

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

APRIL 2011

STAPLETON

Stapleton Welcomes HGTV Green Home



John and Vikki Abbott, with Penelope, 1, and Carson, 4, stroll by the HGTV Green Home. The home, along with a new car and \$100,000 will be given away in a national contest that will be accepting entries from April 14 to June 2. Abbott commented that he never wins anything but at least the prize house is on his block.

By Carol Roberts

The fourth annual HGTV Green Home Giveaway contest will start accepting entries for the modern prairie-style, single-family home located in Stapleton

on April 14. The three bedroom, two-and-a-half bath, 2400 square foot home received a Platinum LEED certification, the highest rating a home can earn for energy efficiency. The HGTV Green Home features an (continued on page 16)

New Look for Wings Over the Rockies



The huge doors of the Wings Over the Rockies Museum in Lowry open for a B-1A bomber to be rolled out to the parking lot. The museum was emptied so the floor could be resurfaced as part of a major renovation project.

By Carol Roberts

Anyone who drove past Lowry's Wings Over the Rockies Museum in the last week of March would have thought they had entered the set of a major movie production. The parking lot was filled with vintage airplanes. And a 150-foot-long, 33-foot-high B-1A strate-

gic bomber was being eased out of a hangar by a tug towing the gigantic craft, the likes of which most people have never seen (only four prototypes of the B-1A were built).

That bomber and over four dozen aircraft and space vehicles had to be (continued on page 11)

Mayoral Forum, Thursday Apr. 14 Central Park Rec Center, 6:30pm

Participate in an online survey at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com to help determine the questions that will be asked at the 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, 9651 East MLK Boulevard.

The top six candidates selected by readers in our online survey were: Carol Boigon, Michael Hancock, James Mejia, Doug Linkhart, Chris Romer and Theresa Spahn. All have signed a letter of intent to participate in the forum. The remaining candidates all received less than 10% of the vote.

The election will be conducted by mail and ballots will be sent to all eligible voters on April 14. See page 8 for more information on the candidates and the election.

Readers can continue to use the online survey until April 10 to indicate issues they would like the candidates to address and suggest questions for the forum. No questions will be taken from the audience during the forum, but candidates have been requested to stay for 30 minutes afterwards to meet informally with attendees.

Current results of the survey indicate the greatest interest in the following issues (listed by priority): Public education (though the mayor has no control over the school board since they are independently elected public officials) and close behind was jobs development. A step behind those were Budget Shortfall, Sustainability, Health and Human Services, Transportation and Public Safety.



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

Mylie, a Mastif American, enjoys a warm early spring afternoon at Stapleton's town center while her owner, Matthew Boarman finishes lunch.



CALENDAR

Nearby events that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit events.
(See pages 20 - 24 for more events.)

Coming This Spring!

Groundbreaking for the new Stapleton Library
Check DenverLibrary.org/bond for updated info.

APRIL

Saturday, April 2

Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team Clean-up, 9am-Noon. Meet at 26th and Beeler. icorrell@dotnet.net or CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org (See page 23)

Sunday, April 2 & 24

Denver Art Museum - SCFD Free Day
720-865-5000 www.denverartmuseum.org

Tuesday, April 5

Wings Over the Rockies Grand Opening 11am Free, WingsMuseum.org (See story p.1)

Tuesday, April 5 & May 3

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

Thursday, April 7

Wings Over the Rockies Family Night, 4-8pm Free, WingsMuseum.org (See story p.1)

Wednesday, April 13

SUN Meeting on Groundwater Issue, 6:30pm
MCA Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St
stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com (see p. 28)

Wednesday, April 13

Montview Neighborhood Meeting
Kamsy Event Center
10190 E. Montview Blvd. 303-739-7052

Thursday, April 14

League of Women Voters, Prospective Member Reception, Central Park Rec Center, Comm. Rm. 5-6pm. Marge Fisch 303-322-4235

Thursday, April 14

Mayoral Candidate Forum, Central Park Rec Center, Comm. Rm. 6:30-8pm. Sponsored by The League of Women Voters (303-322-4235), The Front Porch (303-526-1969), and Engaged Public.

Thursday, April 14

Stapleton Activities, Inc. Potluck, 6-7pm
Active Minds, Columbia: A Powder Keg? 7-8pm, MCA Community Room*

Sunday, April 17

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

Friday, April 22

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

Saturday, April 23

Annual Egg Scramble, 10am

*MCA Community Room:

2823 Roslyn Street, Denver, CO 80238
Events@stapletoncommunity.com
Recurring monthly events and meetings - p. 20

April 23 Egg Scramble (continued)
0-3 year olds, 10:15am; 4-6 year olds, 10:45am;
7 year olds & up, 11:15am.
The Green, 29th Ave. Town Center

Saturday, April 23

SUN Earth Day Event, 1-5pm
Central Park in Stapleton (See p. 28)
SUNSustainability@gmail.com

Saturday, April 23

7th Annual Gently Used Kid & Baby Stuff Sale.
8-11am at Westerly Creek Elementary
Enter through north doors, 8800 E. 28th Ave
jenseward@comcast.net

Saturday, April 30

Swigert McAuliffe International School Touch a Truck fundraiser. 14 different trucks to climb on and in. 10-2pm. Sams parking lot in Quebec Square. <http://www.smistouchatruck.com>

Saturday, April 30

Master gardener Amy Bales discussing landscaping and the latest in gardening, 10am-Noon. MCA Community Room* RSVP to kkouba@perryandco.com

MAY

Thursday, May 5

HGTV Stapleton Green Home Tours through Sunday, July 3, 2011. Tickets \$20 to benefit Urban Peak. www.stapletondenver.com

Thursday, May 12

Stapleton Activities, Inc. Potluck, 6-7pm
Active Minds Seminar 7-8pm
MCA Community Room*

Thursday, May 19

Stapleton Community Forum, Bill Roberts School, opens 6:30pm, meeting 7-8:30pm
stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

Friday to Sunday, May 20-22

Wildlife Film Festival at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

Saturday, May 21

New Rocky Mountain Arsenal Visitor Center opens to the public 9am-4pm
www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal

Saturday, May 28

Opening Day at the Pools, Noon
Pools@stapletoncommunity.com

Monday, May 30

DJs at the Pools for Memorial Day

The Front Porch welcomes submissions of upcoming local events (see format on p.21) and story ideas for future issues.
Email FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com

Stapleton

MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

What Is Your Community DNA?

So how did you do with your Denver Neighborhood Attitude (DNA) last month? How was your cell phone etiquette? This month the attention is on dog owners. Respect people and their property when walking your dog. Keep your dog on the leash and off people's lawns. If your dog does go to the bathroom on someone's lawn, make sure you pick up after it. Thanks in advance for keeping our community a happy one for all!

Egg Scramble

The annual Egg Scramble (Hunt) is Saturday, April 23, from 10-11:30am on The Green. This year we are going to do the scramble in waves. The Easter Bunny will be on site beginning at 10am. The first group to scramble for the eggs will be the 0-3-year-olds at 10:15am. This year only one adult is allowed to enter with their 0-3-year-old. The next group will be the 4-6-year-olds at 10:45am. Adults will not be allowed on the field for the scramble of 4-6- or 7-and-up age groups. The 7-year-olds and up will begin at 11:15am. This is always a fun event and we look forward to seeing everyone!

Beer Festival Planning Committee

The Stapleton Beer Festival was a huge success last year and we are looking forward to our 2nd annual event on Saturday, August 20. We are looking for volunteers to help organize and plan this year's beer festival. If you are interested, please attend our planning meeting on Wednesday, April 20, at 6:30pm in the MCA Community Room*. If you would like to participate, email me at the address listed below. Dinner will be provided!

Stapleton Rocks

"Stapleton Rocks... A Concert for a Cause" is a favorite concert every year featuring local bands. The event is intended to showcase the local amateur talent. It is a full-day event on Saturday, September 10 on The Green from 10am-10pm. Musicians are limited to participating in only one band this year. It will be a day filled with music and fun. If you have a band that is interested in participating, contact events@stapletoncommunity.com. Please respond quickly as this is a first-come, first-served event. More information will be available as the date approaches.



Volunteer Booth Requests

If you have a nonprofit that would like to raise funds this summer by working our movie concession booth, please contact events@stapletoncommunity.com with your request.

Sponsorship Packages

If you own a business and would like to sponsor one of the many summer events, the MCA has put together a sponsorship package. You can access this information by visiting www.stapletoncommunity.com or if you would like to receive more information, please contact events@stapletoncommunity.com.

Active Minds Seminar

The topic this month is **Colombia: A Powder Keg?** Active Minds will be at 7pm on Thursday, April 14 in the Stapleton MCA Community Room*. Join Active Minds as we examine these tensions and what they portend for Colombia's future. For more information, visit www.ActiveMindsForLife.com.

Stapleton Activities, Inc.

Whether you are new to the community or have been here for a while, this group is designed for you! The group provides an opportunity for adults in the community to get together and socialize one evening a month. Connect with others who want to create a book club or even a bicycling group!

Please join us for our monthly potluck in the Stapleton MCA Community Room* on Thursday, April 14, at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share with the group. The beverages, plates and utensils will be provided by the MCA.

Your Flower Pots Are Waiting.... Are You Ready?

If you're looking for a little inspiration, it's as easy as joining us for a morning of clever cultivating with one of Denver's premier professionals. Kim Kouba, Realtor with Perry and Co. and owner of the Sweet William Market, will be hosting master gardener Amy Bales. She'll help you move that landscape beyond the ordinary and get a head start on this year's latest thing! You're invited on Saturday, April 30 from 10-12 in Stapleton's MCA's Community Room*. Let Kim know you're coming at kkouba@perryandco.com.

SUN/CAB Community Forum

The annual community forum is scheduled for Thursday, May 19 at Bill Roberts School. Receive updates on commercial and residential development in the Stapleton Community as well as other pertinent community information. The doors open at 6:30pm and the presentations begin at 7pm.

Aquatics Staffing

The Stapleton pools are looking for front desk staff, lifeguards and pool managers for the 2011 outdoor pool season. If you are interested in applying for one of these positions, go to the "Jobs" section at www.stapletoncommunity.com.

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

Diane Deeter
Director of
Programming and Events

*2823 Roslyn Street.

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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Front Porch

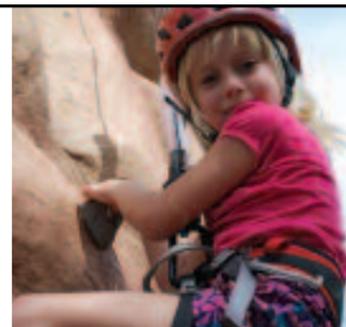
www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

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altogether outdoors

summer camps



Come explore with us — play, create, learn!

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Altogether Outdoors (AO) is excited to be growing in Denver! We get outside with kids with our authentic day & sleep away camps that help create connections with friends, counselors, and nature.

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All AO camps feature highly experienced staff, small groups, no-cost transportation, discounts and scholarships, and great memories for campers and parents year after year!

 Tommy Feldman
Founder/Director

denver camps (visit aocamps.com for our Boulder camps)

junior

ages: 4 - 6 (Pre-K and K)

session length:
MWF or 1-week,
8:30am - 2:30pm

summary: Junior themes include Dinos, Flowers, Butterflies, Earth, and more!

explorers

ages: 7 - 11 (1st - 5th Grade)

session length:
2-weeks: 1-week intro option,
8:30am - 4:15pm

summary: Cabin groups plan, experience, and grow together in local natural spaces and parks.

sleep away camp

ages: 7 - 9

session length: 6-day intro option

summary: Nestled in the Collegiate Peaks, campers will enjoy adventure, friendship and fun together. Activities include horseback riding, rafting, rock climbing, hiking and backpacking, kayaking, mountain biking, and fine arts.

ages: 9 - 16

session length: 13-days

learn lots more at
720.249.2997 aocamps.com



hiking climbing teambuilding ecology crafts songs and more!

Chris Martinez

Vested in Our Communities



VOTE
For Chris Martinez
by May 3rd

720-374-9198
www.ElectChrisMartinez.com
ElectChrisMartinez@gmail.com

Roots. Activism. Professional Experience. Leadership. Common Sense.

Proven Chris Martinez is a long time resident of Council District 11, growing up in the Five Points and Park Hill neighborhoods, and raising his family in Montbello. Chris has been a community activist and community organizer, helping create better schools, safer streets and a rich environment for business and commerce in Northeast Denver.

Family Man Chris and his wife Terry, have lived in Montbello and raised their two children and 5 grandchildren over the past 35 years. The Martinez children attended local schools & have been active with their Mom & Dad for decades.

Fiscal Responsibility As a valued, 35-year employee of the Federal Reserve Bank, Chris Martinez understands the need to make wise economic decisions in these tough times. His knowledge and understanding of banking and economics will be an asset to the city.

Experience Chris Martinez knows what it takes to see progress at the City Council level. Chris was one of the original "Stapleton Tomorrow" members who worked to develop the land use plan for Stapleton under three Mayors. Park Hill is familiar with Chris Martinez as an avid defender of the quality Recreation Centers and parks in the community. As a resident of Montbello, Chris has worked over 30 years to develop business opportunities and improved schools in the far Northeast Denver area. Chris worked on creating safe neighborhoods and retail outlets in the Green Valley Ranch neighborhood in Council District 11.

Knowledge As a former RTD Board member and current employee of the Denver City Council, Chris Martinez knows processes and how to make positive change occur in our communities.

Commitment Along with the significant contributions Chris Martinez has made to our communities, Chris' commitment to small businesses and DBE/SBE enterprises is without compare. Chris' efforts to bring small business and contractors into the RTD process shows his commitment to fairness and growing small business in the City.

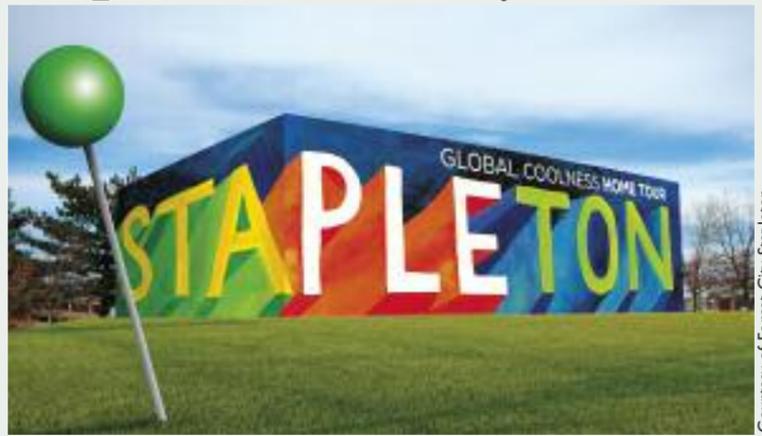
Community Endorsements

- Hon. Angela Williams
- Hon. Michael Johnston
- Hon. Michael Carrigan
- Hon. Wellington Webb
- Hon. Terrance Carroll
- Hon. Mary Seawell
- Hon. Angie Malpiede
- Hon. Gloria Tanner
- Hon. Happy Haynes
- Hon. Gully Stanford
- Hon. Landri Taylor
- Hon. Peter Groff
- Hon. Barbara Deadwyler
- Denver Firefighters Local 858
- AFSCME Council 76
- Mark Mehringer
- Jason Longsdorf
- Timothy Tribbett
- Kyle Samuel
- Jason Crow
- Anna Jo Haynes
- Lawrence McSorley
- Keith Montoya
- Myrtle Armstead
- Tea Schook
- Sean Mcdermott
- Amy Berk
- Juana Bordas
- Marge Gilbert
- Sandra Roberts

And many, many more ... Join the Chris Martinez Team

Paid for by Elect Chris Martinez, Thad Jacobs, Treasurer

What's Happening at the Stapleton Discovery Center?



Courtesy of Forest City Stapleton

Stapleton's original visitor center at Syracuse Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard will sport a new "wrap" and will be open in May and June as "The Discovery Center." It will be the starting point for "Global Coolness Home Tours" of the HGTV Green Home and the new Central Park West model homes.

By Tom Gleason

The building that housed Stapleton's original Visitor Center at the corner of Syracuse Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard will, in May and June, become the Stapleton Discovery Center. The building will have a colorful new "face lift" and serve as the starting location for "Global Coolness Home Tours" of the HGTV Green Home and the energy efficient model homes of the Central Park West neighborhood. All of the homes meet the Energy Star 3.0 standards and have energy monitoring systems to measure energy consumption on a daily basis.

The Global Coolness Home Tours of the Central Park West neighborhood model homes are free and open to the public. The

HGTV Green Home Tour (see story starting on page 1) costs \$20, with net proceeds benefitting Urban Peak, a local non-profit that provides services to at-risk youth. The Discovery Center is the pickup location for the HGTV Green Home Tour tickets.

Visitors can take either or both tours. Free parking is available and timed tours on a free shuttle will depart from the Center every 20-30 minutes.

The Stapleton Discovery Center will also feature creative, educational and interactive exhibits and stations that will give its visitors a "taste" of life in Stapleton. For more information, visit www.stapletondenver.com.

Tom Gleason is a vice president of Forest City Stapleton Inc.

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Skin cancer treatment
Cosmetic excision and
repair

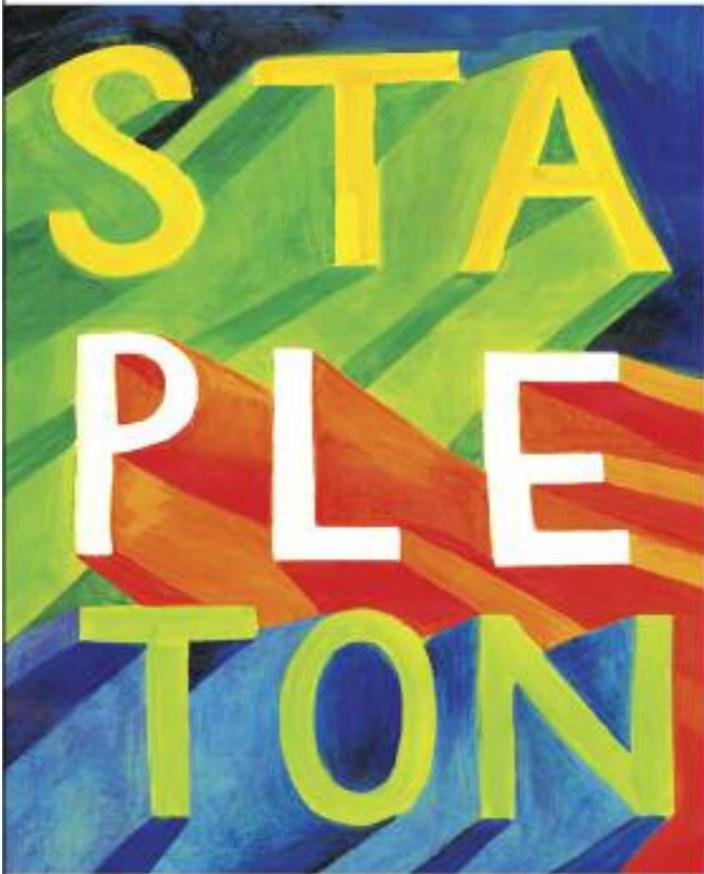


Erin Welch, M.D. Joe Simodynes, M.D.

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GLOBAL COOLNESS HOME TOUR MAY 5 THROUGH JULY 3

11 energy-savvy home collections opening throughout the summer in the new Central Park neighborhoods. From the \$100s to the \$700s. **Tours are FREE and open to the public.**

HGTV Green Home tours Thursday through Sunday. Starting April 1, \$20 tickets are available at StapletonDenver.com. Proceeds benefit Urban Peak.



STAPLETON™ FORESTCITY 



New Mayor to Face Difficult Budget Decisions

By Jon Meredith

Whoever becomes Denver's new mayor in June will be facing very serious budget cuts as the new administration begins. The three areas that will be affected most, because they make up more than 70% of Denver's budget expenses, are safety (police, fire and sheriff's departments), public works (street maintenance, trash, street cleaning) and parks and recreation. Taxes that provide funds for education are completely separate from the Denver city budget and are administered solely at the discretion of the Denver School Board.

Denver's revenue comes primarily from two sources, sales tax (48%) and fees (27%). The other 25% is made up of property taxes (the vast amount of which go directly to Denver Public Schools), occupational privilege taxes and excise taxes. The average annual revenue growth for the city has been 1.77% for the last 10 years. For the 20 years prior to 2001, the annual growth in expenses was 4.71%. That gap

has created years of budget problems for the city, which, by law, must have a balanced budget annually.

Prior to leaving office, former Mayor John Hickenlooper put together a task force of civic leaders charged with generating and vetting ideas for expenditure cuts and increased revenue. They will make recommendations to the new administration regarding how to close the gap between revenues and expenditures. This gap, the structural gap, has been exacerbated during this recession due to severe slowing of revenue growth and a significantly reduced tax base. Some budget analysts believe that Denver's revenue base will never recover and we need to solve revenue problems for the long run by reducing expenses by cutting city services or increasing taxes. The increased revenue is needed because increases in expenditures for such items as health care costs for city employees have grown disproportionately faster than the revenue needed to pay for those costs.

people should not expect previously decreased services to return." That means furlough days for city employees and reduced hours for libraries and other city services will continue until the city finds ways to increase revenue. Even with these cuts in place, it looks as if the city will once again be facing a revenue shortfall for 2012, which will necessitate additional cuts.

The spending habits of Denver citizens and visitors have changed over the last 10 years, reducing needed increases in city revenue. The average age of Denver citizens has risen over the last 30 years and older people on fixed incomes have less disposable income than the 18 to 50 demographic.*

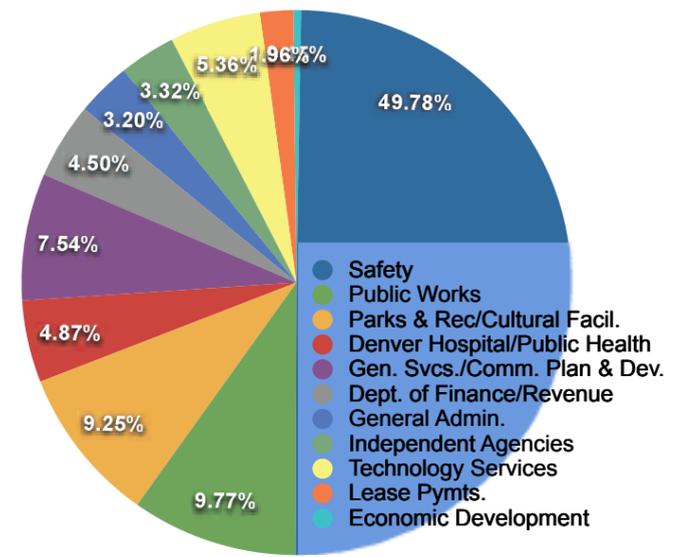
Cities and states throughout the country have faced budget dilemmas recently and some have handled them in novel but seemingly short-sighted ways. The City of Chicago sold all the revenue from parking meters for the next 30 years to a group of foreign investors as a one-time fix for a budget crisis. The State of Pennsylvania sold the Pennsylvania Turnpike to foreign investors. The governor of Ohio has recently proposed selling all the revenue from state liquor stores to a group of Wall Street investors. Conversely, Colorado Springs has chosen to keep cutting expenses. One out of every three streetlights has been turned off there. They did not water their parks last summer and advised residents to cut the grass themselves. The Colorado Springs Human Services Department has completely cut all funds for sexually transmitted disease protection, meth-lab cleanups, teen suicide prevention and air and water quality monitoring. Denver now spends \$25 per resident

Ed Scholz, Denver budget director, describes the current state of Denver's budget issues as a "permanent state of reduced revenue, therefore

As a portion of the General Fund revenue:

- property tax has decreased by 13% from 1980 to 2011,
- sales tax revenues have hovered around 50% since 1984,
- fees, fines, general government revenue has increased by 8% since 1980,
- occupational privilege taxes have decreased by 2% since 1980, and
- total revenue from other sources has remained steady at 12-15% of GF revenue.

2011 Estimated Denver Expenditures



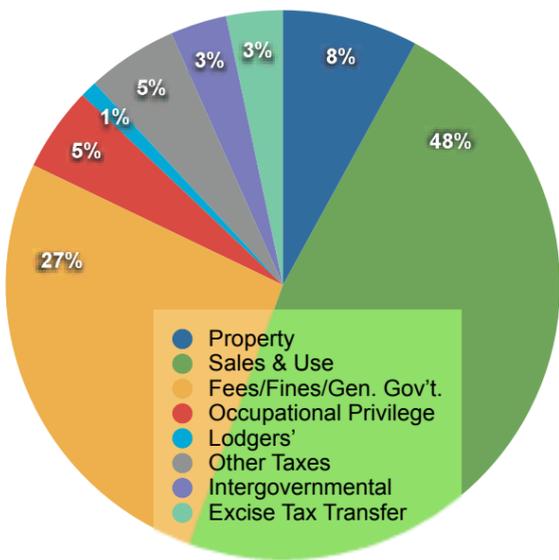
on human services, Boulder spends \$18, Jefferson County \$10 and El Paso County spends \$4.49.

With a new mayor being elected we have choices to make. Does the new mayor take a tough stance with police, fire and sheriff's department employees during the renegotiation of their contracts in 2012? Does he or she cut services or charge fees for services that have traditionally been free, like trash pickup? Should we continue to cut the city budget despite what it will do to our quality of life and property values? Do we vote to raise taxes to increase revenue and narrow this structural gap so that these cuts become less of an issue each year?

It seems clear that revenue problems the city is now facing will not be solved in the near future by a once-again thriving economy. It is therefore up to Denver voters to decide what to do about solving these issues. A mayoral election is the perfect time for individuals to choose a candidate whose ideas on the budget issues align with your own beliefs on how to resolve them.

*From City and County of Denver, Finance Department

2011 Estimated Denver Revenue



North Middle School Health Sciences and Technology Campus Now Accepting Applications!



Students in Aurora have the unique opportunity to participate in academic and career pathways dedicated to health care professions. The Aurora LIGHTS Academy at North Middle School offers students a challenging curriculum that includes health sciences studies. Students learn from medical professionals and engage in hands-on learning at the state-of-the-art Anschutz Medical Campus.

By 2015, every school in Aurora Public Schools will offer one or more of the following pathways: Arts and Communication; Business; Health Sciences; and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

The Academy of Health Sciences and Technology at North is now accepting applications for the 2011-12 school year. For more information, contact Brenda Lane at 303-364-7411.

To learn more about Aurora LIGHTS and pathways, visit lights.aurora12.org and aurora12.org/pathways.

North Middle School Health Sciences and Technology Campus

12095 Montview Blvd., Aurora, CO 80010

Why the Governor is Making Cuts to K-12 Education

By Jon Meredith

One of the first proposals that new Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper advanced was to cut \$332 million from K-12 education statewide. That would mean about \$500 per student in the Denver Public Schools. Why is a Democratic governor, who has run on solid education credentials, forcing cuts in education in a state that already ranks in the lowest third in the nation in per pupil spending?

He is required to by the Colorado Constitution!

The legislature must pass a balanced budget and there is not enough revenue to cover current expenditures. Increasing taxes is not an option due to the Tabor Amendment to Title 10 of the Colorado Constitution. Any tax increase must be approved by voters.

However, the voters passed Amendment 23 in 2000, which is supposed to protect K-12 education from cuts statewide by requiring funding be kept at certain levels. The Ritter administration, in trying to balance excruciatingly difficult budgets, interpreted the funding levels lower than other administrations have. This interpretation is currently being challenged in Colorado courts. At this point, the Hickenlooper administration has decided to make a similar interpretation as to how much funding for education is required under Amendment 23.

Colorado has boxed itself into a corner and there is

no easy way out. The economic downturn has reduced revenue due to a decrease in real estate values and sales tax revenues. School districts across the state are anticipating increased class sizes and reductions in staff.

The state revenue projections for fiscal year 2012 were updated on March 17 and the indications are that the shortfall for next year will be about half of what was originally projected by Governor Hickenlooper in January. That is a good sign that the Colorado economy is finally beginning to sustain a recovery.

However, a recent conversation with Denver Congresswoman Diana DeGette indicated she is very concerned that congressional cuts to the federal education budget will again intensify Colorado cuts. As the federal budget for this year has not been finalized, the cuts to education for next year are not even on the drawing board. Last year, DPS had \$936 million in total revenue, which included \$66 million in stimulus funds and \$127 million in federal grants, or about 20 percent of the total DPS budget from federal funds.

To further cloud the federal issue, David Suppes, chief operating officer for DPS, states, "The Obama administration is advocating that schools compete for federal dollars," though the available funds are now designated for students with special needs and lower income levels.

"The fat in the state education budget has already been cut," Mike Johnston, Senate Democrat recently

stated. "We are now into muscle and cutting bone." The details of the cuts are yet to be determined as the final state budget for 2012 will likely not be passed until close to May 11, when the legislature adjourns. Then it will be up to each district to adjust their budgets according to their decrease in revenue.

Nate Easley, DPS Board president, believes that the cuts will certainly hurt, but DPS is committed to keeping the classrooms fully funded and making cuts elsewhere—such as administrative areas, transportation costs and other discretionary items. The DPS Board voted unanimously last month to refinance some pension obligations that will save on interest expense for years to come.

Tom Boasberg, superintendent of DPS, stated, "School budgets will not be cut for next year or class sizes raised across the board." He went on to explain that "there are no plans to increase charges for services like transportation and there will be more teaching positions DPS-wide next year than there were this year."

At this time it is difficult to forecast how both state and federal cuts will affect students and their individual classrooms, but DPS seems determined to impact students as little as possible, regardless of what happens on the state or federal level. Tough decisions await legislators this month as they prepare to pass a 2012 statewide budget.

Florence Children's Services
WILEY FOR MOMS
RUN/WALK 2011
 5K & 2K
 Saturday, May 7, 2011
 Central Park-Stapleton
 Sign up at **FLOCITCO.ORG**

Start a team! Dress crazy! Raise cash! Win prizes!

PCL CONSTRUCTION LEADERS Anthem

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OPEN HOUSE TOUR Saturday, April 9th 11am-2pm

Infinity Sky Terrace—former model! \$175K in upgrades. 2200 finished square feet. 7901 E. 29th Avenue. \$559,900
 Presented by Jody E. Donley

Rare ranch floor-plan! Nicely upgraded with maple cabinets and hardwood floors. Finished basement. 8754 E. 29th Pl. \$334,900
 Presented by Melinda S. Howlett

Beautiful Park-wood on pocket park. 2 master suites. Gorgeous kitchen. Finished basement. 3000 finished sq. ft. 2671 Clinton Way. \$489,900
 Presented by Jody E. Donley

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1 7901 E. 29th Ave. - \$559,900	5 2653 Elmira - \$399,900
2 2635 Central Park - \$329,900	6 2726 Tamarac - \$349,900
3 8754 E. 29th Place - \$334,900	7 2935 Willow St. - \$325,000 (Not on tour)
4 2671 Clinton Way - \$489,900	

■ 2011 Successful Transactions ■ Successfully Leased/Managed
■ Under Contract Transactions * Property locations on map are approximate

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April 4 - Last day to register for May 3 Denver election (denvergov.org/elections)
 April 15 - Ballots mailed

Service Center Hours:
 April 25-30 and May 2, open 11am-6pm
 May 3, Election Day, open 7am-7pm
 Run-off Election:
 May 20 - Ballots mailed for run-off election
 May 31-June 7, Service Centers open
 June 7, Run-off Election Day

MAYOR
Carol Boigon
 Phone: 720-515-5311
 Website: www.boigonfordenver.com

Michael B. Hancock
 Phone: 303-307-9891
 Website: www.hancockfordenver.com

Doug Linkhart
 Phone: 303-295-5003
 Website: www.douglinkhart.net

Danny F. Lopez
 Phone: 303-922-3920 or 720-490-1917
 Website: www.dannylopezformayor.com

James Mejia
 Phone: 720-287-3346
 Website: www.mejiaformayor.com

Jeff Peckman
 Phone: 303-949-9654
 Website: www.jeffpeckmanformayor.com

Chris Romer
 Phone: 303-953-8605
 Website: www.romerformayor.com

Ken Simpson
 Phone: 303-807-0328
 Email: kensimpson79@hotmail.com

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 Website: www.spahnformayor.com

Thomas Wolf
 Website: www.wolf4denvermayor.com
 Email: info@wolf4denvermayor.com

AUDITOR
Dennis Gallagher
 Website: www.gallagherforauditor.com
 Email: info@gallagherforauditor.com

Marcus D. Richardson
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 Email: marcusd@richardson4auditor.com

Bill Wells
 Phone: 303-877-7207
 Email: billwells@comcast.net

CLERK AND RECORDER
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 Email: info@tomdowneyfordenver.com

Debra Johnson
 Phone: 720-340-1332
 Website: www.debrafordenver.com

Sarah McCarthy
 Phone: 720-322-6084
 Website: www.sarahmccarthyfordenver.com

Jacob Werther
 Phone: 720-891-9894
 Website: www.jacobwerther.com

CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE
Josh Davies
 Phone: 303-405-8362
 Website: www.joshdaviesfordenver.com

Rich Gonzales
 Phone: 720-480-1191
 Website: www.FriendsofRich.com

Robin Kniech
 Phone: 720-295-6154
 Website: www.kniechforcouncil.com

Deborah "Debbie" Ortega
 Phone: 303-819-1751
 Website: www.OrtegaforDenver.com

Jesse Kyle Shelmire
 Phone: 720-260-4373
 Website: www.shelmireforhire.com

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5
Dist. 5's approximate boundaries are 23rd, Havana, Leetsdale and Colo. Blvd.

Michele Fry
 Phone: 303-388-0743
 Website: www.fryfor5.com

Meredith Hartigan
 Phone: 303-981-7221
 Website: <http://hartiganforcitycouncil.word-press.com>

Steve Saunders
 Phone: 303-519-1270
 Website: www.stevesaundersforcouncil.com

Mary Beth Susman
 Phone: 720-382-4003 or 303-322-5658
 Website: <http://susmanforcitycouncil.com>

Ted Tompkins
 Phone: 720-338-3866
 Facebook: Ted Tompkins for District 5

Leslie Twarogowski
 Phone: 303-707-1040
 Website: www.lesliefordenver.com

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8
Dist. 8 includes Park Hill from Colorado to Holly and Colfax to 38th.

Carla Madison
 Phone: 303-884-5438
 Website: www.carlaforcouncil.org

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 11
Dist. 11 includes all of Stapleton and Park Hill from Holly to Quebec and 23rd to MLK

Chris Herndon
 Phone: 720-663-7814
 Website: <http://herndonfordenver.com>

Chris Martinez
 Phone: 720-374-9198
 Website: www.electchrismartinez.com

Information provided by the candidates to the Office of Clerk and Recorder, Elections Division.



April Events at The Berkshire...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Brunch with bottomless mimosas & Bacon Vodka Bloodyes	4 NCAA Championships with \$1.50 PBR's	5 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos	6 Half-priced bottle of wine, choose from our entire list!	7	1 Rockies Opening Day: Hot dog & a beer special - \$5 during the game!	2 Berkshire Brunch. Come watch the Final Four with \$2 off wings. Karaoke with Mark Star 9:30pm.
10 Brunch with bottomless mimosas & Bacon Vodka Bloodyes	11	12 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos	13 Half-priced bottle of wine, choose from our entire list!	14	8	9 Brunch with bottomless mimosas & Bacon Vodka Bloodyes
17 Brunch with bottomless mimosas & Bacon Vodka Bloodyes	18	19 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos	20 Half-priced bottle of wine, choose from our entire list!	21	22	23 Brunch with bottomless mimosas & Bacon Vodka Bloodyes
24 Easter Brunch: make a reservation before we fill-up: 303.321.4010	25	26 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos Live music with Milo Sofia @ 9pm (mellow acoustic rock)	27 Half-priced bottle of wine, choose from our entire list!	28	29	30 Brunch with bottomless mimosas & Bacon Vodka Bloodyes

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Local Business Helps Homeowners Analyze Solar Options

By Nancy Burkhardt and Carol Roberts

Today's economy is making homeowners take a hard look at their energy bills. And the desire to save money and to live "greener" is turning people's thoughts to putting solar panels on their houses. Voters approved Amendment 37 in 2004 requiring a portion of the state's energy to be "clean," and state legislation currently requires that Xcel have 30 percent clean energy by 2020. As an incentive to homeowners to buy solar systems that could put clean energy into the grid, Xcel Energy put a two percent fee on everyone's energy bill to build the Solar Rewards fund. That fund provided rebates for solar purchases. However, Xcel Energy stopped the program on February 16, 2011, because the demand for rebates was exceeding the amount collected for the rewards program.

On March 23, 2011, a revised Solar Rewards program was reinstated.

"They're moving to performance-based incentives instead of up-front rebate payments," explains Scott Skender of Real Goods Solar, which recently moved to Stapleton from its prior location in Louisville. "Performance-based incentives" means a portion of the rebate is paid over time based on what that system produces every month." Under the prior Solar Rewards program, the up-front purchase cost of solar systems was reduced by as much as 50 percent with Xcel rebates and federal tax credits. According to Skender, the newly revised rebate system is expected to offer similar savings, but a portion of the rebate will be paid out over a 10-year period.

Solar system purchasers who have a large south-facing roof and are moderate users of electricity will likely be able to cover all their electricity costs and perhaps, over the course of a year, will actually put power back into the grid. Xcel will either give that customer a credit or payment for that power at the wholesale rate (approximately 40% of the residential rate). However, Skender explains that Real Goods Solar does not design systems to produce more than a home needs and, in fact, the law mandates that systems can't exceed 120 percent of usage. Real Goods Solar specializes in residential solar installations, both purchased and leased. Skender says over 75 percent of their customers have selected



Scott Skender, marketing coordinator for Real Goods Solar, displays one of their solar panels. The company offers leasing plans that can make a solar power system cost effective for many homeowners.

the leasing option. "The number one reason people don't explore going solar is because they think it will be too expensive," said Mike Morton of Real Goods Solar. But in some cases the leasing option enables homeowners to install solar with no up-front costs, as described in two of the leasing options below:

Option 1: Homes with a large south-facing roof and moderate electricity use (but over \$50/month): No up-front costs and a fixed price at your current rate for 20 years.

Option 2: Smaller roof and/or east or west facing and moderate electricity use (but over \$50/month):

A) Pay \$1-\$2,000 up front and get a fixed price at the current rate for 20 years.

B) No up-front payment and get a fixed price for 20 years that's higher than current rates but expected to be lower than Xcel rates over that time period.

C) No up-front payment and pay your current rate but have increases over time that are expected to be lower than Xcel increases.

The capacity of your roof and the amount of electricity you use are the basis for calculating the best leasing option for each home. But Skender believes, "Whether you lease or purchase, if you consider the solar system a 20-year investment, you'll make money by not paying for increases to a utility company."

Homeowners lease solar panels on a 20-year plan. Real Goods Solar will maintain and repair damage (such as hail or wind) to the solar panels if they are leased. Homeowner's insurance usually handles such costs if the panels are owned.

A technician from Real Goods Solar measures and evaluates each roof to determine solar efficiency. According to Skender, asphalt shingles are best for solar—tile and metal roofs can support solar, but the cost of installation is higher. Solar panels are priced by their efficiency—and company representatives will recommend the best solar options for each home. Panels can be placed on the south, east or west sides—and Real Goods Solar will (continued on page 14)

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Underrepresented Students Get Boost for Engineering Careers



neers and Scientists (CABPES) has offered tutoring for students in math, physics and chemistry as well as a program called Junior Engineers Tomorrow's Scientists (JETS) with engineering classes.

"We get tutors by going to major engineering firms, architectural and construction firms and technological companies," explained Dewey Brigham, president of CABPES.

"We are partnering with Metro State College and they provide a lot of tutors. We get

Classes are in Park Hill at 4301 E. Colfax Ave. (at Colorado Blvd.).

"I would say that 95 percent of the kids we work with are underrepresented in the field of engineering," Brigham said. "Another 5 to 10 percent of the kids may not be considered underrepresented, but may come from single-parent households. We try to be role models.

"We get a lot of students through word of mouth," he explained. "And, we go into schools and talk to kids about engineering. A lot of these kids are interested in engineering. About 82 percent of the kids who go through our programs choose some technical major when they go to college, and 98 percent of the kids in our program go to college."

Joslyn Owens has been a tutor in the CABPES program for three years. She is a Denver Public Schools math interventionist and the math/science facilitator at Barney Ford Elementary School. She conducts an after-school program in math at Montbello High School and will be chaperoning those students on a trip to Europe. She is number seven in a family of 16 children.

"As a child, I was told I could be great in

anything I tried," Owens said. "African Americans were not put into higher math classes when I was young. I would be the only one there."

Three years ago, Owens found CABPES. Today, she is a board member and program coordinator.

"I work all day and after school with kids, but I get excited when I know I'm a part of CABPES," she said. "I know that's a pivotal part for kids who need help and can't get it in school. Their arms [CABPES'] are open to all children. They would not deny anyone.

"Thirty years ago there wasn't the support for African Americans," Owens explained. "If you needed a tutor, you had to pay at least \$25 an hour then and it has gone up as high as \$75. This program is willing to open their doors and embrace any child. We have all races in this program."

Underrepresented students haven't been motivated to learn math and science, according to Owens. However, at CABPES they are helped to prepare for math and science tests as well as the SAT.

The math enrichment program has tutoring on Mondays and Wednesdays. The JETS program has classes (continued on page 14)

Joslyn Owens and Dewey Brigham, president of Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists (CABPES), volunteer as tutors in math, physics and chemistry to help bring underrepresented students into the engineering field. The students are: Jake, 14 and Jenna, 12, Henderson who are home schooled and Mikhail Talley, 17 who goes to Rangeview High School.

By Nancy Burkhart

Engineering is one of the professions that exhibit an apparent underrepresentation of African Americans and other minorities. For this reason, the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engi-

professors and students tutoring in our program."

Tutoring in mathematics and science is provided for underrepresented students from the fifth grade through high school. The JETS program trains them in engineering,

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- May 6th
- May 6th

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Wings

(continued from page 1) moved as the floor of the hangar where they reside was being resurfaced.



Jeff Hollwell, Chief Operating Officer for Wings Over the Rockies museum

“Wings over the Rockies is undergoing a major construction project—our gateway to flight entrance,” says Jeff Holwell, a Stapleton resident who has been Chief Operating Officer at Wings for the past six months. “The expansion of the entry area will include a new museum store and an indoor and outdoor refreshment area. It will also include an observation tower that is a replica of the aeronautical observation tower that once existed on this building, where you can look out over the Lowry community and our iconic B-52 bomber. Six months ago the B-52 was raised so it sits in the position of lift-off—and it will also be renovated and re-painted.

“A second level mezzanine is being built so visitors can view the exhibit from above. And the 150,000 square feet of concrete floor in the hangar are being painted white to lighten up the museum and turn it into a modern facility. The goal is to improve the visitor’s experience to Wings Over the Rockies.”

See video at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com



Residents and visitors to Lowry were surprised to find the parking lot at Wings Over the Rockies Museum overflowing with vintage aircraft late last month. The museum is putting the finishing touches

on a major renovation, which included resurfacing the floor—so all the airplanes were taken outside, creating a startling juxtaposition of old aircraft and new homes.



The tail of the biggest airplane in the Wings Over the Rockies Museum is shown emerging from the hangar during the renovation of the museum. The plane, a B-1A bomber, is 150 feet long, 33 feet high and weighs almost 390,000 pounds. Designed in the 1960’s, only four prototypes were built because mission requirements changed and 100 B-1Bs with a much heavier weight-carrying capacity were built instead.

Holwell also added that the renovation includes a new solar installation, so approximately one fourth of Wings’ electrical load will be met by solar power. The construction projects were financed through a \$1.6 million contribution from the Gates Frontier Fund.

The Harrison Ford Welcome Theatre, which was completed last year, was built with a contribution from the Emil C. Buehler Foundation. “It’s a really cool state-of-the-art theater that plays *Wings Over the Rockies*, starring Harrison Ford, to welcome guests as they enter. It can also be used for any kind of multi-media presentation and for conferences, trade shows or other events.”

“The final piece of the equation,” adds Holwell, “is Wings sold Hangar Two to Larimer Partners in the summer of 2010 and it is in the process of being developed into an office and retail site. The proceeds of that sale will be used for continued improvements.”



Lowry residents Brent and Melissa Engle take a look at an F-14A Navy fighter jet—the type of plane flown by Tom Cruise’s character in the movie *Top Gun*.

Wings’ Upcoming Events

Grand Opening (free)
Tuesday, April 5, 11am

Family Night (free)
Thursday, April 7, 4-8pm

Cockpit Demo Day
Saturday, April 9, 10am-2pm

www.WingsMuseum.org

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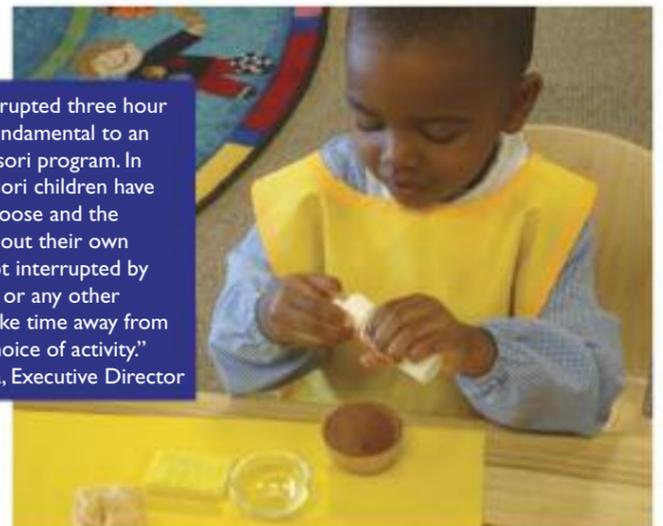
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Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

.....

Twenty Family Nature Outings within 40 Miles of NE Denver

Spring has arrived and it is the perfect time of the year to rally the troops, get outside and reconnect with nature. In this month's column, we cite our favorite destinations, some near and others, not so far from home. We have calculated the approximate distance from the base of the old Stapleton Airport control tower. All are easy to get to and ideally suited for practically every family. Should there be a website associated with a location that interests you, check into it and see if any special events or family-oriented activities are scheduled. What to bring? Lightweight backpack with ample snacks and water. Sunscreen, first aid supplies, binoculars, camera, bug collection container, a small plastic pail and a standard aquarium fishing net. Make the investment and buy a few basic wildlife books to help you identify birds, plants and animals. Always dress for the weather and always wear comfortable shoes. Now get out the door and take a hike!

0.5 Miles. Westerly Creek. In Stapleton and soon in Lowry. A superb destination to bird watch, catch crayfish and be amused by prairie dogs. www.denvergov.org

1.5 Miles. Bluff Lake Nature Center. Havana St. and Martin Luther King Blvd. 303.344.0031. Take a leisurely walk around the lake, then meander over and play in Sand Creek. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

3.0 Miles. City Park. Enjoy a sunset stroll around the lake, then a family paddle boat ride from the boat house. www.denvergov.org



Cherry Creek in Glendale

3.5 Miles. Rocky Mt. Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Commerce City. Quebec and Gateway Parkway. 303.289.0930. Enjoy 24 square miles of short grass prairie; 300 species of wildlife. New 12,000-square-foot visitor's center. Miles of trails, some along the three lakes. Fishing and nature programs. www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/



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Confluence Park Photos by Marko Babiak

4.25 Miles. Aurora Star K. Ranch—Morrison Nature Center. Aurora. 16002 E. Smith Rd. 303.739.2428. On Sand Creek with easy trails and interpretive center. www.auroragov.org

4.5 Miles. Cherry Creek Trail. Creekside Park. Glendale. 4400 E. Virginia Ave. Bike, jog or walk on this inner-city trail along Cherry Creek from Glendale and all the way to downtown and Confluence Park at the Platte River. www.denvergov.org

6.5 Miles. Confluence Park, Platte River Trail. Denver. 15th St. and Platte St. Where Cherry Creek and the Platte merge. Bring a bathing suit and play on the sandy beach. From here you can bike or walk north or south along the Platte River. www.denvergov.org

8.25 Miles. Cherry Creek State Park. Aurora. 4201 S. Parker Rd. 303.690.1166. Woods, streams, trails, picnicking, lake fishing, boating and plenty of wildlife to view. www.parks.state.co.us

11.5 Miles. Carson Nature Center, South Platte River Trail. Littleton. 3000 W. Carson Dr. 303.730.1022. Study the exhibits in the center, then take a walk along the South Platte. www.spsr.org/nature

13 Miles. Crown Hill Regional Park. Jefferson County Open Space. Wheat Ridge. 26th Ave. and Garrison. 303.271.5925. Handsome lake with 6.5 miles of easy walking trails. Great views of the foothills. www.openspace.jeffco.us

14 Miles. Lookout Mountain Nature Center. Jefferson County Open Space. Golden. 910 Colorow Rd. 303.271.5925. Education center and short loop trails in a forest and meadow. Ideal for youngsters. www.openspace.jeffco.us

15 Miles. Lair o' Bear Park. Jefferson County Open Space. Morrison. Highway 74. 303.271.5925. Streamside meadows and woodlands. Perfect for a morning hike. www.openspace.jeffco.us

16 Miles. Barr Lake State Park. Brighton. 13401 Picadilly Rd. 303.659.6005. Beautiful lake, bald eagle habitat and nature interpretive center. www.parks.state.co.us

17 Miles. Chatfield State Park and Audubon Nature Center. Littleton. 303.791.7275. Great destination for bird watching and fishing. www.parks.state.co.us

20 Miles. Roxborough State Park. Littleton. Roxborough Park Rd. and Titan. 303.973.3959. A Colorado state landmark. Impressive rock formations, forests and many trails. www.parks.state.co.us

21 Miles. Red Rocks Park. Denver Mountain Parks. Morrison. Exit 259 1-70. Miles of hiking trails surrounded by spectacular geological rock formations and soaring hawks. www.denvergov.org

22 Miles. Alderfer-Three Sisters Park. Jefferson County Open Space. Evergreen. Highway 73 and Buffalo Park Rd. 303.271.5925. 10 miles of open trails in the foothills. www.openspace.jeffco.us

24 Miles. Meyer Ranch Park. Jefferson County Open Space. Aspen Park. Highway 285 and S. Turkey Creek Rd. 303.271.5925. Grassy meadows and tall pine forests. Excellent for a walk and picnic. www.openspace.jeffco.us

25 Miles. Evergreen Lake and Nature Center. Evergreen. 29614 Upper Bear Creek Rd. 720.880.1300. Take a short walk around this pretty mountain lake, then try your luck at fishing or skating in the winter. www.evergreenrecreation.com

37 Miles. Chautauqua Park, Meadows, Ranger Cottage and the Flatirons. Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks. Grant Pl. and Baseline Rd. 303.441.3440. Start with a family early picnic in the park, and then head for the Flatirons from the Rangers Cottage. Boulder's best! www.bouldercolorado.gov

Marko and John Babiak are Stapleton residents. Marko, 10, is an avid wildlife photographer. John is an enrichment teacher. Weekly he teaches his Nature Rangers ecology classes to students at Steck, Roberts, Westerly Creek and Odyssey. He can be reached at Nature RangerJohn@aol.com.

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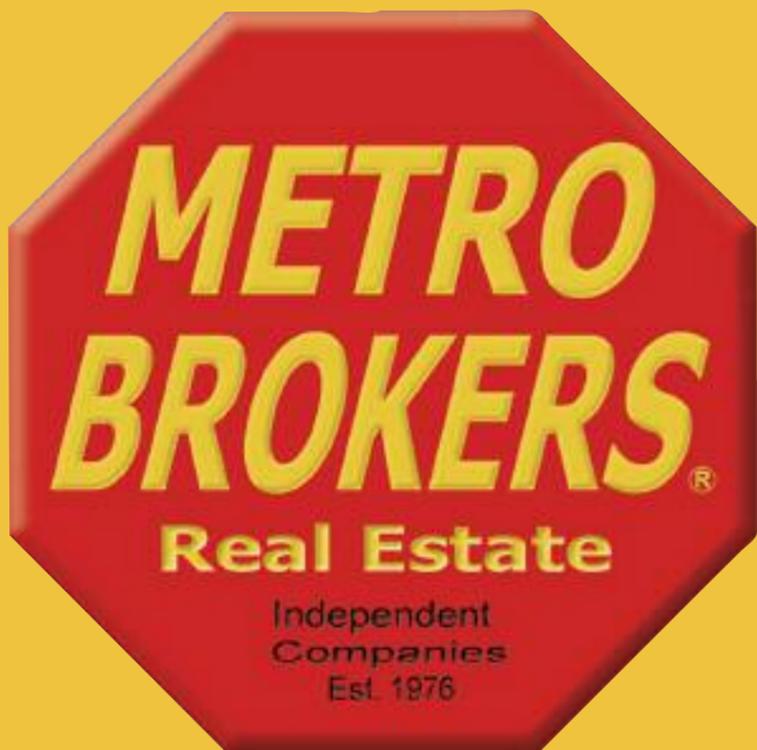
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www.theboydgrouponline.com

Engineering Careers *(continued from page 10)*

in aerospace, LEGO robotics, architecture engineering, computer-aided design and medical engineering on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Engineering classes include contests such as building bridges, which win awards.

To become part of the CABPES programs, students must write essays and attend a kickoff that is held the first part of September. Flyers go out to announce the date, and it is announced on the website. About 100 students each year are in CABPES programs.

A fundraiser to help provide scholarships to college for CABPES students who are graduating seniors will be held at 6pm on May 7 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center. At that time awards will be given to many of the students.

For information about CABPES or to purchase banquet tickets, go to www.cabpes.org or contact Dewey Brigham at 303.329.6251 or dewey.brigham@cabpes.org.

The Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists (CABPES) will hold its 30th Annual Awards Banquet at 6pm, May 7 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center. Cost is \$100 per ticket.

The fundraiser will provide graduating seniors with college scholarships and will sponsor the 100 children who will be in CABPES programs for the next year.

"The primary goal of CABPES is to get more students of color and underrepresented kids in the field of engineering and to go on to college and study STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)," said Dewey Brigham, CABPES president. "The purpose of the program is to encourage underrepresented minority students."

For banquet tickets or to make a donation, contact Dewey Brigham at 303.329.6251 or dewey.brigham@cabpes.org.

Solar Options *(continued from page 9)*

alert a homeowner if the home's roof is not deemed fit for solar panel installation. Skender also points out that Real Goods Solar provides financing information to homeowners that prefer to purchase and adds that home equity lines of credit or home refinancing are often used to pay for solar systems.

Real Goods Solar will be at the Earth Day Fair in Stapleton's Central Park from 1 to 5pm on April 23.

For further information about Real Goods Solar, visit www.realgoodssolar.com or call 303.222.8950. Real Goods Solar is a publicly traded company that has specialized in residential solar systems since 1978 and has been operating in Colorado since 2000. The company also has an online catalog featuring sustainable products at www.realgoods.com. The Stapleton office is located at 7003 East 47th Ave. Drive, Unit 700.

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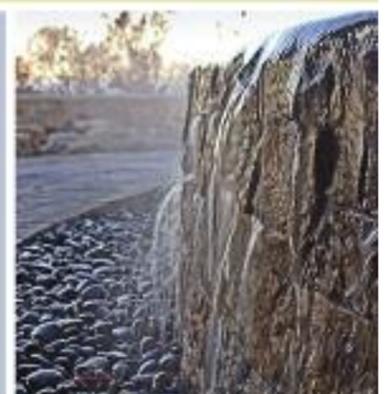
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Signals to Replace Stop Signs at 29th & Central Park Boulevard

By Carol Roberts

Anticipating changes to current traffic patterns in the Stapleton area with the opening of the I-70/Central Park Boulevard interchange this fall, the Denver Department of Public Works has obtained a plan for the 29th Ave./Central Park Boulevard intersection to be reconstructed to improve traffic operations and safety.

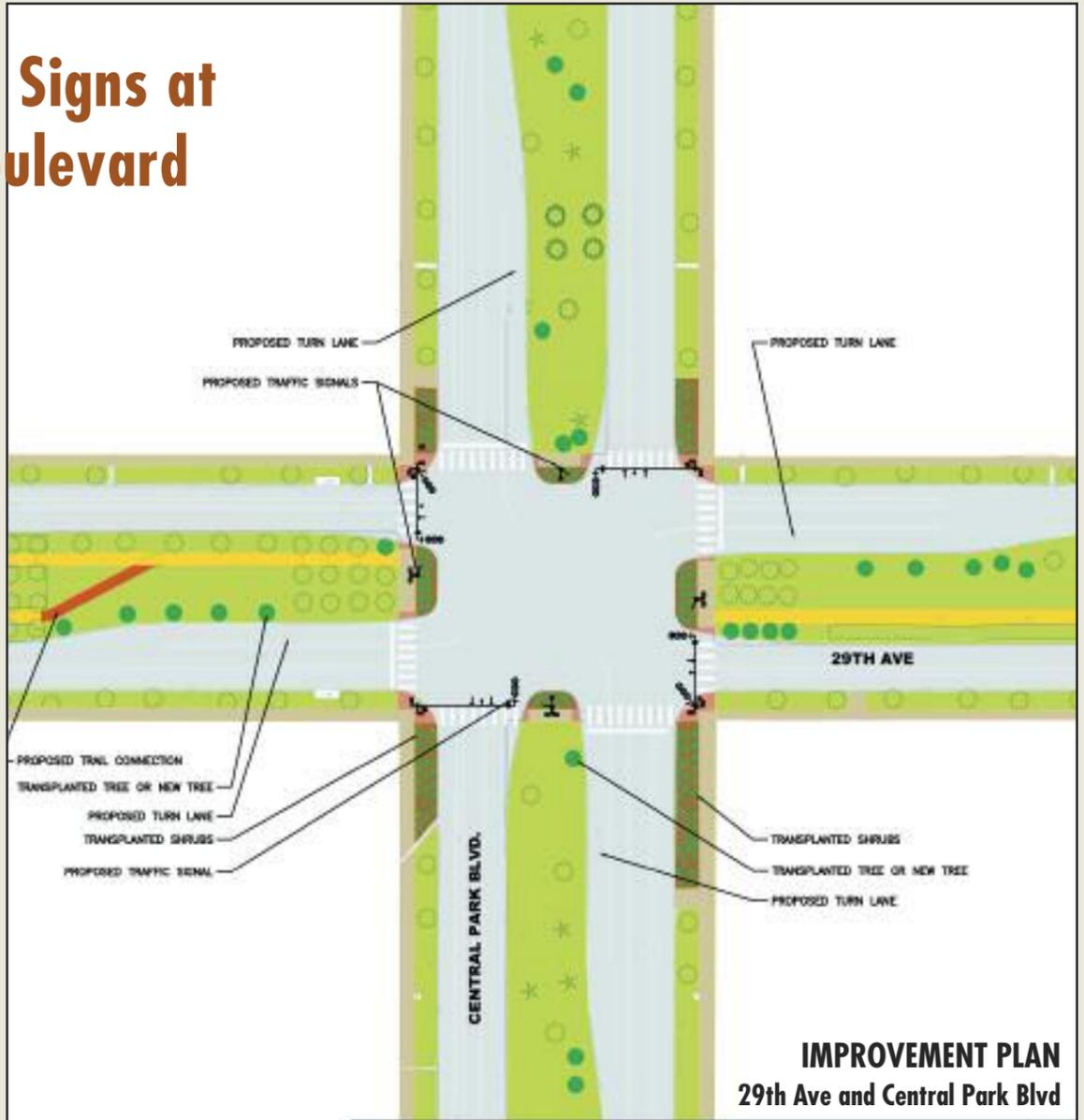
According to URS Corporation, the engineering firm hired for this project, changes include:

- Replacing the existing stop-sign controlled intersections with a single intersection controlled by traffic signals.
- The center island will be removed.
- The medians on both 29th Avenue and Central Park Boulevard will be reconstructed to provide a left turn lane for all approaches to the intersection.
- The trail in the median along 29th Avenue on the east of Central Park Boulevard will be modified to allow for the construction of the left turn lane.
- Median landscaping, including trees, will be restored.
- Pedestrians, including users of the median trails, will cross 29th Avenue and Central Park Boulevard with signalized pedestrian walk lights.

The City is "working diligently" to find the necessary funds so the intersection improvements can be completed by the time the interchange opens.

During construction it is expected there will be lane closures but closure of the intersection is not anticipated.

A traffic count completed in January 2011 showed the Central Park Boulevard has 10,000 vehicles/day and 29th Avenue has 2,000 vehicles/day.



IMPROVEMENT PLAN
29th Ave and Central Park Blvd

Feeding Your Baby Formula?

We are looking for infant formula fed babies to participate in a research study

Study Purpose: To learn more about how calcium and fat are absorbed in healthy infant formula-fed babies. To give babies two different milk-based infant formulas and see which formula is tolerated better. To see which formula has the better fat and calcium absorption.

Looking for mothers with an infant who: Is healthy and between 53 & 115 days of age (approx. 2-4 months) - Is presently drinking only infant formula
Plans to use only infant formula during study period of 28 days - Will help us keep dietary records & collect stool samples from Days 10-14 and Days 24-28 at home
Will bring your baby to The Children's Hospital for a blood draw on Day 15 and Day 29 of study

Monetary compensation and all infant formula consumed during the study will be provided to the participants

Contact Susan Hartley, MS, RD, Study Coordinator, for more information or questions at 303.724.5860, susan.hartley@ucdenver.edu

The Principal Investigator is Dr. Nancy Krebs, MD, Pediatric Nutrition, University of Colorado, Denver

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS *about* GERD

with Stapleton Family Medicine's Dr. Elizabeth Buisker



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Elizabeth Buisker, DO
Kristine Walsh, MD, MPH
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What is GERD?

GERD is gastroesophageal reflux disease, a chronic digestive disease that occurs when stomach acid or, occasionally, bile flows back (refluxes) into your food pipe. The backwash of acid irritates the lining of your esophagus. Symptoms are typically worse at night with the recumbent position.

What are the signs and symptoms of GERD?

Signs and symptoms of GERD include acid reflux and heartburn. Both are common conditions that most people experience from time to time. When these symptoms occur more than twice a week or interfere with your daily life, doctors term this GERD.

Are there other signs and symptoms that contribute to GERD?

Yes, these include:

- A burning sensation in your chest that sometimes spreads to throat, along with a sour taste in your mouth
- Chest pain
- Difficulty swallowing
- Dry cough
- Hoarseness or sore throat
- Regurgitation of food or sour liquid
- Sensation of a lump in the throat

What are the causes of GERD?

GERD is caused by frequent acid reflux. When you swallow, the lower part of your esophagus relaxes to allow food and liquid to flow down into your stomach. Then it closes again. However, if the valve relaxes abnormally or weakens, stomach acid can flow back up into your esophagus, causing frequent heartburn and disrupts your daily life. The constant backwash of acid can irritate the lining of your esophagus, causing it to become inflamed.

Are there certain risk factors that increase my chances of having GERD?

Conditions that can increase your risk of GERD include obesity, hiatal hernia, pregnancy, smoking, dry mouth, asthma, diabetes, delayed stomach emptying, connective tissue disorders and Zollinger-Ellison syndrome.

When should I see a doctor if I have symptoms?

Seek immediate medical attention if you experience chest pain, especially when accompanied by other signs and symptoms such as shortness of breath or jaw or arm pain. These could be symptoms of a heart attack. Make an appointment with your doctor if you experience severe or frequent GERD symptoms.

How do you treat GERD?

There are a number of lifestyle changes that can improve GERD symptoms. Reflux is worse following meals. This probably is so because the stomach is distended with food at that time and transient relaxations of the lower esophageal sphincter are more frequent. Therefore, smaller meals and earlier evening meals may reduce the amount of reflux. Treatment also includes stomach acid reducing medications, and in severe/persistent cases, surgical intervention.

©2011 Exempla Healthcare



Left: The front entry and patio (bottom photo) have cantilevered roofs that architecturally resemble wings—reminiscent of the site’s past use as an airport. Directly below: Material from a blast fence, used as protection from jet exhaust at the old Stapleton airport, is used as a planter wall.

HGTV Green Home features construction and design elements that contribute to energy efficiency and a healthy living environment. The Green Home is one of 36 homes in Colorado to attain the Platinum LEED rating (hgTV.com). It also received an Energy Star rating from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Photos by Steve Larson

HGTV Green Home

(continued from page 1) open design with an upper story loft, patio space for outdoor living, and a multipurpose “do room,” with decorative closet doors that open to reveal work spaces and a hidden washer/washer. And a bonus for dog lovers—the doggie wash in the garage. The front porch and the patio have cantilevered roofs that architecturally resemble wings—reminiscent of the site’s past use as an airport.

Constructed by Infinity Home Collection of Denver, the

Below: The kitchen has Energy Star appliances and eco-friendly flooring. The patio (below middle) has eco-friendly decking material, and “Staplestone,” concrete pieces from the old runways at the former airport, are used in the landscaping (far right).

Colorado Pine Beetle sliding wood doors, high-design furniture made of recycled materials, Colorado artists, flex office/play/laundry room with fold away desks, solar energy and an energy monitoring system are among the green construction and design elements.

The backyard retaining wall is made with “Staplestone,” concrete pieces from the old runways at the former airport. And material from a blast fence, used as protection from jet exhaust at the old Stapleton airport, is used as a planter wall in the front landscaping.

During the contest, April 14 to June 2, fans may enter



Photos courtesy of HGTV



Photo courtesy of HGTV

The great room includes artwork by local artists and a chair made of 80 year old radiator parts (lower left in above photo).

once per day on HGTV.com as well as once per day on HGTV’s FrontDoor.com, or as often as they wish by regular mail. Online users can see a photo gallery and take a 360-degree tour of the home at HGTV.com/greenhome. Information is also available at HGTV Facebook and Twitter. And TV viewers can see the fully-furnished HGTV Green Home special, premiering on Saturday, April 16, at 8 pm ET/PT. Last year the HGTV Green Home Giveaway received nearly 18 million entries and thousands of people toured the home during the entry period. The home, car and cash giveaway are valued at almost \$700,000.

HGTV Green Home Tour

Tours of the HGTV Green Home begin at the Stapleton Discovery Center located at Syracuse Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard. Visitors ride to the Green Home and/or Stapleton’s energy efficient model homes on a free shuttle bus. (For more information on the Stapleton Discovery Center see story on page 4.)

HGTV Green Home tour tickets are priced at \$20 with 100% of the net proceeds going to the Urban Peak programs benefitting homeless youth. Tickets may be reserved online at www.stapletondenver.com beginning April 1st. They may also be purchased online while visiting the Stapleton Discovery Center following its May 5th opening. Paper tickets must be picked up at “will call” in the Discovery Center on the day of the tour. Tours run from May 5 – July 3, Thursdays – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sundays from Noon – 5 p.m. Tours will also be held on Memorial Day, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and July 3, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.



The HGTV Green Home includes a dog wash in the garage.

Photo courtesy of HGTV





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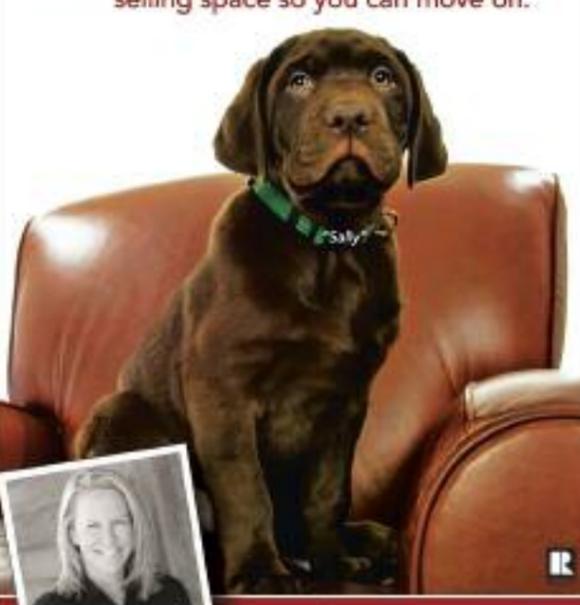



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Candidate Announcements

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 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)

Auditor Marcus D. Richardson



I am a serious candidate for Denver City Auditor. I believe the Auditor's office will benefit from my auditing experience and leadership. I hold a BS degree, and

I am a Certified Internal Controls Auditor. I have 27 years in the Denver City Auditor's Office. Fifteen of those years I managed audit teams that recovered millions of dollars for the city. As a result, I gained a national reputation as a highly skilled auditor, trainer, and mentor. I was selected by the Association of Local Government Auditors to participate in audit peer reviews of other cities. In 2001, as the Director and Chairman for the Association of Airport Internal Auditors, I organized subcommittees to host an audit conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel. I have passion for the success of Denver and a history of recovering dollars for the city. For more information visit: www.richardson4auditor.com.

Clerk & Recorder Debra Johnson



I am running for Denver Clerk and Recorder because Denver needs and deserves an experienced professional to provide accessible and efficient elections while preserving the accuracy and

security of our city records.

One of my many agenda items will be to improve public accessibility to information; whether a citizen wants campaign reports, public trustee information or recordings. The bar needs to be raised and I have the experience and knowledge to assist Denver to the next level. I have lived in Denver for ten years. During that time I have been the City Clerk for the 3rd largest city in Colorado (Aurora).

I have a Masters degree in Public Administration and I have extensive in-depth experience in City Management including: City Manager, City Management and Policy Director for National League of Cities, Director of Community Development/Revitalization. I have the experience, qualifications and passion for this position. www.debrafordenver.com

City Council Dist. 5 Meredith Hartigan



I am running for City Council, District 5, because I love this city and district that my family has been a part of since 1930. District 5 has grown exponentially in the last fifteen years. It has been an exciting and thrilling growth not only to witness, but to be a part of.

As a single mom and small business owner I have been able to participate in the growth and feel some of the growing pains that come with any substantial increase. I have been a corporate businesswoman and have a B.S. in business. With experience in this area as well as a small business owner I believe I can help the two work together for a stronger and healthier district. I believe we need to be fiscally responsible and would try to help work towards a balanced budget. <http://hartiganforcitycouncil.wordpress.com>

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Fifth Grade	Which is greater: 1/10 or 2/10, or 1/10 or 7/10? (Show how you get your answer!)
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Seventh Grade	How much is 6 1/2 % of 250?
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Algebra	When you take 3 away from twice a number, the answer is 8. What is the number?
Geometry	What is the Absolute Value of the point (-5, 6)?

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Premium Fishwrap* by Jon Meredith

Stapleton's Music Festival Will Be Missed

Dave Matthews, Jack Johnson, Tom Petty, Tool, Widespread Panic and The Fray will no longer be playing in our backyard. The Mile High Music Festival will not be held this year and I doubt it will be ever held again. Not, at least, at Dick's Sporting Goods Park or geared to the audience that enjoys rock and alternative music. The music festival was always circled on my calendar as a "do not miss" summer event. There were indeed the headliners, but it was also an opportunity to see many bands that you may not fork over \$30 to \$50 to see at the Ogden, Bluebird or the Fillmore.

For concert enthusiasts from East Denver it was very convenient. You could come and go as you pleased, see some of this band, none of that band and all of your favorites. It was well organized so the experience was hassle-free. Chuck Morris and AEG Live should be given credit due to the fact that they left nothing to chance when it came to putting on the Festival.

Despite headliners Matthews and Johnson, the attendance last summer was nowhere close to what promoters needed to turn a profit. Other festivals around the country have been, and continue to be, very successful. Lollapalooza in Chicago's Grant Park sells out every year. The

Outside Lands Festival in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, started the same year as Mile High and has been a huge success.

Why was the Mile High Music Festival a bust? There are plenty of theories to go around and unfortunately AEG and Chuck Morris are not commenting. So, I will pontificate on the Festival's demise based on information I have been able to obtain from sources around town.

People did not like going to Dick's Sporting Goods Park to see a festival show. If the Fest had been in City Park, as originally proposed, or Civic Center Park, I think a sense of vibrancy and intimacy would have been created. Out at Dick's, the venue was so big and spread out that people did not have to plan on going ahead of time because there might not be tickets. There were always going to be tickets so fans could wait until the last minute to decide if they wanted to attend. In Colorado there are plenty of other things to do on any summer weekend. If the venue had been downtown, it would have been much more of a phenomenon. It would have put a lot of change in city coffers as well, which may be controversial but is none the less true.

All the headliners can play Red Rocks two or three nights in a row in the summer and sell out in minutes. Why

would AEG want to put up with the monumental effort it took to put on the Festival when they can book the same band at Red Rocks and make money? Widespread Panic sells out Red Rocks at the end of June for four nights every year. Dave Matthews could probably sell it out every night for a month. Finally, Red Rocks is the best outdoor concert venue in the world and the artists themselves want to play there, not at some soccer fields in Commerce City.

Finally, Colorado has almost always been an outstanding stop for performers of all kinds. I say almost because the Beatles did not sell out their only show at Red Rocks. The music scene here is rich, from developing local talent like The Fray, String Cheese and Big Head Todd to the local bands that start out at the Mercury, the Hi-Dive, the Little Bear and hundreds of other small venues. However, since 2008 when the Festival started, Coloradans themselves have not been rich and the discretionary income it takes to go to a two-day festival simply have been unaffordable for many the past three years. If it is out of reach money-wise, there is always something else to do in this state.

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

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

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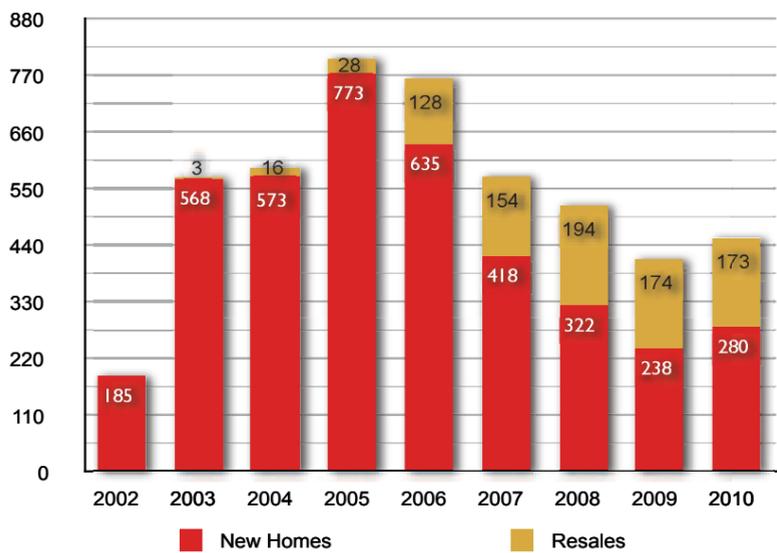
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Stapleton Housing Market 2002 – 2010

New and Resale Closings in Stapleton

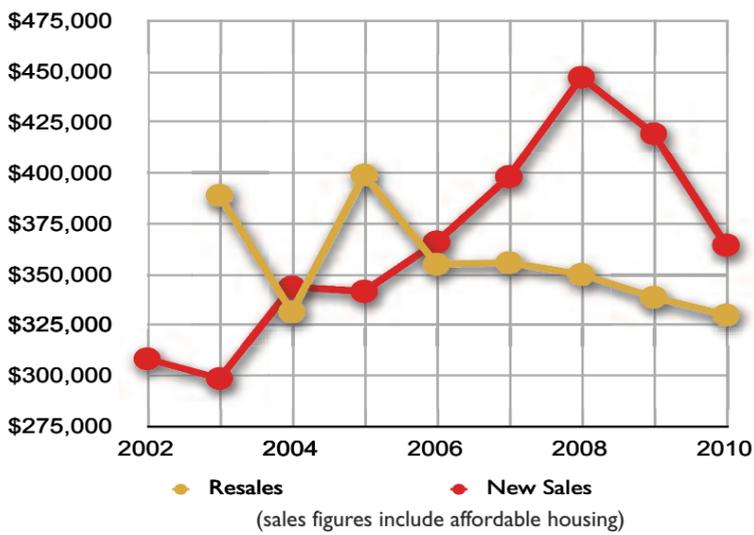


Stapleton sales figures provided by Forest City (figures reflect closed sales)

In 2010 Stapleton had 7.4% of all new home closings in metropolitan Denver and had a 20% increase in new home closings from 2009 to 2010 compared with a 6% decline throughout the metropolitan area.*

*Data compiled by Hanley Wood Market Intelligence and released by The Genesis Group, a real estate marketing research and analysis firm.

Stapleton New and Resale Median Price



(sales figures include affordable housing)

Stapleton Homebuyer Facts

- Nearly 87% of Stapleton homebuyers were from Colorado. Of the out-of-state buyers, most (14%) came from California, followed by New York (11%), Pennsylvania (6%), and Florida (5%).
- Other than new home buyers who were already living at Stapleton, the second greatest number of buyers came from the South Park Hill/Mayfair neighborhood, followed closely by Congress Park and North Park Hill. (Statistics are from 1/1/08 - 12/31/10)
- Of the Colorado buyers, 32% were already Stapleton residents.

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EARTH DAY EVENTS

4/22 Friday- Westerly Creek Earth Day Cleanup. 1:15pm at Westerly Creek greenway near Bill Roberts School. See Events story.

4/22 Friday- Earth Day at the Denver Botanic Gardens. FREE day at the Gardens. Celebrate Mother Earth's many miracles with special activities from 5:30-8:30pm.

4/22 Friday- Denver Zoo's Earth Day Party for the Planet. 10am-1pm. Activities free with zoo admission.

4/23 Saturday- Stapleton Earth Day Festival. 1-5pm at Central Park. Games, food and earth-friendly info and products. Stapleton.earth.day@gmail.com. See Events story.

4/23- Saturday- Green Valley Ranch Earth Day Celebration. GVR Citizens Advisory Board presents this annual festival to educate and inspire our community to protect and enjoy our natural environment. A community cleanup, performances by local talent, DOW fishing clinics and recycling competition between schools. 10am-2pm. FREE. Oakwood Homes New Home Center Parking Lot, 18655 E Green Valley Ranch Blvd.

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Art Walks:

4/1 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Drive between 10th and 6th. www.artdistricton-satafe.com

4/1 Friday- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk. Tennyson St. and 44th Ave.

4/1 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District. www.cherrycreeknorth.com

4/8 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.

4/21 Thursday- Highlands Square Third Thursday. 5pm to close. 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. www.highlands-square.com

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 4/17- Colorado Watercolor Society Show and Sale. Foothills Art Center, 809 15th St., Golden, CO.

Through 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 use fine art photography to create exciting artistic and educational events. RedLine art space, 2350 Arapahoe St, is nerve center with exhibitions, lectures, workshops and more. Events free, some with fees or donation requested. 303.296.4448 or

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

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Visit www.svgd.org for volunteer opportunities for singles: local projects, charitable social events and working vacations abroad.

4/6 Wednesday- Beginning Improv. 4 Weds. Improvisation games/activities help grow inner confidence and develop stronger communication skills. Improv keeps you in here and now; a great way for adults to play. With 69 years' experience from The Second City and iO in Chicago and LA, instructors from The **YES! Lab** love introducing new people to their craft. Colorado Free University, 6:30-9pm. \$101 or \$89/CFU members. www.freeu.com, 303.399.0093

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. Sally Kurtzman:

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, I-70 & Brighton Blvd. Thurs.-Fri. 10am-7pm. \$1 adm.; 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

4/10 Sunday- Herbal Soap-Making Workshop. Pure herbal soap is fun to make, a joy to use. Shea butter, lavender flowers and honey are skin soothers. One-day workshop to learn about, then make your own soap like honey oatmeal or loe

vera & comfrey for your skin type/needs! Colorado Free University, 10am-4pm, \$67 or \$55/CFU members; \$15 materials fee., 303.399.0093

4/15 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. I S Broadway. Register: 720.865.1206

4/16 Saturday- Craft Your Own Green Accessories: Juice Bag Tote and Milk Carton Wallet. Make a small tote bag from 10 juice bags and coin purse/wallet from a 1/2 gallon-size milk or juice carton. Colorado Free University, 9am-12pm. \$41 or \$29/CFU members; \$8 materials fee., 303.399.0093

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 . See Event story.

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

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Throughout April- 9News Health Fairs. Free and low-cost health screenings at various metro area locations. www.9healthfair.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

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
tbrislil@gmail.com
www.stapletonhomebusiness.com

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

2nd & 3rd Wednesday
Lowry Peak Speakers Toast-
master Club. Noon-1pm, Pin-
nacul Assurance: 7501 E.
Lowry Blvd, Denver 80203
lowrypeak.freetoasthost.org
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

Neighborhood Partners Envi-
ronmental Team 9am-Noon.
Contact 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



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LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

Active Minds – Info on all sessions: . FREE.

4/5 Tuesday- The History of Colorado. 10–11 am. , 350 S Dahlia St. RSVP not required. Lil Shaw:

4/11 Monday- The Impact of Egypt. 2:30–3:30pm. , 6800 Leetsdale Dr. RSVP: 303.331.9963

4/12 Tuesday- Somalia. 11am–12pm (10:45/refreshments). , 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi: 303.388.4013 x307

4/14 Thursday- Tibet. 10am–12pm (10 reception, 10:30 program). . RSVP: (limited seating)

4/14 Thursday- Columbia, A Powder Keg? 7–8pm. Potluck, 6pm. Bring dish to share; utensils, plates and beverages provided. Stapleton Master Community Association, 2823 Roslyn St.

4/26 Tuesday- Switzerland. 12:30–1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax Ave.

5/3 Tuesday- Pirates: Tales and Legends. 10–11 am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

LIBRARIES

For info on library programs, check events calendar at denverlibrary.org. All Denver Public Libraries closed Friday, April 1 for a city furlough day and Sunday, April 24 in observance of Easter. **Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720.865.0250. Closed Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays.**

Thursdays- All ages storytime. For kids who can sit and listen to stories and participate in songs. 10:30am.

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

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.

4/9 Saturday- Colorado Authors Series: Dr. Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh. 2pm.

Dr. Colwell-Chanthaphonh, curator of anthropology at Denver Museum of Nature & Science and author of *Crossroads of Culture: Anthropology Collections at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science*, has research interests in Native American anthropology, ethnology and archaeology. Learn about DMNS' fascinating collections and his research.

4/9 Saturday- Emedia: What is it, and how does it work?

10:30am. Learn to download an electronic audio or book to your computer, iPod, mp3 player, iPhone, Droid, or E-reader. In-house expert Janet Ryan shares all the exciting materials in the Denver Public Library's electronic collections and how you can get them at home, on the go, step-by-step.

4/10 Sunday- Colorado Authors Series: Christie Barnes. 2 pm. *Paranoid Parents Guide: Worry Less, Parent Better, and Raise a Resilient Child* author Christie Barnes knows the truth: Most parents waste time and energy worrying about the *wrong things*. From years of research, she gives parents a much-needed reality check, opening their eyes to *real dangers* lurking that are more likely to impact their children and what to do.

4/16 Saturday to 4/26 Tuesday, and 4/30 Saturday- Peep Your Book Contest. *The Peep with the Dragon Tattoo? Harry Peep? War and Peeps? Twipeep?* Take a favorite book and enjoy marshmallow Peeps that surface in grocery stores this time of the year, put the two together and enter the Peep Your Book Contest! Create a shoebox-sized diorama of a favorite book scene using marshmallow Peeps as the characters. See DPL branches for complete submission guidelines. Submit your creation (on open days) from 4/16–4/26 at Bear Valley, Ross-Broadway, Ross-University Hills, Schlessman or Smiley. Viewing/judging at Schlessman on 4/30, 10am. Will be Peeptastic!

4/17 Sunday- Teacup Candles. 2pm. Pour simple paraffin-based candles into charming teacups found in any thrift store.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 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

4/2 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.

4/2 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,

4/6 Wednesday- iCreate Playdates at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3–5 can roar, bang, stomp 2nd Wed. of every month. Drop in, 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 or 720.865.5000

4/9 Saturday and 4/23 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.lowesbuildandgrow.com

Starts 4/9 Signing Smart Class For parents/caregivers and their babies. Play, sing, and dance while learning signs, signing strategies and more. Saturdays from 10:30–11:15am, course is 8 weeks. Cost is \$140 and includes DVDs and materials. Located at Naturally Loved, 7329 E 29th Ave. More info on the class: http://www.naturallylovedbaby.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73:sign-class&catid=4:workshops&Itemid=4 or contact the teacher, Julie Buck, at juliebuck@gmail.com.

4/16 Saturday- Sabaki Challenge 2011. World Open Full Contact Karate Championship. 5:30 pm. Denver Merchandise Mart. Tickets: \$25 and \$50; buy 4 get 1 free. Kids 12 and under general adm. seating \$10. www.sabaki.com

4/17 Sunday- Opera Colorado at Denver Children's Museum. 11am–2pm. All activities included with museum admission. www.mychildsmuseum.com. 2121 Children's Museum Drive.

4/22 Friday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. The fourth Friday of each month explore nature at night in the Mordecai Children's Garden. New theme monthly with performers in Sagebrush Stage, snacks by a campfire, and more. \$20/member for family of 4, \$3/each extra person. \$25 nonmember/family of 4, \$4/each extra person. Kids 2 and under free of charge. www.botanicgardens.org

Thursdays in April- 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,

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

Email information in the following format by the 15th of the month to FrontPorchEvents@gmail.com. Events will be run subject to space available.

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

Press releases for suggested stories should be sent separately to FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com

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

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

Thursdays through May- Your Money Your Life: How to keep it, use it and make it grow. Teens learn how money affects their lives and useful tips for smart money handling. 3:30–5pm. FREE Appropriate for grades 6–12. Anythink, 7185 Monaco St, Commerce City.

Art Students League of Denver- Registering programs for kids and teens. 303.778.6990, www.ASLD.org

Small Hands Art Studio- Registering for spring classes. Located in Stapleton | www.smallhandsart.com

The Art Garage- Registering for workshops/classes ages 4 and up. 6100 E 23rd Ave, Park Hill. www.artgaragedenver.com

Stapleton All Sports- Registering for spring/summer programs. Include coach pitch baseball and tee ball beginning April 11, Cheer and Dance, and summer sports camps located in Stapleton. www.stapletonallsports.com or Gabe Hurley: stapletonallsports@gmail.com

Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Montview and Colorado Blvd.

4/21 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. Various times. Tickets: \$8/3–18; \$10/adult

Wings over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, 7711 E. Academy Blvd in Lowry.

4/5 Tuesday- Gateway to Flight Grand Opening. 11am. Light refreshments served.

4/7 Thursday- Lowry Family Night. FREE admission. 4–8pm.

4/9 Saturday- Cockpit Demo Day. 10am–2 pm.

(continued on page 22)

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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 April 12, 6:30pm, and Tuesday May 10, 6:30pm

Health-Smart Protocols

- Weight Balancing
- Hormone Health
- Aging Metabolism
- Bone Health
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(continued from page 21)

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

Bass Pro Events - 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

Every Friday in April – Hunting Wild Turkeys
 Every Saturday in April – Introduction to Fly Fishing
 4/4, Monday – Hunters Education 2011 (Internet-based)
 4/6, Wednesday – The Basics of Shotgunning
 Every Wednesday in April – Trout Fishing in the Rocky Mountains-Spin & Bait Casting
 Every Wednesday in April – How to Use Fish Finders and What's New!
 Every Thursday in April – Fishing for Pike and Lake Trout-Spin & Bait Casting
 4/7 & 4/9, Thursday and Saturday – What You Need to Bag That Springtime Gobbler!
 Every Thursday in April – How to Use GPS
 4/9–4/10, Saturday–Sunday – Field & Stream's 2011 Total Outdoor Challenge Qualifiers
 4/10, Sunday – GPS and Map & Compass Clinic
 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, Tuesdays – Get Hooked on Fly Tying for Beginners
 4/14, Thursday – What You Need to Bag That Springtime Gobbler!
 4/16, Saturday – Basic Pistol Course – Handgun Safety

Harkins Theatres 18 – 720.374.3118, www.HarkinsTheatres.com

4/1, Friday – *Hop, Source Code*
 4/8, Friday – *Rio, Your Highness*
 4/15, Friday – *Soul Surfer*
 4/22, Friday – *African Cats, Apollo 18*
 4/29, Friday – *Henry's Crime*

Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre –

Tickets: 303.307.1777, performers listed at www.ImprovDenver.com

Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill – 303.728.9468, www.TobyKeithsBar.com

4/1–4/2, Friday–Saturday – Nathan Dean and The Damn Band
 4/5–4/9, Tuesday–Saturday – HonkeyTonk Voodoo
 4/12–4/16, Tuesday–Saturday – Shane Thomas
 4/19–4/23, Tuesday–Saturday – James Parks
 4/26–4/30, Tuesday–Saturday – Bobby Cutshaw

The Twisted Olive – 303.373.8100, www.TwistedOlive.com

Spoken Word/Poetry – 9pm Every Wednesday

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

***Reservations required: 303.289.0930. To get to the refuge, take I-70, exit north on Havana St, enter at 56th and Havana. Free unless noted. Refuge Hours: Tues–Sun, 6am–6pm. Visitor Center Hours: Tues–Sun, 9am–4pm. Visit www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/visitors/nature.htm and download schedule at Wild News link.**

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

4/3 Sunday- Friends of a Feather.* Walk with a Refuge Naturalist Bring camera and binoculars.

4/5 Tuesday – Tuesday Tots*. 10–11am. Young naturalists 2–5 years old. Parent/guardian must accompany all children. Repeats 4/26.

04/09, Saturday – Fishing Frenzy*. 8am–noon. Fishing derby for youth anglers. Prizes, skill booths

to learn about casting, knot tying, fishing ethics, water safety and fish identification.

4/16 Saturday – Zoom In on Birds*. Bring camera and zoom lens to focus on seasonal feathered friends and how to identify them.

4/23 Saturday – Seasonal Photo Tour*. 6–9am. Capture wondrous moments through your camera.

4/30 Saturday- Family Fishing Night*. 4–7pm. Experienced anglers will be on hand; poles available for loan.

SPORTS AND FITNESS

4/16 Saturday- 4th Annual Parr-Widener Walk/Run. 9am, City Park Fountain at Esplanade & 17th Ave, near East High School. FREE registration, family friendly 5k event. Dogs, strollers, children, all ages welcome. Voluntary donations benefit the A+ Angels Mentor Program at EHS and provide college scholarships. Entertainment. Free parking in EHS lot. Call 303-837.1555.

5/1 Sunday- Cherry Creek Sneak. 5 mile, 5K, 1.5 mile sneak sprint and 1/2 mile kids' fun run in Cherry Creek North. Benefits Kempe Foundation for prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Register: www.cherrycreeksneak.com

5/7 Saturday- Miles for Moms Run/Walk. 9am Stapleton's Central Park. 5K and 2K races to benefit Florence Crittenton Services mission to help teen parents. Family Festival after race. www.parentpathways.org Contact Marcia Jamison: mjamison@FloCritCo.org

5/7 Saturday- Dumb Friends League Furry Scurry. 2-mile walk at Denver's Washington Park benefiting Denver Dumb Friends League. \$50/person 9am. www.ddfl.org

5/7 Saturday- Wells Fargo Walk MS Denver Presented by MS Lifelines. Denver City Park. Registration/festivities start at 7:30am; walk at 9:30am. Main fundraising event of National MS Society. Helps the 10,000 people in Colorado living with MS. www.walkmscolorado.org

5/8 Sunday- Mother's Day 5K. 9am. Denver City Park. \$25/individual, \$60/family (max 5) includes zoo admission. www.mothersday5k.com

5/15 Sunday- Colorado Colfax Marathon. www.coloradocolfaxmarathon.org

STAPLETON/PARK HILL/ LOWRY EVENTS

4/7 Thursday- Greater Stapleton Business Association After-Hours Event. Join GSBA for after-hours networking and information. Hosted by Exempla Stapleton Family & Occupational Medicine and Exempla Stapleton OB/GYN. 5:30–7:30pm. FREE. 2803 Roslyn St. info@stapletonbusiness.com

4/9 Saturday- Voice of the Wood Cello Quartet and Friends. 3pm. Park Hill Congregational Church, 2600 Leyden St. \$5 admission; kids free. Proceeds (after venue rental) go to Park Hill Food Bank. www.voiceofthewood.org

4/10 Sunday- From Lent to Easter. 5pm. Choirs of Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church with orchestra present their annual spring concert: selections from Her-

bert Howells' *Hymnus Paradisi* and more. FREE. Child care provided. 1980 Dahlia St. www.montview.org

4/17 Sunday- Love Your Relationship Workshop. Is your relationship sluggish, stale or boring? Arguing more than snuggling? Learn what a relationship coach does and how you and partner can be better communicators, friends and lovers and have fun too! 1–3pm. Charitable donation optional. Naturally Loved in Stapleton Town Center. Register: www.thrivingmamas.com or Jamie:

4/12 Tuesday- Introduction to Baby Food Making. For parents interested in making their own baby food, but may not know where to start or overwhelmed with all the info out there (we have been there). Get support on feeding your baby healthy. 5–6pm. Cost: \$30. Naturally Loved in Stapleton Town Center. RSVP: 303.955.6207 or

4/30 Saturday- Swigert McAuliffe International School Touch a Truck. 14 trucks to climb on and in. 10am–2pm. Sam's parking lot in Quebec Square. \$1 off admission with coupon in the *Front Porch*. Tickets:

6/26 Saturday- Stapleton All Sports Field Day. Kids 4–11 will compete in 6 events within their age group; top 6 placers get ribbons. Chipotle will provide lunch; water provided. Registration limited to first 200 kids; no signups day of event. After the competitive events, activities for parents and kids including water balloon toss and 3-legged race. \$20/1 child, \$30/2, \$40/3. www.stapletonallsports.com

THEATER

Through 4/2 Saturday- The B Team. Avenue Theater, 417 E 17th Ave. 303.321.5925, www.avenuetheater.com

Through 4/3 Sunday- K2. Aurora Fox Theatre, 9900 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. 303.739.1970,

4/8 Friday to 5/7 Saturday- Cliffhanger. Presented by Firehouse Theatre Company at John Hand Theater, 7653 E 1st Pl, Lowry. 720.880.8727,

4/29 Friday to 5/29 Sunday- Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Avenue Theater, 417 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.avenuetheater.com

Through 5/1 Sunday- The Dixie Swim Club. Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.vintagetheatre.com

DENVER ZOO

4/16 Saturday- Adult Volunteer Open House. Get an overview of the adult volunteer program and how to become involved. 10–11:30am. RSVP: 303.376.6719. www.denverzoo.org

4/27 Wednesday- World Tapir Day. Celebrate the Zoo's 2 Malayan tapirs with Education Stations and tapir talks at the Pachyderm Building. www.denverzoo.org

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HANGAR 61

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JOIN US AT 9AM & 10:45AM. MORE INFO: STAPLETONCHURCH.COM



More Events...

April 2—Neighborhood Partners Cleanup

The Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team cleanup for April will be on Saturday, April 2 from 9am to 12pm. The targeted area will be Westerly Creek and the meeting place is 26th and Beeler. Trash and debris in the creek area has accumulated from winter storms. In March, 40 volunteers collected 18 bags of trash and recycling on the Sand Creek Greenway and cleared out three truckloads of Russian olive trees. Questions? Contact Lucia Correll at lcorrell@dotnet.net or Caroline Fry at CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org.

April 2—Impact of Family Acceptance or Rejection on the Lives of LGBT Young People

Dr. Caitlin Ryan, an internationally recognized researcher and expert on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth will be the speaker at the event on Saturday, April 2 from 1 – 4:30 pm. Members of the LGBT communities, parents, and professionals who work with youth are invited to attend. The presentations and discussion groups will focus on how to promote well-being for LGBT children and adolescents and how families and communities can respond and adapt when LGBT youth come out. More information: (303-573-5861), pflag-den@tde.com. Johnson and Wales University, in the Jared Polis Auditorium at the Academic Center (corner of 19th Avenue and Olive Street).

April 2, 16, 18—Own Your Health! 9Health Fair

This year's 9Health Fair theme is Own Your Health! Medical screenings will provide participants with their present and ideal levels for glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure. Free screenings include vision, height/weight, hearing, memory, skin cancer, lung function and breast exams and pap smears. Ask a pharmacist or talk with a nurse. Low-cost options include colorectal cancer kits (\$20), blood chemistry (\$30) and PSA for men (\$25). Sites nearby include: Sat., April 2, Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St.; Sat., April 16, Medical Center of Aurora, 1444 S. Potomac; and Sun., April 18, Green Valley Ranch Medical Office Bldg., 4809 Argonne St. (GVR Blvd near Tower Rd). All fairs are from 7am-noon. No need to register but must be over 18 to participate. Specific screenings offered at each site, visit www.9HealthFair.org or call 303.698.3799.

Starting April 5—Denver Candidate Forums

The following candidate forums are free and open to the public and will be filmed by Denver 8 television for airing at a later date. Check

schedule at www.denvergov.org/denver8online. These forums are organized and sponsored by Denver Decides, a coalition of community civic organizations in Denver comprised of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, League of Women Voters, Historic Denver, League of Conservation Voters, UC Denver, the Denver Post, in cooperation with various neighborhood organizations.

Tuesday, April 5 – Mayor: Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd., 6pm

Thursday, April 7 – City Council At-Large, and Council District #5: Palmer Elementary School, 995 Grape St., 7pm

Tuesday, April 12 – Mayor: Tivoli Student Union, 900 Auraria Parkway, 6:30pm

Thursday, April 21 – Mayor: Coors Field Club Level, 2195 Blake St., 6pm

April 6—Food, Glorious Food! Free at Lowry

The third event in the Lowry Seminar Series will be Food, Glorious Food! on Wednesday, April 6 from 7–8:30 pm. The speakers know their food—and where it comes from. Sundari Kraft (Sustainable Food), Lisa Rogers (Feed Denver) and Pete Marczyk (Marczyk's Fine Food) will take you from soil and seed to store and table. How do we eat? How does food get to us? The Lowry Foundation free event will be held at the Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn St. For further info, contact Sally Kurtzman at sallyk@ecentral.com.

April 14—League of Women Voters Prospective Member Reception

The League of Women Voters of Denver will host a Prospective Member Reception on Thurs., April 14 from 5–6pm at the Stapleton Central Park Recreation Center (9651 MLK Blvd.). The reception will take place prior to the Mayoral Forum at 6:30pm and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Marge Fisch at 303.322.4235.

April 16—Keller Williams Kids Concert

Keller Williams has credit for 16 album releases his latest is called Keller Williams Kids. The Fredericksburg, Virginia native will perform an afternoon show for kids, one of only four in the country, on April 16th at 2:30pm at the Ogden Theater. The Washington Post reviewed Kids and was notably impressed “Kids’ music often falls into two categories: too annoying for parents or too condescending for kids. Thankfully, the new album...is neither. ‘Kids’ is good, simple, rootsy music with humorous lyrics and a smattering of cute kids singing along.” 935 East Colfax Avenue. Ogdentheater.net. Tickets: \$16/adults; \$50/kids 4-pack.

April 22 —Children’s Earth Day Activity at Westerly Creek Greenbelt

Children in our local schools are learning about composting, reducing waste and supporting the environment. Now they can put that knowledge into practice at one of the most beautiful parts of their neighborhood—Westerly Creek. Tracy Ceravolo is organizing a community cleanup at Westerly Creek for Earth Day to get children (and families) intimately involved in their environment. Parents must sign a release and get it back to Tracy or bring it on the day of the event. The event starts at 1:15pm on Friday, April 22 at the Westerly Creek greenbelt near Bill Roberts School. Family members are welcome to join in and are needed to lead small groups of children. Contact Tracy at ovomojo@yahoo.com with any questions.

April 23—Dodgeball Tournament to Help Kids Grieving the Death of a Loved One

The second annual Dodgin’ for Dollars Dodgeball Tournament, a fundraiser to benefit Judi’s (continued on page 24)

COMPLETE MUNICIPAL ELECTION COVERAGE



Watch the CANDIDATES and FORUMS Videos and TV Schedule Online www.DenverDecides.org

APRIL EVENTS - CANDIDATE FORUMS

- 4/5: Mayors - Museum of Nature and Science - 6 PM
- 4/7: City Council District #5 & At-Large - Palmer Elementary School - 995 Grape St. - 7 PM
- 4/12: Mayors - Tivoli Student Union - 900 Auraria Parkway - 6:30 PM
- 4/13: Council Dists. #1 & 9 - Oriental Theater, 4335 W 44th Ave - 6 PM
- 4/21: Mayor - Coors Field, Field Club Level - 5:30PM



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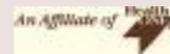


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More Events...

House, will be held at the Stapleton Bladium Sports and Fitness Club, 2400 Central Park Blvd., the evening of April 23. Judi's House provides help for children and their caregivers grieving the death of a loved one. The nonprofit also does outreach to increase awareness and knowledge of grieving children's needs.

Teams of 8 must have at least 2 female players and cost \$500/team; individuals can participate for \$65/person. Participants must be at least 18. Beer, wine, food and goody bags will be provided for all players. Spectator tickets cost \$35 and include food and beverage. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team and the team with the best costumes. Register by April 20 at events.judishouse.org or call 720.941.0331.

April 30—Old House Sidewalk Stroll, Capitol Hill

Join Denver's Old House Society on Saturday, April 30 from 1–3pm to walk, stroll and poke around Capitol Hill to learn about its architecture, newsworthy residents, building materials and other interesting tidbits—current and past. This is the first of five different guided walking tours that will include time to visit over light refreshments in a park setting. Participants will have the chance to talk with authors of books about the neighborhood and win a vari-

ety of fun and entertaining items, services and meals from each neighborhood's merchants. Tickets: \$15 or \$60 for all five. Purchase at King Soopers stores or www.denversoldhousesociety.org.

April 30—Take Back Event to Dispose of Old Drugs

The Drug Enforcement Administration's 2nd National Pharmaceutical Drug Take Back Event will accept unneeded drugs from the public on Saturday, April 30 from 10am–2pm, on the outside south side of Fitzsimons Hospital, Anschutz Medical Campus, 13001 E. 17th Place, Aurora. The free collection event provides a venue for persons wishing to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. It removes potentially dangerous prescription drugs and controlled substances from the nation's medicine cabinets. The drugs are then disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. Items not accepted include: needles and sharps, mercury (thermometers), oxygen containers, chemotherapy/radioactive substances, pressurized canisters and illicit drugs. See www.dea.diversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html.

April 16-17—Doors Open Denver 2011

The Seventh Annual Doors Open Denver is a FREE, multifaceted weekend event April 16–17 that offers access into distinctive examples of architecture, engineering and design throughout the city. It creates excitement about adaptive reuse and good design. And it gives close-up views and fascinating information about places Denverites are familiar with but may not know well. The 2011 theme is “Modern Architecture: '50s & Beyond.”

Among the more than 70 Denver sites are several in and around NE Denver: the Anchor Center for Blind Children, Denver Public School of the Arts, Mod Livin' on E. Colfax, the Stapleton Central Park Recreation Center, Stapleton Central Park and Open Space, Stapleton Fellowship Church, the Stapleton Town Center and, new this year, a bicycle tour of Stapleton public art and an expert tour of Hangar 2 at Lowry.

Free program guides with site descriptions/maps/suggested tours will appear in the April 8 Denver Post. They can also be obtained at the Union Station event headquarters, at each site on the event weekend or at kiosks on the 16th Street Mall.

Participants can experience Doors Open Denver through:

- A self-guided tour (begin at any site)
 - An Urban Adventure (self-guided tour tailored to a specific interest or theme)
 - An Expert Tour (led by volunteer guides)
- Urban Adventures have such engaging titles as: “Denver Icons Recommended by AIA Denver,” “Great Outdoors,” “Art & Architecture Spaces,” “Family Fun,” “Romancing Denver” and “Performance & Event Venues.” Walking tours of the Stapleton, Berkeley, University Park and Cherry Creek North neighborhoods

have been added for 2011.

Over 100 Expert Tours will give chances to learn firsthand about the Mayan Theatre, Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Headquarters Bldg., the three bridges of the pedestrian corridor on upper 16th Street and the Denver Art Museum's Frederic C. Hamilton Building. Tour Union Station, LoDo and the Red Light District with historian Tom Noel. Get “The Low Down About Denver's LoDo” with City Auditor Dennis Gallagher. Follow the History of 16th Street and go on an EPA Green Building Tour.

Expert Tours require signing up (first-come, first-served; limited to two tickets per person and two tours per day) at Union Station the day of the tour. Tour groups are limited but many will be offered more than once.

Other citywide events include: AIA Denver Box City for Kids, a Focus on Architecture Photography Competition, Platte Valley Trolley by the Denver Rail Heritage Society and model railroad displays in Union Station.

Doors Open Denver takes place during Colorado Architecture Month (www.ColoradoArchitectureMonth.org) and is presented by the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs (DOCA) and The Denver Architectural Foundation.

Go to www.DenverGov.org/DoorsOpenDenver for specifics on all sites, architects, accessibility and photo restrictions. The Union Station headquarters, 1701 Wynkoop, will be open 8:30am–4pm both days.

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The Gift of Art

By Nancy Burkhart

Most people have photos of their childhood escapades, but many disadvantaged children have no mementos to enjoy as adults. The Memory Project was created by Ben Schumacher in New York to have U.S. student artists create sketches of photographs that he takes of orphans and other disadvantaged children around the world.

Bill Roberts Middle School visual arts teacher Amy Marsh asked Schumacher to allow her 10- to 13-year-old students to participate in the Memory Project, which usually only allows high school participants. She said she has students who excel in artistic skills.

"Bill Schumacher wanted to address the needs of children around the world who don't have the same advantages that many other children have," Marsh explained. "Some of them don't have parents or have homes. They weren't having their photos taken. He thought a portrait would be a nice memento they could have when they grow up.

"He found that not only the kids in the disadvantaged situations were benefiting from this, so were the artists," she said. "They were able to connect through art. They had to look at the child's picture every day, look at their eyes and look at their face. I've had the artist say that their subject feels like their child."



Max Speyer and J.P. Garcia, both 13 and in 7th grade at Stapleton's Bill Roberts School, work on their portraits of Peruvian orphans.

This is the third year for Marsh's student artists to participate in the Memory Project. The first two years were for children in Uganda and the Ukraine. This year the project is for Peruvian children. Seven student artists are working on portraits while "sponsor" classes at Bill Roberts work to raise \$20 per portrait to be able to ship it to Peru.

The artists have to bring their portfolios to Marsh and convince her of their artistic

abilities in order to participate in the Memory Project.

"I choose children who have a talent for art," Marsh said. We choose children who want to help people and who have a desire to give of themselves. They also have to have a dedication. This is a yearlong thing. They have to make a portrait where they can take criticism. We want them to have something that they're proud of, that increases their self-

worth. We really work hard to make it look nice. These kids are dedicated. They're not going to say, "That's good enough."

The portraits are 12" x 14" pencil sketches, using colored pencils and pastels on flesh-colored paper. The background is abstract.

"The artists get to know their kids and see their attributes," Marsh said. "They're learning how to give. They come in during lunch and during their recess. They are committed to this. That's a reward for the artist, too. One of my students last year said she was going to ask her high school teacher to start this project."

The Memory Project makes the middle-school artists well-known among the other students, she said.

"I have one boy who is in his third year of doing it, and in my classroom he's like a super star," Marsh said. "The kids all look at him and say, 'He's the one that does that art project.' It gives the artists status, a little boost."

The Memory Project's official website is www.thememoryproject.org. The Bill Roberts Middle School students' portraits for the Memory Project are at www.msmarshart.wikispaces.com. Go to the Memory Project. For more information about the Stapleton project, email amy_marsh@dpsk12.org.

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Fit Kids!

By Julie Tourigny

A common concern for many parents is whether or not their children get enough exercise. Even though our children's lives are not sedentary, their activity levels may be.

There are many well-documented cases showing the harmful effects of not exercising on a child's physical health. What may surprise you are the positive effects that exercise might have on your child. They include:

- Attention span at school
- Sleep
- Mood and social interactions
- Energy level
- Self-confidence

With the days getting longer and weather warming up, spring is a great time to add more exercise to your child's daily routine. Here are some tips:

Define Exercise for Your Family What might be exercise for some families may not be for others. Outdoor exercise, like ball games, tag, playing at the playground or running around with friends, might be just what your extroverted child likes to do. Other children may prefer to challenge themselves with timed activities like obstacle courses, running up and down the stairs or jogging around the block. Your child does not need to be enrolled in an organized sport or own expensive equipment to exercise. Colorful duct tape and sidewalk chalk are inexpensive materials that can quickly transform your back patio, basement floor or sidewalk into obstacle courses to run through, targets to throw or kick balls at or hopscotch boards to play on.

Make It Motivating and Support Success Motivation and support are key components to keep your child on board with your efforts. Many children are motivated to exercise with simple praise and encouragement. Others are motivated to exercise with you because they

get some quality one-on-one time. Still others may need a tangible or visual motivator such as earning a sticker or using a sticker chart that notes progress over time or repetitions completed.

You can support your child's efforts by talking with family members about their accomplishments, reading books about athletes or describing the health benefits associated with exercise with your child.

Keep It Simple and Fun The key is to exercise regularly. With safety in mind, the best way to encourage this in young children is to allow them to run, climb, jump and tumble as they see fit. In his or her backyard, a young child may be most interested in getting exercise in ways that do not have a lot of rules. Preschool and elementary school children may do very well following the rules of an organized sport run by a coach but may be quick to give up or become upset when a parent tries to teach them the rules of a game or activity.

Make the Most of the Free Time You Have

A great time to encourage your child to exercise at home is right before and right after school or daycare. Even 10 minutes of bike riding, scootering in the basement, or running up and down the stairs a few times before school could have a positive impact on attention and energy levels at school.

A child who struggles with the transition from school to home may have an easier time if he or she can spend 10 or 15 minutes playing outside or on the playground before needing to sit down for dinner or homework.

So power down and find opportunities within your children's schedules to fit in exercise. Encourage them to get moving. The results may really surprise you.

Julie Tourigny is a Stapleton resident and the director of the Colorado Center for Pediatric Learning and Development, which provides pediatric occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, handwriting classes, social skills groups and sensory integration groups. For more information, visit www.ccpld.com or contact Tourigny at 303.333.4982 or jtourigny@ccpld.com.



Colorado Fusion soccer coach Bob Boyle, named this year's Colorado Youth Soccer Coach of the Year, gives some pointers to his team, the Komodo Dragons.

Soccer Coach Builds Love of Game

By John Babiak

Annually the Colorado Youth Soccer (CYS) organization hosts an awards gala. CYS is a nonprofit educational organization formed to help organize, advance and foster soccer for boys and girls under the age of 19 here in Colorado. CYS has a membership of over 65,000 registered youth and serves over 70 soccer clubs statewide.

Attending this year's banquet was Park Hill resident Bob Boyle who coaches Under 9 (U9) boys for the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club. Boyle was the recipient of the CYS 2010 Boys Developmental Coach of the Year Award. That is a tall order for a state that has a few thousand volunteer soccer coaches. He was nominated by Fusion's Terrance Gunnells, the club's program director for U9 and Under 10 (U10) players. In his nomination letter, Gunnells wrote: "Bob has worked tirelessly, coaching two U9 teams, and embodies our philosophy of development over results, and building a love for the game in all of his players." In my efforts to gain insight into Coach Boyle's success as a youth soccer coach, I learned more than I expected. Bob Boyle is a model youth sports coach.

Boyle's approach to coaching has a "big picture" look to it. He is all about collaboration and community. His coaching philosophy is rather simple: "I want each and every boy to develop a passion and love for the game of soccer." He also places considerable emphasis on individual player development and sets high, yet achievable, age-appropriate expectations for his boys on and off the field. Boyle also has high expectations of himself and takes advantage of every opportunity to improve as a coach.

Boyle sees a team as a collection of moving parts that not only involves the players,

but also a dedicated team manager, capable assistant coaches, committed parents, a supportive club and the neighborhood community. Each of these components is critical to his recipe for success: a positive experience for the entire team, young and old.

Parent Joan Fritsche put it this way: "Bob is amazing on many levels. As a parent, I truly admire and respect Bob's approach to soccer, kids and coaching. His love of the game is contagious and he brings that enthusiasm to the field. I feel like my son is learning all of the facets of the game and how they all work together—skills, teamwork, respect for coaches, players, and referees, following the rules." Joan continued that "As soon we joined the team we started getting emails about informal get-togethers to watch the World Cup, attend DU and Rapids games, carpooling to practice and tournaments, suggestions to do multifamily pickups from the uniform store, and a family potluck for all the players."

Soccer dad Rich D'Ambrosio wishes that Boyle could continue to coach his son into his teen years. "I have noticed Bob's focus is on player development. It is nearly his sole concern, and he is just as happy with good effort in a loss than in a win. In the tournaments we've played in, I see that the other club teams focus more on winning and not necessarily on the things that will make the kids successful in soccer down the road—individual player development and skills instruction. Our kids don't win many of those games, but they are competitive, and in my opinion, the boys have better 'ball skills' than most of the players from the other clubs."

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— Views on the Street —

What's your favorite vacation and/or local outing?



Brian and Bianca Becker with Caden, 5, and Avery 2 1/2

Brian: I love Steamboat in the summer—staying with friends and hiking, biking, and fly fishing (before kids). Bianca: In Denver we like to go to the Botanic Gardens in the summer. The kids love it—they love to run around. There's so much open space for them to run wild. My favorite vacation ever was going a small town outside of Florence called San San Gimignano; my cousin got married there shortly after I was out of college.



JoAnne and John Wojak

JoAnne: For the last seven years most of our vacations have been spending time with our grand kids. But our favorite vacation is probably a beach because that's total relaxation. We really liked Guadeloupe.

We ride our bikes a lot. We like to ride Montview to City Park. We go through City Park, which is beautiful, obviously, and then we'll stop at the Starbucks on Colfax.



Karen and Ed Dezoeten with Lainie, 4, Cole, 6 1/2, and Ana, 7 1/2

Ed: Without kids our favorite vacation was Greece... Santorini, Naxos and Amorgos Islands. There's nobody there, we hiked to private beaches, if you climb to the top of a monastery built on a cliff, the monk will give you a shot of something (I don't know what it was!)

Karen: We like going to Red Rocks, the Garden of the Gods and Cave of the Winds—but now the kids' favorite thing to do is skiing. Ana's favorite vacation was a family reunion in France and going to the caves and castles. Cole's favorite vacation was visiting his grandparents home in Marco Island, Florida. Lainie's was Chicago, taking a carriage ride and going to the American Girl store.



Leslie and Colin Donnelly with Max, 2 1/2, and Finn, 3 months

Leslie: We just moved here. We liked going to the Apex water park (in Arvada) in the winter. Our best vacation ever was Australia, where my husband is from. There are beautiful beaches and it's always summer there. We like the Gold Coast.



Matt and Erin Pink

Matt: Of course we won't be having this any more, but the Mile High Music Festival was great—or the jazz and wine fest in Aspen. In the summer I like to do fourteens. My favorite is Mt. Massive because it has a nice campground near the hot springs in Buena Vista and there's a good local burger and shake place.

Erin: My favorite vacation was Honolulu where I just relaxed on the beach.

Letter to the Editor

Stopping at Stop Signs Since the Hit-and-Run

It's now been a few months since one of our own, Laurie Gorham, was run down in Stapleton in a hit-and-run. By now, I'm sure everyone knows the story. She was run over when a motorist ran a stop sign. Neighbors were outraged. Signs went up, flowers, cards and stuffed animals were left at the intersection, and the community felt the pain.

Since that time, Stapleton residents come to a complete stop at the intersection of Central Park and 29th Avenue. They pause, and they look both ways, as if the rest of the neighborhood is watching. At first it may have been due to the increased police and news presence at the intersection. But months later it's still occurring. It's as if each driver is saying, "I would never run a stop sign. See me stopping?"

Yet throughout the rest of our community, drivers carelessly run or roll through the stop signs. Most drivers

barely slow down at the stop sign just outside of Anthony's Pizza. They roll by it as though the roundabout has a yield sign. With the amount of traffic in the town center by the fountain, it's only a matter of time before we have another tragedy. Other signs coming out of the smaller streets onto 29th are also ignored.

So the next time you are driving, ask yourself: If you can take the time to come to a complete stop at Central Park and 29th Avenue due to an earlier tragedy, doesn't it make sense to come to a complete stop at the other signs in our community to prevent another one? Or are you only doing it for show?

By the way, bicyclists are also required to come to a complete stop at signs. I see most of my fellow cyclists running those signs too. Please be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Jim Winski, a Stapleton resident, 303.564.7917 or jim@winski.com.

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

Your Home

Submitted by Technician Amy Esten, District Two, Denver Police Department

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom—and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door—understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.

SUN Groundwater Survey Results

by Larry McSorley,
SUN Board Member

SUN has been working with Stapleton homeowners affected by excess groundwater. In November of 2010, SUN organized a community survey regarding the issue. Over 600 residents responded and the results of the survey are available below.

Additionally, SUN met with Forest City on behalf of over 150 homeowners affected by groundwater issues to explore how to fund additional hydrology studies throughout the affected areas of Stapleton. A source of funds for this project has not been identified.

In order to discuss next steps, SUN is sponsoring a groundwater meeting on Wednesday, April 13 at 6:30pm in the MCA Community Room at 2823 Roslyn Street. While there may be less water pumping this spring due to the unusual lack of moisture this season, this issue, as well as its impact on home values and resale, remains a concern to SUN and the Stapleton Community.

Number of Respondents 647 (613 completed entire survey)

- Home Owners 636
- Renters 7
- No Response 4

Type of Residence

- Single Family Homes 566
- Group of Housing- two or more units 79
- No Response 8

Concerns over Stapleton Water Issue?

- Yes 415
- No 109
- Unsure 121
- No Response 2

Homes by Category

- Group A - No Basement 62
- Group B- Basement With No Sump Pit or Pump 16
- Group C - Basement With Sump Pit - But No Pump 114
- Group D- Basement With Sump Pit & Working Sump Pump 442
- No Response 13

Reported water damage or flooding in or around home that may be related to groundwater.

- Group A 5
- Group B 1
- Group C 9
- Group D 34

Homes that have had remediation – all groups 69

Homes that have reported issues to Forest City and/or builder, SUN, MCA – all groups 119

Group C Homes

- Sump is Dry 38
- Water in Pit 52
- Unsure 24

Number of Affected Homes prior to survey 103

Total Number of Affected Homes now Known to Have Problem 149 (+46)

Group D Homes (442 Homes)

How Often Does Sump Pump?

- Never 99
- Only after Rain or Snow Melt 90
- Only During Summer Months 7
- Daily (for more than a few weeks at a time) 114
- Not Sure 113
- No Response 19

Those Reporting Pumping Daily for More than a Few Weeks at a Time by Neighborhood

- East Bridge 36
- South End 22
- Stapleton Classic 14
- North Central Park 32
- Not sure 10

Extent of Those Reporting Pumping Daily for More than a Few Weeks at a Time

- 1-3 months per year 13
- 4-6 months per year 17
- 7-9 month per year 15
- 10 months or more 69

Frequency of Those Reporting Pumping Daily for More than a Few Weeks at a Time

- 1-5 times a day 48
- 6-10 times a day 27
- 11-15 times a day 13
- 16 or more times a day 26

Those Reporting Pumping Daily for More than a Few Weeks at a Time by Builder

- McStain 6
- Harvard 9
- Infinity 8
- John Laing 41
- KB 20
- New Town 13
- Parkwood 4
- Urban Estates 1
- Wonderland 12

Stapleton Earth Day Festival 2011

By SUN Sustainability Committee
Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN), in partnership with Greenprint Denver and 97.3FM KBCO and presenting sponsors Walmart and Xcel Energy, is excited to announce Earth Day Festival 2011. The event will take place on Saturday, April 23 from 1–5pm at Central Park. There will be healthy and organic food, music provided by KBCO, games for young and old by Games2U and, of course, a variety of Earth-friendly information and products. There will also be raffles, free giveaways and fun activities for kids.

Some of the vendors will be our very own Stapleton businesses showcasing their sustainable and green products and services.

This event is free and will be the green event of the year, so please join us in celebrating our planet Earth. Bike if you can. For more information, email stapleton.earth.day@gmail.com or visit the SUN Sustainability webpage at <https://sites.google.com/site/sunwebsite1/sustainability>. Please also email us after the event and let us know how we can make it even better for next year.

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Maundy Thursday • April 21: 11 am • 7 pm
Good Friday • April 22: Noon • 7 pm*
*The Passion According to St. Luke by Georg Telemann
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from a Burglar's Perspective

11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.

12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of

town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at www.faketv.com/)

Sources: *Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoe, who runs www.crimedictor.com and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book *Burglars on the Job*.*

Denver Police Issue Reminder to Public: Put It Down!

Denver police traffic officers recently conducted a two-day traffic safety operation to enforce and educate motorists about the dangers of distracted driving. Examples of distracted driving they found included a woman driving 5mph over the speed limit while using both hands to apply makeup to her face. Another speeder was attempting to set his iPod while eating breakfast. Officers wrote 15 citations for texting while driving or distracted driving and 36 other violations including speeding.

With more technology now than ever, driver distractions are at unprecedented numbers. People expect instant, real-time information and to be connected 24 hours a day and that does not stop just because they get behind the wheel.

For everyone who thinks they can talk on their phone, text or do any other distracting activity such as applying

makeup and eating while driving, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) presents this crash course in reality: In 2009, distracted driving killed 5,500 people and injured 450,000. Those with handheld devices are four times more likely to get into crashes.

A Carnegie Mellon study showed that driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent.

Driving is an activity that requires your complete attention and focus to keep yourself and others safe.

While this is a growing trend and national problem, local law enforcement and first responders see the tragic consequences at too many crash scenes. They ask you to remember, Put It Down...your life is worth more than a conversation!

Information submitted by Denver Police Department, District Two.

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Rapids Kickoff Their Defense of the MLS Cup

Kosuke Kimura Plays With Heavy Heart

By John Babiak

March 19, 2011. 6:45pm. Dick's Sporting Goods Park. A sea of burgundy and white "Major League Soccer Champions" flags awaited the arrival of their team. A crowd of 17,000 strong roared as the champion's silverware circled the field. Fireworks exploded when Rapids' greats Marcelo Balboa and Paul Bravo unveiled the 2010 MLS Champions signage now permanently affixed to the stadium's north façade. And so began the Colorado



Above: Kosuke Kimura displays Japan's flag after the home opener. He was the recipient of the Rapids 2010 Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Left: Rapids unveil their 2010 MLS Champions plaque at the first game of the season.

Photos by Marko Babiak

Rapids 2011 season.

Minutes after the ceremonies, the Rapids picked up right where they left off in Toronto. Like a fine surgical team, they methodically dissected the Portland Timbers, with Jeff Larentowicz, Omar Cummings and Jamie Smith each scoring in the first 30 minutes of the game—with the over-the-top crowd standing up and cheering, Mile High believers they were once again. And Cum-

ings' goal made him the first MLS player to score in four consecutive season openers.

Yet in all of the energy that filled Dick's, one could not miss the demeanor and play of Rapids' Kosuke Kimura, the sole Japanese player in the MLS. Kimura hails from Kobe, Japan. He came to the U.S. speaking no English. He is self-taught, completing a 12-month intensive English class in just six months. He earned a near-perfect SAT math score and won an athletic scholarship to Western Illinois University. In 2007, the Rapids selected him in the 35th round of the supplemental draft.

During the pre-game ceremony, he stood stoic on the midfield, hand over his heart, eyes closed. "I was praying for my country," he said later. After the match, he unfurled his country's flag and walked the length of the field for the Rapids' faithful to see and read. On the flag he had hand printed: "Please Help My Country Japan." In his native language he also wrote, "My Long Distance Thoughts Are With You." Kimura was in Seattle for a pre-season game when the cataclysmic 8.9 magnitude earthquake rocked his homeland and the subsequent tsunami swept over 1300 miles of Japan's northeast coastline. The epicenter was 220 miles north of Yokohama where his parents and older brother make their home. Kimura attempted several telephone calls to his family. All were unsuccessful. He eventually heard from his brother by way of a text message. He watched events unfold on television in his hotel room. Three hours after the earthquake he finally spoke with his mother and father. He learned that his younger brother, a member of the Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Navy, would be involved in rescue and recovery efforts at sea.

Today, Kimura's biggest fear is the possible full-scale meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and release of radioactive materials into the atmosphere. If that occurs, he is prepared to bring his family to America. Meanwhile, Kimura has teamed up with the Rapids and Red Cross. He is raising awareness and money to help the nearly 500,000 homeless including an estimated 100,000 displaced children. At the home opener the Rapids raised \$2,000. He also intends to dedicate his play this season to the people of Japan.

Kosuke Kimura asks readers to make a contribution, of any denomination, at the American Red Cross website: www.redcross.org.



Kosuke Kimura with hand over heart during the pre-game ceremony. He later said, "I was praying for my country."

Photo by Bill Bonebrake





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Left: Ernie and BJ Diller spent two nights in BJ's second grade classroom while the school tried to find transportation to get all the teachers out of the country.



Photos courtesy of Ernie and BJ Diller

An Unexpected Departure from Libya

By Carol Roberts

Ernie and BJ Diller spent three days trapped in the ferry of foreigners trying to leave Tripoli in late March.

A storm that left the passengers bouncing in their seats as if on a roller coaster kept the ferry from leaving the harbor. But the rest of the world watched and wondered if it was more than a storm keeping the ferry in the harbor. Would Kadafi hold these passengers hostage?

Prior to the Dillers' ordeal on the ferry, the Stapleton couple had been working as teachers in an international school in Tripoli. They set off last August to join what became a tight-knit staff of 25 who were working to get the five-year-old school its accreditation.

Many of the students were the children of oil company employees—and those who get sent to Libya tend to be younger and have less seniority, explains Ernie, so most of the kids in the school were younger. There were 150 pre-school to middle school students and only 21 high schoolers.

At the high school, Ernie was the history department, teaching, in different grades, Geography, AP World History, US History, Contemporary Issues and Economics.

BJ, who taught 2nd grade at Bill Roberts school last year, taught a class of 16 second graders and took 20 trunks of materials for her classroom (which, at this point are still in the room). "Twenty trunks is not typical," says Ernie, "She's unique." "I just need to have all those things for the kids," explains BJ.

The school provided a home in a nice neighborhood as well as a car. The school itself was a beautiful walled villa with three buildings. The Libyan employees at the school were hard working, respectful and committed to the school. "We would go back," says BJ. "But the school

won't re-open until 2012 because there won't be enough children. The workers may return but they probably won't bring their families."

During the week before the Dillers were stranded on the ferry, they said they were aware of the uprisings in Benghazi 400km to the east—and their phone and internet service had become sporadic. They periodically received text messages in Arabic that were warning the Libyans to stay at home and not go out and protest, but there were no problems in Tripoli, so they decided to proceed with a planned long weekend in Malta. On their flight back were several people from the US embassy who didn't think anything was going to happen in Tripoli. And the Libyan taxi driver who met them at the airport said, "Things are pretty calm."

"But when we drove home all the stores were dark, and they're usually open at that time, so that was pretty eerie," says BJ, "and the two gas stations we passed had cars lined up out to the highway so we could hardly get around them. At that point our driver said, 'This isn't right.'

Ernie and BJ then jointly recount the events that followed. "When we got home we walked to our neighbor's (since we had no phone service), who was also on staff. She said they expected to have school the next day, but there was a plan for safe havens. At 2:40am the phone rang but we ignored it, assuming it was one of the text messages in Arabic. But it rang again and our neighbor said,

'Pack a bag, we're leaving the country tomorrow.' We took our financial papers, our technology equipment and the clothes we hadn't unpacked from our Malta trip. Then when we got to the school they said we could only take one carry-on." "The school



The Dillers say the passengers on the ferry had no news so they were unaware the world was watching them and fearing for their safety. USA Today cartoon by Chip Bok, Creators Syndicate

was trying to get all of us out, but thought it was safest for us to be in one place, so we slept on the floor in the classroom for two nights. Meanwhile, the airport was packed with 40,000 foreigners who had no phone or internet service and were trying to book at the airport. The embassy families couldn't even get into the airport and they had gone back to the embassy.

"On Wednesday morning at 2am, the chimes on the PA system rang and we were told the State Department had provided a ferry and we would leave in the morning. Our Libyan guards, who had been so kind to us, almost cried when we left, they were afraid for our safety and for their own.

"At 7am we went through downtown Tripoli in vans and it was like a ghost town... no one was there. When we got to the ferry the teachers were the first ones checked, even before the embassy families, but the storm was starting to move in. The wind was so strong the kids were being blown over. And it stayed like that for two days. They brought us food (though many couldn't eat because they were sick to their stomachs due to the choppy water) and we slept in our chairs.

"We had no news... we didn't know to be scared. Once we got on the ferry we knew we were going to get out. We were told over the PA system the Libyan government was protecting us... but they also said we were number one on Hillary Clinton's mind. The whole question of being taken hostage never crossed our mind because it would have been stupid—the world would have turned against them. We had no threats against us, but we knew it was time to go. Everything would have been fine if

The Dillers traveled in vans with other teachers from their school outside Tripoli to take a ferry to Malta. They, along with other foreigners leaving Libya, ended up spending two days on the ferry, sleeping in their seats, waiting for the storm to pass. As the ferry finally departed, it hit some big waves and the passengers threw their arms in the air, as if on a roller coaster.

there'd been no storm, we would have been out two days sooner.

"We think Obama did the best he could because it was a fluid situation. He was listening to what was going on and going slow to see what was happening."

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