

# Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

MARCH 2011

Camp  
Guide  
2011

## Battle Over School Reform



District 4 school board member and Stapleton resident Dr. Nate Easley grew up in Montbello and graduated from Montbello High School. He has supported the district's reform efforts to improve the far Northeast Denver schools. A group that does not support these reforms has filed a petition to recall Easley.

### School reform at stake in recall effort

By Jon Meredith

In a recent vote on restructuring far northeast Denver schools, the Denver Board of Education split 4-3 in favor of the reforms. Prior to the vote, opponents of the reforms reportedly stated they would initiate a recall petition against

Board President Dr. Nate Easley if he voted in favor of the proposed reforms.

Easley, who grew up in Montbello and graduated from Montbello high school, voted in favor of the reforms and the recall petition was filed shortly thereafter. What that means is that if the effort to gain signatures for a recall election is successful and the not-yet-announced recall-supporters' candi-

date wins the election, the board members who favor reform would lose the majority.

Easley states he's "appalled" that those who disagree with him on the reform efforts would subject the district to the cost of a recall election when he has done nothing that warrants removal from office—they simply disagree with him.

John McBride, the spokesman for (continued on page 4)

## Dancing for a Cause



The Damsels Contemporary Dance Company, organized by Park Hill resident Katrina Lairsmith, is a group of professional dancers and dance instructors who practice weekly for performances that raise funds for organizations that help women. (See page 10.)

## Reader Input Needed to Help Shape Northeast Denver Mayor's Forum

The Front Porch is partnering with the League of Women Voters of Denver and Engaged Public to present a Mayoral Candidate Forum at the Central Park Recreation Center on April 14 at 6:30pm.

Fifteen candidates have registered their intent to run for mayor. Their names and websites are listed on page 11. Due to time constraints, we believe the Forum will be more informative if the number of speakers is limited based on our readers' selections. Please review the candidate list on page 11, then go to [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com) and link to the survey to make your selections.

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# CALENDAR

Nearby events that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit events. See pages 16 - 19 for more Denver-area events. Recurring events are on page 16.

## MARCH

### Saturday, March 5

Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team Clean-up, 9am  
Sand Creek Greenway Trailhead  
Lcorrell@dotnet.net (see p. 18)

### Saturday, March 5

Denver Art Museum - SCFD Free Day  
720-865-5000 [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)  
(American Indian exhibit story on p.27)

### Sat. & Sun. March 5 & 6

Dance Performance, "State of the Union,"  
\$15; Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 5pm; Cleo Parker  
Robinson Theater, 119 Park Avenue West;  
[www.thedamselsdancecompany.com](http://www.thedamselsdancecompany.com).  
klairsmith@msn.com

### Sunday, March 6

Denver School of Rock Benefit Concert  
for Brent's Place; Twisted Olive, Northfield,  
4pm; Tickets \$8; kids 5 and under are free  
berkanderson@hotmail.com (see p.19)

### Thursday, March 10

Stapleton Activities, Inc. Potluck, 6-7pm  
Active Minds Seminar, 7-8pm  
MCA Community Room\*  
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

### Friday, March 11

Free Medical Screenings at Denver School  
of Science and Technology, 1-6pm  
2000 Valentia Street.  
Monica.Evans@ucdenver.edu or  
DSST 303.320.5570 (see p. 19)

### Tuesday, March 15

Aquatics Registration begins, 10am  
Visit MCA website at  
[www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com)

\*MCA Community Room:  
2823 Roslyn Street, Denver, CO 80238

### Saturday, March 19

Free Women's Self-Defense Class  
at the Police Academy, 9am - 1pm  
2155 N. Akron Way 303.370.1517  
(RSVP recommended, see p.19)

### Sunday, March 20

Denver Botanic Gardens - SCFD Free Day  
720-865-3500 [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

## APRIL

### Saturday, April 2

Neighborhood Partners Environmental  
Team Clean-up, 9am  
Sand Creek Greenway Trailhead  
Lcorrell@dotnet.net

### Saturday, April 2

Denver Art Museum - SCFD Free Day  
720-865-5000 [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

### Thursday, April 14

Stapleton Activities, Inc. Potluck, 6-7pm  
Active Minds Seminar, 7-8pm  
MCA Community Room\*  
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

### Saturday, April 23

Annual Egg Scramble, 10am  
The Green @ 29th Ave. Town Center  
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

### Saturday, April 23

SUN Earth Day Event, 1-5pm  
Central Park in Stapleton  
SUNSustainability@gmail.com

*The Front Porch welcomes  
submissions of upcoming local  
events (see format on p.17) and  
story ideas for future issues.  
Email [FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com](mailto:FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com)*



### What Is Your Community DNA?

So how did you do with your Denver Neighborhood Attitude (DNA) last month? How many doors did you open for someone? This month our community's attention focuses on cell phone etiquette. There are so many elements that get people fired up when you bring up cell phones. We will just focus on one aspect this month.

Have you ever had to listen to someone talk on their phone while you are in line behind them getting your coffee? Public settings such as restaurants, public restrooms, waiting rooms, retail shops, buses, or anywhere a private conversation is not possible is a bad place for a cell phone conversation because it involves everyone around the person on the phone. We want to challenge the community to practice good cell phone etiquette; put the ringer on vibrate or silent and let the call roll over to your voice mail when in a public setting.

If you are already on a call, stay outside until the call is finished. If it's not possible and you must take the call, keep your voice low and tell the caller you'll get back to them. It doesn't matter how quietly you speak, if you are standing too close to others, they are forced to overhear your personal business.

It's rude to take a cell phone call on a date or at any social meeting with others. It's also inconsiderate to take a call in the middle of a conversation. If the caller were present, he or she would likely wait and politely interrupt at the appropriate time. Let the call go to voice mail and return it later.

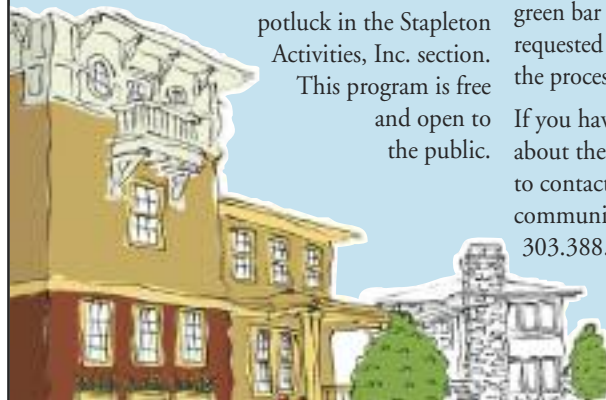
It's not easy to do, but let's challenge ourselves over the next month to engage in the moment and your surroundings. See if it makes a difference. As a community, let's respect others and keep our phone conversations out of public settings.

If you have an idea you would like to have featured, please send it to [StapletonDNA@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto: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, March 10, from 7-8pm in the Stapleton MCA Community Room\*. The topic for March is "Somalia." Join Active Minds as we examine Somalia's troubled path and where it may be leading.

We are hosting a potluck prior to the seminar. The potluck will begin at 6pm and everyone is invited. See details about the potluck in the Stapleton Activities, Inc. section. This program is free and open to the public.



### Stapleton Activities, Inc.

Please join us for our monthly potluck in the newly remodeled 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 prior to the Active Minds Seminar on Thursday, March 10, at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share with the group. The beverages, plates and utensils will be provided by the MCA.

### Aquatics

Check your mailbox for the new 2011 Aquatics Brochure! This fun brochure lists facility schedules, admissions, programs and information regarding after-hour pool rentals and birthday party pads.

### Swim Team

Stapleton Stingrays: due to the high demand each season, we will be accepting 60 additional swimmers in 2011. Because of the time/space requirements for this kind of program, we plan to assign swimmers to one of the two teams as registrations are accepted. Both Aviator and the new Jetstream pool will follow the same practice schedule, but will compete separately during weekend competitions.

### New Aquatics Programs

NEW! Preschool Stroke Readiness: this intermediate level was added to accommodate the high demand of preschool-age children in Stapleton who are advanced enough to swim independently. Skills learned include rhythmic breathing, front/back crawl, sit/kneel dives and changing directions.

NEW! Drop-In Lap Swim for Residents: Aviator, F15 and the new Jetstream pool will have lap lanes available for resident use during weekday programming hours (6am-12pm), but require a Resident Lap Swim Monthly Pass to access the lanes available. Monthly lap swim passes are priced at \$20 for the month, and will be valid for 30 days from the date of purchase. Passes will be available for purchase at the MCA office or any one of the four pools.

### New Resident Social

If you are new to Stapleton, we would like to encourage you to attend our quarterly New Resident Social on Wednesday, March 9 from 6:30-7:30pm in the Stapleton MCA Community Room\*. This is a chance to meet your neighbors and have any questions about the community answered.

This is also an opportunity for you to pick up your new pool pass at no charge. To help with the process for receiving your new card, please go to [www.stapletoncommunity.com](http://www.stapletoncommunity.com) and under "Member Tools," click on the green bar "Set up New Account." Submit the requested information and we will complete the process when you arrive on March 9.

If you have any questions or comments about the information above, please feel free to contact [events@stapletoncommunity.com](mailto:events@stapletoncommunity.com) or call the MCA office at 303.388.0724. \*2823 Roslyn Street.

Diane Deeter  
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# Front Porch

[www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com)

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## BLADIUM 2011 CAMP DATES

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June 20th-24th	Animals Week
June 27th-July 1st	Super Hero's Week
July 5th - 8th	America Week
July 11th - July 15th	Western Week
July 18th - 22nd	Wet Week
July 25th - 29th	Pirate Week
Aug 1st - 5th	Circus Week
Aug 8th - 12th	Colors Week



### OUT OF SCHOOL CAMPS

March 28th-April 1st	Spring Break
April 4th	DPS Day Off
May 6th	DPS Day Off

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# School Board Recall Election

(continued from page 1) the recall effort, and other Easley opponents believe Easley's position as deputy director of the Denver Scholarship Foundation is a direct conflict of interest with being school board president—which is the official reason they wrote on the recall documents. They state that Denver Public Schools (DPS) Superintendent Tom Boasberg sits on the board of the Denver Scholarship Foundation and therefore can influence whether Easley keeps his job. Easley rebuts that charge, stating first that Boasberg is a non-voting member and second that the voting members of the board only select the director—they have no control over Easley's position as deputy director. Prior to running for the board seat Easley obtained a signed affidavit from the General Counsel for the Denver Public Schools stating that, in his opinion, there is no inherent conflict that would preclude him from serving on the school board while being employed by the Denver Scholarship Foundation.

According to Denver Clerk and Recorder Stephanie O'Malley, a recall vote on Easley's seat would cost Denver Public Schools at least \$100,000. The city would administer the recall if enough valid signatures are gathered, then they

would bill DPS for all expenses associated with the recall election. If enough petitions signatures are submitted to the City Clerk and verified by the Clerk's Office, a recall vote could be held at the same time as the mayoral election or the anticipated runoff. In that case, DPS would rent space on the city ballot, which would be the most cost effective method. If the petition process were not completed in time to have the recall vote dovetail with citywide elections, a separate election process would be required—and that would even be more expensive for DPS. The two groups organizing the efforts to get petitions for a recall election are Northeast Community Congress for Education (NCCE) and Democrats for Excellent Neighborhood School Education (DeFENSE). These organizations are in the process of acquiring the 5,000+ signatures necessary to force the election. The required number of signatures from registered voters who live in School Board District 4 is stipulated in Colorado law as 40% of the number of votes cast in the election that put Easley on the Board.

In the event that the recall signature effort is successful, NCCE and DeFENSE will need to put a candidate on the ballot. Other candidates could also run if they garner the requisite number of signatures to get on the ballot. The ballot would have a question to recall or not recall Easley. If a vote is cast in favor of recall, then the voter would be asked to choose a replacement board candidate. That candidate would replace Easley if he/she were to get the majority of votes in the recall election. At this time, no one is actively pursuing that slot on the recall ballot.

John McBride describes the history of the groups orches-

trating the recall effort. The NCCE was formed by central Denver neighborhood residents in an effort to stop the closure of Manual High School in 2006. Manual, at the time, had fallen well behind other Denver high schools by all measures of educational success. Then Superintendent Michael Ben-net, now Colorado's US Senator, proposed closing Manual for a year to restructure its curriculum and re-open it to freshman only the following year. That plan was approved by the board. McBride's group fundamentally opposed that plan, stating a good high school education should be available in all sections of Denver. NCCE agreed that changes should have been made, but implemented while Manual remained open.

The recent decision by the DPS Board to restructure Montbello High School has reignited those concerns and led to increased scrutiny of Easley's positions. McBride believes that Easley has broken many of his campaign promises, pointing out that the NCCE actually supported Easley as a candidate. Other allegations by those favoring recall are that Easley has failed to provide proper oversight of DPS funds and that he has exposed taxpayers to liability since teachers who have been dismissed have filed a class action law suit alleging age discrimination. McBride also says NCCE and DeFENSE believe the board has "sandbagged" their budget by inflating costs so it can later claim savings. They say this cost inflation holds back money from classrooms.

McBride says NCCE and DeFENSE are not endorsed or supported by the teachers'



John McBride is the spokesperson for the recall effort against Board President Dr. Nate Easley.

union—and at the time he was interviewed the union had not made a decision whether it would support the recall effort. McBride, while being the recall effort's spokesperson, has said unequivocally he will not be the replacement candidate.

Easley claims there is absolutely no truth to the claims made by these groups pursuing a recall election. He believes that the time and effort being spent on the recall would be better spent helping the board understand the issues involved and working with them on the budget cuts recently proposed by Governor Hickenlooper. Easley says he is "appalled"

that they are bringing the cost of a recall election onto the school district, especially given that it's about a difference of opinion on policy, not about any wrongdoing.

Easley asserts that under his leadership Montbello High School will never close. However, it is now a school where only six in 100 graduates are prepared for college. He believes that by any measure, the education students have received is not satisfactory and change is a must. The restructured program will have four separate and distinct schools within it. A high-tech academy that will teach vocational applications to those students that decide college is not for them, an international school with proficiency of at least two languages as a requirement, an early college prep program and, for the next three years, a continuation of Montbello's current program for students already there. There will still be Montbello Warrior athletic teams, debate and arts programs in which students from any of the internal schools can participate.

Board member Mary Seawell and State Senator Michael Johnston backed Easley when asked to comment on the recall. Both were well aware of the concerns on both sides and both believe that DPS has much bigger issues to resolve and that the recall is a "distraction." Both are greatly concerned about the cost to DPS and neither feels the issues warrant that level of expenditure.



Denver Clerk and Recorder Stephanie O'Malley says a recall vote on Nate Easley's school board seat would cost DPS at least \$100,000.



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Toby Keith made an appearance at the official grand opening of his new bar and grill in Northfield on February 22. One of the most notable items on the menu is a fried bologna sandwich.

## Toby Keith Pays a Visit to His Northfield Bar & Grill

By Jon Meredith


Northfield is quickly becoming a hot spot for nightlife in Denver and the opening of Toby Keith's I Love this Bar and Grill is the granddaddy of them all. Twenty-two-thousand square feet of country music heaven with his signature guitar-shaped bar, plenty of room to dance, sixty-four big screens, southern food and, of course, plenty of libations. There will be live music five nights a week, Tuesday through Saturday starting at 9pm, which will include local acts as well as nationally-touring country stars.

Keith is a well-known country artist, actor and record producer. He has won numerous American Music awards and Academy of Country Music Awards. Two of his most famous songs, "Beer for my Horses" and "Should've Been a Cowboy," are duets with Willie Nelson. "Should've Been a Cowboy" was the most-played country song of the '90's. Throughout the Iran and Afghanistan wars Keith has done USO tours in support of the troops. He will perform July 31st at Cheyenne Frontier Days.

Mr. Keith himself stopped in at the

restaurant at lunchtime on February 22 for an invited-guest grand opening. He said this is the ninth Toby Keith's I Love this Bar and Grill to open around the country and the first in Colorado. He told the story that when he went to Vegas for that restaurant opening they had somehow taken the fried bologna sandwich off the menu. He insisted that was what his fans wanted and to put it right back on the menu. They did and it is a top seller. The sandwich is a thick slice of fried bologna with grilled onions and Miracle Whip on garlic toast for \$9.99. You're not going to find that combination on too many menus in Colorado.

The menu has everything from New York strip steak for \$21.99 to fried macaroni and cheese and pulled pork. Kids are welcome and there is plenty of room for them to run around. The waitresses are dressed just like Hooters' girls except in black tee shirts, jean shorts and cowboy boots. The décor is what you would expect, barn siding, some tin, lots of neon beer signs and a mechanical bull. Overall nothing fancy, but it is truly a honky-tonk atmosphere that screams, "Let's have a good old time tonight."



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Seminar Event Information

**When:** Wednesday, March 23 / 6 - 8pm  
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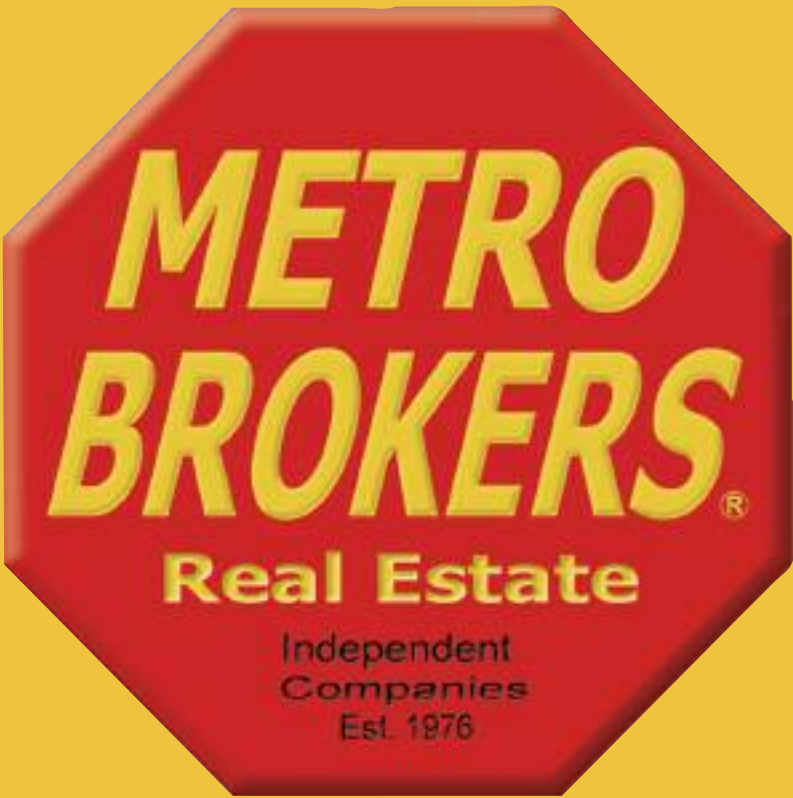
**Presented by:** Michael Finn, MD  
 Dept. of Neurosurgery, University of Colorado

**Where:** University of Colorado Hospital  
 Anschutz Inpatient Pavilion  
 Room 2133 / 12605 E. 16th Ave, Aurora, CO 80045

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# Park Hill Psychiatrist Pens Psychological Thriller

By Judith Schwartz

The year: 1972. The place: Five Points in Denver, a community health center. The Vietnam War is winding down, its veterans returning, “war trauma” disrupting their lives. Black pride is potent a force. Into this world enters psychiatrist Aden Echo, the protagonist in local author Michael Altman, M.D.’s first novel, *No Simple Highway*.

Dr. Altman’s goal was to create a vivid, page-turning psychological thriller, and he, and others, believe he has succeeded.

There are parallels between Michael Altman, the Jewish child and adolescent psychiatrist, and his character Aden Echo. They were both sent as psychiatrists to a community during a time of great upheaval in America —violence, poverty, drugs and strains between whites and blacks. A main difference is that Echo served in Vietnam and suffered unspeakable horrors that haunt him.

After medical school, Altman fulfilled his Air Force obligation and was not sent to Vietnam but to Mississippi. From 1970–72 he served as the southeast regional child/adolescent psychiatrist. He saw thousands of patients, including military personnel and families whose lives were deeply affected by the

Vietnam War. Their “war trauma” is now classified as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Denver came next: an appointment as assistant clinical professor at the medical school and child/adolescent consultant at the Eastside Community Health Center (the nation’s second, started in 1966), where he was deeply committed to teaching and his community work.

Altman and his wife of 48 years, Carol, an adjunct professor of French/liberal studies at the University of Denver, and an author, are long-time residents of Park Hill. Their two daughters attended Manual High school when it and East High comingled classes and during the controversial years of busing. A daughter and grandchildren now live just a block away.

“After 40 years of practice, I realized that if



Park Hill psychiatrist Michael Altman is pictured in Denver’s Five Points neighborhood, which serves as the setting for parts of his first novel *No Simple Highway*. The book is a psychological thriller based, in part, on experiences Altman had treating returning Viet Nam veterans who suffered “war trauma,” now called post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), at the Eastside Community Health Center in Five Points in the late 1970’s.

personal spiritual work I did in Boulder at a school that combined Western psychological understanding with Eastern mystical understanding. It opened me up to levels of existence I had not been aware of that influenced my psychological work and this book.”

To write a psychological thriller, a genre he loved, was important but it had to have spiritual underpinnings. Thus, an important character is a Vietnamese gardener who became Echo’s childhood spiritual teacher and martial arts master. The main character’s past will emerge through dream sequences. There’s romance, a psychotic killer and the

I wanted to write my novel, it was time to retire.”

It did not work to revive the “bad” novel he had started 30 years prior. “I had matured. Perhaps the greatest influence was 15 years of

efforts that brought positive change in a Denver community.

Dr. Altman sees *No Simple Highway* as a journey. “I hope the discerning reader will read it as a metaphor for his/her life—the many levels of the way we live our lives, sometimes aware, sometimes not.”

The Grateful Dead inspired the book’s title: *There is a road, no simple highway, Between the dawn and the dark of night, and if you go, no one may follow, that path is for your steps alone.*

After noting he had a very satisfying psychiatric career, he beams when he speaks of the writing process, though it took five years to birth his book. He had no outline and therefore no ending. Cliché perhaps, but he found “In the middle it started writing itself; just let the characters live their lives.” The final version had more about Vietnam than he had imagined. “How could it not?”

With huge changes in publishing, he decided to self-publish and not attempt getting picked up by a publishing house. The book is available in hard copy, paperback and eBook.

Dr. Altman will read from his book on March 10 at 7pm at the Tattered Cover in LoDo. (See “Local Events” on page 16.) He can be reached at michaelaltman@mac.com.

Judith Schwartz is a freelance copy editor/owner of FinalEyes Copyediting and a community volunteer.

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# Connecting With Our Bodies Through Movement and Stillness

View the different classes in a video interview at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com)



Zumba



Nia

By Nancy Burkhart

Margie Krest is trained in yoga, yoga dance and yoga nidra, but when she contemplated opening a studio, she wanted to offer her clients a way to nourish their soul through both movement and stillness. And so her business, Dancing the Soul, offers ten different classes that her customers can mix and match to suit their own lives.

“My main focus, my main vision, is to allow people to tap into many different forms of both movement and stillness,” Krest explained. “Through that we connect with our bodies and hearts. When we listen to the rhythms of our bodies and hearts, we live better.”

Dancing the Soul: A Center for Creative Movement and Stillness has 15 teachers who lead classes in such modalities as nia, zumba, belly dancing, cardio salsa, beginning power yoga and gentle yoga, mat Pilates, tai chi/qigong, meditation and breath awareness. Students pay for the number of classes they want and then choose to attend any combination of classes.

“I’m really encouraging students to try a variety of classes,” Krest said. “As we honor our bodies we get in touch with what we need to do to become healthier.”

Krest describes nia as a body-mind-spirit fitness class that uses dance music in a non-impact, cardiovascular workout. And she describes yoga nidra, which she teaches, as “purely a deep relaxation. I’ll take students through body scans, awareness and visualizations. I think that it’s just as important to our bodies as dance. I’m hoping that in the long run people



Belly Dancing

will see that it can affect their lives.”

Although Krest refers to Dancing the Soul as a center for movement and stillness, she says the classes can be classified as both dance and workout.

“You can come in for certain classes get a really good workout, and you can take a deep yoga class that will get you really relaxed and mellowed out,” she explained.

Although Dancing the Soul offers a variety of movement modalities, it is an intimate studio setting that offers a sense of calming, according to Krest. Besides classes, there is a boutique that features local designers of chakra gem jewelry, clothing, designer cards, MoonDance oils and scented salts and yoga mats and blocks. There also is a tea nook where



Yoga



Meditation

Top: Margie Krest (far right) teaches a yoga class.

people are encouraged to relax before or after class with a cup of tea and a sampling of bakery items, but without cell phones and computers.

Krest became focused on her yoga training and what the body needs to be healthy after spending 18 years as an instructor in the ecology and evolutionary biology department of the University of Colorado. She said she felt a “call to do something else” and then spent months at a center for yoga and health—which helped her find her direction in guiding people to their own form of healthiness.

“I would like my clients’ goal to be to try different forms of movement and different forms of stillness and see what resonates with them,” she said. “I would like the people coming in to experience both aspects of life. I think there’s a way of tapping into our own rhythms. If we’re coming home and feeling tired, maybe it’s time to be quiet for a few minutes and put our feet up the wall, listen to our bodies and let our bodies reenergize.”

“It’s about living a balanced life and listening to ourselves,” Krest added. “A lot of people coming in are 35 to 55 years old. They have done the pushing and the striving, and now they want to do what feels right for the heart.”

For information about classes at Dancing the Soul: A Center for Creative Movement and Stillness, go to [www.dancingthesoul.com](http://www.dancingthesoul.com) or contact Margie Krest at 303.502.4586 or [Margie@dancingthesoul.com](mailto:Margie@dancingthesoul.com). The studio is located at 950 C Jersey Street.

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# Race To Nowhere Explores Society's Achievement Obsession

By John Babiak

I found the documentary Race To Nowhere to be a sobering film. For many viewers it is a wake up call. For others, it is a reflection of the here and now. The film attempts to transverse many topics in just eighty-five minutes. It well documents the over-scheduled, competitive and stressed out lives of a cross-section our country's school-aged children. *Race to Nowhere* seriously questions data-driven educational standards and policies, challenges one-size-fits-all teaching methods, decries curriculums that teach-to-the-test, and the misplaced priorities of many school systems. It also exposes overbearing, success-oriented parents. The movie clearly shows how, more and more, our kids are being robbed of their very own childhood and the opportunities childhood provides for children to gain early-life experiences, develop social graces and have some well-deserved fun. Moreover, the documentary painfully portrays children who become unhealthy, self-destructive, disengaged and burned out by the time they graduate from high school—if not sooner. And worst of all, I learned that many of our graduates are not adequately prepared for higher education. Well over half need to take remedial courses after they enter college.

Each scene in the film captures an aspect of a silent epidemic that is spreading throughout the US. Sleep deprivation and suicide rates among adolescents are at all-time high levels. Depression, anxiety, eating disorders and prescription drug abuse afflict our children now more then ever.

*Race To Nowhere* was created and funded by one-time Wall Street financial advisor and attorney, now turned filmmaker-activist, Vicki Abeles, who makes her home in San Francisco's East Bay community of Lafayette. The mother of three was prompted to make the film after she saw her own children starting to collapse under their academic workload and extracurricular commitments. She dedicates her work to



Vicki Abeles, producer and co-director of *Race to Nowhere*, says her concerns about the pressure her three children were experiencing in school led her to try documentary filmmaking to bring attention to this issue.

a 13-year-old perfectionist who succumbed to the pressures of her own adolescence, and subsequently took her own life after she brought home a poor math test.

"I want to place the education of our youth on our nation's agenda and broaden the current narrowed vision of success in today's world," states Abeles on the film's web site ([www.RaceToNowhere.com](http://www.RaceToNowhere.com)). Abeles also puts to question our fundamental value and belief systems. She calls for the mobilization of parents, teachers, school boards and government policy makers to take on current assumptions about how to best prepare America's young citizens to become excited, problem-solving critical thinkers who, to the best of their abilities, contribute to our society.

Since its debut last fall, the film has had over 700 coast-to-coast showings in atypical venues including church halls, boutique movie theaters and school auditoriums. The grassroots campaign has created considerable dialogue and debate within our communities. The Bill Roberts School gymnasium played host to the movie last month. The screening, at-



Dr. Noah Makovsky of Stapleton Pediatrics (left), State Senator Michael Johnston and Mary Seawell, at-large member of the Denver Board of Education, watch the controversial film *Race to Nowhere* at William Roberts School last month before participating in a Q & A session following the viewing.

tended by some 200 local residents, was sponsored by the Roberts' PTA. The documentary was presented to the greater community at the request of Roberts' faculty and staff who watched the movie the month prior. A panel discussion followed the screening. It included child psychologist, Dr. Matthew Brink, Colorado State Senator Michael Johnston, Kunsmiller School Principal Dr. Diana Howard, pediatrician Dr. Noah Makovsky and Denver Public School Board member Mary Seawell. Senator Johnston, a former school principal, asked how parents could gain access to the day-in and day-out observations that teachers make on how their child learns. He felt that such insight, in addition to test data, could be valuable to parents and help them appreciate their child's development and learning style. Dr. Howard reinforced this notion and commented that teachers cannot just say that a child is a "fine" student. *(continued on page 14)*

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Kevin D. Tafoya



# Informed Patients Can Help Reduce Hospital-Borne Infections



Dr. Connie Price is the Director of Infection Prevention and Control at Denver Health.

By Jon Meredith

Kerry O’Connell was driving up to Vail in a hurry, his massively-swollen left arm hanging outside his pick-up truck’s window. He was trying to cool it down and relieve the pain, which on a scale of 1 to 10, was up around 9. O’Connell had dislocated his arm, falling from a ladder a few weeks before. Tears streamed down this grown man’s face, a construction project manager, as he drove by himself through the Eisenhower Tunnel and over Vail Pass to the hospital in Vail where he had gone through surgery the previous week. As soon as he stumbled into the hospital they stuck his arm with a needle and extracted several vials of pus. The relief from the pain was immediate; however, O’Connell distinctly remembers the smell in the air was of death.

He was embarking on a medical journey that brought him close to the end of his life—but he recovered and found a calling in informing the public of how serious and prevalent these hospital-caused or “nosocomial” infections are.

O’Connell is a Senior Project Manager for Mortenson Construction and he has worked on the redevelopment of Stapleton for ten years. After the initial needle puncture that relieved the excruciating pain, O’Connell had to endure an isolated

hospital room, a process of debriding the infection every other day for a week (this entails cleaning the infection and cutting away dead tissue), months of rehabilitation and \$120,000 worth of hospital bills. Several thousand dollars of the charges were not covered by his insurance and Mortenson has some of the best insurance provided by any company.

After his hospitalization, O’Connell researched these infections and found them to be fairly prevalent. He knew several people through work and friends who had had similar experiences, including some who live in Stapleton. He

found that about one in two hundred hospital patients acquire a nosocomial infection. In 2005, the most recent year for these statistics, 94,360 developed a serious infection in United States hospitals and 18,650 died during a hospital stay involving serious infections. These statistics were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2007. O’Connell points out that some Colorado hospitals do one thousand procedures a week, which means that, statistically, five of those patients will have serious infections. With proper management and oversight, O’Connell believes from his experience that hospitals can reduce these infections by 70 to 90%.

After doing his research, O’Connell lobbied the legislature to require hospitals to provide the public with statistics about these infections. After two years of trying, the Governor signed a bill that required the formation of a state board to oversee a process in which hospitals provide this information. The information is available on the Colorado Department of Health website and is called the Status Report on the Health Facility-Acquired Infections Disclosure Initiative.

While on that board, O’Connell met fellow board member Dr. Connie Price, Director, Infection Prevention and Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases at Denver Health. Dr. Price is also a Sta-

pleton resident. Asked what the average person can do prior to surgery to prevent infection she states, “Become informed. Access information from reputable sources on the prevention of healthcare associated infections. Ask your provider what they are doing to prevent these infections.”

The most critical component of prevention is hand hygiene. Never be afraid to remind a provider to wash their hands prior to approaching you. If you or a family member is scheduled for surgery, be well educated on all procedures ahead of time to keep yourself safer. Ask the surgeon in-depth questions about sterility and how many times they have performed the procedure. Inquire about the infection rates for the operation at that hospital and how that compares with other hospitals.

Some preventive measures can be taken at home, as well. Get diabetes under control as much as possible. Try to stop smoking as far in advance as possible. Keep your home clean and practice sound personal hygiene. Medical providers stress that sleep, exercise and sunshine are important components of keeping your immune system healthy. Try to avoid sugar, caffeine and alcohol prior to hospitalizations. Once back home always wash your hands prior to touching the bandaged area. Inform your surgeon if there are any signs of infections on your body both prior to surgery and afterwards.

Dr. Price says Colorado is making strides to reduce infections. She is “impressed with the many initiatives from state and local health departments, from the Colorado Hospital Association, to right here at Denver Health.” She goes on to point out that, “In most cases, if a patient gets a healthcare-associated infection, it is bad for the institution from a financial standpoint as insurers don’t typically reimburse for these infections. With public reporting, it also is bad from a public relations standpoint. Most importantly, it is bad from *both* a patient and physician satisfaction standpoint. No one is happy with bad outcomes.”

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), “Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics called beta-lactams.



Kerry O’Connell, Senior Project Manager for Mortenson Construction, suffered a serious infection following surgery.

MRSA infections can occur in any geographic location and anywhere on a person’s body and can affect anyone.” MRSA is now fairly common in the community at large and not just in hospitals, so beware when a child comes home with a scrape or cut. The CDC website recommends the following treatment if you have a cut:

- Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
- Avoid contact with other people’s wounds or bandages.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

If you or a family member does contract MRSA, see a doctor immediately and much more detailed sterilization procedures will have to be implemented in your home.

For Kerry O’Connell things could have turned out vastly different—to the point that he may have died had he not been so personally proactive about his infection. In subsequent operations that were necessary to heal his arm, he required everyone in the operating room to wear hazmat-like suits. Dr. Price believes that informed patients who are relentless in following proper procedures will significantly lower their chances of getting a serious infection.

Visit [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com) to view a list of websites recommended by Dr. Price.



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uncover the genius



# Damsels Dance for Women in Distress

By Nancy Burkhardt

Park Hill resident Katrina Lairsmith is a professional dancer who owns the Colorado Contemporary Dance Academy in Stapleton. She has used her love for dance to gather together other dancers to do fundraisers to benefit women in crisis and raise public awareness about women's issues.

In 1998, Lairsmith had been living and dancing in Los Angeles. She moved back to Colorado to have her daughter and started her own company so that she could continue to dance. After a neighbor of hers was murdered, Lairsmith asked the woman's mother if she needed any help and the mother told her that her daughter would have appreciated some help for SafeHouse.

This started The Damsels Contemporary Dance Company. The group of women dancers does about three performances a year to raise funds for women's organizations. About half the dancers live in Stapleton, Park Hill or Lowry.

"Every show that we do gives the prof-



The Damsels will present "State of the Union," a show addressing current issues, on May 5 and 6 as a benefit for The Gathering Place.

its to various women's organizations," Lairsmith explained. "The dancers don't get paid. They all are professionals. They all dance or teach. All of them are over 18 years old. They are different shapes and sizes to represent all different types of women, not just little dancer bodies. We're trying to show how versatile all women are and that all types of women are

equally talented."

One man enters into the mix occasionally. Greg Cinovic is a guest choreographer and dancer.

"He wanted to be a part of it," Lairsmith said. "We're thinking of adding some men to the company for guest artists. We have duets where we do need a man, and Greg is a hip-hop dancer."

Lairsmith is the company's main choreographer, and Meghan Lawitz is co-choreographer.

"Ideally, our message is one of sisterhood and how all different types of women are coming together to help different types of women, breaking the stereotype of cattiness and helping other women in need," Lairsmith said. "It's not the typical story of women stabbing other women in the back. This message is important to teenagers in

particular."

"The productions are always different," Lairsmith said. "This one is politically based. It's about all the things that are happening in the world today. It's about any topic that you see in the news. We're going after the most interesting ones."

The Damsels' first show of the year will be "State of the Union," to be presented at 8pm on Saturday, March 5, and at 5pm on Sunday, March 6, at the Cleo Parker Robinson Theater, 119 Park Avenue West.

This fundraiser will benefit The Gathering Place, a daytime shelter for women and children who are homeless.

"They are really, really low on supplies right now, so it's a really good time to help them," Lairsmith said. "During the day, they can eat and have shelter and regroup. But they have to leave at night."

Tickets for the "State of the Union" are available for \$15 each online at [www.thedamsels.eventsbot.com/](http://www.thedamsels.eventsbot.com/).

For information about The Damsels Contemporary Dance Company, call Katrina Lairsmith at 303.333.1885, email her at [klairsmith@msn.com](mailto:klairsmith@msn.com) or go to [www.thedamselsdancecompany.com](http://www.thedamselsdancecompany.com).

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“Mine Shaft” Playhouse on the Green in Stapleton thru Mar. 20



Frances Vega, 8, jumps off the Mine Shaft playhouse as Waytt Grimmer, 6, waits his turn. The playhouse located on The Green in the 29th Street Town Center is one of 12 created for the Rocky Mountain Communities' (RMC) Playhouse Project. Each playhouse reflects some aspect of Colorado's history.

By Carol Roberts

Visitors to the 29th Ave Town Center will see a new temporary play structure called the "Mine Shaft" in the Green. The Mine Shaft is one of 12 playhouses of a similar size that have been designed and built by professionals and donated to Rocky Mountain Communities (RMC) to raise awareness of the importance of affordable housing in our communities. The playhouses will be auctioned and the proceeds will be used to raise funds for health and nutrition programs for RMC's younger residents.

Each playhouse reflects some aspect of Colorado's history, can be no larger than 6 feet-by-eight-feet-by-10 feet, and incorporates hands-on activities for children of varying age groups. Four of the playhouses will be on display at the Denver International Airport (level 5) through March 31. The Mine Shaft will be on the Green through March 20.

From April 6 - April 15 all 12 playhouses will be on display at the Spring Celebration at the Botanic Gardens. To learn more about Rocky Mountain Communities, the design teams, the playhouses and to purchase tickets to the April 16th Spring Celebration and Playhouse Auction, visit [www.RockyMountainCommunities.org](http://www.RockyMountainCommunities.org) or [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org) or call RMC at 303-863-8651 ext. 109. Tickets for the event are \$35.

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# 2040 Partners for Health Hosts Neighborhood Health Summit

By John Babiak  
Healthcare Leaders Share Northwest Denver Childhood Obesity Study Outcomes

Denver-based nonprofit organization devoted to neighborhood-based public health research and programs, 2040 Partners for Health, held a day-long conference in the Polis Auditorium at Johnson and Wales University on February 5th. Nearly 200 hundred people attended the event. The keynote speaker was Rear Admiral, Dr. Christopher Halliday, the Chief of Staff for the U.S. Surgeon General.

The focus of summit was to share survey data from a 2008-2009 childhood obesity study, conducted in cooperation with 256 families and their children ages 10-14 who make their home in five Denver-Aurora neighborhoods: Stapleton, East Montclair. Greater Park Hill and Northeast Park Hill and Northwest Aurora.

Also described was rather compelling information from a 2009-2010 University of Colorado-Denver and neighborhood coalition study, Taking Neighborhood Health to Heart (TNH2H), titled: "Society of the Youth." This research effort asked youth and adult residents in the same north Denver-Aurora neighborhoods what changes are needed to increase physical activity of their children.

Ira Gorman, PT, MSPH, from Regis University, reviewed the obesity study outcomes. Children and a parent or guardian from the respective neighborhoods were surveyed at home and asked about the social and physical environmental factors at the household and neighborhood level. They also participated in three simple strength and flexibility measurement tests. Neighborhood by neighborhood, comparative data that details participant concerns about safety and playing outdoors, family household computer or TV rules and limits, the physical performance levels and body (continued on page 20)



Rear Admiral Dr. Christopher Halliday, Chief of Staff for the US Surgeon General

Ellen Kinney, a therapist who works primarily with children and families, has found that her 7-year-old dog Sasha can help many clients be more calm and relaxed in the therapy setting. Kinney and her dog are a certified therapy team through Professional Therapy Dogs of Colorado.



## Trained Therapy Animals Help Calm Patients

By Nancy Burkhart

Sometimes counseling sessions can be difficult, but animal-assisted therapy often helps reduce the stress and makes clients more open, according to psychotherapist Ellen Kinney.

"Animals can really facilitate the therapeutic process—they are a really calming presence in the sessions," Kinney said. "A lot of kids are more engaged in therapy with an animal present. And for adults who are in counseling for anxiety or grief and loss, an animal can help them calm down and be relaxed in the therapy setting."

Kinney, who is a Lowry resident, practices with other therapists at Animal Assisted Therapy Programs of Colorado, 1540 Race St. The counselors all have animal assistants, including dogs, a cat and a horse, but animals assisting in therapy are not limited to these types of animals.

"I know people that have used ferrets and guinea pigs," Kinney said. "You can be creative and think of ways to have a lot of different therapy animals."

"The animals are trained, and using them depends on the animal's temperament and personality. You have to

recognize if your animal has the skills, is friendly and predictable. If they stay calm, you know that they'll react safely if someone pets them too harshly."

Kinney's partner in therapy is Sasha, a 7-year-old dog of unknown heritage who was abandoned and was rescued with her puppies. Kinney and Sasha have been certified as a therapy team through Professional Therapy Dogs of Colorado.

"Sasha is a very social animal," Kinney explained. "She really loves attention. There are some clients that she'll play with for a while and then go away to her bed. There are some she will sit next to all session. If Sasha's looking tired, I may not work her as hard. But she gets really excited when clients come. She's really helpful in most sessions."

AATP tries to pair clients with the appropriate animal therapists.

"When clients call, we make sure to get enough information to pick the right therapist and animal that would be best suited to them," Kinney said. "Most of our animals are rescue animals. Even the horse has a rescue history. The horse has an addiction called cribbing. That's when horses bite on wood and suck in air so that it gives them a high. It can happen to abused horses that are kept in stalls or not are properly cared for. The horse might help a client who is suffering from an addiction."

"We see the gamut of presenting issues, from anxiety, depression, mood disorders, divorce, grief and loss counseling, children with behavioral concerns at home and school, anger, conduct disorder, eating disorders, trauma history, abuse and neglect. I happen to work with a lot of children and families, but several of our counselors see adults. Animals in therapy can be beneficial to all ages and all issues."

For further information, call Animal Assisted Therapy Programs of Colorado at 720.266.4444, go to the website [www.aatpc.com](http://www.aatpc.com) or email Ellen Kinney at [ekinney@aatpc.com](mailto:ekinney@aatpc.com).



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Rich Gonzales



Service to others is a cornerstone of my life. A Denver native and youngest of 14 children, my parents instilled that quality of life is measured by the support we provide each other & the community.

I served Denver 29 years as a firefighter, 14 as department chief, an honor to lead 900 remarkable men and women. I initiated innovative programs saving \$1.5 million per year and developed Seeking Opportunities to Serve, allowing Firefighters to engage with neighborhoods and be responsive to community quality of life issues.

As Vice President at Mile High United Way, I learned the need for human services and value of non-profits.

As Executive Director of the State Department of Personnel and Administration I learned the business of government. "Good Government Starts Here" was the guiding principle. I have a proven record of responsive leadership that understands government is about people. [www.FriendsofRich.com](http://www.FriendsofRich.com)

City Council At-Large  
Josh Davies



I am running for Denver City Council At-Large because I want to make Denver the best city to work, live, and play. In the 10 years I have lived here I have worked to achieve this goal by serving with multiple local nonprofits, as President of the Lower Downtown Neighborhood Association, and as a Vice President at Sage Hospitality. Being your City Councilman will give me the opportunity to combine these experiences and bring new ideas to the table.

My first priority as a City Councilman will be to make Denver a city that is open for business and innovation. Fostering a strong local economy will increase quality of life, decrease unemployment, and help establish Denver as one of America's greatest cities. I am excited to bring my knowledge and passion to the City Council to help make Denver all that it can be. [www.daviesfordenver.com](http://www.daviesfordenver.com)

City Council Dist.11  
Chris Martinez



Stapleton and Park Hill from Holly to Quebec and 23rd to MLK Blvd.

When Stapleton and Park Hill voters elect a new City Councilman, they will be looking for the candidate who has the most informed perspective on their new community as well as the most experience and involvement in Northeast Denver neighborhoods. Only I was on the original community group (Stapleton Tomorrow) assigned to examine redevelopment options at Stapleton Airport, and only I can show 35 years of active involvement in the communities of Council District 11. My record of positive activism in Park Hill, Montbello, Green Valley Ranch, and Stapleton is unequalled.

Voters will be looking for someone with professional experience. As a 35-year veteran with the Federal Reserve Bank and 8 years on the RTD Board of Directors, I will offer real-world solutions to the challenges we face. Roots. Activism. Professional Experience. Leadership. Common Sense. [www.ElectChrisMartinez.com](http://www.ElectChrisMartinez.com)

Mayor  
Theresa Spahn



There is opportunity in Denver to rethink how we do things, to bring jobs, improve our schools, provide services, and ensure that Denver thrives. I bring the skills, executive experience, and the fresh, innovative perspective that Denver needs to get there. As the first Director of the Office of the Child's Representative, I transformed a system that others deemed unfixable and developed an \$18 million state agency which now serves as a national model. Recognizing my ability to bring diverse points of view to the table and create solutions, former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Love Kourlis hand-picked me to work with Sandra Day O'Connor on her Judicial Selection Initiative. We are facing tough problems and we need a new perspective to find innovative solutions. I will bring that to the Mayor's Office and ensure that Denver thrives. For more information about my experience and vision, visit [www.Spahnformayor.com](http://www.Spahnformayor.com).

Front Porch Candidate Announcement Guidelines

The Front Porch will print a 150-word first-person statement of candidacy and biographical information from individuals running for public office who specifically represent our distribution area. Statements from citywide candidates will be run as space allows, with priority given to residents of The Front Porch distribution area.

Announcements, along with a close-up print-quality photo, should be emailed to [FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com](mailto:FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com) no later than the 15th of the month for the following month's issue.

(A map of city council districts can be found at [www.denvergov.org/Portals/639/documents/Maps/2008\\_Council\\_Districts\\_Precincts\\_Map.pdf](http://www.denvergov.org/Portals/639/documents/Maps/2008_Council_Districts_Precincts_Map.pdf))

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## Premium Fishwrap\* by Jon Meredith

### Stapleton Moms Could Take Over the World

As we all stood by and watched, our jaws dropped in disbelief, the dictatorial leader of the world's fifteenth most populous nation was run out of office by throngs of mostly nonviolent protesters. This uprising began and flourished through the power of social media, a force that has until now never shown its power on the world stage but it has been very evident here in Stapleton. Through blogging, social media websites and text messaging, masses of people in Egypt were able to demonstrate on cue each day for weeks on end. The only avenue of survival left for the disgraced despot, would have been to begin firing shots into the masses.

Fortunately, that did not happen. In another time and place the protest would have disintegrated into mass casualties and chaos. Thanks to cell phones with cameras and a plethora of video cams, corrupt leaders could not keep the masses down by firepower because those images would have been immediately broadcast all over the world. In response

to the masses, Egyptian authorities tried to shut down the Internet, which they found impossible to do. They attempted to disrupt phone service and could not. What happened in the streets of Cairo was well beyond the government's control, and the world's political leaders are now taking notice.

I joined Stapleton Moms thinking I would be rejected because of my gender. I wasn't. I then thought I would need to know a secret handshake or password to be "in." Nope, none required. I now have over ten thousand emails in my Moms inbox, mostly consisting of babysitter recommendations and clothes for sale. However, we have seen in the past, when the members of Stapleton Moms want to get things done, it happens. When a pregnant mother gets hit at a dangerous intersection, the website is all over the story. One can find out how to help the mom and her family, where to find out how she is, who to contact at the city so this doesn't happen again and how to help track down the misanthrope who drove away

from the scene.

A new school is needed in Stapleton due to the proclivity in our neighborhood to produce babies. Stapleton Moms rallies the troops as neighborhood committees take the fight for the new school through the proper channels—and ultimately money is found to build the school.

If an issue comes to light that many in Stapleton believe in, Stapleton Moms could have a thousand people at Founder's Green tonight. There is no D for democrat or R for republican required for admission, no political action committee's funding the Moms, no suits lobbying Moms and no "Big Mama" in charge. It is simply the power of personal participation in significant events that can create change.

The power of social media can be scary and it can destroy privacy. We all need to be aware of how we use it and how we can be manipulated by it. What transpired in Egypt is hopefully a testament to the good it can do. Certainly, how it has been used by people in Stapleton has benefitted our community at large.

Stapleton Moms taking over the world? Now, that may be another good use for social media!

The Stapleton Moms website can be accessed at [www.stapletonmoms.com](http://www.stapletonmoms.com).

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

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

## Race to Nowhere

(continued from page 8) Teachers need to proactively share ideas with parents on how to help their kids learn. Dr. Brink articulated his concern that children today are not allowed to fail, and to that end, are not developing lifelong skills that are needed to recover from setbacks. Perhaps today's parents are overly protective and doing far too much for their children?

Today, America's education system is under considerable criticism, based in part on how low our nation's students rank in comparison to those from other countries. In *Race To Nowhere*, this single-minded data-driven ranking system is viewed as the culprit. Determine for yourself. I invite you to view the film (find screenings at [RaceToNowhere.com](http://RaceToNowhere.com)) and if you find the documentary as compelling as I did, then join the campaign for reform.

John Babiak is the parent of three elementary- to middle-school-aged children. He teaches Nature Rangers ecology classes at local schools and leads a summer-long nature day camp at Rocky Mt. Arsenal. Contact [NatureRangerJohn@aol.com](mailto:NatureRangerJohn@aol.com).



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# Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

## The Monarch of All Migrators

Gram for gram, centimeter for centimeter, there is no greater migrator on planet Earth than the monarch butterfly. This insect's amazing annual mass migration is the longest found within the animal kingdom.

Every March, an awakening of biblical proportions occurs within a range of rugged, volcanic mountains northwest of Mexico City. Here in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, an ancient, high-altitude fir and pine forest, spring is in full bloom. The sun's angle and warm air arouses more than 300 million monarchs from their short overwinter siesta. This time, 22 years ago, I stood in the monarch's forest. Every tree, from bottom to top, was blanketed with quaking monarchs. I felt as if I was standing in a children's storybook.

The monarchs' genome directs them to relinquish their tree-limb resting spots, and like a sea of orange and black, the massive colony flows downhill and fills every lowland valley and meadow. The migration begins. The urge to reproduce overwhelms them. They seek out multiple mates and the instinctive ritual begins. The hungry creatures sip water from streams and ponds. They consume energy-packed nectar from blooming wild flowers. Females search for vital milkweed plants for their eggs.

During their pilgrimage, the monarchs will reproduce three more times, producing four generations that sequentially will travel some 2,500 miles over our continent. It is an amazing odyssey that starts in central Mexico, surges across eastern North America, wafts over the Canadian border, and then abruptly makes an about-face and heads south, back to their high-

country winter sanctuary.

For the next six months, this unique species of butterfly will follow the sun's ultraviolet rays and the Earth's geomagnetic field. A navigational compass, built into the monarch's eyes cells orients them to the north, then south. An array of brain cells operates like a circadian clock.

The monarchs that are now leaving the reserve will soar north at the rate of 40 miles per day and will make central Texas and most of the Gulf Coast states by mid-April. They will surrender their lives to our south, while their offspring continue the epic journey northward into the Great Plains and throughout the Mid-Atlantic states. Here generation number two dutifully multiplies and then expires. By August, the third generation is pressing further north into the upper Midwest, our northeast states and across the border into Canada. In the early fall, the final generation emerges. Entomologists refer to this flock as the "super monarchs." Their amped-up bodies can travel the entire span of North America. After flying south for nearly 60 days, they arrive "home" in October, to the same enchanted forest that their bisabuelos (great grandparents) had occupied the year prior. Exhausted, a well-deserved hibernation awaits these voyagers. With their flight plan complete, they will sleep until March.

A few million migrating monarchs will descend on the Front Range region and the prairies to our east in June and again in September. Northbound females will prance from milkweed to milkweed, laying thousands of golden eggs on the undersides of the plants'

leaves. Rice-sized caterpillars soon emerge and begin to devour the leaves. Bitter latex within the plant becomes one with the caterpillars. The toxic milk will serve them well when they grow up and transform into butterflies. Predaceous birds have learned not to eat the very attractive, yet vomit-inducing monarch. The yellow-, black- and white-striped caterpillars grow fat on the leaves and molt five times over. Finally, about 30 days after the eggs were laid, metamorphosis yields the diminutive butterfly that every child knows all too well—the wandering monarch.

To attract monarchs to your backyard habitat, plant a mix of blooming perennials including a butterfly bush, bee balm and purple coneflowers. Nectar-rich annuals such as marigolds and cosmos will lure them too. For those who wish to witness the entire lifecycle, consider planting common milkweed seedlings that you can start indoors this month. They will mature and be in full bloom by June. You can purchase a packet milkweed seed from



Monarch butterfly by Marko Babiak

your favorite garden seed catalog company. Marko and John Babiak are Stapleton residents. Marko, 10, is an avid wildlife photographer. John teaches Nature Rangers ecology classes to students at Steck, Roberts, Westerly Creek and Odyssey and leads a summer-long nature day camp at Rocky Mt. Arsenal. Contact: NatureRangerJohn@aol.com.



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## DENVER METRO EVENTS

## Art Walks:

**3/4 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District.** Santa Fe Drive between 10th and 6th. [www.artdistricton-satafe.com](http://www.artdistricton-satafe.com)

**3/4 Friday- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk.** Tennyson St. and 44th Ave.

**3/4 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District.** [www.cherrycreeknorth.com](http://www.cherrycreeknorth.com)

**3/11 Friday- Aurora's East End Second Friday Art Walk.** Gallery openings, music, theater, food and more. 5–8pm. Start at Fletcher Plaza/MLK Library (E Colfax at Elmira) for map to all venues.

**3/17 Thursday- Highlands Square Third Thursday.** 5pm to close. 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. [www.highlands-square.com](http://www.highlands-square.com)

**Single Volunteers of Greater Denver.** Visit [www.svgd.org](http://www.svgd.org) for volunteer opportunities for singles: local projects, charitable social events and working vacations abroad.

**Through 3/4 - Denver Restaurant Week 2011.** 200 restaurants offer multicourse meals for mile-high price \$52.80 for 2; tax/tip not included. [www.denverrestaurantweek.com](http://www.denverrestaurantweek.com)

**Through 3/6 Sunday- Romeo and Juliet by Colorado Ballet.** [coloradoballet.org](http://coloradoballet.org)

**Through 4/2 - New Perspectives Art Exhibition.** Showcasing 13 artists who explore new outlooks on familiar topics. Translations Gallery, 1743 Wazee St. 303.629.0713

**Through May 8- Story Keeper: Works by Melanie Yazzie.** Denver Botanic Gardens. Exhibition of new work by internationally acclaimed Navajo/Diné Colorado-based artist Melanie Yazzie inspired by plants in the Gardens. 1007 York St. [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**3/2 Wednesday- Lowry Seminar Series, Military Base to New Urban Community.** 7–8:30 pm. Colorado historians Tom Noel and Chuck Woodward walk through Lowry's history with slides and stories. See where your house is now and learn what it may have been. Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St, Lowry. [Sallyk@ecentral.com](mailto:Sallyk@ecentral.com)

**3/3 Thursday to 3/5 Saturday- Solid Gold, An '80s Retrospective.** 2011 Pop Show/Silent Auction. Showtime 7pm, Silent Auction 5:30pm on Fri. and Sat. Tickets: \$10/\$12 students/seniors; \$14/\$18/adults at 720.424.1713 or [www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances](http://www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances). DSA box office open MWF 7:30am–3:30pm. Denver School of the Arts, 7111 Montview Blvd.

**3/4 Friday to 4/26 Tuesday- MOP - The Month of Photography.** RedLine and Colorado photographic community present art photography at over 80 collaborative public events in Denver and surrounding region; museums, galleries and schools employ fine art photography to create exciting artistic and educational events. RedLine art space, 2350 Arapahoe St, will be nerve center with exhibitions, lectures, workshops and more. Opening Night Saturday, March 11, 6–10pm, with performance by Ballet Nouveau. Events free, some with fees or donation requested. 303.296.4448

**3/6 Sunday- Denver School of Rock Benefit**

**Concert for Brent's Place.** 4pm. Twisted Olive in Northfield Stapleton. Tickets: \$8; kids 5 and under free. Brent's Place offers safe, clean lodging so families can be with their immune-compromised children undergoing cancer treatment. Amy Anderson, [berkanderson@hotmail.com](mailto:berkanderson@hotmail.com)

**3/9 Wednesday- League of Women Voters of Denver Briefing on Charter Schools.** What is a charter school and answers to all your questions. 5:45pm, Montview Blvd Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. FREE/open to public. or 303.321.7571

**3/10 Book Signing and Reading.** Dr. Michael Altman, Denver psychiatrist and author, will speak about his debut novel, a psychological thriller, No Simple Highway. 7pm at Tattered Cover LoDo (16th & Wynkoop). FREE; refreshments served. Questions: Dr. Altman at 303.355.8346.

**3/11 Friday- Bill Roberts School Auction, "The Sky's The Limit."** Wings Over the Rockies Museum. Tickets: [www.billrobertspta.com](http://www.billrobertspta.com)

**3/12 Saturday- Get the Job: How to Build an Effective Job Search Strategy.** Strategy goals and research tools to crack the hidden job market. 1–4pm. \$51 or \$39/CFU members. \$5 materials fee, pay in class. Colorado Free Univ. [www.freeu.com](http://www.freeu.com), 303.399.0093

**3/12 Saturday- 49th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.** 10am. Begin in LoDo and through downtown.

**3/13 Sunday- Colorado Symphony Presents Beethoven Upstairs.** Semi-staged concert for families with selections from Beethoven's greatest symphonies. Tickets from \$13, Boettcher Concert Hall, 14th and Curtis, downtown Denver.

**3/14 Monday- One Day Decorating: Discover the Power of Visual Coordination.** Using pieces you have, find out where to place furniture/accessories/artwork and why they need to go where they do. 6:30–9pm. \$46 or \$34/CFU members; \$10 materials fee, pay in class. Colorado Free Univ., 303.399.0093

**3/17 Thursday- Denver School of the Arts Visual Arts Dept. presents its 3rd Quarter Exhibition.** Opening reception, 7–8 p.m. Original drawings, paintings, jewelry and sculpture in main hallways on NW corner, Montview and Quebec.

**3/18 Friday- Westerly Creek School Auction "Pardi Gras."** Summit Conference & Event Center. Tickets: [www.wceauction.com](http://www.wceauction.com)

**3/18 Friday- Carmina Burana presented by Aurora Symphony, Colorado Chorale and 10 Choirs.** Gateway HS Center for Performing Arts, 1300 S Sable Blvd, Aurora. Tickets \$17/adults; \$14/ seniors 62 and older; \$5/18 and under. Tickets: Aurora Symphony Orchestra at 303.873.6622, [www.aurorasymphony.org](http://www.aurorasymphony.org) or Colorado Chorale at 303.929.3463 or [www.colradochorale.org](http://www.colradochorale.org).

## RECURRING EVENTS

## 1st Tuesday

Breast Cancer Support Group 5–6:30pm AF Williams Family Medicine Clinic, Conf Rm. (west entrance) 3055 Roslyn (at MLK) 720-848-9000

## 2nd Tuesday

Parks Advisory Group, 7:30am, 7350 E. 29th Av, 3rd fl. [Lcorrell@dotnet.net](mailto:Lcorrell@dotnet.net)

## 3rd Tuesday

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

## Every Wednesday

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

## 1st Wednesday

"1st Wednesdays" Home-based businesses. Alternates between Lunch & Happy Hour [tbrislina@gmail.com](mailto:tbrislina@gmail.com) [www.stapletonhomebusiness.com](http://www.stapletonhomebusiness.com)

## 2nd Wed. (Odd-numbered mos.)

SUN Transportation Committee 6:30pm MCA 2823 Roslyn St. [stapletonneighbors@msn.com](mailto:stapletonneighbors@msn.com)

## 2nd &amp; 3rd Wednesday

Lowry Peak Speakers Toastmaster Club. Noon–1pm, Pinacol Assurance: 7501 E. Lowry Blvd, Denver 80203 [lowrypeak.freetoasthost.org](mailto:lowrypeak.freetoasthost.org) [lpstoastmasters@gmail.com](mailto:lpstoastmasters@gmail.com)

## 3rd Thursday

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

## 1st Saturday

Bluff Lake Birders, Nature Center 7–9am [BluffLakeNatureCenter.org](http://BluffLakeNatureCenter.org)

Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team 9–12 AM. Contact [Lcorrell@dotnet.net](mailto:Lcorrell@dotnet.net) for location.

## 2nd Saturday

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

## Periodically

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

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**3/18 Friday- Overdue Love Club, Singles Night for Intelligent People.** Meet other singles; indulge in wine and coffee. Michelangelo's Wine and Coffee Bar, every 3rd Fri., 6:30–8pm. 1 S Broadway. Register: 720.865.1206

**3/19-4/17- Colorado Watercolor Society Show and Sale.** Foothills Art Center, 809 15th St., downtown Golden, CO. Opening reception Friday 3/18, 6:30–8:30pm. [www.foothillsartcenter.org](http://www.foothillsartcenter.org)

**3/25 Friday - Tarantella Dance Lessons.** Join Via Mediterranea and Rosanna Juergens for traditional Italian food, wine, music and dancing. 5:30–7pm. \$20/wine/antipasti/lesson. Wash Park Rec Center, 701 S Franklin St. Space limited; register: .

**3/30 Wednesday- The Park People Training for 4/16 Saturday- Plant Trees for Your Neighbors.** 5:30–7pm. Training for volunteers who will deliver and plant trees for elderly and disabled folks who requested trees through Denver Digs Trees but can't plant them themselves on 4/16 when Denver residents get their free/low-cost trees requested through Denver Digs Trees. Learn proper tree planting methods; help others prepare for/make homes for their new street trees. RSVP: [kim@theparkpeople.org](mailto:kim@theparkpeople.org) or 303.722.6262. Location TBA.

**4/1 Friday- Sphere Ensemble Inaugural Concert.** New string chamber orchestra formed by 13 Denver young professional musicians presents its premiere concert with works by Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Mozart and Grieg. 7:30pm. \$15 adult/\$10 students. Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E Hampden. , ,

**4/6 Wednesday- Lowry Seminar Series, Food, Glorious Food!** 7–8:30 pm. They know their food and where it comes from. Sundari Kraft (Sustainable Food), Lisa Rogers (Feed Denver), and Pete Marczyk (Marczyk's Fine Food) take us from soil/seed to store/ table. Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St, Lowry. [sallyk@ecentral.com](mailto:sallyk@ecentral.com)

**4/7 Thursday to 4/10 Sunday- Just Between Friends of Denver Kids' Gear & Clothing Sale.** Largest kids' gear/clothing resale event; 80,000 items at 50–90% below retail. National Western Complex, 1-70 & Brighton Blvd. Thurs.–Fri. 10am–7pm. \$1 admission; FREE with Front Porch listing. Sat. 10am–4pm, Military Appreciation Day; 25% off most items. Sun. 10am–4pm, 50% off most items. or 303.884.9198

**4/16 Saturday and 4/17 Sunday- Doors Open Denver, "Modern Architecture: 50s & Beyond."** FREE citywide annual architecture and design event. Access to distinctive examples of modern architecture, engineering and design. Tailor your own tour at [www.DenverGov.org/DoorsOpenDenver](http://www.DenverGov.org/DoorsOpenDenver).

**Live Music at The Soiled Dove.** One of Denver's best live music venues located at 7401 E 1st Ave, Lowry. Tickets: [www.soileddove.com](http://www.soileddove.com)

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**3/8 Tuesday- Estrogen Fights Cancer and Alzheimer's?!** Have your menopausal cake and eat it too! Find out how! FREE. Carrie Louise Daenell, ND, LiveWell Center, 255 Detroit St. 303.399.8050.

**3/16 Wednesday- Because Life Happens.** Find out what happens to your precious life gift after you give blood. Program and tour of Bonfils lab facilities. RSVP: , 303.739.4000. 717 Yosemite. 4–5 pm. FREE.

**3/28 Monday- (3 Mondays) The True Simplicity of Meditation.** Get clear, simple view of meditation; time-tested techniques to practice it effectively in very first session. 7–9pm. \$61 or \$49/CFU members. \$15 materials fee, pay in class. Colorado Free Univ. , 303.399.0093. Visit [www.freeu.com](http://www.freeu.com) for information on this and other Free U classes.

## LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

**Active Minds – Info on all sessions, FREE.**

**3/8 Tuesday- Future of Education in America.** 12:30–1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax Ave.

**3/10 Thursday- Somalia.** 7–8pm. Potluck dinner before presentation at 6pm. Bring dish to share; utensils/plates/beverages provided. 2823 Roslyn St.

**3/14 Monday- California.** 2:30–3:30pm. , 6800 Leetsdale Dr. RSVP: 303.331.9963

**3/15 Tuesday- Hopelessly Romantic, European Composers of the 19th Century.** 11am–12pm (10:45/refreshments). , 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi: 303.388.4013 x307

**3/22 Tuesday- The Civil War, Cause and Effects.** 5:30–6:30pm. , 2526 E Colfax Ave.

## LIBRARIES

**For info on library programs, check events calendar at [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org).**

**Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720.865.0250. Closed Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.**

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

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

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

**Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St (1st and Quebec). 720.865.0000. Closed Wednesdays and Fridays.**

**Tuesdays- All Ages Storytime.** 10:30am

**Thursdays- Bookbabies.** 10:30am

**3/13 Sunday- Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History.** 2pm. Celebrate Women's History Month and the women, well-behaved and not, who made history in Colorado. Presented by Fairmount Heritage Foundation volunteers Joan & Garry O'Hara.

**3/19 Saturday- Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Yoga, But Were Afraid to Ask.** 10am. Michelle Corriell, owner of neighborhood studio Harmony Yoga answers questions about yoga and does some yoga basics. Bring questions, blanket, mat, or towel; wear comfortable clothing.

**3/21 Monday- Get Your Groove On.** 6pm. Learn to make healthy lifestyle changes with Melissa Anderson, Certified Personal Trainer and Licensed Sports Nutritionist.

**3/27 Sunday- Polaris: DPL's New Catalog.** 2pm. Placing holds now easier, more fun! Learn to search new online catalog, place holds, track your reading history and more!

**4/3 Sunday- The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. You Think You Know Colorado History?** 2pm. Denver citizens Speer, Iliff, Lowry, Elitch, Boettcher, and Griffith are well-known in Colorado history. Hear stories about them that didn't make it into your history books! Presented by Fairmount Heritage Foundation Volunteer Tom Morton.

## To submit information for the Front Porch "Local Event" Listings

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

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

Press releases for suggested stories should be sent separately to [FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com](mailto:FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com)

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

**Through 3/11- Louisville Winterskate.** Outdoor ice skating with Friday night carriage rides. Call for hours: 303.449.3137. 824 Front St, Louisville.

**Through 3/11- Flatiron Crossing Winterskate.** Outdoor rink outside the mall. Call for hours: 303.449.3137,

**3/3 Thursday to 4/23 Saturday- The Day It Snowed Tortillas.** Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446 [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)

**3/5 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshop.** 9am–12pm. FREE how-to clinics the first Saturday of month for kids ages 5–12. Each child receives a Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro area Home Depot stores.

**3/5 Saturday- Jewish Children's Activities.** First Sat. every month little ones dance, sing, hear a story, craft and play at monthly Shabbat experience, Me'at Shabbat. 9–10am. FREE. Temple Micah, 2600 Leyden St, Park Hill. 303.388.4239,

**Beginning 3/5- Vintage Theatre Youth Program.** Ages 9–17. Classes Saturdays from 12:30–3:30pm at Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. Register:

**3/6 Sunday- Target Family Fun Forum.** Families move from room to room and learn to walk the tightrope, juggle, sing an aria. Everyone earns tokens redeemable for fun prizes. 12–2pm. FREE. Robert and Judi Newman Center for Theater Education, 1101 13th Street. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**3/9 Wednesday- "Create Playdates" at Denver Art Museum.** 2nd Wed. 3-5 year olds can meet other tots for art making, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum adm.; 5 and under free. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org) or 720.865.5000 (continued on page 18)

# DMIS Summer Camp



**This summer, give your children the world!**

Denver 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 tae kwon do, basketball, soccer, tennis, and, lacrosse. Fine arts camps in arts and crafts, music, dance, and drama.

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[www.cleanairlawncarecherrycreek.com](http://www.cleanairlawncarecherrycreek.com)



(continued from page 17)

**3/12 Saturday and 3/26 Saturday- Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics.** Bring the kids into any Lowe's store to build a FREE wooden project. Each kid receives free apron, goggles, project-themed patch and certificate of merit upon project completion. 10am, 2nd and 4th Saturday of month. [www.lowes-buildandgrow.com](http://www.lowes-buildandgrow.com)

**Thursdays in March- Star K Kids.** Puppets, stories, activities and outdoor exploration for ages 5 and under. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. 303.739.2428

**Tiny Tots Love Music, Denver Brass.** Special concert for tiny tots and parents; introduce joy and magic of live music. Various dates/locations. Tickets:

Aurora Fox Theater- Registering for drama classes. Ages 4 and up. Lisa Mumpton: 303.739.1573 or

**Through 4/16, Saturday- The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley.** Tickets \$8-10. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., 720.898.7200

**Art Students League of Denver-** Registering programs for kids and teens. 303.778.6990 or [www.ASLD.org](http://www.ASLD.org)

**Small Hands Art Studio-** Registering for spring classes. Located in Stapleton! [www.smallhandsart.com](http://www.smallhandsart.com)

**The Art Garage-** Registering for workshops/classes ages 4 and up. 6100 E 23rd Ave, Park Hill. [www.artgaragedenver.com](http://www.artgaragedenver.com)

## MUSEUMS

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Montview and Colorado Blvd.** [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**3/17 Thursday- Science Lounge.** Cocktails and entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers

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

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

## NORTHFIELD EVENTS

**Bass Pro Events -720.385.3600, [www.BassPro.com](http://www.BassPro.com)**

3/2 - Wednesday - How to Use Fish Finders and What's New! (every Wed. in March)

3/2 - Wednesday - The Basics of Shotgunning

3/2 - Wednesday - Trout Fishing in the Rocky Mountains (every Wed. in March)

3/3 - Thursday - Fishing for Walleyes (every Thurs. in March)

3/3 - Thursday - Learning to use GPS (every Thurs. in March)

3/4 - Friday - Hunting Wild Turkeys (every Fri. in March)

3/5, 3/6 - Saturday, Sunday - Spring Fishing Classic

3/8 - Tuesday - Get Hooked on Flytying for Beginners (also 3/15 and 3/22)

3/10 - Thursday - Hunters Education 2011 (Internet-based)

3/12, 3/13 - Saturday, Sunday - Spring Fishing Classic

3/19 - Saturday - Basic Handgun Safety

3/20 - Sunday - GPS and Map & Compass Clinic

**Harkins Theatres 18- 720.374.3118, [www.HarkinsTheatres.com](http://www.HarkinsTheatres.com)**

3/4 - Friday - The Adjustment Bureau, Rango

3/11 - Friday - Red Riding Hood, Mars Needs Moms 3D

3/18 - Friday - Limitless, The Lincoln Lawyer

3/25 - Friday - Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2: Roderick Rules, Sucker Punch

**Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre - Tickets: 303.307.1777 [www.ImprovDenver.com](http://www.ImprovDenver.com)**

3/2, Wednesday - Denver Improv's Great MC Contest

3/3-2/7, Thursday-Sunday - Roy Wood Jr.

3/10-3/13, Thursday-Sunday - Ian Baggett

3/16, Wednesday - Denver Improv's Great MC Contest

3/18-3/19, Friday-Saturday - Cedric the Entertainer

3/31-4/3, Thursday-Sunday - Bryan Callen

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Reservations required for these programs. 303.289.0930. To get to refuge, take I-70, exit north on Havana St, enter at 56th and Havana. Free unless noted. **Refuge Hours: Tuesdays to Sundays, 7am-5pm. Visitor Center Hours: Tuesdays to Sundays, 9am-4pm.**

**Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays- Wild Rides.** 9:30-11:30am. 2-hour guided viewing tour.

**3/1 Tuesday - Tuesday Tots: Hiding in Plain Sight.** 10-11am. Animals play hide-and-seek using body colors and textures. Learn how a fawn's spots help it hide, why caterpillars are green, where best hiding spots are! Young naturalists 2-5 years old. Parent/guardian must accompany all children. Repeats 3/22

**3/3 Thursday - Zoom in on Birds.** 9am-noon. Bring camera and zoom lens to focus on seasonal feathered friends and how to identify them.

**3/12 Saturday - Seasonal Photo Tour.** 3-6pm. As seasons change, so does the Refuge's landscape and wildlife. Capture wondrous moments through your camera. Repeats 3/20, Sunday.

**3/17 Thursday - Bison Anniversary Tour.** 9-11am. Anniversary celebration! Four years ago, 16 American bison returned to the Refuge and grown to a herd of nearly 50! Special bison tour followed with refreshments.

**3/26 Saturday - Waterfowl ID.** 8-10am. Explore waterfowl habitats; learn to identify various species with help of a local birder. Binoculars recommended.

## SPORTS AND FITNESS

**3/6 Sunday- That Dam Run 1/2 marathon, 5K and 1K family fun run.** Cherry Creek State Park, 10am.

**3/13 Sunday- Running of the Green Lucky 7K run/walk.** Benefits Volunteers of America. Lodo,

## THEATER

**Through 3/6- The Wedding Singer.** Aurora Fox Theatre, 9900 E Colfax, Aurora. 303.739.1970, [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org)

**3/11 Friday to 4/3 Sunday- K2.** Aurora Fox Theatre, 9900 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. 303.739.1970

**Through 3/20- Equus.** Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, [www.vintagetheatre.com](http://www.vintagetheatre.com)

**Through 3/26- Harvey.** Presented by Spotlight Theatre Company at John Hand Theater, 7653 E 1st Pl, Lowry. 720.880.8727,

**Through 3/27- In Search of Eckstine, A Love Story.** Shadow Theatre, but check for performance site. 720.857.8000, [www.shadowtheatre.com](http://www.shadowtheatre.com)

**4/1 Friday to 5/1 Sunday- The Dixie Swim Club.** Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, [www.vintagetheatre.com](http://www.vintagetheatre.com)

**Through 4/2 Saturday- The B Team.** Avenue Theater, 417 E 17th Ave. 303.321.5925, [www.avenuetheater.com](http://www.avenuetheater.com)

## More Events...

### March 5-Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team Clean-up

A new name for stalwart community members who meet monthly to do cleanups at Westerly Creek, Bluff Lake or Sand Creek Greenway: the Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team.

On Saturday, March 5, the team (continued on page 19)

## Lenten & Special Events

Ash Wednesday Service-March 9, 6pm

Palm Sunday Services-April 17, 9 & 11am  
Followed by a children's Easter Egg Event  
Open to the public, 12:30pm

Maundy Thursday Seder-April 21, 6pm  
RSVP to [ricki@phumc.org](mailto:ricki@phumc.org) by April 15

Good Friday Service-April 22, 7pm

Easter Sunday Services-April 24, 9 & 11am

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## 2ND TUESDAY'S FREE LECTURE SERIES

**Space is Limited, Call Now to Register: 303.399.8050**

**Estrogen Fights Cancer and Alzheimers?!**

**Tuesday, March 8, 6:30pm**

**In-depth Hormone Balance discussion**

**Wednesday, March 23, 11:55am-It's Your Business, Channel 7**

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## More Events *(continued from p. 18)*

will meet at the trailhead of Sand Creek Greenway for a cleanup from 9am–12pm. Starbucks donates coffee to get the group started and all are welcome to join in the effort. Take Havana to Smith Rd. and go east on Smith Rd. approximately one-half mile until it dead ends at the trailhead. Walkers can cut across Westerly Creek North and walk across the pedestrian bridge to the Sand Creek Greenway trailhead. The group's activities will be expanded at times to pull weeds, plant trees and beaver-proof trees, as well as pick up trash. Team members determine which activities they will participate in. For more info, contact Lucia Correll at Lcorrell@dotnet.net.

### March 6—Denver School of Rock Benefit Concert for Brent's Place

Come and rock it to the beats of the popular Denver School of Rock Band at 4pm on Sunday, March 6. This family concert will raise funds for very special kids and a place that is essential to their recovery from cancer. Brent's Place is the only hospital-approved "Safe-Clean" housing facility for immune-compromised patients and their families that bridges the gap between hospital and home. Created by the family of Brent Eley, who were unable to be together during their son's difficult cancer treatment, families can now stay together in 16 fully furnished apartments near the Anschutz Medical Campus and six apartments at 17th and Marion St. that are free from dander, dust, mold and other infectious agents.

The Twisted Olive in Northfield Stapleton is hosting this important but definitely fun event. Tickets are \$8 and kids 5 and under are free. Contact Amy Anderson at berkander-son@hotmail.com. Learn more about Brent's Place at [www.brentsplace.org](http://www.brentsplace.org) and Denver School of Rock at [www.schoolofrock.com](http://www.schoolofrock.com).

### March 11—Free Medical Screenings at DSST

Students from the Anschutz Medical Campus, including SNPhA (Student National Pharmacy Association) and BRANCH (Bridging Research and Aurora Neighborhoods for Community Health), aided by students from the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST), will provide free health screenings on Friday, March 11 from 1–6pm. The screenings include glucose and cholesterol (recommend 8-hour fast prior for most accurate results, if possible), blood pressure and osteoporosis.

DSST student Humberto Escobedo is interested in health issues important to teens and their families and is organizing presentations to be given by DSST students. Health-related computer touch screen programs will be available for elementary-school students who attend with their families. The event will take place at DSST located at 2000 Valentia Street. For more information contact Monica Evans at Monica.Evans@ucdenver.edu or DSST at 303.320.5570.

### March 19—Free Women's Self-Defense Class at the Police Academy

The Denver Police Department will hold a free women's self defense class on Saturday, March 19 from 9am to 1pm. The class is for girls and women ages 12 and up (under 18 must have a parent present to sign a waiver for them; waivers can be picked up in advance).

Topics include awareness, attitude and demeanor, understanding predators and psychological aspects of violent encounters plus physiology when confronted with fear-inducing situations. Also included will verbal skills, balance/movement, personal body weapons and defense against chokes and grabs. Participants should wear workout-type clothes and shoes (no slip-on shoes) and bring water. Those physically unable to do the hands-on portion are still welcome to attend.

The class will be held at the Denver Police Academy, 2155 N. Akron Way. Pre-registration is suggested as class size is limited. For more information call Cpl. Richard Stensgaard at 303.370.1517.

## I know what you're thinking!



At-large City Councilman Doug Linkhart (left) and District 11 City Councilman Michael Hancock (right), both mayoral candidates, flank current Denver Mayor Bill Vidal as they sit on the interactive public art called "Thought Balloons" on opening day at the Central Park Recreation Center. The pub-

lic art, on display just inside the entrance to the new recreation center, features ever-changing thought bubbles that appear above the heads of those seated on the bench. "Thought Bubbles" was created and made by artists Marek Walczak and Wesley Heiss.



## Challenges with Reading, Attention, or Math?



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# Local Artists Selected for Watercolor Show



Park Hill artist Nancy Priest shows her painting, *Spirit of Competition*, that will be on display at the free and open to the public 2011 State Watermedia Show at Foothills Art Center in Golden. The exhibition and sale run from March 18, 2011 to April 17, 2011.

By Carol Roberts

Three local artists' paintings, chosen from over 300 entries, were selected to be in the upcoming 2011 State Watermedia Exhibition. Nancy Priest and Carolyn Martyn, both of Park Hill, are the co-chairs of the show. With nationally-acclaimed artist Soon Warren as juror of the show, "Being picked is an honor," says Priest.

Priest has lived in Park Hill for 44 years and taught drama at George Washington High School for 33 years. In Priest's years working as a drama teacher at George Washington she produced 133 shows. Among her responsibilities were teaching scenic design and costuming and supervising production of backdrops that were 18 feet by 40 feet. "In comparison," she says, "a 26 by 30 inch paint-

ing like the carousel in *'Spirit of Competition'* doesn't seem very big."

"There's a theatrical input that you can see in my paintings—something connected to my past. I frequently do collages—combining images. I switched from watercolor to acrylic so now my images are more colorful." Priest goes on to say that *Spirit of Competition* is based on a photo of the Loeffe Carousel in Spokane, Washington, a beautifully preserved turn-of-the-century carousel. Priest can be reached at NanEPriest@gmail.com.

Another Park Hill resident, Terrie Cooke, had her painting, *Staghorn Wand*, selected for the show. Cooke says she only paints in watercolor and all her paintings are about plants and nature. *Staghorn Wand* is a unique tropical plant she found and photographed in Key West, FL.

Cooke was born and raised in northern Colorado and early in life developed a respect for the land and the beauty of nature. She majored in fine art with an emphasis in watercolor at the University of Northern Colorado, but then "life got in the way of painting." Cooke took "a few years off" (18 years to be exact) to raise kids and pur-

sue a career as an administrator in the Denver County Court System. She still maintains that career but at last has time for painting. "Painting is my passion, my stress reliever. It's what I want to do

when I retire. In my paintings I strive for good composition and interesting detail." Her work can be seen at www.terriecooke.fineartworld.com.

Stapleton artist David Gardner was born in the northeast part of England and still has a charming British accent to show his roots, though he moved to the US in 1984 (and lived in Canada prior to that). "I look for design and shapes and use strong color to accentuate the design and shapes," he says. He finds inspiration in everything from old agricultural and farm equipment to mechanical items like scales, but also in Colorado landscapes, such as ranches or old mining buildings in Park County. His painting selected for the Watermedia Exhibition, called *Agrisculpture III*, is a bit of an old abandoned thrashing machine he saw along the road.

"I loved painting as a kid, but a decade or two went by that I didn't paint." Those decades in his life were devoted to oral pathology. Gardner started out as a dentist, then became a specialist in diseases of the mouth. He has been a professor of Oral Pathology at the University of Colorado Dental School, where he also saw patients and "spent time at the microscope."

He is a signature member of the Colorado Watercolor Society—to gain that status an artist's paintings must be chosen for at least three of their shows. His work can be seen at Art and Framing at Stapleton in the 29th Ave. Town Center and online at www.825art.com.

The Colorado Watercolor Society's 2011 State Watermedia Exhibition will be held at Foothills Art Center, 809 15th St., Golden, from March 19 to April 17. The opening reception is March 18, 6:30 – 8:30pm. Admission is \$5 adults/\$3 seniors/students and members free. SCFD free day is April 16 from 11am to 2pm. For more information visit FoothillsArtCenter.org.



Agrisculpture III was painted by David Gardner of Stapleton.



Staghorn Wand was painted by Terrie Cooke of Park Hill.

## Neighborhood Health Summit

(continued from p. 12) mass index for 10- to 14-year-old youth, and means by which children travel to/from school are described on the 2040 website (www.2040partnersforhealth.org) or can be directly obtained from Kyla Krause at krausek@2040Health.org or 303.468.3246

Stephanie Phibbs from the University of Colorado reviewed the "Society of the Youth" study. Children, particularly from our underserved neighborhoods communicated that they would be more active if: 1) neighborhood school playgrounds were opened for public use and play, 2) parents or an adult joined the children as a patrol person to counteract any intimidating behavior from other youth, 3) there were more "free-day" programs in neighborhood recreation centers and 4) there were more interesting and challenging play structures in community play grounds to engage children. These study

results will now serve as a blueprint, in part, to make neighborhood-based physical activities safer, free of charge and fun for children.

Dr. Halliday concluded the summit with a 45-minute lecture in which he described efforts by the Surgeon General's Office and the First Lady, Michele Obama to promote exercise, proper nutrition education and healthier eating. Today, over 20 percent of Colorado's 10- to 14-year-old youth are obese. On the morning of the conference, Halliday toured each of the five neighborhoods. He met with study participants and neighborhood improvement advocates. He commended their efforts to promote healthier lifestyles for children and adults alike. "Health and nutrition messages developed in a community for that specific community are best received and most likely to be successful in lowering our growing childhood obesity rates," said Halliday.

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**Altogether Outdoors-** Day camp for ages 5-11; \$320-\$345/week; discounts, flexible payment plans, scholarships available. Stapleton's only ACA Accredited Camp and partner of MCA.AO Camps provide authentic nature-based experiences for children; exploration, choice and play. Campers climb, hike, fish, sing, do team-building, make crafts, and have fun in best natural areas around. Central pickup/drop-off at Stapleton and Lowry. 720-249-2997, [www.aocamps.com](http://www.aocamps.com), [info@aocamps.com](mailto:info@aocamps.com)

**Aurora Fox Drama Classes and Camps-** For kids ages 4 and up, June and July. Participation in the performing arts builds muscles brains and self esteem. Classes include No Fear Shakespeare, Audition Techniques, Broadway Bound and more. Contact Lisa Mumpton, Director of Educational Theatre at 303.739.1973 or [lmumpton@aurora.gov](mailto:lmumpton@aurora.gov) for more info. visit [www.auroragov.org](http://www.auroragov.org) and click on parks and rec, then leisure guide for a detailed listing of classes. for more info on the Aurora Fox visit [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org)

**Aurora Recreation Summer Camps-** Various locations. Sessions include Art, Drama, Music, Camp Cook A Munga, Hanna Montana Camp, Star K Kids Nature Camp, Junior Golf Camp, Astronomy Camp, Gymnastics, Pre-Teen Adventures, Sports Camps, Therapeutic Recreation & more; ages 3-14. [www.auroragov.org/recreation](http://www.auroragov.org/recreation) or 303-326-8560

**Baby Power & Forever Kids Camps-** (Quebec Square-7505 E 35th Ave, Ste 330), ages 2-6 years, June 1 to August 12 - On break July 4. MWF morning class for 2-4-year-olds, 8:30-11:30am and a MWF afternoon class for 3-6-year-olds, 12:30-3:30pm. Entire summer \$800. Monthly \$300 or 2-week sessions for \$150. Ask about our limited all-day Tu/Thur option. Program includes our preschool curriculum, gym time, music, crafts, centers and more. 303-377-8855 or [www.baby-powerco.com](http://www.baby-powerco.com)

**Bladium Sports Camp-** Ages 5-12, May 30-August 7. Full day/Full week \$250; Half Day/Full Week \$195. Day full of high-energy games and sports; now includes healthy lunches from Revolution Foods. Contact: Katie McAdams, 303.320.3033 or [denverkids@bladium.com](mailto:denverkids@bladium.com). 2400 Central Park Blvd.

**Big Bear Ice Arena-** Hockey and figure skating camps/programs on various dates. Located in Lowry.[www.bigbearice.com](http://www.bigbearice.com)

**Denver Botanic Gardens Garden Camps-** Ages 6-15; various sessions through summer. Discover wonders of plant world as you plant, paint, eat, dig and discover your way through the Gardens. 1007 York St. 720.865.3580; [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org); [registrar@botanicgardens.org](mailto:registrar@botanicgardens.org)

**Bluff Lake Summer Day Camps-** (near MLK Blvd and Havana); ages 6-10. Full-Day Camps (9am-3pm): June 13-17, July 11-15, August 1-5. Half-Day Camps (9am-12pm): June 20-24, July 18-22, Aug. 8-12. This summer, Bluff Lake Nature Center offers 3 exciting new programs: "Animal Superheroes," "Front Range Detectives" and "Aqua Quest." Full-Day Camps: \$230/BLNC members, \$250/nonmembers. Half-Day Camps: \$130/BLNC members, \$150/nonmembers. (Addi-



## 2011 Summer Camp Guide

tional discounts for multiple children/ multiple camps) [www.blufflakenaturecenter.org](http://www.blufflakenaturecenter.org), or Lisa Chickos, Educ. Dir., 303.344.1649 or [lichickos@blufflake.org](mailto:lichickos@blufflake.org)

**Chess Academy of Denver Chess Camps -** 17th Annual Denver Rocky Mountain Chess Camps: June 13-17 (Englewood) - full and half-day options - and July 11-13 (Denver). All abilities/ages. 8:1 staff-student ratio. Five 2-day chess camps also offered through the summer in Englewood for specific ability levels. Participants taught scorekeeping, etiquette, tournament preparation, logical thinking and strategic planning for all phases of game. 303.770.6696 or [www.ColoradoMasterChess.com](http://www.ColoradoMasterChess.com)

**Summer Junior Golf Camps-** The First Tee of Denver provides instruction at 5 locations: City Park, Wellshire, Willis Case, Kennedy and Aqua Golf. All ability levels, ages 4 and up. [www.thefirstteeof-denver.com](http://www.thefirstteeof-denver.com).

**Colorado Fusion Soccer Club Summer Camps-** Day and evening soccer skills camps for boys/girls at Cranmer Park in Denver and Olympic Park in Aurora, and Steele Elem. School. Kids ages 4-14 through the summer from \$60-\$200. [www.ColoradoFusion.org](http://www.ColoradoFusion.org). Contacts: 4-8-yr-olds, Hannah Krieger at [hannah@coloradofusion.org](mailto:hannah@coloradofusion.org); 8-14-yr-olds, Terrance Gunnells at [Terrance\\_Gunnells@coloradofusion.org](mailto:Terrance_Gunnells@coloradofusion.org), 303.399.5858.

**Colorado Heritage Camps, Inc.-** Overnight Family Camps, 3 years-adult; \$95-\$125 per person, plus lodging fees. Camps specialize in cultural and family-related experiences for children adopted internationally or transracially, and their families. [www.heritagecamps.org](http://www.heritagecamps.org) for dates of each of following camps: African/Caribbean; Cambodian; Chinese; Indian/Nepalese; Filipino; Korean; Latin American; Russian/Eastern European/Central Asian; Vietnamese. 303.320.4234, [info@heritage-camps.org](mailto:info@heritage-camps.org), 2052 Elm St.

**Colorado Rapids Academy Soccer Camps-** Development camps for players of all abilities,

boys/girls ages 8-14. Dates: June 6-9, June 27-30, July 11-14. Cost: \$175-\$295. Elite Preseason Camp for players on a competitive team, ages 11 and up for 2011/2012 season. Dates: July 26-28. Cost: \$195. Striker and Goalkeeper Camp. Ages 8-14. Dates: May 23-25. Cost: \$195. Goalkeeper Camp. Ages 8-18. Dates: June 21, 28; July 5, 12, 19. Cost: \$210. All camps at Dick's Sporting Goods Park, 6000 Victory Way, Commerce City. Register: [www.ColoradoRapids.com/Academy](http://www.ColoradoRapids.com/Academy), 303.727.3575 or [rapid-sacademy@dsgpark.com](mailto:rapid-sacademy@dsgpark.com)

**Commerce City Recreation Center Summer Camp-** Ages 5-15. (2 Commerce City locations) Separate camps for ages 5-10 and 11-15. May 31-Aug. 5; \$120 per camper per week for residents, \$145/week for nonresidents. Youth camp, ages 5-10, held at Recreation Center, 6060 E Parkway Drive; features activities, games, crafts, exercise and field trips. Teen Scene camp, ages 11-15, offered at Rec

Left: Nature Rangers Environmental Education Summer Day Camp

Center and Second Creek Elem. School, 9950 Laredo Drive. Teen Scene features field trips and off-site activities. Summer Camp hours: 7 am-6 pm. Register: [www.c3gov.com](http://www.c3gov.com) or 303-289-3702.

**Dance Institute Summer Camp-** Offers fun, educational and affordable dance camps for ages 4 and up. Weeklong and divided by age and abilities. Full and 1/2 day camps available starting mid-July. [www.DanceInstituteDenver.com](http://www.DanceInstituteDenver.com) for complete schedule and pricing. Creating skills and memories that last a lifetime. 4601 Quebec St C8 & C9. 303-525-0011

**Dardano's School of Gymnastics Adventure Camp-** Ages 3-5 1/2 years, boys/girls. Two 4-week sessions begin June 6 and July 11, Mon.-Thur. 9:30am-12:30 pm. Flexible scheduling. Combines gymnastics with enrichment activities, arts & crafts, games and more. Each week activities focus on different theme such as Treasure Hunt, Outer Space, Beach Party and Dinosaur Days. Sign up by day, week or full session. 303.355.0080 or [www.dardanosgym.com](http://www.dardanosgym.com), 2250 Kearney St., Park Hill.

**Denver Art Museum Classes & Day Camps-** Ages 4-11 June 7-August 5. Half-day classes \$85, full-day camps \$225. Registration begins March 16. Kids explore the museum, then paint, print, mold, sculpt, drip and splatter up some fun. Denver Art Museum, 100 W. 14th Ave. Parkway. 720-865-5000, [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org).

**Denver Language School Spanish and Mandarin Immersion Camps-** 8am-12pm with several vendors in afternoon to provide parents with full day care. Open to the community for all incoming kindergarten to third-grade children. In Lowry at 451 Newport St. Camps (cont. on p.24)



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Community Recreation Summer Day Camp

(continued from p. 21) June 20 – July 15 from 8-12 and 1-5. Lunch care provided. [www.myenrichment.com](http://www.myenrichment.com), select Denver Language School. [mkilling@myenrichment.com](mailto:mkilling@myenrichment.com), 303.872.0782.

**Denver Montclair International School Summer Camp-** Lowry-206 Red Cross Way. Ages 3-12, June 13-Aug. 20. Week-long day camps in languages (French, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese), sports, cultural exploration and creative arts. Register: [www.dnmschool.com](http://www.dnmschool.com) or 303.340.3647

**Denver Museum of Nature & Science Camps-** Numerous options ranging from week-long half-day to week-long full-day camps, for ages 4 to grade 6. Register online or forms on website to mail to museum or call 303-370-6000. [www.dnms.org](http://www.dnms.org) Go to Learn, Families & Children, Summer Camps. Questions: 303-370-8225

**Denver Zoo Summer Safari 2011: Zooper Heroes-** Will get kids out of classroom and into the wild, as we explore our connections to nature. Uncover environmental challenges that face animals today; take steps to make a difference in the world you share. Summer Safari is a fun-filled educational experience for animal lovers from Pre-K through 8th grade. Hands-on activities, zoo exploration, animal encounters and observations, crafts, games, stories, projects, and more. [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org) under education and child & family programs

**Dramatic Adventures Super Hero Camp-** Create your own secret identity, superhero mask and costume as you meet notorious villains who will challenge you to face incredible obstacles. Class will help you uncover practical everyday problem-solving skills you will need to battle problems like a champion. Erect a powerful force field that protects



Colorado Rapids Academy Soccer Camp

you as you are confronted by Mean Mouth Mary...who tries to freeze you with hurtful words. Combine life skills with creative dramatics as you explore your superhero identity through theater, games, story, art, music and more. Bring family/friends to graduation ceremony, 7/18-7/22, 9am -12pm Odyssey School. [www.myenrichment.com](http://www.myenrichment.com) for cost and register.

**Dream Big Day Camp-** Traditional day camp offering 3-week, full-day sessions for kids ages 4-current 4th grade. \$465/week. Camp held at Steck-Hill Campus, 4th and Bellaire. Mini camp for 4- and 5-year-olds, 9-12:30. Specialty sports camps available. [www.dreambigdaycamp.com](http://www.dreambigdaycamp.com)

**George Gwozdecky Summer Hockey Camp-** (Ritchie Center on U. of Denver campus) Girls/boys, ages 6-15, three 1-week sessions from July 11-29, \$420-\$595/week depending on age group. [www.gghockeycamp.com](http://www.gghockeycamp.com)

**Green Valley Ranch Metropolitan District "Beyond the Rainbow" Summer Youth Camp-** June 1-August 12. 7 am-6pm. Cost starts at \$145/week. Also \$25 registration fee, 10% sibling discounts. Registration includes variety of activities, free lunch, afternoon snacks, 2 fun-filled field trips per week, memorable camp T-shirt and wristband. Open registration held Friday, April 1, 5-8pm at admin building at 18650 E. 45th Ave. To sign up: La Vetta Murray, 303-307-3243 or email [youth@gvrmetrodistrict.com](mailto:youth@gvrmetrodistrict.com). [www.gvrmetrodistrict.com](http://www.gvrmetrodistrict.com)

**Gymnastics Plus Summer Camps** (6180 E Warren Ave), ages 3-10, June 20-August 5, offering 6 one-week, half-day camps (8:30am to 1pm). Gymnastics, arts & crafts, different themes weekly, special camp shows with awards. 303-512-0799 or [www.colorado-gymplus.com](http://www.colorado-gymplus.com)

**JA Business Week-** 10th-12th graders, June 12-17; \$250, scholarships available. Compete in an "Apprentice" style project for companies like Jamba Juice and learn from business professionals from Denver metro area. Stay in real college dorms, meet new friends from all over Colorado while building confidence, leadership skills and an entrepreneurial spirit. Applications and info: [jabusinesweek.org](http://jabusinesweek.org) or call Junior Achievement at 303-628-7372. Location: Johnson & Wales University - Denver Campus in Park Hill.

**Jewish Community Center Camp-** MACC Art Academy, Wolf Theatre Academy, Sports, Tennis and swim camps as well as Camp Shalom for ages 2-5. 350 S. Dahlia. Visit [www.jccdenver.org/camps](http://www.jccdenver.org/camps) for camp info and other locations or call (303) 316-6307.

**KC Kids Summer Theme Camps, Denver Public Schools 2011-** Ages 3-11, June 6-July 29, \$175/week; field trips included. Held at Bromwell, Sandoval, Southmoor and Westerly Creek Elem. Schools. Each week has different theme. Registration begins 3/1: 720.424.8291. Contact: Kelly, 720.424.8260 or [kelly\\_burdick@dpsk12.org](mailto:kelly_burdick@dpsk12.org)

**kidstheatrewest-** Theatre camp for young actors ages 4-17 featuring full productions! This summer will present *Alice in Wonderland*, *Cinderella*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Aladdin* and others. Camps from June 6- August 6 in Denver. 303- 507-7424 or [www.kidstheatrewest.com](http://www.kidstheatrewest.com)

**The Logan School Summer Camp-** Hands-on, experiential-based program that takes many field trips to live life to fullest. Camp groups focus on a unique topic each week. With 3 different age groups, campers enjoy age-appropriate activities that stimulate adventure, learning and laughter. Camp runs June 6-July 29 in 1-week increments. Prices range \$290-\$390 per week with discounts for multiple weeks. Day and overnight camps available. Located in Lowry area. [www.thelogschool.org](http://www.thelogschool.org) - "admissions" link or 303-340-2444 ext 112. Joel Michor, Director.

**Metro State Soccer Youth Day Camp-** July 11-15 2011 for boys/girls ages 6-14. Cost: \$200 or \$175 if registered by May 1. Includes camp T-shirt. Ultimate goal of our programs is to provide each player tools to become a more complete player and have fun. Contact: Adrianne Almaraz, director, at [aalmaraz@mscd.edu](mailto:aalmaraz@mscd.edu), 303-556-4874 or register at [www.MetroStateSoccerCamps.com](http://www.MetroStateSoccerCamps.com). Held on Auraria Campus soccer fields, downtown Denver across from Pepsi Center.

**Mike Giles Family Karate Summer Camp-** (Ages 3-9) June 20-24 and July 11-15, \$125/week. Times: 9am - 12pm or 1-4pm. In Stapleton's Quebec Square. 303-377-5425, [www.mikegileskarate.com](http://www.mikegileskarate.com) or [mikegileskarate@comcast.net](mailto:mikegileskarate@comcast.net)

**Mizel Museum - Creative Journeys Camps -** Creative Journeys Artist-in-Residence Camps are affordable 1-week sessions beginning May 23, held in the museum's new permanent exhibit, 4,000 Year Road Trip: Gathering Sparks. Each week is a dynamic journey with renowned teaching artists focusing on visual arts, theatre, photography, music, movement, storytelling and more. 1400 S. Kearney St, one block S of Alameda Ave. [tamdurr@mizelmuseum.org](mailto:tamdurr@mizelmuseum.org) or 303-749-5018. Brochure in Summer Camp Central section at [www.mizelmuseum.org](http://www.mizelmuseum.org).

**Monarch Montessori-** Six fun and enriching two-week sessions where children explore and further understand the world around them. Caterpillars and Butterflies: May 31 - June 10, Our Solar System: June 13 - June 24, North America: June 27 - July 8, Our Earth: July 11 - July 22, Dinosaurs July 25 - August 5, Oceans: August 8 - August 17. For more info email [summercamp@monarchm.com](mailto:summercamp@monarchm.com) or visit [www.monarchm.com](http://www.monarchm.com). 1 mile east of Havana St. at 11200 E. 45th Av. Denver, CO 80239.

**Nature Rangers Environmental Education Summer Day Camp-** Six weeklong sessions at 13,000-acre Rocky Mt. Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Rangers trek along miles of trails and study ecosystems. Learn to lake fish, spy on animals, identify birds and follow lifecycles of dragonflies, tadpoles and prairie dogs. Hands-on activities in new, environmental ed center. Refuge entrance at Quebec & Prairie Parkway, immediately NE of Rapids-Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Ages 6-13. June 20-August 5. Full Day: 8:30am-3:30pm. \$250/wk. Register: [www.MyEnrichment.com](http://www.MyEnrichment.com). Contact: John Babiak, [NatureRangerJohn@aol.com](mailto:NatureRangerJohn@aol.com).

**Odyssey Summer Camp-** The Odyssey School has partnered with over 10 vendors including A Bright Idea, City Strings Guitar, Denver Writing Project, Executive Arts, Fun and Formalities, Movement Madness, Pi Q Math, Play-Well TEKologies, School of the Poetic City, Science Matters, Stan Yan, and Young Rembrandts to offer both half-day and full-day summer



## 2011 Summer

camps. Additional programming added for middle-school students. Odyssey will also offer its own extended learning programs of Summer Skill and Mind's On/Hand's On. Ages 3-14 for different programs. June 13-August 5 from 9-12, 1-4, or 9-4. Early drop-off and late pickup available. Info and registration: [www.myenrichment.com](http://www.myenrichment.com), select Odyssey Summer Camps. Contact: [molly@myenrichment.com](mailto:molly@myenrichment.com), 303.872.0782. 6550 E 21st Ave.

**Open Air Academy Summer Camp-** Six 2-week camps May 30-August 19, focus on specific theme (Summer Fun, Performing Arts, Botany, Visual Arts, Architecture and Construction, and Animal Safari) that children will experience through activities, field trips and workshops. \$660 for each mini-camp (includes all field trip and activity costs). Downtown Denver, 3507 Ringsby Court. Contact: Stacey Shields, (303) 296-8300.

**Primrose Summer Camp-** Ages 4-12, June 1-August 11. \$50 registration fee; may choose 1-3 sessions at \$25 per session; 5-day programs \$225/wk., 3days \$170/wk. and 2 days \$125/wk. Educational, full-day summer program with degreed teachers, monthly sessions such as Expedition Summer, Destination Science, and Dig! Stir! Chomp! Fees

include meals field trips and other expenses. Contact Carrie Knox at 303.322.7200 or [directorstp@rtwllc.com](mailto:directorstp@rtwllc.com) or visit [www.primrosestapleton.com](http://www.primrosestapleton.com). 2501 Syracuse St.

**Quill Kids Creative Writing Camp-** (various locations), ages 6-13, Monday-Thursday, 9am-12pm. East Den-



Dance Institute Camp

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Stapleton Front Porch





Left: Bluff Lake Camp

or kayaking) and not finding it in NE Denver area, call 303-347-5999 or visit [www.sspr.org](http://www.sspr.org).

**Small Hands Art Studio-** Visit [www.smallhandsart.com](http://www.smallhandsart.com) for info on 2011 summer camps and classes. Located in Stapleton.

**Spanish is Fun Fiesta Camp-** Children ages 4-10 can improve, maintain or practice their Spanish while making preparations for Fiesta Day, an unforgettable experience. Starts in June. [www.spanishisfun.net](http://www.spanishisfun.net) or 303-200-0622 or email [info@spanishisfun.net](mailto:info@spanishisfun.net). Closest camps are in Central and SE Denver.

**Summer at Stanley-** Child-centered program offers full/half-day programs for campers entering grades 1-9 and features programs in the arts, sports, science, technology, Hogwarts, theatre, swimming and more! Cost per camper: \$165/wk half-day and \$270/wk full-day. Extended care available. At Stanley British Primary School, 350 Quebec St. [www.summeratstanley.org](http://www.summeratstanley.org) for camp brochure and registration. 303.360.0803.

**Summer in the Parks-** Ages 7-12, 6/6-7/29, \$450 plus field trip fees for 8-week program, M-F, 10am-3pm. Quality licensed child care providers offer comprehensive recreational programming including arts & crafts, active games & sports, aquatics, field trips & special events, all within a park setting. Registration for residents of City and County of Denver begins Monday, March 7. More info including park locations: call Community Recreation at 720-865-0840, [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org) website, or email [community.rec@denvergov.org](mailto:community.rec@denvergov.org).

**Stapleton Fellowship Church Stapleton Summer Day Camp at Hangar 61-** July 26, 27, 28. 9-11:30am. Ages 3 to 3rd grade. [www.StapletonChurch.com](http://www.StapletonChurch.com) for details

**Teen Adventures-** Ages 13-16, 6/9-7/29 on Thursdays and Fridays. \$82 program fee plus \$5-\$30 per week field trip fees. Field-trip-based integrated recreation program targets teens with and without disabilities, a collaborative effort between Community Recreation and the Special Needs Dept. Most field trips begin at 1849 Emerson St with varied destinations. Registration for residents of City and County of Denver begins Monday, March 7. More info: call Community Recreation at 720-865-0840, go to [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org) website or email [community.rec@denvergov.org](mailto:community.rec@denvergov.org).

**Temple Emanuel Camp-** 51 Grape St., 8am to 5:30pm, June 13 to Aug. 5, ages 2-6. Art, crafts, science, open gym, water play, outside time,

music, games, story time, afternoon enrichments. 303-321-7258.

**Under the Sea/Ocean Adventures Fine Arts Camp-** (Preschool-5th grade) Special week for enjoying 2- and 3-dimensional art, music, games, stories and more. Early June at a school in Stapleton. Cost: \$35 for week. Pre-register by sending your name to [events@northfieldchurch.com](mailto:events@northfieldchurch.com).

**University of Denver Erik Johnson Summer Basketball Day Camp-** Grades 1-8, 6/20-6/23, \$240. Camp designed to improve basketball skills of individuals with fun games and prizes. 9am-4pm daily at Univ. of Denver Hamilton Gym. Contact: Lisa Faulkner at 303-871-4786, [lisa.faulkner@du.edu](mailto:lisa.faulkner@du.edu) website- [recreation.du.edu](http://recreation.du.edu)

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**Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum Summer Camp-** Ages 8-12 years. Fun activities about aviation and our solar system, building planes and rockets and using flight simulators. June 20-24 or July 11-15. \$150 for half day (am or pm); \$280 full day. Contact: Kevin, [KSmith@WingsMuseum.org](mailto:KSmith@WingsMuseum.org).

**YMCA Summer to Discover-** Day Camp, Adventure Camp, Sports Camp, Summer Fun Bunch, Counselor in Training, active camps and caring staff for children ages 5-15. Arts and crafts, sports, swimming, field trips and more. Register: [www.DenverYMCA.org](http://www.DenverYMCA.org) or 720.524.2792.

**Young Americans Center for Financial Education Camps-** Grades 2 to 7, Jun. 13-Aug. 5, \$185, 3550 E. First Ave. Weeklong camps include Young AmeriTowne, Girls Can, International Towne, Jr. Money Matters, Running Your Own Biz, Be Your Own Boss. 303-321-2265 or [www.ya-center.org](http://www.ya-center.org).



Denver Art Museum Camps and Classes

## Letter to the Editor

### Speeding on 17th Ave Parkway

There is an increasing problem with speeding on 17th Avenue Parkway, and I am asking for the readership's help with this matter. Many people do not seem to realize that 17th Avenue Parkway is just another *residential* street within the South Park Hill neighborhood. 17th Avenue Parkway is not a 2-line highway, and the speed limit clearly supports this distinction with a low 30mph threshold. However, I see gross infractions of the 30 MPH speed limit daily, as cars traveling at high rates of speed flash in front of my home on 17th. Noise levels from increased speeds on the Parkway becomes invasive to the 17th Avenue Parkway residents' homes and can affect home values overall--a topic to which all homeowners are very sensitive.

For those who do not wish to obey the law (Unfortunately, there are always some!), be forewarned: work has begun with the Denver Police Department to increase patrols and radar van enforcement along the Parkway. Moreover, additional and different traffic/speed control devices will likely be requested and stressed within the auspices of Denver Traffic Engineering, given support from other South Park Hill residents.

For all readers who frequent 17th Avenue Parkway: the next time you are tempted to exceed the speed limit, please respect this wonderful historic residential street and remember those who have homes along its beautiful divided parkway.

*B. Patton, 17th Avenue Parkway homeowner*



# The SUN Spot

The independent voice of Stapleton

Brought to you by Stapleton United Neighbors

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



## Stapleton

By Lucia Correll

I look across Westerly Creek and see the mountains from Pike's Peak to Long's Peak. I see bald eagles in Bluff Lake and Sand Creek. I am lucky to live in this environment.

Developing these areas of natural beauty doesn't always seem as urgent as new schools or transit lines, but Stapleton's green spaces are the reason many of us chose to live in Stapleton, and these parks and planned parks need our attention and our protection. Two issues that are of current concern are the development of Westerly Creek North and the extension of Martin Luther King Blvd.

**Westerly Creek North and Sand Creek Greenway Park:** The Westerly Creek North Park will be on the south side of Sand Creek at the confluence of Westerly Creek and Sand Creek. We all look forward to this park, which will connect Central Park and Westerly Creek trails to the Sand Creek Greenway, to the South Platte River Greenway, and to the High Line Canal trail. This park area needs an environmental survey and updates to the park design before it goes for-

## SUN Board Announces 2011 Elections

By Andrew Schurger

Are you new to the neighborhood? Have you hoped that more voices from the community would be represented in development decisions? Want to help make Stapleton a better place to live and work? Do you have talents and skills that could be put to good use in planning future development in Stapleton? Are you a current resident who has been looking for an opportunity to get involved with neighborhood issues? If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, please consider running for a leadership position in the Stapleton United Neighbors Board of Directors.

The first Board of Directors of SUN was elected in the spring of 2004. During the past seven years, much has been accomplished. SUN supports community participation through a block captain network of over 70 community leaders. SUN now hosts regular forums with Forest City representatives and officials from the City to help keep Stapleton residents up to date on the state of our neighborhood. SUN also organizes the annual Block Party Day and the Kickball Tournament to help bring new neighbors together and build the bonds that are critical to strong communities. Now it is time to make plans for another year of progress with the election of members of the SUN Board of Directors. Of the 15 seats on the SUN board, seven are up for election this year. As Stapleton is always growing, SUN is committed to including on the board residents from all areas of our neighborhood.

### Stapleton United Neighbors Board Election FAQs

#### What is SUN, and what role does it play in the neighborhood?

The mission of SUN is to work for the betterment of the Stapleton neighborhood and the City and County of Denver by providing: (i) a forum for residents living within the boundaries of SUN to discuss and resolve issues; (ii) a network of communication; (iii) a means of acting on matters of importance to the community as a whole. Check out the SUN website at [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com) for more information.

#### What are the obligations?

SUN board members are responsible for helping bring the mission of SUN to life through work in the community by:

- Attending monthly meetings (currently scheduled from 7:30pm on the fourth Monday of January through November)
- Serving on or chairing a SUN committee (Transportation, Education, Outreach, Safety, Kickball, Fundraising and Sustainability); serving as a SUN liaison on a Stapleton Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB) or Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) Committee, including Parks Advisory Group, Zoning and Planning, Housing Diversity, Community Communications and Design Review, or serving as a SUN liaison to InterNeighborhood Cooperation (INC)

Authoring at least one article per year for the SUN Spot section of the Front Porch

Attending and helping out with SUN-sponsored community events and forums

Promoting the work of SUN and the ethos of SUN's mission in the community.

#### What is the time commitment involved?

Monthly board meetings typically last an hour and a half to two hours. SUN, CAB and SDC committee meetings are usually once a month and run about an hour to an hour and a half and INC meetings are the second Saturday of the month for three hours. Beyond that, keeping up with voice mail, email, other events and meetings can add as little as a few minutes to as much as several hours per week. As a general rule, SUN will involve about 10-15 hours a month of time commitment, and potentially more depending on the calendar of events.

#### What do I need to do to run for the board?

The application process entails submitting a 200-word statement of interest and bio to Andrew Schurger ([aschurger@gmail.com](mailto:aschurger@gmail.com)) by April 1, and attending the SUN Forum and Election on May 18. The statement of interest and bio will be posted on SUN's website at [www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com](http://www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com).

## Since

**Q. I've heard that 40 acres of "open space" was sold to become part of the Interchange. Will that be lost in the overall plan of Stapleton?**

A. Title to the approximate 40 acres of Stapleton land required to complete the right-of-way north and south of the existing I-70 corridor for the new Central Park Blvd. interchange was held by the City of Denver's Department of Aviation. That title was transferred to the City of Denver's General Fund. It will continue to be counted as part of the 1,116 acres of open space at Stapleton.

**Q. What is the plan for the Sand Creek Park and for completing the development of Westerly Creek so that there is a continuous trail from MLK to Sand Creek?**

A. The question refers to the North Westerly Creek Park planned at the confluence of Sand Creek and Westerly Creek (also referred to as a "signature park" in the Sand Creek Regional Greenway). Kate Kramer, executive director of The Sand Creek Greenway is working with Denver International Airport, nonprofit stakeholders and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate the extent of environmental remediation that would be required before a park can be constructed. The Forest City



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Parks Update

ward. Delays in the environmental survey are being addressed and expected to be resolved soon so the redesign can be completed in the near future. Construction is still several years away since original funding was used to build Stapleton's third elementary school. The delay in funding is slowing the development of the park, but it is not expected to change the park's final amenities.

**Martin Luther King Blvd. Extension:** The concept for the extension of Martin Luther King Blvd from Iola to Peoria is progressing. The plan for the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Trail along the north side of the existing Havana Way will include a paved pedestrian and bike path and a soft surface equestrian trail, as well as a berm to protect trail users and Bluff Lake from vehicles and traffic noise. When the Environmental Assessment is approved by CDOT, there will be opportunity for the public to voice any concerns about this project. The public hearing is currently scheduled for the first week in April. Watch for more information about the time and place.

The Parks Advisory Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30-9:00 AM at the SDC offices, 7350 E. 29th Ave. on the third floor. Members include residents of Stapleton and surrounding neighborhoods, and representatives from Bluff Lake, Sand Creek Greenway, the Urban Farm, Stapleton Development Corporation, the City and County of Denver, Forest City, City of Aurora, Commerce City. Meetings are open to the public. Our parks can only benefit from your interest. If you would like to be involved or keep up on what is happening with our parks and open space, email Lcorrell@dot-net.net for more information.

Lucia Correll is a member of the Parks Advisory Group (PAG), a committee of the Citizen Advisory Group (CAB) that advocates for parks and open space following the Green Book and Stapleton Parks and Recreation Master Plan goals. The PAG advises the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) on parks, recreation, and open space matters.

You've Asked...

contribution of \$5.4 million that had been earmarked for the park was shifted to the financing for the new Swigert-McAuliffe International School DPS will open at 35th and Syracuse in July of this year. The financing agreement for that school includes a provision to make \$5.4 million in future tax increment financing ("TIF") revenues available for the construction of a park at North Westerly Creek and the trail connections in that area.

**Q. Can we get an update on the "Library Apartments"?**

A. The name of the apartments Forest City plans to build along Syracuse Street/Roslyn Way on the east side of the United Air Lines Flight Training Center has been changed to "Novella-Stapleton Apartments." The 85 units are expected to rent in the range of \$1,000 - \$1,400 a month. Assuming financing is in place, Forest City would like to begin construction in July of this year.

**Q. Is there an update on the library in the Town Center? Any construction start date?**

A. The sale of the land at 29th Drive and

Roslyn Street in the Town Center was delayed by the process in which existing Town Center tenants had to sign off on allocation of parking spaces. That issue has been resolved and Forest City expects the sale of the land will occur by spring, which will allow the Denver Public Library to be under construction shortly thereafter.

Editors note: The library expects they will be able to announce the date of the groundbreaking ceremony in the April issue of the Front Porch.

**Q. Is there an update on the plans to open a Montessori Children's House of Denver school at 23rd and Central Park Boulevard?**

A. Development for the Montessori school is on schedule for an opening in August or September of this year. Visit www.mchdenver.org for more information.

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

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# Slave Ship to



# Pirate Ship



Captives were taken through heavy surf from the West African port at Ouidah (top left) to the newly-built slave ship Whydah (Anglicized name for Ouidah). After the slaves were delivered to the West Indies to work on sugar plantations, the ship was taken over by pirates, led by Sam Bellamy (right). The pirates, some of whom were formerly slaves, reconfigured the ship for piracy (directly above). One of the pirates on the Whydah was young John King (lower right) who chose to join the pirates when the ship his family was on got captured. Visitors can walk through a replica of the Whydah and see some of the treasures recovered from the wreckage.

By Carol Roberts

Real Pirates weaves a story as compelling as any fiction! In the early 1700s Sam Bellamy was a young sailor from a poor family in love with a young woman whose parents wouldn't allow her to marry him. So he went off to find sunken ships, but then turned to a more lucrative job—piracy. A common trait among pirates was that they had little to lose—many had been slaves. As part of a pirate crew they got to share in the decision making as well as the loot.

Take a video tour of the pirate exhibit at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com)

At about the same time a fast, armed, well-constructed new ship called the Whydah was being built in London to bring captives from the west coast of Africa to sugar plantations in the Caribbean. National Geographic and the exhibition companies brought in historians to show the interrelationship between piracy and the slave trade. Exhibit visitors learn about the small, hot, foul spaces the slaves were forced into, where many died from disease, poor diet or hunger on the 8-12 week journey. For the Denver exhibit, a local advisory panel of community leaders and educators was formed to give advice on how to communicate with the public on the sensitive

topic of slavery. After the ship dropped the captives, it took on a cargo of sugar and tobacco and likely was carrying jewelry, elephant tusks and other commodities from Africa. In the early 1700s, the Caribbean was a trading center with numerous cargo ships passing through, including firearms and liquor from Europe and gold and silver from Spanish mines in Peru. It was in this setting that Sam Bellamy became a successful pirate and captured the Whydah in 1717. The ship contained booty

Denver Museum of Nature and Science  
**Real Pirates**  
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plundered from more than 50 ships when it went down in a storm 500 feet off shore from Cape Cod. The exhibit offers the opportunity to walk through a replica ship, touch some of the loot, and see what life was like for the pirates on board the ship. You'll also learn about Barry Clifford, who discovered the wreckage. As a child he heard stories of a pirate ship that had sunk near Cape Cod—and he grew up to discover the only pirate ship ever found in U.S. waters. A section of the exhibit describes the processes used to recover the artifacts, which are still being brought up from the ocean floor.

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Above left: Collar of porcupine quills  
Above right: Two of many American Indian rugs



Multiple TV screens and interactive blocks prod viewers to explore various answers to the question, “What is American Indian Art?”



Above left: One of many examples of beadwork  
Above right: Bowl, A.D. 900, Unknown Mimbres artist



Corn Blue Room, 1998, Jolene Rickard, Tuscarora – Rickard created this multimedia installation to encourage a dialogue about the contemporary lives of Indian people—specifically, her people, the Tuscarora, who live in upstate New York.

## Revisiting Indian Art

By Carol Roberts

The Denver Art Museum (DAM) has one of the nation’s most comprehensive collections of American Indian art, including 18,000 artworks that span 2,000 years of art. The museum temporarily closed the collection, renovated and recently reopened it. The “new” American Indian art collection focuses on Native American objects as art, rather than artifacts, and focuses on individual artists and how their creations reflect their



The Mesa Verde Full Arch, 1999, Al Ouyawayma, Hopi – “I know that some of this clay may even contain the dust of my ancestors... so... how respectful I must be.” Trained as an engineer, Al Ouyawayma is well-schooled in the ceramic traditions of his Hopi ancestors yet possesses his own style.

Above: Maternal Journey, 2010, Rhonda Holy Bear, Cheyenne River Sioux – “Maternal Journey celebrates the cycle of life... It is an homage to the strength and dignity of the Plains mother... The mother and the mare are guiding their young into the future. They are looking to the past for guidance as they move toward their destiny.”

evolving cultures. And visitors can watch a video called *Meet the Artists*.

Curator Nancy Blomberg says they are posing the question, “What is American Indian art? The stereotype is, it has to be old, it has to be made of traditional materials (whatever those are), you have to learn from your grandmother, and it’s no longer being made. We’re trying to expand people’s notion of what constitutes American Indian art.” Teacher of Native Arts for the museum, Heather Nielsen, points out, “We are trying to involve people in the conversation, knowing that there really is no answer... and there are many, many different perspectives. People can ask themselves these questions as they explore?”

Blomberg tells a story about Oscar Howe, a famous Sioux artist who worked in the 1950 and ‘60s. He created his own style—a very cubist style. He entered the paintings in a contest for an exhibit of American Art and they were rejected because they weren’t considered “Indian enough.” He then wrote a protest letter that is shown along with his painting. “Are we to be treated like children and only the white man knows what’s best for him?,” he writes. “I’m not going to stand for it. I only hope the art world will not be

one more contributor to holding us in chains.”

Blomberg went on to say that a year later Fritz Scholder also entered his painting in the contest and it was rejected. He then demanded to be a judge the next year—and he was.

The “dolls” such as the photo shown of Maternal Journey are done in intricate beadwork, quillwork, painted leather and other techniques. Rhonda Holy Bear, a doll artist, described how she came to make the authentic pieces. “I was pretty poor when I grew up. There wasn’t a bead in my house. When I got older I started doing research because we had lost so much of our culture going to boarding school. They were trying to get us to transition into the main culture and forget about our culture. So when I got older I lived in Chicago and went to the Field Museum. What unifies the dolls is that they are very researched.”

Live artist talks and demonstrations along with interactive technology, videos and hands-on activities help visitors understand and appreciate the artistic process behind many of the pieces.



Land O Bucks, Land O Fakes, Land O Lakes, 2006, David Bradley, Chippewa

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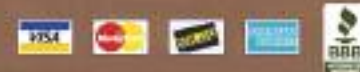
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