

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JULY 2010

FBI Moves to Stapleton



Jim Davis, Special Agent in Charge of the Denver Division of the FBI, stands near the entrance to the new FBI building on 36th Avenue near Quebec Square. The building is secured for top secret information. Davis shared with the Front Porch some of his experiences as an FBI agent in Iraq

and Afghanistan, which included talking to Saddam Hussein on the day he was captured. Davis also talked about the investigation of Denver-based terrorist Najibullah Zazi, saying, "Of all the things I've done in my career, that case is the thing I'm most proud of."

By Carol Roberts

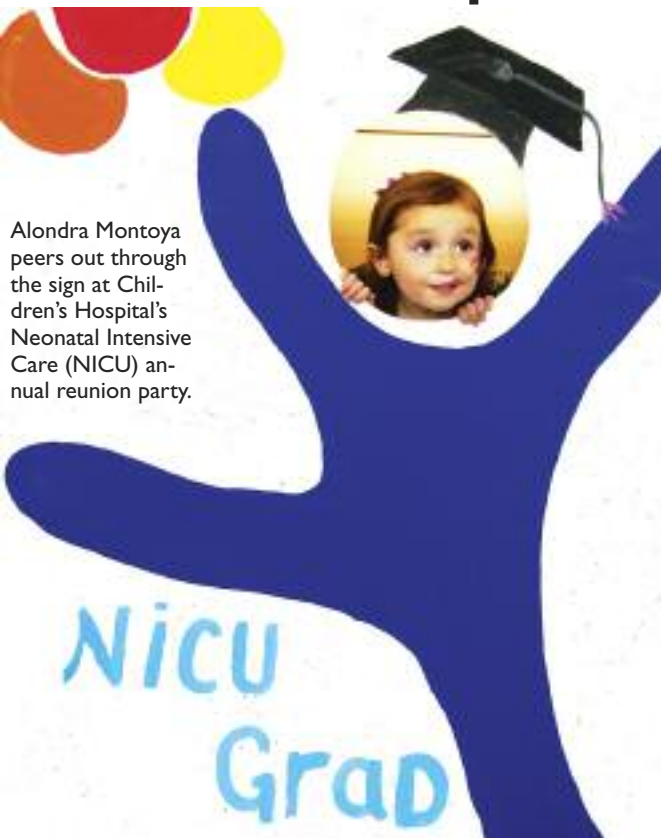
One of Stapleton's newest neighbors is the FBI, housed in a brand new architectural gem. Be sure to view it from the north (36th Ave.) since the south side is hidden behind a brick wall, the parking garage, and vehicle

bays. The building has state-of-the-art security that requires a 100-foot setback from roads, making it "intentionally not pedestrian friendly," says Jim Davis, Special Agent in Charge of the Denver Division. Davis, along with the Director of the FBI, Robert Mueller, Gov. Ritter, Mayor Hickenlooper and

other dignitaries, spoke at the building's dedication on June 30.

"The building is unique," says Davis. "No other FBI office looks like it." The entire building is a "classified" facility that is secured for top secret information, (continued on page 26)

Children's Hospital NICU Helps Parents Too



Alondra Montoya peers out through the sign at Children's Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU) annual reunion party.

By Nancy Burkhardt

Having a baby usually is a happy time for parents. When a baby is delivered prematurely or with extreme health problems, in Colorado they immediately go to Children's Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The stay can be stressful for both the baby and the parents.

Children's Hospital NICU has ranked in the top 10 NICUs in the country since 2007, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, and, according to Dr. Theresa Grover, a neonatologist and NICU medical director, close to 1,000 babies less than a month old are cared for during an average stay of about three weeks in the NICU. "Some babies are here for prematurity," she explained. "At Children's all the babies are referred in from other Colorado hospitals for specific reasons. Many are related to birth defects and need surgical treatment, some need special care; some have respiratory failure with their lungs not working correctly and they need mechanical support for breathing. We have babies admitted for heart defects, and infections are another major reason for admission.

"We have a large team of providers for each patient," Grover said. "Each baby will have their own primary (continued on page 14)

World Cup Fever—One on One With Pablo Mastroeni



Marko Babiak, 9, interviews Rapids Captain Pablo Mastroeni about his experience playing in a prior World Cup event. See story on page 12.

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



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A makeshift memorial made by neighborhood kids was placed on a tree in Greenway Park that went down in the microburst wind on June 25.



CALENDAR

Events in or near Stapleton that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit events.
(See pages 16 - 21 for more events.)

JULY

Every Sunday (through Oct. 17)
Stapleton Farmers Market, 8:30am–12:30pm
Founders' Green

Every Sunday (through Aug. 8)
City Park Jazz, 6pm. www.cityparkjazz.org
7/04 - Denver Municipal Band Jazz Combo
7/11 - Chris Daniels and the Kings
7/18 - Rekha Odal
7/25 - Cocktail Revolution
8/01 - La Candela
8/08 - Tuxedo Junction

Every Friday, July & Aug.
Northfield, Main Street Summerfest, 4–8pm
NorthfieldStapleton.com ->Calendar (See p. 16)

Every Wednesday & Saturday
The Bike Depot, Free Fix-a-Bike Program
Wednesday 4–7pm & Saturday 11am to 5pm
(See page 15)

Saturday, July 3
*Concert Series - Hazel Miller, 6–8pm

Saturday, July 3 and August 7
Denver Art Museum - SCFD Free Day
720-865-5000 www.denverartmuseum.org/

Sunday, July 4
4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade, 9am–Noon
Central Park Fountain Area
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

Tuesday, July 6
Children's Museum, Target Tuesdays
1st Tuesday nights free, 4–8pm, cmdenver.org

Friday, July 16
*Movie Night - "Julie & Julia" Starts at dark

Saturday, July 17
Stapleton Community-wide Garage Sale,
8am–1pm (See page 17)
www.buildingstapleton.com/garagesale

Sat. & Sun., July 17 & 18
City of Aurora's KidSpree festival, 10am to 5pm
Bicentennial Park, 13655 E. Alameda Ave
(See page 17)

Sunday, July 18
Colorado Symphony Orchestra Concert
Central Park, Stapleton, 7:30pm (See page 18)

Monday, July 19
Primary ballots mailed

Thurs., July 22 & Wed., Aug. 25
Denver Botanic Gardens - SCFD Free Day
720-865-3500 www.botanicgardens.org/

JULY

Saturday, July 24
Bicycle Tour of Stapleton's Public Art, 3–5pm
RSVP 720-865-4307 or rudi.cerri@denvergov.org
More info at events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, July 24
*Concert Series - Opie Gone Bad, 6–8pm

Saturday, July 24
Dist. 11 6th Annual Unity Event & Community Picnic
Free food & entertainment, 4–8pm (See p. 18)

Tuesday, July 27
Stapleton 3 School Parents Meeting, 6:30pm
(See page 8 for more information)

Thursday, July 29
Westerly Creek Cleanup, 4:30pm. Meet at Beeler
& south side of MLK. Bring gloves and bags.
Sponsored by Bluff Lake, Denver Parks & Rec
and Correctional Mgmt Inc. (CMI).
RSVP to icorrell@dotnet.net

Thursday, July 29
Adult Activities Group Potluck (See p. 22)
Approx. 7pm (following the WC cleanup above)
Founders' Green, under the tent
Plates, utensils & beverages provided
Bring food! 303-388-0724 (no children)

Friday, July 30
*Movie Night - "Blind Side," Starts at dark

Saturday, July 31
Sweet William Market, 9am–2pm
Founders' Green www.sweetwilliammarket.com

AUGUST

Tuesday, August 3
Children's Museum, Target Tuesdays
1st Tuesday nights free, 4–8pm, cmdenver.org

Saturday, August 7
*Concert Series - The Nacho Men, 6–8pm

Friday, August 13
*Movie Night - "Cloudy with a Chance of
Meatballs" Starts at dark

Saturday, August 21
*Concert Series - Chris Daniels & The Kings, 6–8pm

Sunday, August 22 * *
Stapleton park-n-Ride Relocates
(**Projected date, see page 5)

Friday, August 27
*Movie Night - "UP" Starts at dark

*At Founders Green, Sponsored by Stapleton MCA,
events@stapletoncommunity.com, Movies start at dark.
(See page 18 for recurring monthly events and meetings)



July 4th Activities

Please join us for the Annual Pancake Breakfast and Parade at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park. Tickets for the pancake breakfast will be priced at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. The parade is free.

Decorate your bicycles, tricycles, wagons or scooters for the parade. The pancake breakfast will begin at 9am and the parade will begin at 10:30am.

Following the parade, the pools will open as scheduled. **All pools will close at 6pm.** Music and water activities are planned throughout the day. Please check the website www.stapletoncommunity.com for all the details of the day.

Movies & Concerts

Julie & Julia on July 16 and *The Blind Side* on July 30 are the two movies scheduled for this month on The Green. Movies begin at dark. Our concerts this month feature Hazel Miller on July 3 (rescheduled due to weather in June), Soul School on July 10, and Opie Gone Bad on July 24. The concerts are on The Green and run from 6 to 8pm.

Bring your picnic and join us for these free events open to the community. For a complete list of the summer activities, please go to our website at www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Remember, the concessions at the movies and concerts will be operated by various nonprofit organizations selling popcorn, candy and soft drinks. Please stop by the big white tent and support them as they raise funds for their group.

Stapleton Community Garage Sale

Diana and Michael Kearns are once again sponsoring the Stapleton Community Garage Sale. The sale will be held on Saturday, July 17, 8am to 1pm. Last year over 300 homes participated.

If you want to sign up for the sale, send an email to GarageSale@BuildingStapleton.com. For more information and answers to most questions, visit their website at www.buildingstapleton.com/garagesale

Public Art Bike Tour

Check out the public art in Stapleton and then stick around for the Opie Gone Bad concert on The Green. Highlights include *The Eye on the Horizon (After Monet)* by Ilan Averbuch, *Airfoils* by Partick Marold and *Garden Stories* by Lars Stanley.

Stapleton Public Art Consultant Barbara Neal will lead the tour that will meet at The West Crescent Fountain at East 29th Avenue and Roslyn Street. The tour begins at 3pm on Saturday, July 24. For more information, call 720.865.4313 or go to www.denvergov.org/publicart.

Artful Journey™

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New to Stapleton, Artful Journey puts the "fun" in the fundamentals of art! Your children ages 3+ will learn how to turn high-quality materials into works of art that will make them proud from head to toe. Explore chalk and oil pastel, watercolor, markers, colored pencils, metal, silk and polymer clay. For more details, call 303.797.6092 or visit <http://www.artfuljourneyschools.com>.

Concessions

The Stapleton MCA is excited to announce an agreement between Apollo Snacks LLC and the MCA management. Apollo brings to our pools over five years of experience operating concessions throughout the Front Range. They promise an improved menu, along with reasonable pricing. Their staff also promises to be courteous, punctual and professional at all times.

Apollo has also secured arrangements to process all major credit cards at all three pools. They are very excited and looking forward to a wonderful year at the pools as well as special events throughout the summer.

If you have any questions or comments about the information above, please feel free to contact events@stapletoncommunity.com or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

Diane Deeter
Director of Programming
and Events



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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House District 7 Primary:

Three Stapleton Candidates

BALLOTS MAILED JULY 19



The Front Porch asked the three vying Democratic candidates, Mark Mehringer, Angela Williams and Jon Goldin-Dubois, all of whom live in Stapleton, "Why vote for me?"

By Mark Mehringer

I want to be our next State Representative because we need leaders focused on solving problems—not more politics-as-usual dominated by special interests. I am not taking money from lobbyists or special interest PACs. Instead, I have been talking with voters personally and putting together concrete plans to address the issues faced by our community, including expanding job training programs for today's high-paying jobs, making them more accessible to current workers and students.

Leadership is about solving problems and sharing the credit with those who have helped find solutions. For example, on education, I have and will continue to work with representatives from DPS and other parents to resolve Stapleton's school overcrowding issues. On the environment, I have worked with neighbors to organize two fundraisers for the Sand Creek Regional Greenway and have powered my home with 100% renewable energy for over four years.

As state representative, I will first focus on expanding job training opportunities across northeast Denver—in our schools and our community. Second, I will fight for a carbon tax that funds additional investments to make Colorado a world leader in renewable energy. Special interest politics-as-usual isn't getting the job done. We need much more. For more information visit www.VoteMark2010.com or call 720-775-4040

By Angela Williams

I am a candidate for state representative from House District 7 because we need to break the chain of lawyer-lobbyist-career politicians down at the Capitol with some fresh outside experience and perspectives. I am running because of my commitment to serve the people of District 7.

I am a successful business owner and single mom who has been inspired by the recent changes in the American political landscape to take the time at this point in my life to give back to the community that has given so much to me.

We are in tough economic times. Our district has seen many difficulties, many people are suffering. It is my professional, business, community background and personal experiences that make me the most qualified candidate to serve this district....to find new solutions.

I care about the issues, I care about this district and I care about you. If you elect me as your next State Representative I will be accessible, a listener and a collaborator and *I will fight for you*.

Please visit www.Angela4Colo.com to learn more about me and my positions or call me at (720)283-3380 so we can visit about what is important to you.

By Jon Goldin-DuBois

I'm running for the House of Representatives because I believe we must set higher goals—for our communities, our schools, the protection of our environment and, our politicians. I will work to ensure that: Every student graduates from high school with quality teachers in every classroom. • Colorado leads the nation in clean energy development. • Every Coloradan has access to excellent, affordable healthcare. • Working people can do more than just make ends meet. • Our representatives are accountable and work for us all.

To me, these aren't idle words. They are my commitment. I grew up in and attended public schools in NE Denver, and have spent my professional life fighting for just these things.

- I've worked for clean energy and was part of an effort that will bring more than 23,000 jobs to Colorado.
- I've fought to clean up our air and reduce childhood asthma.
- I've lived in West Africa and worked in Haiti to train community organizers.
- I've worked to strengthen and improve our schools.
- I have written and advocated for laws to make our government accountable to the people.

I ask for your support in the Democratic primary election this summer. For more information visit www.goldindubois.com or email jon@goldindubois.com

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RTD's Commuter Rail is Coming... and With It Comes TOD



Above: A group of NE Denver residents recently took a tour of the Englewood light rail station. Built in 2000, it was the metro area's first Transit Oriented Development. Above, left to right: Kevin Flynn, RTD, Steve Lawrence, Glenn Fee, and Dave Netz ride the light rail to the Englewood station.



Left: Jim Woodward, mayor of Englewood, talks about Englewood's experience creating a TOD (Transit Oriented Development) in the location where Cinderella City used to be. They wish they would have arranged the parking so commuters would walk past the shops, creating a busier retail area.

Right: The bridge connecting the transit stop to the retail and plaza area is, in itself a work of art. And the obelisk behind the bridge that looks like a work of art is the elevator to the parking below.

Far right: Rental housing in the Englewood TOD is visible above ground level retail (which has many empty units). The 438 apartments have remained almost fully occupied.

By Carol Roberts

Picture yourself stepping onto a commuter train with a stop not far from your home in NE Denver. You can go to the airport, downtown, or anywhere in the FasTracks system, never once getting stopped in traffic, even at rush hour. With RTD's June 15 announcement that a contractor has been selected for the next phase of FasTracks construction, what used to seem like a dream is now not so far from being a reality in NE Denver. Given that T-REX came in ahead of schedule and under budget, the contractor's projected opening date of January 2016 for the East Corridor doesn't seem so far away.

So what is TOD? It stands for Transit Oriented Development. Denver's TOD Strategic Plan describes it as "more than simply development near transit, successful TOD creates beautiful, vital, and walkable neighborhoods; provides housing, shopping and transportation choices..." But, according to Angie Malpiede of Stapleton Transportation Management Authority, "It's a fluid concept that changes with what the Federal Government is willing to fund."

Patrick McLaughlin, who recently earned a graduate degree in planning, was just hired by RTD to work on TOD. He says the current federal administration is

putting a focus on "sustainable communities"—combining the goals of three major agencies: DOT (providing transit for the greatest number of people possible and reducing congestion), HUD (providing affordable housing), and the EPA (having less pollution by getting people out of their cars). This trend is evident in the City of Denver's policies on TOD. Steve Gordon in Denver's Department of Community Planning, says the City of Denver's policy is to have a diverse range of housing near transit, and they are encouraging RTD to make land available for such development. "The top two expenses for low and middle income people are housing and transportation. Affordable housing near transit reduces both of those expenses," says Gordon, though he acknowledges the City has a limited amount of funding to build affordable housing.

When a group of civic-minded NE Den-

ver residents interested in TOD recently visited the Englewood FasTracks station, they saw the results of a vision that was developed during the 90's (which did *not* have affordable housing as one of its goals). That development, which opened in 2000, houses the Englewood city offices and was built at the site of the old Cinderella City shopping center.



Public art has turned out to be a very important component of the Englewood TOD. The popular free shuttle bus that connects the Englewood business area to the light rail is called the ART bus because there is public art at most stops.

What were some of the lessons learned? According to Harold Stitt, Senior Planner for the City of Englewood, the biggest lesson is they shouldn't have located the parking separate from the retail area. Parking should be located so commuters walk past the shops. And in hindsight they wish they had built bike lanes and more

residential—the rental units that were built have been 95% occupied.

Stitt also says their focus on public art has been a resounding success, along with the free ART shuttle bus that runs through the main Englewood business area to the TOD. The

ART bus, so named because there is public art at almost every stop, runs a distance of about 1.5 miles, with 9-10 stops in each direction and is funded by RTD and the City of Englewood. Suggestions from the Urban Land Institute for Englewood's future development include having less concrete, adding playful art with family uses, adding a food theme with ethnic restaurants and markets, and to develop branding for the area.

The approximately 20 acres of RTD-owned land for the Stapleton commuter rail station will, upon opening, be filled with ground level parking. Over time, as the area develops, the RTD contractor may build a vertical mixed-use parking structure, opening up the former ground-level parking area for higher density, mixed-use development. South of the RTD-owned land is TOD land that will be developed by Forest City.

Many of the community members who visited the Englewood development are members of Stapleton's Citizen Advisory Board (CAB), a group with the goal of monitoring the development of Stapleton to be sure it is in alignment with the vision in the Green Book (Stapleton's Development Plan). CAB's Diversity Committee has expressed concern that Stapleton is becoming a "gentrified, traditional bedroom community devoid of significant economic diversity," and they believe the higher density building options in the TOD offer an important

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opportunity to bring more diverse housing to Stapleton. The committee has stated that “steps need to be taken immediately by Forest City, SDC, the CAB and the cities of Denver and Aurora to either build such rental and affordable rental housing or to land bank property for such housing,” and the group is closely monitoring the plans for Stapleton’s TOD.

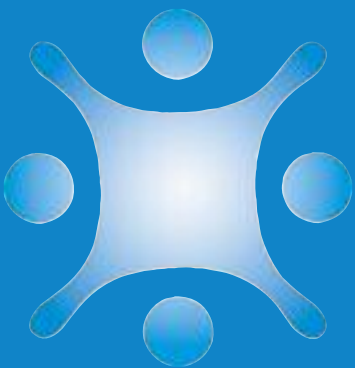
Forest City responds that they “plan to build more rental housing within Stapleton when the regional rental market recovers and acceptable financing becomes available.” Tom Gleason of Forest City says, “we support the vision of the Green Book to create a diverse community, and that’s why we donate land to non-profits to provide affordable rental housing, subsidize builders

of affordable for-sale housing, and have established a market rate housing program that spans the full range of housing prices.” He also points out that the process of obtaining the tax credits necessary for affordable housing is a multi-year process. Gleason went on to say, “Forest City anticipates



that our TOD will have residential as well as commercial but we can’t be more specific at this stage; more details will become available further into the process.”

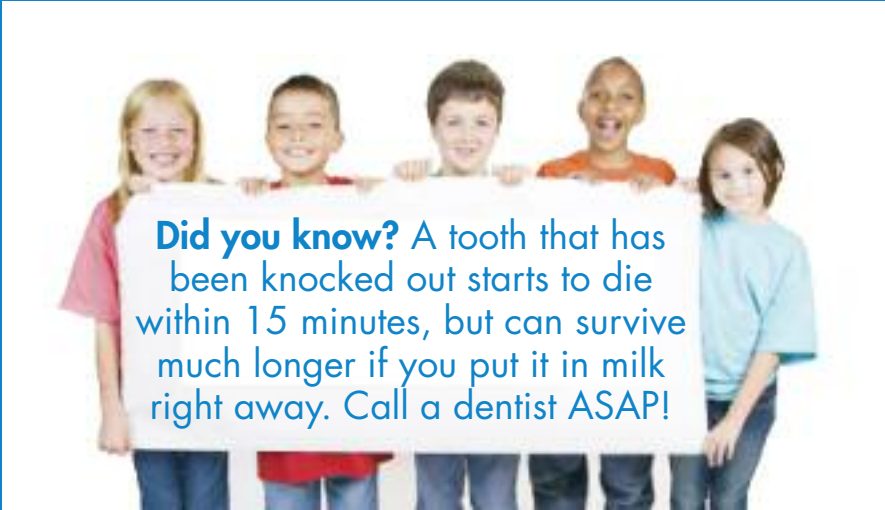
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Stapleton Front Porch

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July 2010

Cross Fit—A High Intensity Workout

By Nancy Burkhart

Two Stapleton residents with backgrounds in exercise science have opened Cross Fit Stapleton to work with people who enjoy highly intense workouts.

Emilio DiPretoro has a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology and a master's degree in exercise science and cardiac rehabilitation. He is a Cross Fit Level One certified coach. His wife, Nicolle, has a bachelor's degree in exercise science. She worked in corporate wellness for Johnson & Johnson and Hewlett-Packard.

This summer, Stapleton residents might see the DiPretoros leading some 15 people in a workout regimen in Central Park.

"Cross Fit is a workout regimen that by definition is constant, varied, functional movement at high intensity," explained Emilio. "Cross Fit is a movement across the country that a lot of people are engaged in. It's an exercise and fitness program that combines a lot of different things from endurance training to swimming or biking. We



Emilio and Nicolle DiPretoro, owners of Cross Fit Stapleton, conduct one of their classes in Central Park. The classes are based on the Cross Fit regimen for those who enjoy highly intense workouts.

focus on outdoor fitness. The workout's different from day to day. We do things like box jumps, push-ups, sit-ups and hill runs.

"Cross Fit started out as a Web-based fitness program that a lot of people started

doing on their own," he said. "I think initially it was a lot of athletes, police officers, firemen and military personnel. It sort of spilled over to the mainstream because it's fun, fast and high intensity. For sure it's hard

work. It's a very good, well-rounded exercise program."

While Cross Fit is highly intense and designed for athletes or former athletes, Emilio said that the routines can be adapted for people who are just getting back into exercise or who are working to come back after a physical problem. He said the people who do the best are men and women between the ages of 30 and 50 years of age who are physically fit. However, Emilio says he will modify the program for those who need it.

The Cross Fit class meets for one hour at Central Park at 6am Monday through Friday and at 8:30am on Saturday. There also are classes at 4:30pm on Monday and Wednesday. Childcare is offered for the afternoon and Saturday classes. The cost is \$99 per month for unlimited sessions.

For information about Cross Fit Stapleton, call Emilio and Nicolle DiPretoro at 303.902.3496 or go to www.crossfitstapleton.com. For more information about Cross Fit exercises, go to www.crossfit.com.

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Stapleton park-n-Ride Projected to Move on August 22*



- Routes Affected:**
- Route 28 – 28th Avenue Crosstown
 - Route 38 – 38th Avenue Crosstown
 - Route 40 – Colorado Blvd. Crosstown
 - Route 43 – Martin Luther King Boulevard/Gateway
 - Route 65 – Monaco Crosstown
 - Route 73 – Quebec Crosstown
 - Route 88 – Thornton/Commerce City/Stapleton
 - Route 105 – Havana Crosstown
 - Route AB – Boulder/Denver/DIA
 - Route AS – Stapleton/DIA

The Stapleton park-n-Ride is being relocated to the north as planned to permit development of a new DPS school and a residential neighborhood west of the former airport's parking structure, which will be demolished later this year. The park-n-Ride will be temporarily located at 36th and Quebec until a new multi-modal facility is constructed on Smith Road along the FasTracks rail corridor that will link downtown with DIA.

The Central Park Boulevard commuter rail station is scheduled to open by January 2016, but it is expected that the RTD transfer station will move to that location before the commuter rail is completed. The Central Park Boulevard Station will be located

adjacent to Smith Road between Ulster Street and Central Park Boulevard.

The interim facility will provide 1,400 park-n-Ride spaces under the same pay-for-parking policy observed at the current Stapleton park-n-Ride. Customers can access the parking lot from the intersection of 36th Avenue and Ulster Street or Central Park Boulevard and 36th Avenue. The change in site location affects the routes listed at right, with new routings shown on the map above.

**Check the RTD website at www.RTD-Denver.com/ServiceChanges.shtml or the August issue of the Front Porch to confirm final changeover date.*



Pat Hickman, left, expresses concern about additional traffic and parking on the street in the Central Park North neighborhood as a result of the proposed relocation of the RTD park-n-Ride. Jesse Carter, Senior Service Planner at RTD, held a community information session on June 3 in Stapleton to describe the change and answer questions.

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Terry GistJerry BoydMark Stevinson

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Sold	224 / 84	116 / 73	387 / 20

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July 2010



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Principal Selection Delayed but

By Kathy Epperson

The process of selecting a principal for the new Stapleton 3 school located at 35th and Syracuse is underway. In April, DPS created a School Principal Selection Advisory Committee, comprised of Westerly Creek Principal Jill Corcoran, Bill Roberts Assistant Principal Ruth Baldavia, two teachers from Stapleton 3, Brian Weber from the Stapleton Foundation, and five parents. The committee interviewed candidates at the end of April and hoped to have a hiring decision in May.

Though a couple of top prospects were identified during this round, those candidates were hired for other positions in the district. Sophia Briegleb, a member of this committee and of the SUN Education Committee, met with new DPS Instructional Superintendent Robert Woodson on June 15 to discuss the timing for another round of interviews. "DPS expressed hope that with another round of interviews in July, a principal could be hired by the start of the school year," says Sophia. "While we're very disappointed not to have a principal selected yet, DPS wants to make sure that the position isn't filled hurriedly and that the right candidate is found."

In the meantime, Westerly Creek Principal Jill Corcoran has taken on interim responsibilities for the new school, including hiring staff, ordering furniture and supplies, and managing the feeder classrooms for the new school that will be housed in the Westerly Creek building. Those feeder class-



At the groundbreaking, Dr. Ira Bigelow, music teacher at Bill Roberts, conducts "Spirit of Stapleton Singers" who performed "Zum Gali Gali," a traditional Hebrew work song and "Moving On," a song that included "This School is Bound for Glory" and "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Stapleton 3 Parents Meeting
Tuesday, July 27, 6:30pm

Location to be determined

(Westerly Creek or Bill Roberts) - Check
www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education
or email SUNEducationCommittee@gmail.com


rooms for the 2010-2011 school year include approximately 150 students in two ECE, three kindergarten and one first-grade classrooms. Stapleton 3, which will open its doors for the 2011-2012 school year, will add sixth grade in the 2012-2013 school year and will also have added second and third grades by that time.

To help Jill Corcoran manage these Stapleton 3 students plus the additional 150 students Westerly Creek will enroll for the 2010-2011 school year, a new assistant principal for Westerly Creek is being hired. Space for these additional students is made possible by the temporary relocation of The Odyssey School, which is moving to the Philips elementary school building this summer but exploring opportunities to build their own facility in Stapleton in the future.

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Moving Forward

While the principal selection committee had hoped to have a new principal in place by early summer, they're pleased DPS is doing another round of interviews starting in July with the goal of hiring by mid-August before the start of the new school year. "Stapleton is an outstanding community made up of dedicated parents who envision great neighborhood schools," says Stapleton 3 PTA president Michelle Boley. "We're excited to move forward, and we believe a dynamic principal will be selected to lead Stapleton 3."

Eager to get the input of current and future Stapleton 3 parents regarding programming for the school and other topics, the SUN Education Committee and the Stapleton Foundation are planning meetings this summer that are open to neighborhood parents, starting with a meeting with DPS Instructional Superintendent Robert Woodson on Tuesday, July 27 at 6:30pm. Also joining in the effort are DPS school board members Mary Seawell and Nate Easley.

For more information or to enroll your child in the new Stapleton 3 school, please contact Norma Powers at DPS at 720.423.3326 or norma_powers@dpsk12.org. To stay up-to-date on Stapleton 3, please join the Stapleton 3 Parents Yahoo! Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stapleton3parents> or go to the SUN Web page at www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education.

Stapleton Moms Get Kudos for Early Groundbreaking

By Jon Meredith

No moms or parents of any kind were up at the podium speaking, but their efforts were certainly recognized by all of the speakers at the new E-8 school groundbreaking on June 8. The resounding message was that if it had not been for the grassroots efforts of Stapleton families, the dirt moving would have been years off. As the economy has faltered, the expansion of Stapleton has slowed. The pace of development is not where it needed to be to support bonds being issued for another elementary school. However, the demand for classroom space has already caused overcrowding at Westerly Creek and Bill Roberts schools.



Leslie Axvig and Nicole Rodarte (2nd and 3rd from left), members of the Stapleton 3 PTA board, along with DPS Chief Operating Officer David Suppes (far left), DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg (at right just behind plume of dirt), and DPS School Board members Nate Easley and Mary Seawell (in the middle) participated in the groundbreaking for the Stapleton 3 school at 35th and Syracuse on June 8.

Photos by Maria Keown

A well-organized grassroots effort led to a cooperative agreement by Forest City, Denver Public Schools and the Denver Urban Renewal Authority to provide financing to build the new school on the land donated by Forest City.

The school will open its doors in August of 2011. Names for the school are currently being considered and one will be chosen in August. The school will have a large playing field, a community garden and many outdoor learning environment amenities. There is a media center in the design that will double as a library and computer lab and serve as a performance center. There are plans to allow the greater community to use the media center. The building is currently being designed to

outperform today's energy code by 20 percent.

Sarah and Randy Eppers, who recently moved to the north Central Park area, came to the groundbreaking because their son will be in the first early education class at the new school and their unborn child will follow soon thereafter. They both were marveling at the renderings that show the facilities their children will have access to. They also joked that it will be the safest school in Denver with the regional FBI office across the street.

Nicole Rodarte and Leslie Axvid, Stapleton 3 PTA board members, came with kids and strollers to look over the new site. Both were excited about the Denver Public Schools' commitment to make diversity a major priority in the new facility.

The Bill Roberts school choir, along

with some stand-ins from Denver School of the Arts, opened the program in song. Tom Boasberg, DPS Superintendent, followed with a few opening remarks that outlined just how far this project had come in such a short time period. Nate Easley, president of the DPS Board; Michael Hancock, District 11 City Council Representative; John Lehigh, CEO Forest City Stapleton; Denise Burgess, chair of the Denver Urban Renewal Authority; and Mary Seawell, Stapleton resident and DPS Board member-at-large, all spoke summarizing the cooperative effort it took to get to this groundbreaking. Councilman Hancock perhaps best summed up the sentiment of all the speakers when he stated the project has been pushed because, "You do not say no to Mama if you want everyone to be happy."

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Summer Scholars Creates Confidence and Success

By Nancy Burkhardt

Children from a lower socioeconomic environment often find themselves academically challenged. Many of their parents aren't fluent in English and so are unable to help them.

This is where Summer Scholars comes in. The award-winning after-school, summer and family literacy programs are offered in 20 Denver Public Schools. The purpose is to aid elementary school students in their reading, math and/or English language levels, and to give them the confidence they need to be high achievers.

Summer Scholars board member and Stapleton resident Kyle Samuel, 40, grew up in the Stapleton housing projects in Globeville. He attended kindergarten at Garden Place Elementary and then moved to Wyman Elementary School.

"I was fortunate in the sense that I was considered gifted or had some academic talent," Samuel said. "There were a number of kids in the neighborhood whose parents were immigrants. They would have benefitted from the work that Summer Scholars does."

A Family Education Program in Summer Scholars uses adult English-language classes and parent-child interaction to improve reading skills.

"There are studies that exist that show that kids have problems in a lower socioeconomic environment," Samuel said. "They lose more from being in a lower reading comprehension bracket. I think that reading is fundamental to the success of any student, so when you look at the focus of Summer Scholars, getting kids' reading levels higher, they will excel in all subjects."

Summer Scholars offers a Summer Student Achievement program for six weeks in the summer. During that time, stu-



Kyle Samuel, who grew up in the Stapleton Projects, helps Olivia Mora and Johnnie Ford, 3rd graders at Park Hill Elementary School, with their reading exercises at a Summer Scholars class at the school.

dents receive three hours a day of reading intervention instruction. They participate in small-group activities that teach and reinforce reading skills. The object is to bring the students to their grade level in reading.

There also is an After School Student Achievement program at partner school sites during the school year. Children have tutors work with them in math or reading twice a week for two hours each session. Instruction is computer-based,

in small groups with teachers and in cognitive development activities designed to make students think.

"I think that by giving kids the ability to read at a higher level, it instills a higher level of confidence that they will be successful," Samuel said. "It improves your self-confidence and self-esteem when you feel you can read. It carries over into all other subjects. When you're being successful in school, it gives kids the ability to say 'no' to negative activity like gangs or drugs and all the other peer pressures that adolescents face."

Summer Scholars participants also are given the opportunity to improve their quality of life through the Summer Youth Enrichment program and the After School Youth Enrichment program.

The Summer Youth Enrichment program works with Denver Parks and Recreation to involve students in

arts and crafts, sports and mathematics, dance, music and swimming lessons. During the school year, the After School Youth Enrichment program at selected schools offers help with homework and fun activities such as field trips, ski trips and golf.

"From my own experience, when a kid is exposed to more of what the world has to offer, it provides a child from a disadvantaged background with greater motivation," Samuel said.

Summer Scholars works within selected Denver Public Schools. It needs funding to present the programs for elementary students.

The Colorado Childcare Contribution Credit applies to Summer Scholars donations. When a person contributes \$1,000 to Summer Scholars, he or she may claim a \$500 Colorado Childcare Donation Tax Credit on the state income tax return, decreasing the tax bill by \$500. Thus, the \$1,000 donation actually costs the donor only \$500. However, it provides Summer Scholars with the full \$1,000 benefit.

"My goal would be to have Summer Scholars expand so we could include more kids in the program," Samuel said. "If we are able to reach more kids within the DPS and pull up the collective achievement level of students, it would benefit society. For every kid who doesn't graduate from high school, it costs society \$200,000. In addition to targeting individual kids, we owe it to ourselves to help these kids and society at large by investing in these children."

"The impact that you have on a child by giving them tools for confidence will make them better off long-term. I think that's satisfying to any person," he said. "Any time you can expose kids to the other side of the tracks and give them the tools to be successful, that's just a huge boost."

For more information on Summer Scholars, visit www.summerscholars.org or call 303.355.0290. For information on the Colorado Childcare Contribution Tax Credit, visit www.colorado.gov and search for Child Care Contribution Credit.

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Mentoring Program Gives Students More Options

By Nancy Burkhart

Karen Thies-McWilliams is a 58-year-old Stapleton resident who has two sons: Eric, 22, who will be a senior at Metropolitan State College next fall; and Yancey, 16, who will be a junior at East High School. She has taught psychology at Community College of Denver for the past 19 years, and has 20 years' experience in social work. She enjoys gardening, walking and attending summer jazz concerts in her spare time.

It sounds like Thies-McWilliams has plenty to do with her days. However, she wanted to accomplish something in the community. So, last July when she read a Front Porch story on the A+ Angels Mentor Program at East High School, she thought she had found a place to realize her goal.

Now in its sixth year, the A+ Angels Mentor Program has more than 70 adult mentors who work with students in grades 9–12 who are struggling with grades, attendance and social activities at East High School.

The mentoring process begins with the adult filling out a form that asks questions about the applicant. A teacher recommends the mentee for the program. Then, commonalities bring together a pair to be mentor and mentee.

Thies-McWilliams was paired with 15-year-old Selena Murphy, who will be a sophomore next fall. Unlike most mentorships, Thies-McWilliams and Murphy already knew each other.

"When I got her information, her name sounded really familiar to me," Thies-McWilliams said. "We've attended some family gatherings with our mutual friend. I knew her mom and her grandmother. It was OK that we knew each other. I'd always been impressed with her as a young lady. I had an impression that she would do very well."

"My first impression with the program was that I would be matched with someone who was really struggling and had learning problems or truancy problems and lacked support in the family system," Thies-McWilliams said. "I knew Selena's mom was really supportive. It



Karen Thies-McWilliams (left) volunteers with the A+ Angels Mentoring Program. Thies-McWilliams was paired with 15-year-old Selena Murphy, who will be a sophomore at East High School next fall.

was a really positive experience for me this year. She and I are going to meet at least once a month next year. She knows she can call me if she needs anything."

Thies-McWilliams said her work with Selena has included such projects as editing one of her papers, helping with English literature and writing a résumé for her.

"The mentoring program did a whole support night for how to apply to college and apply for jobs," Thies-McWilliams said.

She set up a field trip for 15 of the mentees to tour Community College of Denver and sit in on one of her classes.

"A lot of the mentees think there are no options available for them," Thies-McWilliams said. "Community college is good for kids who think they don't have any options."

With Selena, Thies-McWilliams talks about techniques and strategies.

"In the beginning, she was very academic-oriented," Thies-McWilliams described Selena's personality. "She worked extra hard to do well in her classes. But she was studying all the time. Last year I saw

her after school and could feel her relaxing and socializing more often. I would like to think that not only was that an opportunity for her to make changes, but it happened because we discussed more options for her. Academics are important, but high school is for socializ-

ing too. I think she is much more rounded. At the end of the school year, she was happier and lighter, and she still maintained her grades."

Thies-McWilliams speaks very highly of the A+ Angels Mentor Program. The group has a manual for mentors. Speakers and other mentors provide training. There are monthly support groups and ideas and information are emailed to mentors monthly.

"I know that some of the mentors struggled because the mentees struggled," Thies-McWilliams said. "In the future, I would like for Selena to say to me that I was a good support system for her. I don't think I did anything uniquely different. But I think it's just knowing that you're coming that means something to the mentee, even if you feel like you aren't making a difference."

Mentors are asked to commit for at least one year. However, many mentors follow their mentees throughout their high school years and into college. The program says that research has proven that struggling students try harder in school when they have adult mentors.

For information or to apply for mentorship in the A+ Angels Mentor Program at East High School, contact Jessica Pearson at: jpear2071@msn.com.

Photo courtesy of A+ Angels Mentor Program

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One on One With Pablo Mastroeni

By Marko and John Babiak

Pablo Mastroeni holds the distinction of being the only Colorado resident and current Rapids player to be selected to two US World Cup soccer teams. He started playing soccer as a 5 year old with the Phoenix Sunnyslope Cubs. Twenty years later, he earned his first spot on the US National Team that played in the 2002 World Cup games in Japan and Korea.

In 2006, he joined the Yanks again in the Germany World Cup games. Recently Nature Ranger Marko veered off a familiar short grass prairie trail at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and made his way to the even more familiar green grass turf of Field 20, at the nearby Colorado Rapids stadium complex. There, he met with the Rapids team leader and had the privilege to interview him before



Rapids' Captain Pablo Mastroeni takes aim during a Rapids practice.

the US played Algeria in Game Three. They talked about his World Cup experiences and more. Following are some excerpts from that conversation:

Pablo, did you ever dream of playing on a World Cup team?

Yes, I did, after I saw the 1986 World Cup games in Mexico. Being from Argentina, my father and I watched every game. When Argentina won the Cup, I told my dad that when I grow up, I want play for the United States.

Tell me why you think you were selected to play on the 2002 and 2006 US World Cup teams.

I worked really hard and pushed the players in front of me. I was a fringe player and just came to practice every day, and wanted to get better. I believe that Coach Bruce Arena saw my hard work and valued a player like myself on his 23 player roster.

How did you learn that you were selected for the 2002-2006 teams?

I did not have a clue that I would make the 2002 team. Coach Arena called me and told

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The Rapids' Captain Talks World Cup Soccer

me that I made the team. He told me that I was selected because of my hard work and more importantly, that I could get along with the other players in the locker room. I fit that bill. In 2006, I earned my spot after four years of development with our National Team. I was pretty much a mainstay at the time. Coach Arena called me again and he said that he selected me to the 2006 team.

How did you celebrate?

I shared a nice dinner with my wife and we enjoyed a glass of wine!

How did you feel representing the US on the world stage?

One of my biggest dreams as a kid was to play in the World Cup. After all of the hard work of playing soccer in elementary and high school, college, and even professional soccer, I reached my dream. The moment that the national anthem plays you realize that you are at the World Cup representing not only your Club, but your family and the country that supported you along the way; it is truly one of the greatest feelings that one could have.

Share a special memory of playing in a World Cup game.

It was in 2002, two days before our first match against Portugal. I was not selected to play on the first team and I learned that Claudio Reyna went down with an injury. The night before the game, Coach Arena called me his room. He told me that I was going to be in the first 11 line up. Portugal was heavily favored, ranked 4th in the world and we were ranked a lowly 25- 26 in the world. Somehow we put together a magical performance and beat the big bad Portuguese. That win set our momentous run in motion and we went all the way into the quarter finals. That was my greatest moment.

Is it hard for a World Cup team to gel because the players come from so many different teams?

Yes it is. It is really hard for the players to gel, especially those that play the biggest clubs in the world. You have a lot big egos involved. They all want the ball and everyone wants to score. With their Club teams they are always scoring and

have the ball. But when you are on the national team, you realize that you are playing along side 22 players that are just as good as you are. Just as it is important to have great players on a World Cup team, it is as important to have a cohesive unit that gels at the right times. You have to make sure that the goal for the team is not individual accolades. You have to find ways get far into the tourney and do it as a team.

How does the head coach bring the team together?

I think that it is a process. The coach goes through a long arduous elimination process that starts with the qualifier games. It takes a lot of travel, mixing and matching players, seeing which personalities work together, which ones don't. Sometimes you have to give up some talent to make sure that you have cohesiveness in the team. Teams like Brazil and Argentina have not only had great players on their squads, but also have had great team chemistry. I think that is the most important factor in the World Cup.

Which team are you cheering for this year?

My number one team is the US. I am cheering that they go far. After that, I like the way that Argentina, the Netherlands and Brazil play. They play the prettiest soccer.

Which player are you especially looking forward to watch?

The obvious one is for me is Argentina's Lionel Messi. I think that he is a player that can change the game at any minute. Everyone holds their breath when he gets the ball and waits to see what he will do next. He is the most exciting player in the Cup and the one that I enjoy watching.

Why is the US having trouble in their start?

That is a good question. I think that there are a lot of expectations for the U.S. Team this year. To be honest, the U.S. as a country and as a team in these events has always enjoyed the position of being the underdog. Psychologically, when you become one of the favorites in the group you are playing from a different perspective and are expected to come out, make the game, and hold off your opponents. I think we feel more comfortable playing a team like England, and even if we are down a goal, the American spirit overrides our bad play, and we find a way to get back into the game. Once we give up an early goal we become the underdog and become comfortable. Once we accept the role of a favorite in these tournaments or in group play, that is when we will really achieve the kind of goals that we want. We have a great team and I believe we will find ourselves deep in the Cup.

Marko Babiak (9) is a Stapleton resident. He plays soccer for the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club. He also trains in the Colorado Rapids Center of Excellence. Not surprisingly, he dreams of playing on a future US World Cup Team too. John Babiak, his father, is his biggest fan. They can be reached at NatureRangerJohn@aol.com.



Pablo Mastroeni greets Marko before the interview.

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Stapleton Front Porch 13 July 2010

Tune Up Your Bike or Buy a New One at The Bike Depot



Alex Molick, volunteer mechanic at The Bike Depot, helps Congress Park residents Hugh Hamilton and his son Whitman, 9, tune up their tandem bike. Expert mechanics are available at no charge for walk-in help from 4 to 7pm on Wednesdays and from 11am to 5pm on Saturdays.



Chandler Snyder, Operations Manager, and Laurie Hanselman, Program Manager of The Bike Depot, show new and used bikes of all sizes for children and adults and baby/toddler trailers that the store now carries.

By Nancy Burkhardt

If your bike has taken on a noticeable limp, if it needs a part replacement, or if it just needs a tune-up to get it back in riding condition, then check out The Bike Depot at 2825 Fairfax St.

The Bike Depot is a nonprofit organization that was established four years ago to get people started riding bicycles to get into shape and improve their health.

Still operating on that premise, people can go to The Bike Depot and fix their own bikes for free, using the bike shop's tools. If replacement parts are needed, The Bike Depot sells them.

"We have volunteers, several that are certified mechanics, along with the shop manager, Chandler Snyder," said Mitch Plum, marketing chair of The Bike Depot's executive board.

"Another option is that you can sign in at the shop and someone would work with you on the bike. So, people are working on their own bikes under supervision," he said. "We do repairs on bikes for a fee. We also do tune-ups.

"We have expanded what we're doing into a more neighborhood bike shop," Plum said. "That's how we'd like to be seen by our neighbors in Park Hill and Stapleton. We're starting to do more of the service and retail efforts to support the non-profit mission. We refurbish used bicycles for resale. Recycling is one of the important things people should be aware of."

Bicycle mechanics classes also are offered.

Besides the Fix-a-Bike Program, The Bike Depot also has an Earn-a-Bike Program for people who may not be able to afford to get a bicycle otherwise.

"You earn a bike by volunteering or doing community service," Plum explained. "With kids, we make sure they get some bicycle education, some training. They have to want a bike badly enough to expect to do something in return."

People are asked to donate bicycles that will be refurbished and given away in the Earn-a-Bike Program.

"We take any bike," Plum said. "We don't care what condition bikes are in. Bring them in during open hours. We will refurbish them for resale to support the program. They also



Denver City Council members Michael Hancock and Carla Madison, whose districts make up most of northeast Denver, start the inaugural ride on the bike lanes recently installed on Martin Luther King Boulevard. Hancock and Madison were among the dignitaries who attended a ceremony on the Green in the Stapleton Town Center to celebrate the opening of the bike lanes.

support the Earn-a-Bike Program. We recycle parts for people who can use the parts. If the bike or its parts aren't usable, we recycle the metal. We're pretty green. And, we're tax-deductible.

"We have a full-service bike shop for all people's biking needs," he added. "We sell new bikes and can order what anyone wants. We also have bike carriers for kids. We do retail parts, too. We can advise on the kind of bike you might want to fill your needs. Our staff's very knowledgeable."

"Volunteers have all kinds of opportunities—in the shop to turn wrenches or to do outreach events like the People's Fair and the MLK Ride," Plum said. "Other events are coming up. We also have committees to serve on."

The Bike Depot is open for retail from noon to 7pm on Tuesday and Thursday and from 11am to 5pm on Saturday. The Fix-a-Bike Program is open from 4-7pm Wednesday and from 11am to 5pm on Saturday.

For information about The Bike Depot, go to www.thebikedepot.org or call 303.393.1963. Potential volunteers can go to this website or to www.myvolunteerpage.com. Go to the area for volunteering in Denver and The Bike Depot will come up.

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Free and open to the public concerts are held on the Green periodically through the summer. Shown above is Wendy Woo. Check the calendar on page 2 for upcoming concerts.

Northfield Main Street Summerfest, Every Friday in July & Aug 4–8pm, Free Family Entertainment

In addition to the Friday night Main Street SummerFest events for parents and children listed below, Northfield will feature a variety of exhibitors including those that specialize in handcrafted gourmet foods, local artisans, and more.*
 Jul 2 – Radio Disney Street Team/4th of July Kids Crafts & Double Trouble Obstacle Course (Air-Bounce for kids)

- Jul 9 – Kids Craft & Finding Nemo Bounce (Air-Bounce for kids)
 - Jul 16 – Rekha Ohal Duo (Jazz / Pop) & Tiger Belly Bounce (Air-Bounce for kids)
 - Jul 23 – Arts & Crafts for Children & Krazy Clown Bounce House
 - Jul 30 – Steve Manshel Duo (Rock) & Broncos NFL Bounce (Air-Bounce for kids)
- *Events subject to change



The Cabral family, Rhiannon, 15, Willow, 9, Dad, Osvaldo and Maya, 13, watch the evening sunset light up a giant thunderhead as they await the Michael Jackson movie on the Green. See p.2 for upcoming movies.

Stapleton July 4th Activities

The Annual Pancake Breakfast and Parade at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park. Tickets for the pancake breakfast, which will begin at 9am, will be \$5/adults and \$3/children. Decorate your bicycles, tri-cycles, wagons or scooters for the free parade that will begin at 10:30am. Following the parade, the pools will open as scheduled. All pools will close at 6pm. Music and water activities are planned throughout the day. Please check the website www.stapleton-community.com for all the details of the day.

Crumbs Bakery, Dardano’s School of Gymnastics, Deluxe Burger, Realtor Dee Ciancio, Edward Jones on Kearney St., Grape Expectations, Mezcal Restaurant, Mod Livin’, Oblio’s Pizzeria, Park Hill Pooch, Spinelli’s Market, ThinkBig Solutions and Made of Design. Volunteers are needed for the day of the parade. Email parkhillparade@gmail.com or call 303.918.6517 to be a volunteer. The event is being planned by a group of Park Hill neighbors and residents. Justin Bresler, a Park Hill resident for more than 10 years, initiated the event.

Park Hill 4th of July Parade

Park Hill’s newest celebration, the Park Hill 4th of July Parade, will run down 23rd St. from Dexter to Kearney, starting at 2:30pm on Sunday the 4th. Information on the parade can be found at the event website: www.parkhillparade.org. The parade will feature dozens of marchers, bikers, families and school groups. The parade organizers are also encouraging neighborhood residents to decorate their bikes and strollers for a grand march down the street at the end of the parade and keep the event going with a planned celebration on Kearney St. between 22nd and 23rd. The parade also has the support of many businesses in the area including: Adagio Bakery, the Park Hill Bike Depot, Cake

Free Walking Tours of the Denver Union Station Project, Jul. 15, Aug. 18, Sep. 16

The Denver Union Station Project Authority (DUSPA), Regional Transportation District (RTD) and Union Station Neighborhood Company (USNC) will be conducting free walking tours of the Denver Union Station redevelopment site this summer. The tours will be held at 4:30pm on the third Thursday of the month—July 15, August 18 and September 16. The one-hour tour will depart from the main entrance of the historic station on Wynkoop Street. The walking tour will include information on the storied history of Union Station from the late 1800s to the present day including early station buildings and famous travelers

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Garrett Eisenman, 3 1/2, takes a bite of sausage at the Rotary Club's annual breakfast fundraiser on the first day of the 2010 Stapleton Farmer's Market, held every Sunday from 8:30am - 12:30pm.



The Sweet William Market is held on the Green the last Saturday of the month from May through September from 9am until 2pm.

who visited Denver by train. Visitors will also learn about the new Union Station Neighborhood and its transformation of downtown, get an update on the expansion of RTD's transit services coming to the area, and witness firsthand the construction of the largest transportation redevelopment project in North America.

Participation is limited to 25 people per tour. To reserve your spot, call 303.592.5462.

Stapleton Community Garage Sale, July 17

The Fifth Annual Stapleton Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, July 17, from 8am to 1pm. A map of garage sale locations will be posted on the website. To be included on the map, register by July 10 by emailing GarageSale@BuildingStapleton.com and include: 1) contact name, phone number and email address (for use in communicating only and will not be shared); 2) street address; 3) Where you will have your sale (alley or front); and 4) the two or three main things you will have for sale, e.g., "furniture and lawn equipment," "baby clothes, toys, and computers." Limit description to 10 words or less. For more info, see the FAQ page on the Garage Sale website (www.BuildingStapleton.com/garagesale) or email GarageSale@BuildingStapleton.com.

The Denver Children's Advocacy Center

(DCAC) will have a donation truck in Stapleton to collect unsold items (no appliances or mattresses) for donation. Collections will be at the CTEK Building (MLK Blvd, just west of fire station) on Saturday, July 17 from 12-3pm. DCAC is a 24-hour free trauma service to child victims of violent crimes and abuse. For more info on DCAC, go to <http://www.denvercac.org/>.

Have "A Mighty Kid Time" at 15th Annual KidSpree July 17 & 18

The city of Aurora's KidSpree festival will be held from 10am to 5pm July 17 and 18 at the 35-acre Bicentennial Park, 13655 E. Alameda Ave. KidSpree, Colorado's largest outdoor festival just for kids, features more than 50 hands-on activities and entertainers, and admission is free. The theme for the 15th annual event is "A Mighty Kid Time," and many of the activities relate to discovering the superhero in all of us. In addition to the numerous art activities, inflatable rides, giant maze, giant sandbox, Tot Town and life-size board games, this year's festival will feature parkour demonstrations and workshops, party hat decorating, performances by the nationally acclaimed children's entertainment duo Dana & Rowdy, and much more. Parking is free at the Town Center at Aurora's southwest parking lot, with a free shuttle transporting visitors to the park located at

East Alameda Ave. and Potomac St., just west of Interstate 225. For more info, call 303.326.8FUN or visit auroragov.org/kidspree.

KidSpree is produced by the city of Aurora's Cultural Services Division, and sponsored by the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, The Children's Hospital, Your Neighborhood Toyota, State Farm, Rural/Metro Ambulance, Old Chicago, MomsLikeMe.com, Radio Disney AM 1690, ColoradoKids.com, 92.5 The Wolf, Mix 100 and The Aurora Sentinel.

Throughout July—Biennial Events to Celebrate Latin American Art & Culture

Latin American art and culture will be offered at the "Biennial of the Americas" to be held in the McNichols Building in Civic Center Park, 144 W. Colfax Ave., during the entire month of July. Works by Latin American artists will be displayed and Latin American musicians will have performances. Exhibits also will be at the Denver Botanic (continued on page 18)

Hey, RTD Riders, who's your new little travel buddy?

The name's eGo CarShare. And it's a name worth remembering. Because thanks to this membership service, Stapleton's many RTD riders and other green-thinking residents are now eligible to borrow a sleek, fuel-efficient hybrid as affordable back-up transportation.

(Consider it good "carma" for being eco-conscious!)

Find out how to qualify for an eGo CarShare membership today:
www.carshare.org

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Registration Deadline is July 23, 2010!

Season will run August 23, 2010 through October 10, 2010

Go online to register at www.DenverYMCA.org or call Schlessman Family YMCA at 720-524-2750

RECURRING
EVENTS

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

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

Every Tuesday
AA Open Discussion Mtg. 7:30pm MCA
Community Room, 2823 Roslyn Street
303-912-7075

1st Tuesday
Breast Cancer Support Group
5-6:30pm AFWilliams 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
www.StapletonLife.com

2nd Wed. (Odd-numbered mos.)
SUN Transportation Committee 6:30pm
MCA 2823 Roslyn St.
stapletonneighbors@msn.com

3rd Thursday
Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board Mtg,
7350 E. 29th Ave.
7:30-9am 303-393-7700

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

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

2nd Sunday
Collaborative Kite Fly & Walk, (free) Staple-
ton Central Park,
2:30-5pm. Please RSVP at
Meetup.com/RockyMtnKite
or Meetup.com/TTWalks

Periodically
Stapleton Wine
Appreciation Group
e-mail meighanm@aim.com

Summer Events (continued)

6th Annual Dist. 11
Unity Event &
Community Picnic,
Saturday, July 24

City Councilman Michael Hancock and the Foundation for the Next Frontier present the 6th annual District 11 Unity Event & Community Picnic, Saturday, July 24, 4-8pm, at Central Park in Stapleton. The public is invited to this event, which offers free food and entertainment. The picnic is Councilman Hancock’s way of saying thank you to the residents of District 11, which includes Stapleton, North Park Hill, Green Valley Ranch, Montbello and Parkfield. The event is sponsored by Advance America cash advance, US Bank, Barclays, S.A. Miro, Inc, Denver Fire Dept., Denver Police Dept., and Denver Sheriff’s Dept.

Biennial of the Americas

(continued from page17) Gardens and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

As part of the month-long celebration, The Americas Roundtable series will take place on July 6, 7, 8, 12 and 28 at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House in the Denver Performing Arts Complex. The series will offer sessions on trade, education, energy and climate change, philanthropy, poverty reduction, health and women in leadership, as well as a Summit of Former Heads of State and a Bilateral Summit of Ambassadors. Participants will include: U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, along with 14 former heads of state including Peru’s President Alejandro Toledo and Mexico’s President Vicente Fox.

More information is available at www.BiennialoftheAmericas.org. Tickets are available at www.TicketHorse.com.



Free “Summerfest” activities are held every Friday from 4-8pm on Main Street at NorthField. One of the booths in a recent Friday night street fair showed off locally-raised alpacas.

Orchestra to Perform in Central Park, July 18

The Colorado Symphony orchestra will give a free performance of the following music in Stapleton’s Central Park at 7:30pm on July 18.

Glinka	Overture to Russlan and Ludmilla
Berlioz	Roman Carnival Overture
Liszt	Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2
Bartók	Rumanian Folk Dances
Brahms	Hungarian Dances
Smetana	“The Moldau” from Ma Vlast (My Country)
Dvorák	Symphony No. 8, Mvt IV: Allegro ma non troppo

Stapleton’s First Beer Festival



Stapleton’s first Beer Festival, featuring local microbreweries, was held in the Green on June 26. An estimated 750-1000 people participated in the beer sampling, and the total crowd was estimated to be over 1,200 people. Deja Blu and Wendy Woo provided live music for the event.

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 2576 Syracuse \$255,000	SOLD! 2351 Federal #103 Highlands	New Price! 1326 Columbine #1 \$289,900

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Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge New Programs and Hours Starting July 2010

By Melissa Van Dreesse, Education Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Summer is in full-swing, and what better way to spend it than outdoors at the Refuge enjoying some of the new programs being offered?

Along with new programs, one of the biggest changes for summer 2010 is that the Refuge will now be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day of the week except Monday.

"The Refuge is a living outdoor discovery lab, and we've been hard at work developing new nature programs for families, which we're excited to debut. With our expanded hours, the Refuge is the place to be this summer," said Visitor Services Manager Sherry James.

As part of the Refuge's program expansion this summer, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service combined programs that immediately follow the wildlife tours. One example is a special Ranger Read-A-Long program that will be held after a wildlife tour one Sunday each month. Families with youngsters can gather with a Park Ranger under a big shade tree and hear stories about animals that live on the Refuge.

All programs are free at the Refuge but may require reservations. So, schedule your Wild Ride on Sundays July 25, Aug. 8 and Sept. 12 and stay after for a short story time. Be sure to bring a sack lunch or a snack and water to enjoy during Ranger Read-A-Long.

To stay up-to-date with happenings at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, please visit and become a fan of our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RMANationalWildlifeRefuge.

To get to the Refuge, take I-70 and exit north on Havana St. The public entrance to the Refuge is at 56th and Havana. For more information or to make reservations, call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 303-289-0930 or visit online at <http://www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/>.



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DENVER AREA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

7/3 Saturday- Civic Center SOUNDS: Independence Eve. 8:30pm. FREE community concert featuring patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony Orchestra, with light show and fireworks. Denver Civic Center Park. www.coloradosymphony.org

7/3 Saturday- Fireworks. Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Fillmore Plaza. www.cherryarts.org

7/3 Saturday and 7/4 Sunday- Fireworks. Coors Field after the Rockies games. www.rockies.mlb.com

7/4 Sunday- City of Aurora's 9th Annual Independence Day Celebration. 6pm, Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E Alameda Pkwy. www.auroragov.org or 303.739.7756

7/4 Sunday- Olde Town Arvada Spirit of America 4th of July Festival. FREE family-friendly events, classic car show, fireworks display at dusk. www.arvadafestivals.com

7/4 Sunday- Old-fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Four Mile Park. www.fourmilepark.org

7/4 Sunday- Blues Traveler. Red Rocks Amphitheatre. 7:30pm. www.tickethorse.com

7/4 Sunday- Fireworks. Dick's Sporting Goods Park. After Rapids game. www.coloradorapids.com

7/5 Monday- Symphony on the Rocks. 7:30pm. Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Celebrating patriotic favorites from Copland, Sousa, more. FREE. www.redrocksonline.com

CONCERTS

7/10 Saturday- 4th Annual Blues and Brews. A cure for summertime blues. \$5. 12-10pm, 1200 block Old South Pearl in Denver. www.swallowhillmusic.org

7/14 Wednesday- Carole King and James Taylor. Pepsi Center, 7:30pm. www.tickethorse.com

7/15 Thursday- Paul McCartney. Pepsi Center, 7:30pm. www.tickethorse.com

7/23 Friday to 7/25 Sunday- Evergreen Jazz Festival. Tickets: www.evergreenjazz.org

8/14-15- Mile High Music Festival at Dicks Sporting Goods Park. www.milehighmusicfestival.com for info; tickets: www.tickethorse.com

Thursdays in July- Confluence Park Concerts. 6:30-8pm. 15th and Little Raven in LoDo. www.greenwayfoundation.org or 303.358.6696 for info. FREE.

Wednesdays through August 25- 6:30pm. Shady Grove Picnic Concert Series at Four Mile Park. www.swallowhillmusic.org for concert info/ticketing.

Denver Botanic Gardens Summer Concert Series. Various dates, prices. Tickets still available. www.concerts.botanicgardens.org

Live Music at Soiled Dove- A Denver best live music venue, July's 13+ artists include Paula Cole on 7/17 and Spyro Gyra on 7/30. 7401 E 1st Ave in Lowry. Tickets/show info: www.soiled dove.com

DENVER EVENTS

7/1 Thursday to Sunday 7/31- Denver Biennial of the Americas. Various venues throughout Denver. Celebrate art, culture, ideas from 35 Western Hemisphere countries at one of biggest Denver cultural happenings ever. www.biennialoftheamericas.org for schedules/locations.

7/2 Friday- First Friday Art Walk, Santa Fe Arts District. www.artdistrictonsantafe.com

7/2 Friday to 7/31- Art Exhibition: Rob Williams and Siri Hollander. Opening/artists present Thurs. 7/8, 5-8:30pm. FREE. Translations Gallery, 1743 Wazee St. www.translationsgallery.com, 303.629.0713

7/3 Saturday to 7/5 Monday- Cherry Creek Arts Festival. Cherry Creek North, www.cherryarts.org

7/4 Sunday to 7/9 Friday- National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Various venues/times; largest such event in world; spectators needed! Venues/times: www.wheelchairgames.va.gov

7/9 Friday to Sunday 7/11- Denver Black Arts Festival. Denver City Park. Parade 7/10, 11am. www.denbaf.org

7/10 Saturday- Drums Along the Rockies. Invesco Field Mile High. Colorado's premier marching music event. Gates open 5:30; show 7pm. Tickets available day of show; box office open at noon. www.dar.bknights.org

7/11 Sunday- Denver Civic Center Walking Tour. 11am. Explore Denver Civic Center public art and architecture. Meet at Sea Lions Fountain, north end Civic Center Park. FREE. www.denvergov.org/publicart or 720.865.4313

7/12 and 7/26- Monday Movie Madness. Infinity Park, Glendale. Gates open 7pm; movies at 8pm. Shows/info: www.infinityparkatglendale.com

7/24 Saturday and 7/25 Sunday- Denver Dragon Boat Festival. 10th annual at Sloan's Lake Park, 25th and Sheridan, NW Denver. 10-6 Sat, 10-5 Sun. www.cdbf.org

Adopt a Sophisticated Cat- Denver Dumb Friends League FREE adoptions of cats 6 years+. www.ddfl.org or 303.771.5772

(continued on page 20)

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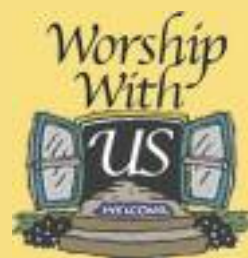
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DENVER EVENTS *(continued from page 19)*

Blockbuster Movies in the Park- Hosted by Denver Parks and Rec; G, PG and PG-13. Movies start at sunset, free popcorn, cotton candy, snowcones. www.denvergov.org/parksandrec for addresses, complete movie listings

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

7/10 and 7/24- Shabbat Meditation at Temple Emanuel- 9:30–10:15am. No previous meditation experience necessary; all welcome. FREE. 51 Grape St. 303.388.4013 ext. 325 or sigman@EmanuelDenver.org

7/21 Wednesday- Bonfils Blood Center's Because Life Happens. Discover steps needed to transform your donation into life-saving products for patients. 4–5pm, 717 Yosemite St. RSVP: foundation@bonfils.org or 303.739.4000

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

Active Minds – Info on all sessions, www.ActiveMindsForLife.com. FREE.

7/6 Tuesday- Tibet. 10am, Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. RSVP: Lil Shaw, 303.316.6359

7/12 Monday- King Tut. 2:30–3:30pm. Springbrooke, 6800 Leetsdale Dr. RSVP 303.331.9963.

7/13 Tuesday- South Africa: Journey from Apartheid. 12:30–1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax.

7/20 Tuesday- The Pine Beetle Infestation. 11am–noon; refreshments 10:45am. Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St.

7/27 Tuesday- Paris: Biography of a City. 5:30–6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax.

7/3 Tuesday- Native Americans of Colorado. 10am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. RSVP: Lil Shaw, 303.316.6359.

WALKING CONVERSATIONS

FREE urban park Walking Conversation events. RSVP: Meetup.com/TTWalks, Fran Rew: 303.321.1064 or events calendar at info@TopicTalkWalks.com.

7/18 Sunday- Denver City Park Monthly Walk and Museum "Health Expedition" Visit plus Jazz Concert with Potluck Picnic. Walk 3–4pm around Ferril Lake; start at Grizzly Bear Statue on NW corner of DMNS. Museum 4–5pm (5 free passes first-come, first-served). Jazz & picnic 6–8pm.

7/28 Wednesday- Denver City Park Monthly Walk and Planetarium Visit. Walk 6–7pm with tree tour host. Planetarium, 7–8:30pm. FREE *60 Minutes in Space* presentation in DMNS planetarium.

LIBRARIES

For info on programs, check events calendar at denverlibrary.org, including **Denver Public Library's Summer of Reading Program**

Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. Closed Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays. Registration required for some programs, 720.865.0250.

Thursdays- Storytime with a Craft. For children who can sit and listen to short stories, participate in songs and a simple craft. 10:30am. Craft limited to first 30 children.

Thursdays and Fridays- Book Babies. For babies 6–23 months with parent/caregiver. Share books, songs, finger plays. 11:15am.

Fridays- Tales for Twos. Storytime for 2-year-olds and caregivers. Stories, song, movement activities. 10:30am.

7/8 Thursday- Kids Craft: "Flower Pot Whale." 3:30pm. Registration required. .

7/10 Saturday- "Up In the Air" with juggler/dancer/actor/poet Peter Davison. 10:30am. All ages.

7/15 Thursday- Kids Craft: "Puffer Fish." 3:30pm. Registration required,

7/17 Saturday- Merry Andrew Afoot presents "Stone Soup." All ages.

7/9 Friday- Teen Craft: "Surfer Decals." 3:30pm. Registration required.

7/9 Friday- "Dance Dance Revolution." 3:30pm. Teens.

7/16 Friday- Teen Book Swap and Pizza Party. 3:30pm.

Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St (1st and Quebec). Closed Tuesdays and Fridays. Registration required for some programs, 720.865.0000

Thursdays- All Ages Storytime. Stories and songs. 10:30–11am.

Thursdays- Book Babies. Stories/songs/games for kids birth to 24 months and caregivers. 3–3:20pm.

7/6 Tuesday- Teen Book Swap. 3:30–4:30pm.

7/7 and 7/28 Wednesdays- Children's Banana Splits Book Club. For kids Grades 3–4. Registration required. 6–7pm

7/8 Thursday- Top Hogs Starring Mudslinger and Digger. 10:30am.

7/12 Monday- Stuffed Octopus Craft. 3:30–4:30pm.

7/15 Thursday- Kids Craft. "Fly Catching Frog." 10:30am and 11am.

7/15-Thursday- Pick a Preschool. Learn preschool options in your neighborhood. 3–4pm.

7/18 Sunday- Latitudes Book Club. 3pm.

7/18 Sunday- Guitar Hero Tournament. 2–4pm. Registration required.

7/22 Thursday- Make a Splash with Mr. Shine. Featuring songs/puppets/magic. 10:30am

7/26 Monday- Iron Chef Culinary Challenge. 3:30–4:30pm. Registration required.

7/29 Thursday- Kids Craft. "Puffer Fish." 10:30am and 11am.

7/29-Thursday- Thrifty Baby. 3–4pm. Bring gently used books/toys/clothing to swap.

8/2 Monday- "Books n Bites" Book Club. 2:30–4:30pm. For teens grades 6–8. Registration required.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

7/2 Friday- Tales from the Jungle. Weekly storytime at JCC with professional storytellers/entertainers for kids 1–5. 10:30am. FREE. RSVP: 303.316.6336. www.jccdenver.org. 350 S Dahlia St. Repeats 7/9, 7/16, 7/23 and 7/30.

7/7 Wednesday- Busy Beaver. Wild about Denver Nature Series. 6pm. Westerly Creek Park. Meet at picnic area Beeler and MLK. Register at 303.455.1623; space limited. www.denvergov.org/wildlife. FREE.

The Art Garage in Park Hill registering for summer classes beginning 7/12; ages 4 and up. www.artgaragedenver.com

7/14 Wednesday- "Create Playdates" at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3–5 invited to roar/bang/stomp 2nd Wed. every month, 11am. Drop in, meet other tots for art making, stories, scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm.; 5 and under free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. 720.865.5000, www.denverart-museum.org

7/17 Saturday and 7/18 Sunday- Aurora Kidspree. Colorado's largest outdoor kids festival with more than 60 things to do. Bicentennial Park, 13655 E

Alameda Ave, Aurora 80012. 303.3268FUN for info.

Saturdays and Sundays in July- Story Time in the Gardens. 10–11am. Garden and plant-related kids' stories. Denver Botanic Gardens. FREE with admission. 1007 York St.

Weekends, through August- Colorado Renaissance Festival. Step back to 1500s at this popular summer festival. Larkspur. www.coloradorenaissance.com

Through 7/23, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, International Summer Dance Institute. Weeklong dance classes for ages 5 to adult, all abilities, interests. 303.295.1759, ext. 10., www.cleoparkerdance.org for registration form

Through 9/12- Super Sand Dome Summer Experience. Denver Children's Museum. Play inside huge, colorful inflatable dome filled with wet sand piles. Daily 11am–3pm; Wednesdays 11am–7pm. Free with museum admission. 2121 Children's Museum Dr. (I-25 and 20th St.) 303.433.7444, www.mychildsmuseum.org

8/4 Wednesday- The Wiggles Wiggly Circus. 6:30pm. Tickets \$10–\$75. Wells Fargo Theatre at Colorado Convention Center. 700 14th St, downtown Denver. www.ticketmaster.com

MUSEUMS

Denver Art Museum

Through 1/21/11- Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs. 13th at Broadway and Bannock. Tickets: Ticketmaster or Tickethorse, \$16.50 up. www.tutdenver.com

Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Montview and Colorado Blvd. www.dmns.org

Planetarium- Journey to the Stars. Narrated by Whoopi Goldberg; tickets \$6/ages 3–18, \$8/adult

IMAX: Hubble. Amazing journey of Hubble Space Telescope, greatest space success since moon landing. Leonardo DiCaprio narrates. Tickets \$6/ages 3–18, \$8/adult.

IMAX: Arabia. Experience culture/history/religion of this unfamiliar world region. Various times; tickets \$6/ages 3–18, \$8/adult.

Through 7/18- BODY WORLDS & The Story of the Heart. Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Tickets \$8–\$12/member; \$13–\$25.50/nonmember.

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

Main Street SummerFest at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton Every Friday in July, 4–8pm. Features



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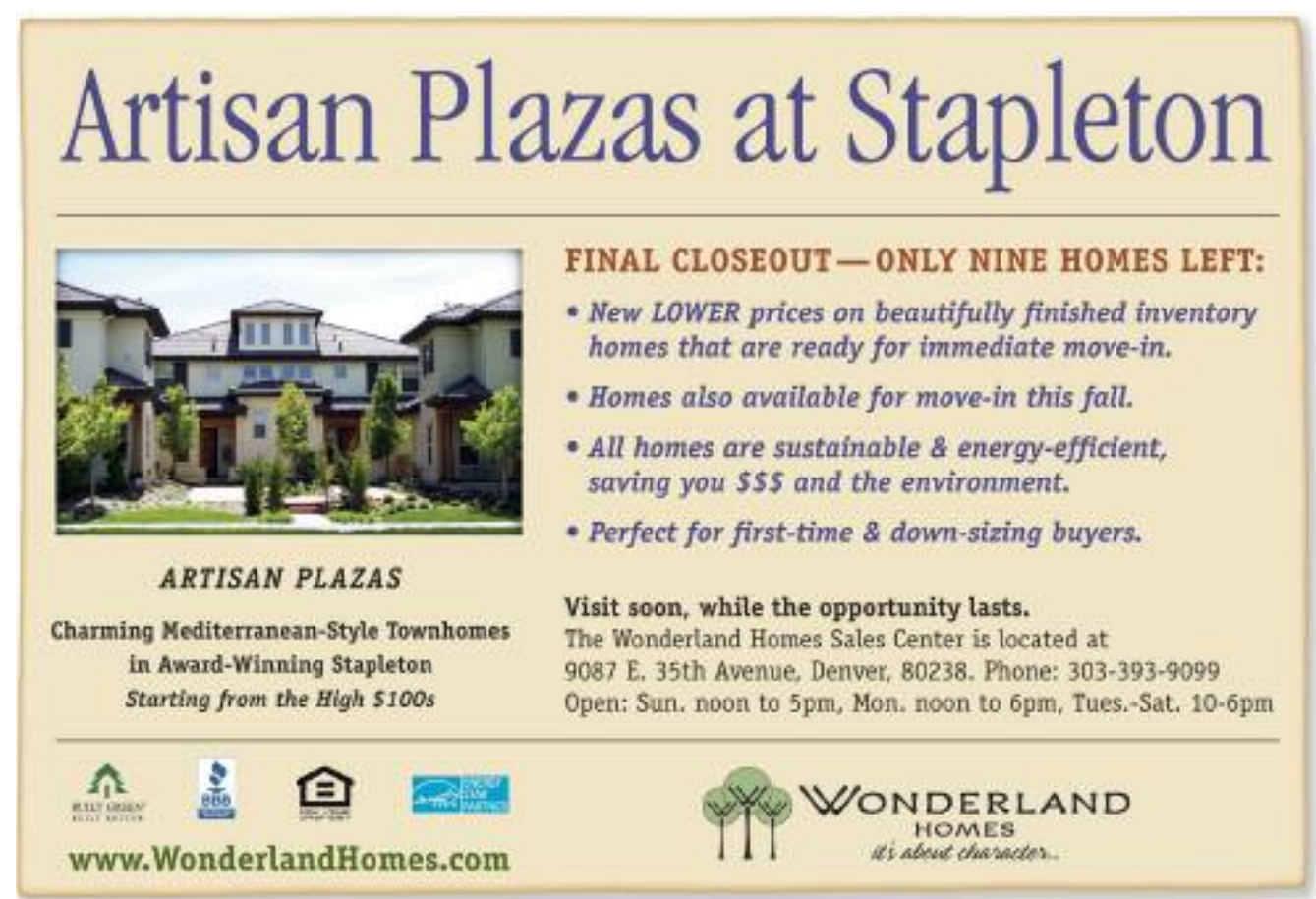


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Harkins Theatres 18 Events-
720.374.3118, www.HarkinsTheatres.com

7/2 Friday- New Release: *The Last Airbender*
7/9 Friday- New Release: *Despicable Me*
7/16 Friday- New Release: *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*
7/23 Friday- New Release: *Ramona and Beezus*
7/30 Friday- New Release: *Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore*

Bass Pro Events- 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

7/1 Thursday- Fishing for Walleyes (Every Thurs. in July)
7/1 Thursday- Learning to Use GPS (Every Thurs. in July)
7/2 Friday- Beginning Archery (Every Fri. in July)
7/3 Saturday- Introduction to Fly Fishing (Every Sat. in July)
7/7 Wednesday- Bass Fishing Workshop (Every Wed. in July)
7/7 Wednesday- How to Use Fish Finders and What's New! (Every Wed. in July)
7/10 Saturday- Basic Pistol Handgun Safety seminar

7/13 Sunday- Get Hooked on Fly Tying for Beginners

Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre-
Tickets: 303.307.1777. www.ImprovDenver.com

The Twisted Olive- 303.373.8100, www.TwistedOlive.com for details. Weekly live entertainment.

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7/4 Sunday- Wild Walk 5K and 1K. 9am–noon. Trails accessible with fine gravel surface. Strollers welcome.
7/6 Tuesday- Tuesday Tots: Fish-ology. 10–11am.
7/8 Thursday- Home on the Range. 1–3pm. Explore world of American bison.
7/10 Saturday- Guided Refuge Hike. 8–10am.
7/11 Sunday- Bike the Refuge. 8–10am.
7/15 Thursday- Guided Refuge Hike. 8–10am.

7/17 Saturday- Women's Fishing Clinic. 8–11am.
7/17 Saturday- Fly Fishing in Denver. Kerry Caraghar, Orvis Fly Fishing Manager shares his knowledge. 7–8pm. Adults
7/18 Sunday- Sunrise Nature Photography Tour. 6–9am.
7/22 Thursday- Guided Birding Hike. 8–11am. Bring binoculars and cameras.
7/23 Friday- Bike the Refuge. 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.
7/24 Saturday- Guided Moonlite Stroll. 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
7/25 Sunday- Ranger Read-a-Long. Storytime under great elm tree. 11:30am–noon.
7/27 Tuesday- Tuesday Tots: Fish-ology. 10–11am.
7/30 Friday- Sunset Nature Photography Tour. 5:30–8:30pm.

SPORTS & FITNESS

Adult co-ed recreational soccer group forming. Men/women to play once/twice a week early evenings to have fun and stay in shape; not for overly competitive players. Wayne at charlespatrick08@yahoo.com
Tuesdays through 8/11-Annual Sunrise Tai Chi in the Parks. City Park, Denver (W side of museum) 7–8am. Tai Chi Project & TCM College of Sports Medicine. 303.744.7676, www.taichidenver.com. Sponsored by Denver Parks & Rec. FREE
Starting 7/7 and 7/12- Beginning Yoga Cass
Tuesdays 5:30–6:30pm or Mat Pilates Mondays 5:30-6:30pm. FREE. UC Hospital Stapleton Physical

**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 FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com.

Therapy, 3055 Roslyn St #110. Preregistration required: 720.848.9010. Subsequent classes \$40 for 4 classes.
Weeks of 7/12, 7/19, 7/26 and 8/2, Stapleton All Sports: Summer Camp. Football/soccer/baseball/tennis (boys/girls ages 4–10). 9am–12pm. \$150/wk or \$500/4 wks. Gabe Hurley, stapletonallsports@gmail.com, 720.985.6642
7/24 Saturday- Wells Fargo Hike MS at Copper Mountain Resort. Colorado Chapter, National MS Society's new Hike MS event at Copper Mountain Resort. Registration free; minimum fundraising commitment \$50 per hiker. www.hikeMScolorado.org to register.
THEATER
Every other Wednesday- Wacky Wednesday Comedy, doors open 7pm. Show starts 8:30pm. Shadow Theatre Company. \$5 advance/\$10 door www.ShadowTheatre.com 1468 Dayton St. Aurora. 720-857-8000
6/26–8/8- Central City Opera 2010 Festival.
Showtimes for *Madama Butterfly*, *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *Three Decembers* vary. Tickets start at \$32. 303.292.6700, www.centralcityopera.org
Through 8/7- Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Avenue Theater, 417 E 17th Ave. 303.321.5925, www.avenuetheater.com
7/2–8/8- *A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum.* Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.vintagetheatre.com
7/9–7/17 Fridays & Saturdays- *A Change Has Come, Remember the Dream,* 7pm. An educational 3-Act play taking place in Montgomery, Alabama in November 2008 after Obama's election, with rich history about the civil rights movement. Shadow Theatre Co., 720-857-8000
7/9–8/7- *Murderer.* John Hand Theater, 7653 E 1st Pl, Lowry. 720.880.8727, www.johnhandtheater.com
7/13–7/29- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.* Aurora Fox, 9900 E Colfax. 303.939.1970, www.auro-rafox.org



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Premium Fishwrap* by Jon Meredith

I Am No Longer Getting Old

By Jon Meredith
I am old.

I just moved to a new home in Stapleton and all of my neighbors are either pregnant, just had a baby or have young children. One of the children was talking outside my window recently and remarked, "This is where the new people live, they're old." It is as if we arrived from a different planet or had the Ambo-cab drop us here. The parents have thus far refrained from any geezer jokes, but with my cantankerous personality, I know the old guy gags will be coming.

When I think back on what my parents were like when they were my age, I remember thinking and I still think "man, they are old." Back then, I really did not expect them to live much longer. I try to tell myself how much different I am than they were, which is simply a perception issue and not reality.

There are no longer any professional sports players my age. Where have you gone Gordie Howe and Satchel Paige? A few short years ago, I would get carded when I ordered a beer; recently I was asked if I wanted the senior discount. I get my hair cut every six weeks and when done, somehow I look two years older. My son says he won't put me in an old-age home. When that time comes he is just going to drive me up to the top of a Colorado pass, at night, in the dead of winter and leave me there. That is just fine with me.

Old used to offend me but I am going to accept it gracefully. I am determined to take advantage of the downside of life, laugh at its detrac-

tors and relish the bouquet that life brings from here on out. Longfellow wrote about aging "for age is opportunity no less than youth itself, though in another dress, and as the evening twilight fades away, the sky is filled with stars, invisible by day."

I am determined not to fall into the whining-about-my-aches-and-pain crowd. I will not go on any cruises or bus tours. I will not take any senior citizens discounts (for a while at least). I won't play bingo or shuffleboard. I won't join any groups specifically for seniors. Finally, I will never open any mail from AARP no matter how much of a discount I get because I am old.

I will try my best not to let my age keep me from doing the things I want to do. I want to climb more 14ers and continue to ski. I know it is important to keep up with technology so that I don't become afraid of it. I would like to see the Rockies win the World Series. I will always enjoy concerts at Red Rocks even if it means having to climb all the way up from the lower parking lots. I never want to be set in my ways although I may already be. I want to understand the mistakes I have made along the way and help others avoid them. I want to sweat in the summer and freeze in the winter.

Moreover, as Longfellow so eloquently states, I have seen the light of day and because of that I have come to see and appreciate the stars at night.

Jon Meredith lives in Stapleton. He can be reached at jon.meredith@q.com.

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

Update—How to meet your neighbors even if you don't have kids

By Carol Roberts

On June 21, 32 people gathered in Stapleton's Community Room in response to last month's article about meeting other adults in NE Denver. The group named themselves "Stapleton Activities, Inc." Under the expert leadership of Diane Deeter, the participants then talked about the kinds of activities they would be interested in. Potlucks, dinner clubs, walking groups and book clubs were some of the recurring themes.

The general plan is for the group to meet the last Thursday of each month at 7pm for a potluck and/or other planned activity in the Community Room at 2823 Roslyn Street or other designated location. Watch the Front Porch calendar and check the StapletonCommunity.com website for details each month. The July activity will be a potluck at approximately 7pm on Thursday, July 29 under the tent on the Green, following the Westerly Creek clean-up that starts at 4pm that afternoon (see calendar on page 2.) For more information call Diane Deeter at 303.388.0724.

Deeter announced that Active Minds lectures, open to the public, are being scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of the month starting in the fall.

Kids Invited: Help Choose Your New Library's Selections

By Gwen Vanderhage

Hey, kids, this is for you! I would like to invite kids and teens to take part in choosing the kinds of books, movies and music that you would like to have in your new Denver Public Library Stapleton branch. We know that the public library is a community gathering place, especially after school, so we want to have exactly the fun stuff that you want in your library. We have created a special page on the Denver Public Library's website where you can submit your suggestions for the new library. You can find it at: kids.denverlibrary.org/mynewlibrary or teens.denverlibrary.org/mynewlibrary. Kids who enter suggestions will also be entered to win a cool prize. The Stapleton branch library is expected to open in early 2012.

While you are thinking of your favorite books, here are some suggestions of more great books you can check out this summer from the Denver Public Library.

Meanwhile: Pick Any Path. 3,856 Story Possibilities by Jason Shiga – for all ages

Choose your own adventure hybrid in this cool graphic novel that provides hours of entertainment as readers start with a simple decision—what flavor ice cream to eat—that leads them down all different paths to adventure or disaster.

Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyle – for ages 10 and up

Twelve-year-old Liam is tall for his age; in fact, he often gets mistaken for a grown-up. So when Liam is mistaken for a dad and offered a top-secret trip to the best theme park ever, he immediately accepts! Now Liam just has to convince his parents that he's going on a really long field trip and convince his best friend to pretend to be his daughter. As the situations get more and more fantastic, no one ever realizes that Liam is just a kid—even when he is put in charge of a rocket to outer space! This book is laugh-out-loud funny.

Finnikin of the Rock by Melina Marchetta – for ages 12 and up

Finnikin's people have been banished from their kingdom by a curse and are forced to wander as exiles, starving and sick, always looking for the prince who might come to save them. Joined by a royal guard, a mysterious girl and a growing number of exiles, Finnikin will attempt to lead his people back to break the curse. This fantasy novel is full of adventure, romance and battle scenes.

The Enemy by Charlie Higson – for ages 13 and up

A plague has swept the world, changing adults into child-eating, zombie-like creatures. A group of kids in London has to make their way from their temporary shelter to a new kid-run society that has been set up in Buckingham Palace, all the while battling flesh-hungry adults. This one is not for the faint of heart, but is a fast and action-packed read.

Gwen Vanderhage is the children's collection specialist at the Denver Central Library.



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Vitamin D: What’s the Real Deal?

By Bridget Walsh, MD

If you’ve had your annual physical already this year, you probably had your vitamin D level checked for the first time in your life. The Vitamin D Counsel describes an “epidemic of vitamin D deficiency in the United States.” A recent study by Adit Ginde, MD, MPH, assistant professor at University of Colorado School of Medicine, showed that 7 out of 10 pregnant women are not getting enough vitamin D. Another study examining vitamin D deficiency and pregnancy found that deficient women were 4 times more likely to deliver by cesarean section.

Vitamin D is actually a hormone, not a vitamin, because the active form circulates in the blood and affects the activity of genes. It exists in three forms depending upon the level of processing. Cholecalciferol (D3) is the natural form, which is produced by human skin (dog hair and bird feathers too) when there is exposure to UVB sunlight. Calcidiol (25D3) is the second form of vitamin D, which is processed in the liver and becomes the storage form of the vitamin. Calcitriol (1,25D3) is the final active form of the vitamin, which is processed in the kidney.

Vitamin D functions in the maintenance of calcium and phosphorus levels in our bloodstream and supports strong bones and teeth. Appropriate vitamin D levels likely prevent osteoporosis, high blood pressure, some autoimmune diseases, and possibly some cancers. The two classic vitamin D deficiency diseases include osteomalacia and rickets. Rickets causes skeletal deformities in children whereas osteomalacia manifests as muscle and bone weakness in adults. The populations who seem to be most at risk for deficiency include the elderly, obese, those with limited sun exposure, exclusively breast-fed infants, and conditions such as cystic fibrosis and Chrohn’s disease, which are associated with decreased nutrient absorption.

Your vitamin D levels can be monitored by your doctor and are considered deficient when 25D3 levels fall below 50 ng/dl. The current recommended dietary allowance of vitamin D is 400 IU, although some physicians are prescribing much higher doses in the range of 2,000–5,000 IU to treat deficient patients. It is important to seek the guidance of your doctor if you are considering higher doses of this vitamin. Although toxicity is rare for healthy people, certain conditions such as occult cancers, primary hyperparathyroidism and sarcoid can predispose you to vitamin D hypersensitivity, making supplementation unsafe. The safest way to get vitamin D is through dietary sources including eggs, fortified dairy products and fatty fish such as salmon and tuna. Ten to 20 minutes of sunlight is also effective, but increased skin cancer risk is a reasonable concern. Remember that sunscreen that blocks UVB rays (most do) blocks your skin from producing cholecalciferol. The current recommended daily intake is 400 IU of vitamin D.

Much current research is looking into additional health benefits of vitamin D. Some areas of interest include prevention of incontinence and pelvic floor relaxation in women, prevention of preterm labor and delivery, and decreased risk of pregnancy-specific high blood pressure (preeclampsia). Clearly, more research needs to be done, but preliminary findings suggest that vitamin D plays very important roles in our overall health, and that since levels vary greatly from person to person, ask your doctor about having your levels checked.

Bridget Walsh, MD, is a partner at Rocky Mountain OB-GYN. She studied nutrition as an undergraduate and completed a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery. She runs every morning in Stapleton with her boyfriend Andy’s dog Titan.

Canada Thistle Requires a Weed War on All Fronts

Note from Front Porch reader Lucia Correll: The thistle is becoming prominent in neighborhood alleys and front lawns. I think many residents may be unaware of the insidious nature of this weed so I asked Carl Wilson, horticulturist with the Colorado State University Extension, to provide some information about this noxious weed.

By Carl Wilson

Under Denver’s Noxious and Invasive Weeds Management Guidelines, the Canada thistle is listed as a weed to suppress, not eradicate.

This also may be the approach you need to take for thistle in your landscape.

Thistle can reproduce by seed but seed is more responsible for long distance than local spread. Local spread within and between yards (even under privacy fences) is more from vegetative underground roots. Plants put far more energy into roots than seed, and can those underground roots ever spread!

One plant can colonize an area 3 to 6 feet in diameter in one or two years. Horizontal roots from established plants may extend 15 feet or more and vertical roots may grow 6 to 15 feet deep. New shoots and roots can form almost anywhere along the root system of established plants.

Digging chops roots and stimulates more plants to develop. Root pieces as small as one-quarter-inch long have enough stored energy to develop a new plant in two weeks. They can survive for 100 days without leaves to replenish the food supply from photosynthesis. Thistle roots can also be moved with soil fill dirt or when moving plants with soil around roots.

How do you combat a foe like this in your landscape? Think in terms of suppressing—keeping the plant from flowering, seeding, photosynthesizing and increasing food storage in roots. Hand pulling



Thistle growing in grass.

Canada thistle alone isn’t an effective control because of its extensive root system but does place one stress on the plant. The trouble is you need multiple stresses over time, months or years depending on how large the root system is. Mowing or hand pulling is nearly always combined with repeated spot treatments with chemical herbicides over time.

Systemic herbicides available include 2,4-D combinations, and glyphosate. Use glyphosate on thistle in driveway cracks and areas where other desirable plant leaves won’t be touched by the spray. A small, hand pump

sprayer with the nozzle held low to the ground on a windless day is convenient for homeowners. You can also use a spray shield (cardboard, sheet of metal or plastic) to block the spray from drifting off target onto desirable vegetation. Sponge or paint on thistle leaves to better control the application (purchase and wear chemical-resistant gloves).

In lawns, 2,4-D combination herbicides affect thistle and not the grass. Purchase an herbicide for “hard to kill perennial weeds” and make sure that it says it’s made to kill thistle in lawns. Follow all label instructions.

Controlling Canada thistle with herbicides generally takes several applications over several years. Fall applications are very effective.

The key principle to Canada thistle control is to apply multiple stresses to the plant and force it to use stored root energy. Canada thistle can recover from almost any one stress, including chemical control attempts, because of stored root energy. Returning landscapes to a desirable condition of minimal weeds will occur only with multiple management methods applied persistently over time.

Be sure to talk your neighbor into mowing and spraying thistle on his side of the fence at the same time you do. A weed war on all fronts is necessary for success.

Carl Wilson is a horticulturist with CSU Denver Extension.



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Stapleton and Denver's Neighborhoods

By Andrew M. Schurger

On a recent trip to New Orleans with some friends, I was struck by how much the idea of neighborhoods played into our plans. Our hotel was in the Central Business District. We took an endless walk through the Garden District, spotted some celebrities in the French Quarter and finished up listening to music in Tremé, a lot to do in a day. Each neighborhood had its own specific feel. The streets of the French Quarter breathe with history and swell with the tourists who, for maybe just a weekend, try to be a part of it. Just as New Orleans has its districts and quarters, Denver has its less nationally famous neighborhoods like Stapleton, Lowry and Wash Park, to name a few.

One of my responsibilities as a SUN board member is to sit as a delegate on Denver's Inter-Neighborhood Coop-

eration or INC. This group is made up of representatives from all of Denver's registered neighborhood organizations or RNOs. This group meets monthly, rotating throughout the city so delegates can all get exposure to what the city has to offer. Meetings are open and everyone is invited. The purpose of the organization is to provide a voice for our neighborhoods and keep everyone up-to-date about what is going on throughout Denver. Meetings are usually attended by approximately 60 people from both RNOs like SUN or business organizations. Of course, the usual suspects are represented such as LoDo and Capitol Hill, but then there are dozens of other neighborhoods that make the papers far less often such as Elyria or Humboldt Street.

The issues that normally take up these meetings run the gamut. There is discussion of zoning ordinances, RTD changes or developments and upcoming events in the parks. Many of the problems I hear raised at these meetings are the same ones we find in our community, but on a much larger scale. Just as the issue of the marijuana dispensary was heating up here, the same discussion was taking place around the city. INC brings together representatives from the city to provide a voice for the neighborhoods as a whole. It is one of the few citywide organizations that address all issues and not just a focused topic. Not only are the representatives present, but often representatives from the mayor's office, RTD and the Parks and Recreation department are present to hear concerns and clarify any of the common

misunderstandings that arise when dealing with public policy. The representatives may not always agree, but the organization serves its purpose and the people's voices get heard.

Since Denver was established, the various neighborhoods have been slowly

emerging as people settled and moved here. Some have been around for years and are steeped in history; others, like Stapleton, have only been around for a short time and have yet to establish long-standing traditions or historic landmarks. Although, on a personal note, the fact that some scenes from Die Hard 2 were filmed at Stapleton Airport should qualify our little borough as a historic landmark. But I digress. The history and traditions that identify a neighborhood and make it unique are still in their infancy here in Stapleton. We don't quite yet have a Cherry Creek Art Festival or a Sloan's Lake Dragon Boat Festival or celebration of its American white pelican, but we are still young.

That's what is so exciting about our neighborhood and where we are in our growth. We already have annual events such as the Kickball Festival, block parties, the neighborhood garage sale and our summer movies and concerts. But we are also always trying new things like the first Stapleton Beer Festival this June and the Dog Daze event last September. As our community grows and settles into its character, we slowly create well-established, city-recognized events that will become part of our collective community.

Unlike most neighborhoods that have been established in Denver, we have something to help guide our growth, the Green Book. Many of us moved here drawn by the principles advertised in the Stapleton Master Development Plan of education, employment, open space, housing, diversity and sustainable development. We wanted a good mixture of homes, parks and commercial areas. As a relatively new member of SUN, I have attended meetings where community members have raised concerns that what was set forth by the Green Book is not actually happening and as a community redirected our growth. To be a part of this process is something that is not found everywhere and makes our community unique.

My wife and I moved here two and a half years ago because, like many others, we liked the look of the neighborhood, the idea of a sustainable community and we felt it would be a good place to start a family. We have seen Stapleton grow in the short time we've been here and hope to be here long enough to watch the babies in jogging strollers move to Big Wheels to bikes and then to used Priuses. We may never have the antebellum history or the national recognition that some neighborhoods have, but we have a goal and as a community we can stick to it, stay involved and guide our neighborhood into being one of Denver's great neighborhood institutions.

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Police Report Theft from 20+ Vehicles in a Single Night

By Amy Esten

As many of you may have already heard we had a Theft from Motor Vehicle crime spree during the early morning hours of June 21, 2010 in Stapleton. At this time detectives are working on 20 plus cases of Theft from Motor Vehicles and one instance of a Stolen Motor Vehicle. The suspects broke out the windows of vehicles and grabbed what they could out of the vehicles parked on the street and in driveways. There was also an instance of Felony Menacing where a home owner confronted the suspects as they were committing theft from a motor vehicle and what is described as a shotgun was pointed at the home owner. This is still an ongoing investigation so suspect information is limited. The suspect information at this time is un-

known age or race males. We have been given two descriptions by witnesses of the suspects, one description was of a 16-17-year-old black male and unknown age white male, and another description was of two unknown age Hispanic males. The suspects were seen in a midsize silver pickup truck, unknown license plate.

Again, we remind homeowners to keep their vehicles locked and remove any items of value from plain sight. This includes garage door openers. If you do see criminal activity or something suspicious please call the police and do not confront the suspects. If you have any information on these incidents or suspect information please call District Two at (720)913-1000.

Technician A.L. Esten is the District Two Community Resource Officer.

Letter to the Editor

To the residents of Stapleton, S.U.N. and Joan Cimiyotte,
Joan Cimiyotte's salient Letter to the Editor, "Speeders on 26th Ave.," is right on! This narrow, ugly and badly planned strip of asphalt on the southeast end of Stapleton just begs drivers to maximize their speed. The two parallel roads north and south of E. 26th (E. 25th & E. 28th) on the more affluent interior of Stapleton have stop signs on every other intersection. E. 26th has one stop sign between Iola and Fulton Streets. That's the only stop sign in six blocks followed by another eight unimpeded blocks to Beeler Street. E. 26th Street is the road from hell in an otherwise coherently designed residential plan. Small won-

der there's more than half a dozen homes for sale on this street.

In March I contacted the Denver Traffic Engineering Department. Their agent came out to monitor the volume and speed of the traffic on E. 26th. Ms. Sawaqed of the Traffic Department summed up the situation with a specious email stating that the "traffic volumes didn't warrant an all way stop." Then she punted the issue off to another bureaucracy...so they too could follow another avoidant, scripted response.

Joan Cimiyotte is right. E. 26th is a dangerous street. However, this necrotic piece of asphalt won't be safer with the addition of more stop signs. Proper street design was not implemented on this street. The street is too straight. There's no shoulder. Intelligent streets in neighborhoods that value people above cars have curves that discourage speed and other features that calm traffic.

I have worked at The Children's Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit for 20 years. I've cared for many hundreds of children with brain and spinal injuries who were victims of "Car Accidents." Bad street design is not an accident. My preference would be to "Depave" the street and replace the asphalt with an unpaved, tree-lined path. This space would gain value as a peaceful retreat from the noise and hazards the present situation presents to children, pets, walkers and cyclists and homeowners. The expense of this endeavor would certainly be less than the cost of a three-month ordeal in an I.C.U.

Sincerely, Jim McDonough, R.N., R.R.T.

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Human Resource Services for Small Businesses

By Nancy Burkhardt

Human resources departments are known to handle a great many personnel situations, as well as legal requirements for businesses. However, small businesses often are unable to manage the costs of an HR department in their budgets.

Thus, Karolynn St-Pierre, owner of Symmetry Consulting at Lowry, works to manage the difficult duties of an HR department for her small-business clients. She targets employers with 2 to 30 employees.

"I understand that a small business doesn't have the means or capabilities to do this and they are the ones most at risk," St-Pierre explained. "Often small-business owners have taken second mortgages on homes and are doing business on credit cards, so they are most at risk. My business model is to see that they don't lose."

St-Pierre has worked for Kelly Services and Hewitt and Associates, and has consulted with General Electric.

"Small businesses are different from the standpoint that large corporations are looking out for their bottom line," St-Pierre said. "Small businesses are looking out for the customer. They are really good at what they do and they don't want to



Karolynn Humberd St-Pierre owner of Symmetry Consulting talks with prospective client Dr. Andrew Lieber of Rose Pediatrics about his Human Resource needs as he considers expanding his practice.

worry about the human resources piece. "When I interview a client, once we decide what their needs are, I have about 75 questions that they answer," she said. "Then I make a handbook that is unique specifically for them. All of my materials have been vetted by an attorney. If you went to an attorney, it would cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000."

St-Pierre's starter kit costs \$500. She offers both gold and platinum subscriptions that include an HR audit to ensure that the firm would be covered if an auditor were called in. She said the audit would help small firms to avoid fines that can range from about \$300 to \$25,000.

The platinum subscription also includes quarterly meetings and an hour each month

of St-Pierre's time. "If all they want is advice on performance management, we can talk about it, but my goal is to talk about their spikes and valleys and to get happy people in their door that are excited about what they're doing," she said. "I'm not an employment agency. But, if my client is looking for someone, I will find them someone specifically. I do recruitment, but it's to a specific position. I don't have a database for employers.

"My interest is to look out for the business owner," she said. "But, if an employee has a problem with a manager, the company is much better off to call me rather than an attorney. It's better to have a mediator that's outside the company to deal with an issue. It's sometimes nice for an intermediary to come in and say, 'This is what's going on.'"

A weekly human resources email newsletter is offered on Symmetry Consulting's website. Topics in it include everything from six pay-raise alternatives to 1099 forms and misclassified employees.

For Symmetry Consulting information, go to www.symmetryconsult.com or email Karolynn St-Pierre at information@symmetryconsult.com. She can be reached at 303.704.5699.

(FBI—continued from p. 1) which means anyone who passes through the gate at the guard house must previously have had a background check.

The building is not all that's unique. Jim Davis himself has an impressive 25-year history with the FBI. "I came to the FBI in 1985. I've had an amazing career. I went to Iraq in 2003, 2004 as deputy commander there. I was there when we caught Saddam Hussein. I had the opportunity to talk to him a little bit that first day, through an interpreter. He would not speak English but he was correcting the interpreter. The following year I went to Afghanistan and was the commander in Afghanistan. Then a couple years later I went back to Iraq for a year as the legal attache assigned to the U.S. Embassy there.

"In Afghanistan we were working with the military special forces guys and they were pursuing Al Qaeda targets. Our responsibility was to assist them in that. The thought of the general in charge of the special operations command who at the time was Stanley McChrystal, was that FBI agents could add something to the fight by having an investigator view of the battlefield. So we could go in there and help them exploit intelligence gained at a scene to identify further targets in Afghanistan or more importantly try and identify some link back to the U.S....a target or potential target or a cell or that sort of thing. We went out with them at their raids. It was really exciting."

Does it require nerves of steel? "You have to have a certain mindset when you're going into a combat zone, but the Army took pretty good care of us. It's a great opportunity. You're really at the tip of the spear there. We would live in the forward operating bases, FOBs (tents or huts) outside of the major military installations. These are smaller

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Stapleton Front Porch

FBI



bases, for the most part for U.S. military. If they were hitting a cave complex or a village we would accompany them if it was an Al Qaeda mission. We weren't really advancing the war in that we weren't going after the Taliban, unless it was a Taliban group that we thought had some interest outside of Afghanistan. We're looking at this from a terrorist standpoint. We're identifying groups that are involved in terrorism against the U.S. Our mission was to gather any intelligence we could from the battlefield that told us about their activities or their plans."

What is the role of the FBI? "We have such a large and important mission that we have to be sure that we are applying resources to adequately address threats. Right now our number one priority is to protect the U.S. from terrorism. If we have a significant terrorism investigation or terrorism lead, that takes priority over everything else that goes on."

"For example the Zazi investigation. Everybody in this division plus literally hundreds of others who were brought in on a temporary basis to help us, were focused on that investigation."

"The thing about the Zazi case is that it was unique in the Bureau. We have not had another case like that ever, where we were inside an active Al Qaeda cell that was operational and entirely self-contained. So we have had cases where we've had people who want to participate in an act of terror and just don't have every-

thing they need to do it. So we put an undercover agent in there and give them what they need to do it. Then we arrest them because clearly they've got that mind set and we don't want to wait until they're in a position to do it. That's how those cases generally work."

"This was entirely self-contained. These guys were capable of it. They had all that they needed to do it. They were ready to go. And we stopped them. We stopped them. Of all the things I've done in my career, that case is the thing I'm most proud of." (Editors note—A Department of Justice press release describing the Zazi case can be found at: <http://newyork.fbi.gov/press.htm> -> 02/22/10 Najibullah Zazi Pleads Guilty...)

The FBI also focuses on counterintelligence activities—foreign espionage that threatens our national security. And they get involved in crimes that cross state lines, such as mortgage fraud, kidnapping, and cyber crimes such as internet fraud or online sexual predators. Another function performed in the Stapleton office is translating tapes and sharing them with other offices. The FBI's secure teleconferencing system allows agents throughout the world to meet and share their expertise with other offices. The building does not house prisoners.

Jim Davis graduated from college with an accounting degree and worked as a Certified Public Accountant in Illinois before entering the FBI. "My father was a police officer. I wanted to be my dad and he told me he thought it would be better for me to join the FBI. In 1974 I called the Detroit office of the



Left: A display in the FBI building honors agents who lost their lives on the job. Above: Jim Davis is shown with Saddam Hussein the day he was captured. Below: Jim Davis talks to the Front Porch in his new office.



FBI, I was 14 years old, and I asked the recruiter there what I needed to do to get in the Bureau. He told me, then, that I needed to be an accountant or a lawyer. So I went to school and got my accounting degree and came to the Bureau."

Today, the average age of an incoming FBI agent is 30 years old, the youngest is 23 and the oldest is 37.

"We are continually recruiting, but we have 700,000 applications in the process and we hire about 2,000, so we aren't having any trouble recruiting, but we are focused on trying to recruit some specific skills that are necessary to us, for example people fluent in certain foreign languages," says Davis. The backgrounds of agents today are very diverse, including accountants, lawyers, police, military, teachers and scientists. Every FBI employee has top secret clearance, so background checks are a tedious process, sometimes taking years.

The armored vehicle that has been seen driving into the FBI facility is called an MRAP (mine resistant ambush protected vehicle). According to Dave Joly, media coordinator for the local FBI office, the military originally ordered 60 of the vehicles to protect soldiers from IEDs (improvised explosive devices), but discovered they didn't meet their needs in sandy soil. Since the vehicles were owned by the government, they were given to FBI offices around the country for use in potentially dangerous investigations where the agents may need protection. The vehicles themselves are not armed beyond what the agents carry.

At least once a year the FBI runs a Citizens Academy to develop good will ambassadors who can help inform the community about what the FBI really does. The class of 25 people has 8 four-hour sessions over an eight-week period. For more information about the academies visit www.fbi.gov and select "Use Our Resources" - "For Law Enforcement."

Our folks are very happy here, says Davis. "We have a lot of runners and they can run through Stapleton. It's a great place with all the parks..."

The 200,000 sq. ft. building on 10 acres is privately owned and the FBI has a long term lease on it. It includes an automotive and vehicle maintenance facility. Agents have three hours a week of their work time designated for fitness and the building has an exercise room for them. Windows are floor to ceiling for natural light, though people on the outside can't see in. The building has low flow toilets and motion sensors that automatically shut off the lights.



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