tuesday, December 15

Active Minds—Chocolate, 5:30-6:30 pm  
Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax  
ActiveMindsForLife.com

#### Saturday, December 19

Free public skating, Big Bear Ice Arena  
11:30am - 12:30pm  
Registration required www.bigbearice.com  
psnyder@bigbearice.com  
View free skating performance at 11am

### JANUARY

#### January 2

SCFD Free Day, Denver Art Museum

#### Tuesday, January 5

Denver Children's Museum  
1st Tuesday free 4 - 8pm

#### Wednesday, January 13

Reception for new Stapleton residents  
6:30pm, MCA Community Room  
2823 Roslyn St. 303.388.0274  
events@stapletoncommunity.com  
(2nd Wednesdays)

The Front Porch  
welcomes submissions of  
upcoming local events (deadline  
is the 15th) and story ideas  
for future issues.

Email  
FrontPorch@FinePrintCo.com

(See page 19 for recurring monthly events and meetings)

**Now offering free pregnancy tests!**

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We offer advanced medicine in the following areas:

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Valerie B. Ginsburg, MD

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Stapleton OB-GYN  
PHYSICIAN NETWORK

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

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# Front Porch

www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

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# Eat, Laugh and GIVE!



Tis' the season for giving, gathering and celebrating. Gather with your friends and loved ones to laugh off holiday stresses and eat a delicious meal while making a difference in the life of a child.

## COMEDY FOR CASA \*

Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre  
Thursday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
Featuring Comedian Jim Short

Special Ticket Price: \$10 this evening only!  
100% of ticket proceeds will benefit CASA of Denver, Adams and Broomfield Counties.

Purchase tickets online at [www.improvdenver.com](http://www.improvdenver.com)  
or at the box office at 303-307-1777

## DINING OUT FOR CASA

Dine at these participating restaurants on Wednesday, December 9th and 15% of sales will be donated to CASA of Denver, Adams and Broomfield Counties.

- Islamorada Fish Company (inside Bass Pro Shops)
- La Sandia Mexican Kitchen and Tequila Bar
- Ling and Louie's Asian Bar and Grill
- Texas De Brazil



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STAPLETON

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[www.denvercasa.org](http://www.denvercasa.org)

\*Comedy for CASA is hosted by the Young Philanthropist project of CASA of Denver, Adams and Broomfield Counties.



# Park Hill Library Renovation Completed, Stapleton Library Just Beginning

Both the Stapleton and Park Hill neighborhoods are the beneficiaries of “new” libraries to serve their residents. Park Hill’s branch of the Denver Public Library can be called new, even though it has been at 4705 Montview Blvd. for many years. A 2007 bond issue that Denver voters passed for infrastructure improvements made it possible for the Park Hill Branch Library to get a face lift and feature a new presence.

Repairs that had been deferred over the years, such as roof replacement, plumbing and electrical upgrades and updated library layout and décor were accomplished this year during the library’s six-month closure. New carpet and energy efficient lighting and plumbing have made the library a green building.

The renovation also brought a change in the arrangement of the book stacks, according to Kit Cusker, senior librarian at the Park Hill branch li-

brary. Now the children’s department is in an area with lower ceilings that can contain the natural noise made by kids. And, a quiet area for adults where they can sit in comfortable lounge chairs while perusing books or using computers has high ceilings and walls that contain the surrounding serenity. Technology upgrades that now provide library visitors with self-service options are a major benefit to the renovation, Cusker said.

It is this new service model that will be applied to the new Stapleton Branch Library. It’s opening in the East 29th Ave. Town Center is tentatively planned for the early part of 2012.

The Park Hill renovation didn’t have community input since most of the work was done to fix problems. However, Stapleton residents will have an opportunity to tell the city, the Denver Public Library and the new building’s designers



The newly renovated Park Hill Library, located at Montview and Dexter, swapped the location of the children’s and adult’s sections and upgraded both technology and decor. Above: Beckett Lashnits, 15 months, checks out the screen of one of the new computers installed in the kids’ section and 19-month-old Lila Hutchins gets help on the computer from her nanny Jaime Bedar.

what they want to see in their new library and how they want to use it.

The process will offer the Stapleton community four public meetings, according to Tracy Tafoya, principal and interior designer with OZ Architecture. Tafoya is a Stapleton resident with two children, Julia, 8, and Ella, 5, who both attend Bill Roberts Elementary School. When her firm was chosen to design the Stapleton library, she was selected to be the community liaison as well as the interior designer.

Meeting number one will be a visioning meeting for the community. Oz will inform the community of general information about the project and anticipated schedule. The main goal for this meeting is to hear what the community’s goals and visions are for the new library. What are the desired library services, expectations for the building’s form, character and functionality?

At meeting number two, Oz will present several conceptual designs on which they would like feedback. They expect to discuss building orientation and flow, explore how the public spaces are taking shape, site and parking access, exterior building materials and sustainable elements. It is another opportunity for public input, so that they can move forward with the preferred design elements.

Meeting number three will be a schematic meeting. Oz will come back with the attributes that the community wants to see. A cost analysis will have been done by the general contractor. There will be a review of external colors, materials, interior layout, interior vision for finishes and specialty elements of interest. It might even include a presentation of public art concepts.

The fourth and final community meeting will be a presentation of the final design of the building and site. The architects’ goal is that the design will balance the vision of the

# ZOO LIGHTS

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Robert Jones catches up on the newspaper in new easy chairs in front of the big bay window in the adult section.

community with the project needs, constraints and goals of all key stakeholders.

Stapleton residents need to think about the type of library services they hope to have, along with space they want the library to offer. Would they want a community room for events or functions? Would they want a reading hour for 20 or 100 children? Do the stacks and furniture need to be movable? How does the new library tie in with the Town Center? What kind of access is needed for stroller parking?

It is important to think about what will be needed when the library opens, but it is more important to think about what will be needed in the future, says Tafoya. She hopes this article will help get the community ready for the visioning meeting.

Cusker also serves on the design team for the Green Valley Ranch Library. With her Park Hill and Green Valley library planning experience, she urges Stapleton residents to have an open floor plan and be flexible



Kit Cusker, senior librarian at the Park Hill branch, at the computerized checkout station.

so that spaces can have multiple uses and accommodate different group sizes.

"Be patient," Cusker urged. "There are budget constraints. Know what you want. It doesn't hurt to ask, but don't expect miracles. Stapleton will be a new service model like Park Hill. There will be more self-service. You will see the staff, but they will be helping you in different ways. We're there to answer your questions."

Dates for the meetings will be set as plans move along. For information, contact Tracy Tafoya at [ttafoya@ozarch.com](mailto:ttafoya@ozarch.com).

Erin Fahres reads to her daughter Taylor, 3, (left) and her friend Reilly Boyle, 2. The chairs, tables and book shelves are all built to size for kids in the remodeled children's section.



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Stapleton Area TMA  
7350 E 29th Avenue, Suite 300

Stapleton Master Association  
2823 Syracuse

First Bank  
2850 Quebec Street

Instant Imprints  
7505 East 35th Ave, Quebec Square Retail Center, Suite 305



[www.stapletontma.org](http://www.stapletontma.org)

[www.RTD-Denver.com](http://www.RTD-Denver.com)



Featured Stops:

17th St/Champa St  
E 23rd Ave/Monaco Pkwy  
E Montview Blvd/Paris St  
E 16th Ave/Denver

East Monday-Friday	East Saturday	East Sunday/Holiday
17th St - Champa St 6:00 6:15 6:30 6:45 7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45 8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45 11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45 12:00 12:15 12:30 12:45 1:00 1:15 1:30 1:45 2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45 3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45 4:00 4:15 4:30 4:45 5:00 5:15 5:30 5:45 6:00 6:15 6:30 6:45 7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45 8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45 11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45 12:00 12:15 12:30 12:45 1:00 1:15 1:30 1:45 2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45 3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45 4:00 4:15 4:30 4:45 5:00 5:15 5:30 5:45 6:00 6:15 6:30 6:45 7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45 8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45 11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45 12:00 12:15 12:30 12:45 1:00 1:15 1:30 1:45 2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45 3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45 4:00 4:15 4:30 4:45 5:00 5:15 5:30 5:45 6:00 6:15 6:30 6:45 7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45 8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45 11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45 12:00 12:15 12:30 12:45 1:00 1:15 1:30 1:45 2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45 3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45 4:00 4:15 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Michelle and Danielle Craig, co-owners of a touch of A Touch of Heaven Cupcakes store that specializes in gourmet cupcakes and other bakery items, hold a platter of their finest.

### A Touch of Heaven Cupcakes

(Kiosk next to La Sandia)  
If you have just coffee on your mind, pick up a cup elsewhere. Then make a beeline for A Touch of Heaven Cupcakes. Michelle Craig and her daughter, Danielle, bake the sweet cupcakes, cookies, breads and muffins from scratch.

Danielle will get her degree in dietetics next month, so the kiosk also offers a healthy line of munchables that are gluten-free or low-fat and are made of bran or whole grains.  
They will take orders and cater their baked goods, including pies and cakes.



Tracy Adams, co-owner, and Webster Pennington, store manager, of The Open House store at Northfield show holiday gift options.

## Northfield Opens New Businesses in Time for the Holidays

The Shops at Northfield now have four new businesses to add wonder, innovation and imagination to a shopping trip or sightseeing venture. Shops are open from 10am to 8pm Monday through Thursday, 10am to 9pm Friday and Saturday and 11am to 6pm Sunday.



Yaki Niane, owner of RYG Fashions, shows some of the women's fashions in his new store. He was previously located in one of the kiosks on Main Street at Northfield.

### ◀ The Open House

(Kiosk next to La Sandia)  
The shop is a great accent showroom to give creative ideas for accessorizing your own home or focusing on the perfect present. There are items that may be above most people's budgets, according to The Open House's Tracy Adams. But there also are very "gift" items that wear a moderate \$20 price tag.  
There are objects made by artists that can be oohed and aahed over. Some watering cans in the forms of squirrels and hummingbirds look like statues. The flowers that light up at night would make great centerpieces or a delightful conversation piece in a corner vase. Then there are wall clocks and martini glasses to strike fantasy in your mind.

### RYG Fashions ▲

(Located next to Yankee Candle)  
This is a full-fashion shop with clothes for both men and women, along with shoes, handbags and accessories such as scarves, sunglasses and jewelry.  
The merchandise is for people who want their personal style to make a statement. Several striking styles, such as African clothes, are available. And Yaki Niane says he will order whatever might fit your needs.

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Chuck Jonz, managing partner of the Twisted Olive, Northfield's new restaurant and lounge/event center, where patrons can eat and enjoy live music.

## Twisted Olive

(Located across the street from Harkins)

When shopping is over, it is time to take your significant other and a few of your closest friends to a spot in Northfield where the good life of past eras has been recreated.

The Twisted Olive is a restaurant and lounge where you can eat a fine, full-service Mediterranean/American dinner while grooving to live music. You might hear jazz, funk, blues or light rock while enjoying a steak or savoring cuisine with a Moroccan, Greek or Italian accent.

The magnificent room features deep cherry wood accents, a red granite bar and a stage. It has a New Orleans type of feel with lots of chandeliers and curtains. There is a world-class stage, sound and lighting system and a dance floor.

Chuck Jonz says that clients will be eager to reserve private rooms, called Greece, Spain and Morocco, which are on the mezzanine level, giving patrons a view of the entire main floor and stage. The smallest room will hold 10 to 12 people; the largest can accommodate 25.

Other rooms for private parties are of Lower Mediterranean design and have their own patios.

Hazel Miller books the bands, and she performs every two weeks on Thursday night, Jonz said.

The Twisted Olive serves dinner from 5pm to midnight, Tuesday through Sunday. Live music starts between 6pm and 6:30pm. At 10pm each night, the music transitions from one live band to another live band or a disc jockey. The club closes at 2am. Brunch is served Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

Private parties or events such as weddings that need room for as many as 240 people can book the Twisted Olive, Jonz said. In good weather, an additional 65 people can use the patios.

Reservations are recommended for parties of eight or more. Most of the good seats are gone by 6:30pm, so Jonz advises that you come early or call 303.375.8100 for reservations.

"We hope to fill a void," Jonz said. "Most music venues don't have an eclectic menu. You can't get full service, just bar menus. On the flip side, if you go to a restaurant, you don't have the live entertainment portion. With the Twisted Olive, you don't have to go someplace to eat and then go to a club. We're centrally located. You can dine, shop and dance."

For more information about the Twisted Olive, go to [www.twistedolive.com](http://www.twistedolive.com).

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Shown at right are the individuals who represented all the entities that collaborated to resolve the school overcrowding problem at Stapleton. Photos were taken at the November 10th community meeting at Bill Roberts school.



Justin Silverstein, SUN Education Committee  
 Lesley Bush, Community Education Coalition



Tom Boasberg,  
 DPS, Superintendent

## A Collaborative Effort

(continued from p. 1) followed an intensive effort by all the entities to do whatever it took to find a solution.

The Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA), brokering a cooperative arrangement between the city, DPS and Forest City, found a solution to the thorniest problem, funding a new school. Forest City and DPS pledged to make the needed loans under an agreement with DURA. And Forest City, seeing the immediate crisis with schools and the delays to a park in North Westerly Creek due to environmental remediation problems, facilitated the redirection of its cash contribution for a park to go toward a new school instead.

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) used their block captain organization to collect exact data from 49% of homes on the number of school-aged children at Stapleton. From that data, DPS could make a firm projection for the size of the third DPS school needed at Stapleton. SUN also organized focus groups to discuss short term solutions, giving DPS specific information on the most and least desired approaches.

The community's local representatives, Denver City Councilman Michael Hancock and State Senator Michael Johnston listened to their constituents and facilitated communication among all parties until a solution was found. The grassroots Stapleton Community Education Coalition (CEC) arose from the realization that the community needed to have direct communication with all the entities related to schools and education in Stapleton—and out of this process came the Joint Planning Committee to fill that need.

## Solutions for 2010-2011

The following near-term solutions will accommodate the expected numbers for the 2010-2011 school year (200–275 students more than in '09-10):

- Discontinue ECE 3 service
- Reconfigure ECE 4 service and maintain current service levels
- Maintain current all-day Kindergarten service levels
- Odyssey relocates to Philips facility, with the goal of building a new facility when funds are available and growing the program in the future
- The Odyssey move will open additional rooms at Westerly Creek
- Philips Elementary closes with boundary assigned to Park Hill and Stapleton (an estimated 40-80 Philips students who live between the north and south boundaries of 26th and Montview and the east and west boundaries of Quebec and Monaco will go to Stapleton schools)

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David Suppes,  
DPS, Chief Operating Officer



Tom Gleason,  
Forest City, Vice President



Michael Johnston,  
State Senator



Michael Hancock,  
City Councilman



Tracy Huggins,  
DURA, Executive Director

### Solutions for 2010-2011 *(continued)*

- Denver Language School opens in Whiteman facility, serving some Stapleton students
- DSST continues its expansion to 8th grade, serving some Stapleton students

### Solutions for 2011-2012

A 3rd Stapleton School is projected to open in 2011-2012, when the expected number of students will be 500-600 more than in '09 - '10. That school will:

- Have a flexible design
- Have approximately 40 classrooms
- Have an estimated capacity of 750 to 1,000
- Accommodate different configuration options
- Accommodate future demographic shifts
- Incorporate "green" design elements

DPS will select a school design that has already been implemented effectively and modify it as needed to fit the site requirements.

There will be more opportunities for community involvement in January and/or February.

### DURA's Proposed Funding Agreement

*By Tracy Huggins*

The third school at Stapleton was originally expected to be funded from the proceeds of a new Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) bond issue when the next round of development occurred. Due to the uncertainty of the timing of new development, we looked to see if the existing tax increment financing (TIF) revenue could work harder for the project. With the help of the City of Denver, who will provide credit enhancement to the DURA bonds through a Moral Obligation, DURA plans to refinance \$100 million in existing bonds which currently have an interest rate of 8% to bonds with a rate of 4.25%-4.5%. The savings realized from the reduced interest rate will allow DURA to use the TIF that otherwise would be spent on interest expense to reimburse the amounts advanced by Forest City and DPS to build the school. This structure provides a mechanism for both Forest City and DPS to advance the construction costs with a clear expectation of getting those advances reimbursed without having to wait for new development to occur at Stapleton.

*Tracy Huggins is the Executive Director of DURA.*

### Moving Forward...The Joint Planning Committee

The successful collaboration of these entities showed the value of working jointly to help guide public education at Stapleton. The Joint Planning Committee was formed to continue this process, and has established its mission as:

The JPC will work closely with residents, school administrations and community leaders to create a vibrant and flexible long-term plan for quality, diverse neighborhood education ECE - 12. This planning ensures that we have the availability and the capacity for not only every Stapleton student, but also those students in the surrounding communities. We are excited to use this process to help us achieve the diversity goals originally set out in the Stapleton Green Book and look forward to welcoming Philips students in 2010.

The committee is charged with gathering community input and providing recommendations to DPS (not making decisions). The scope is limited to: Near-Term School Capacity and Configuration • Student Assignment • Diversity Planning •

Long-term Capacity/Facility Planning. (The group is not involved in site selection or construction planning.)

The Committee is composed of representatives from SUN, the CEC, Stapleton CSCs, Philips School, DPS and the Stapleton Foundation, as well as Stapleton principals, Councilman Michael Hancock and State Senator Michael Johnston.

An electronic survey will be sent out via the following email lists in mid-December to gather community input prior to the DPS choice period in January: Master Community Association (MCA), block captains, school PTAs, and the Stapleton Community Education Coalition (CEC). Email [stapletonschools@yahoo.com](mailto:stapletonschools@yahoo.com) to be included in the survey or to send comments or questions. *Ongoing information about meeting times and recommendations will be posted at [www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com/education](http://www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com/education) and [www.stapletoncec.com](http://www.stapletoncec.com).*

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By Meighan Meeker

There are lots of ways you can get organized and save money in this economy.

Be diligent about items you need to return. Keep them in a place you can see near the garage or in your car so they are on hand while doing the rest of your errands.

Keep a list of all the people you need to buy gifts for throughout the year in an en-

## Save Money and Get Organized

velope in your handbag. Shop sales year-round and when you buy something for someone, write down what you got them and check them off your list. Store gifts in a designated area of your home with a post-it to remind you whom it is for. Keep a few extra gifts on hand for when you might need to give someone

something on short notice.

Organize each area of your house. Clean out your closets. Take items in good shape you no longer use or wear to a consignment shop or sell them on Craigslist. Other items can be donated, giving you a tax deduction. Dedicate a file in your office for a tax record of these receipts. Get empty boxes free from the grocery or liquor shop to store items to sell at the annual Stapleton yard sale in July.

Organizing helps you realize how much of certain items you already have and do not need to purchase. Cleaning supplies, kitchen gadgets and health and beauty products are the biggest culprits of space and unnecessary purchases. Use up all hotel soaps, shampoos, moisturizers, medicines and cleaners you are stockpiling before buying more. Organize your pantry and refrigerator by food groups such as breakfast items, kid meals, dinners, snacks, soups and condiments. This avoids buying things you already have and helps you eat things on a timely basis rather than wasting food that gets pushed to the back and expires before you get to consume it. Allocate a refrigerator shelf strictly for leftovers. Eat them before making something new.

Set up your bills to be automatically deducted from your bank account to avoid late fees, and save money and time by not having to use stamps and deal with excess mail.

Keep a small, expandable folder of coupons categorized and labeled for each grocery store aisle in your handbag or car at all times. Include other store coupons or gift cards. Unless you absolutely need an item, wait until it goes on sale and you have a coupon to maximize your savings. Each time you shop, make a list of what you need and note if you have a coupon for it. As you identify the coupons you will use, discard any that have expired.

Exchange books, CDs and DVDs with neighbors, or visit your local library monthly. Eliminate or reduce subscriptions to movie and cable companies that provide similar entertainment services.

Create a budget if you do not have one. Keep track of what you spend monthly by category. At month's end, go through and circle items you truly did not need. You will clearly see how much you spent vs. how much you could have saved by eliminating items bought on impulse or simply "wanted."

These are challenging times, but all it takes is a little discipline and awareness to reap the rewards of your hard work and save a lot of money in return.

Meighan Meeker is a Stapleton resident and owner of Simply Put Organizational Solutions for the Home, LLC. Contact her at [meighanm@aim.com](mailto:meighanm@aim.com), 303.321.2692, or visit [meighanmeekerorganizer.com](http://meighanmeekerorganizer.com).

### Stapleton Recreation Center Construction Begins



Rod Riddle, construction supervisor, checks the plans as grading begins for the 57,000 sq.ft. Stapleton Recreation Center, which is expected to open on Christmas Day 2010. The Rec Center is located at the east end of Central Park, on Martin Luther King Blvd.

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# Since You've Asked...

## Q. Where is the third DPS school at Stapleton to be located?

A. Once Denver Public Schools (DPS) officials determined that Stapleton needed another school by fall of 2011, Forest City cooperated in finding a 10-acre site that would be available in time for DPS to build the school. The proposed school site is located in the next new residential neighborhood at Stapleton that will be known as "Central Park West." The school site is bounded by Syracuse Street on the west, 35th Avenue on the north, Trenton Street (not yet constructed) on the east and 33rd Avenue (not yet constructed) on the south.

## Q. Why was that site selected?

A. The original site at 26th and Iola has been tied up for the past four years with environmental remediation and there is no timetable at this time for it to become available. As a result, the Central Park West site is the only ten-acre school site available south of Interstate 70 that would meet the August, 2011 timetable DPS has established. Also, based on current demographics and near-term residential development south of I-70 and potential future growth north of I-70, both DPS and Forest City believe this location will serve the greater Stapleton community school needs well over the long term.

## Q. When will the Central Park West site selection be finalized?

A. DPS has already issued a "Request for Proposals" (RFP) for the selection of a design-build team to construct a school at this location, although several site-specific actions are still required to prepare the site for construction of the school. As soon as those activities are completed, DPS will conduct its own environmental "due diligence" and intends to complete that process as soon as possible in order to keep the development of the school on track for what is already a very ambitious schedule to open in August 2011.

## Q. What kind of development will surround the school?

A. The school site will have residential development on the east and the south. Across Syracuse Street on the west is the United Airlines Flight Training Center. Across 35th Avenue to the north is Quebec Square and the new FBI Headquarters building.

## Q. Would it make sense to move the school site east on 35th Avenue to be closer to Central Park Boulevard in order to provide better access for parents and students?

A. The currently proposed school site is the only remaining available parcel south of I-70 large enough to accommodate the third school. If land were available, moving the site to the east would make access to the school (parents dropping off or picking up their children, arrivals and departures of school buses, etc.) more complicated because of traffic on the Central Park Boulevard arterial. In addition, it would disrupt previously planned and approved access to the light rail station and RTD transit center planned to the north along Smith Road.

## Q. The Stapleton Education Master Plan (2003) shows a "possible Stapleton Education Center" in the area of the former control tower, at the intersection of Central Park Boulevard and Martin Luther King Boulevard. Could that site be utilized for the third school?

A. No. The center you refer to was a conceptual proposal to utilize the control tower and the offices at its base as some type of community or education center, but it would not be suitable for the elementary school since it is located at the corner of two major arterials. It would also not be possible to assemble a ten-acre parcel for the school in that location because a "through street" west of Central Park Boulevard will be constructed to make connections from MLK Boulevard to the future transit station at Smith Road.

*Editor's note: Responses provided by Jim Chrisman, senior vice president, Forest City Stapleton, Inc. He may be reached at [jchrisman@stapletondenver.com](mailto:jchrisman@stapletondenver.com).*

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By Nancy Burkhart

Today, after-school projects often go well beyond a game of marbles or tossing a ball around. Nine students at the Odyssey School and Bill Roberts Elementary School are participating in a worldwide Robotics Competition on the Stapleton 2009 First Lego League Team. They are building robots and working on missions for the robots to perform while learning ways to solve tomorrow's problems.

"It's similar to either Odyssey of the Mind or Destination Imagination, but we use Lego robots to solve the mission," explained Christian Phipps, who coaches the team. His 10-year-old son, Duncan, is a team member. The team is in its first year, but plans are being made to make it an ongoing project.

"They take a Lego Mind Storms kit per team. They have 12 to 15 missions that they have to solve with the robots in two and a half minutes," he said.

The competition is worldwide, with teams around the globe working under the same set of rules while using computers and Lego robot kits. The participants are 9 to 14 years of age and in the 4th to 8th grades. Team members don't have to be "computer nerds." There are various tasks that call for different abilities from computer knowledge to marketing savvy.

"Every child on the team will discover what they're really good at, not just what they're not good at," Phipps said.

Each team has to research the theme of

# Robotics Competition Teaches Kids Problem Solving



Coach Christian Phipps, left, and his team for a worldwide Robotics Competition watch their truck robots almost successfully perform a given task. Team members are, left to right, Ian Frick, Riley Forrest-Bank, Zak Flitterer-Bilello, Duncan Phipps, Maddie Wells, Drew Killinger, Devon Kampman (hidden) and Kilauea Tora. Team members are students at Roberts and Odyssey Schools at Stapleton. This was a "scrimmage" held at Odyssey School to practice for the first round of the competition.

the season, which this year is "Smart Moves," and do a presentation on it. "It's about transporting products, moving information," Phipps explained. "They could pick anything from the train system to the trucking industry and information technology. They're really judged on how well they do their research and the solution and creativity they come up with."

The rules are a big part of the competi-

tion, according to Phipps. It is a 26-page document that is updated many times during the season in order to accommodate questions that teams ask to clarify the rules.

"One of the biggest challenges I have is to get the kids to read and understand the rules and stay on top of the clarifications because that helps them to decide what missions they will do and what missions they will pass on," Phipps said.

A mission can be directing a robot to go across a table and pick up something. Then the robot has to bring the object it picked up back to the starting point. All of the missions are made out of Legos.

The competitions are regularly held, with the Colorado state championship to be Dec. 12 on the Auraria Campus and a world championship to be held next year in Atlanta, Ga.

The only negative about the Robotics Competition seems to be price because of the need to buy computers, Lego robot kits, tournament fees and travel expenses. Each team member paid \$250 this year to participate. For this reason, Phipps said he worked to get business sponsors to contribute. His hope is to get enough sponsors to lower the cost to team members and to provide scholarships so that all students can make the choice to play.

"We got sponsors that are in the Stapleton business area and the surrounding neighborhood," Phipps said. "They have helped monetarily and have allowed us to look at how their businesses are run."

"Seattle Fish allowed us to look at how they handle their products because it's related to the theme," he said. "They have to move their product in a unique way because it's fish. They have some things that are specific to transportation, distribution and keeping track of their inventory. These kids can see that what they're doing is not just playing with Legos, but solving problems that affect people in their everyday life."

Phipps also is (continued on p. 20)

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By Nancy Burkhart

Children often become the victims in a home where domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse or neglect are present. When that happens, the judge appoints volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to advocate for the kids.

The CASA volunteers' reports tell the court about the family situation and whether the children can safely live with their parents.

Lauren Currans is a 33-year-old stay-at-home mom in Park Hill with two children: Ella, 5½ years old, and Silas, 2. She went through CASA orientation for volunteers last February and started on her first case in the Denver court system in April.

The Department of Social Services trains CASA volunteers about the signs of child abuse and neglect. Professionals with organizations like Arapahoe House, which deal with drug and alcohol abuse, teach the volunteers about what they do and what to look for in the homes.

The volunteers are taught how to learn about a family and how to report the family's situation to the court. They become part of that family's life and the family becomes part of the volunteer's life.

"The kids I work with are still with their birth parents," Currans said. "I meet with them at their home every other week, and we play for about an hour. Playtime

## Volunteers Back Abused Kids in Court

brings trust. I feel like they really trust me and they really look forward to seeing me. I'm consistent with them for their good. There are five kids. The oldest one and I do games like checkers. We play cards. With one of them, we draw and color.

"When they trust me, they open up and talk so it gives me insight into what they're doing and into their family," she added. "I go to court with them every three months and report how they're doing. The case is neglect, based on the parents being developmentally delayed."

It can be necessary for a CASA volunteer to be available during the day. However, some of the volunteers



CASA volunteer Lauren Currans with her two children Silas, 2 and Ella, 5 1/2.

**Support CASA on Thursday Dec. 3** at 7:30pm. See comedian Jim Short at the Improv Comedy Club in Northfield. 100% of the \$10 ticket price will benefit CASA. [www.improvdenver.com](http://www.improvdenver.com)

**Support CASA on Wed. Dec. 9th** Eat at a participating restaurant where 15% of sales will go to CASA.

- Islamorada Fish Company (inside Bass Pro)
- La Sandia Mexican Kitchen & Tequila Bar
- Ling and Louie's Asian Bar and Grill
- Texas De Brazil

(All of the above are located at Northfield)

who have full-time jobs manage to do their volunteer work on evenings and weekends. Volunteer coordinators often can appear in court with the CASA volunteer's report.

The nature of the cases and the importance of reporting to the court places a great deal of responsibility on the CASA volunteers.

"I think you really have to like children and you really need to be objective," Currans said. "I think you have to have a heart. In our training, it's like master's degree volunteerism. It's not for sissies. Last month I did 17 hours. That's a big commitment. You have to want to do it."

When a case is opened for a child, it remains open for at least a year, with volunteers continuing their investigation and reporting to the court every three months. For this reason, CASA volunteers must make a commitment of 12 to 18 months.

Potential volunteers need to be people who want to make a difference in the lives of children. CASA volunteers come from all walks of life, with some employed as a school bus driver, a church secretary and a water department employee. Training is provided, and mentors or supervisors are there to help.

Cases can be like Currans' current family's, but they also can be extremely difficult with drugs or alcohol in the family. CASA volunteers are given their choice of cases.

"I would have a hard time with a drug- or alcohol-related case," Currans said. "I think about these kids all the time. If drugs or alcohol were involved, it would weigh even more on me.

"But, with the case I have, I know if I saw something really bad, I would have to report the parents because I'm advocating for the best good for the kids," she said. "If there was something weird going on, I would definitely speak up."

For information about becoming a CASA volunteer, visit [www.coloradocasa.org](http://www.coloradocasa.org) or call 303.623.5380.

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## Federal Homebuyer Credit Extended and Expanded

By Allen Rozansky, Esq.

On November 6, President Obama signed into law the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009. Among other provisions included in the Act to help Americans affected by the suffering global economy, several major changes were made to the first-time homebuyer tax credit that was set to expire at the end of November. These changes could be very helpful to many people considering the purchase of a new home over the next six months.

First, the Act extended the expiration date of the homebuyer credit. Now, people purchasing a home before May 1, 2010, or before July 1, 2010, if the purchase contract is signed before May 1, 2010, will be eligible for the credit. Thus, homebuyers who weren't able to close their purchases before December 1 are not out of luck.

Second, the credit is now available not only to "first time homebuyers" (those people who had not owned a principal residence in the last three years), but also to existing homeowners. Under the new rule, if someone has owned his or her home for five of eight years prior to the purchase of a new home, they will receive a credit from the federal government. However, unlike the credit for first-time homebuyers, which, in most cases, will be \$8,000, the maximum amount an existing homeowner will receive is \$6,500.

Another substantial change to the homebuyer credit is that it will be less likely that the homebuyer will have to repay a portion of the credit if he or she sells the house at some later time. As of November 6, the credit will only have to be repaid if the house is sold or is no longer the homebuyer's principal residence within three years of the purchase.

Other important provisions of the new law include availability of the credit to people with higher incomes. The amount of the available credit will now decrease for a married couple with a modified adjusted gross income between \$225,000 and \$245,000 (\$125,000 and \$145,000 for single filers). Above these amounts, no credit will be allowed. Also, the credit may not be claimed

upon the purchase of a residence with a purchase price over \$800,000. Finally, there are several "housekeeping" provisions and safeguards in the law, put into place to prevent people from abusing the credit.

As a result of this new legislation, people considering purchasing a new home, whether a first home or a "move up" or "downsize," will want to seriously consider when to make their purchase to take advantage of this substantial federal credit.

*Allen Rozansky is a Stapleton resident working from his home for his law firm, Rozansky Law LLC, in the areas of wills, trusts, small businesses and tax planning. He can be reached at [aejr@comcast.net](mailto:aejr@comcast.net) or 303.263.9294.*

## Savor Nature and Volunteer!

By Glenn Fee

Bluff Lake Nature Center, a 123-acre urban oasis in east Denver, is best known for its wildlife habitat, unencumbered Front Range views and science education programs. Residents of Original Aurora, Stapleton and northeast Denver utilize Bluff Lake for bird watching, walking, or simply to take a break from their bustling world. The natural, secluded, quiet and wildlife-rich environment includes wetland, woodland, stream and prairie. Each year, nearly 7,000 visitors, including school groups, participate in Bluff Lake's formal education programs.

In recent years, the Nature Center has ex-

panded its offerings to include nature-related talks, large-scale habitat restoration projects and summer camps. As a nonprofit land owner, Bluff Lake doesn't always enjoy the same resources as other parks and open spaces. The Nature Center is supported by community donors, and the new programs are increasingly supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. That's where the community comes in.

Bluff Lake volunteers range from a college student with an interest in teaching to a retired scientist working to restore Bluff Lake to its native habitat. Volunteer Naturalists spend one morning on site each week teaching science education programs to young visitors from local schools. In the warm months, Bluff Lake Ambassadors spend a summer evening or weekend morning greeting visitors and telling them about the Center. Site-restoration volunteers work to plant native species, improve trails and make Bluff Lake a great visitor experience. In Bluff Lake's office, volunteers help assemble educational school mailings and plan Nature Center special events.

"Bluff Lake's volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization," says Bluff Lake Nature Center's Education Director Susan Beckett. "Our outdoor education programs for underserved youth wouldn't be possible without our Volunteer Naturalists. Join our team and make a difference in children's lives by sharing your love of nature with kids that rarely get a chance to explore the outdoors."

As Bluff Lake moves into a new year, the Nature Center plans an initiative to plant hundreds of native trees and shrubs along the three-quarter-mile stretch of Sand Creek that snakes its way through the Center. Volunteers will be a major part of this new effort, making 2010 the perfect year to invest time at Bluff Lake.

For more information about Bluff Lake Nature Center, its programs and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.BluffLakeNatureCenter.org](http://www.BluffLakeNatureCenter.org), or call 303.344.0031.

*Glenn Fee is the executive director of the Bluff Lake Nature Center.*

## New Montclair Kindergarten Program in Fall 2010

By Pippi Hambidge

Paddington Station Preschool in Montclair will expand its curriculum to include kindergarten, which will be open to children who turn five years old by September 1, 2010. The class will meet Monday through Friday. Students will be able to extend their day with enrichment programs that include music, drama, art,

Spanish, science and physical education. For more information and an application, call 303.333.9154 or visit the school's website at [www.paddingtonstation.org](http://www.paddingtonstation.org).

*Pippi Hambidge founded Paddington Station Preschool in 1993 and is the Head of School. The historic little red brick schoolhouse is located at 1301 Quebec St. in the Montclair neighborhood.*



Kari M. Kearns, M.D.



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First Lady’s Mentoring Initiative Comes to Stapleton



Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and NASA astronaut Ellen Ochoa visited a classroom at the Denver School of Science and Technology at Stapleton as part of the First Lady’s mentoring program.

Kathleen Sebelius, Health and Human Services Secretary, and Dr. Ellen Ochoa, astronaut and first Hispanic woman in space, visited the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) on November 16 as part of First Lady Michelle Obama’s national leadership and mentoring initiative for young women.

The program is designed to give 11th- and 12th-grade girls access to accomplished women who can mentor them on careers and financial literacy as well as other skills. Thirty-five DSST juniors and seniors, both boys and girls, were invited to attend a talk given by Secretary Sebelius and Dr. Ochoa, who discussed their careers and then gave students the opportunity to ask questions. DSST, the top-performing public school in Denver, was one of 10 Denver schools chosen to participate in the mentorship initiative.

Kathleen Sebelius leads the agency charged with keeping Americans healthy. She oversees one of the largest civilian departments in the federal government, with nearly 80,000 employees. Since taking office in April of this year, she has been an

advocate for reforming the health insurance system. Sebelius was governor of Kansas from 2003 to 2009. In 2005, *Time* magazine recognized her achievements by naming her one of America’s Top Five Governors.

Dr. Ochoa was selected by NASA in 1990 at the age of 32. She became the world’s first Hispanic female astronaut in 1991. A mission specialist and flight engineer, Dr. Ochoa is a veteran of four space flights, logging more than 950 hours in space. Her technical assignments have included flight software and computer hardware development and robotics development, testing and training. She currently serves as director of flight crew operations at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Ochoa’s numerous awards include NASA’s Exceptional Service Medal and Outstanding Leadership Medal. Besides being an astronaut, researcher and engineer, Dr. Ochoa is a classical flutist. She holds a B.S. degree in physics from San Diego State University and an M.S. and Ph.D in electrical engineering from Stanford University.

Exercise as Treatment for Adolescent Depression

Klein Buendel, Inc. and the University of Colorado Denver, Medical Campus (UCD) are looking for adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 with major depressive disorder (MDD) to participate in a 12-week research study to examine the effects of exercise on depression. The official study title is “Depression Outcomes Study of Exercise (DOSE)” or DOSE-forTeens. Potential participants must live in the city of Denver and be able to engage in moderate to vigorous intensity exercise. Teens cannot

currently be taking any psychotropic drugs (other than ADHD medication) or be participating in psychotherapy.

Teens meeting these criteria may be eligible to participate. Parents should call the Research Coordinator at 303.565.4321 x3673 or go to [www.DOSEforTeens.org](http://www.DOSEforTeens.org). There will be rolling admission into the study until December 2010. This study is being funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH R34MH082153).



Photograph © Francois family

Park Hill UMC for the Holidays

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Sunday Worship – 8:45am & 11am

Festival of Lights Concert – Dec. 13th, 5pm

Family Service– Dec. 24th, 5:30pm

Traditional Candlelight Service –  
Dec. 24th, 8pm



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## HOLIDAY EVENTS

**12/04 Friday through 1/3/2010- Blossoms of Light.** Embrace the holiday season at Blossoms of Light! Over one million colorful lights draped in elegant designs highlight the garden's path. Nightly, 5:30-10pm. (last ticket sold at 9:30pm) Tickets \$4-\$9, available at [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org) or The Shop at the Gardens. 1005 York St, Denver.

**12/04 Friday and 12/05 Saturday- 9NEWS Parade of Lights.** Downtown Denver, Civic Center Park and City and County Building. Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 6pm. FREE. [www.denverparadeoflights.com](http://www.denverparadeoflights.com) for addl info.

**12/04 Friday and 12/05 Saturday- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Presents a Craft Fair.** Friday noon-6pm; Saturday 10am-5pm. FREE admission. 7300 E Severn at Quebec (Blue Spruce Townhomes). Contact: Ali Hesson, Comm. Activities Coord., 303.297.4063; [ahesson@coloradocoalition.org](mailto:ahesson@coloradocoalition.org)

**12/04 Friday through 12/31- Santaland Diaries.** Directed by Wendy Moore. Tickets \$17-\$22, Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave, Denver 80206. [www.vintagetheatre.com](http://www.vintagetheatre.com) for tickets and additional info.

**12/05 Sunday through 12/20- Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum.** Presented by Cleo Parker Robinson Dance. 18-year Denver tradition celebrating winter holidays from around the world through dance, live music and spoken word. Byron Theatre, Newman Center for the Performing Arts, University of Denver, 2344 E Iliff. Tickets \$19-\$38. [www.cleoparkerdance.org](http://www.cleoparkerdance.org) for more info.

**12/05 Saturday and 12/06 Saturday- Christmas with the Children's Chorale.** 2pm Saturday and 7pm Sunday. The biggest caroling party in town complete with Santa and a tree. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St in the Performing Arts Complex, downtown Denver. Tickets \$14-\$75, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). [www.childrenschorale.org](http://www.childrenschorale.org) for additional info.

**12/05 Saturday- History Colorado's Family Fun Holiday Open House.** FREE. Get your holiday picture taken with live reindeer on the plaza and

design your own frame to take home free with your photo. Enjoy live music, door prizes, food, hot chocolate, and cider. Other fun family activities. 10 am - 5 pm. Colorado History Museum, 1300 Broadway, Denver 303.866.3682, [www.coloradohistory.org](http://www.coloradohistory.org)

**12/05 Snack with Santa at the Children's Museum.** 10am-1pm. Dress in your holiday best and come snap photos of your little ones with Santa. [www.mychildsmuseum.com](http://www.mychildsmuseum.com) for additional information.

**12/06 Sunday- Holiday in the Highlands.** 1-3pm. Visit Santa Claus, horse and wagon rides, strolling holiday music. 32nd and Lowell in North Denver. [www.highlands-square.com](http://www.highlands-square.com)

**12/11 Friday through 1/03/2010- Zoo Lights at the Denver Zoo.** 5-9pm. Tickets \$4-\$8. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org) or 303.376.4800 for tickets and additional information.

**12/11 Friday through 12/20- Miracle on 34th Street.** Presented by the Rocky Mountain Conservatory Theatre at the University of Denver. Tickets \$12 and \$14. 303.476.0222 or [www.RMCTonline.com](http://www.RMCTonline.com) for more information.

**12/12 Saturday- Holiday Brass Fest.** Denver Performing Arts Complex Galleria. Brass players, come perform Christmas carols with the Denver Brass! All ages, \$10-\$15 to play. Registration 10:30am; rehearsal 11am. FREE concert for the public, 1:00pm. [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org) for additional info.

**12/13 Sunday- 2009 Jingle Bell Run/Walk to Benefit Rheumatoid Arthritis.** Washington Park. \$40/individual, \$30 team member, \$15 children under 12. [www.jinglebellrun/denver.kintera.org](http://www.jinglebellrun/denver.kintera.org) for additional info and to register.

**12/13 Sunday- Tuba Christmas Concert.** 1pm. Skyline Park located at 16th and Arapahoe. FREE. [www.tubachristmas.com](http://www.tubachristmas.com) for more info.

**Through 12/20- Fox Theatre Presents A Christmas Story.** 9900 E Colfax Ave in Aurora. 303.739.1970 or [www.aurorafox.org](http://www.aurorafox.org) for ticketing and addl info.

**Through 12/18- "Santa's Big Red Sack, the Holiday Show You Shouldn't Take Your Kids To."** Avenue Theatre, 417 E 17th Ave, Denver. Tickets \$20. [www.avenuetheatre.com](http://www.avenuetheatre.com) or 303.321.5925 for more info.

**Through 12/20- The Christmas of the Angels.** By Michael R. Duran featuring the Aurora Symphony Orchestra. Directed by Keith L. Hatten. 720.857.8000 for tickets. 1468 Dayton St in Aurora. [www.shadowtheatre.com](http://www.shadowtheatre.com)

**Through 12/26- A Christmas Carol.** Appropriate for ages 8 and up. Stage Theatre, Denver Performing Arts Complex, Speer and Arapahoe in Denver. Tickets \$18 and up. 303.893.4100 or [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org) for ticketing and addl info.

**Through 12/27- Colorado Ballet Presents The Nutcracker.** Tickets \$19-\$149. Ellie Caulkins Opera House. [www.coloradoballet.org](http://www.coloradoballet.org) for ticketing and addl info.

**12/31 Thursday- Zoo Year's Eve.** 5-9pm. The Zoo's "wild" family-friendly New Year's Eve party with a countdown to the new year at 9pm. Activities included in Zoo Lights admission, \$4-\$8. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org) or 303.376.4800 for tickets or more info.

**12/31 Friday- Noon Year's Eve at the Children's Museum.** 9am-3pm. Ring in the New Year with style; ball drops every hour on the hour. [www.mychildsmuseum.org](http://www.mychildsmuseum.org) for a complete schedule of events.

**Through 12/31- Symphony In Lights.** The Shops at Northfield Stapleton Show runs nightly, 6-9pm through December 31.

**12/31 Thursday- Annual New Year's Eve Downtown Fireworks Display.** 2 shows, 9pm and midnight. 16th Street Mall.

## HOLIDAY GIVING

**12/1 through 12/11 - The Denver Santa Claus Shop 79th Annual Toy Drive.** The nonprofit provides free toys to children in need each holiday season. Drop off gently used toys at area King Soopers stores. Help make this holiday brighter for all children with a toy or cash donation. Visit [denversantaclausshop.com](http://denversantaclausshop.com).

**Through December 30- Holiday Toy Drive.** Sponsored by State Farm in Quebec Square. Drop off new, unwrapped, non-battery-operated toys at 7505 E 35th Ave, Ste 302 from 9am-5pm. For additional info, please call 303.377.5433.

## LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

**12/09, Wednesday- Help Your Child Become a Great Reader! A Language Perspective.** By Amanda Reed CCC-SLP, 7:30-8:30pm. Join Mile High Climbers LLC at Baby Power in Quebec Square for this talk in the "Ask a Professional" series. Great for parents, grandparents, babysitters, etc. \$15.00/person-20.00/couple. Register at [www.milehighclimbers.com](http://www.milehighclimbers.com) or 303.872.9033.

**12/16 Wednesday- Brain Balance Event for Parents. Free.** 6:30 pm. For families struggling with children with ADHD, Asperger's, learning and processing disorders, dyslexia, autism and OCD. Brain Balance Center in Golden: 1211 Avery St. Located on Hwy93. Please call to register or email: 303.278.1780, [golden@brainbalancecenters.com](mailto:golden@brainbalancecenters.com). [www.BrainBalanceCenters.com](http://www.BrainBalanceCenters.com)

ACTIVE MINDS ([activemindsforlife.com](http://activemindsforlife.com))

**12/3 Thursday- Space Exploration: From Sputnik to Shuttle.** Active Minds presents a detailed look at the history of space exploration beginning with Kennedy's challenge to put a man on the moon and ending with the Space Shuttle program and a look at what the future holds for space exploration. 1:30-2:30pm. FREE. Heritage Club Mountain View, 8101 E Mississippi Ave, Denver, CO 80247. RSVP: 303.803.1180

**12/14, Monday- Franklin Delano Roosevelt.** Reflecting on FDR's presidency, his biographer commented that he "brought the United States

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**12/15, Tuesday- Cuba: Past, Present & Future.** Less than 100 miles from the U.S., Cuba remains a mystery to many here. Get a past, present and future look at our communist neighbor to the south, including Castro’s revolution, the Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, Guantánamo Bay and ongoing property disputes. We will also look at what the future holds for Cuba after Fidel and Raúl Castro. This program is sponsored by JFS At Home. 11am-noon (refreshments served at 10:45am). FREE. Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St, Denver, CO 80220. RSVP: Jodi: 303.388.4013 x307

**12/15, Tuesday- Chocolate.** The story of chocolate involves aristocracy and slavery, innovation and coincidence. Pivotal roles were played by Christopher Columbus and Hernando Cortéz. We will describe how extremely bitter cacao beans are transformed into one of the world’s most sought-after flavors and tell chocolate stories such as the rise of the luxury chocolate industry in Switzerland and the origins of Hershey. 5:30-6:30pm. FREE. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax (2 blocks east of York).

GALLERIES

**12/04 Friday- Art District on Santa Fe First Friday Art Walk.** Enjoy over 30 participating galleries and artist studios in Denver’s only multi-block art district. The Santa Fe Art District extends along Santa Fe From 5th to 10th Avenues. 6-9pm. FREE. www.art-districtonsantafe.com

**12/04 Friday- Cherry Creek North First Friday Gallery Walk.** Begins at 5pm. www.cherrycreeknorth.com to download a gallery map.

**12/04 Friday- Tennyson Street First Friday Artwalk.** Tennyson Street between 38th and 44th, 6-10 pm. Come enjoy this family-friendly evening in one of Denver’s hippest neighborhoods! FREE. www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com for a gallery map and additional info.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

**12/04 Friday through 12/13- Disney on Ice Worlds of Fantasy.** Pepsi Center 12/04-12/06; Denver Coliseum 12/11-12/13. www.disneyonice.com for ticketing and more info.

**12/05 Saturday- Jewish Children’s Activities.** First Saturday of every month, little ones can dance, sing, hear a story, do a craft and play at a monthly Shabbat experience, Me’at Shabbat. 9-10am. FREE. Temple Micah, 2600 Leyden St, Park Hill. 303.388.4239. www.micahdenver.org.

**12/09 Wednesday- “Create Playdates” at the Denver Art Museum.** Kids 3-5 are invited to roar, bang and stomp the second Wednesday of every month. Drop in and meet other tots for art-making, story times and scavenger hunts. Included in museum admission; 5 and younger are free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy in Denver. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000 for additional info.

**12/19 Saturday- Winter Wonderland Celebration at Big Bear Ice Arena in Lowry.** Come watch Big Bear skaters perform at 11am, then enjoy free skate from 11:30am-12:30pm. Limited to the first 200 skaters. Registration required. www.bigbearice.com for addl info and to register.

**01/05 to 03/09, Tuesdays, Stapleton All Sports Winter Basketball.** 5:45 to 6:45pm. Skill development program, focusing on dribbling, passing, and shooting for ages 4-10. \$145/child, limited to the first 60 signed up due to court space. Bladium. Gabe Hurley, stapletonallsports@gmail.com, 720.985.6642.

**Through 2/15- Louisville Winterskate.** Old-fashioned outdoor ice-skating with traditional holiday music and free Friday night carriage rides. \$3-\$5, skate rental \$3. Call for hours. 303.449.3137. 824 Front St, Louisville. www.bceproductions.com

**Through 2/15- Flatiron Crossing Winterskate.** Outdoor rink outside the mall with holiday music. \$3-\$5; skate rental \$3. Call for hours, 303.449.3137. www.bceproductions.com

**Through March 2010- Tropical Odyssey at the Butterfly Pavilion.** Experience a journey in conservation while following the life of a butterfly. 12 interactive exhibits including a zip line. Regular admission applies, \$4.95-\$7.95. 6252 104th Ave, Westminster. www.butterflies.org for additional info.

LIBRARIES

For additional library programs at all libraries, check the events calendar at denverlibrary.org.

**Blair Caldwell African American Research Library—** 2401 Welton Street (80205), 720-865-2401

**12/14 Monday- Crafts for Kids - Lincoln’s Hat.** Enjoy a sneak preview of the Denver Public Library’s Lincoln Exhibition, learn about the former president and make a miniature stovepipe hat in the style of Lincoln’s.

**Denver Central—**10 W 14th Pkwy at corner of 14th and Broadway in downtown Denver.

**Saturdays- Super Saturdays at the Central Children’s Library.** FREE Family shows every Saturday from 2-3pm. www.denverlibrary.org or 720.865.1306 for specific shows and additional info.

**Park Hill Branch—**4705 Montview Blvd. at Dexter St. 720-865-0250

**12/05 Saturday- Rudolph and Friends with Jim Loshbaugh.** Enjoy holiday magic and musical marionettes featuring Rudolph and friends! 10:30am. For more info, call Park Hill Library at 720.865.0520.

**12/12 Saturday- Drumming with Peak Rhythms.** Learn how to play different types of drums and hear the sounds they make. The entire family will want to attend this musical event. 10:30am. 720.865.0520 for more info.

**12/19 Saturday- Fun with the Harmonica!** With Ronnie Shellist. Listen to different musical styles on the harmonica and you might be selected to play a short tune! 10:30am. 720.865.0520 for more info.

**Schlessman Branch—**1st and Quebec in the Lowry neighborhood. 720.865.0000

**12/12 Saturday- Winter Melodies.** Celebrate the season with harpist Star Edwards. 2-3pm.

**12/14 Monday- Ewe, Crocheting and Knitting.** Bring your knitting or crocheting supplies and receive

To submit information for the Front Porch “Local Events” section...

Email information in the following format by the 15th of the month to frontporchevents@gmail.com. Events will be run subject to space available.

Date in numerical format (mm/dd), day of week- Name of Event. A one- or two-sentence description. Time. List cost or if free. Location. Contact information.

Press releases for suggested stories should be sent separately to frontporch @fineprintco.com.

help with your project from Dana Juncker, owner of The Modern Ewe. Supplies available for purchase. 3-4 pm, 1st floor.

**12/17 Thursday- Travel Tales.** Learn the process for creating beautiful mosaics in Italy with artist and traveler Cynthia Holdeman. Community Room, 2nd floor.

(continued on page 18)

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(continued from page 17)

## MUSEUMS

**Through 1/10 2010- Western Art Perspective.** Featuring more than 60 works in oil and bronze by Western artist, Charles M. Russell. \$3-\$10, Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy, Denver. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org) or 720.913.0049 for more info.

**Through February 18- IMAX movies *Sea Monster* and *Wild Ocean*.** [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org) for ticket info and movie times.

**Through February 7, 2010- "Genghis Khan."** Tickets \$20/\$11 includes museum admission and parking. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org) for more info.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Reservations are required for these popular 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.

**12/05 Saturday- White Flags.** 1-3pm. Learn some fascinating facts about the graceful white-tailed deer's skittish behavior while searching the Refuge for these sleek and slender mammals.

**12/06 Sunday- Frosty Photo Tour.** 9am to noon. Jack Frost is nipping your nose so now is the time for the perfect shot of amazing winter wildlife and majestic landscapes this time of year.

**12/12 Saturday- Home on the Range.** 1-3pm. Bring your family to see North America's largest land mammal right in Denver's backyard! Get a first-hand look at these majestic giants that were nearly driven to extinction, and snap some pictures of the bison calves before they lose their cinnamon-colored coats!

**12/16 Wednesday- Birding Basics.** 8-11am. Want to bird with the best? Join a Refuge birder and learn the dos and don'ts of birding. Don't miss this opportunity to get the insiders' tips and secrets on better birding! Binoculars are recommended.

**12/19 Saturday and 12/20 Sunday- Eagles on Holiday.** 1-3pm. We're not the only ones who spend their holidays in warmer climates; nearly 100 bald eagles are visiting us from the cold north! Don't miss this chance to see America's national icon in this winter wonderland!

**12/23 Wednesday- repeats 12/27 Saturday and 12/28 Sunday, Holiday Tours.** 9:30am-12pm. Got relatives to entertain this holiday season? Bring them on down to the Refuge for a relaxing tour around the Refuge in search of whitetail and mule deer, red-tailed hawks, bald eagles and American bison! Warm up with hot chocolate and cider, and make a seasonal craft to take home!

## THEATRE

**12/03 Thursday through 12/11- Fiddler on the Roof.** Directed by Steve Wilson. Shwayder Theatre, 350 S Dahlia St, Denver CO 80246. [www.maccjcc.org](http://www.maccjcc.org) or 303.316.6360 for ticketing and more info.

**Through 1/03 2010- Honk!** A musical adaption of Hans Christian Andersen's story *The Ugly Duckling* teaching that beauty lies within and its OK to be different. Tickets \$8-\$10. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org) or 720.898.7200 for tickets and more info.

**Through 12/20- Fox Theater presents *Fully Committed*** by Becky Mode. Tickets \$18-\$24. 9900 E Colfax at Dayton St in Aurora. 303.739.1971 for ticketing and additional info. or [www.aurorafox.org](http://www.aurorafox.org).

**Through 12/27- Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.** Main Stage Theatre, Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. Tickets \$47 and up. 720.898.7200 or [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org) for tickets and more info.

## President Lincoln Exhibit to Travel to the Denver Public Library

The Denver Public Library will host a free traveling exhibition on President Abraham Lincoln from Dec. 19 through Feb. 12 at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library, 2401 Welton St.

The exhibit will be part of the Denver Public Library's celebration of Black History Month in February. Other Black History Month activities will be offered at that time at several libraries. They will include discussions, lectures, performances, historical reenactments, guided tours, films



Photo courtesy of Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

and interactive programs for children.

Only 25 libraries nationally were chosen to host the Lincoln exhibition, "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," which was designed to offer a new perspective on Lincoln's efforts on both the political and the war fronts during the Civil War.

The traveling Lincoln exhibit was organized by the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia and the American Library Association Public Programs Office in Chicago. A National Endowment for the Humanities grant has made the exhibit's travels possible.

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## "Create"—An Arts Celebration of Light at DAVA

"Create" is Downtown Aurora Visual Arts' (DAVA) annual holiday show and sale of original art by DAVA youth and guest artists. Works are on display until January 8, 2010, at its gallery at 1410 Florence St., one block south of E. Colfax Ave. in Original Aurora. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday or by appointment.

DAVA youth create quality artwork year-round in after-school programs. This year, young artists have assembled a unique collection of holiday gifts including lamps made of paper, wire, and ceramics, with new twists on clocks,



teapots, soap dishes, sculpted pens and much more.

Contemporary functional and decorative pieces by guest designers and artists include fruit bowls and organizers with wood and metal, handbags from vintage fabrics and vinyl, pottery painted with bright colors and science-inspired designs and organic drawings on plywood that are intricately tangled with the wood's patterns.

DAVA is a nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to strengthen the community through the arts with youth as its primary focus.

For more information about DAVA's programs and events, visit [www.davarts.org](http://www.davarts.org), e-mail them at [gallery@davarts.org](mailto:gallery@davarts.org) or call 303.367.5886.

## RECURRING EVENTS

### 4th Monday

SUN Board Mtg. 7:30pm, MCA Comm. Rm., 2823 Roslyn St. [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)

### Every Tuesday

Stapleton Rotary Club - 12pm  
Stapleton Radisson Plaza Hotel  
3333 Quebec St.  
[Michael@KearnsTeam.com](mailto: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  
Medicine 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 Nature Center 9am-12pm, 303-945-6717

### 1st Wednesday

"1st Wednesdays" Home-based businesses. 11:30am-1pm [tbrislin@gmail.com](mailto:tbrislin@gmail.com), [www.StapletonLife.com](http://www.StapletonLife.com)

**2nd Wed.** (Odd-numbered mos.)  
SUN Transportation Committee  
6:30pm MCA 2823 Roslyn St.  
[stapletonneighbors@msn.com](mailto: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 Development 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](http://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

### Periodically

Stapleton Wine Appreciation Group  
e-mail [meighanm@aim.com](mailto:meighanm@aim.com)

## Local Boy's Model Planes Win a Flight with Harrison Ford



Photo by John Babiak

Stapleton resident Marko Babiak (9) earned his "Young Eagles" certificate from the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) on November 14, 2009 after he flew with pilot and actor Harrison Ford. Marko's thirty-minute flight took them over southeast Denver. The two chatted about their mutual interests: airplanes, wildlife conservation and of course, Indiana Jones.

Marko, an aspiring aviator, earned the flight in Harrison Ford's Canada de Havallin DHC-2 Beaver N28S plane through his participation in the "Take Flight" youth model-building contest sponsored by the Wings Over Rockies Air & Space Museum in Lowry. He submitted six hand-crafted replica models of aircraft that Ford flew in his Star Wars, Indiana Jones and Air Force One motion pictures.

Harrison Ford is an accomplished pilot who gives his time to help support a variety of aviation-related organizations. He flew 16 children from Centennial Airport who participated in the model-building challenge. Ford was later honored at Wings Over the Rockies Museum "Spreading Wings" gala in recognition of his efforts to promote aviation and the aerospace community.

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## "Lights Out Lunch" Promotes Energy Conservation Awareness

Lights Out Lunch is a statewide, one-day event to be held Dec. 11, 2009, to emphasize the importance of energy efficiency and get the public to think about energy conservation. The goal is to raise awareness about small, easy actions that collectively can have a large impact—like turning off unnecessary lights and using compact fluorescent light bulbs. Anyone can participate by simply shutting off their lights from noon to 1pm to conserve energy.

Restaurants are signing up through the Colorado Restaurant Assoc. to turn off their lights and are providing special offers to the public. People who sign up can download coupons from [www.LightsOutLunch.com](http://www.LightsOutLunch.com).

Lights Out Lunch hopes to motivate customers to purchase compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs by offering discounted bulbs for as little as \$1 at participating retailers for limited time periods. Customers can find participating retail locations and sale periods at [responsiblynature.com/brightidea](http://responsiblynature.com/brightidea). CFLs need to be recycled after use; recycling is free of charge at Ace Hardware and The Home Depot.

Follow Lights Out Lunch on Twitter@lightsoutlunch or become a fan on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/xcelenergyco](http://www.facebook.com/xcelenergyco) to see more facts and great deals from participating restaurants or visit [www.LightsOutLunch.com](http://www.LightsOutLunch.com).

## Robotics

(continued from p. 12) looking for volunteers. Parents who are software designers and engineers have been able to help with mission training. Others have volunteered to work at one of the tournaments.

For information about becoming a sponsor, volunteering or becoming a team member, e-mail Christian Phipps at [cphipps303@gmail.com](mailto:cphipps303@gmail.com). For information about starting a new team, go to [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

Stapleton 2009 First Lego League Team Sponsors are: Derek Figueroa at Seattle Fish Company, Preet K. Clair at Quebec Square Family Dentistry, Bob and Lyn Reinhart at Stapleton Impressions, Dan Forest Banks at FB Edit Design, Melanye Phipps at Your Castle Real Estate, Dale Hahs at Aviation Industrial Supply, Tim Ells at Sam's Club, Ed Byrne at E&G Terminal, Inc., and A Wide Smile Pediatric Dentistry.

## A Plan for Moving People Around Denver's East Side

On November 19, 50–60 people from East Denver attended a meeting at DSST to give their ideas on how people could move around better in East Denver ... not just cars but also bicycles and pedestrians. They noted trouble spots on big aerial maps and talk about the interrelationships of streets, sidewalks and bike paths that make movement through this part of the city easy or difficult.

This was the first step in a four-part effort to make an East Side Mobility Plan for Denver by analyzing the needs in each of 12 "Travel Sheds" around the city. The East Side (between I-70 and Leetsdale and between Monaco and Yosemite) is the first to be studied because it has transportation issues that need action sooner rather than later, and it's a big area with many possible ways of improving transportation.

"This focuses on how people move and takes into consideration all the factors that might improve or detract from moving people," says Terry Ruiter, principal planner in Denver's Department of Public Works. "For example, if there's always a 6-inch puddle that slows traffic or prevents pedestrian access, that kind of issue is being identified."

The three key mobility problems identified at the meeting, collected from over 100 comments, were:

- Traffic congestion on North/South roadways—particularly on Quebec from 13th to Montview
- Pedestrian safety—particularly pedestrian crossings at major intersections/destinations (e.g., Monaco Parkway and Leetsdale Drive, schools/churches)
- Inadequate sidewalks—particularly in the area from Montview Boulevard to 6th Avenue

The East Side Mobility Plan has four stages. The November 19 meeting covered the first stage. The goal was to identify the issues. The second stage (meeting will probably be in January or February) will be to identify innovative solutions to improve movement. The third stage will focus on strategies for implementing the solutions. In the fourth stage, strategies will be selected and made into a proposal to the Public Works Department.

At this time, there isn't a specific budget for the identified projects. The function of the East Side Mobility Plan is to ensure that as local, state or federal money becomes available in the future, a well-thought-out plan needs to be in place.

For more information, email [eastside@denvergov.org](mailto:eastside@denvergov.org) or visit the project website at [denvergov.org/eastside](http://denvergov.org/eastside).

## Stapleton Public Art Update

By Barbara Neal

**Recreation Center**—On November 12, the Project Selection Committee reviewed proposals from five finalists, out of 357 applications submitted. The artists had the option of proposing artwork for the east entrance, interior spaces or the west entrance off Central Park, or to provide options for all three areas. A total of \$262,000 was available for this project thanks to collaboration with the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs (DOCA) and Better Denver Bond funds that augment Stapleton's public art funding (from the Denver Urban Renewal Authority). The ranking of the proposals will be reviewed by the Public Art Advisory Committee for Stapleton and the Board of the Park Creek Metropolitan District. The partnership with the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs means that their public art committees also review the ranking before the contract is issued for the commission.

**Westerly Creek Park open space between the bridges at E. 26th Ave. and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.**—The design phase for the public art installation began in November with a site visit by artist Thomas Sayre. He determined five locations for clusters of his earthcast vessels and reviewed installation requirements with staff from Denver Parks. He'll soon begin fabrication. We hope for installation by summer or early fall of 2010.

**Central Park Boulevard median sculptures**—Erick Johnson, the artist for *Prairie Reef*, needs additional time to test the kinetics of his sculptures. We expect installation in early January.

Anyone interested in obtaining information about Stapleton's Public Art Program should contact Barbara Neal, public art consultant for Stapleton, at [barbneal@mindspring.com](mailto:barbneal@mindspring.com).

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## Denver School of the Arts Carolers Available to Perform at Holiday Events

By Michelle Cardon

Groups of three to five high school students from the Denver School of the Arts (DSA) vocal music department are available for Christmas caroling at corporate events, private parties, and special functions or gatherings. Songs are traditional Christmas selections and will be performed a capella.

All performances are fundraisers for the students' vocal training and various performance trips. The recommended contribution is \$250 for two hours of singing and all honorariums to DSA are tax-deductible.

DSA students develop their creative abilities through a combined academic and arts curriculum and have the opportunity to be mentored by professional artists and scholars. Students are accepted into the program based on their audition in an artistic specialty. DSA has a rigorous academic curriculum and is ranked as one of the top schools in Colorado.

Denver School of the Arts is located at 7111 Montview Blvd. To book a group, contact Michelle Cardon at 303.455.5232, 303.482.5526 (cell) or michelle\_crdn@yahoo.com.

## Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge New Visitor Center Planned



By Melissa Van Dreese

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will break ground on a new Visitor and Education Center next spring at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. The more than 12,500-square-foot "green" facility will be located in the southwest corner of the Refuge, near Commerce City's Municipal Building and Dick's Sporting Goods Park. The roughly \$7.6 million facility, which is being funded by stimulus dollars and the sale of a western parcel of Arsenal land, is targeted to open by summer 2011.

Through interactive exhibits and programs, the center will pay tribute to the cultural, military and environmental legacy of the site, as well as help visitors experience the beauty of the restored shortgrass prairie. New trails and walking loops will depart from the building and lead hikers through the shortgrass prairie, woodlands and lake systems. And from the back patio, visitors will be able to catch a guided site tour on the new Refuge bus.

According to Refuge Manager Steve Berendzen, the Refuge already receives more than 25,000 visitors per year. Following the completion of the environmental cleanup at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, those numbers are expected to swell to more than 200,000 visitors per year.

The center will also feature an auditorium and expanded exhibit space with interactive displays. In addition, the new facility will incorporate recycled building materials, renewable energy sources and other environmental design features promoted by the U.S. Green Building Council. "The sustainable features included in the building will give us a fun way to discuss how we can all help conserve our environment," said Visitor Services Manager Sherry James.

The existing visitor center will remain in use as a satellite for environmental education programs and serve as a trailhead and visitor contact station for the recreational fishing program.

For more information on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, visit the Refuge at [www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal](http://www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal) or call 303.289.0930. The Refuge is open from 7:30am to 4:00pm every Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Melissa Van Dreese is the education specialist at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

## New Day Dawns for Hangar 61

Hangar 61, home to lots of pigeons and a hawk for 15 to 20 years, now has a new lease on life. It is a Denver landmark and recently received the Mayor's design award, "The Past is Present."



By Nancy Burkhart

The airplane hangar, located at 8800 E. 21st Ave., was used for the Ideal Cement Co.'s corporate plane from the time it was built in 1959 until the need for it was eliminated and the pigeons moved in. But Larry Nelson and Ruth Falkenberg saw creative uses for the building. They determined that its primary structure was good and that, with some major sprucing up, it could become a useful part of the Stapleton community. So, with the help of Colorado Preservation, Inc., which garnered a couple of historical fund grants to help with the structural repair costs, Nelson and Falkenberg worked to create a new future for Hangar 61.

The site has been cleaned up from environmental issues, graded and landscaped. A parking lot has been built. The roof was replaced and the trees that were growing out of it have been removed. All new utilities—gas, electricity, telephone, cable, water and sewer—have been brought into the building.

The fiberglass in the clearstory (upper) windows was replaced with insulated glass. Of the sliding doors that opened to admit the plane, six have been fixed and four still slide to make shade in front of a glass and steel wall, according to Falkenberg.

The center is 33 feet tall, an entirely open space with no interior supports.

"You can build a mezzanine in there of maybe 2,000–3,000 square feet. You could have the extra floor but be able to see the full, open space," she said.

Inside it still looks like a hangar. But it can't be a hangar anymore.

"We're looking for a buyer or a tenant," Falkenberg said. "We just want someone to love and use the building."

She listed some the possibilities for the 9,000-square-foot (without the mezzanine) Hangar 61 as offices for architects and engineers, a worship center or a restaurant. There are 45 parking spaces.

Hangar 61 has had such a successful facelift that this year it won one of 15 Mayor's Design Awards, which showcase well-designed small projects throughout Denver's neighborhoods. Hangar 61's award is in the category of "The Past is Present."

For information about leasing or buying Hangar 61, call Larry Nelson or Ruth Falkenberg at 303.446.0422.

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She approached the booth with the help of her companion, his arm interlocked with hers. It was clear she couldn't see well, if at all. She felt the table, its sides first, then she ran her fingers slowly over the top to see if it was clean. Once it passed the test she began to find the seat and slid in, with the help of her friend. As she placed her clasped hands on the tabletop, I noticed the fingers were turned in a myriad of different directions

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## The Gift of a Thank You

which I assume is an arthritic condition and was painful just to look at. He had a portable oxygen machine hanging around his neck and a cane which he negotiated for the both of them. Neither one had on a wedding band.

They had come downtown for the annual Miracle on 19th Street, a Christmas Day feast for anyone who wanted it, hosted by the Chop House and Brewery. The restaurant remained the same with the bar closed. Several Santa Clauses mingled with the diners and had their picture taken with the children. Three buffets were set up with everything needed for a holiday meal. Diners enjoyed a well-prepared wholesome meal, served on china, with white linen napkins and real silverware. Outside, tents were set up that housed presents for children. Well over eight thousand people would be served that day.

I had volunteered to help, although my motives were far from virtuous. I had convinced my family that it would be a good idea to give back to our community and



this seemed to be what the "true" spirit of Christmas was all about. Frankly, I was not too sure there was any Christmas spirit left, as rampant commercialization had wrung any "true" spirit out of the Holidays long ago. My motivation was purely self-seeking and disingenuous. My children were in high school and I thought volunteering on Christmas day would look good on their college applications. Furthermore, I thought we would be perceived as first-class citizens by the people who judge those things.

She sat in the booth and a robust smile came over her face, sans teeth. It was a smile that had surely cheered up thousands of souls over many, many years. It had the same effect on me. She had on her best Sunday hat, a red affair that undoubtedly had seen much better days. Her dress was a very Christmassy green and red and she wore it with stockings and high heels. A strand of pearls dangled around her neck. Her friend wore a pair of fine slacks, an oxford shirt, a sweater and a tie. They sat together on the same side of the booth.

"Young man," she spoke boldly, "would you mind fixing us a plate? Please make sure you leave something for the rest of these people!"

I went to the buffet where hockey player Joe Sakic was slicing turkey. I picked up two plates and started piling them with all the fixings. Green beans, salad, bread, mashed potatoes and gravy, big slices of turkey, white and dark meat,

on top a hefty piece of honey-baked ham. There was not a spot of china to be seen on either plate. I also picked up two pieces of pie, one pumpkin, the other pecan. Using skills reclaimed from my long ago waiter days, I meandered back to their table.

"Oh, my word," she again gave me that smile, "is there anything left for the rest of these folks?" I assured her there was plenty for anyone and everyone who could possibly come.

I put the plates down in front of both of them and as I did she took my hand in both of hers and held it tightly. One hand under my palm, the other over it. Those wrinkled, twisted hands that had gotten that way doing years of laborious work felt very warm and pleasing. She looked at me although I knew she couldn't really see me.

With the utmost sincerity she said, "I want to thank you, thank you so much for taking such good care of us. You have truly been a gift for us and I want to wish you and your family the best of Christmas."

There were thousands of people still to feed so I left the table and didn't think about her until later that night. In drifting off to sleep, I realized that I felt terrific about the whole experience and my mind kept coming back to her, the smile and the warmth of her hands.

She wiped out the jaded feelings I had about the commercialization of the Holidays and instilled a sense that getting out of one's self is far more important than what ends up under the tree.

We have been back to the Miracle on 19th Street several times since that day. I have never seen her again. My kids sometimes go and help by themselves even though they are already in college. No, they didn't put this experience on their college

applications and they were still accepted to their first choices. Besides, these days you have to win a Nobel Prize for colleges to notice.

The Chop House will again be hosting this wonderful event. As of the middle of November, all the volunteer slots have been filled, but if you are interested, please do check their website since they do get cancellations. Go to [www.chophouse.com](http://www.chophouse.com), choose Denver, then special events, then 14th Annual Miracle on 19th St.

*Jon Meredith lives in Stapleton. He can be reached at [jon.meredith@q.com](mailto:jon.meredith@q.com).*

*\*Fishwrap is a slang term that started in the '30s and refers to the transient value of yesterday's newspaper.*

# SCANDALOUS GRACE!

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Stapleton Central Park Concession - RFP Opportunity

The Denver Department of Parks and Recreation is soliciting proposals to operate a food, beverage, and merchandise concession at Stapleton Central Park, 8775 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Denver, Colorado. The Request for Proposals was issued on November 18, 2009. Copies of the RFP are available from the Denver Parks and Recreation Permits Department, 201 W. Colfax Ave., 2nd Floor next to Excise and License Department, weekdays 8:00am –4:00pm. There is a \$25.00 fee for each set of bid documents obtained. Copies of the complete RFP sections may also be accessed for free from: <http://www.denvergov.org/parksandrecreation/PublicMeetingsNoticesRFPs/tabid/430253/Default.aspx>

NON-MANDATORY SITE TOUR AND PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING: All interested proposers should attend the non-mandatory tour and pre-proposal meeting at the concession facility at the Stapleton Central Park, 8775 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Denver, Colorado on December 3, 2009 at 11:30 A.M. The Pre-Proposal Briefing is not mandatory; proposers will be held responsible for all information presented at such meeting. Proposals must be received no later than 4:00pm on December 16, 2009, at Denver Parks and Recreation, attn.: Managers Office, 201 W. Colfax Ave., 6th Floor/Dept. 601, Denver, CO 80202, telephone: 720.913.0741. For any other questions or concerns contact Linda Kay Nedved, Denver Parks and Recreation, 201 W. Colfax Ave., 6th Floor/Dept. 602, Denver, CO 80202, telephone: 720.913.0730, email: [Linda.Nedved@denvergov.org](mailto:Linda.Nedved@denvergov.org). IT SHALL BE CONCLUSIVELY PRE-SUMED THAT THE PROPOSER DID, BEFORE SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL, CLOSELY REVIEW THE RFP, ALL EXHIBITS AND ATTACHMENTS, AND OTHER ITEMS RELEVANT TO THE RFP.

Help a Neighbor in Need during Snow Season

The City of Aurora is looking for neighborhood "heroes" to pair up with a disabled or elderly person needing assistance with snow shoveling this winter. Snow Busters are matched with a resident in or close to their neighborhood to shovel the person's public sidewalk within 24 hours of a snowfall of two inches or more. The volunteer will help one resident for one snow season from fall to spring.

Snow Busters are especially needed north of Hampden Avenue and west of Buckley/Airport Boulevard. To volunteer, call 303.739.7000 or visit [auroragov.org/volunteer](http://auroragov.org/volunteer).

How to Tell the Difference Between a U.S. Census Worker and a Con Artist

From the office of the Denver District Attorney

Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will gather information about every person living at each address in the United States. Information for the 2010 Census includes name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. Most people in the Denver Metro area will receive a Census form by U.S. Mail in March 2010. A few remote locations and harder to contact households will be contacted in person beginning in January 2010. It is important to know how to tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist.

- U.S. Census workers will have a badge (no photo), a notebook, a black Census Bureau canvas bag with white lettering, and a confidentiality notice.
- Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. If you ask, the worker should provide you with a phone number to call to verify their employment with the Census.
- Never invite anyone you don't know into your home – no matter who they say they are!
- There are only 10 questions on the official Census form.
- The Census Bureau will not ask for any financial information, such as a salary range,

and will NOT ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

- Census workers will never ask for payment or contributions of any kind.
- Census workers may contact you at your home in person or by telephone only if you are in a hard to access situation or you did not return your mail-in form. They will NOT contact you by email.

For assistance or questions related to fraud, call the Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179.

Contractor Selected for I-70/Central Park Blvd. Interchange

The City and County of Denver's Selection Committee recommended selection and negotiation of a contract with the design/build team of SEMA Construction and Wilson & Company for the Central Park Blvd. design/build project. Failure to negotiate a successful contract with SEMA Construction and Wilson & Company will result in the City and County of Denver moving to the second-ranked team. The other companies to submit proposals were: Ames Construction Co. and HDR; Edward Kraemer & Sons, Inc. and FHU; and Lawrence Construction and TSH Consulting Engineers.

No new information was released on the timeframe but the project website ([http://www.denvergov.org/Capital\\_Projects\\_Center/CentralParkBoulevardInterchange/tabid/431817/Default.aspx](http://www.denvergov.org/Capital_Projects_Center/CentralParkBoulevardInterchange/tabid/431817/Default.aspx)) states, "Construction is anticipated to start in the first quarter of 2010 with an estimated 18- to 24-month construction duration."

Vacancy on the Westerly Creek Metropolitan District Board of Directors

There is a vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Westerly Creek Metropolitan District. The Board is requesting that any person who is eligible, as set forth below, and interested in serving on the Board notify the Designated Election Official for the District by letter mailed or delivered to Micki L. Wadhams, Collins Cockrel & Cole, 390 Union Boulevard, Suite 400, Denver, Colorado, 80228, or telefax number 303.986.1755, no later than Monday, January 11, 2010. The Board will consider any letter received at its regular meeting to be conducted at 9:00am on Thursday, January 28, 2010. Please include in such letter your qualifications to serve on the Board.

The District is a public taxing entity authorized under state law to raise property tax revenue to support the public infrastructure in Stapleton. The Board meets on an average of two (2) to three (3) times a year to (i) approve inclusions of property into the District boundaries; (ii) approve annual audits; and (iii) adopt annual budgets, as well as other administrative issues.

To be eligible to serve on the Board and to fill this vacancy, one must be registered to vote in the State of Colorado; and be either a resident, individual property owner of taxable real or personal property, or spouse of such property owner within the boundaries of the District, which are all platted areas in Stapleton, north and south of I-70.

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# The SUN Spot

The *independent* voice of Stapleton  
Brought to you by Stapleton United Neighbors

**SUN Meetings** are held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm in the Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn Street. For information about SUN, 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.



## Building a Safer Stapleton Block by Block

By Larry McSorley

We at Stapleton often get a sense of a highly safe and secure community, which is the reality most of the time. We sometimes forget that we live in an urban neighborhood, and that crime does and will happen. I am often amazed at the surprise of our residents when they become a victim. While violent crime is very rare here, it has taken place. Over the years, we have had home invasions, carjackings, homes dealing drugs, and a rare incident involving an attack on a person with a weapon. The vast majority of crime that does take place is that of opportunity, and almost always happens when we let our guard down.

An enormous amount of theft occurs in Stapleton simply because we leave our garage doors and yard gates open, bikes and other items outside unattended in plain view, and often leave front doors unlocked when “just going down the street.” Many of us forget to close windows when not at home, and often do not turn on the alarm systems we own. Our alley system can be an open door into our homes that we often forget about—particularly if we are out front or inside doing things. Another common problem, particularly now that the colder months are here, is warming up our cars while remaining inside the house. We also often leave items in plain view in the car only to find a smashed window the next morning and the iPod or gym bag gone. Criminals do drive around Stapleton and watch what we do, and, more often than not, go for the quick and easy theft.

A big part of our ability to make Stapleton safer involves a strong commitment by our residents. Denver Police is our partner, but we are the eyes and ears of the community. It is very important to call the police if you see something or someone acting suspiciously or of concern on your block—it is always best to err on the side of caution, and never assume someone else has placed the call.

Know your neighbors! Having informal block gatherings is a great way to engage your block residents, particularly when we have such a broad spectrum from young to old in our community. Keeping our homes well lit at night, the use of timers on the inside and keeping exterior porch lights on after dark are inexpensive deterrents that are proven to work. The nonemergency number for Denver Police is 720.913.2000, and, of course, in an emergency, always dial 9.1.1.

If your block has not yet done so, a great resource is to register with the Neighborhood Watch Program run by the Denver Police Department. It is a free program designed to engage residents of your entire block with a short presentation given by an officer, usually at a host home, where safety tips are presented and there can be formal registration into the police database. They require at least 80 percent of block residents to participate—but it is an easy event to set up and a great opportunity to meet and interact with your neighbors. For information on setting up your block, visit our website at [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com).

A great resource sponsored by SUN at the Town Center Cop Shop, 7484 E. 29th Ave, is Family Safety Nights. These free programs feature one-hour topics promoting safety in our community and within our families and are structured to engage both kids and adults. We recently held a successful event on bike safety. Look for an upcoming 2010 presentation on Fire and Burn Prevention that will feature life-size puppets known as the “New Kids on the Block.”

Another ongoing program is the free Women’s Self-Defense Class co-sponsored by Mike Giles Family Karate and takes place the second Saturday of every month at 1pm. They are located at 7506 E 36th Ave, #480 in Quebec Square.

Our Town Center COP Shop is always looking for residents to volunteer and staff the office during the week to give more public access to a great community resource. A common misconception is that it is run and staffed by the Denver Police Department, which is not the case. It is an all-volunteer organization. Giving as little as one or two hours of your time monthly would be a huge help.

The COP Shop also supports the Speed Watch Program, which provides training in the use of handheld speed guns by volunteers to deter speeding on Stapleton streets.

If you are interested in these programs, contact SUN at [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com) or 720.840.8492, or the COP Shop at 720.865.2356.

Be Safe. Know Your Neighbors. Get Involved to Make a Difference!

*Larry McSorley is a SUN Board member and chair of the Safety Committee.*

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This study is funded by the National Institutes of Health. Monetary compensation provided.

Principal Investigator: Wendy Kohrt, PhD - - COMIRB #06-0769  
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### Winter Welcome

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2nd Annual Light the Town event in the West Crescent. It was a fun event complete with hot roasted almonds, hot cider, hot chocolate, cookies and s'mores. Denver School of the Arts students provided the door decorations as well as the carolers in the Town Center. If you were not able to attend and pick up your “Dogs of Stapleton Calendar,” complete with the 2010 events, please make sure to drop by the MCA office and pick one up. The office is open Monday–Friday from 9am–4pm. If you cannot stop by, call us and we will put one in the mail for you. Our office number is 303.388.0724.

### Resident Reception

The MCA will begin hosting a monthly reception designed for all new Stapleton residents. This will be an evening designed to provide new residents an opportunity to meet others in the community, ask questions they may have, and obtain their pool ID ahead of the summer rush. Refreshments will be provided. Even if you have lived here for a year, please feel free to stop in. The receptions will take place the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the MCA Community Room located at 2823 Roslyn St. The first one is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30pm.

### Support Local Businesses

The MCA would like to put together a directory of local businesses that can be accessed on its website, [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com). The goal is to support our local businesses. This includes those who work from home in Stapleton, live in Stapleton but have a small business in Denver, or if you have a retail business in the Stapleton community. If you are interested in becoming a part of the directory, please go to [info@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:info@stapletoncommunity.com) and provide the necessary information. It is an easy and quick way to get your information out to the local population.

### American Red Cross Classes

Adult CPR, AED and Standard First Aid will be offered Dec. 12 from 8am–3pm. Sign up online at [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com).

Check for additional class postings at [www.stapletoncommunity.com/Training](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com/Training) or contact Paula Deorio at [pools@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:pools@stapletoncommunity.com).

### Community Room Rental

The MCA Community Room located at 2823 Roslyn St. is available to rent. To find out more, go to [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com), and scroll down to the lower right-hand side of the home page to the section labeled “Member Tools.” Scroll down to “MCA Park & Community Room Reservations” and click on this line. It will link you directly to the reservation page. If you are a new member, you will need to create a new account; if you are a current member, please login and follow the instructions. If you have any questions, please call 303.388.0724 or email us at [info@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:info@stapletoncommunity.com).

### Event Ideas

If you have an idea for an event or program for the community, please contact me at [events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com) or call 303.388.0724.

Our hope is that everyone enjoys a peaceful holiday season. Until next year...

Diane Deeter  
Director of Programming and Events

## Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - 8:30 pm

**Sunday Morning Worship – 10:00 am**  
Sunday School and Child Care During Worship

**Park Hill Congregational Church (UCC)**



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# Giving Back...

## Local Merchant’s Food Drive Benefits Food Bank of the Rockies

By Bev Simon

Every day in the greater metropolitan Denver area, northern Colorado and Wyoming, approximately 400,000 people worry about where they will get their next meal, according to the Food Bank of the Rockies. The food bank was founded in 1978 to provide hunger relief and today provides 56,000 meals each day to children, seniors and families in need. Hunger is especially hard on children, who make up 47 percent of the food bank’s clients, since they must have proper nutrition to grow and learn.

Del Taco set up a collection box in the Northfield restaurant (as well as at their 12 other Metro Denver restaurants) to help with the KS1075 radio station’s Sixth Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. A total of 2,340 pounds of food was picked up from the Del Taco restaurants on Nov. 23 and taken to the Food Bank of the Rockies warehouse, where it was sorted and distributed to families in need. This food drive is feeding hundreds of families throughout the holiday season with nonperishable items collected from the community, including bags of rice, cans of beans, canned vegetables, soup, pasta, tuna and more.

For information on donating to Food Bank of the Rockies, visit [www.foodbankrockies.org](http://www.foodbankrockies.org) or call 303.371.9250.

Bev Simon is the field marketing representative for Del Taco. She can be reached at [bsimon@deltaco.com](mailto:bsimon@deltaco.com).

## Preschoolers Collect Food to Fight Hunger in Metro Denver

By Beth Letzsch

Hundreds of children from Primrose Schools across the nation participated in a food drive over the past month, but they did much more than simply bring in items from their parents’ cupboards. The students earned money by completing extra chores at home, pooled their earnings and then counted it in the classroom. They then reviewed grocery store sale advertisements to find the best values on nutritional food, created a detailed shopping list, and took a field trip to King Soopers to shop for nonperishable food items, which taught them many life lessons while aiding local families in need.

This donation of food comes when American families find themselves in critical need as men, women and children face hunger. According to Feeding America, in recent years approximately 36.2 million Americans lived in food-insecure households, 23.8 million adults and 12.4 million children. Giving back to the community was a major focus of the annual food drive. It helped students understand the value of generosity and at the same time created a hands-on approach to math, nutrition and planning skills.

On November 10, the preschoolers from 20 Colorado Primrose Schools donated the nonperishable food items to COMPA Ministries, a local organization that works to prevent homelessness, promote self-sufficiency for homeless and low-income individuals and reduce hunger. Combined, the 20 Primrose Schools were able to donate 40 pallets of food weighing in at 24,041 pounds!

Beth Letzsch is the owner of the Primrose Schools of Thornton, Stapleton and Reunion. For more information about the food drive or Primrose Schools, call 303.322.7200 or email [directorstp@rtwllc.com](mailto:directorstp@rtwllc.com).

## NE Denver Residents Donate to Montbello Optimist Club’s Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway

By Mark Mehrlinger

With more and more families struggling this holiday season, the Montbello Optimist Club organized a Thanksgiving turkey dinner giveaway to a dozen families in need. King Soopers, Safeway and individuals from the Montbello, Green Valley Ranch and Stapleton, Park Hill, Montclair and Mayfair neighborhoods donated food and time for the event.

“Families are really struggling, so we wanted to do something to help,” said Renee Blanchard, the newly elected president of the Montbello Optimist Club. Isabella Allen, a longtime community activist from Montbello, chaired the event’s organizing committee, and led efforts to secure donations from businesses in the Montbello and Green Valley Ranch areas. I believe it’s important to build bridges between Stapleton and Montbello and organized efforts to collect donations from businesses and residents from Stapleton, Montclair, Mayfair and Park Hill.

The event was held at the Denver Broncos Boys and Girls Club in Montbello, which meets at the Darrent Williams Teen Center. The Boys and Girls Club was opened to honor slain Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams, who relied on the Boys and Girls Club where he grew up in Fort Worth, Texas.

Optimist International is an association of more than 3,000 clubs worldwide dedicated to bringing out the best in children. Every year, Optimists conduct 65,000 service projects and serve well over 6 million young people around the world. The Montbello Optimist Club meets the first and third Saturdays of each month at 9:30am at the Embassy Suites Hotel at 4444 Havana St.

Mark Mehrlinger is a Stapleton resident and the president of Stapleton United Neighbors. He can be reached at [mehrlinger@gmail.com](mailto:mehrlinger@gmail.com) or 720.840.8492.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

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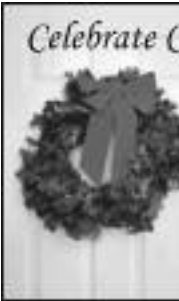
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Cindy Allen (Halliday) climbs into an Air Force supersonic T-38 jet that she flew for 3 1/2 years as an Air Force pilot instructor. She also flew KC-135 tankers, which do mid-air refueling.

(Pilots—continued from page 1) saw it, she rode in the jumpseat for the rest of the flight, talking to the pilots the whole time. When they told her she should take flying lessons, she replied, “Can a girl do that?”

She talked her mother into paying for “just a couple” flying lessons ... and continued asking for “just a couple” more until she got her pilot’s license. Those lessons were at Clinton Aviation at Stapleton airport. The year was 1957.

This is the story of how Emily (now Emily Howell Warner who lives in Lowry) came to be the first woman commercial airline pilot in the United States in 1973.

It’s also the story of a girl named Cindy Allen who, in that same year in Massachusetts, told her middle-school guidance counselor that she liked language and travel and flying so she thought she’d be a stewardess. But instead of talking to Cindy about becoming a stewardess, the guidance counselor asked, “Well then, why don’t you want to fly?” Maybe the guidance counselor had read in the newspaper that Emily Howell had just been hired by Frontier as the first woman commercial pilot in the country.

Cindy Allen Halliday, who is now a friend and neighbor of Emily Howell Warner in Lowry, became a military pilot and then a United pilot in the years after Emily broke down the barriers to women.

When Emily started flying, women were not allowed to be military pilots, and there were no train-

# Pioneering Pilots

ing programs for women to become commercial pilots. Despite those obstacles, she managed to become the first woman pilot of a scheduled airline in the United States.

When she started flying lessons in 1957, Emily wanted to spend as much time as possible at Stapleton Airport and took a job as a part-time receptionist at Clinton Aviation. Over the next three years, she worked her way up to being a flight instructor and subsequently became the flight school manager. After that she became certified as an FAA Pilot Examiner and did training as a contractor for United Airlines. As a pilot for Clinton Aviation, she flew parts to and from various locations and picked up new airplanes and brought them back to Denver. She also flew the first traffic watch airplane in Denver for about a year and a half.

Another important event occurred in her life while she was working as a flight instructor at Clinton Aviation. She was assigned to a new student named Julius Warner, who later became her husband.

As an instructor at Clinton Aviation, Emily was training male pilots, and she watched them go on to get jobs at the major airlines. “I didn’t think a lot about it until the struggles in the ’60s for the Equal Rights Amendment, and things started to change in the country. So I started thinking, why can’t I? My first letter was to Frontier Airlines in 1967, and I didn’t get hired until ’73, but I kept camping on their doorstep.”

In 1973, Frontier was about to hire a class of pilots. “A friend mine, who was a Frontier pilot, called and told me to get over to the office of the vice president of Frontier’s flight operations that afternoon. When I got there, he took me to the door of the VP’s office and told me he’d go in first; then I was to show up in a couple of minutes. When I went in, my friend told the vice president, ‘I want you to talk to her,’ — and he left. So there I was. I talked to the vice president for about 30 minutes and it was the biggest spiel I’d ever given in my life. It was my chance.

“He wanted to put me in a simulator right away (they didn’t require that of male applicants), but lucky for me it wasn’t available until 6pm. So I went home and called some friends. They told me to get out the old Navy handbook and read the chapter on instrument flying. And they told me it would feel similar to the Cessna 310 (which I had flown a lot), only much bigger.

“While I was waiting to get in the simulator, one of the secretaries walked over to her and said, ‘We know you’re getting in the simulator and we’re all rooting for you.’”

In the simulator, the vice president sat in the pilot’s seat and Emily in the co-pilot’s seat. Her confidence was bolstered by the knowledge that he hadn’t flown much in the past few years and that she was actually more current than he was.

“We did some landings and they were fine. Then they gave me an engine failure on takeoff and I didn’t quite get it off the ground. I asked to try it again and the next time I got it off the ground, flew around on one engine and landed.

“I looked at him and said, ‘I want the job,’ and he said,

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Emily Howell Warner (right), the first woman pilot of a scheduled airline in the U.S., and Cindy Allen Halliday, a United Airlines captain, stand by a model of a United Airlines plane at the Wings Over the Rockies Museum at Lowry. Both women live in Lowry.

‘You’ve got the job.’ Then he added, ‘Go home and sleep on it and call me in the morning. We want it to be good for you and we want it to be good for Frontier. But it also needs to be good for other women.’”

By the time Cindy Allen graduated from college, the military offered pilot training to women, and that was the route she took to becoming a pilot.

From the moment Cindy Allen’s guidance counselor told her she could become a pilot, she began to think to herself, “Well, maybe I do want to fly.” She lived in a town that had a naval air base, and when she was 16, her parents sent her to a ground school there to see if she was really interested in flying ... and she discovered she really was. When she went to college, she was in Air Force ROTC. However, she was only interested in becoming an Air Force officer if she could fly and get a pilot’s license. She wasn’t on an ROTC scholarship and she refused to “sign on the dotted line” until she got a pilot slot. “The year that I got the pilot’s slot, there were 10 slots for women in ROTC in the country and my school (University of Massachusetts at Amherst) had three, though for various reasons, I was the only one of the three who completed the pilot program.

“After graduating from college, I went to Air Force pilot training in Columbus, Mississippi. That was an experience! I was the only female in my class with 65–70 men until halfway through the program, and then a woman from another program came into our class. At that time, women could not fly fighter airplanes; the closest was the T-38, which was the advanced jet trainer that all Air Force pilots flew for their training.

“Pilot training takes a year, and after that my commitment to the military was seven years. After the one year of training, I returned as an instructor on the T-38 and flew it for 3 1/2 years, which at the time was as close as women could get to a fighter. (It was after I

had separated from the Air Force that women could become fighter pilots ... maybe about 15 years ago.) For the next 3 1/2 years, I flew KC-135 tankers, which do mid-air refueling.

“The T-38 is just an awesome airplane, and for females at that time it was the best possible airplane you could fly. It’s a supersonic jet trainer, one seat in front of the other, instructor in the back and student in the front. It has two jet engines equipped with after-burners, tiny little wings and very fast. We taught basic navigation, formation, basic tactical maneuvers and acrobatics. Acrobatics teach the dynamics and capabilities of the airplane and what you can do as a pilot—how you can maneuver the airplane within certain confines.

“The military setting was easier for me than when I got to United. In the military, you’re in a squadron and everybody knows everybody and you rapidly know who are the good pilots and who’s not so good. In the instructor world, the students coming in didn’t care if you were purple, they wanted the best instructors who could get them to their end assignment. Through the grapevine they knew who they wanted to

fly with and who they didn’t.

“In the late 80s United had been involved in a discrimination lawsuit and when I arrived in 1990 they were actively hiring women and minorities. The perception, and the reality at that time, was that if you were a minority (which included women) with basic qualifications, you were hired over white males. There were thousands of white males with experience looking to get hired at United. I was hired in that time period, and the perception, until people found out what you had done, was negative. When you sat in the cockpit with a new pilot, the questions would go, ‘So, what did you do before you came here?’ And I’d say, ‘I flew in the Air Force ... tankers and T-38s.’ And I could see their relief. That attitude doesn’t exist so much now, but back in 1990 that was a big deal.”

As Emily looks back to 1973, when she was first hired, she says her first flight was “kind of staged” with the media there and she had a perfect captain. But she knew that sooner or later she’d run into discrimination—and the worst incident happened on her second flight. “It was a charter flight to pick up some skiers in St. Louis. I was doing my paperwork and the captain came in. I put my hand out to introduce myself and he said, ‘I don’t shake hands,’ and he walked out. When we got on the airplane, he said, ‘Don’t touch anything.’ It was a real quiet flight. The pilot and co-pilot did what I was supposed to do and they just left me sitting there. When we got back, we were picked up by a van that took us to the parking lot, and I sat right next to the captain and said, ‘I really enjoyed flying with you.’

“Nothing that dramatic happened again and after about a year, one of the senior pilots said, ‘Well Emily, I guess you’re just one of the fellas now.’ After that it seemed like the climate changed and I was really accepted.”

Emily Howell Warner is now retired, having logged over 21,000 hours as a pilot. She lives in Lowry with her husband, Julius, and they have five grown children.

Cindy Allen Halliday is in her 19th year as a pilot with United. She has logged over 8,000 hours and flies B-757s and B-767s. She lives in Lowry with her husband, Steve Halliday, owner of Ling and Louie’s restaurant in Northfield, and their daughter Skye, who is a junior at East High School. They also have two grown children.

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9206 E. 35th Ave.  
Denver, CO 80238  
303-320-4938  
www.parkwoodhomes.com

The Architect Collection –  
by Harvard Communities (Stapleton)  
9126 E. 35th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80238  
303.789.4440  
www.thearchitectcollection.com

Urban Estate Homes  
8194 E. 25th Drive  
Denver, CO 80238  
720.249.5106  
stapletondenver.com

Wonderland Homes - Artisan  
Plazas/Denver Traditions/  
Garden Courts  
2696 Emporia Ct, Denver, CO 80238  
303-393-9099  
www.wonderlandhomes.com

# Advertiser Directory

# Front Porch

## HOME SERVICES

Best Builders – Basement Finishing  
524 Emporia Street  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303-801-9239

Blueprint – Basement Finishing  
303.467.9400  
blueprintdesign@qwestoffice.net

Budget Blinds of Aurora  
18121\_C East Hampden Ave #106  
Aurora, CO 80013  
303-683-7300  
www.budgetblinds.com

Casey’s Construction LLC  
1418 Clermont Street  
Denver, CO 80220  
720-427-1392  
www.caseysconstructionllc.com

Mike Ciechanowicz Painting  
303-324-1653

Crisp Home Inspections  
5320 Xanadu St  
Denver, CO 80239-5875  
303-316-3333  
www.crispinspections.com

Diane Gordon Design/  
Basement Design  
303.355.5666  
www.dianegordondesign.com

Dream Creations Landscaping  
2688 Roslyn Street  
Denver, CO 80238  
720-951-0232  
www.ourlandscapers.com

Emerald Isle Painting Inc  
303-322-ISLE (4753)  
eislepainting@msn.com  
www.emeraldislepainting.com

HouseTuner  
303.835.7356  
info@housetuner.com  
housetuner.com

Ireland’s Finest Inc  
2265 Lawrence St  
Denver, CO 80205-2020  
303-512-8777  
www.irelandsfinestinc.com

JKJ Lawn Sprinkler, Inc.  
5616 S. Himalaya Wway  
Centennial, CO 80015  
303-766-0775  
www.jkjlawnsprinkler.com

Number One Housecleaning  
Paulina Leon  
720.628.6690  
paulinaleon22@hotmail.com

Oxi Fresh of East Denver  
Frank Souk  
303-292-2932  
www.oxifresh.com

Rocky Mountain Shutters  
10525 E 40th Ave  
Denver, CO 80239  
303-534-5454  
www.rockymountainshutters.com

Showcase Landscaping Inc.  
6880 Smith Road  
Denver, CO 80207  
303-289-6821  
www.showcaselandscaping.com

Signature Paint Works, LLC  
PO Box 260122  
Lakewood, CO 80226  
303-750-0394  
www.signaturepaintworks.com

Stapleton Home Services  
6880 Smith Rd  
Denver, CO 80207  
303-320-1297  
stapletonhomeservices.com

## INSURANCE

All State Insurance - Jack Sughrue  
3401 Quebec #9400  
Denver, CO 80207  
303-377-4767  
allstateagencies.com/jacksughruejr

Farmers Insurance - Kevin Tafoya  
2332 Central Park Blvd  
Denver, CO. 80238  
303-955-0861  
www.farmersagent.com/ktafoya

State Farm - Jessika Aerni  
7505 East 35th Ave, Ste 302  
Denver, CO 80238  
303-377-5433  
www.jessikaaerni.com

## MEDICAL DOCTORS

Apex Dermatology  
130 Rampart Way, Ste 250  
Denver, CO 80230  
303.261.1525  
apexdermatology.com

Aspen Family Medicine  
8101 East Lowry Blvd, Suite 250  
Denver, CO 80230  
303-366-1986  
www.aspenfamilymed.com

Central Obstetrics and Gynecology  
2005 Franklin Street, Suite 630  
Denver, Colorado 80205  
303.866.8186  
www.centralobgyn.com

Denver Dermatology  
2970 Quebec Street, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80207  
303-426-4525  
www.denverderm.com

Exempla Family Medicine  
Kristine Walsh, MD  
2803 Roslyn St.  
Denver, CO 80238  
303.403.6300  
www.exempla.org

Peak Family Medicine  
4500 E 9th Ave # 320  
Denver, CO 80220-3922  
303-322-7325  
www.peakfamilymed.com

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky  
Mountains  
7155 E. 38th Ave  
Denver, CO 80207  
303.321.PLAN  
www.plannedparenthood.org/  
rocky-mountains

Rose Medical Center  
4567 East 9th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80220  
303-320-2121  
www.rosemed.com

Stapleton OB-GYN  
2807 Roslyn Street  
Denver, CO 80238  
303-403-6333  
www.stapletonobgyn.com

St Joseph Hospital  
2420 West 26th Ave  
Denver, CO 80211  
303.837.7111  
www.exempla.org

Stapleton Pediatrics  
2975 Roslyn St, Unit 100  
Denver, CO 80238-3326  
303-399-7900  
www.stapletonped.com

## MISC. SERVICES

Cannonball Movers  
720-255-4368  
guerratto1005@yahoo.com  
www.cannonballmovers.net

Edward Jones - Natalie Robbins  
303.320.7752  
natalie.robbs@edwardjones.com  
www.edwardjones.com

Health Plan Wizards  
19593 E 40th Dr  
Denver, CO 80249  
303-375-8424

iSold it on eBay  
7506 E. 36th Ave.  
Denver CO, 80238  
303-539-6915  
isolditshop.com

Jewish Community Center of Denver  
350 S Dahlia St  
Denver, CO 80246-8102  
303-399-2660  
www.jccdenver.orga

MindShifts - Tia Goldschlag–Life coach  
Denver, Colorado  
303.333.0340  
www.mind-shifts.com

Neighborhood Solutions  
1611 E. 22nd Avenue  
Denver, CO 80205  
303.894.8600  
nsolutions.org

Park Hill Tech - Computers  
2849 Clermont St  
Denver, CO 80207  
720-351-1372  
www.parkhilltech.com

Powerful Performance, Bernadette M.  
Hunter – Performance Specialist  
303-300-6733  
www.powerful-performance.com

Presidential Worldwide Transportation  
4770 Forest Street, Unit U  
Denver, CO, CO 80216  
303-286-1114  
www.presidentiallimo.com

Tax Stop, LLC  
Stapleton Plaza  
3401 Quebec Street, Ste 10000  
Denver 80207  
303-388-1859  
www.localtaxsolutions.com

## PETS

Denver Dumb Friends League  
2080 S Quebec St  
Denver, CO 80231-3204  
303-751-5772  
www.ddfl.org

Happy Dog Daycare  
3939 Newport Street  
Denver, CO 80238  
303.331.1363  
www.happydogdenver.com

Playful Pooch  
4000 Holly St.  
Denver, CO 80216  
720-941-7529  
www.playfulpooch.com

## PRESCHOOL/ CHILDCARE

Knowledge Beginnings  
10325 E 31st Avenue  
Denver, CO 80238  
303.329.4405  
www.knowledgebeginnings.com

Premier Nannies  
299 Milwaukee Street, Ste 201  
Denver, CO 80206  
303-322-1399  
www.premiernannies.com

## REAL ESTATE/RENTAL

Central Park Realty, LLC  
8661 East 26th Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80238  
303.489.6196  
www.centralparkrealtyllc.com

Dream Homes, Inc.  
7476 E 29th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80238  
720-217-4788  
www.denverdreamhomesinc.com

Metro Brokers at Stapleton  
7489 East 29th Place  
Denver, CO 80238  
303.331.6700  
www.4denverrealestate.com

MetroBrokers Cherry Creek  
201 Steele Street, #200  
Denver, CO 80206  
303-399-2566

The Neir Team  
Kentwood City Properties  
1660 17th Street, Suite 100  
Denver, CO, 80202  
720.280.3004 / 720.935.4399  
www.neirteam.com

New Perspective Real Estate  
2444 Washington St, Ste 100  
Denver, CO 80205  
303-394-4526  
newperspectivere.com

Stapleton Apartments  
2853 Roslyn St.  
Denver, CO 80238  
303.388.1414  
www.stapletondenver.com

Weichert Realtors Unique Homes  
6377 S Revere Pkwy  
Englewood, CO 80111  
303-302-4000  
www.weichert.com

Wesvalley Real Estate and Mortgage  
462 Harrison St.  
Denver, CO 80206  
720.422.3976  
www.wesvalley.com

The Wolfe & Epperson Team –  
RE/MAX of Cherry Creek  
3773 Cherry Creek North Dr,  
Ste 801/100 Denver, CO 80209  
303-320-1556  
www.wolfe-epperson.com

## RESTAURANTS

The Berkshire  
7352 E 29th Ave  
Denver, CO  
303-321-4010  
www.theberkshirerestaurant.com

Casey’s Bistro & Pub  
7301 E 29th Ave  
Denver, CO 80238-2701  
720-974-7350  
www.caseysbistroandpub.com

Del Taco  
8100 Northfield Blvd  
Denver, CO 80239  
303-307-1712  
www.deltaco.com

Grandma’s Korean BBQ  
11650 Montview Blvd  
Aurora, CO 80010-1602  
303-344-0603

Ling and Louie’s Asian Bar and Grill  
8354 Northfield Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80230  
303-371-4644  
www.lingandlouies.com

Moongate Asian Grill  
745 Quebec St  
Denver, CO 80220  
720.329.2921  
moongatefusion.com

Perk & Play  
2373 Central Park Blvd, #103  
Denver, CO 80238  
303-399-1942  
pandpcoffee.com

## RETAIL

Appliance Factory Outlet  
2816 N. Colorado Blvd  
Denver, CO 80207  
303-388-0823  
www.appliancefactory.com

The Bookies  
4315 E Mississippi Ave  
Denver, CO 80246  
303-759-1117  
www.thebookies.com

Guys and Dolls  
13280 E. Mississippi Ave  
Aurora , CO 80012  
720-748-4300  
www.guysanddollsurniture.com

Little Feet  
201 University Blvd # 103  
Denver, CO 80206-4617  
303-388-9535  
www.littlefeetandmore.com

Nick’s Garden Center  
2001 South Chambers Road  
Aurora CO 80014  
303-696-6657  
www.nicksgardencenter.com

The Shops at Northfield Stapleton  
8340 Northfield Boulevard  
Denver, CO 80238  
303-375-5464  
www.northfieldstapleton.com

The Shops at 29th Ave. Town Center  
7351 East 29th Ave.  
Denver, CO 80238  
www.stapletondenver.com  
info@stapletondenver.com

Urban Mattress  
745 S. Colorado Blvd  
Denver, CO 80246  
303 953 2992  
www.Urbannmattress.com

## SCHOOLS

Blessed Sacrament Parish School  
1973 Elm Street  
Denver, Co 80220  
303-377-8835  
church.blessedsacrament.net

Daniels College of Business,  
University of Denver  
2101 S University Blvd  
Denver, CO 80210  
303-871-3411  
www.daniels.du.edu

Denver Montclair International School  
206 Red Cross Way  
Denver, CO 80230  
303-340-3647  
www.dmischool.com

Denver Waldorf School  
940 Fillmore St  
Denver, CO 80206-3852  
303-777-0531  
www.denverwaldorf.org

Envision Schools Colorado  
2540 Holly St.  
Denver, CO 80207  
303-893-0802  
www.envisionschoolscolorado.org

Johnson and Wales  
7150 Montview Blvd  
Denver, CO 80220  
303-256-9300  
www.jwu.edu

Montessori Children’s House  
of Denver  
1467 Birch Street  
Denver CO 80220  
303-322-8324  
mchdenver.org

St. Elizabeth’s School  
3605 Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80205  
303-322-4209  
www.stelizabethsdenver.org

St James Catholic Church  
1250 Newport St  
Denver, CO 80220-2911  
303-322-7449  
www.stjamesdenver.org