In the demolition of the parking garage from the old Stapleton airport, 100,000 tons of concrete are being taken to the northern edge of Stapleton where it is being recycled—and much of it is likely to be re-used in upcoming construction at Stapleton. That’s 5,000 truckloads that travel only a short distance to deposit their loads, which reduces the amount of gas used and limits the wear and tear of 20-ton trucks on public roadways. The concrete is being separated from the steel, which is sent to a scrap yard. Ninety-eight percent of what’s torn down will be recycled.

Drivers passing the old parking garage on Martin Luther King just west of Central Park Blvd. can see that the structure is gradually disappearing—but few would guess the efficiency of the recycling efforts going on there or stop to think about the technical requirements of safely tearing down 100,000 tons of concrete in a populated area. First the project had to be abated, says Rick Givan, Senior Executive Vice President of Recycled Materials Co., Inc. “You have a national abatement firm in there going over every single inch of the garage making sure there’s nothing left prior to its demolition. It was... (continued on page 12)

Recent Grads Look Back on High School... and How They’ve Changed

Who will be my date to prom? Will I get into a good college? Do my peers like me? Why don’t my parents trust me? These are all questions that the typical high school student thinks about. In the moment, these can feel like life changing questions but when reconsidered a few years later, they may appear to be trivial concerns. As five 2009 East High School graduates look back on their days in the hallways, it is easy for them to see what they would’ve done differently. From academics to popularity to the relationship... (continued on page 10)
EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Through March 25
Open House at The Collaboratory
“Working Art” Gallery in the former Stapleton Park Hill Firehouse
7045 E. 38th Ave. Thurs. 1-4pm Fri. 5-7pm
www.thecollaboratory.com (see p. 26)

Saturday, February 5
Volunteer Cleanup on first Saturday, meet at 26th & Butler at 9am to get work location.
9am–11am (Cancelled if snowing or temp. below freezing) Luisa 720-207-3091 Email
Lourdes@Stapleton.com to get event emails

Saturday, February 5
2040 Neighborhood Health Summit, 8:30am–3pm. US Surgeon General speaking
Johnson & Wales Live!, Jeneé Puls Auditorium. RSVP required (see page 19)

Thursday, February 10
Active Minds Seminar 7–8pm
“The Future of Education in America”
MCA Community Room*
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

Thursday, February 10
“Raza to Nowhere” 6:30pm at Bill Roberts K-8 School, 2100 Akron Way. Denver.
$10 in advance/$15 at the door.
Purchase tickets online at:
http://www.racetonowhere.com/screenings

Friday, February 11
FEBRUARY
Nearby events that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(See pages 16-19 for more events.)

Thursday, February 24
Stapleton Activities, Inc. Potluck 6:30–8pm
MCA Community Room*
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

MARCH

Sunday, March 6
Denver School of Rock Benefits Concert for
Brant’s Place, 4pm, at The Terraced Olive in Northfield.
Ticket price: $8 per person at door, kids 5 & under are free.
For more information contact Amy Anderson barkanderson@hotmail.com

Thursday, March 10
Stapleton Activities, Inc. Potluck 6–7pm
MCA Community Room*
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

Thursday, March 10
Stapleton Activities, Inc. Seminar 7–8pm
MCA Community Room*
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

Tuesday, March 15
Aquatics Registration Begins 9:10am
Please visit the MCA website
www.stapletoncommunity.com

*MCA Community Room:
2823 Roslyn St., Denver, 80238
(See page 16 for recurring monthly events & meetings)

The Stapleton Front Porch welcomes submissions of upcoming local events (see format on p. 17) and stories and ideas for future issues. Email FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com

www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

What Is Your Community DNA?
We received several great comments about this new section we added to the community information page. If you missed last month’s issue, this is a little piece to check in with yourself and how you are contributing, or affecting, your community. We are calling this the Denver Neighborhood Adnate (DNA). Last month the topic was shoveling the snow. How did you do?
This month we would like to focus our community’s attention on opening or holding a door for someone. We all enjoy when someone opens a door for us. Let’s see how often we can do it. If you see someone walking with a bundle in their arms, ask if you can help them and open the door for them. If someone opens the door for you, make sure to look them in the eye and thank them. What a great community spirit we will create!
If you have an idea you would like to have featured, please send it to StapletonDNA@stapletoncommunity.com. This is meant to provide a monthly topic and action for our community, so feel free to let us hear from you.

Active Minds Seminar
The Active Minds Seminar this month is on Thursday, February 10, from 7–8pm in the Stapleton MCA Community Room*. If you are new to Stapleton, this is a great way to meet other adults in the community. This month the potluck is February 24, at 6:30pm. Please be sure to show up with the group. The beverages, plates and utensils will be provided by the MCA.
Beginning in March, the date for the potluck will coincide with our monthly Active Minds Seminar on the second Thursday of the month, March 10. Plan to join us for this meet-and-greet potluck and then stay for the seminar at 7pm.

Kid’s Triathlon
We are looking for adults to help us plan, organize and implement our first triathlon for kids. The first meeting will be Wed., February 23, from 6–7:30pm in the Stapleton MCA Community Room*. Dinner will be provided. Please email us at events@stapletoncommunity.com if you are interested in participating on our steering committee and plan to attend the first meeting.

AQUATICS REGISTRATION
The Aquatics Guide will be available March 1. This guide will be mailed directly to all Stapleton residents. If you do not receive one, you may go online to www.stapletoncommunity.com and access the information or stop by the Stapleton MCA* and pick up a copy. Resident registration for all aquatics programming will begin on Tuesday, March 15. This includes lessons, classes and swim team. Nontresident registration will begin April 1. If you have any questions, please contact pools@stapletoncommunity.com.

Altogether Outdoors Summer Camps
Altogether Outdoors Summer Camps is excited to have Stapleton MCA as its partner! AO Camps is offering two programs to families in Stapleton and the surrounding areas.
For children ages 5 and 6, AO Junior has a half-day afternoon camp each week from noon–4:15pm. AO college-age staff will lead campers in classic camp programming including camp songs, hiking, climbing on our 26’ rock wall, environmental education and more! For children in swim lessons during the summer, they can coordinate with the MCA to pick up your child from swim lessons and take them to camp. For children ages 7–11, AO Explorers has one- and two-week offerings that provide campers with authentic nature-based experiences including hiking, team building, climbing, environmental education and more. They provide daily transportation from Lowry and Stapleton to some great natural spaces in the area. Please visit aocamps.com for more details.

Can Do With Color
You already know that a change in color is the most cost-effective way to bring some punch into your décor, or spruce your house up for sale. Join us for a morning of color consultation with Denver’s premier professionals. Kim Kouba, Realtor with Perry and Co. and owner of the Sweet William Market, will be hosting the color consultants from Belcaro Paint & Decorating Center for a dip into the world of color choice, and you’re invited to join us. Saturday February 26 from 10am–12pm in Stapleton MCA Community Room*. If you have any questions, please contact piscamps@stapletoncommunity.com.

Events@stapletoncommunity.com
www.stapletoncommunity.com

WEB EXTRAS

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A common misperception is that the mayor has control over the schools. In reality decisions about the schools are made entirely by the school board—though mayors can express their opinions. Mayor Hickenlooper showed his support for education by visiting schools during his time in office. Above, Hickenlooper at Westerly Creek school in January, 2004.

The Mayor’s Authority

The Mayor’s duties, responsibilities and powers come from the original City Charter, which dates back to 1861. This document is analogous to the Colorado Constitution and the US Constitution, as it provides a framework within which the city is run. The City Charter can only be amended by a vote of Denver citizens as proposed by the mayor or the city council. Often when voters go to the polls they are asked to delete obscure portions of the City Charter. The last time the charter was really scrutinized and updated by Denver citizens was in 1959. By and large, Denver is still organized and run by the original City Charter.

The mayor’s job, while sometimes ceremonial, is a critically important position as the mayor is the city’s chief administrator. The mayor manages the city budget, oversees almost 9000 city employees and appoints members of important boards such as Denver Water and Denver Health. Denver is known as a “strong mayor” government, which means that the mayor has more authority than most mayors of similar-sized cities.

Areas in Which the Mayor Has Little Hands-on Authority

Following are some areas in which many people assume the mayor holds a vast amount of authority when, in actuality, he has little—although he may have important influence.

• Water—The mayor appoints the six Denver Water Commissioners, each to a six-year term. Every two years two different commissioners are appointed. Denver Water is completely independent from the city financially and administratively.

• Schools—DPS is entirely autonomous from the city government. Denver citizens elect the school board and the board selects the superintendent. The budget for schools is managed entirely by the DPS Board and is completely separate from the city budget. The mayor can have input on DPS issues but any action is taken solely at the discretion of the Board.

• Wastewater—The storm sewer system operates under its own budget that is outside the city budget. The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District was established in 1961 and serves most of the Denver Metro area. Chief executive officers for each town appoint one board member for every 75,000 residents.

• Health Care—With very little fanfare, Denver Health has become a national model for efficiency in delivering quality health care. They are the health care safety net, providing clinics for the city’s low income residents and they provide ambulances and EMTs. Following the LEAN system (a program used by businesses to cut costs and increase efficiency without compromising quality), Denver Health saved $54 million last year. The mayor appoints Denver Health board members, but their budget is outside the mayor’s purview. According to the 2009 Denver Health Annual Report, only $45 million in Denver Health revenues came from the city, which is 7% of Denver Health’s $645 million budget. The $45 million figure represents less than 4% of the overall city budget.

Issues the New Mayor Will Need to Address

City Attorney David Fine believes the next mayor will have to address the following issues:

• Budget—How to cut the budget will likely be a major issue in the mayor’s race. Stagnant or decreasing real estate values and much lower sales tax revenues have resulted in decreased tax revenues to the city. The mayor is responsible for submitting a budget to City Council for approval—and traditionally the mayor has worked closely with City Council on the budget. If there are substantive differences between the mayor and City Council it takes the vote of 9 of the 13 council members to override a mayor’s veto.

Fifty eight percent of the city’s budget goes to safety, human services, public works and parks and recreation, so presumably those areas will play a large part in the discussion on balancing the budget. By far the largest budget item for the city is safety, which includes fire, police and sheriff, and totals $443 million or 35% of the city budget. Another large budget item is human services, which is $142 million or 11% of the budget. Human services provides child protection, assistance to the disabled, job training, senior and veterans assistance. Other major areas are public works, $82 million, and parks and rec, $77 million, or about 6% each. All other budget areas are less than 5% of the entire budget.

• Public Safety Contract Negotiations—The mayor hires the Manager of Safety who oversees the police, firefighters and sheriffs. A huge issue the mayor will face in 2012 will be renegotiating the police, firefighters and sheriffs’ union contracts. As safety is the largest budget item, the renegotiation process will undoubtedly be long and arduous. It is an opportunity for the mayor to make significant strides in helping the city budget. On the other hand, prolonged negotiations can exacerbate an already tenuous relationship between the mayor and “our city’s finest.”

• Implementing Denver’s New Zoning—The prior administration implemented a new citywide zoning initiative last year called form-based zoning. As use issues come up it will be interesting to observe how the new mayor handles challenges to the new zoning.

• Parks—The mayor has direct authority following a list of important boards such as Denver Water and Denver Health. Denver is known as a “strong mayor” government, which means that the mayor has more authority than most mayors of similar-sized cities.

The mayor hires the Manager of Safety who oversees the police, firefighters and sheriffs. The next mayor will be required to renegotiate these unions’ contracts in 2012. Above, Mayor Hickenlooper attended the opening of the Stapleton fire station in February 2007.

COMING THIS SPRING:

11 FRESH
energy-savvy
HOME COLLECTIONS
from the
$100s to
the $700s.

HOME COLLECTIONS
11 FRESH
energy-savvy
HOME COLLECTIONS
from the
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the $700s.

GLOBAL
HOMES SO AWESOME
NOT TO BRAG OR ANYTHING BUT, this Spring, we’re rolling out 11 of our most impressive home collections yet. Some solar equipped. Some electronically controlled via smartphone app. One featuring ‘net zero’ energy use. All designed to meet a modern family’s needs and look good doing it. You’ll find them in the beautiful Central Park neighborhoods, along with the HGTV Green Home, which also opens for tours this Spring.

Learn more and check for model home openings at StapletonDenver.com

February 2011

Stapleton Front Porch
over the Department of Parks and Recreation. The recent decision that our parks can be closed and rented out for private functions has many Denverites concerned. Is the revenue from these events really worth the inconvenience of closing the parks? The new mayor could choose to revisit this issue.

- Other—Many other issues are likely to be discussed by the candidates in the coming months including city streets and traffic issues, Business Improvement Districts (BID's), homelessness, environmental challenges, DIA and medical marijuana are some of the notable issues.

The Mayor’s Vision for the City

Particularly in a time of high unemployment, there may be no function more essential for a mayor than making a city conducive to jobs and growth opportunities. This is the culmination of running all the other parts of government well. If the city is run well, has reasonable tax rates, good schools and a decent quality of life, it is expected that jobs and growth will follow. How to manage growth in good times and bad is the paramount job of a mayor. Denverites have chosen recent mayors well. The last four have all been re-elected at least once and have left notable legacies in specific areas they embraced. The city has not had a major scandal since the police burglaries in the 60’s. Our taxes are low compared with other major cities. The electorate is well educated and passionate about the city. While there are some current difficulties in the city that the next mayor will inherit, the candidate who wins will likely be the one who best articulates his or her vision of the city and the legacy they intend to leave.

Mayer Candidate Forum and Survey

The Front Porch invites you to participate in our survey, the results of which will be used to plan the upcoming Mayor’s Candidates’ Forum on April 14 (see box at right).

Every year in March the Front Porch compiles a list of nearby summer camps. The wide range of camps offers kids of all ages the opportunity to do more of what they already love or to try something new. Camps in last year’s guide included: sports, arts, music, dance, theatre, nature, animals, foreign language, science, horseback riding, and more.

The Front Porch will update all camps that ran last year and we welcome new suggestions for the 2011 guide. To recommend a camp, email FrontPorch2@gmail.com by February 10, 2011.

The mayor has direct authority over the Department of Parks and Recreation. Above, Mayor Hickenlooper attended the opening of Central Park in Stapleton in September 2007.
Many of us think that Valentine’s Day is a “Hallmark Holiday,” in order to go on the cheap with our loved ones on February 14th. We forget the roses and chocolates, not to mention a card, because we mistakenly believe the day was originally fabricated by the corporate eggheads at card companies. We then embarrass ourselves by saying something inane like “I’m charming, witty and nice to you everyday, so there is no need for me to re-acknowledge you on Valentine’s Day.”

This assumption could not be any further from the truth. Hallmark may have exploited Valentine’s Day but they certainly didn’t invent it. The day of love dates back as far as 200 A.D. and has always meant about the same thing. It is a day to choose or acknowledge loved ones.

St. Valentine was a Catholic Bishop who lived in Rome in the mid 200’s AD. At the time, near the end of the Roman Empire, Claudius II declared that soldiers could not marry, as he believed marriage was too distracting to the troops. Valentine felt empathy for young lovers and countered the Monarch’s orders in secrecy. It was not long before Claudius knew of this “friend of young lovers” and Valentine was arrested.

While in jail, Valentine supposedly cured the jailer’s daughter of blindness, a miracle which, after his death made him eligible for Sainthood in the Catholic Church. Claudius required Valentine to renounce his Catholic faith and declare his allegiance to the Roman Gods. When Valentine refused, Claudius ordered him to be executed and the future Saint was put to death on February 14th, 270 A.D.

The day turned into a special day during Medieval times when lovers often left notes to each other in secret places or had them delivered by messenger. Chaucer wrote in the “Parlement of Foules” in 1382, which roughly translates to “For this was Saint Valentine’s Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.” Shakespeare referred to bringing lover roses on Valentine’s Day in Hamlet.

Around the turn of the 19th century in Britain, when Valentine’s Day became mainstream and companies began to sell pre-printed cards and hand-dipped chocolates in shops everywhere, “Today, with mass-produced Valentine cards and homemade cards, roughly one billion are exchanged each year in the United States. The group that receives the most? Teachers of course!”

According to USA Today US lovebirds spent $14.7 billion on Valentine’s Day in 2010. This compares with $584.3 billion spent on Christmas last year. There are indeed many ways of taking care of the “what to do for Valentine’s Day” dilemma and luckily there are no Lexus commercials encouraging us to buy a new car like there are at Christmas. For the average couple, chocolate, roses and a card will easily suffice—and for that, the effort versus reward meter is exceptionally high. However, if you are one of those curmudgeons, like me, who just cannot seem to get it together to go into a store or card shop or fold a piece of paper in half and write “to my Valentine” on the outside and “I love you” on the inside, then make your partner a breakfast or dinner that can’t be beat and clean up afterwards. This will at least give you an “A” for effort without spending a dime with Hallmark.
New I-70 Overpass Is on Schedule

By Jon Meredith

The new interchange project at Interstate 70 and Central Park Boulevard is proceeding according to schedule and at this time looks as if it will be ready to open in November, according to Steve Coggins, the project director. The earthmoving and the bridgework associated with the on and off ramps are complete—the bridge over I-70 remains to be built.

This spring and summer the current bridge over I-70, which was a cargo bridge at Stapleton Airport, will be demolished. The new bridge will be just a few feet east of the current bridge. According to Coggins, during the demolition and construction, traffic on I-70 will be diverted up and down the new on and off ramps and not through the Stapleton neighborhood. The detours will take place during the middle of the night. The new bridge will have 12-foot-wide sidewalks with a concrete barrier separating the sidewalk from the traffic lanes so pedestrians and bicycles will be able to get from south Stapleton to Northfield easily.

When the new interchange opens, Central Park Boulevard will connect to Northfield Boulevard and motorists will be able to exit at Central Park when traveling either direction on I-70 and from eastbound I-270. On-ramps from Central Park Boulevard will go east and west on I-70 and west on I-270.

The project is funded by city, state and federal funds. City funding of $29 million came from Better Denver Bonds and $9 million in state funds came from Colorado Department of Transportation. However, it was the $12 million in federal stimulus funds that enabled the project to be completed at this time. Without the stimulus funds the project would have been put on hold until additional city or state monies became available.

The I-70 interchange project is the first time the City and County of Denver has entered into a design/build road construction project. The City did this in order to fast track the project so that stimulus funds could be utilized. The idea of design/build is to have a single project manager in charge of the design and construction phases of the project, bringing it to fruition faster because there is a single point of responsibility for the entire project. The project director for the city, Steve Coggins, is a construction consultant employed by Civil Technology Inc., a construction management company.

A bridge over Sand Creek and the Union Pacific railroad tracks and the paving of Central Park Boulevard between 35th Avenue and Northfield Boulevard are a separate $19 million project, managed by Forest City and paid for with a variety of funds provided by Forest City. That part of the project will move into high gear in March when the weather is more conducive to construction. Mortenson Construction, which built the infrastructure at Stapleton, is the General Contractor.

Once the interchange is complete there will be more traffic on Central Park Boulevard and less congestion on Quebec north of MLK and on Havana south of I-70, according to the I-70/Central Park Boulevard Interchange Environmental Assessment (EA) that was completed by the City and County of Denver (CCD) in June 2009. The EA concluded the project would have a positive environmental impact on the surrounding area.

Stapleton’s Newest Neighborhood: Central Park West

By Carol Roberts

Central Park West, one of the last two neighborhoods to be developed on the south side of I-70, will start opening model homes this spring and continue opening models through the summer. The first buyers are expected to move in late summer or early fall.

The neighborhood lies between the 29th Ave Town Center and Quebec Square, with the western edge along Syracuse, which connects the Town Center and Quebec Square. The northwest corner of the neighborhood is the site of the new Swigert-McAuliffe International School that will open in the fall of 2011 and is expected to have students in grades K-8 as the school fills in the coming years.

A number of the homes in Central Park West are designed to front on semi-public open spaces called mews (see below) that create a common area where neighbors can interact. The neighborhood will have approximately 375 homes, with 150 of those being attached homes. Income-qualified affordable homes will be available from the mid $100’s; attached and green court homes will be available in the $200s, and the remaining single family homes will be available from the $300s to the $700s. Sizes range from approximately 1160 square feet to over 3500 square feet.

The bridge shown above is on the south side of I-70, part of the on and off ramp system being built at the new I-70/Central Park Boulevard interchange.
February – Black History Month – Elizabeth Piper Ensley
A Tireless Worker for Women’s Right to Vote in Colorado

Elizabeth Piper Ensley was born in the Caribbean in 1848, moved to Boston in the 1870s, helped create a library there and became a teacher. She later moved to Washington, D.C., and finally to Denver where she worked tirelessly for women’s suffrage and equality. The rallying cry of “Let the women vote! They can’t do any worse than the men have!” was heard from Denver to Durango by disgruntled, unemployed male voters: miners, farmers, ranchers, factory workers and 100 businessmen, with extra help from the unionists in the Knights of Labor and the People’s Party. The women’s suffrage referendum passed by an overwhelming majority on November 7, 1893, and Elizabeth Ensley played an active role in helping to lead the “charge.”

Equal suffrage in Colorado did not “just happen.” It required decades of work by patient, persistent women. Their first referendum in 1877 was a disappointing failure. Susan B. Anthony herself made a whirlwind tour of the state to rally support for women’s right to vote. Colorado stream of politicians. Women voters, they felt, might men and children, were being ignored by main –
gued that working people’s needs, especially those of organized farmers on the eastern plains. They all ar –
can male support in the cities while Grange women –
talizes/353/documents/Black%20Women%20in%20Denver.doc

By Larissa Bahab

What started as a small strip mall sandwich shop in Northglenn has quickly grown and distin –
nation that won the right for women to vote in Colorado in 1893. The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution granting suffrage to women was approved by Congress in 1920 and Elizabeth Ensley was one of the people who contributed to its passage.

Wallace Younne Tollette researched and wrote this article about Elizabeth Piper Ensley in honor of Black History Month. Tollette, a resident of NE Denver, is the author of Colorado Black Leadership Profiles. She can be reached at westernmager@juno.com or at 303.830.1691.

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for Thought—Breaking Bread at Udi's

bread to create a new product. When Udi and Negrini often travel together to research a product, they are sometimes obliged and today we too can enjoy this dense, delicious loaf. It is that simple. That's food for thought.

Larissa Babjak is a Stapleton resident. She is a former employee of Udi's and is currently a student at the University of Denver. She attends Hamilton Middle School and aspires to become a professional food journalist.

Ingredients

2 1/2 cups warm water 110 degrees F
1 tablespoon active dry yeast
1 tablespoon fine sea salt
3 large organic eggs
1/2 cup organic honey
1/2 cup organic oil
8 cups King Arthur's whole wheat flour

Challah Dough

In a large bowl, sprinkle yeast over barely warm water. Whisk in honey, oil, 2 beaten eggs, and salt. Add the flour one cup at a time, beating after each addition, graduating to kneading with hands as dough thickens. Knead dough ball on floured board until smooth, elastic and no longer sticky. Add small amounts of flour as needed. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise for 1 1/2 hours or until dough has doubled in size. Gently punch down the risen dough and turn out onto a lightly floured board. Divide in half and knead each half for five minutes. Divide each half into thirds and roll into three, 10 inch long ‘snakes’. Add small amounts of flour as needed to keep from getting sticky. Pinch ends together. Line two baking trays with parchment paper and place finished braid or round on each. Cover with towel and let rise about one hour.

Baking Challah

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Bake at 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) for about 40 minutes. Bread should have a nice hollow sound when thumped on the bottom. Cool completely on a rack for at least one hour before slicing. (Recipe provided by Rick Scarpello, Udi's Bakery)
Seven-year-old Sophie Konieczny, daughter of Stapleton residents Jeff and Jennifer Konieczny, has achieved high marks as a gymnast. She placed first overall, with a score of 38.525, in the Colorado U.S. Junior Olympic Level 4 State Championships held last month at the University of Denver.

The Westerly Creek second grader started gymnastics when she was two years old. She attended mom-not classes focused on gross motor skills with her mother, who has a gymnastics history of her own. “She was just a monkey, and we knew she needed some kind of outlet,” Jennifer said. “Gymnastics just fit her well. She was always climbing and flipping off of stuff. It just fit her personality.”

Sophie does beams, bars, vault, and floor exercise competitions. She trains four days a week for a total of 12 hours at the Colorado Gymnastics Institute. At least four hours of this time is spent on strength training. “The goal is just to have a good time,” Jennifer explained. “There is the physical element—she gets exercise and is physically fit. She really enjoys it and loves the strength training. We rarely watch TV. She has a very active lifestyle. “It’s a choice for her,” Sophie’s mother continued. “If she isn’t enjoying herself, we would stop. It is totally not driven by me. It’s a very social thing, too. Her best friends are with her in gymnastics. The team is very, very close.”

“I really like doing it,” Sophie said. “I like tumbling and doing the vault. It just really suits me. If I have a bad day, or my coach yells at me—then I don’t like it. But I really like doing it.”

Young gymnasts start competing at Level 4 and go up to Level 10. Sophie is now training to compete at Level 5 next year.

Reflections on High School

(continued from p.1) with their parents, these students have a clearer vision of what was good and what was bad about their high school experience, and how that affected the person they have become in their two years of college.

Drew Cohen is a sophomore at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California. He has a love for the outdoors and is in the perfect location for just that. He strongly believes that location is just as important as academics to make a college the right fit. “I researched the location to make sure that I would be happy,” he says, “San Luis Obispo was ranked the happiest place to live in America. The community is great and there is quick access to the outdoors.” When he’s not studying he spends his time rock climbing, backpacking, and going to the beach. He is in a great engineering program and an environment that suits his interests. He is happier than ever and to some of his fellow East High graduates, he may now seem like a different person.

In high school, Drew blended in. He was the nice shy guy who played lacrosse and partied on the weekends. “I usually followed the crowd, hoping to fit in but I feel like I missed out on things because of it,” he says. He wishes he would’ve taken

7 Year Old Local Gymnast Takes Championship

By Nancy Burkhart

Sophie Konieczny

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Marley Pierce, a sophomore at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, wishes she would have spent more time worrying about what other people thought. As a well-liked person, no one would have guessed she felt that way—showing that popularity is a concern of almost everyone in high school. She now says, “In college people are not so concerned with trying to fit in a certain category or group, they just do what they want and hang out with people who are compatible with. Popularity and impressing people are not important.”

Trying to always be someone else is exhausting, so students like Drew and Rosa quickly become more comfortable with themselves and associate with people who accept them as they are. Erin Bates, a sophomore at the University of Colorado at Boulder, says, “In high school, socializing occurred primarily during the school day and through extracurricular activities.” These activities usually consist of the same people, which is why she wishes she would have made more of an effort to get to know people from different groups of friends. One of her favorite parts of college is the variety of people she has met. “On the first day of college, I met a new person, whether it’s out to eat or at the library,” she says.

It is a common misconception that drinking is the only way to socialize in college. Whether or not someone drinks in high school is often seen as a big deal, but in college alcohol is so much more accessible that people really don’t care whether or not someone drinks. Drew says, “Socializing in college has become a lot more about spending time with a small group of close friends and finding fun things to do together...In high school my social life was more about spending time with a larger group of friends and going to parties.” However, Erin points out that purring in high school is good preparation for the social situations that are faced in college. Going into college with absolutely no experience can be dangerous.

Parents play a big role in how much freedom their kids have in high school. When students agree that it is extremely important to have a certain level of independence from their parents. There is a way for parents to give guidance while still letting the student make their own choices. This makes the transition to college much easier. Erin says, “I wouldn’t like my parents to give me a little more freedom outside of school as moving to college proved to be completely different than anything I had ever experienced.”

Marley Pierce, a sophomore at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island believes her parents did exactly the right thing. Marley got good grades and participated in a number of extracurricular activities—she had a full schedule. She says, “My parents’ mentality has always been, ‘You’re already way too hard on yourself, we’re not going to do anything more.’ They were supportive and calmed her down when the load got stressful. She believes parents can still have a big influence on their student’s academic life without hovering over their day-to-day work. “It always feels good to make your parents proud. And plus I guess they didn’t have to say it but they have always taught me to be a little more well in school and working hard in everything you do is important,” Marley says.

For Chris Hayes, a sophomore at the University of Col-

College

Marley Pierce attends Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, but she also says something to take a class that you really want to take and do well in it.” These college students strongly encourage high school students to do what interests you. Chris advises to, “Follow that inner voice. It won’t lead you astray. Trust me. Some days I feel so happy my head could burst.” Chris was a part of Speech and Debate in high school. Now he is majoring in theater, where he is receiving professional training, getting the chance to perform, and loving what he’s doing. He says, “Sometimes I literally have to remind myself that this type of experience is not something most get to see, especially from my neighborhood. I try to take in as much as I can. College is short. I want to squeeze every single drop out of this orange that I can.”

College requires you to reassert your interests in many ways, from choosing classes to finding a group of friends. If you’ve developed a strong sense of yourself in high school, this transition does not have to be a shock. “I asked my family if I’ve gotten wiser in college,” Marley says laughing. “And my sister said YES. But they said it’s not that I’ve gotten weird, it’s just that I’ve become more ostensibly Marley.”

Madeline Schroeder was an intern at the Front Porch last summer. She attended East High School and is a journalism student at the University of Missouri.

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Parking Garage Demolition

(continued from p. 1) tested and cleaned up prior to the demolition. In an older structure like that there could be asbestos wrapped pipes, there could be lead in the paint.

Because it’s a populated area, explosives or a 5,000 pound wrecking ball were not considered as viable due to the possibility that a piece of concrete could end up in the street. Givan describes the equipment they use as looking like the jaw and teeth of a Tyrannosaurus Rex that grabs “mouthfuls” of concrete. “You open it hydraulically and it has ridges of triangular pointed steel and we close it on the concrete and then you turn the hydraulic on and close the jaw and it actually pulverizes the concrete,” he explains.

Givan went on to describe how they use a pointed hammer-like piece of equipment to collapse the columns, which causes the deck to drop. Then they pull the concrete off the structure with the dinosaur-like piece of equipment and put it on the ground. “Everything is going according to plan,” he says. “There was an awful lot of time and effort that went into planning this job. We anticipate having the project to the ground by the end of March. Then we will have to remove the below-ground pieces—that will take another 4 – 6 weeks. Thick concrete posts called caissons that supported the structure are 20 feet into the ground.”

When the runways were removed from the old airport, 6.5 million tons of concrete were carried to Recycled Materials’ satellite recycling site on 56th Avenue at the north end of Stapleton. Today less than half a million tons remain and most of it is spoken for, says Givan. Some of it is used for the 6” to 1 foot of base material that goes beneath roads and some is put into the concrete used for curbs and sidewalks.

“Make sure that credit is given where credit is due,” Givan points out. “It’s the City, in partnership with Forest City, who really put the recycle priorities first.”

“We tell kids how the anesthetists get their food from the termite mounds. In Primate Panorama we get to wash all the windows in the first year, and occasionally we get to chop some fruit, if you’re lucky. I only got to do that once because I had some extra time.”

What teen volunteer Heathen Adler-Pollock from Stapleton would really like to do is observe animals in the wild—but for now the zoo is the closest she can get—and she thinks that by working at the zoo she might learn about other possible jobs with animals. At this point, she says, “I’m into marine animals. I’d like to do a scientific study of marine life.”

As a teen volunteer in “Junior Crew” at the zoo last summer Adler-Pollock, like all the first year volunteers, had her share of cleaning-type jobs. But, she says, when they finished cleaning and still had time, the teen volunteers could give the macaws a bath. “That’s the fun part. We use a very fine mist. If they want the bath they’ll come flap their wings. If they don’t they’ll walk away.”

Anna Peterson, the Teen Programs Assistant, notes that when Adler-Pollock was at the zoo, “Heather went for a second time,onetouronthe girafferelief. She’s a really passionate about animals, animal conservation and animal careers, and she’s really excited about what she’s doing.”

Applications for Junior Crew are online and are due March 1. The teens need to make a commitment to work a minimum of 25 hours a month in June, July and August. They must be at least 13 years old or older than a junior in high school at the time of application.

The application process is very competitive and includes written essays, an interview and letters of recommendation. The zoo is looking for young people who are passionate about animals, animal conservation and animal careers.

Detailed information about the teen volunteer program and the application process can be found at www.denverzoo.org/involved/teenVolunteer.asp or call 303-376-4891.

Teen Volunteers at the Zoo

Nathan Parks, a teen volunteer at the zoo, knows he’s defined by the zoo career. “I want to work with lemurs. That’s my dream job. When I apply for the (second year) ‘Volunteer’ job, I’m hoping for Primate Panorama so I can get a lot more experience there and have something on a resume.” When Parks works at the anteater station, he says, “We tell kids how the anesthetists get their food from the termite mounds. In Primate Panorama we get to wash all the windows in the first year, and occasionally we get to chop some fruit, if you’re lucky. I only got to do that once because I had some extra time.”

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Candidate Announcements

The Front Porch will print a 150-word announcement of candid-ate and biographical information from individuals running for public office who specifically represent our distribution area. Statements from outside candidates will be run at space allows, with priority given to members of our distribution area. Announcements, along with a close-up print-quality photo, should be emailed to FrontPorch своевременно@gmail.com so that they may be printed in the Front Porch.

Announcements

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City Council Dist. 5
Michele Fry

I am a candidate because I love this community, and am greatly concerned with recent curtailed progression of the area. I want to maintain and ensure the community I love, and I know you love, continues on a forward path of revitalization. Parts of our community are lagging behind the rest of the city in progressive growth. This community is rich in diversity, ethnically, culturally, and socioeconomically. I’ll ensure through my strong leadership, and courage of conviction, city government continues to foster and maintain the support we need in order to sustain the quality of life, and safety, that originally drew each of us to this area, and that we each enjoy daily in this District. I will be devoted in my service to this community, and the City of Denver. This is Your Home, My Home, OUR Community. The election is May 3, 2011, be sure to vote. www.fryfor5.com

City Council Dist. 11
Mary Beth Susman

I am running for City Council to guarantee Denver is a city where business flourishes and our public planning is a model for the rest of the country. As chair of the original Lowry planning committee, and as a member of the Denver Planning Board, I worked with city leaders and neighbors to develop some of the best projects in Denver: Lowry, Stapleton, Platte Valley, and the revitalization of downtown. As a city council member I will engage our community in smart development and careful budgeting that will keep Denver healthy and beautiful for future generations. Our district has important areas to develop at 9th & Colorado Blvd, Lowry and Colfax districts. With your help we will make Denver the #1 city for small business growth, healthy schools, and neighborhood vibrancy. I recently earned the support of former Mayor Wellington Webb and hope to have yours too. Please visit SusmanForCityCouncil.com to join us!

City Council At-Large
Robin Kniech

I am running for Denver City Council At-Large. Since 2004, I have worked for a local non-profit focused on making Denver a better place for middle class families and those struggling to make ends meet. In 2008, I joined the Board of the Denver Union Station Project Authority, which governs the $477 million public-private partnership that is the hub of the FasTracks system. Our great city of Denver has been blessed with growth in recent times, but now it’s time to focus on preserving basic city services that will keep our families and seniors in Denver, and developing strategies to expand middle-income jobs as the economy recovers. I am running because I have the firmly rooted values and city policy experience to achieve these goals. I am prepared and excited for the opportunity of making the transition to public service as a Councilmember At-Large. www.robinkniech.com

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February 2011

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By mid-winter, Marko and I start to show symptoms of cabin fever. To remedy our behavioral ailment, the doctor of our house prescribes that we get outside as often as possible. Taking her advice, we pull up our new wool socks, zip our down-filled parkas and cover our heads with our favorite Colorado Rapids skull caps. With camera and binoculars in hand, we head out the front door for a long walks around wild Denver.

You may think that our urban wildlife would be all but out of sight in February, but we see plenty during our therapeutic father-son outings. We take inventory of the visible tree nests constructed by songbirds, woodpeckers and hawks during the previous spring. On trash day, Monday, we spy on Park Hill's Blackbirds who thoroughly enjoy recycling the neighborhood's gourmet leftovers. We cross paths with bushy-tailed foxes prowling the streets of Montclair, and neighborhood's gourmet leftovers. We cross paths with bushy-tailed foxes prowling the streets of Montclair, and

Kestrels have the most abundant falcon found in North America. Westerly Creek in Lowry and Stapleton. Kestrels are the favorite falcon, the American kestrel. These pint-sized, year-round rapscallions coexist this way, in their own respective solitudes. As is characteristic with all falcons, their wings are pointed and tails elongated. Kestrels possess a regal look, especially when they perched on top of a tall tree starring down at by-standers. Their plumage is colorful and stands out against the dull winter sky. The males have blue-grey wings and a terra cotta-colored back, while the female's wings and back are colored cinnamon-brown. Darks spots dot their chests. Once a year, they molt completely and grow new feathers. Both sexes sport double black side-burns on their snow-white faces. The bridge of their pointed beak is painted yellow.

It is said that the easiest way for a woman to win a man's heart is through his stomach. Kestrels use this tactic, however in reverse. During courtship, it is the male who delivers food to his mate. When the dapper male approaches the nest with prey in his sharp talons, he will sound out several calls, then flutter above until the female flies out to him. She will follow him to a perch where he transfers the catch to her fair lady. The pair exchange several head bobs and body bows, then fly off. He will return to his hunting territory and she to her tree cavity nest. It is accurate to say that the pair happily coexist this way, in their own respective solitudes.

Kestrels have exceptional eyesight. It is far superior to humans'. They can see very small details at far distances and have great depth perception. They like to consume large insects including crickets and grasshoppers, lizards, mice and even small birds. The hunt is filled with high drama. Kestrels will first scan their territory from an elevated vantage point. Then, they will move off of their perch and hover, like an air show stunt helicopter, over their killing field. They rely on their great depth perception and in the late afternoon. A kestrel swiftly severs the neck of its prey and then flies off. So show respect, and give them ample space. In turn, they may deliver you one spectacular show.

Marko and John Babiak are Stapleton residents. Marko, 10, is an avid wildlife photographer. John is an enrichment teacher. Weekly he teaches his popular Nature Ranger 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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FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2011

V.I.P. EVENING at THE BUELL THEATRE
FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2011

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The lesson proved to be a sound one. “I think it builds the idea of community—that we’re part of a larger community,” FaJohn said. “Some people are doing better than others, and we need to figure out ways to help. I think the kids are pretty understanding. They definitely know that there are some people who struggle more than others. I think that’s instilled from their parents.”

Since the students have returned to class following their holiday break, they have maintained their charitable interest and want to continue to donate their Kid Cash, according to FaJohn. However, a new angel intermediary to transfer Kid Cash into a monetary donation is needed.

To participate, email Mary Fajohn at mary_fajohn@dpsk12.org.
DENVER EVENTS

Art Walks:
2/4 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Drive between 10th and 6th. www.artdistrictsantafe.com
2/4 Friday- North Denver’s Tennyson Art Walk, Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. www.denverartwalksquare.com
2/4 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District. www.cherryckwalknorth.com

2/11 Thursday- Highlands Square Third Thursday- 5pm to close. 32nd and Lowell, North Denver www.highlands-square.com
2/4 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District.
2/12 Saturday to 2/20 Sunday- Colorado Garden and Home Show, Colorado Convention Center, Downtown Denver. Expo with flower gardens and a 1,300 booths, spring landscaping, patio and outdoor projects. www.gardeningcolorado.com or 303.932.8100
2/15 Tuesday- Arabia. 5:30-6:30 Tatters Cover, 2526 E Colfax Ave.

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

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Stapleton resident
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Regency Commons
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Phone 303-708-1300 • Fax 303-708-1612
karen@bestmediation.net
~ Appointments available in Stapleton ~

RECURRING EVENTS
4th Monday
SUN Board Mtg. 7:30pm, MCA, 2823 Roslyn St.
Every Tuesday
Stapleton Rotary Club - 7:30pm Stapleton Community Room 2823 Roslyn St. www.stapletonrotary.org
Every Tuesday
AAA Check Discussion Mtg. 7:30pm, MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. 303-912-7075
2nd Tuesday
Breast Cancer Support Group 5-6pm AF-Waltra Family Medicine Clinic, Carol Rm (beer entrance) 3035 Roslyn St (at MLK) 720-488-1000
3rd Tuesday
Greater Stapleton Business Assoc. 8am MCA, 2823 Roslyn St 303-797-7700
Every Wednesday
Weekly Heaters, Buil Lake Na
ture Center Year+12pm, 303-416-6717
1st Wednesday
*1st Wednesdays’ Home-based businesses. Alternates between Lunch & Happy Hour talion@gmail.com www.stapletonhomebusiness.com
2nd Wed. (Odd-numbered months)
SUN Transportation Committee 6:30pm MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. www.sunsociety.org
3rd Thursday
Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board Mtg, 7:30 E 29th Ave. 7:30pm 303-393-7700
1st Saturday
Bull Lake Birders, Nature Center 7pm BullLakeNatureCenter.org
2nd Saturday
NE Denver Park Hill HS Mail- Self Help, Police Station, 10:31/11:45am 3821 Holly St. 303-329-6219
2nd Sunday
Catholic Men’s Knit & Walk, (free) Stapleton Central Park, 2-3:30. Please RSVP at Meetup.com/DenverMenKnit or Meetup.com/TTEwalks
Periodically
Stapleton Wine Appreciation Group, meghowen@iem.com

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February 2011
Stapleton Front Porch
All Denver Public Library locations closed on Monday, 2/21 in observance of Presidents’ Day.
Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library, 2401 Welton St, 720.865.2401, Blair Caldwell Library is closed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.
Black History Month Events:
2/4 Friday to 2/8 Monday- Connoisseur Calendar Series Art on Display. Works by Robert Evans, local artist and Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library’s signature artist.
2/11 Saturday- Crayons on the Canvas. Kids, come get creative with Holly-Kai Hurst! 2pm.
2/14 Monday- Live on the Canvas in Charles R. & Dorothy E. Cousins Gallery. Special guest on the canvas 6pm. But it will be an Art Blaque creative. Fun, love fest. 6pm. After the talk, enjoy reception and sounds of DJ SD. Children’s activities during LIVE! for ages 9 and under. (Please RSVP for children.) Mix, mingle, network with other artists, writers, intellectuals. FREE. Open to public but donations welcome. artblaque@gmail.com or 720.364.4942
2/19 Saturday- Black History Live with Chau-tauquan Hasan Davis. 2pm. Colorado Humanities honors Black History Month by sponsoring Black History Live with Hasan Davis portraying boxing great and American War hero Joe Louis. Davis will interact with audience as Louis. A unique way to explore history.
2/26 Saturday- Book Discussion and Signing, 2pm. Local journalist, sports writer, author Denny Dressman will discuss and sign his book Eddie Robinson about Robinson’s extraordinary college football career in Deep South’s Jim Crow segregation era. Filmes: Mondays at 6pm
2/7, The Journey of the African American Athlete 2/14, Joe Louis: America’s Hero Betrayed 2/26, The Express: The Ernie Davis Story
KIDS AND FAMILIES
2/2 Wednesday- Mensel and Greet with Opera Colorado at Children’s Museum. 5-6pm. Free with museum adm. Performances: 1pm and 2pm. More info at www.mychildsmuseum.org or 720.865.5000
2/5 Saturday- Jewish Children’s Activities. First Sat. every month little ones dance, sing, hear a story, craft and play at monthly Shabbat experience. Mt. St. Sлюбит 9-10am. FREE. Temple Mish, 2600 Leyden St, Park Hill. 303.388.4239, www.mischuldenver.org
2/9 Wednesday- “Create Playdates” at Denver Art Museum. Kids, 3-5 can room long, stamp 2nd Wed. of every month. Drop in, meet other tons for art making, together times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm. $5 and under. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Ave Parkway. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000
2/15 Saturday- Falconry and Colorado Raptors. 10am. Explore history and modern-day falconry practices. FREE. Ages 10 and up. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd at Laredo, Aurora. RSVP: 303.739.2428 or auroragov.org/nature
2/16 Thursday- Stories, songs, movement activities. 10:30am
2/17 Thursday- Tales for Twos. Storytime for 2-year-olds and caregivers. Stories, songs, movement activities. 10:30am. Schlossman Family Library, 199 Poplar St (1st and Quebec), 720.865.0000. Closed Wednesdays and Fridays.
2/18 Tuesday- Stories, songs, movement activities. 10:30am
2/19 Sunday- Tai Chi and Qi Gong. 2pm. Registering for spring classes. Located in Stapleton! www.smallhandsart.com
2/20 Tuesday- Children’s activities during LIVE! for ages 9 and under. (Please RSVP for children.) Mix, mingle, network with other artists, writers, intellectuals. FREE. Open to public but donations welcome. artblaque@gmail.com or 720.364.4942
2/21 Wednesday- “Create Playdates” at Denver Art Museum. Kids, 3-5 can room long, stamp 2nd Wed. of every month. Drop in, meet other tons for art making, together times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm. $5 and under. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Ave Parkway. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000
2/22 Thursday- Book Discussion and Signing, 2pm. Local journalist, sports writer, author Denny Dressman will discuss and sign his book Eddie Robinson about Robinson’s extraordinary college football career in Deep South’s Jim Crow segregation era. Filmes: Mondays at 6pm
2/23 Friday- Nature at Night. “Night Sky” FREE. 6:30pm. All ages. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. RSVP: 303.739.2428 or auroragov.org/nature
2/26 Saturday- Read and Romp. Ages 2-8, Arts, crafts and Clifford the Big Red Dog. $10 benefits Rauch Out and Read! 9:30am-2pm. LoDo-Tattered Cover, 1628 16th St. www.tatteredcover.com
Beginning 3/5- Vintage Theatre Youth Programs. Ages 9-17. Classes held Saturdays from 12:30-3pm at Vintage Theatre. Register: www.vintagetheatreproductions.com
Tiny Tots Love Music, Denver Brass. Special concert for tiny tots and parents, introduction to joy and magic of live music! Various dates/locations. Tickets: www.denverbrass.org
Tiny Tots, Inside the Orchestra. 45-minute concerts by Colorado Symphony in intimate setting for children 3 and under. Kids sit near musicians and hear classical music they may recognize! Various venues/dates through mid-February. Concerts at 9:30 and 10:30am. $5; children under 2 free. Tickets: www.cs.org
Through 3/11- Louisville Winterskate. Outdoor ice skating with Friday night carriage rides. Call for hours: 303.449.3137. 824 Front St, Louisville. www.bearproducts.com
Art Students League of Denver- Registering programs for kids and teens. 303.776.6990 or www.asld.org
Small Hands Art Studio- Registering for spring classes. Located in Stapleton! www.smallhandsart.com
The Art Garage- Registering for workshops/classes ages 4 and up. 6100 E 23rd Ave, Park Hill. www.artgaragedenver.com
Aurora Fox Theater- Register for drama classes. Ages 4 and up. Lisa Mumpton at 303.739.1573 or www.aurorafx.org

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Westerra Credit Union is offering fifteen $1,000 scholarships to high school graduating seniors for continuing education.
• To apply, obtain a Scholarship Application at www.westerracu.com.
• Applications are due Friday, March 11, 2011.
• For more information, visit our website or call 303-321-4209.
This is another way we give back more to our members—we call it The Westerra Way!
MUSEUMS
Denver Art Museum
Now open—newly reinstated American Indian Floor. Native-American objects are presented as art rather than artifacts with artworks ranging from prehistoric to contemporary. Galleries are devoted to nine regional areas that focus on specific artists and art forms. www.denverartmuseum.org. Free on the first Saturday of each month.


FISHING
Ice Fishing (Every Wed. in Feb.)
2/2, Wed. - The Basics of Shotgunning Ice Fishing for Trout and Lake Trout (Every Wed. in Feb.)
2/6, Sun. - Basic Handgun Safety

RACING
STAPLETON/LAX.org
Boys (K-5) spring season.

DERMATOLOGY
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MEDICAL
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SURGICAL
Mohs Micrographic Surgery
Skin cancer treatment
Cosmetic excision and repair

Dermosurgical Surgeon

Dermatologist

 وزندي "The Georgetown Collection"

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

2/2/1 Thursday— scholarship Foundation Financial Aid Workshops. One-on-one assistance to complete free application for Federal Student Aid. Denver School of the Arts at 2/19 from 6-8pm and Manual High School on 2/20 from 2-6pm. Attendees must bring correct financial documents. For document info and other locations: www.denver scholarships.org/FAFSA

THEATERS


DENVER ZOO
2/1 Thursday—Registration for Summer Safari 2011 (Zoo Camp) Opens, 6:30am. Register: www.denverzoo.org and click on Education.

2/5 Sunday - Denver Zoo’s Lunar New Year Celebration. 1-4pm. Entertainment and activities celebrating Year of the Rabbit. www.denverzoo.org

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More Events...

Free Neighborhood Health Summit Feb. 5 with U.S. Surgeon General to Speak

Join neighbors at a free event Saturday, Feb. 5 from 8:30am to 8pm at Johnson and Wadsworth to learn how to improve health and healthcare in Stapleton, NW Aurora, East Montclair, Park Hill and NE Park Hill.

Find out what 2040 Partners for Health knows about childhood obesity in our neighborhood and how to make our kids grow up healthy. U.S. Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin will discuss how national health priorities matter at the neighborhood level, and Lorez Menhold, Director of Health Reform Implementation, will discuss Health Reform, how to influence it and what it means to you.

2040 Partners for Health facilitates/assesses community-based research/realted programs in partnership with NE Denver communities, the Univ. of Colorado and the Stapleton Foundation.

The Summit will be held at Johnson and Wadsworth University. Open to the public, but RSVPs required. Call 303.986.4840 or email summit@2040health.org; provide name, your neighborhood, organization (if any), phone and email. Limited childcare for ages 5 and up. Include number/ages of children when you RSVP. A free networking breakfast will be provided, but space is limited.

Feb. 10 Race to Nowhere Movie and Panel: How Can Youth Become Great Adults?

The public is invited to attend. Race to Nowhere, a 60-minute documentary and call to families and educators to challenge current assumptions and raise questions on how best to prepare our youth to become healthy, bright, contributing adults. The film will be shown Thursday, Feb. 10 at 6:30pm at Bill Roberts K-8 School, 2100 Akron Way. A discussion will follow the film with panelists: State Sen. Michael Johnston; Mary Seawell, DPS Board Member; Diana Howard, former principal of Polaris at Ebert, current principal at Kunsmiller; Dr. Michael Brink, child psychologist; and others.

The film is intended to promote dialogue—with your child, your child’s teacher, school administrator, others in your community, school board reps, your elected officials. Appropriate for middle-school students and older. Tickets: $10 in advance/$15 at door and at www.racetonowhere.com/screenings.

Feb. 11—Denver’s Old House Society’s Old House Fair

The fair offers information, resources and workshops specific to homes over 50 years old. The event will be held Feb. 11 from 9am — 5 pm at the Tivoli Turnhalle, the only building of its kind west of the Mississippi River, located at 900 Auraria Parkway. Tickets are $12 at King Soopers stores, or on-line at http://ticketswest.sdln.com or $15 at the door. For more info visit http://denveroldhousesociety.org.

Montview Community Plan—Community Meeting Feb. 24

The City of Aurora is inviting the Northwest Aurora Community and in Stapleton neighbors to participate in the first community meeting (a visioning exercise) that will result in a community-based plan that will revitalize the Montview Area. The meeting will be held from 6-8pm on Thursday, February 24th at Aurora’s MLK Library (9899 E. Colfax Ave.). For more details go to www.montviewcommunityplan.org or call at Chad or Mindy at 303.739.7250.

Have Fun at Read and Romp Feb. 26 and Get Books to Kids

Read and Romp is an innovative family event to be held Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10am to 2pm that benefits Reach Out and Read Colorado. Children ages 2 to 8 will enjoy games, activities, and arts and crafts based on such family favorites as If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs.

Clifford will greet the kids who will grab a passport and travel through the pages of their favorite storybooks. They’ll make cookies with Mouse, play a game with Frog & Toad, dress up like Fancy Nancy, create their own bookmarks, try some yoga poses, and more!

Reach Out and Read Colorado is a non-profit working to make literacy a standard part of pre-kindergarten primary care, encouraging a household where parents read to their children. This year, Reach Out and Read doctors and nurses are distributing 125,000 free books to children aged 6 months to 5 years statewide. More than 78,000 children living at or near poverty receive new, age-appropriate books at every well-child visit.

The event will be held at the PPA Event Center at 8am with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to recognize the continued support of 2040 Partners for Health.

The event is intended to promote dialogue—with your child, your child’s teacher, school administrator, others in your community, school board reps, your elected officials. Appropriate for middle-school students and older. Tickets: $10 in advance/$15 at door and at www.reachoutandread.org.

“The Sky’s the Limit” at Bill Roberts 2011 Auction, March 11

The fifth annual Bill Roberts school silent and live auction will be Friday, March 11 at Wings Over the Rockies Museum in Lowry. Highlights include food from several local restaurants, more than 100 items up for bid including an 8-week-old, pure-bred, golden retriever puppy; a custom electric guitar; dozens of restaurant and spa gift certificates; sports tickets; a vacation in Mexico; and a stay at a luxurious condo in Winter Park.

This is an excellent opportunity for the community, parents and school supporters to become involved and make a difference for the children of Bill Roberts. The Bill Roberts PTA and auction committee plan to exceed the $100,000 raised last year.

Many parents are surprised to learn that money from the auction goes directly back to support school services not paid for by Denver Public Schools, including staffing of paraprofessionals in every classroom. Funds raised are critical to help the children thrive.

Tickets at the Bill Roberts front office or at www.billrobertspta.com. $20/person in advance or $30 at the door. Urban Mattress is the event sponsor.
By Nancy Burkhart

Many people have an affinity for a specific activity: reading books, playing sports, creating art projects or rebuilding engines. But children in school can’t specialize; they have to deal with both right brain and left brain learning. They have math classes as well as English classes and sometimes a weakness in math spills over into the rest of the classes.

This is where the Mathnasium of Cherry Creek, a math-only learning center, comes in.

There, trained instructors teach math to children from the second through the 12th grades. “The Mathnasium method is to make math easy and take the fear and anxiety out of the kids who have struggled with it,” said Stapleton resident Bernard Douthit who is the owner/center director of the Mathnasium of Cherry Creek.

“For children who struggle academically, math seems to be the weakest link in the chain,” he said. “You need to repair that weakest link that spills over into other areas, such as reading and writing. We teach math in a way that makes sense to kids. The curriculum is put in the language of children so they can understand the key concepts.”

At the Mathnasium, children first have an oral evaluation to determine their needs. Then they have about half an hour of written assessment. “We don’t want to overwhelm them,” Douthit said. “We want this to be a positive experience. Our system generates a learning plan for them from their assessment tests.”

Children go to the Mathnasium twice a week for a three-month period. At the end of this time, they are given another assessment to determine their progress. “We try not to over-test them,” Douthit said. “We evaluate the progress they’ve made. It’s lasting. It’s not a temporary improvement.” The math tutoring will give the child confidence in the area where they are weak, Douthit said.

However, it is possible that they may find another area of math that gives them problems later in their education. Douthit said. “There are people who say that math comes easy to them and there are people who struggle with it,” he noted. “It might be left brain vs. right brain. Not everybody’s going to be an electrical engineer or a physicist. But I think everybody can learn math. Math is key to the foundation of problem-solving. Our goal is to make math make sense, especially to those children who have struggled with it.”

Stapleton Montclair International School offers summer day camps for children ages 3-12. DMIS offers language camps in French, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. Sports camps in taekwondo, basketball, soccer, tennis, and lacrosse. Fine arts camps in arts and crafts, music, dance, and drama.

Register online at www.dmismool.com 206 Red Cross Way, Lowry 303-340-3647

DMIS Summer Camp

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DMIS Summer Camps

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SELLERS: Find out what homes are selling in your neighborhood.

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INVESTORS: Look for foreclosures. Go: www.theyboydgrouponline.com

State Representatives Meet Their Constituents

District 7 Representative Williams, at her January 15 town hall meeting, announced that she and her colleagues will hold town hall meetings on the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering will be February 12 from 10-11 am at William Roberts Elementary School, 2100 Akzon Way in Stapleton. The topic will be “The Redistricting Process: How Redrawing Legislative Lines Will Affect HD7 Residents.” Rep. Williams will also hold a “Coffee with Angela” at a local business the last Friday of each month. To learn the location of future community events call 303-866-2909 or email angela.williams.house@state.co.us.

District 7 includes Stapleton, the eastern part of Park Hill, and Montclair and Mayfair. The western boundary of District 7 is Kingsbury to the north of 26th and Hudson to the south of 26th.

District 8 Representative Williams, at her first town hall meeting at Martin Luther King recreation center on January 15, 2011. Left, Harriet Glenn questions Rep. Williams about traffic problems on 56th in Montbello.

Constituents can follow legislation on the General Assembly website at http://www.leg.state.co.us/. District maps can be found at www.comaps.org/cohouse.html. District descriptions above refer to the Front Porch distribution area within each district (not the full district).

Constituents can follow legislation on the General Assembly website at http://www.leg.state.co.us/.
The Bald Eagles Have Arrived at the Refuge

By Sherry James, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Thearrival of our gorgeous national symbol, the American bald eagle, is a sure sign that winter has settled in at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Bald eagles migrate to the Refuge when the weather north of Colorado turns colder, freezing the water and making it difficult for the eagles to catch fish and find food.

As part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s commitment to biomonit oring at the Refuge, biologists conduct regular roost counts. As of the beginning of January, the roost count had reached just over 40 eagles, and several more are expected.

Refuge visitors can view these magnificent birds by joining Refuge Rangers on the Wild Rides tour every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Sightings have also been reported along the hiking trails or during other nature programs offered throughout the winter months.

With diets consisting mainly of fish and small mammals, bald eagles enjoy the healthy food supply provided by the lakes and natural prairie habitat of the Refuge. For the past decade, eagles have returned each winter to the large cottonwood trees along the eastern shore of one of the lakes. Over the past seven winters, a resident pair has fledged eight eaglets at the Refuge.

When adult bald eagles are perched in their roost, their white heads look like small snow balls scattered throughout the trees, making it easy to spot them. They get their name from the English word “balde,” meaning white. In the eagle’s juvenile stage, their beaks, feet and eyes are dark and their feathers are mottled, which makes them look more like golden eagles. Their features change at 5 years of age when they get their characteristic white head and tail feathers, and their beaks, feet and eyes turn a bright yellow.

Bald eagles can be seen at the Refuge through early March, so don’t let the winter weather keep you inside. Bundle up, enjoy the great outdoors and catch a glimpse of our wintering raptors as they soar in the skies on their daylight hunts.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers nature programs about these cold-weather stars of the Refuge, and you can find a complete program listing by calling the Visitor Center at 303.289.0930, online at http://fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal, or at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/RMANationalWildlifeRefuge.
By Dr. Alfiyaz Ibrahim

If you ask most people what they can do to prevent cavities, the standard answer would be to lay off the sugary snacks and keep their teeth clean. While this may be true, it doesn't strike at the real heart of the problem. People who have great diets and pristine oral hygiene still develop cavities. Ever wonder why?

To answer this question, we first need to know a little more about the disease process itself: Yes: disease. Dental caries ("caries" is the actual disease—a "cavity" is the end result) is actually an infectious disease. In fact, caries is five times more common in children than asthma! The process starts when the teeth first appear in the mouth and bacteria colonize the newly exposed tooth surfaces. Most of these bacteria are benign, but a species called Streptococcus mutans can also find its way into the mouth. Unfortunately, S. mutans is the bug responsible for dental caries. These bacteria stick to the teeth, feeding off starches and sugars and producing acid. The acid weakens the teeth, and eventually holes form that we call cavities.

But what if it's too late and you have already developed a cavity? The best way to prevent dental caries is to stop S. mutans from ever taking hold in the mouth. It is important that parents do not share cups, utensils or any other objects with their children, as the bacteria are usually transferred through saliva. The longer you can avoid the bad bacteria, the better your odds are that benign competing bacteria can take hold, even "crowding out" the bad ones. It is also very important for parents themselves to see a dentist regularly, in order to maintain their own oral health and minimize those bad bacteria.

Finally, children should start seeing a dentist by 12 months of age. Early dental visits allow children to acclimate to the dental office so they grow up without dental fear. They also give parents a chance to learn everything they can to allow their children to grow up with healthy smiles.

What if it’s too late and you have already acquired S. mutans? Traditionally, a three-pronged attack has been used to prevent cavities: diet, hygiene and fluoride. Diet modification removes the fuel upon which the bacteria feed. Brushing and flossing help mechanically remove the large bacterial colonies (dental plaque). Fluoride use helps to strengthen the tooth, replacing minerals that have been dissolved by bacterial acid attacks. However, none of this permanently removes the bacteria on a microscopic level, which is why some people with great diets and good hygiene still get cavities.

So, what to do? Recently, the research has headed toward stopping the caries process on the microscopic level. Saliva tests can be used to determine if the pH level in the mouth helps neutralize the cavity-causing acids. Similarly, flow tests can determine salivary levels in the mouth—dentists have long known that patients with less saliva (due to medications or underlying medical conditions) tend to get lots of cavities.

Perhaps the most exciting development in the small-scale battle against S. mutans is xylitol. Xylitol is a naturally occurring sugar that is found in many berries, mushrooms and other fruits and vegetables. Studies have shown that xylitol can actually disable the acid-producing properties of S. mutans, or eliminate it from the mouth entirely! There is a catch, though: xylitol needs to be consumed every day at a threshold dose (5–8 grams, depending on whom you ask) for about 3 months to really win the war. The good news is that it is perfectly safe to use and can be found in many products, including gums, mints, toothpastes, and even sugar-free chewing gum.

Ultimately, however, simply using xylitol products can be found in health food stores and supermarkets, as well as in many dental offices. As the science behind oral health continues to evolve, there will no doubt be more advanced methods of preventing dental caries. For now, though, having a good understanding of the actual process can help keep those cavities at bay.

Dr. Alfiyaz Ibrahim is a board-certified pediatric dentist and the owner of Stapleton Children's Dentistry. He can be contacted at stapletonkids.com or by calling 303.399.KIDS (5437).

Where Do Dental Cavities Really Come From?

By Deanna Gusman

Every family is unique with specific needs, but there are some basics that most people can put in place to be more organized when tax season rolls around.

Assess the Situation

Are the teeth usually on time filing your taxes? Are you often missing documents you can’t locate? Do you have a system for holding papers as they trickle in during the year?

1. Pull out a notepad and make a list of what’s working and what’s not. Jot down the items you know you need to have every year, for example, everyone’s social security numbers, receipts for charitable donations, W-2s—the obvious stuff.

2. Decide if you’ll be doing the taxes or choosing an accountant, tax service or online software program. Call or research new tax laws that might affect your return. Check with your financial advisor; there are always new changes and/or laws that you may not be aware of (and that you might benefit from). Look over last year’s tax planner to make sure you’re not forgetting anything.

Create Some Systems

1. Create a place to keep the tax documents as they come in over the course of the year. Either add to your existing files or simply designate a large envelope for holding tax-related documents. You can do some of the work now by using an accordion file and choosing tax categories such as Income, Real Estate, Medical, Childcare, Interest Statements, Charitable Donations and Tax Correspondence, for instance. When March/April rolls around, the task won’t be so daunting.

2. Check with your tax advisors or visit the IRS’s online record retention guidelines at http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=98513,00.html on how long to keep records. Most agree that six to seven years back is sufficient barring any unusual circumstances.

3. Create a six-year system. Use a banker’s box and six wide-bottom hanging files. Label the hanging files Year 1–6. Keep last year’s documents and returns in Year 1, the previous years in Year 2, etc. When you get your returns from this year’s filings, move all of the files back one file (you will knock the files in Year 6 out of the box), place the records from the latest returns in the first file (Year 1) and then shred the last set (Year 6). With this method you create a safe home for your important documents that follows the retention recommendations and you don’t have to re-label each year.

4. If you’re someone who feels more comfortable keeping records past the recommended limits or have unusual financial circumstances, investing in both a scanner and a shredder can help keep paper clutter at bay.

Remember that being organized with your taxes is an ongoing yearlong process. Putting these systems in place now can save you time, money and stress, and you may get your tax refund a lot earlier.

Deanna Gusman can be reached at deannagusman@yahoo.com. Her business is HOME, Simplified LLC. Organizing with Deanna.

Getting Organized for Taxes

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even if your retirement seems well into the future, saving money for your retirement can offer some in-

There’s still a way to reduce your 2011 taxes.

Even if your retirement seems well into the future, saving money for your retirement can offer some in-

by Jessika Aerni

New Volunteer Opportunities at Sand Creek Greenway

By Caroline Fry

The Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership is seeking volunteers to participate in two new out-

The heartbreaking crash at the intersection of Central Park Boulevard and 29th Ave. has many people worried about pedestrian safety, and with good reason. However, focusing on the nontraditional design of one intersection overlooks what should really be our prime concern in keep-

Letters to the Editor

The Front Porch received the following letter on traffic flow in Stapleton and solicited a response to it from Forest City to provide readers with both perspectives in the February issue.

Creating a Safer and More Sustainable Stapleton

By Wesley Marshall, PhD, PE, assistant professor of civil engi-
nering at the University of Colorado Denver, co-director of the Active Communities/Transportation (ACT) Research Group, and a Stapleton resident

The heartbreaking crash at the intersection of Central Park Boulevard and 29th Ave. has many people worried about pedestrian safety, and with good reason. However, focusing on the nontraditional design of one intersection overlooks what should really be our prime concern in keep-

This is a letter from one of our readers.

We support our physiology with targeted nutritional strategies, or we can simply let life and stress take its toll. Through medical and nutritional research, we know which pathways break down over time and the type

We can support our physiology with targeted nutritional strategies, or we can simply let life and stress take its toll. Through medical and nutritional research, we know which pathways break down over time and the type

One of the ways we can impact the aging process is personal choice. Our lifestyle, emotions, actions, and behaviors can affect the rate of cell degeneration. That is why I ask you to please consider these options.

The key to live well is to choose the right foods to eat and the right way to eat them. Nutritional science has shown that the right foods support our bodies and help them repair and rebuild.

We support our physiology with targeted nutritional strategies, or we can simply let life and stress take its toll. Through medical and nutritional research, we know which pathways break down over time and the type

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(continued on p.24)
SUN Transportation Forum

By Andrew Schugger, SUN board vice president

On Tuesday, January 25th, SUN held its most recent Transportation Forum at Westerly Creek Elementary School. Councilman Michael Hancock was on hand for the meeting to hear concerns. Brian Mitchell from Denver Traffic and Brian Conover from Denver Police Department answered questions and gave updates on ongoing projects and investigations.

Central Park Blvd and 29th Ave

The intersection at Central Park Blvd and 29th Ave was one of the most discussed issues of the evening. Since the tragic hit and run this past December, the 30-inch stop signs located at the intersection have been replaced with 36-inch signs. There are concerns about not having enough signage to warn drivers.

The traffic on Central Park has doubled over the past 5 years to 13,000 cars a day. In order to deal with this increased flow of vehicles, it is planned to rebuild the intersection with a traffic signal. The traffic signal will be installed to provide a much safer place for drivers.

Denver Traffic hopes to have this project completed by November in order to open up the intersection to Northfield. In late 2011/2012 Mitchell did acknowledge that this would be an aggressive schedule as many things had to fall into place in order for it to be completed on time.

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spreading in our neighborhoods, whether they are Stapleton residents or visitors. Speed limits are posted at 20 mph in school zones, 25 mph for neighborhood and connector streets (including 29th Avenue Parkway and 26th Avenue), and either 30 mph (Central Park Boulevard) or 35 mph (Martin Luther King Blvd) for arterials. Those arterials may also have lower speed limits, such as 25 mph on MLK that is reduced to 20 mph in the area of the planned Eastbridge Town Center. And, when the new Swigert McAuliffe International School opens several blocks west of 35th and Central Park Boulevard later this year, it is likely the Central Park Boulevard arterial will have the flashing lights and a lower speed limit adjacent to that intersection typically utilized throughout the City in other school zones. 35th and Central Park Boulevard is already a fully signalized intersection with a pedestrian-activated crossing signal.

Public Transit

With the extension of the street grid from the urban neighborhoods adjacent to Stapleton, our neighborhood also enjoys local and regional bus service, links to on-street bicycle trails and pedestrian connections to a network of sidewalks. Another connection will arrive at Stapleton no later than January 2016 with the completion of the FlatRacks rail service to Downtown and DIA. A future rail service will be part of a new multi-modal transit center on Smith Road, which is very much in the “heart of Stapleton” given that our community extends two miles to the north and south of Interstate 70.

Traffic

By Tom Gleason, Vice President of Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

If one were to ask a resident of almost any neighborhood in the Metropolitan Denver area to list his or her top concerns, more than likely one of those issues would be “traffic,” which is certainly a concern of Stapleton residents as well in spite of the fact that special efforts have been made to make Stapleton a pedestrian-friendly neighbor-hood with a range of alternative transportation options

Extended urban street grid

When the citizens of Aurora, Denver and Commerce City created the Stapleton Development Plan (commonly referred to as “The Green Book”), they envisioned Stapleton would become a “gated community,” typical of some suburban developments, but an extension of the traditional urban neighborhoods adjacent to it. One of the means of achieving that goal was to extend the street grid from the surrounding neighborhoods on to the former airport property. That street grid, a combination of neighborhood streets (with on-street parking and other measures designed to “calm” traffic), “collector” streets and major arteri-als, is designed to move traffic safely and efficiently within and across our neighborhood with appropriate speeds established by the City and County of Denver to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike.

Ticketing Speeders

The Denver Police Department has been responsive to the ticketing motorists
Scam Warning & Safety Precautions
By DPD Technician Reyes Trujillo
Recently we have experienced several sen-
sors in the area who have fallen victim to a
confidence trick (an attempt to defraud a
person by gaining their confidence). Seem-
ingly innocent people say they are new to
Denver, lost and in need of help. The con
artists offer money in return for help cash-
ging checks or retrieving money owed to
them. Often the con person will ask the
victim to give them a ride to a place they
will meet with another person. They behave
in a very convincing way and the unsus-
specting victim often doesn’t realize that
they are at the mercy of a con person when
they let them into their car or home.
NEVER, allow people that you do not
know into your car, home or other place
not intended for public access, unless you
know and trust them.
If you are approached by someone need-
ing direction, do not engage them but
rather offer to call police, who will give
them help or guidance as needed.
Keep the minimum amount of cash or
credit cards on your person when you are
out and keep your social security cards
and other important documents in a secure
place when not using them to prevent iden-
tity fraud.
If you are contacted in a public place
and asked to help by a suspected con artist, please
report this to police right away and be prepared
to give a description.
Technician Reyes Trujillo is the District Two
Community Resource Office. He can be
called at 720-913-1094.

Police Ask Citizens To Be Vigilant
And Not Walk Alone at Night
By DPD Technician A.L. Esten
Following a January robbery near 28th and
Elmira in Stapleton, we want to remind people
of precautions they should be taking.
In the January 13 robbery, the victim was
walking home when a white sedan with a loud
muffler pulled up and told her to get into the
vehicle. The victim replied “no” and the car
drove off. The victim then noticed, as she con-
tinued walking, that the driver, a white male in
his 20’s, was approaching her on foot. The
victim attempted to get away but was caught by
the suspect, who threw her down and took her
purse. The suspect then fled.
We want to make sure that residents are
keeping an eye out to help their neighbors and
remember that if it is dark out, you should not
walk alone. If you have any further information
regarding this incident please contact Techni-
cian A.L. Esten 81095, District Two Commu-
ity Resource Officer, 3921 Holly
St., 720-913-1095.

Old Firehouse Finds
New Life in Art
By Nancy Burbhart
The old Fire Station No. 26, located
at 7045 E. 38th Ave., once led an
active life, but it fell into idleness
when the new Station No. 26 was opened
on Martin Luther
King Parkway.
Today, the old Sta-
tion No. 26 has a
new life filled with
creativity and activ-
ity under the own-
ership and
direction of artists
Ceri Jones Salaha-
dyn and Khairi
Salahdyun.
The Salahdyuns
create artworks
from the size of
table ornaments to
huge outdoor obelisks. They work in
everything from fabrics to different met-
als. “We needed somewhere like the fire-
house because of the variety of materials
we work with,” Ceri explained. “We use a
lot of equipment and tools. And, we
needed the right ventilation. We needed
something industrial, but also livable. We
were looking for a large space so that we
can work on large projects.
“The firehouse served the community for
over 50 years,” she said. “We are into repur-
posing the building. Not only is it an in-
dustrial space where we can make indus-
trial-sized items, but we can also open it
up to the public. The building has allowed
us to make industrial applications as well as
have a space for clients. The space al-
 lows the firehouse to be an inspiration
while we’re talking to clients.”
The firehouse required some work. The
Salahdyuns started working on the building
in September of 2009, but it took a year to get a
live/work occupancy permit. A sprinkler sys-
tem was required to be installed throughout
the building, including inside the numerous
closets where the firemen once kept their gear.

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1-week & 2-week sessions
We’ve done nothing structural to the fire-house,” Ceri said. “We had a number of code requirements for us to be able to have this rezoned as live/work space. We had the sprinkler system put in, put up new doors and drywall and made access changes. And, we brought the electricity and plumbing up to code. But, we didn’t want to get a firehouse and then change it. We wanted to live in a firehouse.”

The firehouse now houses a cooperative art studio known as The Collaboratory. Khabir is a journeyman metalworker. He is a certified structural welder and mechanical inspector. He says he has been working in art since he was born. Ceri has a corporate background in business management and moved here from the United Kingdom. She came to the United States on an international assignment as CEO of a business here and stayed. Her area of expertise is fabric, which she uses with metals in her artworks.

“We like to call it working art,” Ceri explained. “It’s a collaborative effort. We have quite a lot of acquaintances who come here to get their ideas out. Everybody lends ideas to one piece.” The Collaboratory offers a boutique with smaller pieces of art created by Ceri and Khabir. But they also meet with clients to produce custom pieces such as staircases, railings, pieces of furniture or large outdoor objects.

Industrial design students from Metropolitan State College spend one day a week for four semesters at The Collaboratory as apprentices under Khabir’s guidance.

“They’ll usually get involved with projects we’re working on at the time or we’ll design projects that will exercise areas they are looking for,” Ceri said. The Collaboratory also offers classes to the public in working with metal sculpture, either in small groups or one-on-one. “We cover basic fundamentals first,” Khabir explained. “We help people who want to take structural exams, too.”

The “Origin” art show is open at The Collaboratory through March 25 on Thursdays from 3 to 8pm, Fridays from 5 to 9pm, and by appointment. During these times, the boutique will offer artwork that ranges from $75 to $8,000, including jewelry as well as larger items. “The great thing about the show is that people will see the product and be in the space where we dreamed those products and made them,” Ceri said.

To see samples of Ceri and Khabir’s work and to learn more about The Collaboratory, go to www.thecollaboratory.com or email the Salahadyns at contacts@thecollaboratory.com. The Collaboratory can be reached at 303.994.0649.

Under art made “just for fun” with fabric and the top of an old table are examples of commissioned pieces including, from left to right, a band shell, a staircase in a climbing gym and gates for a book store.