

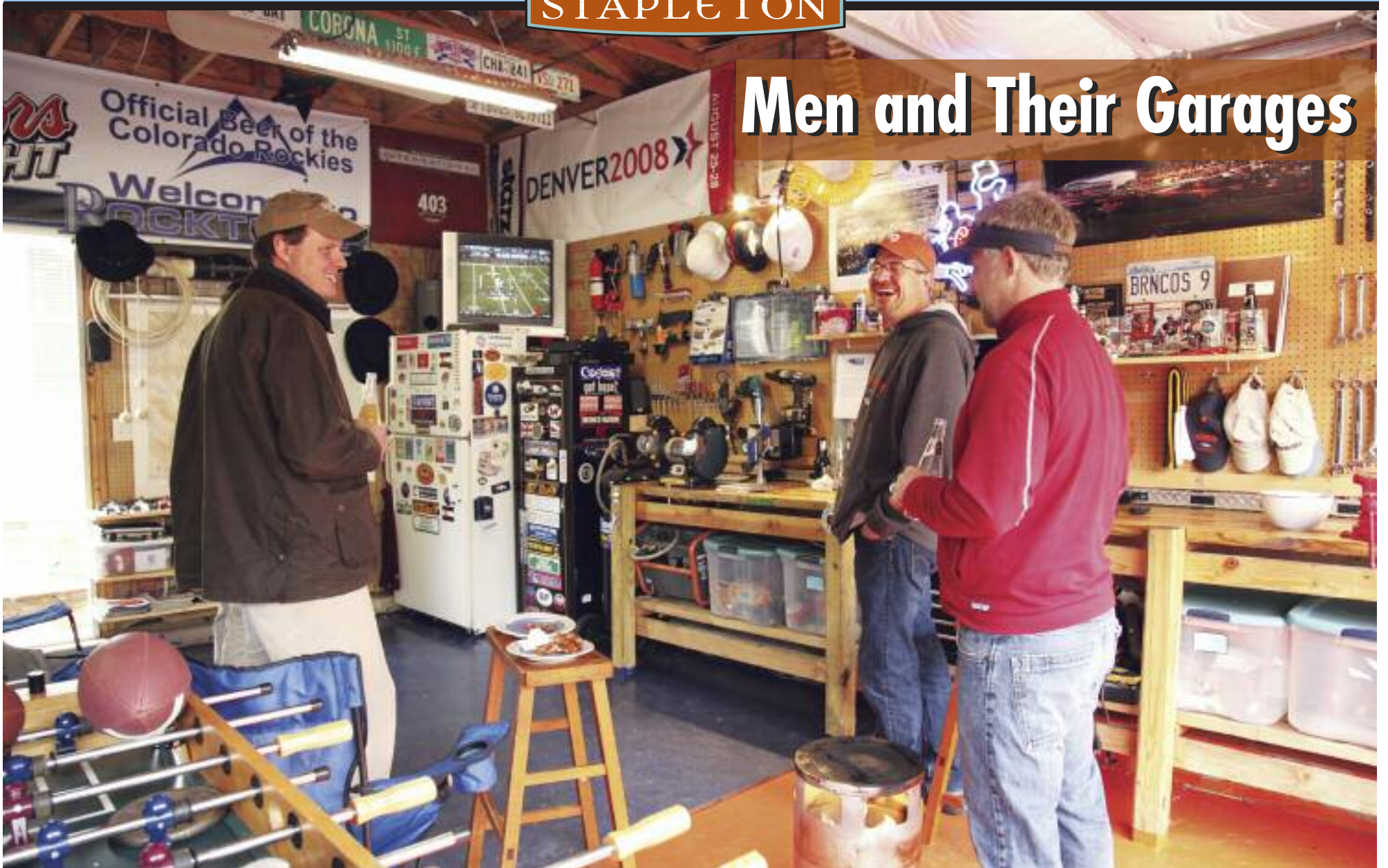
Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

NOVEMBER 2010



Men and Their Garages

Tim Tribbett (center) and his friends Marty McGuirk (left) and Page Phillips watch a Broncos game in Tim's garage/man cave. Tim says the neighbors who walk by think the garage is really

By Nancy Burkhardt

There is something special about a man's relationship with his garage. Sometimes the garage becomes a "man cave," where only men spend time paying homage to Broncos games, beer and political discussions. Other garages might become a family room where everyone is welcome, but the man reigns over the space.

Stapleton resident Tim Tribbett has a "man cave." While their sons, Jordan, 13, and Con-

nor, 10, are welcome to hang out with their dad in the garage, they usually don't, Tim said. "It's pretty much mine," he said. "I'm a super Broncos fan. The floor is orange and blue. It's kind of like a shrine that has Broncos things I've collected over the years. I'm a Democratic committee person for this district, so I'm a die-hard Democrat and political junkie. I hung a banner from the Democratic National Committee's convention and a poster from Obama's speech at Invesco.

(continued on page 27)

"be well" Program Reaching Out to Create a Healthier Community



Faye Luckett, a "be well" block captain, welcomes Lito Gnadoa to the "be well" health fair that was held in October at Mercy Housing's Parkside Apartments at Stapleton. Luckett insists that folks get a big hug when they show up for the event.

By Jon Meredith

Faye Luckett and Owetta McNeil, both long time Park Hill residents, know from personal experience why it is so important to be proactive in taking care of one's health. That is why both have volunteered to help with the "be well" initiative by being block captains and assisting at the "be well" community events.

Funded with seed capital from the Stapleton Foundation, the Colorado Trust and others, "be well" is a movement that helps individuals take charge of their own health and wellness by making it a priority within communities. NE Park Hill, Greater Park Hill, East Montclair, Northwest Aurora and Stapleton are the areas that "be well" is targeting so far. The hope is to make these areas realize sustained success and replicate those achievements elsewhere.

(continued on page 8)

Women and Their Businesses

Three new woman-owned businesses have opened recently in NE Denver, a gelato and coffee shop, a consignment store with plus-sized clothing for women, and a new option for home design on a budget. See pages 14-15.

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



Rec Center
Public Art 3

Rec Center
Director Named 5

Adventure Travel
as a Volunteer 6

Stapleton
Updates 8

Rapids Make
the Playoffs 11

Denver Film Society
Moves to NE Denver 13

Rainbow over Fred Thomas Park with the Anchor School in the foreground.



CALENDAR

Events in or near Stapleton that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit events.
(See pages 17 - 20 for more events.)

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 2

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

Thur. Nov. 4 & Fri. Nov. 12

Free Astronomy lectures & observatory access
Comm. College Aurora (see page 20)

Saturday, November 6

Open Space Clean Up, 9-11am
Meet at Bluff Lake Parking Lot
RSVP 720-207-5091 (see page 22)

Saturday, November 6

Night at the Museums, 5-10pm
15 museums free (see page 20)

Saturday, November 6

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

Sunday, November 7

Denver Zoo - SCFD Free Days
www.denverzoo.org 303-376-4800

Tuesday, November 9

Bill Roberts Open House, 6:30pm
Learn about ECE and Kindergarten programs
2100 Akron Way, 720-424-2640

Wednesday, November 10

MCA Annual Member's Meeting, 6:30pm
MCA Community Room
Info@stapletoncommunity.com

Wednesday, November 10

New Resident Social, 6:30pm
MCA Community Room
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

Thursday, November 11

Active Minds Seminar, starts at 7pm
Doors open at 6:30.
Cuba; Past, Present, & Future.
MCA Community Room
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 12

DSA Door Decorations installed in
Town Center Retail Shops.
Judging begins 5pm
29th Avenue Town Center
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, November 13

Denver Zoo - SCFD Free Days www.denver-
zoo.org 303-376-4800

Sunday, November 14

Run to Help Fight Homelessness
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
City Park (see page 21)

Sunday, November 14

SCFD Free Day-Denver Museum of Nature
and Science 303-322-7009 www.dmns.org

Friday, November 19

Winter Welcome Event 6-8pm
29th Ave Lights on 6:15
DSA Door Decorating Contest Winners
announced, 7:45pm
29th Avenue Town Center
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

Friday, November 26

Wizards of Winter, 6:30-8:30pm
The Shops at Northfield (see page 19)

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 4

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

Monday, December 6

SCFD Free Day-Denver Museum of Nature
and Science 303-322-7009 www.dmns.org

Tuesday, December 7

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

Thursday, December 9

Active Minds Seminar, starts at 7pm,
doors open at 6:30.
Topic is Chocolate.
MCA Community Room
Events@stapletoncommunity.com



Winter Welcome

It is hard to believe it is already time for the annual holiday lighting and door decorating contest. We hope you are able to join us for the annual kickoff of the holiday season on Friday, November 19 from 6-8pm in the fountain area of the 29th Avenue Town Center. The Town Center tree and lights will be turned on promptly at 6:15pm.

The participating Town Center retail shops will be open for this event and many will be offering specials for you that night. It is a great chance to get a jump on holiday shopping! There will be fire pits for warming your hands and roasting marshmallows for your s'mores. Carolers will stroll the streets, jazz will play in the crescent, the dancing trees will swirl along the sidewalks and the scent of roasted almonds will fill the air. The ever-popular 2011 Dogs of Stapleton calendar will be available to pick up at this event.

We are doing the door decorating contest a little differently this year. Students from Denver School of the Arts create a unique decorating experience in our Town Center by designing holiday scenes for the doors of our participating retail shops. The door decorations will be up on Friday, November 12 through November 19. Winners of the DSA door decorating contest will be announced on Friday, November 19 at 7:45pm.

The community is the judge of this contest, so we need you to respond! A ballot will be available for you to vote online at www.stapletoncommunity.com, or you can pick up a ballot and complete your vote until 7:30pm the evening of the event. You can email your completed ballot to events@stapletoncommunity.com or just bring it to the event on Friday the 19th and put it in the ballot box located in the MCA booth.

Each completed ballot received will be placed in a drawing for great prizes including gift certificates to our local 29th Avenue Town Center. Winners of the drawing will be notified by email on Monday, November 22. For more information, go to www.stapletoncommunity.com.

MCA Annual Meeting

The Annual MCA Meeting of Members is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10 at 6:30pm in the MCA Community Room, located at 2823 Roslyn Street. This meeting will also be available online. For information about how to access it online, go to www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Active Minds Seminar

The Active Minds Seminar this month is on Thursday, November 11 at 7pm. We host the Active Minds Seminars in the Stapleton MCA Community Room at 2823 Roslyn Street. The doors open at 6:30pm and the seminar begins at 7pm. This program is free and open to the public.

The topic for November is Cuba: Past, Present & Future. Less than 100 miles from the United States, Cuba remains a mystery to many in the U.S. Join Active Minds for a past, present and future look at our communist neighbor to the south. We will cover Castro's revolution, the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Guantánamo Bay and ongoing property disputes. We will also take a look at what the future holds for Cuba after Fidel and Raúl Castro.

The December topic is Chocolate. It is scheduled for Thursday, December 9 at 7pm. For more information about Active Minds, go to <http://www.activemindsforlife.com/index.html>.

Pumpkin Patch

We want to thank Northfield Church for their help in setting up the pumpkin patch. The volunteers unloaded over 1,200 pumpkins that were given away on Sunday at the final Farmers Market. What a terrific ending of the season! Thanks for everyone's support of the market.

New Resident Social

The New Resident Social will coincide with the Annual MCA Meeting of Members this month. Please see above information for details of this event.

Stapleton Activities, Inc.

The monthly potluck for November and December is cancelled. This get-together will resume January 27, 2011, after the holidays.

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

Diane Deeter
Director of
Programming and
Events



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

The Front Porch
welcomes submissions of
upcoming local events (see format
on p. 19) and story ideas
for future issues.
Email FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com

(See page 20 for recurring monthly events and meetings)

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Front Porch

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Visit ThoughtBalloons.org to Contribute to New Interactive Art



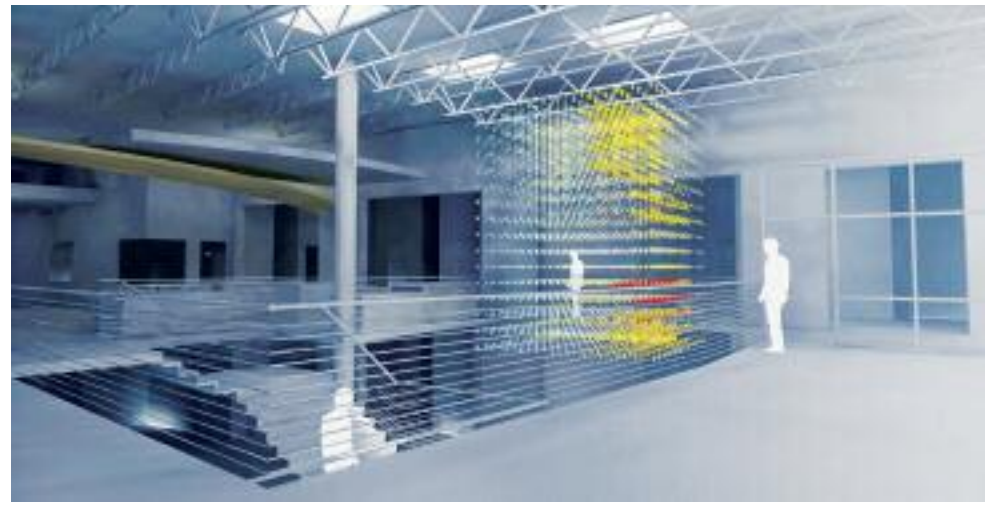
By Barbara Neal

The two new pieces of public art for Stapleton's Central Park Recreation Center were designed to be playful and to elicit a response from viewers. In fact, artists Wesley Heiss and Marek Walczak created the sculptures in a way that viewers are an integral part of the art—being in proximity to them causes the electronic sculptures to change. And the artists are offering the public an opportunity to contribute to this interactive process.

"Thought Balloons" is a large stone frame with a computer screen that displays "thought balloons" in response to the

movement of people in the lobby. Community workshops were held with the artists in October to start the process of generating text for the constantly changing thought balloons—but more ideas are needed. The artists hope people in the community will visit <http://thoughtballoons.org> and post suggestions. The website will be live through February 2011.

The second sculpture, "Staplefield," is a cylindrical, interactive light field suspended from the ceiling above and behind the reception desk. Motion in various areas of the recreation center will animate the field of colored LED and fiber optic lights. At night, the sculpture's lights will be visible from the



The public is being asked to contribute thought balloons for the interactive electronic sculpture that will be in the lobby of the new recreation center (left). A second interactive sculpture by the same artists flashes patterns of LED and fiber optic lights (above) in response to motion in various areas of the recreation center.

west windows of the facility.

Both of these artworks have a functional purpose as well as the ability to surprise and engage the viewer. Heiss says his goal is to draw people back to the recreation center again and again with entertaining thought balloons and the interactive light display in the atrium. Walczak believes that since visitors' movements will cause each artwork to change, the movement within the sculpture may, in turn, affect the visitor's path through

the lobby—which encourages each visitor to have a unique relationship with the artworks. Wesley Heiss and Marek Walczak worked as a team on these two sculptures, though each also works individually on other projects. They will begin installing these interactive artworks in mid December.

For more information about Stapleton's Public Art Program, please contact me at barbneal@mindspring.com.

Also, see recreation center story on page 5.

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Parks for Profit?

By Jon Meredith

On August 12, the Denver Parks and Recreation Department Advisory Board voted 10-7 to approve a new nonbinding policy that would allow the city to close off areas of certain Denver parks to allow for special events, which will require a paid admission. The vote capped years of rancorous debate between city residents and the mayor's administration. On September 10,

manager of Parks and Recreation Kevin Patterson decided that his department would go ahead and implement the new policy for 2011. The approved proposal covers only 8 of the 231 Denver Parks but includes City Park and Central Park. It will allow events as large as 7,500 people to occupy a set-aside location in a park, charge admission and serve alcohol. There are a multitude of restrictions on the use of the park for paid-admission events and the park must be re-

stored to its original condition. Furthermore, no event can last more than four days and there must be a five-day gap between single-day events and a 12-day period between multiple-day events. The city will reap a small fee for the events and a head tax on each admission ticket generally estimated to give the city an extra \$500,000 in revenue a year or a little over one percent of the total Parks and Recreation budget. Previously, the city has allowed not-for-profit organizations to have festivals at Civic Center Park such as the People's Fair benefitting Capitol Hill United Neighbors and Taste of Colorado benefitting Downtown Denver Events. There has never been an admission charge for these events. The issue of holding paid-admission events in Denver parks has come up a few times recently. The promoters of the Mile High Music Festival wanted to have their inaugural event in City Park but were rebuffed by neighborhood groups. A company that shows movies in parks across the country had designs on fencing off a portion of Civic Center Park for extended periods during summer months and charging to see first-run films, but did not get approval for park use. The obvious benefit for the city is that the revenue generated will help with budget shortfalls. The parks are a resource

that has been previously untapped as a revenue source and maintenance of them is expensive. Red Rocks is a city-owned park that is designed and operated specifically for events and is a tremendous moneymaker for the city. Another idea, which seems to make sense, would be to have the city designate a specific location or create a new park that would hold paid events. The opposition to paid events in the parks is strong and very vocal. Their argument is simple, "Parks are for people, not profit." The money initially expected to be generated is a miniscule portion of the city budget and yet it will deny the people who really pay for the parks, the taxpayers, access to the parks. There could be as many as two weekend events each month during nice weather, creating hassles in using the park, parking and overcrowding. Opponents will continue to pressure the city to change this policy. A new mayor next year could bring change as well as new city council members. Opponents say they will also urge Denver residents to boycott the events that are held and move to hold a city-wide referendum on the issue. If you would like more information on this issue, go to the city's parks website at www.denvergov.org/parks and www.parksareforpeople.org. The Front Porch will print readers' comments on this issue. Send opinions to FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com.

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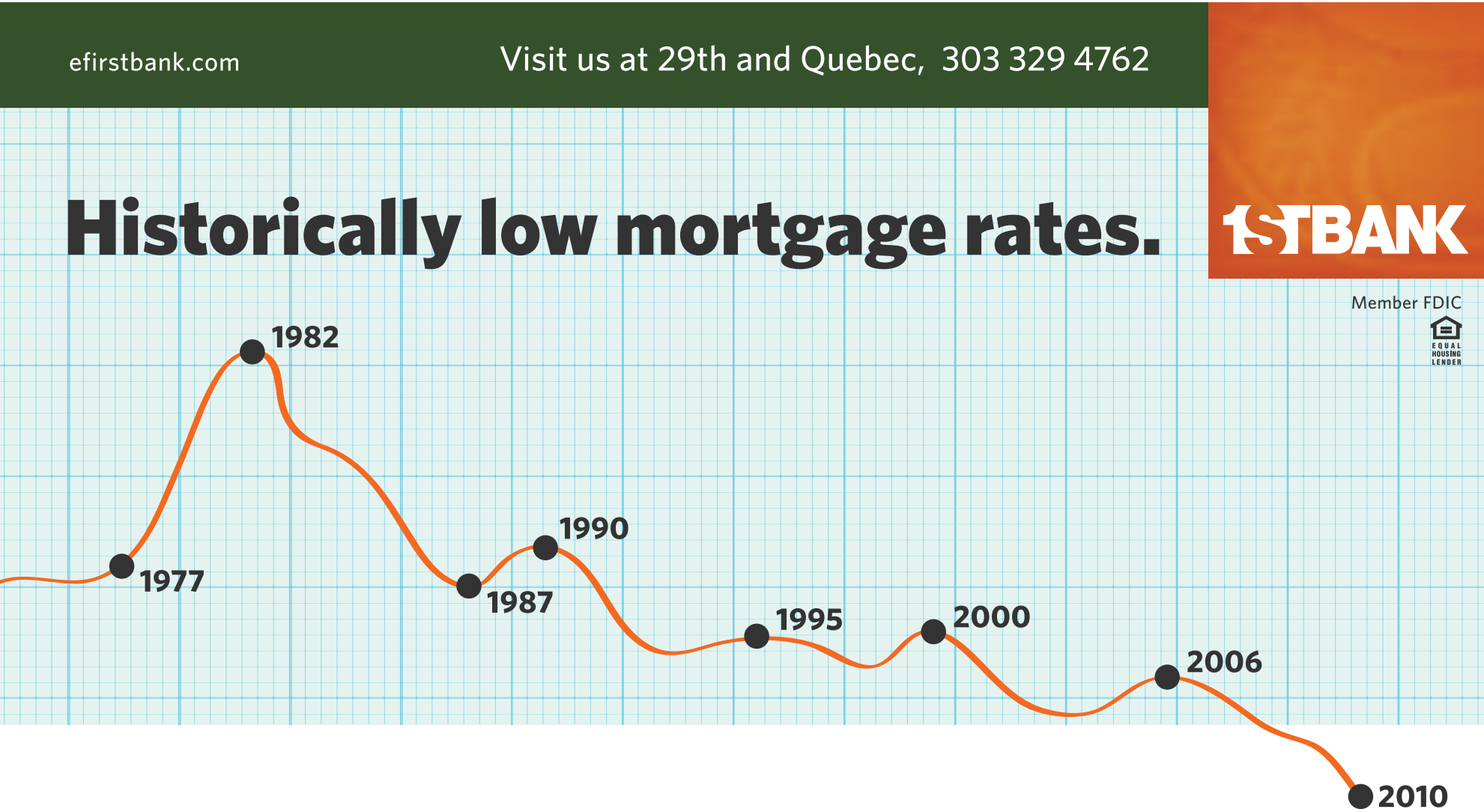
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New Rec Center Director Brings Enthusiasm and Experience to the Job

By Carol Roberts

Kelly Kitts, after working for Denver Parks and Rec for 25 years, has been named the first supervisor of the new Central Park Recreation Center. Her first official day on the job is November 1.

“I’ve been in nine different facilities,” says Kitts. “I think I’m going to take a little bit of everything that I’ve learned over the years in all those facilities and bring it with me to Central Park. I’ve been working towards an opportunity like this my whole career. I just didn’t realize I was actually going to get the chance to do it. I’m from the school that I think that you interview for your next opportunity every day and I think I’ve demonstrated that in the department and I am happy that they selected me to go out and manage Central Park.”

The main features at Central Park are the pools and the fitness centers, and Kitts says the surveys show a large demand for those areas. “I’ve been talking with active older adults and some of the younger single professionals who are hoping to have a niche, so we’re looking at that as well. The number of activities that have been asked for for kids is pretty typical from rec center to rec center; it’s a matter of trying to prioritize those and figure out which are the best ones to start out with. Our core areas in Denver are aquatics, arts and culture, active older adults, sports, fitness and social enrichment. We try to program in all areas to provide a balance and make sure that we have something for everybody, that we’re not missing an age group or a core area.”

Kitts started off as a lifeguard and came up through aquatics. She has been interviewing for the rec center’s advisory council. She says there were about 30 applicants, about half got interviewed, and the council will have nine members, who will start meeting in the first couple weeks in November. Typically, an advisory group meets for two hours, once a month, but Kitts says, “I hope this group will meet more because of what we have in front of us. I’m hoping to rely on them to give me a sense of what’s going on in the community... at Staple-



Kelly Kitts, with 25 years of experience in Denver’s Department of Parks and Rec, has been named as director of the 57,000 square foot Central Park Recreation Center. The projected opening is late January 2011.

ton and in the surrounding areas. I’m really trying to reach out to Park Hill and East Montclair and some of the other neighborhoods that are along the East Colfax corridor to pull in ideas and find ways to market to some of those other neighborhoods.”

Kitts encourages people in the community to work with the community advisory council as much as possible regarding suggestions or concerns, but she and her staff will, of course, be accessible to the community. The best way to communicate with the rec center is to email centralparkrec@denver.gov. Kelly

Kitts is a Denver native who graduated from Mesa State with a degree in recreation administration. She’s been married for 24 years to Tom Kitts, an Aurora native, and they have two sons, Nolan, 17, and Riley, 20. Riley ran the swim teams at Stapleton and was featured in the August Front Porch. They are an active family and enjoy a wide range of activities including running, biking, swimming and skiing.

Important Notice

The Central Park Recreation Center, which will open in late January, is presently a construction zone not accessible to the public. Unauthorized visitors risk injury and prosecution for trespassing.

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If you are interested in attending, email Kate Paquette at kate.paquette@dmischool.com. RSVPs for the Open House are encouraged, but not required. Walk-ins welcome.

For more information, please visit us online at www.dmischool.com, or call to schedule a school tour at **303-340-3647**.



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Hey, I Know that Orangutan!



The goal at the Camp Leakey orangutan reserve in Borneo was to rescue young orphan orangutans and ultimately reintroduce them into the wild. In addition to helping at the reserve, volunteers observed and recorded the behavior of orangutans in the wild.

By Judith Schwartz

I turned on the TV a few years ago and saw the wooden causeway I had walked on in 1991 when I volunteered at an orangutan reserve in Borneo, Indonesia. The story on PBS's *Nature* was about a male orangutan who mated with Princess—an orangutan I met when I was there.

Since 1985 I have taken eight captivating volunteer overseas vacations. Fascinated with wildlife and world cultures, I joined the Peace Corps in the '60s. Years later, these volunteer vacations became my way to adventure again, if only for a few weeks.

My first foray was Mayan Sea Traders with Earthwatch, a worldwide research organization. This led me to Belize for 15 days to unearth clues to the success of early Mayan people in coastal settings. On arrival in the country, we traveled all night on seemingly impassable, dark roads, crossing a lagoon in the early hours. At that point I realized my suitcase had slipped out the back of the Land Rover somewhere. Borrowing a sweat suit from a 70ish grandma who left her Alaska family at Christmas for her adventure, and a bikini, I would make do.

We stayed at a fishing co-op run by descendants of pirates. We sifted through silt in the water and found obsidian and pottery. We traveled in long-tailed boats to mangrove-covered islands to do digs and stood amid tarantulas. We crawled through caves. On Christmas day we hiked miles up the beach to a village of descendants of slaves and the sounds of African drumming. We traveled to thatched-hut Mayan villages to see ancient, overgrown Mayan temple ruins, including a sport court where the winning team got the privilege of being killed. And the food: conch, turtle, bread baked in coconut oil, papayas.... I was hooked.

I always chose trips involving hard physical work in isolated places, but well-placed days off gave time for exploration of the environment and culture. Team leaders were local or international researchers with intimate knowledge of place and subject. Short-stint volunteers pay to work and thus fund research and humanitarian projects worldwide.

Two years later, I was off to St. Kitts in the Caribbean for two weeks to track green monkeys and see how they were faring.



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—and Other Adventures

Our work took us through beautiful terrain where our four-person team camped on the beach. In our off-time we snorkeled around sunken ships, hiked into a volcano and fished for dinner. It wasn't until the last night that we ventured into that other world, fancy hotels and golf courses; never my choice, obviously. Our fieldwork data enabled the Canadian researcher to complete a monkey census and assist in government ecology planning. Goal: saving monkey habitat saves St. Kitts for everyone.

Next, a dream fulfilled—Borneo—to help endangered orangutans. The Camp Leakey orangutans had been captured as babies. Wild orangutans are solitary creatures. The mother keeps her child for eight years high in the treetops. Hunters kill the mothers to illegally trade adorable babies, denying the orphans the life education and love vital for their development. At the reserve, the goal was reintroduction into the wild.

In the Earthwatch briefing, volunteers were told to expect three weeks with lots of walking and lots of rice—and to be prepared for the oranges to break into our living quarters. We also ate packaged ramen noodles, and fruit and vegetables brought via the river (rain forests do not supply that part of our diet). Native Dayak trackers took our team of four to find a wild orangutan (generally a mother and child) in the rain forest (avoiding leeches). Then we returned to camp and at 4am headed back to their tree nest. We set up our hammocks and lay there till dawn broke, listening to the cacophony of sounds as the rain forest awoke. Of course, then we did

what a patient scientist does: note what they ate, when they defecated, where they moved. We gained great admiration for researchers whose essential work is extremely tedious.

Now back to Princess. After the PBS program, I retrieved my photo album and there was Princess with her child in 1991. The orangutans would come to our wooden dorm. Curious and ingenious, they wanted in to where we slept under mosquito nets (the detached bathroom had elaborate locks). In my diary: "Awakened by Princess and her baby trying to break in. I was lying in bed and saw her hand go through the fencing toward me. Then she was on the roof picking off shingles til she had a nice-sized hole and was scared off."

I heard at a recent Denver Zoo orangutan husbandry conference that Princess is alive and well. When I met her in 1991, she was a mother—so was I. Now we are both grandmas. A success story, she has sur-

vived while her natural habitat is being destroyed due to avarice and graft. In Borneo, I saw illegally cut logs going down the river and people, enticed from crowded Java to seek a better life, standing in waist-high chemical-laced water looking for gold where the rain forest had been cut down, leaving only unfertile land.

Many people today seem afraid to travel beyond where they feel comfortable. But to explore ecological, human and animal interrelationships brings forth many treasures. My hope: my great-grandchildren will be able to see Princess's great-grandchildren in a luxurious rain forest.

My entry into volunteering for research projects was with Earthwatch (Earthwatch.org). There are now thousands of ways to have such experiences. I recommend Denverite Jane Stanfield's (www.JaneStanfieldWISH.com) award-winning book, *Mapping Your Volunteer Vacation*, as an excellent resource.

Stapleton resident Judith Schwartz is a freelance copy editor and community volunteer. She can be reached at judschwartz@msn.com.



Volunteers tracked green monkeys in St. Kitts to see how they were faring, with the ultimate goal of saving their habitat.



Masks and gloves were required for handling the baby orangutans on the reserve in Borneo.



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November 2010

“be well”

(cont' from p. 1) “be well’s” mission is to reduce chronic illness and disease by enabling easy access to preventative services at no, or very low, cost. Volunteer block captains form the groundwork on which “be well” banks its success. Captains live in the areas that are targeted and go door to door to inform their neighbors about health and wellness issues and when and where the next free screening days are. They educate residents about the importance of taking preventative measures in regard to their own health and the benefits and cost-effectiveness of wellness in their community.

Ms. Luckett and Ms. McNeil are out front about their commitment to “be well.” They are trained to speak knowledgeably with their neighbors about health and wellness issues. They spend hours each month walking their respective neighborhoods talking with people about health issues and passing out fliers with information about the next free screening. They are then present with smiling faces and terrific attitudes when participants arrive at the screenings. They understand that a familiar and friendly face really helps ease any anxiety people may have. After the screening the block captains help with any questions or follow-up the neighbor may need.

The screening process does not take long and is designed not to be cumbersome. Participants check in, giving contact



Frank Lucero, (center) be well neighbor to neighbor project coordinator, talks with block captains Owetta McNeil and Andres Hernandez.

themselves to lead a healthy lifestyle. In the event that the screening turns up any health issues that need to be immediately addressed, full physical exams, with a \$10 co-pay are offered through the Inner City Health Center. If the exam turns up serious health issues that need to be taken care of, the Inner City Health Center provides help in applying for Denver Health’s sliding scale payment program.

“be well” hopes that the initiative will help community members by reaching those without health insurance and investing a small amount in prevention rather than large sums on emergency services.

Additional volunteers are needed throughout the “be well” target areas. For more information, go to the “be well” website www.bewellconnect.com or contact Frank Lucero with the Stapleton Foundation at flucero@stapletonfoundation.org.

information and some background health history. They then move to a table where a blood sample is taken. At another table a health professional takes their blood pressure and a third has a computer program that gives an indication of a person’s risk of heart attack or disease. Finally, the participant is counseled on what they should do

The information below was presented at the community meeting on October 7 or at subsequent community meetings as noted.

Meeting sponsors: Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN), Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) and Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)

Stapleton 3 School

Five hundred eighty people responded to a community survey, the results of which are being used to make recommendations to the district in two key areas: how the school will be configured and what type of programming the school will offer. Focus groups met on Oct. 18 to summarize the consensus from the survey data, and based on this information, a steering committee will submit a recommendation to the district in mid-November and hope to have a decision by early December.

Thirty-nine percent of respondents supported a traditional middle school (grades 6-8) and 34% preferred a combination of options that includes both traditional middle school and K-8.

Regarding programming, the community wants an academically rigorous school with a consistent identifiable curriculum that challenges students of all levels. There is a strong desire for programming options, different and beyond the traditional (regular/standard) DPS curriculum. Seventy-five percent of responders would like a curriculum with International Baccalaureate (IB) and/or Accelerated Options. Eighty-seven percent felt it is very important to offer foreign language in the middle school. In addition, having a variety of clubs and sports was considered very important.

The Stapleton 3 facility can accommodate approximately 900 students in 36 classrooms, 6 of which are for Kindergarten and ECE. The school boundaries extend to Monaco on the west, between Montview and 26th. For the 2011-2012 school year, Stapleton 3 will offer at least ECE4 through 2nd grades. The exact

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Updates

grades and number of classrooms per grade have yet to be decided.

The district administration will also need to determine how grade levels will be added at the school. Those outside of the school’s boundaries who want to attend Stapleton 3 should get information from the district on what grades have space for students to choice in. For more detail and updates as decisions are made, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com -> Education.

Library
Shirley Amore, City Librarian shared the following information at the Oct. 7 meeting. The design phase and construction drawings have been completed. The beginnings of construction activity will be visible on the site beginning in December. Groundbreaking will be in January 2011 and the library is expected to open in the first quarter of 2012. The building is 28,000 square feet, with LEED silver environmental efficiency, and it will have 100,000 items (books, audios, DVDs) and 50 computers on opening day.

Master Community Association (MCA)
Keven Burnett, MCA Executive Director, shared the following information at the Oct. 7 meeting: The MCA is a non-profit community organization that operates about 85 acres of parks and roadways in Stapleton, which currently has about 4,000 households with a population estimated at 12,500 people. The MCA organizes and manages events for the community including movies, markets and music that had 70-75,000 attendees this past year. The MCA also operates three pools that had over 100,000 visitors during the 100-day swim season. A new competition style six-lane pool located at 36th and Beeler is scheduled to open Memorial Day 2011.

Crime Statistics
Sgt. Eric Knutson, Denver Police, shared the following information at the Oct. 7 meeting: If your bike is ever stolen the only way you’ll ever get that bicycle back is if it’s registered with the city. Forms are at the COP Shop (community operated policing storefront) in the town center.
In 2010 there has been a 100% increase in burglaries compared to the same time period in 2009. Crimes against property are on the rise



including: burglaries, criminal mischief, theft from motor vehicle, motor vehicle theft. Of all the burglaries in Stapleton, two were forced entry. All the rest had an open door or window. The police believe the community has an opportunity to improve by joining Neighborhood Watch and working with neighbors to keep an eye on one another. Information provided by Eric Knutsen, Denver Police Department, at the Oct. 7 meeting.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
Bill Sirois, Manager of TOD for RTD, shared RTD’s vision for Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) at the Oct. 7 meeting: “We’re trying to make our stations more integrated with the community... and how we may create some more sustainable development in and around the area. The idea of encouraging mixed-income communities in our station areas is something that our board is very passionate about...”

“One of the next steps that needs to happen in Stapleton is a much more involved planning process for what specifically happens around the station. A preliminary study (the Stapleton Conceptual Plan) was done to configure the station... so we would preserve development opportunity in the future. My understanding is that the city is planning to initiate a (more detailed planning) process next year for Stapleton...”
“The East Line is supposed to have the highest ridership of any line in the system...”
“The Englewood project was done well, but people there would say there are certainly things they would do differently now. We’re trying to learn from those kinds of things.”

Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)
For a description of CAB, see the Stapleton United Neighbors column on p. 20 of this issue. Justin Ross spoke for CAB at the Oct. 7 meeting: One of CAB’s tasks is to take the stan-

dards from the Green Book and measure those against what Forest City is doing now. When a member of the audience asked, “So how are we doing compared to the Green Book?” Ross replied, “We grade the developer quite highly.”
However, recent CAB meetings offer a reminder of how difficult it is to meld community ideals with the economic priorities of private development.
CAB believes strongly that the upcoming Stapleton Transit Oriented Development offers a new opportunity to further the goals found both in the Green Book and in the Stapleton Station Conceptual Plan. They have a vision of a pedestrian connection along Uinta that extends all the way to MLK—a primary access road for pedestrians walking to the transit station. They believe higher density housing is most needed as close as possible to the station (including the two blocks south of Uinta where single family homes are being built) and that higher density housing should be implemented earlier than is currently planned. This approach, they say, would contribute to diversity and, with more residents in the area, create a livelier, more pedestrian-friendly approach to the transit stop, especially after dark.
For the area closest to the transit stop—from 35th to Smith Road—CAB has applauded Forest City’s concept plans that show retail and approximately 800 projected units of higher density housing (see drawing in October Front Porch). Regarding CAB’s concerns about a pedestrian-friendly connection along Uinta south of 35th, Forest City believes its sidewalk design in front of single family homes (and all the way to MLK), with a six-foot width and trees on both sides of the sidewalk, offers a pedestrian-friendly connection to the TOD development. And Forest City points out that land on the east side of Uinta from MLK to 33rd has been designated for multi-family, high-density housing.

Stapleton 3 construction is on schedule. A “topping off” ceremony was held Friday, Oct. 29 to celebrate completion of the steel structure.
CAB and Forest City have been in communication about Central Park West (CPW) (which is immediately adjacent to the new DPS school) since late 2009 when Forest

City first presented their concept plan for the neighborhood. Forest City states they informed CAB they planned to convey lots to builders in first quarter 2011, however CAB was not aware when plans were to be submitted to the city. Following receipt of the concept plans for CPW, CAB discussed concerns that the plan did not meet their vision for a neighborhood near a transit stop. But before CAB made a recommendation regarding their differing vision for the area, Forest City informed them that the plans had already been platted with the City and were moving forward. Forest City provided the plat to CAB in June.
CAB, in hopes the plans could be revised, continued to meet with Forest City to obtain more information and share their differing vision for the area. On October 18, Heidi Majerik of Forest City met with CAB members and explained details of the lotting on Uinta, including the single family homes that will have driveways that open to the street. (At the time the plat was distributed to CAB in June there had not been a discussion about the details of alleys and street-accessed garages.) Majerik also confirmed that construction of the infrastructure was underway. In addition, she explained that sales for the side drive homes previously built in Stapleton have been strong.
Some CAB members, already disappointed that the mix of proposed housing types did not match their views of long-term TOD planning, felt that street-accessed garages and their curb cuts might present a hazard and impede the access of bicyclists and pedestrians to the future transit station. Dave Netz, who chaired CAB’s joint committees summarizes CAB’s current plan for moving forward, saying, “The focus will really shift to the other sites for development and a movement to get the CAB and SDC involved in development plans before they are implemented.”



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State Sen. Mike Johnston made *Time Magazine's* "40 under 40. The young pols to watch"

How did you find out you were going to be in Time Magazine?
A couple weeks ago I got a call from the editor of the project and she said they were considering me and then she called me back and let me know... so that was exciting.

Did they tell you how many they were looking at?
I don't know how many people got cut or what happened. They may have just found 40 originally.

Any other reactions besides excitement?
I joked with my friends that if anyone would ever believe that there was a reason to doubt the American political leadership this is hard evidence that we're in big trouble if they can't 40 people better than me. But my mom's excited so it's good for her.

Did Time bring the group together?
There was a big celebration of the 40 in DC but I was unable to make it. I don't know that they have planned



an ongoing working group, I think it's more a "people to watch" kind of issue.

Do you think being on this list might lead to being part of any kind of national group?
I don't think so. I think that the purpose of it is just to recognize folks that they think are doing interesting work in different types of sectors around the country. But it certainly has opened up a bit of a network for me in terms of reaching out to other people on the list, being able to share policy ideas or political advice. So this is a newly formed cohort for me, though I have not gotten to know all of them. A handful of folks I knew already actually, but the other ones will be new to me. It's almost like a network of policy advisors.

Any other thoughts on this?
I think it's also a sign of how important people think education is as a national issue right now. I was a high school teacher and principal and now a state legislator, which is a pretty different profile than the other folks who were selected. So I think it's an indication that Time and others believe that this is one of the critical issues to be solved over the next generation.



DSA Applications Due by Nov. 23

Check out the video at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

Nancy Allwein, Director of Orchestras for Denver School of the Arts, conducts the Middle School Sinfonia Orchestra in their fall concert held last month. They were playing Georg Frederick Handel's Overture to Joseph.

By Carol Roberts

For Denver Public Schools students who wish to attend a "choice" school rather than their own boundary school, applications are submitted during the month of January. But there is an exception. At Denver School of the Arts (DSA), a DPS magnet school, applications must be submitted between November 1 and November 23, and they must be submitted online.

Last year the school, which includes grades 6–12, had 1,039 applicants and accepted 354, with the greatest number of students being accepted for admission into the sixth and ninth grades. Shawn Hann, the school's director of theatre, says last year 180–200 students came to her mandatory pre-audition meeting and they accepted 45 theatre students.

Although getting into the school is very competitive, assistant principal Miranda Odom encourages students to audition "if you have a passion for the arts and you want to study it. In the musical instrument areas this is not a place for beginning students. In band, orchestra, dance and piano, students have had lessons and are quite proficient." However, Odom points out that in the other majors (creative writing, stagecraft and design, theatre, video cinema arts, visual arts and vocal music) students wouldn't necessarily have needed lessons but it is an area they're interested in and have spent time on because they're passionate about it. Shawn Hann echoes that sentiment, saying she looks for creative people with raw talent who really want to be there and are willing to work hard.

Visit <http://dsa.dpsk12.org/> for details on applying.


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Hire live entertainment for corporate events, private parties and other holiday gatherings and make a tax-deductible donation to a good cause at the same time. Groups of three to five high school students from the Denver School of the Arts (DSA) vocal music department will sing traditional Christmas selections a cappella. Funds raised will go toward students' vocal training and performance trips throughout the school year. The recommended contribution is approximately \$250 for two hours of singing. All honorariums to DSA are tax-deductible. For more information or to book a group, contact Stacy Garcia at 303.458.5976 or stacy_garcia@dpsk12.org.

DSA students develop their creative abilities through a combined academic and arts curriculum and have the opportunity to be mentored by professional artists and scholars. Students are accepted into the program based on their audition in an artistic specialty. DSA has a rigorous academic curriculum and is ranked as one of the top schools in Colorado. In August 2003, DSA moved into a new venue that features state-of-the-art equipment and facilities for the arts and academic programs.

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Something Special is Happening at 6000 Victory Way

Rapids Host First-Ever Playoff Game at Dick's Sporting Goods Park

By John Babiak

Finally, the protracted wait is over. When the final whistle blew on October 16 and the New England Revolution trumped the Kansas City Wizards, the Colorado Rapids were assured the eighth and final playoff spot in the 2010 MLS playoffs. The painful four-year wait for a playoff berth was over.

For the anxious, scoreboard-watching Rapids faithful (myself included), it was time to breathe a sigh of relief. With the division-leading Los Angeles Galaxy game to be played that same night and the sharpshooting Salt Lake on the slate for the following weekend (plus Kansas City coming on strong), it was looking as if the Rapids 2010 season would close out like those in the past...with a hasty exit for the parking lot.

Meanwhile, not knowing the outcome of the New England game, the Rapids team was in Los Angeles readying itself for what they thought was a must-win or tie game with the Los Angeles Galaxy. Unless a tweet, text or ecstatic Colorado fan sitting in the LA Stadium leaked

out the unprecedented news, the Rapids coaching staff and players were unaware of the outcome of the New England game that gave them a playoff slot. "Frankly, we did not want to know," said Rapids Head Coach Gary Smith. "We had to focus on what we needed to do." He and his men were gearing up to do well, as the MLB chant goes: BEAT LA! And that is exactly what they went on to do. And in a rather impressive manner: 3-1. With near total dominance, the Rapids washed over the Galaxy, making a statement that this team has jelled and is capable of playing with any MLS contender.

Midway through this season, when it appeared that Colorado was in reach of one of the eight playoff slots, the team's leadership consortium huddled up and set out to optimize the roster by acquiring a player or two that would help the team both near and long term. Just before the September 15 MLS Roster Freeze deadline, Technical Director Paul Bravo delivered Coach Smith (both Stapleton residents) an early Christmas



Rapids Head Coach Gary Smith takes a much-deserved break from one of his practice sessions to watch his daughter, Millie, work out with her team at Central Park. She plays for the Colorado Fusion SC in the newly-formed Rapids Fusion Stapleton Division. Photo by John Babiak

gift. He acquired the swift, Senegalese-born forward Macoumba Kanji (Big Mac) from the New York Red Bulls and veteran Brian Mullan from the Houston Dynamo. Mullan and Kanji have been on Smith's radar screen for years and both have paid early dividends since their arrival. Big Mac brings similar qualities to those of MVP candidate Omar Cummings. "He is a big, athletic and very capable 1v. 1 player," said Bravo. He is already credited

with three assists. Mullan, a Denver native and one-time Denver Post High School Soccer Player of the Year, brings the experience of earning 4 MLS Championship rings. "He is one of the league's best wide midfielders. His work rate and intensity have inspired his teammates and our fans," Bravo commented.

In watching the team's most recent games, even the most casual spectator has to believe that the resilient Rapids are on the verge of opening their floodgates and taking the league by storm. There is an abundance of self-confidence and belief within the Rapids organization. Believing is what more of us now need to do.



Rapids defender Marvell Wynne takes the ball away from the Galaxy's David Beckham in the Aug. 16 game in Los Angeles. Photo by Getty Images

The Colorado Rapids are special on the field and off. Their small, family-friendly venue, affordable tickets and almost daily efforts by both coaches and players to train with local youth soccer programs speak volumes—and let's not forget that the stadium parking is still free.

Regardless of how far the Rapids progress in this year's playoffs, Colorado should look forward to them building on this season's success and emerging as a force to be reckoned with next spring.

The time has come to hop on this wave, and fill the parking lot and stadium seats too. Let's Go, Rapids!

Editor's note: At press time, the Rapids were scheduled to host the Columbus Crew in the first-ever playoff game at Dick's Sporting Goods Park on October 28. The second leg of the Eastern Conference Semi-Finals is scheduled for Nov. 6 at 2pm mountain time at the Columbus Crew Stadium.

John Babiak is a Stapleton resident. He coaches U7-U11 boys and girls for the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club. He also serves on the club's board of directors. He can be reached at CoachJohnBabiak@aol.com.

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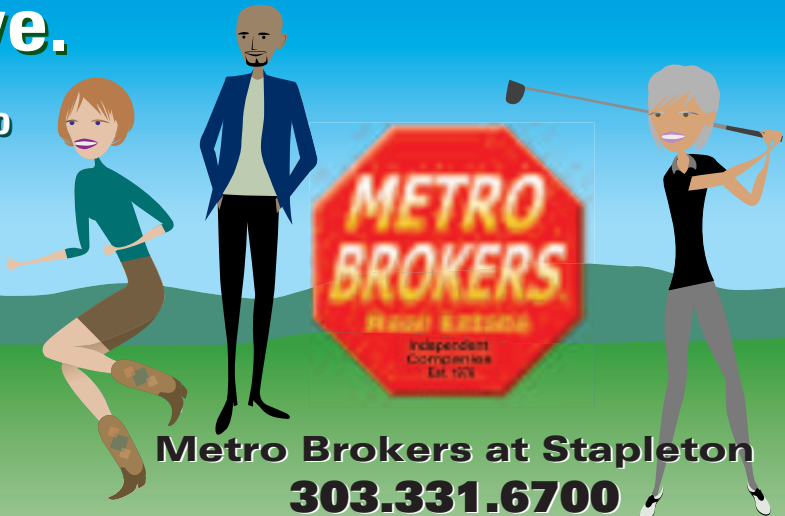
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Climbing Longs on 9/11

It had become an itch I could no longer ignore. I would get it driving around Denver, while walking my dogs, or sitting in front of my home. There it stands, the summit of Longs Peak. I had lived here for 30 years and never made it to the top. Many attempts had fallen woefully short. Until this trip, I had never even made it to where the tough get tougher or quit. I had given up previously because I never really wanted to find out what my physical endurance limits are. As long as I didn't know or had not fully tested them, I was free to assume that maybe I am stronger than I actually am.

I could find plenty of outside inspiration to motivate me up the trail. Hiking on 9/11 and thinking about my brother-in-law who had died 9 years earlier when a jet crashed directly into his office window or about an estranged friend who had a brand new baby boy. What would life bring to someone who would be around long after I am gone? Although, I certainly could have used outside influences to conjure up moti-

vation in my mind, I knew that it was going to have to come from within me if I wanted to be on top of that mountain.

The day started before sunrise and was dark for most of the 90 minute drive to the trailhead. With me was my great friend and expert climber Malik Lee. Mr. Lee has the skill necessary to guide a novice like me and the patience to put up with my snail's pace along the way.

The walking began at 8am. The first part of the trail is a little steep and covered in deep pine forest. My mind raced with every excuse possible to abandon the trek from the beginning. I could be home, in front of the tube watching college football all day.

As the trail comes out of the forest and you are suddenly above tree line, the view is absolutely spectacular. To the left is the Front Range—Ft. Collins to Denver; to your right is Longs, it's North Face and the Diamond, a 1500 foot shear cliff; and straight ahead is the trail, seemingly endless.

After five hours of hiking we reached

the Boulder Field, where the trails stops and you have to hop and scramble from one boulder to the next. Near there we had been passed by two runners scampering up the trail with weights in each hand, completely exacerbating my discomfort. I was now feeling physically exhausted to the point of nausea. I had taken in plenty of water and Gatorade but I couldn't get myself to eat anything. The tough part of the climb was coming up and I had to see if I had it in me to push on.

Mr. Lee kept reminding me that the last time he made this climb he came across a 73- year-old lady who was on the descent. Surely, I wouldn't want to face the embarrassment of being outdone by someone 20 years older than me. I thought she must have a very different constitution than I do and a lot more persistence.

The top of the Keyhole Route up Longs has several distinct areas all of which are named. The Boulder Field to the Keyhole, then the Narrows where two climbers lost their lives this summer, up the Trough which is a 1000 foot scramble up loose rock and definitely the low point of the climb, to the Ledges, a narrow path with a thousand foot drop if you slip. Finally, the Ladders, the last scramble up granite to the top.

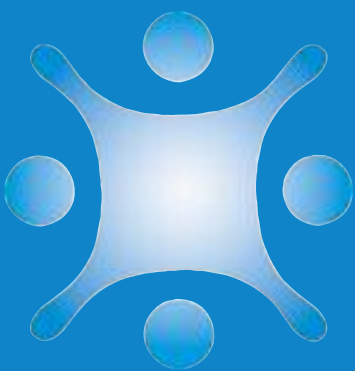
The summit comes quickly; you are struggling and then, after a step, you are on the top, which is a four-acre flat area that

seems as close as I'll ever get. The day was cloudless and we could see to Pikes Peak a hundred miles away and well up into Wyoming over to Rabbit Ears Pass and all of the Front Range. I raised my hands in victory and let out a scream, tears welled up as I realized I had pushed myself to my limits and survived. Now, I would really find out what I brought physically and mentally as the descent is much more difficult, especially in the dark.

As the moonless night settled over the peak, my mindset became one step at a time. I kept singing the song "Sec Walkin'" by My Morning Jacket which starts "Left leg, right leg, One leg at a time I keep on walking." We became temporarily off trail in the Narrows but otherwise the hike out was simply long.

We arrived back at the parking lot at 2am. Mr. Lee could have been up and back twice in the time it took me to complete the roundtrip but he remained with me a strong cheerleader and stern coach without whom I never would have summited.

Other than black toes and being very stiff, I had survived and found something inside me that I didn't know was there. Now, when I look up at that mountain, which we all do everyday, I always think about being on top and what the expedition taught me about myself.



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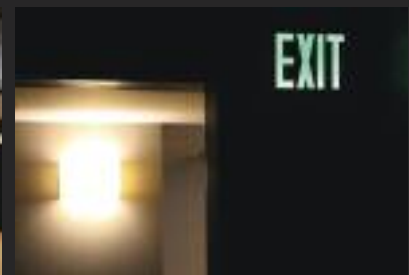


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The new home of the Denver Film Society is on Colfax, across from East High School. It has three theatres, a bar and a dining area, though the restaurant will open at a later date.

Denver Film Society Moves to NE Denver

The Denver Film Society (DFS) is moving their film center to 2510 East Colfax (across from East High School), with a grand opening event scheduled for Nov. 4. The move coincides with the 2010 Denver Film Festival. The *Front Porch* talked with Executive Director Tom Botelho about the opportunities offered by the new location, as well as what the Film Society will be bringing to the residents of NE Denver.

Why is this a good location for you?

The best thing about the location at Colfax is we're in the heart of the entertainment and cultural corridor. Within a mile and a half radius are 50,000 people. The crazy thing about being at Auraria campus is that we were always competing with Pepsi Center events. Another great thing about this neighborhood is that there are restaurants and we have Tattered Cover and Twist and Shout. People don't just go to the movies singularly. They get a drink or they eat

before or after a movie. There's a lot to attract people here. It's a vibrant complex. And parking is easy—there's a 175 space parking structure right here and there's surface parking all around.

What does DFS bring to the neighborhood?

It brings so much—great entertainment and culture. We do three things: Denver Film Center Colfax with year-round theater operation, screening films that people wouldn't be able to see anywhere else unless there was a film society. We do the Film on the Rocks, our summer series at Red Rocks—now going into its 12th season. And our big event is the Starz Denver Film Festival which opens on November 3 and attracts over 50,000 patrons (see box at left).

The neighborhood is going to love our free Saturday morning kids programs. We'll have a ton of kids here with their families—we're targeting kids ages 5-12. These are not Disney movies but they are films made for kids. We offer Rocky Mountain PBS community cinema monthly as free program. We bring in directors. We have Doc Night—it's a monthly series featuring a documentarian who'll do a Q&A. We have receptions. We do Women + Film, celebrating women of achievement in film—in front of camera and behind the camera. A lot of times we do social justice issues with Women + Film. One of the more fun programs we do is the Watching Hour—our late-night film programming on Friday and Saturday nights. That's where we do all our zombie and horror films. That's going to do really well on Colfax because there's a late night crowd here who will really enjoy that. We do a monthly program called Mile High Sci Fi—it's really fun, people love it. We have Cine Club, that's our French films. And we have a lot of what we call mini

Check out our video interview at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com



Denver Film Society executive director Tom Botelho leans back in one of the comfortable padded seats in the largest of the three theaters at the new Denver Film Center/Colfax location.

festivals—an extended weekend over 4 days with 12-14 films. We've had mini festivals for Human Rights, GLBT, French and Japanese films. What we're all about is we build community through film. We're not a passive moviegoing experience. We interact with our audience. Our audience has opinions about the issues in the film or about the filmmaking process. Our audiences are intellectually curious. Film for them is a sense of adventure. They're politically aware. It's a very vocal audience and that's why our experience is different—because people interact after films.

What kind of interaction do you envision with East HS?


The kids will be represented here with screenings and educational programs including a young filmmakers

workshop this summer to produce films. Our goal is to have EHS students here every week during spring semester.

For more information on the Denver Film Society visit www.Denverfilm.org.

Denver Film Festival Nov. 3 - 14

The 2010 Denver Film Festival is in its 33rd year and offers more than 200 movies between Nov. 3 and Nov. 14. Visit www.denverfilm.org/festival/ to search films by date and genre and view descriptions of each film, as well as to find locations and buy tickets (\$4 service fee online). A printed guide to the festival is being distributed in Westword. Tickets for the general public to weekday matinees before 5:30pm are \$10 and \$12 all other times. East High School and Auraria students get a \$1 discount and Film Society members get a \$2 discount. Tickets can be purchased at all locations starting one hour before the first screening. Locations include the new Denver Film Center/Colfax, the Starz FilmCenter at the Tivoli, the King Center on the Auraria Campus and the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.



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Page Scherbl (pictured) and her husband Anton have recently opened Eis Gelato & Café on 28th near Fairfax in Park Hill. The Scherbl's formerly owned a gelato cafe in Swaziland, South Africa.

Gelato and Coffee Neighborhood Café

By Nancy Burkhart

Stapleton residents Page Scherbl and her husband, Anton, have led international lives. They have lived in Swaziland, southern Africa and in Germany. In Africa, they had a gelato café and loved meeting the local people and Peace Corps workers who came to enjoy their wares.

Thus, when they considered starting a business in this area, they decided to open Eis Gelato & Café in Park Hill at 5023 E. 28th Ave., between Elm and Fairfax streets, next to the Sachel's Restaurant's former location. The café seats 15 people and has a coffee bar with an espresso machine and a gelato display featuring 24 flavors.

"It's a neighborhood ice cream and coffee shop," Page explained. "We specialize in house-made gelato. It's Italian ice cream. The basic difference between gelato and ice cream is that gelato has less air incorporated into it, and it has less butterfat. We use all organic milk and other organic ingredients."

Gelato contains sugar, but Page said she is considering carrying sugar-free gelato because there are neighbors who have diabetes.

"You can request flavors," she said. "If it's something I can do and I think it would sell, I would love to do it. I will sell gelato wholesale so that people can have it for special occasions, like putting champagne and rose petals in it. If you're having a party, a five-liter tin would serve about 30 people. You can suggest the flavor. We would need to have five days' notice."

Eis Gelato & Café also offers ice cream cakes to order—they have two layers of sponge cake and three layers of the customer's choice of ice cream.

"We have basic flavors that everybody gravitates to, and we have seasonal flavors," Page said. "At the moment we have pumpkin and cranberry spice sorbet. We also have kabocha squash. Kabocha is like a round, green pumpkin and tastes like pumpkin and butternut. My favorite is dark chocolate sorbet with New Mexican chili paste. You can taste the chili, but it's not burning your tongue. It's a dark chocolate with roasted, dried New Mexican chilis added to the ice cream. It's kind of a nice, warming combination."

The neighborhood where Eis Gelato & Café is located is a transitional one. It is located near the Greater Park Hill office.

"That's what I love about it," Page said. "It's an interesting neighborhood because of the mix of people and things going on there. I like the fact that it's embedded in the neighborhood. People can walk over, push their babies over or come by on a bike ride."

The entire Scherbl family helps out at the café. Drazana, 22, is a senior at the University of Denver and often works in the shop. Her 17-year-old sister, Nandi, who attends classes at the Denver School of Science and Technology, also does time behind the counter. And 20-year-old Alexandra, who is at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, will take her turn at the café on summer break.

To place special orders, email Eis Gelato & Café at eis1@gmail.com.

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Design on a Budget



Irene Ledesma, right, an interior design student at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design talks to Kelly Manning about the plans for her home. Ledesma does free in-home design consultations and helps customers find furnishings at American Furniture Warehouse where she is a sales associate.

By Nancy Burkhart

Many people hoping to change the way their homes are decorated find expensive interior designers who point them in the direction of high-ticket furnishings. But, in today's economy, many folks would be happy with a little professional advice and reasonably priced furnishings. Irene Ledesma is aware of these homeowners' needs and has found a way to help them.

Ledesma is a student in interior design at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design. She plans to graduate in the spring of 2012. In the meantime, she is working as a design consultant at American Furniture Warehouse in Thornton.

As a design consultant for American Furniture Warehouse, Ledesma goes to her clients' homes where she listens to their needs and creates a design plan. "I will help the client find the right piece of furniture, as well as do simple projects such as staging and consulting on the color palette for their home." She explains that she can help clients revisit their use of spaces to make them more comfortable and suggest ways to solve problems without taking out walls.

Ledesma will then research products at American Furniture Warehouse to find what she believes would suit her customers' needs. With that list of possibilities ready, she meets her customers in the store and shows them

the items that fit their design plan. Customers pay only for the furniture they buy. The home consultation, design plan, and product research are offered as a complimentary service to customers at American Furniture Warehouse.

Ledesma said she moved into interior design after 20 years in the dental field, but feels that both fields work in similar fashion. "What we have to do in the dental world is design a beautiful smile for people," she said. "It's looking at form, function, time and economy. Those are the same four things we look at as designers. Design has to be safe, healthy and it has to serve a purpose. There's a little bit of psychology with it too."

"I find it very exciting. Interior designers are problem solvers. It's about how we can make the space work for the client. There are a lot of things that we have to ask the client. We have to know how much time they spend in a given space. We profile them so that their ideas are reflected in their space."

Ledesma is also developing a private design business, working out of the home that she and her husband, Steve Lawrence, live in at Stapleton, where Lawrence is president of Stapleton United Neighbors.

To schedule an appointment with Irene Ledesma, call her at 720.312.2626 or email her at leddee@hotmail.com.

Plus Size Resale



Rosanna Griffin, formerly in the mortgage and banking businesses, has opened Athena's Closet, Inc., a consignment shop for plus-sized women's clothing located at Colfax and Glencoe.

By Nancy Burkhart

Rosanna Griffin was a mortgage underwriter for 10 years, and in banking for 15 years. But she decided to leave the finance world behind and she began thinking about her love of clothes. She learned to sew her own clothes when she was nine years old, developing a knowledge of color, design and line.

Since Griffin, herself, is a plus-size woman, Athena's Closet, Inc., located at Colfax and Glencoe, came to life as a consignment shop for plus-size women's clothing.

"It is a big change," Griffin admitted. "I really enjoyed underwriting mortgage loans, but when that went south, I didn't want to work for a large corporation again. To me, the most attractive option was to start my own business. I did my homework. I checked out surveys and introduced myself to shop owners in town."

Griffin chose consignment over retail because it was a business that she could do by herself. There is no inventory and she felt that it was an easy start-up for her.

"People bring things in to me that they want to sell, and I provide the place for them to do that," she explained. "I will display their things for a certain length of time and they will get a percentage of the sale price. Resale isn't the same as a retail store. We don't have inventory costs."

At Athena's Closet, a shopper will find

reasonable prices, according to Griffin. The highest-priced suit is in the high \$40s, while a sweat suit or workout suit is under \$20, she said. There also are accessories, such as jewelry, scarves, hats, belts and perfume that either is unused or slightly used.

"There's a pretty good selection," Griffin said. "I have some winter coats, leather coats, jackets, suede coats, and fleece and boiled wool jackets. There are quite a few to choose from, and more to come."

Women with gently used winter clothing from size 14 and up can bring it to Athena's Closet, she said.

"I'm always looking for people to bring things in as well as to shop," Griffin said. "I'm looking for winter and holiday stuff from consigners. I ask that it's either a current or a classic style in saleable condition—that is, neat, clean and on a hanger and in good repair."

Athena's Closet caters to plus-sized women of all ages, according to Griffin.

"I've got some younger women going to a first high school reunion. Then I've got some older women looking for outfits for church," she said. "There's a wide range, so that's why I'm trying to get a good mix in the store. They don't want to have the older, frumpy look. They want to have the 'now' look."

Athena's Closet is located at 5305 E. Colfax Ave. at Glencoe Street. It is open from 10am to 6pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Call Rosanna Griffin at 303.997.4336.

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Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

So Why Do the Autumn Leaves Fall?

Growing up in upstate New York's Mohawk River Valley, I was surrounded by dense forests as far as my eyes could see. They are tall broadleaf forests, comprised of a variety of tree species. Ash trees were used then to make my favorite wooden Adirondack-brand baseball bats. The maples yielded syrup that would coat my mom's breakfast French toast. In the summer, the entire collection provided me with much-needed shade from the oppressive sun. When I ventured under their canopies, I could barely make out the blue sky above. In the fall these same canopies boasted an amazing spectrum of rich colors—from gold to mustard and amber, ruby to magenta and rust, tan to peach and carrot. For this Huck Finn, I distinctly remember that view being surreal, if not mesmerizing.

During our annual autumn family car drives, I'd ask my father, "How do the leaves turn colors?" and "Why do they fall?" This fall, like the rest, is no different. The scientist in me still seeks more data. I now mine the scientific literature for new perspectives. Today, life science research is technology driven. With the advent of high-tech scientific instruments like the DNA sequencer, protein mass spectrometer and capillary electrophoresis system, molecular biologists, biochemists and botanists alike are able to delve deeper into

our age-old questions. Every day, laboratories around the globe are generating new bits of information from which more insight is gained and knowledge created. The study of these two breathtaking events is no exception.

During our fall season here in the northern hemisphere, our nights grow longer and the climate becomes colder. Deciduous trees sense these changes and begin to synthesize hormones that start a fascinating, highly ordered, multi-step process that culminates in a leaf being clipped from their branch and fluttering to the ground. Trees are programmed to lose

Photo by Marko Babiak



leaves, buds, flowers, fruit, twigs, and even their bark. Trees lose their leaves for a reason, the primary one being their need to prepare themselves for a dormant, resting time known as winter. Plant biologists refer to this period as "senescence." By the time fall arrives, leaves have served their function. A tree now views the leaves as excess baggage and casts them off the ship. Hopefully they will find a welcoming life form, humans, who will put them to

good use, for example, in a compost bin.

The actual process of shedding has two parts: "active" and "passive." During the active stage, an "abscission" (Latin: abscissionem. Abscind: to rid, cut) zone is formed. It is here where all heck will soon break loose. Specialized abscission cells form and cell walls are weakened by their scissor-like enzymes. The organic adhesive that holds the leaf stem to the branch begins to break down. Internal water pressure rises causing the joint

to bulge like an old levy. Hundreds of long fracture lines form between doomed cells. When the weakness is at its height, the connection surrenders and gives way. Passive wind, rain, snow or even a curious child's hand deliver the final blow to our favorite autumn leaves. After the leaf falls, the cut is quickly sealed and a healing process begins.

Leaf color change. We see color that is reflected to our eyes. In tree leaves the predominate is green, especially so during the spring and summer season. The green color that we see is reflected by chlorophyll. During these seasons, chlorophyll is busy absorbing sun light for use in photosynthesis. Here, light energy is converted into chemical energy that then transforms carbon dioxide and water into oxygen and sugars for the tree (and us) to use to grow. There are other naturally occurring pigmented chemicals in the leaves, however, they are masked by the high concentration of chlorophyll. At the start of the fall season, when senescence begins, the built-in process of abscission restricts the flow of water to the leaves. Without water, photosynthesis stops and the green pigmented chlorophyll begins to disappear. Soon thereafter, the true leaf color(s) are revealed and become visible to our eyes. Carotene, for example, reflects the color yellow, while anthocyanins reflect shades of red. Together, these chemicals deliver our brilliant fall colors.

My dad's answer was not so detailed, but pretty darn close. If he were still alive I'd give him partial credit for his answer, and all the credit for inspiring me to explore, appreciate and share our natural world

Marko and John Babiak are Stapleton residents. John is an enrichment teacher. Weekly he teaches 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 NatureRangerJohn@aol.com.

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Looking for Ways To Spend Time with Your Teen?

Editors Note: Jenna Finn is an intern from DSST working two afternoons a week this fall at the Front Porch.

By Jenna Finn

Parents often want to spend more time with their teenagers, but teens don't want to do things they think aren't interesting. Giving them options and letting them choose something they think will be fun gives parents a greater chance of spending time with their teens. When you feel like spending time with your teenage son/daughter, grab a copy of the paper and show him/her this list of events. There are bound to be options that catch their interest, so let them choose an event and plan

the outing. Most of the events listed in the paper are easily affordable and local, and they give you something fun to do when you get out of the house and spend time with your family.

I read the brief descriptions and found it easy to pick out events that interested me because they're organized into categories and they list the price, location, and date. Most of them were close and they were things I hadn't done before. Some of my favorite events for November (marked **) included: Denver Veterans Day Parade, 9News Parade of Lights, Southwest Rink at Skyline Park, and Celebrating the Print, Art Exhibition.

DENVER EVENTS

Free Wednesday Activities for Seniors. 1st Wed., 10am, Crafts and light lunch; 2nd Wed., 12pm, Luncheon and entertainment; 4th Wednesday, 12pm, Light lunch and bingo. Reservations by Fri. before 2nd Wed. program. Barbara Tonn at 303.439.7554; for 4th Wed. program, Carla Helling at 303.807.0619. Bosworth House, 1400 Josephine St. Sponsored by Assistance League of Denver.

11/5 Friday to 11/13 Saturday- Denver Arts Week. Celebrates Mile High City's cultural scene and vibrant arts with over 200 events. Art walks, more than a dozen museums hosting extended hours on Sat. night Nov. 6. Weeklong deals, discounts, special performances. www.denver.org/DenverArtsWeek

11/05 Friday- First Friday Art Walks:

Santa Fe Arts District. www.artdistricton-santafe.com

North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk. Tennyson St and 44th Ave. www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com

Cherry Creek Arts District. www.cherrycreeknorth.com

Art Exhibitions:

Through 11/5 Friday- 2nd Annual Day of Dead Show. Art show centered on Dia de los Muertos and how Denver artists are inspired by the holiday. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 11am-4pm. FREE. Studio 12 Gallery, 209 Kalamath St. #12. 303.629.8744

11/7 Sunday- "After Dark" Art Exhibit. What happens when the sun goes down? The party

starts... Things go bump in the night... CORE New Art Space displays variety of artists' After Dark visions. 1-4pm. FREE. Core New Art Space. 900 Santa Fe Dr. 303.297.8428

****11/13 Saturday-11/20 Saturday- Celebrating the Print, Art Exhibition.** Limited edition, unique prints created by premier artists. 12-5pm. FREE. Michele Mosko Fine Art. 136 W. 12th Ave. 303.534.5433

11/3 Wednesday-11/7 Sunday- Denver International Wine Festival. 4-day wine/food celebration; 400 wines from around the world. 303.664.5700, www.denverwinefest.com

11/5 Friday-11/7 Sunday- Colorado Ski and Snowboard Expo. Tickets \$12, under 12 free. Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St., downtown Denver. www.skisnowboardexpo.com

****11/6 Saturday- Denver Veterans Day Parade.** Featuring flyover, cannon and gun salutes. 10am. FREE. Civic Center Park, Broadway and Colfax Ave. 720.913.0630

11/7 Sunday- 23rd Annual Brown Palace Champagne Cascade. 12pm. Champagne poured from top of two-story tower of 6000 glasses. Floors 4-7 open to public. FREE. VIP packages available. www.brownpalace.com/champagne_cascade

11/7 Sunday- Athena Festival. Emphasizing creativity/spiritual sciences/women's issues/healing arts/relationships/psychology/mysticism. Admission \$5. Ramada Plaza, I-25 and 120th Ave, Thornton. 11am-5pm. www.athenafestival.com

11/13 Saturday and 11/14 Sunday- Gifts for Yule Holiday Gift Mart. Historic Phipps Tennis Pavilion, 3400 Belcaro Dr. FREE admission. www.giftsforyule.com

11/19 Friday-11/21 Sunday- Woodworking and D.I.Y. Show. Seminars/demos/shopping for latest tools. Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 E 58th Ave. www.thewoodworkingshows.com

11/19 Friday- Overdue Love Club, Singles Night for Intelligent People. Come chat with interesting singles; indulge in wine and coffee. Michelangelo's Wine and Coffee Bar, every 3rd Fri, 6:30-8pm. 1 S Broadway. Registration encouraged, 720.865.1206

****11/20 Saturday and 11/21 Sunday- Make & Take Arts & Crafts Weekend.** Classes include creating recycled paper earrings, making tamales, holiday wreath making and gorgeous rings. Colorado Free University. Classes: \$24 to \$61 plus material fees. www.freeu.com or 303.399.0093 X0

11/20 Saturday and 11/21 Sunday- Denver Women's Press Club Jewelry Sale. Vintage jewelry assembled by members; sale benefits DWPC scholarship fund. 1325 Logan St. www.dwpconline.org or 303.839.1519

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Activities include local projects, charitable social events and working vacations abroad. www.svgd.org for upcoming volunteer opportunities (must be over 18).

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

Denver Garden Club- Meets 3rd Monday each month, 7pm, 1556 Emerson St. Contact: Glenda Condon at 303.377.3580.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

11/5 to 11/13- "Christmas at Our House" Holiday Boutique and Dining Events. Benefits Assistance League of Denver; located at Historic Bosworth Mansion, 1400 Josephine St. www.denver.assistanceleague.org

11/17 Wednesday to 11/30 Tuesday- City-wide Toy Drive. Celebrate 80th anniversary of Denver Santa Claus Shop by donating toys at King Soopers stores. Nonprofit gives free toys to children in need during holidays. denversantaclausshop.com

11/19 Friday and 11/20 Saturday- L'Esprit de Noel Holiday Home Tour. Benefits Central City Opera House Assoc. Features homes in Hilltop neighborhood. Holiday boutique at Garland Country Day School, 10am-4pm. www.centralcityopera.org

11/26 Friday- Downtown Denver's Grand Illumination. Kick off holiday season with lighting of downtown. 5:30pm. FREE. Union Station and 16th St. Mall. 720.865.3500, www.downtowndenver.com

****11/26 Friday- 9News Light the Lights.** City & County Building. 6:30pm. www.downtowndenver.com

(continued on page 18)

****Teen Favorites designated by Front Porch student intern, Jenna Finn**



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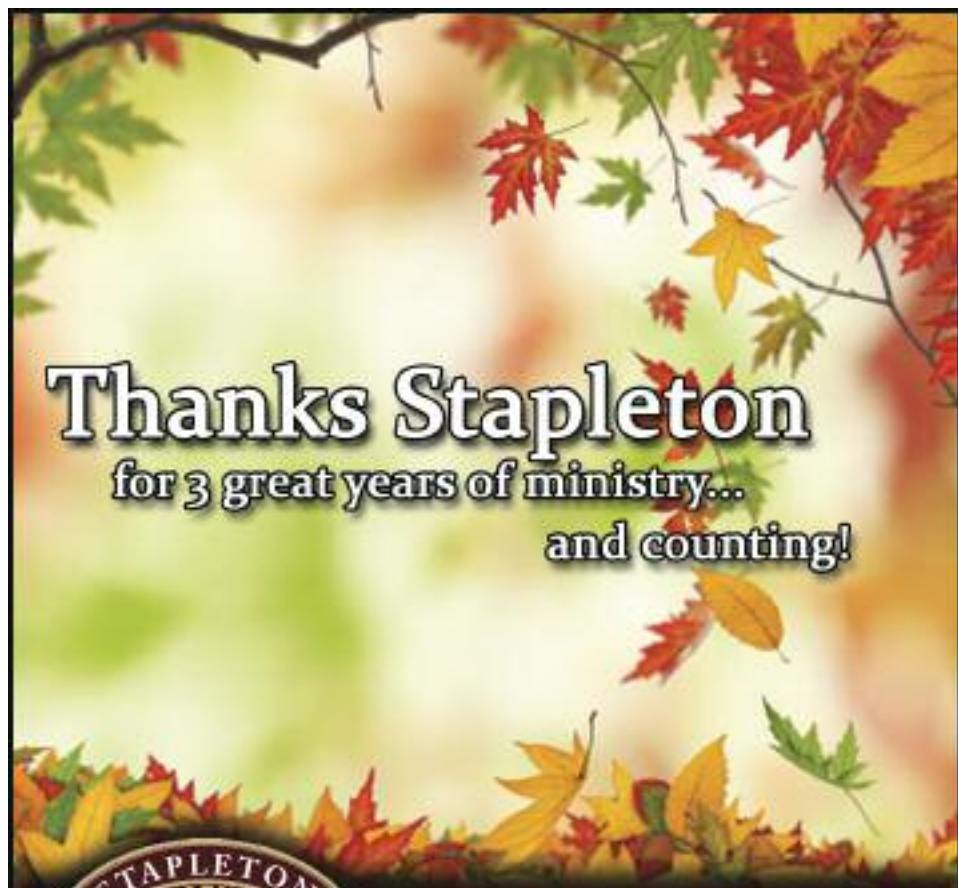


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karen@bestmediation.net

HOLIDAY EVENTS (continued from pg 23)

****11/26- Southwest Rink at Skyline Park.** FREE ice skating in Downtown Denver; bring skates or rent a pair. www.downtowndenver.com

****12/3 Friday and 12/4 Saturday- 9News Parade of Lights.** Marching bands, giant balloons, dazzling floats, delightful characters. Fri. 8pm and Sat. 6pm. FREE. City & County Building, 1437 Bannock St. 720.913.4900

12/3 Friday-12/2011- Blossoms of Light. A million colorful lights; holospex glasses, romantic, popular kissing spots and seasonal entertainment on select evenings. 5:30-9:30pm including holidays. Adults \$9, Students/Seniors \$7, Children \$6. Denver Botanic Gardens. 1007 York St. 720.865.3514

****12/4, 12/5, 12/11, 12/12 Saturday and Sunday- 50th Annual Georgetown Christmas Market.** European-inspired market with handcrafted gifts, carolers, horse-drawn wagon rides, roasted chestnuts, St. Nicholas and more! Sat.-Sun, 10am-6pm. FREE admission. 303.569.2888, www.historicgeorgetown.org/spevents/xmarket.htm

12/4 Saturday- Snack with Santa. Denver Children's Museum, 10am-1pm. www.mychildsmuseum.org

12/17 Friday and 12/18 Saturday- Denver Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert, "This Shining Night." 7:30p.m. at L2 Arts and Culture Center, 1477 Columbine St at Colfax Ave. Advance tickets: \$22 (adults) and \$18 (students); children 12 and under free with adult at www.rmarts.org; higher price at door day of concert.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

11/3 Wednesday- Because Life Happens. Find out what happens to your precious gift of life after you give blood. Program and tour of Bonfils lab facilities. RSVP foundation@bonfils.org, 303.739.4000. 717 Yosemite St. 12-1pm. FREE.

11/5 Friday- Natural Cold Remedies. Learn to make natural tinctures/remedies for cold and flu season using products in your herbal cabinet! 1-2:30pm. \$10. Naturally Loved, 7349 E 29th Ave, Stapleton-Town Center. naturallylovedbaby@gmail.com

11/09 Tuesday- Health Smart Weight Loss—No More Yo-Yo. 6:30pm. Weight gain after kids or with age? Heal and reverse this trend and prevent diseases of aging. FREE. Carrie Louise Daenell, ND at LiveWell Center, 255 Detroit St. 303.399.8050.

11/13 Saturday- Cloth Diaper and Baby Carrying. Explore positives of cloth diapering and baby wearing. \$5 sign-up fee; can be store credit day of class. Naturally Loved, Stapleton Town Center. 1-2pm. Register: naturallylovedbaby@gmail.com

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

11/1 Monday- Mediterranean Olive Oil Tasting. Learn history, harvest and health benefits of extra virgin olive oils through guided tasting. Bread, wine, antipasti and desserts with EVOO's olive oils included. 6-8pm. EVOO Marketplace, 1338 15th St. \$30. Register: www.viamediterranea.com

11/11 Thursday- Can a Modern Woman Find a Place in Traditional Judaism? By Lisa Aiken, psychologist and author. Aish Denver, 9500 E Bellevue Ave. 7:15pm. Tickets: \$8 advance; \$10 at door. RSVP: www.theje.com, www.aishdenver.com, 303.316.6412.

Active Minds – FREE. Info at www.ActiveMindsForLife.com.

11/8 Monday- Hinduism. 2:30-3:30pm. Springbrooke, 6800 Leetsdale Dr. RSVP: 303.331.9963

11/9 Tuesday- Life and Legacy of Ronald Reagan. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E. Colfax.

11/11 Thursday- Cuba Past, Present and Future. 7-8pm. Stapleton Master Community Assn, 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724

11/17 Thursday- Indonesia, a Functional Islamic Democracy. 1:30-2:30pm. Washington St Community Center, 809 S Washington. RSVP: 303.733.4643

11/23 Tuesday- Franklin Delano Roosevelt. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax.

12/9 Thursday- Chocolate. 7-8pm. Stapleton Master Community Assn, 2823 Roslyn St.

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 kids who can sit and listen to short stories, participate in songs and simple craft. 10:30am. Craft limited to first 30 kids.

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

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

11/16 Tuesday- Children's author and illustrator Ross MacDonald. 6:30pm. His works include *Another Perfect Day*, *Bad Baby*,

and *Achoo! Bang! Crash! A Noisy Alphabet*. His illustrations have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair* and *Time*. All ages welcome to attend!

Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St (1st and Quebec). 720.865.0000. Reopens Nov. 11 after remodeling. Storytimes and Bookbabies to resume in January.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

11/2 Tuesday- Mother Goose Reading Circle. 11-11:30am, Naturally Loved, Stapleton Town Center. www.naturallylovedbaby.com. Repeats 11/16 and 11/30.

11/5 Friday- Tales from the Jungle. Weekly storytime at JCC with professional storytellers/entertainers for kids 1-5. 10:30am. Repeats 11/12 and 19. FREE. RSVP: 303.316.6336. www.jccdenver.org. 350 S Dahlia St.

11/6 Saturday and 11/7 Sunday- Westernaires Horsecapades. 250 youth riders and horses perform tricks, precision drills and more. Tickets: \$7 at door or from any Westernaires member. National Western Events Center, 47th and Humboldt St. www.westernaires.org

11/7 Sunday- Me' at Shabbat. Jewish-based activities for toddlers, parents, siblings. FREE. 9am. Temple Micah, 2600 Leyden. www.micah-denver.org

11/10 Wednesday- "Create Playdates" at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5 can 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

Art Students League of Denver- Now registering for kids and teens programs. 303.778.6990 or www.ASLD.org

11/18 Thursday- Glass-fusing Workshop at The Art Garage in Park Hill. 7-9pm. Age 4 and up. Register: www.artgaragedenver.com

MUSEUMS

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

11/18 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails and entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members/\$10/non-members.

****Through 1/2/2011 Amazon Voyage: Vicious Fishes and other Riches.** Free with museum admission.

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

IMAX- Hubble in 3D narrated by Leonardo DeCaprio. **Under the Sea in 3D** narrated by Jim Carrey. Various times; tickets \$8/3-18, \$10/adult.

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Age-Smart Weight Loss Study Tuesday November 9, 6:30pm



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11/26 Friday - The Shops at Northfield Stapleton hosts its holiday show, Wizards of Winter, on Main Street. Come watch as mystical wizards bring the magic of Northfield's new holiday decorations and the holiday season to life. Show begins at 6:30pm with festivities continuing through the evening.

Bass Pro Events – 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com
 11/4, Thursday: Hunting Pheasants on the High Plains
 11/6, Saturday: Basic Pistol Course–Handgun Safety
 11/9, Tuesday: Get Hooked on Fly Tying (for beginners)

Harkins Theatres 18 – 720.374.3118, www.HarkinsTheatres.com
 11/5, Friday: *Megamind*
 11/19, Friday: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part I*
 11/24, Wednesday: *Tangled*

Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre – Tickets: 303.307.1777 www.ImprovDenver.com
 11/5-11/6, Friday–Saturday: Sommore, the “Original Diva of Comedy”
 11/11-11/14, Thursday–Sunday: Sebastian Maniscalco
 11/18-11/21, Thursday–Sunday: Aries Spears
 11/26-11/28, Friday–Saturday: Shang

The Twisted Olive – 303.373.8100, www.TwistedOlive.com. Spoken Word/Poetry: 9pm every Wednesday.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

11/2 Tuesday- Tuesday Tots: Gobble, gobble, gobble. 10–11am. Can turkeys fly? Do all turkeys gobble?

Meet Tom and Henry Turkey and discover fun facts about this great bird. For young naturalists 2–5 years old. Parent/guardian must accompany children.

11/6 Saturday- Big Buck Photo Tour. 8–11am. No passing the buck here! Capture striking photographs of mule and white-tailed deer sporting their stunning racks among fall colors. Recommended for adults.

11/13 Saturday- Magnificent Mulies. 1–3pm. Bucks battle for breeding rights and showcase their magnificent antlers during the rut. Learn about this seasonal rivalry and differences between mule and white-tailed deer. Repeats Sunday 11/14.

11/20 Saturday- Home on the Range. 1–3pm. Explore world of the Refuge's most majestic creature, the American bison. Learn fun facts and enjoy relaxing guided tour to bison pasture.

11/20 Saturday- Gulf Oil Spill. 7–8pm. You've heard all about the Gulf Oil Spill, but now get a firsthand account from Refuge biologist Sherry Skipper. Hear about her month-long experience and how Mother Nature's getting a healing hand. Recommended for adults.

11/27 Saturday- Holiday Tour. 9:30am to noon. Friends or relatives visiting for the holidays? Take them on unique outing to see deer, prairie dogs, eagles, hawks, coyotes and more. Repeats Sunday 11/28.

SPORTS & FITNESS

11/20, Saturday- 4th Annual Gobble Wobble 5K Race/Walk and Family Fun Run. Yearly 5K Walk/Run benefits Far Northeast Principals' Leadership Council (PLC). Course runs through scenic Green Valley Ranch Golf Course; for everyone from serious runners to families with kids in strollers. Food, fun and costume contest! 9am. \$20/adults, \$10/children over 6; 6 and under FREE. GVR Golf Course- 4900 Himalaya Rd, 720.936.0826 or Events@MyGVR.org

STAPLETON/PARK HILL/LOWRY EVENTS
Live Music at Soiled Dove. Voted Denver's best live music venue of 2008, The Soiled Dove is located at 7401 E 1st Ave in Lowry. Tickets: www.soileddove.com

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

11/3 Wednesday- DPS High School Expo. Schools offering 9th grade and up. Learn about DPS traditional, magnet, pathways and charter schools; learn to navigate School of Choice process; learn about special programs such as Gifted and Talented, Special Education and English Language Acquisition. 6:30-8:30pm. Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd.

11/03 Wednesday- Adult & Continuing Education Information Night – Johnson & Wales University, 5:30 to 7:30pm. Information about evening and weekend programs in business, hospitality, or the culinary arts. Johnson & Wales Welcome Center. RSVP Shayna Nesbitt 303-256-9484. Free and open to the public.

11/8 Monday- Early Education Scoop. Enrollment experts will answer questions about preschool and kindergarten programs at DPS: Child care provided, but must RSVP one week prior to event. 720.423.3681 DPS x33681, marissa_ferrari@dpsk12.org. 6–8pm. Center for Early Education, 3245 E Exposition Ave. Event repeats 12/8, Palmer Elementary, 995 Grape St. 6–8pm

11/9 Tuesday- Bill Roberts Open House. 6:30pm. Learn about ECE and kindergarten programs. 2100 Akron Way, 720.424.2640

11/10 Wednesday- Denver Jewish Day School Admission Open House. Formerly Herzl/RMHA, meet faculty and students, observe classes, tour campus; continental breakfast. 9am-12pm. 2450 S Wabash St. RSVP: Shayna Friedman 720.449.9522 or sfriedman@denverjds.org.

11/12 Friday- Bill Roberts "Can Structure" Com-

petition to Benefit Food Bank of the Rockies. Drop off cans at school by Nov. 5. View the school-wide "can structure" competition on Nov. 12 starting at 1pm. Bring cans to vote for the winning structure at an evening community potluck. More info: Jamie Powell, 720-424-2640

11/16- Tuesday, Arts Resource Council meeting, Bill Roberts School, 4:30-6pm, room 1005. Parents, teachers and citizens dedicated to keeping quality arts education in Denver Public Schools. Bill Roberts principal and art teachers will talk about their arts program. More info: marcelekb@dvierow.com

THEATER

11/2–11/7- Mamma Mia. Buell Theater. www.denvercenter.org

11/6–11/14- Vox Phamalia-Triage. Avenue Theater, 417 E 17th Ave. 303.321.5925, www.aveneuetheater.com

Through 11/7- Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches. Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.vintagetheatre.com

11/16–11/28- Shrek the Musical. Buell Theater. www.denvercenter.org

11/19–12/12- An Evening With Nina. Shadow Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. 720.857.8000, www.shadowtheatre.com

11/26–12/4- Santa's Big Red Sack. Avenue Theater, 417 E 17th Ave. 303.321.5925

11/26–12/19- Red Ranger Came Calling, A True Christmas Story. Aurora Fox Theatre, 9900 E Colfax, Aurora. www.aurorafoxarts-center.org, 303.739.1970

11/26–12/24- A Christmas Carol. Stage Theatre, DCPA Complex, Downtown Denver.

11/27-12/18 Inspecting Carol. John Hand Theater, 7653 E 1st Pl, Lowry. 720.880.8727, www.johnhandtheater.com



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To submit information for the Front Porch “Local Event Listings”

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.



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10:00am - Children's Choir Rehearsal & Adult Sunday School
11:00am - Traditional Service

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More Events...

Nov. 4, Nov. 12 Star Gaze at Free Astronomy Lectures

On Thursday, Nov. 4 at 7:30pm, Dr. John Spencer, a science team member on the New Horizons mission to Pluto and the Kuiper belt, will speak on "The New Horizons Mission to Pluto and Beyond." On Nov. 12 at 6pm, space/astronomy writer Larry Sessions will present "Colorado Skies: Science, Stories, and Stars" in the Fine Arts Building Forum on the CentreTech Campus of the Community College of Aurora, 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, Aurora. The college's observatory will be open for nighttime viewing following each lecture, weather permitting. For more information visit: <http://www.ccaurora.edu/observatory>.

Nov. 6—Night at the Museums and Denver Arts Week

Denver Arts Week celebrates the Mile High City's cultural scene with over 200 events including art walks and week-long deals, discounts, and special performances. On Saturday, Nov. 6, from 5–10pm, 15 museums throughout Denver will offer "Night at the Museums," with free admission and FREE shuttles that depart from the Cherry Creek Shopping Center and Denver Art Mu-

seum starting at 5pm. For more information, including a list of the museums visit www.denver.org/DenverArtsWeek

**Free transportation shuttles are not available to Littleton or Golden.*

BONUS: All guests boarding buses at Cherry Creek Shopping Center for Night at the Museums Nov. 6 will receive a voucher for Passport to Shopping, with discounts to 160 stores and restaurants.

Project Runway's Mondo Judges Local Designers at Frock Out: Sideshow Nov. 18

At 7:30pm, Thursday, Nov. 18, 12 local designers will compete in Frock Out, a Project Runway-style fashion show with burlesque and sideshow acts at the Central Library (14th Ave. and Broadway). The event benefits Denver Public Library's Fresh City Life adult programs that spark curiosity and encourage exploration of library resources. The first event drew standing-room-only crowds. Prices: \$10/standing room; \$50/general Atelier seating; \$100/ VIP Couture runway seats. Tickets: www.dplfriends.org/events or 720.865.2051.

Nov. 17-30 Drop Off Toys at King Soopers for Santa Claus Shop

The Denver Santa Claus Shop provides free toys to disadvantaged children who otherwise might not have a toy to open at Christ-

mas. As the nonprofit celebrates 80 years of ensuring "A Toy For Every Girl and Boy," the need is as great today as it was in 1931. There has been record attendance at The Shop recently. Nearly 18,000 area children received toys in 2009, and The Shop expects even larger crowds this year. The Denver Santa Claus Shop differs from other organizations in that volunteers create huge toy stores (in donated space) each December. Social service agencies refer families to The Shop where parents are invited to choose free toys for their children. Community support is essential to make sure every girl and boy has a toy to open this holiday season. How the community can help: Drop off toys at area King Soopers stores from Nov. 17–30; hold a toy drive at your office, school, club, church, etc.; Make a contribution by credit card or check.

Visit www.denversantaclausshop.com. The Denver Santa Claus Shop is a volunteer-run, nondenominational 501(c)(3) organization. Information provided by Donna Kettenbach, who has volunteered for the Santa Claus Shop for five years.

Denver Zoo Mini-Camp Nov. 24

Denver Zoo Mini-Camp—providing activities, crafts, games and zoo tours from 9am–4pm for kids Pre-K (age 4) to 5th grade. Feasts for the Beasts, Nov. 24—How zoo animals celebrate the holidays. \$48/day non-member, (Scholarships available: email



Henry Tate, I, shows his delight over the pumpkin patch at the last Stapleton Farmers Market of the season on Oct. 17. Stapleton MCA sponsored the event. Shoppers at the Farmers Market received a coupon for a free pumpkin for every \$5 spent at the Market.

edsupport@denverzoo.org or call 303.376.4888, no. 8 for an application.) Questions? Call edsupport@denverzoo.org or 303.376.4894.

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RECURRING EVENTS

4th Monday
SUN Board Mtg. 7:30pm,
MCA, 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, 2823 Roslyn St. 303-912-7075

1st Tuesday
Breast Cancer Support Group
5–6:30pm AFWilliams Family

Medicine Clinic, Conf Rm.
(west entrance) 3055 Roslyn
(at MLK) 720-848-9000

3rd Tuesday
Greater Stapleton Business
Assoc. 8am MCA, 2823 Roslyn St.
303-393-7700

Every Wednesday
Weekly Weeders, Bluff Lake Nature Center 9am–12pm,
303-945-6717

1st Wednesday
"1st Wednesdays" Home-based businesses. Alternates between Lunch & Happy Hour
tbrislina@gmail.com
www.stapletonhomebusiness.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. meighanm@aim.com

Pick up your free 2011 Dogs of Stapleton Calendar

To all of our furry friends we'd like to say, take a bow-wow.

Who knew there were so many cute, cuddly K-9s in Stapleton? (Must be something to do with the dog park and all the dog-friendly trails.) In fact, there were so many oh-so-adorable contenders that... well, it's just too bad there are only twelve months in the year.

Get your free calendar at Stapleton's Winter Welcome celebration. Friday, November 19, from 6 to 8 pm, 29th Avenue Town Center. One per household, please.

Nov. 14 Run to Help Fight Homelessness

By Dan Grossman

The second annual Home for the Holidays 5K and 1K Family Fun Run will be held in City Park on Nov. 14.

Sponsored by Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, the event will offer live entertainment, costumes, goodie bags, an expo and team and individual prizes. All proceeds benefit the Coalition's 30+ programs that serve Colorado's homeless.

More than 16,000 Coloradans are homeless on any given night; about half of whom are families with children.

One example is Michael Harris. Harris is a military veteran and a single father with a three-year-old son. Harris had lost his job as a commercial flooring installer. "What little money I had...it finally ran out," he said. Their only option was to go to a shelter. That's when Harris's wife left him.

"Being homeless took a lot out of me," said Harris. "But I never gave up because of my son. There were days when I just didn't

want to exist because I was so broken down. It was hard to climb back up, but I climbed, and I climbed and I climbed."

Eighteen months after losing his home, Harris and his son moved into a new apartment through a Coalition program that provides two years of affordable housing and supportive services. He started culinary classes in April and will be starting an internship soon. He'd like to take business classes too. Harris is excited to make some real strides in his education and job search.



Michael Harris and his three-year-old son.

The Coalition focuses on three primary drivers of homelessness: health care, affordable housing and supportive services including early childhood education, mental health programs and employment counseling. The Coalition's Stout Street Clinic is the medical safety net for Colorado's indigent families. In 2009, the clinic reported over 23,000 visits.

The Renaissance Children's Center provides a happy and safe place for children while their parents search for employment or housing. The Coalition also operates 16 transitional and permanent affordable housing programs throughout the metropolitan area. The Coalition is able to make a difference for families through the generosity of our community. To learn more visit www.coloradocoalition.org.

To register an individual or a team, go to www.homefortheholidays-5k.org. On-site race day registration will be available at 7:30am; the run starts at 9am. Advance registration \$30; same day \$35. The 1K Family Fun Run is FREE.

Dan Grossman leads the Home for the Holidays 5K race committee. He lives in Stapleton with his wife, Robin Koenigsberg, and their daughter Leah and son Adin. Dan is a former state senator and current member of the board of directors of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.

How to Get Picky Eaters to Eat More Foods

By Elizabeth Yarnell, CNC, CNHP, CLT, MLS



As a nutritional consultant, I often hear complaints from parents and grandparents about picky eaters

and I love to offer some suggestions that have worked for us in raising adventurous eaters.

Remember that it may take eleven or more times of trying a food to develop a liking for it, but if it never gets into your mouth then you may never acquire the taste. It is up to us as parents to insist on introducing foods again and again in many incarnations.

In our household, we have certain rules that we stick to when it comes to mealtimes:

Respect the cook. 1. Regardless of if we think we like the food or not, we must appreciate that someone took the time and effort to make it. I always put this at the top of the list because once this concept is accepted, everything else comes more easily. This is just basic manners, really.

One Meal. 2. Everyone gets more or less the same meal (a.k.a., Mom is not a short-order cook to be taken for granted). We call it "family-style" dining for a reason.

Taste Everything. 3. Every child must try everything on his plate and eat and swallow at least 3 bites of each item before rejecting it. Just like you don't judge a book by its cover, it is not acceptable to reject a food based on a glance, a smell, or a lick.

The 3-bite Rule. 4. If, and only if, after eating 3 real bites of everything she still doesn't like anything served, then she may have a minimal-effort separate meal that is easy for mom or dad to throw on the table. It should not be her favorite meal, but it should be something small that you know she will eat so you can put the starving-to-death fears to rest and reward her for trying new foods.

Even if he remembers trying asparagus before, for example, remind him that it may have been cooked differently that time and he must try a food every time it appears on the table, whether or not he remembers liking or disliking it before.

Even after all of these efforts, we shouldn't forget that not everyone will like everything and even "good" eaters have specific dislikes (for me, a little cilantro will ruin an entire meal), so it's good to have some room for flexibility without losing ground.

If she still refuses to make it far enough to deserve an alternate meal, she is allowed to be finished with dinner but does not get dessert or snack foods.

Dessert. 5. Those who do eat enough of a healthy dinner are eligible for a dessert reward.

Desserts are treats that may or may not be as healthy as dinner was and are used solely as incentives for eating enough real food during supper. If your desserts are not having this effect, let the child choose an appealing dessert to work toward. Eating sweets on top of a stomach full of healthy food won't spike glycemic levels the way it would on an empty stomach.

One-pot meals offer quick and easy opportunities for bringing in new foods and flavors to expand your kids' palates without breaking a sweat. Try this crowd-pleasing recipe that is as healthy as it is simple to put together.

Honey and Spice Pork

Serves 4

My kids love the sweet and spicy flavors of this meal. The pork together with the potatoes, carrots, and green beans offers a kid-friendly, well-rounded dinner loaded with nutrients and low in fat. Look for boneless center-cut pork loin, 1/2-inch thick. Or substitute a turkey tenderloin, a salmon fillet, or even chicken for the pork, and slide in acorn squash and zucchini to change things up from beans and carrots.

- 1 to 1 1/2 pound pork tenderloin
- sea salt and ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup honey
- 6 tablespoons Dijon or Cajun/Creole-style mustard
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 12 to 16 small new potatoes, scrubbed
- 4 carrots, sliced in coins
- 30 to 40 green beans, trimmed, or 4 cups frozen
- Preheat the oven to 450° F.
- Spray the inside of a cast iron Dutch oven and lid with canola oil.
- Put the pork in the pot and lightly season with salt and pepper.
- In a small bowl, mix together the honey, mustard, ginger, cinnamon, and cloves and pour over the pork.
- Slice the potatoes in half and add to the pot, then scatter the carrots and green beans over the potatoes.
- Cover and bake for 53 minutes, or until 3 minutes after the aroma of a fully cooked meal escapes the oven. Serve immediately.

* See a video demonstration of this recipe at www.EffortlessEating.com/2010/06/glorious-one-pot-meal-recipe-honey-and-spice-pork/

Elizabeth Yarnell is an award-winning cookbook author who lives in Stapleton with her family. A personally autographed copy of *Glorious One-Pot Meals* makes a welcome gift for any cook on your list. Learn more at GloriousOnePotMeals.com and contact Elizabeth directly to learn how to save shipping costs. 303-830-COOK (2665).

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In Business at Stapleton for 62 Years

When people say they're an old-timer at Stapleton or their business has been here from the beginning, they typically mean six to eight years. So it's a little surprising to hear a business has been at Stapleton for 62 years.

In 1935, during the Great Depression, a small group of United Airlines employees came together and organized a credit union located in Chicago, Illinois, to provide a safe place to save their money and get loans at a fair rate. By year-end, 146 employees had joined the credit union, assets totaled \$5,088 and 38 loans were granted totaling \$4,210. In 1958, they opened their first branch at the Stapleton Airport. They were originally located in the United Operations Building, then in the United Training Center. Seven years ago, they changed their name to Alliant and moved across the street to Quebec Square. Today Alliant is the seventh-largest credit union in the country based on asset size, with \$7 billion in assets, more than 260,000 members and \$3.3 billion in loans to members. In October Alliant celebrated the credit union's 75th birthday.

The credit union is open to the public. "Anyone can walk in and join with no start-up cost," says Jeanette Clanton, Stapleton's branch manager who grew up in Northeast Denver (though she says there is a fee for online applications of people who are not associated with one of their member groups). Services include: savings, checking, health savings, certificates, education savings, IRA, insurance, investment services as well as multiple types of loans. Alliant Credit Union can be reached at 800.328.1935, ext. 3660.

Recycle Leaves with Denver LeafDrop

Denver Recycles' LeafDrop program provides Denver residents with an environmentally responsible way to dispose of their fall leaves. Leaves should not be swept into the street because they can clog storm sewers. Keeping leaves out of the trash also reduces the amount of waste in the landfill and "overflow trash" in the fall. All the leaves collected at the drop sites will be composted over the winter and available for purchase at a discount in the spring at the Denver Recycles' annual Treecycle Mulch Giveaway and LeafDrop Compost Sale.

brown paper yard debris bags are preferable for bringing leaves to the drop-off sites since, unlike plastic bags, they can be composted with the leaves.

LeafDrop Dates and Locations near NE Denver:
Saturdays: Nov. 6 and 13, Noon-4pm at the Denver Solid Waste Transfer Station at 7301 E. Jewell Avenue (near Quebec St. & Cherry Creek Drive S.)
Sundays: Nov. 7 and 14, 10am-3pm at Smiley Middle School (26th Ave. & Holly St.)
Weekdays: Monday-Friday from Oct. 4 to Dec. 3, 7am-2:30pm. Only bagged leaves may be brought to either the Havana Nursery (10450 Smith Rd.) or the Denver Solid Waste Transfer Station.

More info: On LeafDrop or to check for weather cancellations, call 3-1-1 or visit DenverGov.org/Denver-Recycles.

stricted at certain locations during construction. Work began the last week in October and is expected to take approximately three weeks between 7am and 5:30pm, Monday through Friday (occasional Saturday work may be necessary). By reusing treated wastewater for irrigation and industrial purposes Denver Water is freeing up enough drinking water to serve 40,000 households. Areas that use recycled water are clearly marked with signs and sprinkler heads are purple. Though recycled water is highly treated, it does not meet drinking water standards. For more information call 303.628.6000 on weekdays and 303.628.6390 after-hours. Visit www.denverwater.org.

Volunteer for Open Space Cleanup — Fall and Winter Schedule: First Saturdays 9-11am Starting November 6

Volunteers gathered monthly throughout the summer to clean up Westerly Creek. Future cleanups will be held not just at Westerly Creek, but also at Bluff Lake and Sand Creek, depending upon where there is the greatest need. Cleanups through the fall and winter will be held the first Saturday of each month from 9-11am unless it is snowing or below freezing. All volunteers are welcome. For the November cleanup, meet at the Bluff Lake parking lot (on Havana Way about half a mile east of the intersection of MLK and Havana St.). Contact Lucia Correll at 720.207.5091 for more information and to RSVP for the cleanup.

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Construction on 28th Near Westerly Creek School

The irrigation system at Westerly Creek School is being converted to recycled water for irrigation. Installation has begun on a new recycled-water distribution main below 28th Ave. from Yosemite St. to Beeler St. During the project, the school and 28th Ave. remain open, but the immediate construction zone may be closed at times. Traffic and street parking may be re-

Registration Now Open for Stapleton Boys Lacrosse Spring 2011 Season

By Snow Hudgins
Parents interested in enrolling their boys in the Stapleton Lacrosse Club's (SLC) spring program, starting in March of 2011, can now visit <http://www.stapletonlax.org/sign-up/> to register. SLC is a neighborhood club dedicated to teaching boys in Stapleton and surrounding areas (e.g., Park Hill and Lowry) the sport of lacrosse. SLC was established in the spring of 2009 by a small group of neighborhood parents—current and former lacrosse players and coaches—who wanted to bring youth lacrosse to this part of Denver.



To date, the club has held practice sessions once a week for six weeks each season. However, this spring the plan is for the club to become part of the Colorado Youth Lacrosse Association so the older boys—in second through fifth grades—can compete in games with other Denver-area clubs. SLC will continue to offer its once-a-week "Learn to Play" program for boys in kindergarten and first grade, which focuses on teaching the fundamentals of the sport, while incorporating games and occasional scrimmages. For more information about the Stapleton boys lacrosse program, please contact either of SLC's co-founders, Scott Petersen (303.332.3897 or scott@stapletonlax.org) or Snow Hudgins (720.480.8798 or snow@stapletonlax.org), or visit www.stapletonlax.org.





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Stapleton Front Porch

New Sister Restaurants in Northfield Have Distinctly Different Styles



Left: Partners Peter McFarland and Guy Harvey enjoy the music at a grand opening party for their Guy Harvey's Perfect Spot restaurant at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton. Harvey is a famous fisherman, diver and artist whose art decorates the lodge-style restaurant. McFarland is the principal of McFarland Management Company.

Right: Also newly opened at Northfield is Wyland's Ocean Blue. Mark Giuffrida (right), is General Manager. To his left is Chef Lucas Zoumas, whose menu features sustainably-caught seafood and farm-to-table meats. Wyland of Wyland's Ocean Blue is a noted marine life artist and his paintings and sculptures decorate the restaurant and can also be purchased there.



Discovering Bluff Lake

Bluff Lake Nature Center offers 123 acres of open space and two miles of trails.

By Erika Walker

It's a warm fall day and I'm enjoying the smell of mud and the sound of water splashing. Standing at the edge of Sand Creek, at Bluff Lake Nature Center, I take a deep breath and feel the tightness in my shoulders relax.

I watch a muskrat's glistening brown head, as he swims in and out of the shadows along the creek bank. I'm also watching nine third graders — just a few of the roughly 5,000 school children who will visit Bluff Lake on school field trips this year. Poking sticks in the mud, peering into the creek, they're exploring the out-of-doors— something many children don't get the chance to do.

I was lucky growing up. My backyard in suburban Denver opened to the prairie and I played outside almost every day. But times have changed. Too often our busy lives don't allow

time to be outside. And, because Denver has grown, there are fewer wild places.

Yet, Bluff Lake, just minutes from downtown Denver, shelters 123 acres of prairie. Bordered by 80 acres of Aurora Open Space and 125 acres of Denver parkland, it is a remarkable refuge — for both wildlife and humans alike. I often go there to escape my to-do list. Walking along the trails, watching hawks soar across a cloudless blue sky, the world and its problems fade away.

Plus, volunteering at Bluff Lake gives me the opportunity to pass along what I loved best about my own childhood — the chance to play outside.

Erika Walker, a Stapleton resident, serves on the board of directors at Bluff Lake and also volunteers as an educator.

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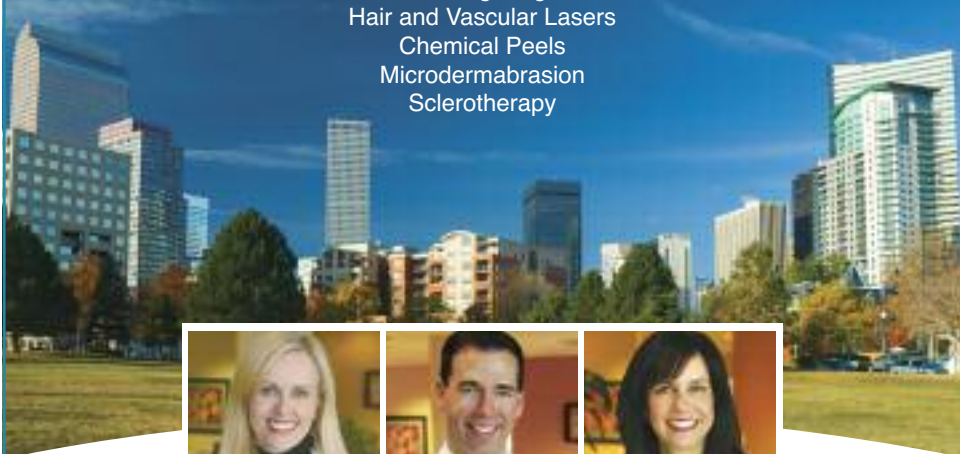
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SUN Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm in the Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn Street. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com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



Stapleton's Neighborhood Groups— Making Sense of the Alphabet Soup

By Damon Knop

About once a week, I leave the house spewing off a few initials of where I am headed, leaving my wife wondering, "Where the heck are you going?"

Lately there have been many articles written in the Front Porch with references to various Stapleton groups, whose meetings I often attend, including SUN, CAB and MCA. Keeping track of all these acronyms can be very confusing, so let me explain the hierarchy that exists and how these groups were set up originally by the Stapleton Development Plan. Maybe this will help keep me out of the doghouse too.

The Green Book, the plan for Stapleton, laid out a plan in which the City of Denver, DIA and surrounding neighborhoods all had input. They searched out a developer that could bring this vision to fruition. This developer is Forest City (FC or FCE). The City then put in place certain checks and balances to ensure the Green Book was being followed. The direct board involved in this process is the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC). The SDC, which is governed by a board of distinguished citizens, includes elected officials and business and civic leaders. The corporation also receives the benefit of guidance from a Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) that has been actively involved in all critical phases of the Stapleton development process.

CAB has feedback from several different committees; this is where the acronyms really come into play.

Under the umbrella of CAB are groups like Communication, Transportation, Public Art, Parks Advisory Group (PAG), Housing Diversity Committee (HDC), Zoning and Planning (ZAP), and the Design Review Committee (DRC). Groups like Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) and the Master Community Association (MCA) also send representatives to many of these CAB group meetings.

SUN is a registered neighborhood association and is part of the Inter Neighborhood Coalition (INC). SUN Board members serve a two-year term and sit on groups like CAB. SUN also has its own committees, including Education, Safety, Sustainability and Community Outreach, and runs the annual Stapleton Kickball Tournament. Everyone who lives in Stapleton is a member of SUN.

The MCA is our master homeowners association. The MCA covers such items as our pools, events on the green, and pocket parks. These are the fruits of our monthly HOA dues and create a lot of the living amenities we have all grown to love. The MCA is governed by a board, as well as neighborhood delegates. Both MCA and SUN have openings for anyone who is interested in becoming more involved.

Another Stapleton neighborhood group you may have heard of is the Greater Stapleton Business Association (GSBA). This is a group of community businesses that get together monthly to share stories, ideas and trends. The GSBA is open to any business for a small annual fee.

Here are a few of the groups' websites if you have additional questions about how they run and how to get involved.

SDC— <http://stapletoncorp.com/>

Green Book— www.stapletonfoundation.org

SUN— <http://sites.google.com/site/sunwebsite1/Home/sun-board>

MCA and CAB— <http://www.stapletoncommunity.com/resources/CAB08.htm>

GSBA— <http://stapletonbusiness.com/>

You can also contact Damon at Damon@distinctivedenver.com.

Calling All "Green" Stapleton Businesses

The SUN Sustainability Committee is looking for Stapleton businesses that consider themselves "green" or sustainable. The business can be of any nature. Qualifying businesses will be listed on the SUN website under sustainability as a resource for our residents.

Please send an email with your business information and include a description of what it is that makes you "green." Do you recycle, use recycled packaging, or perhaps you offer sustainable services? This is your chance to be known for your good efforts.

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SUN Board, Sustainability Committee

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Since You've Asked...

Eastbridge

Q: What is the current status of development at the town center at Stapleton's Eastbridge neighborhood?

A. Forest City continues to talk with all potential grocery store anchors for the Eastbridge Town Center, but has not yet signed one to a contract. Construction of the Town Center cannot move forward until a grocery store is signed. In addition, some pre-leasing of the center may be required.

Q: Will Forest City provide a community gathering space in Eastbridge Town Center similar to the gathering space in the 29th Ave. Town Center?

A. While the Eastbridge Town Center is not expected to be as large as the E. 29th Avenue Town Center, we do anticipate that it will have amenities such as a public space that will enliven the center and attract visitors and customers to the center.

Q: Does King Soopers have a "right of first refusal" in regard to the Eastbridge Town Center? If so, would that discourage other potential grocery stores from considering the site?

A. King Soopers did receive a "right of first refusal" for future grocery stores as part of the commitment they made to bring the first grocery store to Stapleton but that has not stopped other stores from talking to Forest City about their interest in the Eastbridge Town Center. If one of those other stores signed a letter of intent to locate at Stapleton, King Soopers would have to sign a contract or step aside. To date, no store has been willing to sign a contract for Eastbridge Town Center.

Montessori School

Q: I heard something about a Montessori school coming here. Where will it be located?

A. The Montessori Children's House of Denver will purchase land on the west side of Central Park Boulevard immediately south of the REMAX building for a school it hopes to open in August of 2011.

Zoning Information

Q: Where do we find information on currently undeveloped lots and what they're zoned for?

A: Zoning information is available by visiting the City of Denver's zoning page at www.denvergov.com/cpd/Zoning/ZoningCodeMapWhatsMyZoning/tabid/432507/Default.aspx Click on the box labeled "What's My Zoning."

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Stapleton land in Aurora

Q: Land just south of 26th that’s in Aurora and is planned to have a park and some residential development—what is the status of that development?

A. A little over 100 acres of Stapleton that lies on the south side of 26th Avenue, between the Westerly Creek Open Space on the west and Peoria Boulevard on the east, lies in the City of Aurora. Development of that parcel is in a holding pattern until we understand the timing and development of the Filing 16 parcel to the north (the fenced parcel bounded by Havana, Moline, 26th and MLK that has been undergoing environmental remediation for several years) since the drainage and other infrastructure for the two parcels must be done in a comprehensive program. As always, the timetable for residential development will also be determined by the strength of the housing market.

Blocking view of the prison

Q: I heard recently that on the land in Sand Creek that is north of 35th and Florence Way, developers are going to be encouraged to dump in there to sort of create a hill to protect the people who live there from seeing the prison. And then once that is done and remediated it will be turned over to Sand Creek and naturalized. Is that an actual plan?

A: The land on the north side of Florence Way will be added to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Corridor, once it is transferred from its current ownership (The Denver Department of Aviation). That land may receive some additional earthwork, but that will depend on funding and the availability of fill material. There is no grading plan at this time.

Responses provided by Tom Gleason, vice president-public relations, Forest City Stapleton, Inc. He may be reached at tgleason@stapletondenver.com.

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Stapleton Front Porch

25

November 2010

By Jon Meredith

When I think of an open mic poetry reading, I think of a smoke-filled coffee house in Cambridge, Massachusetts, or Manhattan's Upper West Side with Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsburg reciting cutting-edge interpretations of life and our times. Change the location to Northfield; swap the coffee house for a comfortable lounge with no smoke and the dead poets for young, rising talent that just may be the next Kerouac, Ginsburg or future poet laureate.

Wednesday nights at the Twisted Olive (TO) Northfield is poetry night starting at around 9:30. Just across the street from Harkins Theater, TO has a full dinner menu, appetizers, drinks and, of course, martinis. It is a club and lounge atmosphere, and is actually called an ultra-lounge; it features a very large stage, great sound system, lots of room for dancing, booths and private rooms. If you go on a night other than poetry night, you will feel much more comfortable being well dressed. Check the website for exactly what is on their calendar at www.twistedolive.com.

On Wednesdays, poet after poet rises to

Poetry Night Rocks at the Twisted Olive in Northfield



Check out our video at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

Emcee Gregg Delaney introduces a poet at the Deja Vu open mic poetry night at the Twisted Olive in Northfield.

10-minute poem about his interpretation of today's society using nothing but movie titles to express his thoughts. A young female poet recited a heart-wrenching diatribe on her father who abandoned her at six months of age. It is a poem I have been thinking about for the last few days and would enjoy another opportunity to hear her speak it.

The emcee and promoter of the night, Mr. Delaney, has been doing these nights around Denver for 12 years. A well-known poet himself, he has fostered the Denver poetry community by providing venues for

talent to speak out. He has a poet's social network site at www.TheWritersNetwork.com. If you have some original work you would like to share, please contact Mr. Delaney.

The Twisted Olive is open Tuesday through Friday from 5pm until 2am and Saturday and Sunday 10am until 2am. They serve brunch on weekends and have late-night appetizers every day. It is a great place to stop before or after a movie for a drink

the darkened stage in front of a microphone and a single spotlight, reciting original works with passion and proficiency. When they are through delivering their oratory works, the poets are all well received by the audience. The pace of the program is handled efficiently by the emcee, Gregg Delaney, so an hour goes by very quickly. However, it is not a night to bring the kids. Several of the poems were remarkably ex-

plicit, not laced with profanity, but evoking uninhibited sexuality. It is a night to get out and have a few drinks with a spouse, date or friends and enjoy something that will leave you reflecting on what you heard and experienced days later.

One poet, whose name was Oxygen, bounded up on stage and immediately beseeched the audience to turn off their televisions and write. He then launched into a

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Above: Jennifer and Tim Tribbett and son, Connor, 10, stand in front of their legendary garage. Tim's shirt reads, "What happens in the garage stays in the garage."

Left: Mike, Katy, Tobin and Carter Hoops, gather in their garage with their dog Finn. Their "Galodge" was inspired by Tim Tribbett's "Man Cave."

Man Caves and Galodges

(continued from page 1) "The garage has tons of great tools, but I only use them to make the garage nicer," Tim explained. "I don't do anything productive with them. But all the neighbors who walk by think the garage is really cool. I've got a TV, surround sound system, full-size refrigerator and a computer. So, it looks pretty hot."

Tim's wife Jen is pleased with the way the garage looks, but finds her own space elsewhere.

"It keeps him out of my hair," Jen said. "It gives me my space too. I think he's done a pretty good job with sports posters and a beer sign. It looks like a man cave should, I suppose."

Tim is lucky he has a room of his own.

"He had been traveling in Germany and so was kind of jet-lagged," Jen explained. "He was trying to stay up until bedtime. I get up at 4:30 so I went to bed. When I got up I discovered he hadn't been to bed. I went downstairs and he wasn't on any of the couches. I listened to the phone messages and heard that

somebody had locked the door and he didn't have his keys. He had banged on the door and nobody heard him. He had yelled up at the bedroom window, but I didn't hear him. His message said, 'Come get me. I'm sleeping in the garage.'"

Luckily Tim had sleeping bags in the garage for his night out.



Tim was the influence that got Mike and Katy Hoops to make a useable room out of their garage. They all grew up in Park Hill went to Smiley Middle School together and now live just five blocks apart in Stapleton.

"I have to give credit to Tim," Mike said. "He inspired the spawning of the 'galodge.' But I couldn't copy his. I wanted it to look like a ski lodge. I put up some different paneling like the paneling in the old basements and some lighting and fixtures."

"It's sort of 'cabin-y,'" Katy said. "If the light is dim and you squint, it looks like a lodge."

The Hoops' "galodge" is like a family room. Both Mike and Katy and their children, 9-year-old Tobin and 7-year-old Carter, make use of it—the kids watching cartoons on TV there on Saturday mornings.

"Anybody's welcome in the lodge," Mike said. "The kids will ride bikes down the alley and we'll throw the football right outside."

"There is a big work bench similar to Tim's," he explained. "Tim helped me build it. There's a tiny bar and a TV and a fridge, and my lawn furniture when it's not being used. It's like a living room. There's no fireplace yet, but I'm thinking about getting a wood burning stove."

"When Mike first said he was going to do it, I said,

"Totally—go for it," Katy said. "I didn't think it was going to happen. But, being teachers you have this time off in the summer, and he got fired up and did it. I like to paint and he set up all my things out there, items that he knows are special for me. I don't know if he's noticed, but all those items have made their way back into the house. It was sweet of him to think that I might like to be out there, but ..."

Sometimes the Hoops have friends in to watch a game in the "galodge."

"We'll have a BBQ or something," Katy said. "Usually everyone congregates in the kitchen and the guy doing the BBQ is by himself. This way people hang out in the garage and have more contact with the BBQ guy."

"I don't know what it says about us that our garage is nicer than our basement," she added.

"The idea was that we'd be able to park one car in there, but then all the storage is on one side," Mike said. "It doesn't feel as cool when an SUV—or a Honda Civic—is parked in your ski lodge. I guess it could be like a drive-in lodge where you sit in your car and drink beer."

"Our car's been stolen twice from out in front of our house," he noted. "That's how much I love the garage. We're willing to sacrifice our cars."

The lack of heat and air conditioning appears to be the drawback that both the Hoops and the Tribbetts have in common with their garage rooms.

"I even put insulation in it," Mike said. "But there are additions to the 'galodge' that need to be done—like heat. It's nice in the spring and fall, but it's pretty tough when it's 100 degrees or 32. Heat is definitely a possibility, but we're too big on the green side to put air conditioning in the 'galodge.' I open up the back door. It gets kind of breezy."

"It does get a little cold in the winter," Tim admitted. "I have a propane gas heater that we use sometimes. But if you come to visit, bring your own heater if you want to stay warm."

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