

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

AUGUST 2010

Stingrays Spotted in Stapleton Pool



Stapleton Stingrays Head Coach Riley Kitts works with some of his top swimmers at Aviator Pool in preparation for the upcoming city meet. Left to right they are James Danahey, 15, Samantha Worth, 12, Ava Baumann, 8 and Evan Kosakowski, 9.

By Nancy Burkhart

Swimming is a popular passion for Stapleton youth, as shown in the 150-member Stapleton Stingrays Swim Team at the Aviator Pool.

The Stapleton team is the largest team that is a member of the Denver Parks and Recreation Swim League. The team's swimmers are boys and girls from 5 to 15 years old. They practice every Monday through Thursday morning in their age groups. And, Saturdays feature qualifying meets to determine eligibility to swim in the Sherry L. Clark Citywide Swim Meet on August 7 and 8 at Cook Park Pool in southeast Denver.

"We really try to make it a summer-long experience," said Riley Kitts, head coach for the Stingrays Swim Team. "We plan a lot of events with the kids. We have a big swim team movie night. We have dinners. We do team pictures. We try to make this a really inclusive event. In August, we go to Water World for a day.

"I hope these kids want to be with their friends, improve themselves and get in shape," he said. "It's a great way to meet a lot of friends because they all live in the

neighborhood. The emphasis is that this is your community and we want you to have fun with the swim team. We try to emphasize sportsmanship and (continued on page 25)

High Speed Chase in Stapleton



A high speed police chase through the Stapleton neighborhood ended with police stopping the vehicle at 35th and Quebec. Story on page 16.



Solar Leader To Open Plant in Stapleton

Above: Employees of SMA America, a German company and leading maker of inverters for the solar power industry, walk out of their new Stapleton facility that will be opening soon. The production plant is located on Havana, just north of Smith Road. When fully operational, the plant could have

700-1000 workers. The Stapleton facility has the capacity to supply inverters for both the U.S. and Canadian markets. The story on page 4 includes information on how to apply for jobs with SMA.

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

The Stapleton Farmers Market has grown dramatically this year, with booths, not just for produce but offering ready-to-enjoy food and hand-crafted products.



CALENDAR

Events in or near Stapleton that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit events.
(See pages 20 - 23 for more events.)

AUGUST

Every Friday in August

Main Street SummerFest at Northfield 4-8pm
Musical entertainment, gourmet foods, local artisans, children's activities
www.NorthfieldStapleton.com

Every Sunday (through Oct. 17)

Stapleton Farmers Market, 8:30am-12:30pm
The Green

Sunday, August 1

City Park Jazz - La Candela, 6pm
www.cityparkjazz.org

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

Saturday, August 7

City Lax: An Urban Lacrosse Story
Paramount Theater, 7pm
www.knuwseeds.org (See p. 13)

Saturday, August 7

Denver Art Museum - SCFD 1st Saturdays Free
www.denverartmuseum.org

Saturday, August 7

Free Fishing Lessons at the Arsenal
8-11am License required over age 16 (See p. 23)

Sunday, August 8

Denver Museum of Nature and Science - SCFD
Free Day 303-322-7009 <http://www.dmns.org>

Sunday, August 8

City Park Jazz - Tuxedo Junction, 6pm
www.cityparkjazz.org

Thursday, August 12

Bringing Memories to Memory Walk, 7-8pm
Memory Grove & Gardens, Central Park
Alzheimer's Assoc. <http://www.alzco.org> (See p. 23)

Friday, August 13

*Movie Night on The Green
"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs"

Friday, August 13

Free fishing tips & tricks for kids
Rocky Mountain Arsenal, 4-7pm (See p. 23)

Saturday, August 14

Walk with a Doc, 8am
Central Park, Stapleton (near parking lot)

AUGUST

(Walk with a Doc continued)

Topic: Heart Attacks & Coronaries
Free refreshments and giveaways
<http://www.njhealth.org/walkwithadoc>

Saturday, August 21

*Concert on The Green
Chris Daniels & The Kings, 6-8pm

Sunday, August 22

Stapleton park-n-Ride Relocates (See page 16)

Wednesday, August 25

Denver Botanic Gardens - SCFD Free Day
720-865-3500 <http://www.botanicgardens.org>

Thursday, August 26

East Side Mobility Plan Public Meeting
Central Park East Picnic Pavilion, 5:30-7:30pm
(MLK Blvd. & Beeler Street)
www.denvergov.org/eastside

Thursday, August 26

Stapleton Activities Inc. Potluck, 6:30pm
Big white tent at west end of the Green
Bring a dish to share. Beverages & utensils provided. (See p. 23)

Friday, August 27

*Movie on The Green - "UP"

Saturday, August 28

Sweet William Market, The Green 9am - 2pm
www.sweetwilliammarket.com

Monday, August 30

Denver Museum of Nature and Science - SCFD
Free Day 303-322-7009 <http://www.dmns.org>

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 6

Labor Day festivities at Stapleton pools
12-4pm

Monday, September 6

Pools close

Saturday, September 11

Stapleton Rocks Concert
The Green, 10am-10pm

Sunday, September 12

Dog Daze at F15 Pool, 1-3pm

Sat. & Sun., September 18 & 19

Theater on the Green

Sat. & Sun., September 25 & 26

Theater on the Green

*At The Green, 29th Ave. and Roslyn; Sponsored by Stapleton MCA. For info. email events@stapletoncommunity.com, Movies start at dark.
(See page 22 for recurring monthly events and meetings)



Stapleton Rocks...a concert for a cause

Keep your calendar open for our second annual concert featuring Stapleton area musicians. The day begins at 10am and concludes at 10pm. A schedule will be provided in the September *Front Porch*. It will be a day filled with music, food and fun. Stapleton Home Services is sponsoring the trampoline bungee again this year. It was a huge hit last year. Quad bungee and concession ticket proceeds will benefit Odyssey School and WISH.

Odyssey School is relocating this year to Philips Elementary School and many costs are accrued when you move into a new space. Odyssey hopes to be back in the Stapleton community soon and is in the process of designing a space to meet their needs. Event proceeds will help with this endeavor. For information about Odyssey School, visit www.odysseydenver.org.

The mission of WISH is to make the world a better place for our children and generations to come by granting wishes to deserving individuals, families or organizations. The organization offers hope to those who feel that life circumstances have let them down. Event proceeds benefit the WISH program directly. For information about WISH, visit www.wishesarepossible.org.

Food vendors will be selling lunch and dinner items. More details will be provided at our website www.stapletoncommunity.com, in the September *Front Porch* or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724.

Movies & Concerts

Nacho Men on August 7 and Chris Daniels and the Kings on August 21 are the concerts scheduled this month on The Green from 6-8pm. The Berkshire, Ling & Louie's, and Jim & Nick's are simplifying your evening by selling food at the remaining concerts. Bring your blanket and buy a meal on The Green.

We have had terrific crowds at our movies this year. They wrap up this month with *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* on August 13 and *Up* on August 27. Movies begin at dark.

Stapleton Activities, Inc.

This is the new name for our "Adult Activities Group." If you want to meet other adults in the community, you are welcome to join us. We have a "meet and greet" spot designated on The Green for all of our movies and concerts. The west side of the big white tent, on the west end of The Green, will have a sign designating the meeting spot for all wishing to find other adults attending the event. For movies the meeting time will be 7:30pm and for concerts it will be 5:15pm.

We plan to hold a monthly potluck for this group the fourth Thursday of each month. The August potluck will be Thursday, August 26 at 6:30pm under the big white tent. Bring an item to share. Beverages, plates and utensils will be provided by MCA.

Active Minds Seminar

MCA is bringing back the Active Minds Seminar and hosting the seminars in the Stapleton MCA Community Room at 2823 Roslyn St. the second Thursday of each month. Doors open at 6:30pm and the seminar will begin at 7pm. This is a free program open to the public. The Lewis & Clark Expedition is our first program of the season. For more information on Active Minds, go to <http://www.activemindsforlife.com/index.html>.

Thank you!

I would like to give a huge thank-you to all the residents that staffed our first Beer Festival on The Green. In spite of the rain, we had a very successful event. Over 800 attended the beer festival and another 1,000 attended the free concert. The word is out and it looks like this will become an annual event at Stapleton!

Thanks to all who came out and supported the Annual Pancake Breakfast and Parade in Central Park on July 4th. Stapleton Fellowship Church provided the staff that flipped pancakes and cooked sausage for the breakfast that raised over \$1,000 for the Stapleton Swim Team. Thanks so much, Stapleton Fellowship Church, for supporting our community. Over 1,500 bomb pops were distributed at the end of the parade.

If you have questions or comments about the information above, 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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Stapleton Model Home Directory



A New Town Builders
29th Drive Row Homes
From the low \$100s
2912 Havana Street
303-320-3800
901-1,463 sq. ft.



B New Town Builders
Central Park Row Homes at Eastbridge
From the mid \$100s
2912 Havana Street
303-320-3800
1,166-1,479 sq. ft.



C McStain Neighborhoods
Casitas
From the high \$100s
3330 Central Park Boulevard
303-333-0024
914-1,280 sq. ft.



D KB Home
Paired Homes
From the low \$200s
2136 N. Spruce Street
303-333-1007
1,159-1,667 sq. ft.



E Wonderland Homes
Denver Traditions
From the high \$200s
9087 E. 35th Avenue
303-393-9099
1,226-1,692 sq. ft.



F KB Home
Martha Stewart
From the low \$300s
8942 34th Avenue
303-388-7300
1,548-2,084 sq. ft.



G New Town Builders
Solaris Collection
From the high \$300s
3525 Akron Street
720-941-0359
1,985-3,337 sq. ft.



H Infinity Home Collection
Balboa Collection
From the low \$400s
2942 Trenton Street
720-219-7633
1,727-2,349 sq. ft.



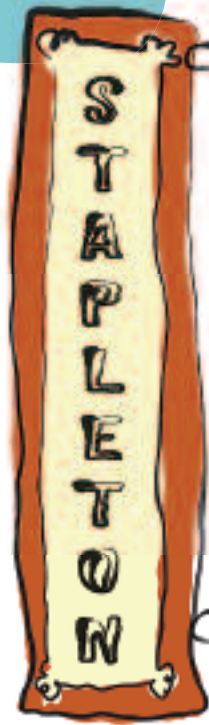
I Parkwood Homes
Kentlands Collection
From the low \$400s
9206 E. 35th Avenue
303-320-4938
2,145-3,200 sq. ft.



J Infinity Home Collection
Court Collection
From the high \$500s
8806 E. 35th Avenue
303-229-7845
2,846-3,255 sq. ft.



K Denver Brownstones
at Central Park
From the mid \$700s
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303-589-9454
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Home price categories are based on average home closing prices for 2010. Prices and specifications are subject to change without notice.

STAPLETON

FORESTCITY



Manufacturing Plant in Stapleton Offers New Jobs

By Nancy Burkhart

SMA America, LLC, a solar technology manufacturing plant, is moving into Stapleton and bringing with it new jobs.

“Most of the people hired are from the greater Denver area,” said Jeffrey Philpott, Director of Marketing for SMA America.

The new Stapleton plant will produce inverters for solar panels.

Solar panels, which can be located anywhere from building roofs to lawns, produce DC power, somewhat like a car battery. That power needs to be converted to AC power, like the power used in homes to operate lights, vacuums and toasters.

“It’s the heart of the system,” says Philpott, explaining the solar panel inverters. “It converts the DC power from the solar panels into grid-compliant AC energy that can be fed into the grid. The secret is to do that very efficiently and create a reliable product



Photos courtesy of SMA

The photo above was taken in SMA’s production facilities in Kassel, Germany, where most of SMA’s inverters are built. The production lines from Germany have been replicated in Denver so the assembly process is the same, down to very minute details. The Stapleton facility is expected to look substantially the same as this existing SMA plant when production ramps up.

that will last a long time. SMA has always been a leader.”

SMA is a huge player in the solar inverter industry. In 2009 the worldwide-installed-PV market was 7 to 7.5 gigawatts—

and SMA’s current annual manufacturing capacity in Germany is 10 gigawatts. Their largest facility alone produces five gigawatts. The Denver site will have a capacity of one gigawatt, giving SMA a total worldwide production capacity of 11 gigawatts. SMA America’s plant in Stapleton is North America’s largest PV inverter production site.

The Germany-based firm chose Denver for its first manufacturing site outside Germany.

“It was a big move for the company to do so,” Philpott said. “The whole U.S. was open when we came to the table. We chose to come to Denver and Stapleton based on the availability of the workforce. Educated, talented folks were there and it has good access to roadways and a major highway.”

SMA America hopes to provide its customers with better, faster service by having its inverter manufacturing plant in Denver, Philpott said.

“It’s because the U.S. is such a fast-growing market,” he explained. “It’ll help us better serve this market to have production based here locally. The end customers who receive the product range from homeowners and business owners to utility companies.”

Governor Bill Ritter’s efforts to bring “green” jobs to the state of Colorado also provided SMA America with a reason to have a Denver presence.

Colorado and Denver “had a supportive administration that was doing some green things in the area, and we fit right into that,” Philpott pointed out.

“We decided to plant the building in Stapleton in particular because of the size and

availability of the building that happened to be there,” he added. “There is a green field option in back of the building that offers room for expansion.”

Today, about 150 people are working to put together SMA America’s new manufacturing plant.

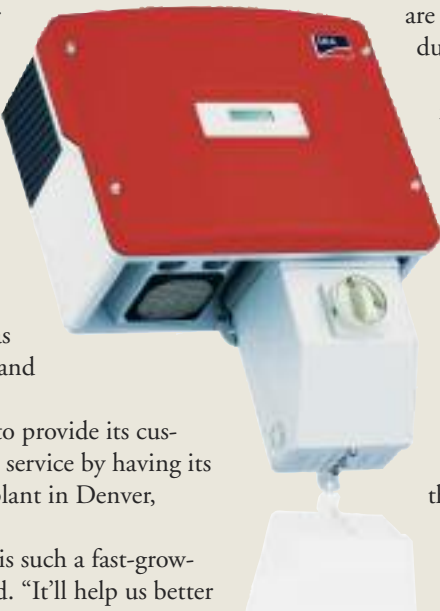
“That number could approach 700 by the end of the year and could move to 1,000 in the future,” Philpott said. “They are in the start-up mode right now. They are hiring and ramping up production.”

Scott Crabtree is general manager of the Stapleton SMA American plant. He has an “assortment” of members that form the management team who will be good neighbors to the Stapleton community, according to Philpott.

“They’ll want to know what’s going on in the local area and participate as they can,” he said. “The rest of this year they’ll be in the throes of ramping up production at an aggressive rate. That’s their primary focus right now.”

“SMA is a very employee-culture-based company that has won awards in Germany for being a great place to work,” Philpott said. “We’ve always played an active role in our community, and I would assume we’ll do the same in Stapleton. It may take a while to see the signs of it, but I fully estimate they will be a good neighbor and citizen of the Stapleton area.”

Hiring at SMA America’s Stapleton manufacturing plant is ongoing, according to Philpott. The open positions are listed on the



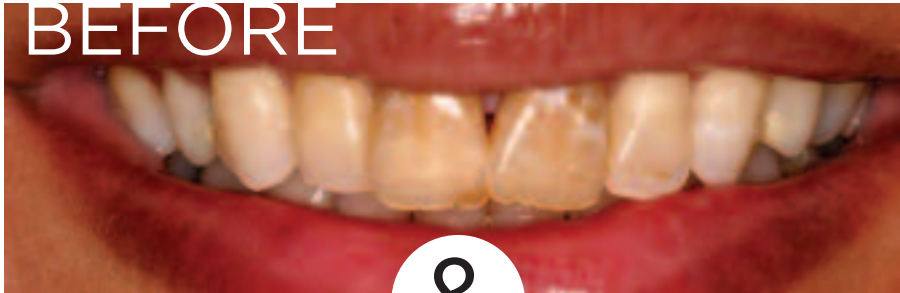
Above: The Sunny Boy 4000US, a finished residential inverter made by SMA.

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Jeffrey Philpott, Director of Marketing for SMA America

company's website, www.sma-america.com. Click on "company" and then "jobs and careers." Scroll to Open Positions (Denver Production). The jobs range from assembly employee to inverter test engineer. The website has company information and explains how to apply for jobs.

Recommendations Completed for Making it Easier to Get Around the East Side of Denver

Final public meeting scheduled for August 26th in Central Park

By Becky Karlin

The City and County of Denver is pleased to invite the public to a public meeting to celebrate the completion of the East Side Mobility Plan. The event will take place on August 26th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Central Park East Picnic Pavilion (Martin Luther King Boulevard & Beeler Street).

This celebratory meeting will coincide with the completion of Denver's planning effort which kicked off last fall. The meeting will allow the public to review and get more information on the nearly 100 recommendations to improve mobility issues in the area from I-70 to Leetsdale Drive between Monaco Parkway and Yosemite Street. The plan will also be available online at www.denvergov.org/east-side.

"From adding sidewalks and bike routes to reconfiguring intersections and roadways, we have recommendations that will make it easier to get around throughout the entire East Side Travel Shed," said Terry Ruiter, project manager for the East Side Mobility Plan. "We look forward to sharing these recommendations and discussing next steps with members of the public who provided crucial input during this entire process."

The meeting will include displays to help individuals better understand the various mobility improvement recommendations. In addition, project team members and other City staff and elected officials will be on hand to discuss and gather feedback on the report.

Following the completion of the report, the City will begin prioritizing, identifying funding and implementing the recommendations. Implementation of the plan will take many forms. Some recommendations, such as reconstruction of the intersection of Monaco Parkway and Leetsdale Drive, will begin as early as this fall. Other recommendations will require more detailed analysis or environmental approvals, which the City hopes to begin work on next year.

About the East Side Mobility Plan

The City and County of Denver's Public Works Department conducted the East Side Mobility Plan to evaluate and make recommendations for improvement to vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle and transit movement in the city's East Side Travel Shed. The East Side Travel Shed includes the area between Monaco Parkway and Yosemite Street, between I-70 and Leetsdale Drive.

Becky Karlin is a public involvement consultant for the City and County of Denver's East Side Mobility Plan. For more information about the East Side Mobility Plan, go to www.denvergov.org/eastside or contact the project manager, Terry Ruiter, at terry.ruiter@denvergov.org or 720-865-3136.

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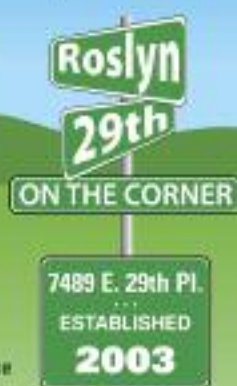


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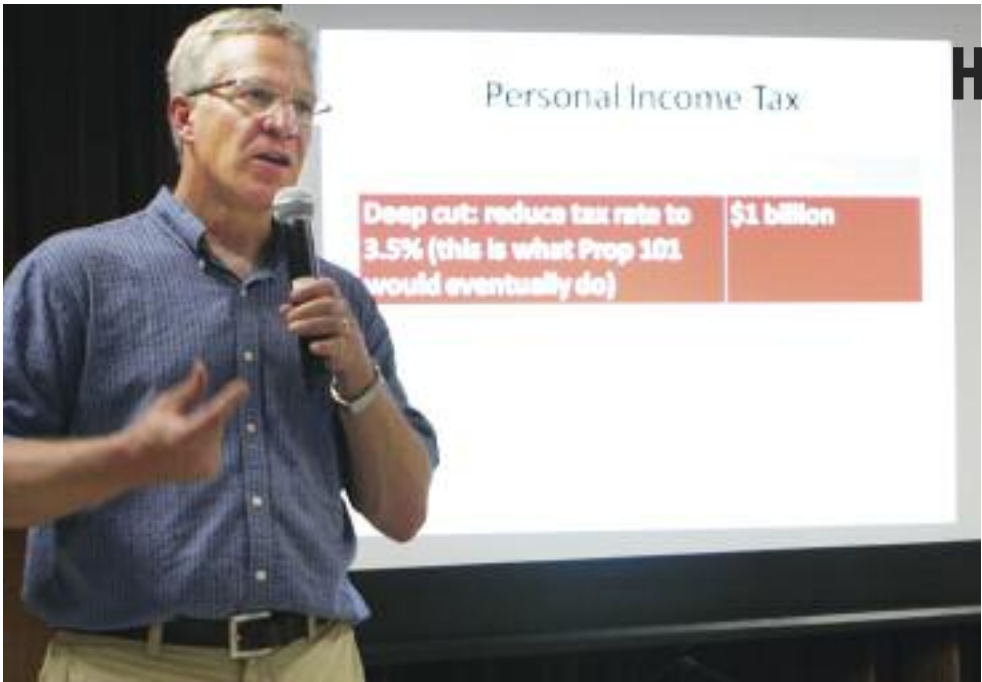


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Chris Adams explains the state budget crisis and illustrates the kinds of decisions legislators will face.

By Carol Roberts

Big budget woes are all over the news. California, Greece and the U.S. Government have recently been at the top of the list. But how much do Coloradans know about our own budget crisis?

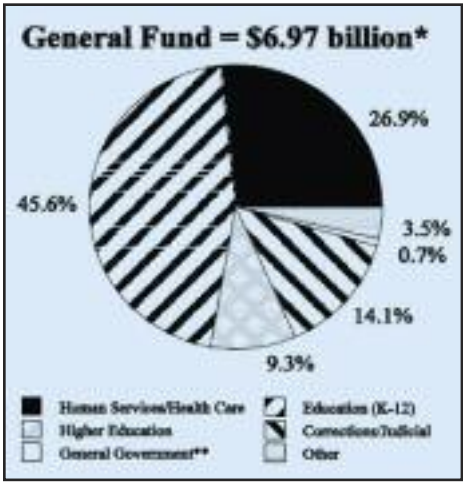
Stapleton resident Chris Adams recently offered a look at the tough budget-cutting decisions that lie ahead for our state legislature to approximately 100 people who attended a recent House District 7 Democratic Primary Forum. The forum was designed not just to educate attendees about the candidates' positions but, just as importantly, to educate the community about the difficult budget decisions that our legislators will have to make. Sponsored by The Front Porch and Stapleton Moms, the forum offered concrete examples of what the budget cuts might look like.

Educating Coloradans about the state budget is a major focus of the company where Adams works and a subject on which he is both knowledgeable and passionate. Adams offers an overview of the actual budget numbers and the restrictions the constitution places on how the money can be used. He then offers some examples of the kinds of difficult choices the next legislature will have to make.

"Colorado, like every state except Vermont, has a constitutional requirement to have a balanced budget, so unlike the federal government, it cannot run a deficit. It can be in debt for certain projects, such as bonds to build schools or highways but it cannot have an ongoing operating deficit. Another factor in our current situation is the Tabor Amendment, which was passed in the early 90's. That does not allow the legislature to increase tax rates and it also limits the amount of revenue the state can keep. A couple of years ago Referendum C was passed which temporarily allows the state to keep and spend more revenue. This was done in response to the recession in the early 2000's and it raises the limit moving forward. In this current recession we have not even approached that limit. But if times were to improve, that limit would prevent the state from spending as much money as it brings in, requiring it to refund money or reduce its revenue—but it would not get to spend it on things such as K-12 education.

"There's another amendment to the constitution called Amendment 23 and that was passed 11 years ago. It requires K-12 education to increase at the same rate as inflation. There's an interpretation that says if there is deflation it could fall, so that has resulted

How would you balance the state budget? Choose from these possible scenarios.



What choices would you make in the following scenarios for K-12 Education, Corrections and Higher Education?

K-12 Education

STATUS QUO \$3.2 billion
This year's overall state contribution to K-12 education is \$386 million less than the previous year, including \$62 million less from the general fund.

CUT \$170 million
Decrease state support by 5%, requiring districts to cut programs.

ADD \$170 million — Increase state support to districts by 5% allowing districts to prioritize how to spend the funds.

LARGER ADD \$2 billion
Increase state support to a level that would bring CO avg per pupil spending to the median of all states, adjusted for CO's higher personal income.

Corrections

STATUS QUO \$647 million
This expenditure is case-load driven and is \$13 million less than the previous year (1 inmate=\$19,500)

CUT \$31 million
Eliminate mental health, drug/alcohol rehabilitation, and education programs.

CUT ???
Release some TBD number of inmates.

ADD \$11 million
Double the expenditures for mental health and drug abuse treatment and counseling.

LARGER ADD \$19 million
Open the final two towers at the Colorado State Penitentiary II, providing an additional 632 beds.

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Higher Education

STATUS QUO \$645 million

The state currently provides funding that is equal to about 63% of what peer institutions in other states provide.

DEEP CUT \$64 million

Eliminate state funding for CU Boulder.

CUT \$12 million

Close five rural community colleges.

ADD \$192 million

Restore General Fund contributions to 2007-08 levels.

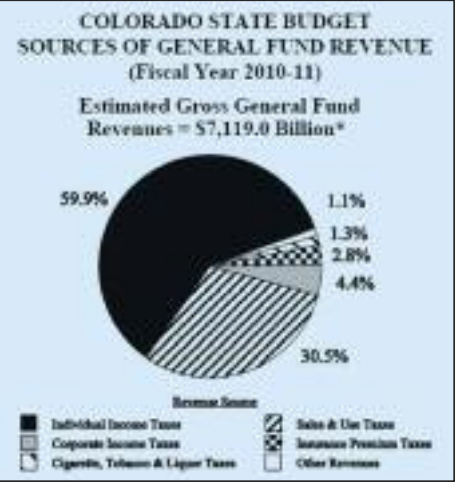
LARGER ADD \$279 million

Restore General Fund for higher education to 2007-08 levels AND fully fund Colorado's Community Colleges.

Revenue

Adams then explained the revenue side of the state's budget—individual income tax makes up 60% and sales tax makes up 30% (shown in the chart below). However, he pointed out that Colorado's constitutional provisions create a situation where it is very difficult for the legislators and the governor to actually legislate because the laws are so complex and there's not a great deal of discretion. "You have a constitutional provision on one hand that limits revenue and on the other hand a constitutional provision that requires increased spending."

What would you choose in the following scenarios about income tax and sales tax?



Sales Tax

STATUS QUO \$2.1 billion

Tax rate is 2.9%

CUT \$382 million

Reduce Sales & Use tax from 2.9% to 2.4% (by half of a percentage point).

ADD \$382 million

Increase Sales & Use tax from 2.9% to 3.4% (by half of a percentage point).

Personal Income Tax

STATUS QUO \$4.6 billion

Tax rate is 4.63%

DEEP CUT \$1 billion

Reduce tax rate to 3.5% (this is what Prop 101 would eventually do).

ADD \$329 million

Return Colorado's state income tax to 1999 levels (5%).

LARGER ADD \$773 million

Raise Colorado's state income tax to 5.5%.

Adams concluded his explanation of the state budget with an overview of three measures that will be on the ballot in November—Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101. "There is some modeling that looks at these three ballot issues as though they were fully implemented this year, though their full effect would actually be implemented over a number of years."

"If these measures were fully implemented today, Amendment 60 would reduce school district property taxes and the state would be required to backfill funds that have gone to schools. That would be an additional \$1.6 bil-

lion that would come out of the state's General Fund. Amendment 61 poses limits on debt, making it more difficult to finance new capital projects such as schools. Proposition 101 would lower taxes and reduce revenue. The cumulative impact, as analyzed by the legislature's staff, is that with the reduction in overall revenue and the requirement that an additional \$1.6 billion would go to K-12 Education, there would be \$38 million left for everything else in government...that would be Corrections, Health Care, Higher Education, State Patrol, Department of Public Health... everything."

Readers who wish to hear the Dist. 7 Democratic candidates' responses to the budget questions can view the entire forum at: DenverOpenMedia.org/project/6456/shows

The tapes can be found at the end of the list and are named: –Candidate Forum Part I and –Part 2 Candidate Forum Dist. 7

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Have you ever worried that your mailed ballot might not have arrived and been counted? Now you can track the process of your ballot through the U.S. Postal system to its arrival at the Denver Elections Division. A Stapleton company, i3logix, developed a bar-code based tracking system that was beta tested in the November 2009 election and is ready for use in the August primary election.

Denver residents who are party-affiliated voters can sign up to track their primary ballot at denvergov.org/ballottrace. Alternatively, voters can call 311 and request to sign up and track their ballot via text messages. Unaffiliated voters can sign up for Ballot Trace in mid-August for the General Election.

Following the primary election, the Front Porch will interview i3logix about how the process worked and learn about their other projects.

By Nancy Burkhardt

You are working on an important project that has to be done today. However, your computer has decided that working today is not on its schedule. You are good at creating products on the computer, but you don't speak computer-eze. What can you do?

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Victor Tsai, owner of MTX Computers, stands at the door to his business at 2306 Central Park Blvd., which will open this month.

ness or personal use," Tsai said. "If the problem is related to home networking, I can go to your house and find the problem. If you have a laptop, you can bring it in and I can take a look at it."

Tsai works on all brands of computers, and can customize them to a client's specifications. He also can recommend computers for purchase, based on a client's needs. But the majority of his clients call when they have computer problems they are unable to solve, he said.

"The most common complaint is when they say their computer is running slow and they don't know if the computer has a virus," Tsai said. "Most of the problem is that they loaded too many applications. A lot of computer software that has been downloaded stays in your computer and you don't need them."

"I find a lot of computer users don't know what's running on their computers," he said. "Some people have three different anti-viruses running at the same time when they only need one."

People who buy new computers also run into problems. "When they install a new computer, they install a lot of trial software that they want you to buy after the trial," Tsai explained. "Most users don't even know what they are and don't know how to remove them properly. They're afraid if they remove them, their computer won't work well. And, it shortens computer life."

MTX Computers also has maintenance contracts with companies using multiple computers. They will design websites and do website maintenance, as well as do online advertising for small businesses.

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5k Walk/Run in Central Park for Lung Cancer Awareness

By Nancy Burkhart

Lynne Winchell's family has had multiple lung cancer victims. When her father was diagnosed with lung cancer, they discovered that while events such as runs and walks were prolific for breast cancer, other cancers had few highly visible events to promote public awareness for the disease. So, before Duke Colorosa of Westminster died, his daughter promised him that she would bring one of the National Lung Cancer Partnership walks to Denver. And she has.

Winchell, a Stapleton resident, is event organizer/chairperson for the Free to Breathe 5K Walk that will be held on Saturday, August 21 at 8am in Stapleton's Central Park. Those who wish to run the 5k will be allowed to leave the starting point first. "I want to bring more awareness to lung cancer," Winchell said. "You don't hear much about lung cancer because it doesn't have a large group of survivors. Very few live past six months to three years. Lung cancer is not diagnosed through regular tests. Usually by the time it's diagnosed, it's in extensive stages. It reacts very well to chemotherapy, but it has a strong recurrence rate in a very short amount of time. Statistics show that 85 percent of those diagnosed with lung cancer will not make it to five years." Winchell says that in 85 percent of lung cancer cases, the patient was a smoker. And, 2 to 5 percent of those diagnosed were secondhand smokers. Her father began smoking at an early age and died at the age of 61. Therefore, he was a smoker for more than 50 years, she said. However, there are many people who never have smoked who have lung cancer. "I'd love to see a lot of the different cancers be as successful (at fundraising and awareness) as the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure," Winchell said. "I'd like to see that happen with lung cancer and see us get programs that stop people from smoking. Dad stopped smoking through several methods, but it always recurred. People will have relapses. It's really hard."



Lynne Winchell organized the Free to Breathe 5K to honor her father who died from lung cancer and to help raise funds for lung cancer treatment. Lynne is standing in Stapleton's Central Park where the race will be held on Saturday, August 21st.

Smoking is not necessarily the cause of lung cancer. "You can be predisposed to it," Winchell said. "I could take a CT scan for it, but the insurance company might not pay for it. I don't smoke. My husband doesn't smoke." According to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer is the No. 1 killer of American men and women—more than breast, prostate, colon, liver, kidney and melanoma cancers combined. Approximately 2,270 people will be diagnosed with lung cancer in Colorado this year, and about six people are diagnosed with lung cancer in Colorado every day. "I hope that this event raises awareness and brings hope and change for those who are diagnosed," Winchell said. "I think we need it for all types of cancers, not just for one. Each cancer is different. There is no one treatment." The beneficiary of donations from the Free to Breathe 5K is the National Lung Cancer Partnership. It is a group of leading doctors, researchers, patient advocates and lung cancer survivors who are working together to improve treatment for lung cancer patients, according to Winchell. For information and to register and set up teams for the Free to Breathe 5K, go to www.freetobreathe.org and select "Colorado." Online registration by Aug. 18 is \$20 and \$25 at the event. Pre-registered participants are guaranteed t-shirts.

Editors Note: The Front Porch will print an announcement of candidacy from individuals running for public office in our distribution area.

Pauline Olvera—Republican Candidate for House Dist. 7

By Sheryl Fernandez

Pauline Olvera, a small-business owner and longtime local resident, is the Republican candidate for State Representative for Colorado House District 7. Pauline says she is motivated to run for office by a need to reform Colorado's economic development policies and lower taxes on businesses and consumers to create an economic climate of opportunity.

Growing up in Colorado, Pauline attended the University of Colorado-Denver, earning her BSBA in marketing, finance and international business. Pauline spent most of her career in banking and finance until she decided to open her own small business. Pauline emphasizes her connection to her community and the need to elect leaders who will work hard and make the right decisions for their constituents as motivating factors in her race.

For more information, visit www.Pauline4house7.com or contact Sheryl Fernandez at 303.859.1421 or sheryllanne03@yahoo.com.

Sheryl Fernandez is campaign director for Pauline Olvera for House District 7.

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A Year in Malawi

By Nancy Burkhart

Some 40 years ago, Kay Taylor had to make a choice between joining the Peace Corps and marrying Dr. Vince Collins. She chose marriage.

Today the Stapleton couple has just finished a year in Malawi, an African nation that is one of the five poorest countries in the world. That year provided Taylor and Collins with a Peace Corps-like experience that fulfilled their joint desire to make a difference.

Malawi is a nation of about 14 million people, including some 1 million orphans, due to an AIDS crisis, malaria and malnutrition.

Collins is associate director of the Department of Behavioral Health at the Denver Health Medical Center, and is a child psychiatrist. He won a Fulbright Fellowship to help the University of Malawi to establish a department of psychiatry.

Taylor is a teacher who has worked for a number of non-profits. She was able to apply her talents to teaching English, which is one of two languages spoken in Malawi. The other language is Chichewa.

Collins and Taylor had heard of a group of medical missionaries who go to Malawi annually. They took the trip in 2007 to determine if there was a place there for them to work.

“I absolutely fell in love with the place and the people,” Collins said. “I met with the dean of the medical school at the University of Malawi and together we drafted a proposal that would provide the infrastructure for a psychiatric department. That proposal was submitted to the Fulbright Foundation in 2007. It took a while to secure the funding.”

Taylor moved to Malawi without a job.

“I was sort of intimidated going to Malawi,” she said. “I didn’t know whether I would be teaching English. When we went there, we discovered there was very little English spoken in the villages, and by the native people. The shopkeepers, who were primarily Indian, spoke English, but only about 5 percent of the people walking into the hospital where Vince worked spoke English. He had to work with a translator.”

A sign on the street that advertised the French Cultural Center said, “Do you want to learn English, Chichewa or French?” Taylor said. But she was too late. They had just hired an English teacher.

“I happened to find a man who is the director of a small orphanage for 21 children,” she said. “He said his English teacher for the children was leaving. But I wanted to teach adults. He found women who wanted to learn English who came to his orphanage. I came two afternoons a week to teach English to 50 women in this rural village. They needed English to get better jobs.”

Taylor used her own money to buy paper, pencils and



Dr. Vince Collins and Kay Taylor sit on the veranda of their Stapleton home with some of their treasures from Malawi, including a wooden statue they commissioned and a decorative cloth. The cloth was made by Kay using a traditional method of batik that she learned when she visited a cooperative of African artists in a nearby town.

used children’s books. And, she paid to copy material from the Internet.

Two months later she received a call from the French Cultural Center and started teaching English there three days a week as well. In order to get to know her students and overcome the language barrier, Taylor conducted interviews with them, using a translator. Through the interviews, she found that the women dreamed of being able to send their children to secondary school. Only 10 percent of the students in Malawi are able to attend secondary school because it isn’t free and they must pass a rigorous exam in eighth grade, she said.

Vince Collins was eager to get to work at the College of Medicine at the University of Malawi. “There are a number of sub-specialties that are represented at that school, but not psychiatry,” he said. “There is only one psychiatrist practicing in the public sector in the nation of Malawi. They recognized that they had a problem and thought that by creating a department at the medical school they would be able to produce their own psychiatrists.”

Now that the year in Malawi is over for Taylor and Collins, they say they are very glad they did it.

“Approaching a birthday (60 years) affords us an opportunity to assess what value is going to be left behind. How is the world a better place by what you’ve done?” Collins said. “It became clear that the medical school was in need, and because of a variety of experiences I’ve had, I could help them. And I could feel good about leaving something of value behind.”

It probably is unlikely that Collins and Taylor will do the yearlong Malawi experience again, but a trip to see how their work has progressed might be on the agenda, they said.

“We’re pretty daunted by a prospect of spending a year where our family isn’t located,” Taylor said. “The Internet was extremely difficult. I remember having a breakdown on Mother’s Day because I just wanted to speak to my three children and I couldn’t get through.”

“I’m not sure I could summon the energy to spend that amount of time overseas again,” Collins said. “But we’re



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Above: Vince Collins sits on the veranda of the home where he lived in Malawi talking with fourth year medical students about a research project. Below: Kay poses with her English class in Malawi.



eager to go back and see whether our efforts have been sustained.”
Taylor and Collins wrote a blog during their year in Malawi as a means of keeping in touch with friends and relatives.

For more information about the experiences Kay Taylor and Dr. Vince Collins had in Malawi, visit www.kamwa.wordpress.com or email them at kayvince@gmail.com.

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Not My Idea of a Bike Ride

Their wedding was a tad unusual. They married on the banks of the Colorado River and then everyone jumped into rafts and enjoyed a float down the Gates of Lodore, followed by a catered reception on the river bank. So when Randy Fay and Nancy Lewis said they were going to take some time off and go for a bicycle tour, I knew that they didn't mean a wine trip in France or a foliage jaunt in Vermont. However, I was staggered by the length and scope of the trip they were planning. Especially, considering they are old, just like me, with kids that have been to college. Nancy played soccer with my wife on a Park Hill women's team before either of them even had kids.

They decided to ride bikes from Inuvik, Northwest Territory to

Puerto Montt, Chile. They rode a total of 13,842 miles from June 2006 until January 2009. They took time to come back to the States to visit on several occasions, returning to where they left off. They didn't do it for charity, have any sponsors or have any specific goal in mind like having a life-altering experience. They simply did it because they wanted to. They sold their house in Denver. Quit their jobs, Nancy was with CH2M Hill and Randy is an exceptionally talented computer consultant. They paid up their health insurance and were off.

To me the idea of this trip seems utterly foolish—13,842 miles is a long way to go in a jet, let alone on a bike. There are the elements, every one of which can cause immeasurable pain, the physical nature of the journey causing more than aches, and the psychological trauma of

constantly being a long way from home. That is for starters. The dirt, flat tires, trucks, buses, banditos, questionable food, bugs, dirty water, grubby stinky bodies, road rash, camping, bears, snakes, mountains; all or any of which would be grounds for me not to go. With all that against them I would think they would need some acceptable motivation to finish such as a big check or the promise of a book tour. They had no such incentives. Both said that there are many people who do this sort of thing all the time and their experience and longevity was not exceptional.

What they did do is something that very few of us will ever come to appreciate or understand, let alone have the opportunity to partake in. Randy and Nancy were able to travel the length of North and South America at a pace that allowed them to appreciate all that every mile of the trip has to offer. The experiential nature of the trip deluged them with diversity of art, culture, geography and language. It was a true modern day

adventure and really the definition of freedom; the ability to act and live as one chooses. Most of us are not anywhere close to experiencing this in our lifetimes.

Nancy came by our house a while ago and I asked her what she will miss most about the adventure. Without hesitating, she answered, "the people." Wherever they went people were accepting and curious about who they were and where they were going. All nationalities were helpful and accommodating. Not once were they threatened even in the jungles of Colombia. The good nature and acceptance by all cultures astounded her.

That is an experience we all need to have.

Randy and Nancy's big adventure is chronicled at hobobiker.com.

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.

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Erik Myhren (center) is the executive director of KNUW Seeds, a non-profit organization that facilitates transportation so city kids can participate in a wide range of activities. Photos show kids who went to Vail to play lacrosse and ski.

By Nancy Burkhart

Erik Myhren has been a north Park Hill teacher for 13 years. He has made it his mission to find after-school opportunities for his 10-year-old, 5th-grade, low-income students that will give them an expanded future. “The schools I’ve worked at have 90 percent free lunch,” Myhren said. “Most of the students would be considered low income. Now it’s probably 60 percent African-American and 30 to 40 percent Latino students.” Myhren grew up in Park Hill. If he doesn’t know his students’ parents, he knows an aunt or uncle. “I think that it’s really, really important for every kid to develop passion while they’re young,” he said. “My mission as a teacher has

Reliable Transportation Opens Doors for City Kids

been to connect my students with activities that will help them set goals and develop self-confidence and self-esteem.” While some of Myhren’s students have opted for sports activities, such as lacrosse, others have chosen to take classes at Cleo Park Robinson Dance. All the students’ choices for after-school activities have led to transportation issues. How can they get from school to their activities and then home? To answer that question, Myhren founded KNUW Seeds. KN stands for knowledge. U stands for understanding, and W is for wisdom. “For knowledge to make sense, you have to have understanding and wisdom,” Myhren said. “Kids have to be able to connect with what we’re trying to teach them, and if they haven’t had opportunities, it’s hard for them to connect with knowledge without experiences.” “I have found that transportation has been the thing that keeps kids from participating after school. What we’ve done in KNUW Seeds is create transportation that makes it possible. Most of the programs will find a way to make the finances work, but we can’t find a way for the kids to get there.” “With KNUW Seeds, we built a bridge that enables disadvantaged youth to participate in a variety of enrichment programs


by focusing on transportation and awareness,” Myhren said. “We connect the kids of northeast Denver with programs already in existence.” When Myhren told his brother, Tor, about KNUW Seeds, a new fundraising idea popped up. Tor is Chief Creative Officer of Grey Advertising in New York City. His career has given him contacts in the movie industry. He was able to lure a production team to Denver for five months of filming his brother’s students who were participating in lacrosse. Award-winning documentary filmmaker Gabriela Cowperthwaite also grew up in Denver. She moved her newborn twins to Denver for the project. Tor saw an extraordinary situation—low-income minority students competing in lacrosse, a sport mainly composed of white, middle- to high-income students. He thought it would make a terrific documentary movie. “I think any time you’re doing a documentary, if you have a camera following you around for four to five months, you could make a drama,” Myhren said. “Our agreement was that we would have a movie that families could be proud of. I think the film makers portrayed the families in a very true and respectful way. And they also portrayed



many gifts from the community that allow these kids to overcome some of the obstacles that are in the front of them.” The result is the documentary movie, “City Lax, an Urban Lacrosse Story.” It has won awards at the Sonoma International Film Festival, the Santa Barbara International Film Festival and the Vail Film Festival. “It’s a great story about human spirit and the strength of these kids in the community,” Myhren said. “I think this is a great Denver story about how we come together to make things possible.” The film will be shown as a fundraiser for KNUW Seeds at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, at the Paramount Theatre. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 18 years of age. A silent auction will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. For tickets or to make a donation, go to: www.KNUWSeeds.org. Contact Erik Myhren emyhren@yahoo.com.



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By Madeline Schroeder

“There’s a spirit in comedy that survives, sometimes some rooms just have it...the walls are just full of laughter,” says A.D. (Almost Delivered), comedian and host of Wacky Wednesdays at Aurora’s Shadow Theatre on Dayton St. just off Colfax. The walls were certainly alive with laughter at the theatre on a recent Wednesday evening. The comedy show made for an evening full of wacky humor delivered by an odd but hilarious mix of comedians, including a dwarf who based most of his comedy on his height. It’s certainly offbeat but there is something to make everyone laugh. The energetic crowd is not uncommon for Shadow Theatre now, but this hasn’t always been the case.

Just one year ago, the theatre was cast in a dark shadow. With the death of its artistic director Jeffrey Nickelson and deep financial trouble, the theatre was struggling to survive, says Arnold King, production stage manager. But now, he continues, it seems like a completely different theatre. With a new artistic director, Keith Hatten, and new approach, Shadow Theatre has been resurrected.

The theatre’s new strategy to maintaining financial stability is opening up to more types of events, whereas it has been strictly theatre in the past. It now hosts an array of entertainment including Slam at Shadow, a yearlong poetry competition that appears every third Thursday of the month, karaoke every Monday night, and it’s in the beginning stages of featuring gospel concerts from local churches, which should begin in late October. All of these events are aimed at finding a certain niche for the theatre. King says, “We are starting to attract a regular crowd, which is getting us closer to our grand goal, which to provide standing room only. It’s open-ended and ongoing at this point.”

“Wacky Wednesday” is one of the most recent additions. It’s every other Wednesday at 8:30pm. Doors open at 7pm with two-for-one drinks until 8pm. For an affordable price of \$10 in advance (purchase by Monday) or \$15 at the door, you get the same caliber of comics as a mainstream comedy club, says A.D., who is the host and architect of the show. He goes on to say the show features local comics, most of whom have not been given the opportunity to perform to a large audience. The theatre setting lets them shine and improve their craft. Wacky Wednesdays kicked off in April and has become a popular scene.

Right: Comedian and host of Wacky Wednesdays, A.D. (Almost Delivered) performs his standup routine at Shadow Theatre. Above: Stage manager Arnold King stands outside Shadow Theatre.

AD’s passion for comedy is undeniable, both on and off the stage. He plays with the audience, is quick on his feet, and laughs a lot. “If you don’t like to laugh, you got a problem,” he says.

Although his love for comedy began way back with Steve Martin’s 1978 Egyptian album, his career took flight about 15 years ago at a comedy works club mix. He couldn’t believe he could get drunk and talk on stage and get paid for it. From then on, there was no turning back. He was a comic. “I can be totally honest, be myself, have a great time, bring laughter to others and get paid for it. That’s a wonderful thing. A great comic said it best, ‘when you walk out on the stage you get an applause, when you go to your job does anyone stand up and clap for you?’” He says, bending over in laughter, “That’s what makes it a great job.”

A.D.’s comedy sticks to everyday life situations. He doesn’t get political or religious, but writes mainly about personal problems that everyone can relate to, like his mother moving in with him. He wants to reach all audiences. “I write for everybody,” he says, “It’s the human experience we’re talking about.” Some of the material, however, is aimed at the mature human experience. This isn’t exactly the place to go for a family outing. Although Shadow started as


Comedy Doctors Prescribe Wacky Humor for Shadow Theatre



an African-American theatre, it prides itself in no longer being ethnically specific. But long tradition doesn’t change overnight. The theatre still primarily attracts its traditional audience. It’s welcoming to all, but if you’re not a person of color, expect to be the brunt of more than a few jokes—though it’s all in good humor. As Tyler Craig, a headlining comic who appeared at Shadow on July 7, says, “Laughter has no color.”

Craig entered the world of comedy when he was put on stage at his mother’s modeling agency to entertain in between shows. Unbeknownst to him, he was a natural. He ended up winning the competition, even though he wasn’t even a contestant. That’s when the fever started. He thrived off of the crowd’s energy and couldn’t get enough of comedy. He has brought that passion to Shadow. Craig says the most important thing is, “If you can laugh at it, you can make it through it. We spend our time trying to help, like doctors.” The best healing power for troubled times may just be laughter, as proven by the Shadow Theatre. The doctors of comedy like A.D. and Tyler Craig have brought the theatre back to life with Wacky Wednesday. It’s back on its feet and heading for more success. Hopefully it will continue to bring fun and laughter to the Aurora community.

For more information visit www.ShadowTheatre.com. Madeline Schroeder is a summer intern with the Front Porch. She is a journalism major at the University of Missouri.



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What's Up with Groundwater?

By Carol Roberts

Groundwater has become a subject of great concern to Stapleton residents whose sump pumps run frequently. S.U.N. (the local neighborhood organization) has a sub-committee devoted to the subject. Larry McSorley, spokesman for the group, says the groundwater table was at 30 feet when geotechnical testing was done prior to the construction of some of the homes that now have sump pumps at 10 feet. "What's causing this?" he asks. "Could it be something off-site? Is something changing here? Could this somehow have been anticipated and can something be done about the rising water table?" McSorley has sent emails to professors of hydrology and geology at local universities to see if they will bring some graduate students to study the situation.

There appear to be no clear or easy answers to these questions, but the Front Porch has attempted to at least provide some background information to better educate the community about groundwater and how it is dealt with in new construction in Denver.

Tom Gleason of Forest City explained that before Forest City conveys lots to homebuilders, preliminary geotech reports are conducted for the Park Creek Metro District. That report is also provided to the homebuilders who, in turn, conduct a lot-by-lot geotechnical analysis that is submitted to the city with the building permit request.

Perry Cadman, president of New Town Builders, says boring is done on every lot and tests are done not just for water, but to check whether soil will expand or collapse, or if it contains organic matter that could affect the foundation. "They leave those borings open and they come back and look for water again. Sometimes water is non-existent when they originally drill it, but nine days later the water table will be at 20 feet... or at 3 feet. It's just nature. But it's part of what everybody investigates.

"We've experienced a lot of groundwater in Highlands Ranch... one lot has it and the one next door doesn't have it. It's kind of a mystery to me," says Cadman. "Geotech will make recommendations if water is there at the time of drilling and sampling and you

build your foundation and drain system accordingly."

Cadman explains that in places around the country like Minnesota there is groundwater almost everywhere and it is just factored into the construction.

"I feel like there's misinformation out there," continues Cadman. "People feel like your sump pump should only go off after a heavy rain or snow. The system is designed to pump water away from the foundation. That's what it's there for. If there's groundwater present and it's pumping, that means the system is working. Ground water exists. If it's dealt with properly I don't believe it will damage the foundation. In Highlands Ranch where we found extensive groundwater we installed heavier duty pumps or we installed two pumps, and in one situation there was an alarm system so that if the pump failed and the ground water rose to a certain level, the alarm went off.

"There are so many ways to manage ground water. I think it's very difficult to eliminate it," says Cadman. He reminds homeowners that lots are graded so water will migrate away from the house. "We've had a lot of homeowners alter that, and it creates problems." He also suggests that homeowners learn and follow the guidelines from the Denver Water Board to be sure they are not overwatering.

A local hydrogeologist confirmed that it is not unusual for the water table to go up and down "a lot" (20 or more feet), which could be caused by any number of factors. He points out that urban areas have large areas of hard surfaces so water goes into storm drains, changing the natural infiltration patterns. Aquifers being tapped for agricultural or municipal water supplies can cause groundwater changes. And rainfall affects groundwater levels; they drop during periods of drought. (Colorado precipitation data from the National Climatic Data Center shows that five out of six years from 2000 to 2006 had lower than average rainfall.)

Denver's Department of Public Works provided the following information about groundwater: "There isn't anything in the Building/Zoning Code that requires a review

(continued on page 25)




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High Speed Police Chase through Stapleton



David Funke holds his 2-year-old son Lincoln and his 5-year-old daughter Devan in the 2500 block of Syracuse where his family was getting into their car when approximately seven police cars drove past at a speed he estimates to be in excess of 80 miles per hour. The police were chasing suspects who had fired shots at MLK and Pontiac. Photo is looking north toward The Green.

By Carol Roberts

On his first full day living at Stapleton David Funke was opening the door of his car parked on Syracuse Street for his 5-year-old daughter when a black SUV flew by at what he thinks was 65 or 70 mph... and accelerating. “I was tempted to jump in the car and go ask him what he thinks he’s doing when a pack of about four police cars going what looked like 80 mph or faster flew by in pursuit.” Then another three or four police cars flew by at the same speed.

Since Funke was standing in the street he could see the black SUV continuing to accelerate as it went north on Syracuse. The vehicle, with approximately seven police cars in pursuit, went through the light at 26th, through the stop signs at the east end of The Green on 29th (where the Farmer’s Market vendors would have been packing up shortly after 12:30pm on a Sunday), and then through the light at Martin Luther King Boulevard. “The next thing I saw was that the black SUV was airborne,” says Funke. He thinks it must have gone into the air after going too fast over a rise in the street, or that it hit the curb of the circle where buses enter the Stapleton Transfer Station. At that point the vehicle and police cars disappeared from his view, heading toward Quebec Square.

The police did not pursue the vehicle through Quebec Square, but the SUV drove through Quebec Square where it hit a patrol car in the Wal-Mart parking lot, then went back to 35th Avenue and headed west. As it reached Quebec one of the pursuing police cars used a pursuit intervention technique (PIT) in which the police car bumps the speeding vehicle in such a way that the car flips over. The vehicle came to rest facing north in the southbound lane of Quebec in front of Radio Shack and Smashburger.

Funke says he understands the need for the police to pursue a vehicle that has armed occupants who have been shooting. And he understands that it takes more than one police car to apprehend dangerous suspects. However, in a residential neighborhood that is heavily populated with children, he wonders whether it’s wise to have *seven* police cars driving through stoplights and stop signs at speeds he estimated to be in excess of 80 miles per hour.

The Front Porch asked Lt. Pete Conner what criteria are used to determine the circumstances in which police in Denver will engage in a high speed chase. The main criteria, he said, is that they pose a threat of bodily injury or death. In this case the suspects were presumed to be gang members who had fired shots near MLK and Pontiac. The chase started at 17th and Syracuse, where the suspect’s vehicle was spotted.

Denver has very explicit rules for chases that have been in place for over 20 years—and chases only happen under the most extreme circumstances, says Lt. Conner. A supervisor makes the decision when officers can engage in a chase and monitors them throughout the chase. Based on the reports from the pursuing officers the supervisor can call off the chase. “The supervisor weighs the totality of circumstances and that dictates the number of officers authorized to be involved in the chase,” says Bronson. “Recent gang activity in the area of the shooting contributed to the decision to pursue this vehicle.”

Lt. Conner said typically only two cars are authorized in a chase but three were authorized in this case since the suspects were gang members known to be armed and they had already used their weapon. The remaining police vehicles were cover cars that drive under different rules than the pursuing cars. They should “be prepared to stop and pursue with due care,” according to Conner.

The suspects were taken to the hospital to be checked but were not seriously injured and they have been arrested. An investigation of the incident, which happened Jul. 25, is still underway.

The Funke family had just moved to Stapleton for Dr. Alisa Funke’s fellowship in dermatology at University Hospital.

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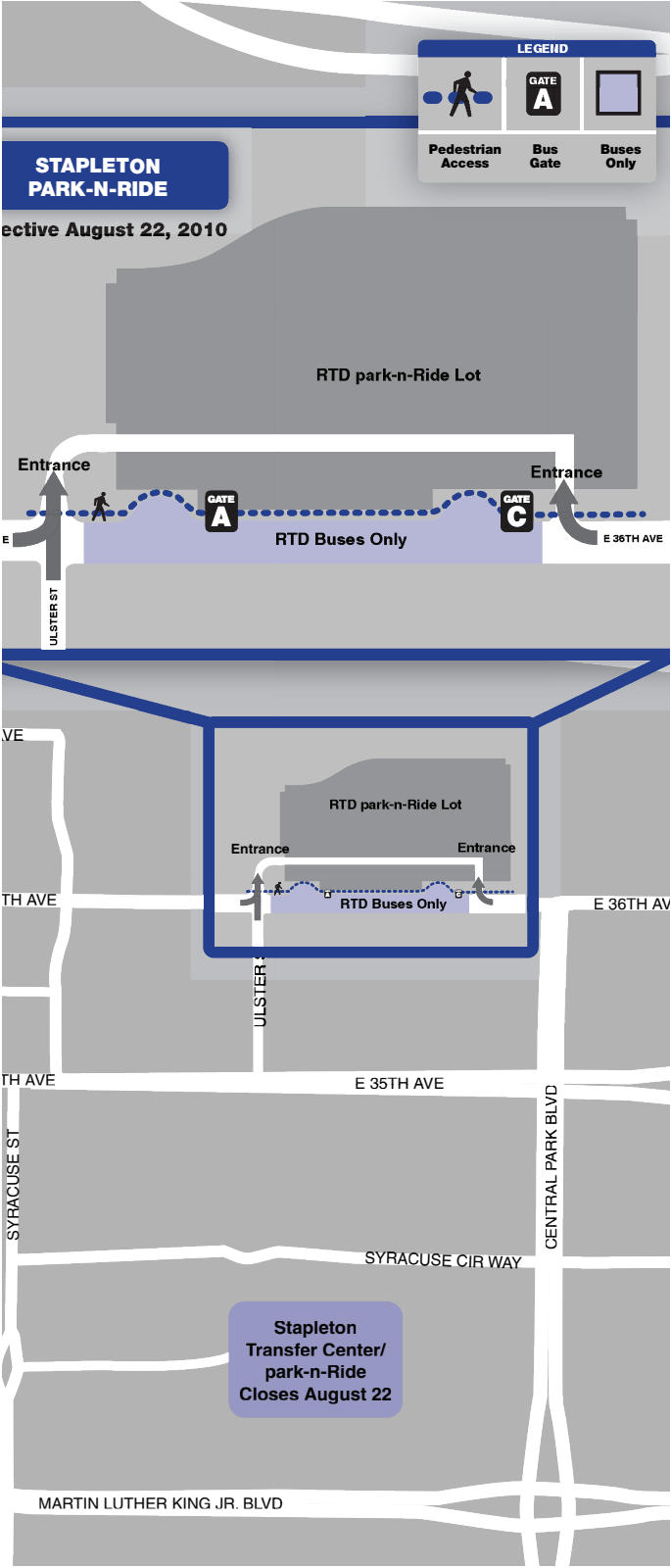
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This interim park-n-Ride will provide 1,400 parking spaces under the same pay for parking policy observed at the current Stapleton park-n-Ride. Customers can access the parking lot from the intersection of 36th Avenue/Ulster Street or Central Park Boulevard /36th Avenue.

Vehicles left at the old park-n-Ride facility after August 22 will be towed at the owners' expense. For extended parking, riders are asked to use the park-n-Ride at Airport Boulevard and 40th Avenue.

The future Central Park Boulevard Station will be located adjacent to Smith Road between Ulster Street and Central Park Boulevard.

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Learning About the World through Coin Collecting

By Kathy Epperson

Nine-year-old Andrew Hageman is a Stapleton kid with a big passion for collecting coins and bills. It all started at the age of five when he found an old wheat cent and a Sacagawea gold coin and went to a coin exhibit to learn about the history of these and other coins his grandmother had given him. “I like collecting coins,” says Andrew. “I’ve learned a lot about World War II and the Civil War by collecting coins and bills.”

“It’s cool, because he’s learned a lot about geography, the economy, and history,” says his mother, Graham Ray. “Like the five billion bill from Zimbabwe, which now isn’t even worth anything. Their government is corrupt, and their money is printed with an expiration date because of the inflation there. So Andrew is not an expert by any means, but he understands how lucky we are here and that

Coin collector Andrew Hageman looks over a “large cent” minted in 1829. One-cent pieces like this were among the first coins ever struck by the US Mint but as the value of one cent decreased over the years Americans tired of carrying the heavy money. This large cent is a favorite of Andrew’s because it was struck when Andrew Jackson was President.

our dollar can actually buy something.” Now his mom’s friends and even people he doesn’t know bring Andrew coins from all over the world. His collection has grown to include coins from over 140 different countries, and he’s started a coin collecting club at Westerly Creek Elementary. “I go to the big coin shows like the ANA Convention (American Numismatic Association), where they have auctions and lots of stuff for free,” says Andrew.. When Andrew first gets a new coin for his collection, he has reference books and online resources to learn more about them. “Andrew knows some things in history that no other third-grader could tell you,” says Graham. “Like the 3 cent U.S. coin from the mid-1800, which was created because that’s what a stamp cost back then. Coin collecting has definitely been a way to open doors to a lot of other areas.”

To encourage his interest in currency and managing money, Graham helped Andrew and his sister Elizabeth open accounts at the Young Americans Bank in Cherry Creek. And Andrew has already started getting other kids interested in his hobby, teaching a class about coin collecting for other kids at the Young Americans Bank and also inviting groups of kids at Westerly Creek to see and learn about his coin collection. “He came up with the idea to start the coin club at school,” Graham says, “and he likes to share his knowledge with other kids. It’s been nice to see him share his passion with other classmates.”


Asked if he knows what he wants to be when he grows up, Andrew says, “Probably not. It’s hard to think that far ahead.”

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Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

The Joys of Dip Netting

I am convinced that most children are genetically predisposed toward participating in three outdoor activities: collecting rocks, climbing trees and in particular, wading into shallow water with a small net, bucket and, well, a primitive-like mission to catch any creature that moves. For this environmental educator, “dip netting” is by far the most interesting nature discovery activity to watch unfold before my eyes, and the most gratifying “catch, study and release” hunt for children, including my three.

Over the past six years, I estimate that I have led over a thousand Nature Rangers on dip netting expeditions in ponds, creeks and off of lake shores. It never ceases to impress me what a run-of-the-pet-store, 4” x 3” fish aquarium net, plus a child’s innate persistence, buys my Rangers in scientific discovery, knowledge and plain-old, ankle-deep wet fun.

A slow and deliberate swipe of a net over the top of a stream’s muddy bottom yields a magical mountain of muck containing a bounty of bright red tubiflex worms, fingernail-size pill clams and pouch snails. Mid stream, a net can haul in hundreds of shrimp-like scuds, schooling small fry, burly dragonfly nymphs and undulating tadpoles. On the surface, darting water striders, backswimmers, scorpions and an occasional froglet tempt the dip netters. After the catch is examined, the specimens are classified and named using a reference identification chart. They are then gently returned to their home.

On the chart are two macroinvertebrates that reliably catch the eyes of my students: the freshwater crayfish and



Junior Nature Ranger Nick shows off his single pincer crayfish caught in Westerly Creek.

hairy wolf spider. If there is a prize dip netting catch, it is these creatures.

Crayfish are also known as crawdads or crawfish. These crustaceans are closely related to shrimp, crabs and lobsters. Their exoskeleton both supports and protects their segmented body that is complete with four pairs of jointed walking legs, keen com-

pound eyes and two sensory antennae. They breathe dissolved oxygen from the aquatic habitat with their gills and thrust their muscular tail, swimmerets and tail fan to propel them backwards and evade predators. Crayfish have one or two large pincers and as omnivores eat anything they catch including aquatic plants, worms, insects and small fish. They will even consume their shell after a molt. Crawdads are well concealed in the water-bottom vegetation, mud or under submerged rocks. A focused pair of eyes can find them here.

The tarantula-like wolf spider occupies a wide range of habitats including wetlands and backyard leaf piles. You can’t miss a wolf spider. They can grow to be the size of a young human’s hand. If you have an encounter with a wolf spider, beware; they can deliver a painful bite with their fangs. Their earth-tone coloration often matches their surroundings. Most build small burrow shelters, while other species are nomadic. They are aggressive



Nature Ranger Sidney checks out a wolf spider collected under Lake Mary’s floating bridge at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

hunters that employ their excellent eight-eyed eyesight, impressive wolf-like stalking skills, ambush techniques and lightning speed to pounce on their next meal. Insects are their primary food. Those that live near water can be seen walking on the water’s surface. Tiny hairs on their body keep them afloat. A female wolf spider will wrap her eggs in a large silk ball and carry the sac until the spiderlings hatch. Her pinhead-sized young hitch a ride for a few weeks or until they become airborne and are disbursed into their natural surroundings, continuing their lifecycle.

A \$2.99 dip net will easily underwrite hours of exploration and fun in nature.

An added bonus is the genuine glee and gratification that dip netting generates in children, and that is priceless. Don’t leave home without one.

Marko and John Babiak are Stapleton residents. Marko, 9, is an avid wildlife photographer. John is an enrichment teacher. Weekly he teaches his popular Nature Rangers ecology classes to students at Steck, Roberts, Westerly Creek and Odyssey. He also leads a summer-long nature day camp at the nearby Rocky Mt. Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. He can be reached at NatureRanger-John@aol.com. Photos by Marko Babiak



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8/7 Saturday and 8/8- Mile High Blues Festival. Mile High Marketplace, I-76 and 88th Ave. Tickets: Milehighbluesfestival.com

8/7 Saturday- Chris Isaak. 7:30pm; tickets \$52.50–\$75. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada. Tickets: www.chrisisaak.com

8/8 Sunday- City Park Jazz. Tuxedo Junction. 6–8pm, at City Park band shell, 17th and Colorado. FREE. www.cityparkjazz.org

8/14 Saturday and 8/15- Mile High Music Festival at Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Info: www.milehighmusicfestival.com; tickets: www.ticketethorse.com

8/27 Friday- Yonder Mountain String Band and Leftover Salmon. Red Rocks Amphitheatre. www.ticketmaster.com

Wednesdays through August 25- Shady Grove Picnic Concert Series at Four Mile Park. 6:30 pm. Tickets: www.swallowhillmusic.org

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8/6 Friday- First Friday Art Walks:

Santa Fe Arts District. www.artdistrictonsantafe.com
North Denver's Tennyson Artwalk. Tennyson St and 44th Ave. www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com
Cherry Creek Arts District. www.cherrycreeknorth.com

8/6 Friday and 8/7 Saturday- Rocky Mountain Book and Paper Fair. Antique books, first editions, signed books and more; \$5 to \$5000+. Preview Gala Friday evening, 5–9pm, \$10, includes readmission on Sat. Saturday: \$5, 10am–5pm. Events hourly. Special focus: vintage photography. www.rmaba.org. Denver Merchandise Mart, 58th and I-25.

8/7 Saturday- The Great Urban Race. Presented by Red Frog Events, teams find checkpoints, complete challenges, navigate streets of LoDo and Downtown. 12pm; tickets \$55–\$75, 773.770.6032. www.greaturbanrace.com

8/15 Sunday- Denver Civic Center Walking Tour. 11am. Meet at Sea Lions Fountain, north end Civic Center Park. FREE; reservations required, 720.865.4307. www.denvergov.org/publicart

8/19 Thursday- 3rd Thursday Walk. North Denver's Highlands Square. www.highlandssquare.com

8/21 Saturday- Denver Oyster Urban Adventure Race. Billed as "Ultimate Urban Adventure Race" combining pure athleticism with thought-provoking strategy. Teams run-bike-paddle-climb-race around city answering clues, completing tasks. Tickets \$70–\$80. Register: www.denveroyster.com

8/21 Saturday- Colorado Convention Center Walking Tour. 11am. Meet at Big Blue Bear. FREE; reservations required, 720.865.4307. www.denvergov.org/publicart

8/21 Saturday- Denver Performing Arts Complex Walking Tour. 1pm. Meet at entrance to Ellie Caulkins Opera House. FREE; reservations required, 720.865.4307. www.denvergov.org/publicart

9/3 Friday to 9/6- Festival of Mountain and Plain, A Taste of Colorado. FREE admission, food for purchase; artisans and carnival rides. Atasteofcolorado.com

FREE Learn to Compost classes. Offered by Denver Recycles various August Wednesdays and Saturdays. 8/7 is Worm Workshop discussing worm composting. Registration required, 720.865.6810 or www.denvergov.org/Denver-Recycles

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

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

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

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

8/14 Saturday and 8/28- 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

8/24 Tuesday- Bonfils Blood Center's Because Life Happens. Discover steps to transform your donation into life-saving products for patients in need. 4–5 pm, 717 Yosemite St. RSVP: foundation@bonfils.org or 303.739.4000

8/29 Sunday- FREE Car Seat Safety Checks. Stapleton Women's Center, 2975 Roslyn St, Ste 140. 10am–12pm. 303.320.2992

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

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

8/9 Monday- Mother Teresa. 2:30–3:30pm. Springbrooke, 6800 Leetsdale Dr. RSVP: 303.331.9963.

8/10 Tuesday- Native Americans of Colorado. 10am, Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. RSVP: Lil Shaw, 303.316.6359

8/12 Thursday- Gold! 10am–noon. 1375 High St. RSVP: 303.399.5555, seating limited.

8/17 Tuesday- Water in Colorado. 11am–noon; refreshments 10:45am. Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi, 303.388.4013 x307

8/19 Thursday- The History of Denver. 3–4pm. Village at Lowry, 150 Quebec St. RSVP: 303.364.7149

8/24 Tuesday- King Tut. 5:30–6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax

9/9 Thursday- The Lewis and Clark Expedition. 7–8pm. Stapleton Master Community Assn. 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724

LIBRARIES

For info on library programs, check events calendar at denverlibrary.org.

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 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 age 2 and caregivers. Stories, songs, movement activities. 10:30am.

8/5 Kids Craft: Button Making. Registration required. 3:30pm

8/6 Friday- Teen Craft: Button or Magnet Making. Registration required. 3:30pm.

8/6 Friday- Dance Dance Revolution. 3:30pm.



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www.carshare.org

WayToGo Stapleton!

Stapleton Area TMA, go CarShare, RTD, Stapleton Master Community Association

8/7 Saturday- “Bubble Mania” with Captain Vic. 10:30am.

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.

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

8/5 Thursday- Ann Lincoln presents the Yo Ho Ho Pirate Show. Juggling, magic and more. 10:30am.

8/15 Sunday- Latitudes Book Club. 3pm.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

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

8/6 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 8/13, 8/20 and 8/27.

8/11 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, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm.; 5 and under free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. 720.865.5000, www.denverartmuseum.org

8/12 Thursday- Bluff Lake Fireside Chat. Wildlife tracking with Matt Gray and marshmallow roast. 6pm. Members free; \$1/nonmember. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

Saturdays in August- Kids Saturday Nickelodeon. FREE G-rated movies, Starz Film Center, Denver. www.denverfilm.org

8/14 Saturday- Dinosaur Discovery Day. Dinosaur Ridge, Morrison. www.dinoridge.org

8/14 Saturday to 8/15- Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games. Highlands Ranch, www.scottishgames.org

8/20 Friday to 8/29- Zoppe Italian Family Circus. Mile High Marketplace, I-76 and 88th Ave. Tickets: www.zoppe.com

8/22 Thursday- Bluff Lake Nature Center Fireside Chat. Rocking Reptiles and Awesome Amphibians with the Denver Zoo; marshmallow roast too! 6pm. Members free; \$1/person non-members. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

8/27 Friday to 9/6- Colorado State Fair. Pueblo. www.coloradostatefair.com

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

The Art Garage in Park Hill. Summer classes, ages 4 and up. Register: www.artgaragedenver.com

MUSEUMS

Through 1/2/11- Tutankhamen: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs. Denver Art Museum, 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

Through 8/15- BODY WORLDS & The Story of the Heart. This popular exhibit has been extended! Tickets \$8–\$12/member; \$13–\$25.50/non-member. www.dmns.org

8/19 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails and entertainment every 3rd Thursday of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8 members; \$10 nonmembers.

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

Showing at IMAX through 8/22: Hubble. Hubble Space Telescope amazing journey, greatest space success since moon landing. Arabia. Experience culture, history, religion of this unfamiliar world region. Both shows: various times; tickets \$6/ages 3–18; \$8/adult. **IMAX closed 8/23–10/07 for upgrades to latest IMAX technology.**

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

Main Street SummerFest at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton. Every August Friday, 4–8p. Featuring musical entertainment, handcrafted gourmet foods, local artisans, children’s activities and much more! Details: www.NorthfieldStapleton.com

Opening soon at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton. Toby Keith’s I Love This Bar & Grill - opening late Aug.

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.

Guy Harvey’s Perfect Spot Bar & Grill - opening Fall ‘10. Wyland’s Ocean Blue - opening Fall ‘10.

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

8/6 Friday- New Release: *The Other Guys*
8/13 Friday- New Release: *Eat, Pray, Love*
8/20 Friday- New Release: *Nanny McPhee Returns*
8/27 Friday- New Release: *Takers*

Bass Pro Events- 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

8/1 Sunday- Basic Pistol Course: Handgun Safety
8/7 Saturday- Fall Hunting Classic
8/7 Saturday- Introduction to Fly Fishing (also 8/21 & 8/28)
8/10 Tuesday- Get Hooked on Fly Tying
8/25 Wednesday- High Country Trout Fishing in Colorado
8/25 Wednesday- How to Use Fish Finders and What’s New
8/26 Thursday- Learning to Use GPS
8/26 Thursday- Saltwater Fishing
8/27 Friday- Archery, Hunting Elk

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

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

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Reservations required for these popular programs. 303.289.0930. To get to refuge, take I-70 and exit north on Havana St, enter at 56th and Havana. Free unless noted.

8/3 and 8/31 Tuesdays- Tuesday Tots: RRRibbit! 10–11am. Appropriate for 2–5-yr-olds.

8/5 Thursday- Birding Basics. 8–11am.

8/6 Friday- Sunset Photo Tour. 5:30–8:30pm.

(continued on page 19)



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RECURRING EVENTS

4th Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

Every Tuesday

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

1st Tuesday

Breast Cancer Support Group
5-6:30pm AF Williams Family 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 & Support Group, Dist. 2 Police Station, 10:15-11:45am
3821 Holly St. 303-329-0619

2nd Sunday

Collaborative Kite Fly & Walk, (free) Stapleton 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

(continued from page 17)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

8/7 Saturday- Refuge Fishing Clinic. 7-11am.

8/8 Sunday- Ranger Read Along. 11:30am-12pm. Storytime under the great elm tree. All ages.

8/13 Friday- Kids Fishing Night. 4-7pm. Poles available for loan; free souvenir photo of your catch.

8/14 Saturday- Refuge Hike. 8-10am.

8/14 Saturday- Evening with a Naturalist. 8-9pm. Campfire chat with a Refuge naturalist.

8/21 Saturday- The Masked Weasel. 7-8pm. Experience close encounter with one of world's most endangered mammals. Adults.

8/24 Tuesday- Full Moon Bike Ride. 8-10pm. Fat, puncture-proof tires and helmet required.

8/26 Thursday- Refuge Hike. 8-10am.

8/28 Saturday- Hayride. 6-8pm.

8/29 Sunday- Bike the Refuge. 8-10am. Helmet and fat, puncture-proof tires required. Bug spray recommended.

SPORTS & FITNESS

Tuesdays through August- 11th Annual Sunrise Tai Chi in the Parks, City Park, Denver (west side of museum) 7-8am. By Tai Chi Project & TCM College of Sports Medicine. 303.744.7676. www.taichidenver.com. Sponsored by Denver Parks & Rec. FREE.

9/19 Sunday- 4th annual Hop, Skip and a Jump Start. Stroller and family-friendly 5K and Expo beginning at 9am benefits Denver Children's Museum. Register: www.my-childsmuseum.org

Stapleton All Sports- Registering for fall classes: soccer, football, early ball skills and cheer. Ages 2 and up.
www.stapletonallsports.com

STAPLETON/PARK HILL/LOWRY EVENTS

8/7 Saturday- Stapleton 3 School Mixer. 3-7 pm at Pocket Park, 36th and Wabash. Bring the family and picnic dinner; hosted by Stapleton 3 PTA. 303.815.8080 michelleboley@com-cast.net

8/12 Thursday- Stapleton Dads BBQ. Join other Stapleton dads for volleyball, soccer, Frisbee, burgers, beer and more. 6-9pm. \$10. Central Park Pavilion next to pond. www.stapletondads.com

9/19 Sunday- 33rd Annual Park Hill Home Tour and Street Fair. Advance tickets \$15 at King Soopers. Roberta Locke at 303.355.4492.

THEATER

8/6 Friday and 8/7 Saturday- James and the Giant Peach. Presented by City of Northglenn, 7pm. Tickets \$7.50/adults, \$6.50/students and seniors. D.L. Parsons Theater, 11801 Community Center Drive, 303.450.8800

Through 8/7- Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Avenue Theater, 417 E 17th Ave. 303.321.5925, www.avenuetheater.com

Through 8/7 Murderer. John Hand Theater, 7653 E 1st Pl, Lowry. 720.880.8727, www.john-handtheater.com

Through 8/8- A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.vintage theatre.com

Through 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.centralcity-opera.org

Through 8/8- Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Boulder, www.coloradoshakes.org

8/20 Friday to 9/19- On Golden Pond. Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.vintage theatre.com

8/31 Tuesday to 9/12- 101 Dalmatians. Buell Theater, Denver. www.denvercenter.org

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More Events...

August 5, Miracle Treat Day Buy a Blizzard to Benefit Children's Hospital

Thursday August 5, is the 5th-annual Miracle Treat Day, which benefits The Children's Hospital. Participating Dairy Queen locations in Colorado and Wyoming will donate a portion of proceeds from every Blizzard® sold to Children's Miracle Network. Last year's event raised nearly \$80,000 for The Children's Hospital. The Dairy Queen at 7601 E. Colfax (between Rosemary and Syracuse) will donate \$1 from each Blizzard sold that day. The Dairy Queen at 11900 E. Colfax (in the block west of Peoria) will donate the full proceeds of each Blizzard sold that day. For information on Miracle Treat Day visit www.miracletreatday.com or for information on Children's Miracle Network visit www.ChildrensMiracleNetwork.org.

Aug. 7 & 13 Fishing Opportunities at the Arsenal

By Sherry James, Supervisory Park Ranger, Rocky Mountain Arsenal Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge

One of the most popular activities at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge—fishing—lasts until October 16. Anglers are welcome to fish at the Refuge from 6am–6pm, Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday. Carp, crappies, bluegill, channel catfish and lunker northern pike are among the types of trophy-sized fish anglers can expect to catch at Lakes Mary and Ladora, which are stocked.

Are you a novice or aspiring fisherman or fisherwoman who would like to learn how to fish? Bring your pole—or borrow one of ours—and come see us on Aug. 7, 8–11am, for a free lesson from one of our experienced anglers. Or if your kids love to fish, bring them out for a fun fishing experience on Friday, August 13, 4–7pm. Geared specifically for kids, this event will equip young anglers with tips and tricks, and they will receive a souvenir photo of their catch.

Only barbless hooks and artificial bait are allowed for recreational sport fishing at the

Refuge. Anglers age 16 and older must possess a valid Colorado fishing license and pay a \$3 per day fee to fish. Refer to the official rules and regulations provided at the kiosk located in the Visitor Center parking lot.

Don't forget the Refuge is now open six days a week (every day except for Monday) from 6am–6pm, and the guided wildlife viewing tours are offered Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30–11:30am. Tours fill up quickly, so make your reservations soon! The Visitor Center is also now open from 9am–4pm.

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 questions, comments or to register for programs, contact the Visitor Center at 303.289.0930. For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/>.

Aug. 12 Event in Central Park Bringing Memories to Memory Walk

By Sara Spaulding, Alzheimer's Assoc.

The Alzheimer's Association of Colorado is hosting a special event, Bringing Memories to Memory Walk, on Thursday, August 12, 2010 from 7-8pm at Stapleton Central Park in Denver at the Alzheimer's Memory Grove and Gardens.

Bringing Memories to Memory Walk offers an opportunity to honor and remember the lives of those touched by Alzheimer's disease. For a donation of \$10, guests at the event can purchase tribute flags and personalize them with the name of a loved one. The event will include guest speakers, refreshments will be served,

entertainment will be provided by Hal Aqua and a special croquet demonstration will be hosted by Jiminy Wicket.

Tribute flags will be strung together and flown over the Start/Finish line at this year's Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk in City Park on Saturday, September 18, 2010. The Stapleton event was planned for those who cannot attend Memory Walk on September 18. Register a Memory Walk team online and participate "virtually" by gathering pledges at alz.org/co.

The Alzheimer's Association offers a broad range of programs and services, including a 24 hour Helpline, at no cost to families, and funds advancements in research to prevent, treat and eventually conquer this disease. The Alzheimer's Association advocates for those living with Alzheimer's and their families on related legislative issues, and with health and long-term care providers. For information call the Alzheimer's Association at 303-813-1669, the Helpline at 800-272-3900, or visit www.alzco.org.

Stapleton Activities Inc. Potluck Aug. 26 A Place to Meet NE Denver Neighbors

Adults without kids can now meet up with others at the regularly scheduled concerts and movies on the Green. The big white tent at the west end of the Green will have a sign on the west side showing the "meet and greet" spot for those wishing to join up with others at the concert.

For the concerts, which run from 6-8pm, the meeting time is 5:15. Nacho Men will perform on August 7 and Chris Daniels and

the Kings on August 21. For the movies, which start at dark, the meeting time will be 7:30pm. The August movies will be Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs on August 13 and Up on August 27. The group will also have a potluck on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm under the big white tent. Bring an item to share. Beverages, plates and utensils will be provided by MCA. In August the potluck will be held on Aug. 26.

Starting in September, the MCA will host a monthly Active Minds event on the 2nd Thursday of each month. On September 9, the subject will be the Lewis & Clark Expedition. The speaker will discuss the achievements and challenges of the expedition, the mysterious death of Meriwether Lewis and the evolution of our country's relationship with Native Americans. Doors open at 6:30pm, the event starts at 7pm.

Aug. 27 Drop Your Drawers and Run Wild 5K Run/Walk and Family Zoo Loop to Benefit Underwearness, Inc.

The event will offer live music, after-hours zoo viewing, food and a beer garden, and a chance to win prizes. Underwearness' mission is to provide new underwear to children in need. Participants are asked to bring packages of new children's underwear for donation. Proceeds from this special event will go to Denver Public Schools for distribution to the more than 900 homeless children who currently attend DPS. To register visit underwearness.org. \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under.

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Finding Opportunities During Tough Times

By Carol Roberts

The idea for Kenneth Powell's new business venture, a used furniture and appliance store at 22nd and Oneida, started as he observed the increased number of evictions and foreclosures in the community and turned into an opportunity to help battered women get a fresh start.

Powell worked in real estate evictions and saw that lots of furniture and appliances were not retrieved in the time allotted; he says the items became abandoned property that were often taken to the dump. With financial backing from his sister he was able to start Yahweh's, a store where he could sell the good-condition items he found through the foreclosure business.

He chose the name "Yahweh's," the Hebrew word for God, as a way to pay homage because, "God has something to do with everything. But it's just a store," he says, "We don't proselytize to customers."

Getting the store off the ground has led Powell in some interesting directions. A battered women's shelter contacted him and asked if he would give them a lower price on furniture to help women get back on their feet when they leave the shelter. Since he gets some of his items free following foreclosures, he

agreed to help them by providing some items at a very low cost. Then a church that was losing its building contacted him about buying their furniture. They were without a place for their Sunday services, so Powell made arrangements with them to meet in his store on Sundays, when Yahweh's is closed.

From 2000 to 2004, Powell ran "God's Powerhouse" at Colfax and Jasmine, a non-profit organization funded through private donations and fundraisers to provide services to at-risk youth. "The organization partnered with a couple of churches and met with the kids who came in and offered speakers and classes that included



Kenneth Powell and Rena Freed at Yahweh's furniture store

substance abuse, suicide prevention, and anger management." In addition they worked with food and clothing banks to help meet the needs of the youth. During that time, Powell "tossed papers at night," to help support himself, but the organization ended up closing in 2004 as private funding dried up.

Yahweh's has also offered an opportunity for Powell to showcase the artwork of Rena Freed. "Rena was born with a severe hearing disability, and she found that her lack of hearing actually heightened her visual senses. She was painting home interiors and was doing interesting things with colors, which led some artists to encourage her to get formal painting instruction. Rena is emotionally moved by color. What she feels comes out in her painting," says Powell.

She recently got a cochlear implant that increased her hearing, so she has entered a whole new world. However, Powell adds, "It was her disability that led to her heightened visual sense and she's being careful not to lose what she had."

Powell's store keeps prices low and "helps folks get over the hump and get quality furniture and appliances at a reasonable price." Yahweh's picks up and delivers free, and also sell items on consignment. Though they prefer to take working appliances, the store does have a repair person who checks and does maintenance on the items they sell.

The public is invited to the store's grand opening celebration on Wednesday, August 7 at 5pm. "Winning Bar-B-Queologist Daniel 'Meat Truck' Jones, the only brother in Denver recognized by the Kansas City Barbeque Society in the state" will offer free samples and will be selling meal-sized portions. The Stan Jones Band will provide the music for the event.

Yahweh's, located at 2230 Oneida St, is open from 9am to 6pm, Monday through Saturday. Phone: 720-328-8557. Website: www.yahwehs.comcastbiz.net.

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Stapleton Swim Team

Right: Stingrays Assistant Coach Janay Griego instructs her young swimmers.

Far right: A young swimmer works out at an early morning Stingray practice.



(continued from page 1)

respect. We try to be the most accountable team in the league as well.”

The Stingrays Swim Team has four assistant coaches to help the different age groups with workouts.

“We’re trying to make them better swimmers and better athletes,” Kitts said. “I assign the coaches lanes that they are in charge of, and those coaches try to customize workouts to address weaknesses and strengths.”

Kitts has been the Stingrays coach for two years. He owes his love for the swim team to Sherry Clark, who was a friend of his and his mother’s, he said. He grew up in the Parks and Recreation leagues and programs. And, when Clark passed away a few years ago, he worked to name the Sherry L. Clark Citywide Swim Meet after her.

“It’s my goal to make the Stapleton team grow and improve, but I’m trying to make this entire league grow and make this event honor Sherry Clark,” Kitts said. “She wanted to make everyone able to swim in Denver pools, whether they could afford it or not.”

The Stapleton swim team is so popular that this year there is a waiting list of 40 people, he said.

“We didn’t have enough pool space to fit everyone in,” Kitts explained. “We’re hoping that they will build another pool next year.

Then we would have the opportunity for two big teams at Stapleton.”

Kitts has been in charge of the setup for the Citywide Swim Meet this year. He said he expects 500 participants at the meet each day, and thousands come and watch.

The first day of the Sherry L. Clark Citywide Swim Meet, August 7, is for junior varsity swimmers and August 8 is for varsity swimmers.

“If you swim in at least three swim meets throughout the summer, you can do the Citywide Meet,” Kitts explained. “If you meet the qualifying time set by the city for two individual events, you can swim on the varsity date. Otherwise, you swim on the junior varsity date. Children ages six and under only swim on the junior varsity date.”

Stapleton residents pay \$175 for a summer on the Stingrays team. Enrollment takes place in March or April, but Kitts warns parents to watch for the date to be announced because this year 150 people signed up in 48 hours.

For information about the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Team, email Riley Kitts at swimteam@stapletoncommunity.com or aquatic supervisor Paula Deorio at pdeorio@stapletoncommunity.com.

Groundwater (continued from page 15)

of a soils report for groundwater issues. The Code only requires that drainage be appropriately handled. We do not perform any reviews specifically related to groundwater from a regulatory perspective. We review the geotechnical report from a structural perspective.... We do review surface drainage and we will help with a groundwater solution when the issue is made apparent to us by the developer’s geotechnical report... Our solutions will try to help alleviate the problem while preserving

the safety of the public (i.e., no continuous discharge in the gutter...which can freeze in the winter time and grow moss in the summer, no significant discharge to the storm collection system which will take up available capacity of that infrastructure and potentially compound ponding/flooding issues during storm events, etc.)”

“People assume the groundwater level will stay the same, but those measurements are really just a moment in time,” says a hydrogeologist with 35 years of experience in the Denver area.



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DPS Announces New Stapleton 3 School Principal

Charles Raisch has been selected as principal of the new Stapleton school after a year-long community process to get a third school built. Raisch's professional accomplishments include:

- * A proven track record of moving schools to high-performance on state and district standards;
- * A data-driven approach to decision-making; and,
- * Working effectively with parents and community members to establish consensus building and collaboration.

Raisch holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Iowa and a Master of Science Degree and Curriculum and Instruction credentials from Drake University.

Raisch's education career in Colorado began at B.F. Kitchen Elementary School and Namaqua Elementary in Loveland where is served as Principal of the K-6 schools. Additionally, he served as the Director of Elementary Education, specifically related to Curriculum, Title I and English As a Second Language for four years prior to joining Denver Public Schools in 2002 as the Principal at Steck Elementary.

Raisch has stated that he is, "committed to this endeavor and willing to dedicate at least five years to the position."

For more information, contact Michael Vaughn, Chief Communications Officer, Denver Public Schools at 720-423-3707.

Information provided by Denver Public Schools.

Stand Up For a Child in Need

By Mary Overington

At any given time, Denver has about 60 children waiting to be chosen for adoption. These children are among the most vulnerable in our society and we need our community to stand up for them. All that is needed to be a foster or adoptive parent is a desire to help and support vulnerable children.

Stand Up for Me is the Denver Human Services (DHS) campaign to recruit foster and adoptive parents for children in need of safe and loving homes.

Children are placed in foster homes on an emergency basis for various reasons such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, significant neglect or inability of the parent to care for a child, perhaps due to the parent's hospitalization, arrest or, in some cases, death.

When Denver Human Services must remove a child from their home, they first seek out family members. If they are unable to find a family member, they try to place children with a foster family who lives near the child's neighborhood. This enables the child to maintain existing friendships, go to the same school if possible and keep some consistency during an incredibly difficult time in their lives.

Foster Families

Foster parents work with DHS to decide how many foster children they can care for and what kinds of special-needs children they are able to work with.

Foster families provide temporary care until children can be safely reunified with their parents or until a permanent plan is developed. Often they help support and maintain the child's connection to his/her birth family. They work in partnership with the child, family, social worker and other service providers to help meet the long-term needs of the child.

If it is in the best interest of the child, parental rights may be terminated and an adoption plan is put in place. Foster families work closely with Denver Human Services to either become the adoptive family or help in identifying an adoptive family that helps meet a child's needs. The majority of DHS adoptive parents begin as foster parents.

The greatest need for foster homes is for infants and toddlers and for school-age children under 12 years old as well as for sibling groups to maintain family bonds. DHS also needs foster parents who speak Spanish fluently. Removing language barriers is key to helping children adjust to a new home.

Foster families, after caring for, loving and nurturing children placed in their homes, often say that it is one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. And for the children in placement, foster parents save their lives.

Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, provide proof of Colorado residency, have no prior criminal or child abuse records and be open to working with a child's family. Denver Human Services offers three opportunities each week to learn more about becoming a foster/adoptive parent. Qualified applicants should call the Stand Up for Me Hotline at 720.944.4000.

Mary Overington is a Foster Parent Recruiter and Trainer with Denver Human Services.



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Central Park was the scene of two big summer events, one a longstanding tradition and one new. Above is the Stapleton 4th of July parade, which attracted a huge crowd of neighbors to celebrate the holiday. Above right, on July 18 Colorado Symphony Associate Conductor Scott O'Neil led the Colorado Symphony Orchestra in a program of Classical Masterpieces for the first time in Central Park. The concert attracted a crowd of about 3000. Included in the program were Glinka's Overture to Russian and Ludmilla, Berlioz' Roman Carnival Overture, Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, Bartók's Rumanian Folk Dances, Brahms' Hungarian Dances, Smetana's "The Moldau" and the final movement of Dvorák's Symphony No. 8.



Volunteer Opportunities at Bluff Lake

By Marissa Copan,
Community Education Coordinator

Bluff Lake Nature Center, a 123-acre wildlife refuge and science education center in Northeast Denver, is expanding its volunteer offerings. Bluff Lake is the largest nonprofit-owned open space in the metro area and relies upon volunteers and community support to offer a large array of programs. Through partnering with local businesses, faith organizations, community centers, retirement associations and community members, Bluff Lake hopes to engage a new crew of environmentally and community-minded volunteers.

Three volunteer positions are currently available at Bluff Lake-- education volunteers, site stewards and ambassadors.

Education volunteers make science fun and meaningful as they inform elementary students at underserved area schools about Colorado

wildlife. At the site, volunteers facilitate program-related activities throughout the wildlife refuge. All training is provided on-the-job and volunteers are asked to serve one morning a week throughout the school year.

Site stewards (also known as "Weed Warriors") meet at Bluff Lake to conduct restoration projects. The groups meet on the first Saturday of the month or every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. Depending on the week, the group plants willows or trees, pulls invasive species, collects seeds, or repairs trails. Stewards simply show up at the Bluff Lake parking lot, ready for a satisfying morning of work. Bluff Lake asks that stewards wear closed-toed shoes and bring enough water for the morning. Ambassadors greet guests, answer questions and share their knowledge and love of nature with Bluff Lake's yearly 20,000 visitors. Ambassadors also assist with Bluff Lake's special events like

Get Outdoors Day and the Stapleton Farmers Market, educating the public about Bluff Lake and the importance of stewardship for both visitors and wildlife. This position has the most flexible schedule, typically volunteering four hours per month.

Bluff Lake Nature Center is owned and managed by a nonprofit organization and relies upon community volunteers and donors to support its work in habitat restoration and science education. For more information on volunteering, visit Bluff Lake's website www.blufflak-enaturecenter.org or call 303-344-0031.

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7th Annual SUN Kickball Tournament Partnering with the March of Dimes

By Amanda Baldwin,
SUN Outreach Chairperson

The Stapleton United Neighbors 7th Annual Kickball Tournament, presented by the MCA and Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, is just around the corner. The tournament will be held in Central Park on Saturday, September 11, between 10am and 2pm. Last year, we had 500 individuals and 16 teams compete for the first-place trophy. This is a great way for Stapleton residents to get some exercise while enjoying the company of their neighbors. We have players of all abilities who sign up; it is all about having fun!

There will be a DJ playing music for people of all ages. Knowledge Beginnings is once again sponsoring the jumpy castle, and this year there will be face painting too. Sponsors include Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN), the Stapleton MCA and Jim 'N Nick's Barbeque.

We are pleased that we are again partnering with the March of Dimes. Last year we raised over \$2500 for the March of Dimes, thanks to the support of Jim 'N Nick's and the Stapleton MCA. This is an organization that is very near and dear to my family (see our story at the SUN tournament tent). The majority of the proceeds from registrations and food sales will directly benefit the March of Dimes mission.

Teams can have up to 20 people; at least 9-14 players must be on the field, including four males and four females playing at all times. Registration for each team is \$250 (including 10 T-shirts and 10 meal tickets; each additional T-shirt is \$10). Because SUN is a 501(c)(3), this may be considered a tax-deductible donation.

We only have room for 20 teams, so sign up today! For more information or to register, go to www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com and click on the link to register, or contact Gabe

Hurley at 720.985.6642 or gabehurley@gmail.com.

Whether you choose to play in the tournament or just want to bring the family out to watch and participate in the other festivities, this is a great community event. Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q will be available for purchase too.

Our Story

By Jason and Amanda Baldwin

Jason and I never thought that we would have a reason to be so personally invested in the mission of the March of Dimes. After undergoing months of fertility treatments, we found out that we were expecting a little girl. When you have the number of fertility issues that we have had, you truly feel that it is a miracle when you conceive, not just one child, but become pregnant with your second.

On March 4, 2005, our daughter Celia Rose was stillborn. I was 7.5 months pregnant when we discovered that she had died. Immediately after the ultrasound that showed us her heart had ceased to beat, labor was induced. Later that evening, she was born and initially we were told that a stricture in the umbilical cord had caused the horrific outcome. We were able to hold her—the grief was almost unbearable. Instead of taking her home to her nursery, we were planning her funeral. None of it made any sense and that time truly is just a blur. We opted not to have an autopsy so that we could bury Celia but did send off the placenta to the pathologist to be tested. We knew that we had to go on for the sake of our two-year-old son, Layne.

We were trying to pick up the pieces and talking about returning to the fertility clinic when Celia's pathology report came in the mail. It said that the cause was determined to be Cytomegalovirus also known as CMV.

I remember calling my husband in hysterics...what was wrong with me? Did I have something that could harm a future fetus if we were to become pregnant again. We immediately made an appointment with a specialist to find out more about CMV.

We learned that CMV is the most common congenital (present at birth) infection in the United States. Each year about 1 percent of all newborns, or about 40,000 babies, are infected.

Not all cases of CMV end as tragically as ours. However, many babies that do survive develop other neurological abnormalities such as mental retardation, learning disabilities, or hearing or vision loss. Congenital CMV infection is the leading cause of hearing loss in children.

The March of Dimes is currently funding research to develop a vaccine against CMV. The March of Dimes also works towards improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. We believe that the March of Dimes will be successful in the development of this vaccine that will protect babies against CMV but they need our help. Please help us support them by participating in this year's Kickball Tournament.

Since You've Asked...

Q. Is it true that the tennis courts at Montview and Syracuse (by the dog park) are going to be demolished because the city cannot afford the maintenance?

A. No. The tennis courts in Greenway Park are only a few years old and are not scheduled to be demolished. The City of Denver Department of Parks and Recreation is currently involved in assessing the condition of tennis courts throughout the city, including those at Fred Thomas Park. While the courts at Fred Thomas Park are scheduled to be resurfaced in 2011, that schedule may be affected by budget cuts necessitated by the downturn in the economy.

Response provided by Gordon Caruth, Denver Parks and Recreation

Q. Is the water in the fountains in the center of Central Park safe? Right now it smells like sewage. That is a scary thought if our kids are playing in unsafe water.

A. The water tanks servicing the fountains have been emptied and refilled by Parks Staff. The water will continue to be monitored to determine if the refilling of the tanks has fixed the odor problem. Park visitors are asked to keep their pets out of the fountains to help keep the water clean.

Response provided by Bar Chadwick, City of Denver

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Letters to the Editor

More letters about 26th Ave. traffic

Recently The Front Porch carried letters from two residents expressing concern about the design of 26th Avenue east of the Westerly Creek Open Space as well as speeding traffic in that neighborhood, Those letters called for more stop signs to control traffic on that street. The following information may be helpful in addressing those concerns.

In its current state, that portion of 26th Avenue has curb and gutter improvements with tree lawns on the north side of the street, and the street design calls for those same features on the south side once development of the homes and the 25 acre park are completed along 26th Avenue. Due to the poor economy and the delay in the environmental cleanup of Filing 16, which affects the drainage work that needs to be done in this area, however, we do not know the timetable

for that development. In regard to speeding traffic, one of the residents noted he had called the City of Denver's Traffic Engineering Services to seek authorization for more stop signs, but received a response that current traffic volumes do not justify more signs. I would urge that resident to work with the Transportation Committee of our registered neighborhood association, Stapleton United Neighbors (stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com), Denver Police Sgt. Eric Knutson (Eric.Knutson@ci.denver.co.us) and City Councilman, Michael Hancock (michael.hancock@ci.denver.co.us) to find remedies necessary to protect children and other pedestrians in the neighborhood. Tom Gleason Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

Response to Joan Cimyotte and Jim McDonough, RN, RRT I am responding because I am worried that these letters are “feelers for public reaction”; letters published by The Front Porch and SUN to begin the implementation of the ideas suggested. I hope not, but I have seen the outcome of other “updates” that supposedly included the input, opinions and concerns of Stapleton residents. A specific example is the meridian inserted on 26th and Central Park Blvd. I remember watching and wondering what was happening as it was being built. I remember attending meetings with others concerned about the traffic flow result on 28th. Avenue. I remember the discontent voiced with the number and placement of stop sign equity on 26th. and 28th. Ave. This was before 25th. was completed. Mr. McDonough wants to, “depave and replace the asphalt with an unpaved, tree-lined path.” This would result in, “...gained value as a peaceful retreat from the noise and hazards the present situation presents to children, pets, walkers and cyclists and

homeowners.” This ‘ideal utopia’ ignores the resulting increased traffic volume on streets directly north and south of 26th. What about the children walking to school on 28th. Ave? What about the traffic change on 25th and 28th. where children, adults, cyclists, pets, walk to Aviator Pool? What about the decrease in value this island-in-itself would have on neighborhoods closest to it? I am an educator who has seen the resulting disability of a child hit by a car (not speeding). The fourth grade child darted into the street in front of the school. I watched the close calls continue (even with on-going traffic safety classes and adult traffic crossing guards). You write, “...north and south of more affluent interior of Stapleton...” In this community of families with children of all ages, I hope you are not implying there is a class system in place. Families of all incomes live on all three of the streets. Margaret A. Lombard

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Letters to the Editor The Front Porch will publish letters to the editor as space allows. Please email Carol Roberts, editor, The Front Porch at FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com.

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Bluff Lake Apartments to Break Ground in January 2011



Groundbreaking for Mercy Housing's Bluff Lake Apartment Homes is expected to occur in January 2011. The complex will offer 92 apartments ranging in size from 402 square feet to 1,261 square feet. The apartments include 36 one-, 46 two- and 10 three-bedroom homes. Fifty percent of the apartments will be dedicated to assisting families in transition as part of the Denver's Road Home initiative to end homelessness. Rent is expected to range from \$400 to \$950 per month, based on family size and income level.

Mercy Housing will offer a variety of on-site programs and

services for residents. The \$11.5 million, four-story apartment community will feature a spacious community room for larger resident meetings and after-school programming and daycare services, a computer lab, a fully-equipped kitchen, smaller group meeting spaces, landscaped courtyard areas, a 3,000-square-foot playground, and convenient laundry facilities. An additional 3,000-square-foot building will be used for community functions for the surrounding neighborhood.

The apartments will be located on 2.33 acres at E. 31st Avenue Street and Hanover Street.

The design includes Energy Star rated appliances and energy-efficient lighting; water-saving fixtures in the kitchen and bathrooms; dual flush toilets; tankless water heaters; building materials that contain recycled content; and low water landscaping. A high percentage of the construction waste will be recycled. The project has been a collaborative effort between Mercy Housing, the City of Denver and KTG Group, Inc. Architecture and Planning. The land was donated by Forest City.

Information provided by Mercy Housing. For more information about Mercy Housing visit www.mercyhousingcolorado.org.

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Central Park Recreation Center Update

The recreation center is on schedule to open in the first quarter of 2011. Since Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) will manage the Central Park Recreation Center, it will have the same fee structure as other recreation centers in 2011.

According to DPR, “The recreation center task force recommended that DPR establish a fee system based on amenities. This would result in a tiered system with higher fees at regional facilities which include Washington Park, Montclair, Montbello and the Central Park recreation centers. Centers with fewer amenities would have lower fees. No decisions have been made about changes in fees for 2011.”

DPR is asking members of the community to participate in a survey at www.denvergov.org/recreation (right side of the page) regarding future programming at the new rec center.

They are also asking interested community members to apply to be on the Advisory Committee for the new rec center. Information and application are at www.denvergov.org/recreation (due August 31, 2010).

Finally, DPR will be forming a steering committee to plan and fundraise for a grand opening gala event in 2011. Email Chantal.unfug@denvergov.org if interested in serving on this committee.



Below: Plans for the recreation center are shown in the foreground of the gym.

Above: Scaffolding covers the pool area in Stapleton's new recreation center as painters take on painting the vast ceiling.
Below: A view of the west side of the new Central Park Rec Center, taken from Central Park Boulevard.





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Mile High Painting, Inc.
Glenn K. Griffin
303-571-1661
www.milehighpainting.com

Number One Housecleaning
Paulina Leon
720-628-6690
paulinaleon22@hotmail.com

Q+E Design Source Inc
3180 Emporia Ct
Denver, CO 80238
303-355-2700
www.qedesignsource.com

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

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

The Weikel Building Co
Basement Finishing Remodeling
720-771-4690
weikelbuildingco.com

TruStile Doors, LLC
1780 East 66th Ave
Denver, CO 80229
720-322-8350
www.trustile.com

INSURANCE

Angela Williams Agency, Inc
Allstate Insurance Company
8340 Northfield Blvd. Ste. 2640
Denver, CO 80238
303-779-8819
awilliams4@allstate.com

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

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

MEDICAL DOCTORS

Central Obstetrics and Gynecology
2005 Franklin Street, Suite 630
Denver, Colorado 80205
303-866-8186
www.centralobgyn.com

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

Denver Health
777 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80204-4597
303-436-6000
www.denverhealth.org

Exempla Family Medicine -
Dr. Kristine Walsh, MD
2803 Roslyn St.
Denver, CO 80238 303-403-6300
www.exempla.org

Metropolitan Ob/Gyn
4500 E 9th Ave, #470
Denver, CO 80220 303-320-8499
www.metroobgyn.org

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

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky
Mountains
7155 E. 38th Ave
Denver, CO 80207
303-321-PLAN
www.plannedparenthood.org/rocky-mountains

Rocky Mountain OB-GYN, PC
4500 East 9th Avenue #200
Denver, CO 80220

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

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

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

MISC. SERVICES

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

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

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

Revolution Cleaners
6160 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80220 303-339-3270
revolutioncleaners.com

Stapleton Master Community
Association
2823 Roslyn St Denver, CO 80238
303-388-0724

Stapleton TMA
eGo Carshare
www.carshare.org

PETS

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

Dr Shannon Rich, BVSc -
Veterinarian 720-984-4510
Shannon_Rich@hotmail.com

Happy Dog Daycare
3939 Newport Street
Denver, CO 80238
303-331-1363
www.happydogdenver.com

Lon L. Flewelling's Lead Dog
Services
720-859-7864
lead.dog@live.com

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Best Mediation - Law Firm
Karen Best
12605 E. Euclid Drive
Centennial, CO 80111
303-708-1300
www.smdenverclp.com

Edward Jones - Natalie Robbins
303-320-7752
natalie.robbsin@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

Healing Tree, Brian Bowles, M.Ed.,
M.A., Clinical Director, Marriage and
Family Therapist
3376 Beeler Ct
Denver 80238 303-999-0953

Parenting with Love and Logic-
Mindy Gable
mcgable@comcast.net

Small Business Development Center
of Metro Denver
1445 Market St
Denver, CO 80202 303-620-8076
www.denversbdc.org

Sherr Puttmann Akins Lamb PC
5299 DTC Boulevard, Suite 430
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
303-741-5300
www.spalfamilylaw.com

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

PERSONAL SERVICES

Ergo Salon and Spa
8216 East 49th Ave, Ste 1330
Denver, CO 80238
303-373-5455 www.ergobeauty.com

Sport Clips
3700 Quebec #101
Denver, CO 80207
303-399-8200
www.sportclips.com

REAL ESTATE/RENTAL

Coldwell Banker - Dave Bauman /
Ron Buss
600 Grant St., Ste.900
Denver 80203 303-241-7217

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

Frederick Ross Company
717 17th Street, Suite 2000
Denver, CO 80202
www.frederickross.com

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

Metro Brokers - Metroplex Realtors
10660 E Bethany Dr, Bldg 2
Aurora, CO 80014 303-696-2121
www.metrobrokeronline.com/agents/Jerry.Boyd

Metro Brokers at Stapleton
7489 East 29th Place
Denver, CO 80238
303-331-6700
www.4denverrealestate.com

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

Park Properties Realty -
Deb Egelske
2395 Glencoe Street
Denver, CO 80207
303-883-4500
www.parkpropertiesrealty.com

Remax Unlimited / Affinity Group
Greg Eckler
1-800.-261-3311 x 500
www.denverrealtyexperts.com

Stapleton Apartments
2853 Roslyn St.
Denver, CO 80238
303-388-1414
www.stapletondenver.com

The Kearns Team (RE/MAX Alliance)
1873 S Bellaire St - Ste 700
Denver CO 80222
303-598-3468
www.KearnsTeam.com

The Neir Team
Kentwood City Properties
1660 17th Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202
720-280-3004 / 720-935-4399
www.neirteam.com

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

Todd Gordon Realty
303-434-0413
todd@toddgordonrealty.com
www.toddgordonrealty.com

RESTAURANTS

CoraFaye's Cafe
2861 Colorado Blvd
Denver, CO 80207
303-333-5551 www.corafaye.com

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

Little India Restaurant
1533 Champa Street
Denver, CO 80202
303-629-5777
www.littleindiadenver.com

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

Twisted Olive
8270 Northfield Blvd, #1480
Denver 80238 303-375-8100
www.twistedolive.com

Udi's Bread Cafe at Stapleton
7357 East 29th Avenue
303-329-8888
www.udisfood.com

RETAIL

29th Avenue Town Center
(at Stapleton)
7351 East 29th Ave
Denver, CO 80238
303-382-1800
www.stapletondenver.com

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

Sevya Fair Trade
7302 E 29th Avenue
Denver, CO 80238
720-519-1519

The Bike Depot
2825 Fairfax Street
Denver, CO 80207-2748
303-393-1963
www.thebikedepot.org

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

SCHOOLS/PRESCHOOLS

Augustana Early Learning Center
5000 E. Alameda Ave
Denver, CO 80246
303-388-7012
www.augustanadenver.org

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

Foothills Academy
4725 Miller St
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
303-431-0920
www.foothills-academy.org

LearningRx Denver
88 Steele St, Ste 50
Denver, CO 80206
(303) 284-6105
www.LearningRx.com

Monarch Montessori of Denver
11200 E 45th Ave
Denver, CO 80239
303-565-4165
<http://monarchm.com>

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

North Middle School Health
Sciences & Technology
12095 Montview Blvd
Aurora Co 80010
303-344-8060
<http://north.aurorak12.org>

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

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