

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

JUNE 2011

STAPLETON

Groundbreaking for Stapleton's Library



Denver Mayor Bill Vidal spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony on May 19 at the site of the new Denver Public Library in Stapleton's 29th Avenue Town Center. Architectural renderings of the new building, scheduled to open in mid-2012, are shown in the foreground.

By Carol Roberts

May 19 was a cold dreary day, but about 50 people braved the rain and huddled under a tent to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new 28,000 square

foot Stapleton library. It will be a state-of-the-art facility with the latest in library technology, including customer self-checkout stations, e-books, public computers, and Wi-Fi. The library will achieve at least *(continued on p. 30)*

Debate Highlights Candidate Differences



Mayoral candidates Chris Romer (left) and Michael Hancock (right) share a laugh at the close of the May 16 debate at Johnson & Wales University as they recount the funniest thing that happened during the campaign. Chris Adams, center, was moderator.

By Jon Meredith

The mayoral candidates gave attendees at a NE Denver debate on May 16 an opportunity to understand their positions and analyze their differences. Moderator Chris Adams challenged the candidates to answer clearly and

specifically and presided over some sparring about their differences. The debate was held in a beautiful 500-seat auditorium donated for the evening by Johnson and Wales and was sponsored by The Front Porch, Engaged Public and the League of Women Voters. *(continued on page 4)*

Free and Open to the Public Celebrate Summer at Footloose on the Green



Rehearsals are underway for *Footloose*, a free performance on The Green in Stapleton's Town Center on June 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 7pm. Pictured are, from left, Sara Rosenberg (as Wendy Jo), Dalaina Chester (as Urleen), Keith Rabin (as Lyle) and, behind, Benjy Schirm (as Ren). See story on page 9.

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

Final work on the new Jet Stream pool in Stapleton was completed just before opening day.



CALENDAR

Nearby events that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit.
(Additional events are listed on pages 20-24. Recurring events are listed on page 20.)

JUNE

Every Sunday

City Park Jazz Summer Concert Series- Rain or shine at City Park bandstand 6-8pm. 6/5- The Otone Brass Band, 6/12 Hazel Miller, 6/19 Rekha Ohal, 6/26 La Candela, 7/3 Denver Municipal Band- Celebrating our nations independence, 7/10 Convergence, www.cityparkjazz.org

Through July 3

Stapleton Discovery Center** - Free Central Park West home tours and HGTV Green home tours (\$20) Daily 10am-6pm; Sundays 12-5pm. Free events Thurs-Sat 11am-1pm, Sun 12-2pm. StapletonDenver.com/discovery (See events on p. 23)

Tuesday - Sunday

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Visitor center now open to the public, 9am-4pm

Friday, June 3 & June 10

Saturday, June 4 & June 11

Theatre on The Green, *Footloose*, 7pm, The Green* (See page 8)

Saturday, June 4

Lowry Community Yard Sale, 8am-2pm, 300+ homes. Electronics Recycling 9am-2pm on the West Side of Hangar 2. www.lowry.org. Goodwill pickup on June 17, 7:30am-4:30pm at Pinnacle Assurance, 7501 E. Lowry Blvd.

Saturday, June 4 - June 30

Art Show, "Two Brothers: Second Jobs, First Love" Reception Sat., June 4, 5-8pm (see page 16) Art & Framing at Stapleton, 7483 E. 29th Place 303.534.1979 www.ArtandFramingStapleton.com

Saturday, June 4

Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team Clean up 9am-12pm. Park/meet Colorado Business Bank parking lot, 4695 Quebec St. Clean up Sand Creek Greenway at I-70 and Quebec. icorrell@dotnet.net

Saturday, June 4 and July 2

Denver Art Museum - SCFD Free Day 720.865.5000 www.denverartmuseum.org

Tuesday, June 7 and July 5

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

Thursday, June 9

Stapleton Activities, Inc. Potluck, 6-7pm Active Minds Seminar "The Struggle of Syria," 7-8pm. Discovery Center*

Saturday, June 11

Stapleton Bicycle Safety Event 10am-2pm. Stapleton Community Room 2823 Roslyn St. Used bicycle donations needed 720.865.2356 (see page 4)

Saturday, June 11

National Get Outdoors Day. City Park, 9am-3:30pm. getoutdoorscolorado.org (see page 23)

Sat and Sun, June 11 & 12

A Taste of Puerto Rico Festival Central Park, Stapleton aTasteofPuertoRicoFestival.com

Sunday, June 12

Active Minds Musical Seminar "Mozart: Musician Heal Thyself," 10am. F15 Pool* 3574 N. Alston St* Brunch potluck 11am

Monday, June 13

Feast on the Fax, 5-9 pm Tickets \$25 advance/\$30 at restaurants www.thefaxpartnership.com (see page 24)

Saturday, June 18

Concert, "The Hazel Miller Band," 6:30-8:30pm. The Green*

Sunday, June 19

Farmers Market Opening Day, 8:30am-12:30pm Runs every Sunday thru Oct. The Green*

Wednesday, June 22

Bike to Work Day; Breakfast stations listed at www.drcog.org/BikeToWork/Station (see p. 24) Contact SUNSustainability@gmail.com for info

Friday, June 24

Movie-"The Green Hornet," starts at dark The Green*

Saturday, June 25

Park Hill Garden Tour, 10-4pm. Featuring 15 Park Hill gardens, artists, musicians and more. Tickets at www.gphc.org or at Moss Pink Botanicals 4615 E 23rd Ave, Park Hill Library and Montview Presbyterian Church. (see p.24)

Saturday, June 25 & July 30

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

JULY

Monday, July 4

4th of July Pancake Breakfast, 9-10am 4th of July Parade, 10:30am. Central Park*

Saturday, July 9

Concert-"The Nacho Men," 6:30-8:30pm The Green*

Thursday, July 14

Active Minds Seminar, 7-8pm. Discovery Center*

Friday, July 15

Movie-"How to Train Your Dragon," starts at dark. The Green*

Saturday, July 16

Stapleton Community "West" Garage Sale, 8am-1pm. West of Westerly Creek

Sunday July 17

Stapleton Community "East" Garage Sale, 8am-1pm. East of Westerly Creek

Thursday, July 21

Active Minds Musical Seminar, "Beethoven: The New Kid on The Block," 7pm, Puddle Jumper Pool*

Friday, July 22-23

Relay for Life, 6pm, The Green* (see page 24)

*More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com

The Green is located in the 29th Ave. Town Center in Stapleton at E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.

**The Discovery Center is located at MLK and Syracuse.

Central Park is at MLK and Central Park Blvd.

The Front Porch welcomes submissions of upcoming local events (format & email on p.21) and story ideas. Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.



The Market will run every Sunday through October 16 on The Green located on 29th Avenue between Syracuse and Roslyn Streets from 8:30am-12:30pm.

4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade

We start the day off with a BANG! The Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park begins at 9am. Tickets will include pancakes, sausage and coffee or juice and will be priced at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. All donations will benefit the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Team.

Bring your bicycles, tricycles, wagons or scooters decorated for the parade that will begin at 10:30am! We will line up along the promenade at the Fountain and head east toward the Lake, looping around back to the Fountain area.

Following the parade, the pools will open as scheduled. All pools will close at 6pm. Music and water activities are planned throughout the day. Please check the website, www.stapletoncommunity.com, for all the details of the day.

Active Minds Seminar

This summer we are excited to bring an additional Active Minds Seminar to the community. This additional seminar will feature the music series. We will be hosting these programs at a different swimming pool each month. The musical topic for this month is "Mozart: Musician Heal Thyself." Join us as we delve into the magical world of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the man and his music.

This new musical series will kick off with a Sunday brunch on June 12 at F15 Pool and Park located at 2831 Hanover St. The seminar will begin at 10am with a brunch to follow at 11am. Bring a brunch dish to share. The mimosas, plates and utensils will be provided. No prior musical knowledge is required—only a curiosity and love of music.

The topic this month is "The Struggle of Syria." Active Minds will follow the Stapleton Activities, Inc., potluck at 7pm on Thursday, June 9 at the Discovery Center located at 7706 Martin Luther King Blvd. Join Active Minds as we seek to understand Syria's history and how this informs current and future challenges for this pivotal player in the Middle East. For more information, visit www.ActiveMindsForLife.com.

Stapleton Activities, Inc.

Join us for our monthly potluck in the new venue this summer at the Discovery Center located at 7706 Martin Luther King Blvd. This event is open to everyone! Join us for dinner and then stay for the Active Minds Seminar on Thursday, June 9. The potluck will begin at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share with the group. The beverages, plates and utensils will be provided by the MCA.

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

What is your Community DNA?

Bike-riding weather is finally upon us! Cyclists, make this a safe cycling season and remember to wear your helmet and follow the rules of the road. As they say on the Bike Denver website: "Safe riding will reduce accidents; helmets can only reduce injuries." Drivers of vehicles, keep a lookout for cyclists and allow them room to ride. To obtain information about safe cycling on the roads, please visit www.bikedenver.org.

Theatre on The Green

The Aurora Fox Theatre and the Stapleton MCA are excited to bring theatre to The Green again this summer. This year we will feature the musical *Footloose* the first two weekends of June.

The performances will begin at 7pm (please note the time change from 6pm) on The Green on Friday, June 3; Saturday, June 4; Friday, June 10; and Saturday, June 11. This is a free event open to the public! For more information, please visit www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Stapleton Rocks Logo Contest

We are hoping to find a talented artist in the community who can create a logo for us to use for the Stapleton Rocks Concert for a Cause. The contest begins June 1 and will end Friday, July 1. The winner will receive an after-hours pool party for 100 guests! If you are interested in participating, please visit our website at www.stapletoncommunity.com and follow the instructions provided.

Movies & Concerts

The fun on The Green begins this month! Bring your picnic, blankets, family and friends to our annual music and movies series. The concert season opens on Saturday, June 18 with The Hazel Miller Band 6:30-8:30pm on The Green. The movie season kicks off with *The Green Hornet* on June 24. All movies will begin at dark on The Green.

These are free events and open to the public. For the full summer events calendar, please check our website at www.stapletoncommunity.com. Events are also listed in The Front Porch calendar adjacent to this article.

Concessions will be available this year at each concert and movie. The concessions will be operated by various nonprofit organizations selling popcorn, candy and soft drinks. Please stop by the big white tent and support them as they raise funds for their group.

Farmers Market

The first Farmers Market of the season is scheduled for Sunday, June 19, Father's Day! The first market of the year will feature a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Stapleton Rotary Club.

Colorado Fresh Markets features local produce, gourmet products and delicious food in a European-style, open-air market setting.

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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Front Porch

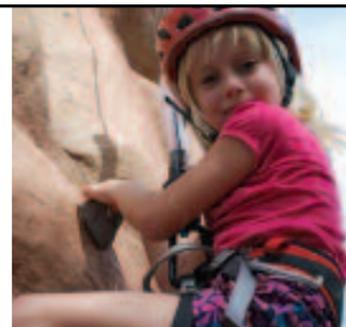
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We're great at last-minute registrations! Call us today for session availability!



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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

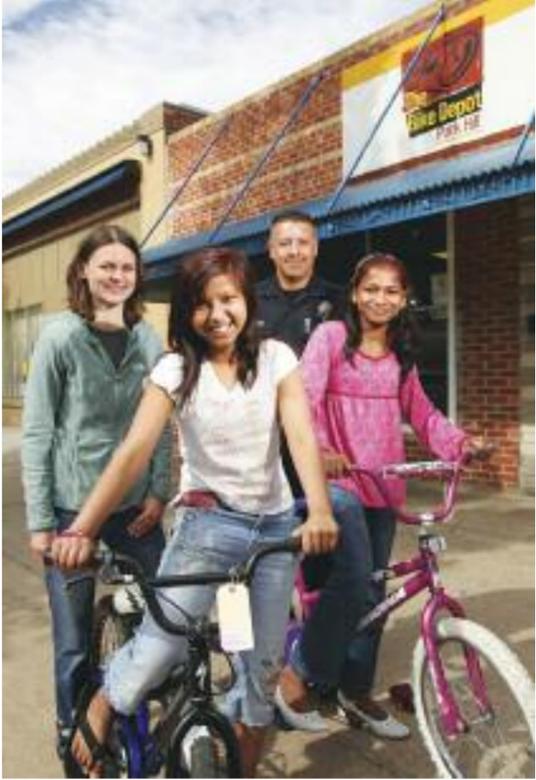
session length: 13-days

learn lots more at
720.249.2997 aocamps.com



hiking climbing teambuilding ecology crafts songs and more!





Laurie Hanselmann, manager of The Bike Depot, District 2 DPD officer Jeremy Casias, Sujata Chhetri and Laxmi Chamlagai are shown at the The Bike Depot in Park Hill. The Bike Depot refurbishes donated bikes and makes them available to those who wouldn't otherwise have a bike—with the requirement that adults, with The Bike Depot's assistance, do the needed repairs on the bike.

June 11—Free Bike Safety Event

Used Bike Donations Needed for Bike Depot's Community Program

By Carol Roberts

A free, open to the public event on bicycle safety will be held on June 11 from 10am–2pm. Activities will include: bicycle safety presentations, demonstrations on keeping bicycles tuned, demonstrations of simple bicycle repairs, bicycle registration with the city, bicycle helmet fittings, a tricycle village with a safety riding course, and giveaways.

The event is sponsored by The Bike Depot, the Stapleton Town Center COP Shop, the Denver Police Department, National Get Outdoors Day and Denver Environmental Health and will be held in the Stapleton Community Room (just east of King Soopers at 2823 Roslyn St.). *(continued on page 12)*

Mayoral Debate

(continued from page 1)

The all mail-in election, with ballots due Tuesday, June 7, is between two candidates, both Democrats, who are committed to maintaining a great city. Typical campaign questions, such as are you pro-choice, do you support GLBT rights, will you be “the education mayor,” and will you continue to pick up trash for free, have all been answered, over and over, by both candidates, in the affirmative.

One needs to dig a little deeper to find the differences between Michael Hancock and Chris Romer. Those differences are nowhere more evident than how they grew up. Hancock was born in Texas, the youngest of 10 children. His father, an alcoholic, left the family when Michael was six. The family lived in public housing;



Mayoral candidate Chris Romer at NE Denver debate at Johnson & Wales University

Michael attended Cole Middle School and became head boy at Manual High. He graduated from Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska, prior to receiving a master's in public administration from CU-Denver. During college he worked as an intern for then-mayor Federico Peña.

Romer grew up in a house on Montview Boulevard and Cherry Street. His maternal grandfather was the pastor at Montview Presbyterian Church, his dad was a 12-year governor of Colorado and his mother co-

New Perspective REAL ESTATE

OPEN HOUSE TOUR

Saturday, June 4th

1pm–4pm

No architectural detail missed. Large HOA maintained courtyard. 3 bedrooms / 3 baths. 1508 finished sq. ft. 3553 Yosemite \$349,900
Presented by Melinda Howlett

Oxford w/breakfast room, finished 3rd floor, & basement. Sophisticated upgrades. 5bed/5bath. On pocket park. 2703 Clinton Way \$599,900
Presented by Jody E. Donley

Beautiful Wonderland Ashton! Maple cabinets in kitchen & master with two walk-in closets! 3bed/ 3bath. 1451 fin. sq. ft. 2842 Havana St. \$319,900
Presented by Melinda Howlett

Steps to summer fun: Pools, parks & trails. Newly finished hardwood floors. Art studio. 3 bed/ 3 bath 2104 fin sq ft. 2539 Xanthia Ct. \$400,000
Presented by Jody E. Donley

Brick Parkwood on quiet st. Open kitchen w/hickory cabinets & \$5,000 towards granite counters. 4 bed/4 bath. Open basement. 3004 fin. sq. ft. 2536 Yosemite \$499,900
Presented by Jody E. Donley

<p>1 2536 Yosemite - \$499,900</p> <p>2 3553 Yosemite - \$349,900</p> <p>3 2842 Havana St. - \$319,900</p> <p>4 2703 Clinton Way - \$599,900</p> <p>5 2935 Willow St. - \$325,000</p>	<p>6 8754 E. 29th Place - \$334,900 <i>Under Contract</i></p> <p>7 2671 Clinton Way - \$469,900 <i>Under Contract</i></p> <p>8 2635 Central Park - \$329,900 <i>Under Contract</i></p> <p>9 2539 Xanthia Ct. - \$400,000 <i>Coming Soon!</i></p> <p>10 2833 Yosemite - \$369,900 <i>Sold in 2 Days!</i></p>
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* Property locations on map are approximate

founded the Stanley British Primary School. His family has had interests in various John Deere dealerships for decades. Chris attended the Taft boarding school in Watertown, Connecticut, prior to returning to East High. He then went on to Stanford for his undergraduate degree.

Romer's career has been mainly in the investment banking business, finding financing for bond issues, mostly in New Mexico. He has also been a Colorado State Senator for the last four years. Romer has volunteered his time and given money to many education-related groups and causes. Hancock worked two jobs right out of college before becoming the youngest CEO of a local Urban League chapter in the country. He was elected to the Denver City Council in 2003 and became City Council President in 2007. Both candidates claim to have the background that is

needed to be ready to face the budget issues that will require a resolution by year-end.

Denver is currently facing a \$100 million budget deficit. When asked for specifics on how he would balance the city budget, Romer articulated a five-pronged approach that will help Denver's budget in a permanent way. First, find efficiencies in the office of the Manager of Safety because there are many duplications of services. Second, look at the potential of a merger between Denver Health and Environmental Health. Third, merge the Office of Cultural Affairs (an expense center) with the office of Theaters and Arenas (a revenue center). Fourth, ask Denver Water to reimburse the city for in-kind expenses (and they could offset that expense by asking employees to contribute to their pensions, which are now 100 percent funded by Denver Water). Fifth, talk with

Jefferson County about a partnership to manage our mountain parks because 80 percent of them are in that county. Romer believes a comprehensive approach will solve the budget issues—both cutting the budget and bringing in new businesses to increase sales tax revenue.

Hancock asserted that he will "flatten the hierarchy" in the police department by sending some officers back out on the street and not hiring. He will try to save \$5 million by delaying some fleet replacements. He will merge five agencies into one called the Community Partnership Office, which will have one director for senior services, youth employment and community outreach. Hancock wants to work with city employees who are close to retirement to encourage them to "semi-retire" by working just 1,000 hours a year. Hancock will not consider raising taxes unless there is absolutely no other choice and all acceptable expense cuts have been made.

Both candidates endorse creating a separate tax district to finance the libraries. (See library story on page 1.) The libraries currently cost \$28 million a year and all will have their hours reduced in the 2012 budget cuts. Creating a separate library district would mean designating a property tax mill levy for that purpose, which would have to be approved by Denver voters. Hancock promised that any funds in the city budget that are freed up because of a new library district would be used "to restore core services like rec center hours and not simply be put back in the general fund." Romer does not believe that threatening to close branches and reduce hours will motivate Denver voters to pass new taxes. He says the voters will have



Mayoral candidate Michael Hancock at NE Denver debate at Johnson & Wales University

to be convinced there are no alternatives—or the new tax proposal will be perceived as "politics as usual" and it will go down to defeat.

The candidates did get a bit testy with each other over Romer's TV ad that calls into question Hancock's vote in favor of an increase in pay for city council members. Hancock stated that the claims in the ad are "false and deceptive" and pointed out a number of media outlets had come to the same conclusion. Romer stood firmly by the ad, calling it "content based." Hancock also clarified a much talked-about campaign gaff by saying that "intelligent design" and creationism should be taught in the home and places of worship, not in DPS.

Whoever wins the election on June 7 will have to submit a budget 45 days after taking office and have the city council pass a balanced budget by October 1, 2011. The new mayor will have a huge job to do in a very short time.



The May 16 mayoral debate was held in Johnson and Wales' 500-seat Jared Polis Auditorium, where students watch cooking demonstrations in a kitchen hidden, at this event, behind paneled doors on the stage. In the audience were Bea and Roy Romer, former governor of Colorado (middle of second row on the right), observing their son, candidate Chris Romer.

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Novella Apartments



Eastbridge Apartments



New Stapleton Apartments Announced, Occupancy in Summer of 2012

By Tom Gleason

Forest City will break ground on two new apartment buildings at Stapleton this summer with a total of 203 units ready for occupancy in the summer of 2012.

The Eastbridge Apartments, located at E. 29th Drive at Havana, will bring 118 one- and two-bedroom rental units to the neighborhood. The new apartments will be within a block of the F15 neighborhood pool and park and, being located on the East side of Stapleton, will offer a short commute to the Fitzsimons Life Science District and the Anschutz Medical Campus. The buildings will be two- and three-stories tall and rents are expected to range from \$1,050 to \$1,425.

The second new complex at Stapleton will be the Novella Apartments located north of Martin Luther King Blvd. on Roslyn Way. The apartments are a few blocks walk from

numerous amenities in Stapleton. Swigert-McAuliffe International School (ECE-8), which will open in August of this year, is just a block to the north and the Quebec Square Retail Center is just north of the school. To the east of Quebec Square is the current RTD center and the planned FasTracks rail stop on Smith Road. Central Park is located a few blocks to the east of the Novella Apartments and the 29th Ave. Town Center is two blocks to the south. In addition, the new Denver Public Library, scheduled to open in 2012, is just one block south of the apartments. The first phase of construction will include 85 of the planned 220 one- and two-bedroom units. Leases are expected to range from \$1,050 to \$1,350.

For more information, contact Tom Gleason at tgleason@stapletondenver.com or 303.382.1800.

RTD Commuter Rail Car Mock-Up Is Open for Public Comment

By Carol Roberts

The East Corridor (Gold Line) commuter rail may not be open for business until 2016, but a life-size mockup of a rail car is on display to the public through mid-June. Visitors can enter through a temporary structure at 17th and Wynkoop, just east of Union Station, to view the interior of the rail car, which has the actual types of seating arrangements, handles, storage racks and doorways. The model represents the front third of an actual rail car. Denver Transit Partners has prepared the mock-up to obtain public feedback on certain design elements of the car.

Each rail car will be 85 feet long and 10 feet wide and have the capacity to carry 232 passengers (90 seated, 142 standing). The

maximum operating speed will be 79 mph and the exterior of the vehicle will be stainless steel.

The rail cars will be made by Hyundai Rotem USA, a railcar manufacturer that has produced more than 15,000 electric and diesel railcars. At least 60 percent of the vehicle will be made in America. The commuter rail vehicles operate in "married pairs," which only require one operating cab and are more cost effective. The heavier commuter rail vehicles (rather than light rail vehicles) must be used to comply with Federal Railroad Administration safety standards required for the freight railroads whose corridors RTD is sharing.

From May 31 to June 18, the display model, located at 1701 Wynkoop St., will be open Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm; Saturday 10am-4pm.

Angie Malpiede, RTD Board member and Director of the Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association gets a tour of a commuter rail car mock-up from RTD Information Manager Kevin Flynn. The model is located at the entrance to Union Station at 17th and Wynkoop St. in Downtown Denver.



Uncover the Genius.

Montessori Children's House of Denver is planning a location in Stapleton.



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Hilltop - Mayfair - Park Hill - Stapleton (Coming Soon) 303.322.8324 x 29



uncover the genius

Homeless Female Veterans Find New Lives in Donated Mayfair Home

By Nancy Burkhardt

Homeless female veterans have a new transitional housing option, thanks to Stapleton homebuilder Wonderland Homes, HomeAid Colorado and the Volunteers of America (VOA).

The 5-bedroom, 3½ bath, 2-story home has a finished basement and provides space for five women, or fewer women if they have children, according to Laura Brayman, HomeAid Colorado executive director.

“Most of the women that will move into this house were housed by VOA when they were homeless,” she said. “They’ve been either in emergency housing for the homeless or living on the streets. They will stay in the new house probably two years.

“These women want to be self-sufficient,” Brayman said. “They’re not standing on a street corner with a sign. They want to be productive citizens. They can live in a nice environment that’s close to the VA Hospital. This will make them successful. They have a whole case management program. Most of the women in the program suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and sexual trauma. Here they will get



Steve Phua, left, of Wonderland Homes, holds Teah, 5, who, with her mother Betty Shipp, far right, will live in the new home that will provide transitional housing for women veterans. Laura Brayman, HomeAid, and Amy Mitchell, back, of Volunteers of America, represented their organizations at the dedication of the home.

therapy, parenting skills, all of the things that will help them live independently. In order to live in this housing, they will participate in the program.”

Women veterans are returning home with more issues than ever before, Brayman said. The home built by Wonderland Homes in the Mayfair neighborhood is the first of three to be erected for the homeless female veterans project. Two houses next door to the new one are to be demolished

this summer, with construction on the new ones expected to start in the fall, she said.

The second home will be built by New Town Builders, and the third house by Berkeley Homes, according to Brayman.

“We are so grateful, in such a tough economy, to have three builder captains step up and want to be involved in this. It’s been really amazing,” she said.

The VOA will continue to manage the houses for the program.

“We were looking to do some community projects specifically for veterans,” explained Steve Phua, vice president of operations for Wonderland Homes. “VOA had the lot and asked us if we

would be willing to build the house. We said, ‘Sure, that would be great.’ It took us less than four months start to finish from the permitting process all the way through. We had three direct employees work on it, but subcontractors donated time and materials, too.”

This is the second home donation project for Wonderland Homes to participate in,

according to Phua.

“In 2005, we did Habitat for Humanity and built a house for them,” he said. “We would do it again.”

For information on the home, email Laura Brayman at info@hacolo.org or go to www.hacolo.org. Email Steve Phua at phua@wonderlandhomes.com.

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By John Babiak

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper announced on May 26 that they will partner to advance three distinct conservation efforts in Colorado as part of President Obama's "America's Great Outdoors Initiative." They made the announcement in conjunction with the ribbon-cutting for the new Visitor Center at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. President Obama's Initiative seeks to work with local communities to create a new conservation and recreation ethic for the 21st Century. It aims at re-connecting Americans – especially young people – with nature and to their natural heritage.



"Colorado is setting an example for the rest of the nation as to the value of recreation and conservation to our economy and quality of life," said Secretary Salazar. "Today begins a new chapter in the strong partnership between the State of Colorado and the Department of the Interior, and I look forward to working with the Governor to help turn these projects into reality."

Salazar and Hickenlooper Announce Obama's Great Outdoors Initiative



Above: US Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announces a partnership with Governor Hickenlooper for President Obama's new Great Outdoors Initiative at the ribbon cutting for the new Visitor Center at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Left: Secretary Salazar hugs Gov. Hickenlooper as they depart.

"The new Rocky Mountain Arsenal Visitor Center and three conservation initiatives will further showcase the natural beauty we are fortunate to live in and share with visitors from around the world," said Governor Hickenlooper.

The Colorado priority closest to home for northeast Denver residents is the "Denver Metro Greenway Project." The other two are the Yampa River Basin Project and the San Luis Valley Project. All align with the goals of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to es-

establish or enhance great urban parks; restore important river corridors; and conserve rural, working landscapes.

The Department of Interior and other federal agencies will work with the State, stakeholders and other partners to enhance the Denver metropolitan area parks, open spaces and trails. The goal is to create trail linkages to creeks, river corridors and state and federal parks. Secretary Salazar outlined his vision to create a "Rocky Mountain Greenway Trails System*" that will start here in northeast Denver

with an uninterrupted trails/transportation project that links the three local National Wildlife Refuges: the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in northeast Denver, the Two Ponds Refuge in Arvada, and the Rocky Flats Refuge in Golden. New and existing trails and greenways in greater Denver would ultimately connect the north Denver corridor to Barr Lake State Park in Brighton, as well as the Chatfield and Cherry Creek State Parks to the south. The Secretary envisions that these recreational trails will some day connect with the Rocky Mountain National Park in Estes Park. He announced that the federal government has committed \$350,000 toward building new connectivity trails that would couple the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Refuge with the Sand Creek Greenway Trail in Stapleton, and the Two Ponds and Rocky Flats Refuges with the Little Dry Creek Trail in west Denver.

John Babiak is the Vice President the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges Group, a non-profit organization that supports the mission of the Rocky Mt. Arsenal and Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuges. He can be reached at: John.Babiak@ffrwr.org

**Map posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com*

Free Exercise Classes

The Passport to Healthy Living classes are free and open to everyone 15 and up. Classes are geared toward beginners and are facilitated by licensed and trained professionals. No prior registration is required. Sign in on site. Attend any or all sessions.

Passport Classes are funded through grants to the be well Health & Wellness Initiative, which brings together people in NE Park Hill, Greater Park Hill, East Montclair, NW Aurora and Stapleton to promote health and wellness at a grassroots level in these communities. For more information visit www.bewellconnect.org.

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Zumba – A dance fitness program that combines Latin and International music with dance to make exercise fun.

Yoga – Relax your mind, body and soul while improving your health using slow, gentle stretching techniques.

2011 Schedule	June	July	August
Saturdays, 11am - 12pm Montclair Rec Center 729 Ulster Way 720.866.0560	Aerobics June 4, 11, 18, 25	Zumba July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Fitball Fitness Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27
Tuesdays, 6:45 - 7:45pm Central Park Rec Center Stapleton 9651 MLK Blvd. 720.865.0750	Fitball Fitness June 7, 14, 21, 28	Yoga July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2	Aerobics Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30
Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30pm Moorhead Rec Center, 2390 Havana St. 303.866.1718	Zumba June 1, 8, 15, 22	Fitball Fitness July 13, 20, 27	Yoga Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24
Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30pm Hiawatha Davis Rec Center 3334 Holly St. 303.331.4006	Yoga June 2, 9, 16, 28	Aerobics June 30 July 14, 21, 28	Zumba Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25

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Theatre on the Green

By Nancy Burkhart

Colorado is on the threshold of summer, and with it, Charles Packard, Aurora Fox Arts Center producer, again is bringing a hot musical that will have everyone dancing on The Green in Stapleton's 29th Avenue Town Center.

Footloose will be presented at 7pm on Friday, June 3, Saturday, June 4 and Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11. The Stapleton Master Community Association is funding the play, so admission is free and the public is invited.

"This is a Broadway reinterpretation of the 1984 film," Packard explained. "*Footloose* was on Broadway in 1999. It wasn't a huge hit on Broadway, but since then it's become one of the most produced musicals, especially in small theaters around the country.

"The plot line is pretty true to the film," he said. "Ren moves with his mother from Chicago to a small town and is shocked when he learns

that the town has a city ordinance that forbids dancing and music. He falls in love with the preacher's daughter. But it's the preacher who is enforcing the law."



Footloose actors Benji Schirm (as Ren) and Katie Solko (as Ariel) pose during a rehearsal.

The musical has a lot of the original music in it, according to Packard. And, the play will appeal to all ages.

"People will know a lot of the tunes," he said. "I have two daughters who are 3 and 5 years old, and I know that they will love the energy and the music and the dancing. I think that it's going to play pretty good for everybody. But people who might be sensitive to some of the religious arguments in it might want to avoid it

"In the play, it turns out that the preacher and the town have established the rule against dancing and singing because of an accident years ago," Packard explained. "Four

Above: Crowds enjoyed the free performance of *Happy Days* on the Green in Stapleton's Town Center in September 2010.

teenagers were killed on their way home from a dance. The ordinance is a result of the town's grief. But, in the end they learn that dancing is a different expression of joy, and that's what's been missing in the town since the teens died."

Last year, the MCA brought Packard's troupe to The Green with *Happy Days*.

"This show is very similar in its tone and energy," Packard said. "It's just a little bit more tried and true."

The Green is a great venue for plays, according to Packard.

"The location is fabulous," he said. "It's a totally different experience for the performers and the live band to feel the music bounce back from the shops. It's a great experience for them to get outdoors and make some noise. At the Fox, we often have to pull the band back a bit, but at Stapleton they can play what they feel."

For more information about *Footloose* performances, go to www.stapletoncommunity.com.

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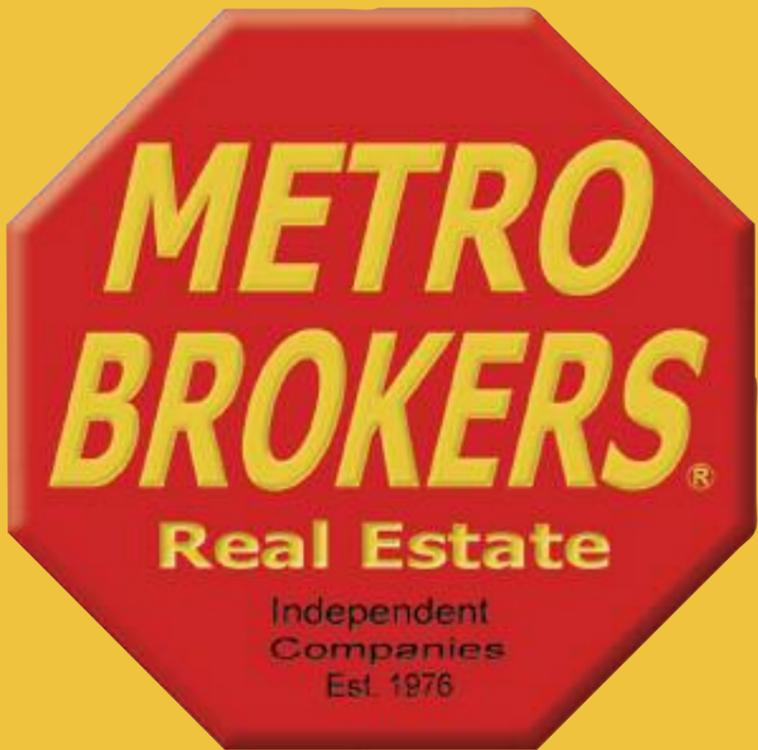
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A Hyper-Local Way to Sell Your Stuff



When web designer Phil Lockwood and his wife Erin were moving, they came up with the idea of Blockmarkets, a website that links neighbors so people to sell their excess stuff close to home.

By Carol Roberts

One of the big challenges of moving is getting rid of excess stuff. For web designer Phil Lockwood, it was just an evening's work to create his own website with the stuff he and his wife hoped to sell prior to moving into their third Stapleton home (a rental where they are awaiting the construction of their "final" home in Stapleton).

The Lockwoods clearly know something about selling stuff in preparation for a move! But in the midst of that move, Lockwood and his wife, Erin, came up with a new twist. What if neighbors could buy from and sell their excess stuff to each other without the disadvantages of Craigslist? Lockwood had used Craigslist to drive people to his personal site and stated, "After posting on Craigslist you get inundated with scam emails. And Denver is a big area. You often have to drive half an hour or more to see an item. There's high convenience in selling to your neighbors."

Out of their own need to get rid of stuff, combined with Phil's web skills, the idea of BlockMarkets.com, a "hyper-local" way to sell goods and services, was born. Lockwood started a Stapleton "Blockmarket" in February and currently has approximately 200 items

listed in categories such as Baby, Toddler & Maternity; Kids' Clothes and Gear; Computers and Electronics; Furniture; Real Estate Rentals; and Services.

Lockwood has recently launched a Lowry and a Park Hill blockmarket. The sites are fully functional, but since they were just activated they don't have many listings yet. More neighborhoods will also be launched in the future, according to Lockwood.

To register at the Blockmarkets.com website, users must create an account and send proof that they live in the neighborhood by submitting an HOA or utility bill. The Park Hill site requires an 80220 or 80207 zip code with an address west of Quebec and east of Colorado. The Lowry blockmarket requires an 80230 zip code. Stapleton requires an 80238 zip code. Potential users can look at posted items, but are unable to contact the seller or post items until they have registered.

"There are no commissions or fees to sell at BlockMarkets.com, though there will be some minimal advertising," says Lockwood. He will consider adding features in the future—perhaps the option to pay a premium that puts your listings at the top, or an option that would allow users from another neighborhood to contact you.

(continued on page 12)

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Now—Get FroYo in Both Northfield and Quebec Square



Debra Zanker and Sarah Taylor, Menchie's Supervisors, watch Tyler, 5, and Samantha, 10, O'Brien sample their cups of frozen yogurt.

By Nancy Burkhardt

Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, located next to the Harkins 18 Northfield movie theater, is all about making choices. "You make it yourself," says operations manager Danny Huffstetler. "You don't have to wait for someone to make it up for you. It's the quantity you want. Some people take 8 to 12 minutes to taste the cups before choosing. That's the fun part. We have about 100 yogurts—conventional flavors and tarts. The flavors change every week or so. A lot of people have given us suggestions too."

Toppings include fresh fruit, candy, cereal and syrups, including fat-free hot fudge, to crown the homemade fat-free, low-sugar frozen yogurts. Prices are "weigh and pay," with folks averaging servings for just under \$4, according to Huffstetler. "Some people make it their lunch, with low carbohydrates and low sugar," he said. "And, some people put all the fun stuff on."

"We really focus on families, but we have everyone there, including retirees," Huffstetler said. "There are games to play at the tables. We have balloons for the kids. It's a great place to have a party for 10 to 16 kids under 11. We also have outside seating with heaters for about 30 people."

Menchie's Frozen Yogurt is a franchise corporation that started about four years ago, according to Huffstetler. Today the firm has international franchises and in 2009 achieved the title of fastest-growing food concept.

"One of the reasons that I got involved with Menchie's Yogurt was the family aspect," Huffstetler said. "We have a www.mocapay.com system that we offer to local area schools and charities. We give a percentage of sales to them."

The program supplies participating schools and/or charities with text or email messages containing coupon codes for people to use at Menchie's Frozen Yogurt. The participating organizations communicate the texts or emails to their lists of participants who show the messages when they buy their frozen yogurt.

"We can track the sales and give 15 to 25 percent of those sales back to the schools," Huffstetler explained. "The schools are their own communications sources. They can forward this information to anyone. It's a win-win situation for the business and a school or charity," he said.

For information about Menchie's www.mocapay.com program, call Danny Huffstetler or Robyn Regan at 303.263.3164.



Quebec Square's new Golden Spoon frozen yogurt store, located in the same building as PetSmart, but facing 35th Ave., is owned by Stapleton residents Julie and Mike Haslar.

By Nancy Burkhardt

During a trip to California for a tournament, golf pro Mike Haslar and his wife, Julie, stopped for some frozen yogurt—and were wowed by the taste. "We fell in love with the product," Mike said,

The family has an entrepreneurial spirit—and one thing led to another when they started talking about opening a chain of Golden Spoons in Colorado. Julie's father, Adair Brown, a general contractor who lives in Lowry, signed on to the idea and in August, Mike and Julie moved to Stapleton from Crested Butte to start the chain of businesses. Between Thanksgiving and May, they opened five Golden Spoon stores, the first one in Ft. Collins and the most recent one in Stapleton at 7505 E. 35th Avenue (located in the same building as PetSmart and near Game Stop).

It wasn't just the taste that the Haslars liked. The health pluses of Golden Spoon yogurt impressed them. "When you walk into the Golden Spoon, the nutritional value of the yogurt is right next to the menu," he said. "It tastes good—we call it the 'ice cream lover's yogurt—and it's good for you."

Golden Spoon yogurt, which is made with skim milk, has an average of 25 calories per ounce, according to Mike. Nutritional values in a

four-ounce serving, as listed on the website, include: 15.5 grams of sugar, 3 grams of protein and 10% of the daily requirement of calcium.

"We don't make the yogurt," he said. "We get regular deliveries of fresh yogurt from the dairy. There are no stabilizers in it. It's very pure—and has a short shelf life. No chemicals are added."

"It's not self-serve," Mike explained. "It's a traditional ice cream shop. The flavors are on the wall. You can try all 16 flavors if you want. It's very clean and a fun experience. When people get yogurt from us, they are surprised at how much they get for so little money."

"We're here to help the community," says Mike. "The Golden Spoon is open to doing fundraising and helping schools." For information about fundraising efforts with the Golden Spoon, email Mike Haslar at mikehaslar@yahoo.com.

Mike and Julie Haslar live in Stapleton with their three boys, 7-year-old Brooks, 5-year-old Ty and 4-year-old Cooper.

Golden Spoon will host a Customer Appreciation Day on June 7 and will be giving away free frozen yogurt all day.

For more information, visit goldenspooncolorado.com or call 303.333.2727. The store is open seven days a week from 11am until 9pm and will be open until 10pm in the summer.



I HAVE ALLERGIES, WILL MY KIDS HAVE THEM TOO?

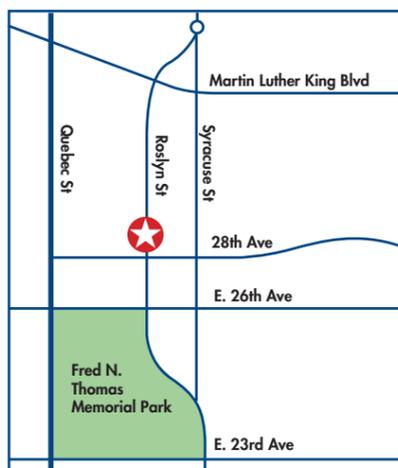
by Kristine Walsh, MD

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What are allergies and how do we develop them?

Allergies are an overreaction of the immune system to a substance that's harmless to most people. However, in someone with an allergy, the body's immune system treats the substance or allergen as an invader and reacts inappropriately, resulting in symptoms that can range from annoying to potentially harmful.

Allergies are often hereditary. However, just because you, or your partner, have allergies doesn't mean that your kids will definitely inherit them. Children usually don't inherit a particular allergy, just the likelihood of having allergies.

Can I prevent my children from developing allergies?

Breast-feeding for at least 4 months or more may help prevent cow milk allergy during early childhood. However, changing a mother's diet during pregnancy or breast-feeding does not seem to prevent allergy-related conditions.

If there is a family history of allergies, discuss infant feeding with your pediatrician. The timing and introduction of solid foods, as well as use of several specific foods, can help prevent some allergies.

What can I do about my allergies?

There are several methods available to prevent and treat allergies. Specific illnesses that are caused by allergies (i.e. asthma, hay fever, eczema) may require other treatments.

Learn Your Allergens. The best way to reduce symptoms is to try and avoid what causes your allergies. This is especially important for food and drug allergies.

Medications. There are many different types of medications available. Which medicine your doctor recommends depends on the type and severity of your symptoms, your age, and overall health.

Allergy shots. Immunotherapy is occasionally recommended if the allergen cannot be avoided and symptoms are hard to control.

Call for an appointment with your health care provider right away if you have severe symptoms of allergies or your current treatment is no longer working.

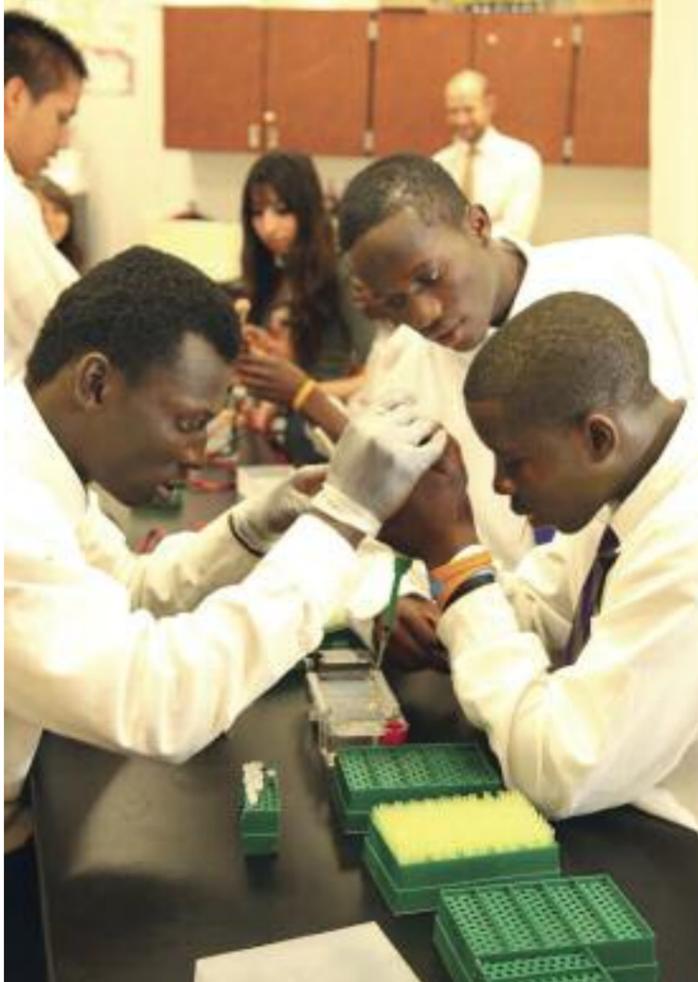
Venture Prep's Exhibition Night Celebrates Students' Knowledge

By Carol Roberts

On Tuesday, May 24 Venture Prep's 350 students participated in the school's Exhibition Night, in which they displayed what they had learned throughout the year through exhibits ranging from student-made videos to 3-D cell models, Shakespeare interpretations, and DNA fingerprinting.

Venture Prep, located at 2540 Holly Street, serves students in grades 6 to 12 and uses "a project-based learning approach to teach its students the academic content and 21st-century skills they need to become the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs." On May 13 the entire student body took part in Service Day, participating in service projects in the community.

In the upcoming school year Venture Prep, a DPS charter school, expects to serve approximately 475 students—it will be the school's fourth year, and the first year with students enrolled in all the grades. For more information visit www.VenturePrep.org or call 303-893-0805.



Mohamed Mohamed, Mulbah Dollay and Abasse Kaba, members of an 11th grade science class, demonstrate Gel Electrophoresis, a process used to separate DNA fragments for use in DNA fingerprinting at Venture Prep's annual Exhibition Night, held this year on May 24.

Bicycle Safety Event June 11

(continued from p. 4) The Bike Depot is a nonprofit organization that sells new and used bikes, parts and accessories. All proceeds support their mission of making cycling accessible to more people. Laurie Hanselman, manager of The Bike Depot says it's the generosity of the community enables them to provide these programs, and they are always in need of donated bike donations (in any condition).

All recipients of donated bikes must take The Bike Depot's safety and maintenance class. Adults who receive the donated bikes must also come into the shop and do the necessary repair work on the bike, with assistance from Bike Depot staff and volunteers. They usually devote about five hours to the class and the repair work. Repaired bikes are given to children who wouldn't otherwise have a bike. Since January the Bike Depot has provided 130 bikes to people who wouldn't otherwise have one.

The shop offers "fix-it-yourself hours" for customers to work on their own bikes and they are always in need of volunteers, preferably for one regular shift a week, but any and all volunteer time is appreciated. The Bike Depot is at 2825 Fairfax St. in Park Hill; 303.393.1963. The Town Center COP Shop is at 7484 E. 29th Ave; 720.865.2356.

Blockmarkets

(continued from p. 10) Phil and Erin Lockwood live in Stapleton with their 4-year-old daughter, Reagan, and have a baby due in June. For more information, visit www.BlockMarkets.com. To contact Lockwood use the contact link on the website or email info@blockmarkets.com. Phil Lockwood has started up three web design and development companies in the past 10 years. His current company, Distill, focuses on Colorado-based businesses.

JUNE Events at The Berkshire...



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Parmesan Half-priced bottle of wine night, choose from our entire list!	2 \$8.50 lunch special - Smothered Chicken/Fried-Chicken Tuaca Thursdays - \$3 Tuaca drinks!	3 TGIF! Happy hour specials - \$2 PBR's, \$3 well drinks, \$4 glasses of house wine, \$1.50 off ALL other drafts 4-7 & 9-close	4 Brunch with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas Karaoke with Mark Star 9:30pm.
5 Brunch with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas	6 \$8.50 lunch special - Fish Tacos	7 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos Live music with Milo Sofia @ 9pm (mellow acoustic rock)	8 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Salad Lettuce Wraps Half-priced bottle of wine night, choose from our entire list!	9 \$8.50 lunch special - Tuna Melt Tuaca Thursdays - \$3 Tuaca drinks!	10 TGIF! Happy hour specials - \$2 PBR's, \$3 well drinks, \$4 glasses of house wine, \$1.50 off ALL other drafts 4-7 & 9-close	11 Brunch with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas
12 Brunch with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas	13 \$8.50 lunch special - Scallion Tuna Burger	14 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos Live music with Milo Sofia @ 9pm (mellow acoustic rock)	15 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Parmesan Half-priced bottle of wine night, choose from our entire list!	16 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Cutlet Sub Tuaca Thursdays - \$3 Tuaca drinks!	17 TGIF! Happy hour specials - \$2 PBR's, \$3 well drinks, \$4 glasses of house wine, \$1.50 off ALL other drafts 4-7 & 9-close	18 Brunch with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas
19 Brunch with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas	20 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Apple Brie Sandwich	21 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos Live music with Milo Sofia @ 9pm (mellow acoustic rock)	22 \$8.50 lunch special - Fish Tacos Half-priced bottle of wine night, choose from our entire list!	23 \$8.50 lunch special - Tuna Melt Tuaca Thursdays - \$3 Tuaca drinks!	24 Berkshire Lobster Bake - Whole Maine lobster, steamers, corn, potato, glass of house wine - \$39	25 Brunch with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas
26 Brunch with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas	27 \$8.50 lunch special - Pulled Pork Melt	28 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos Live music with Milo Sofia @ 9pm (mellow acoustic rock)	29 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Parm Sandwich Half-priced bottle of wine night, choose from our entire list!	30 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Cutlet Sub Tuaca Thursdays - \$3 Tuaca drinks!		

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Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

Why This Dad Is Indebted to Earthworms

The worldly Greek philosopher Aristotle called earthworms the “intestines of the earth.” Naturalist Charles Darwin’s bestsellers not only included *The Origins of Species* but also his 1881 publication, *The Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Action of Worms*. Darwin studied earthworms for nearly 36 years and referred to them as “nature’s plough.” Me? I think of earthworms as my Godsend.

Our family moved to Denver seven years ago and as I was adjusting to my new job as a stay-at-home-dad, I took on caring for my three children, then 1, 4 and 7 years of age. Concurrently, I was also looking for a new purpose and one that would accommodate this role. While volunteering in my eldest child’s first-grade class, I was asked by her teacher to lead a student gardening lesson in their urban garden. Armed with a cornucopia of seed packets, vegetable seedlings, hand tools and ample plant biology knowledge, “Farmer John” came prepared to lead his class—Elementary School Gardening 101. As much as there was interest in digging holes, planting orderly rows and learning about the anatomy of a Columbine flower, the students were far more enamored with what they were uncovering beneath the soil’s surface—earthworms!

I do not think that we successfully planted one row of broccoli before I lost total control of my students. My class turned into a full-out, hole-digging, dirt-tossing quest to find more worms. The gleeful mayhem was magical to observe. The sound of uncontrollable squealing filled the air. Eyes as big as marbles focused on the slimy worms, while brilliant smiles warmed my

heart. I was witnessing the power of nature. One by one, the students brought me their find. Plenty of curiosity-based questions ensued. My best answers followed suit. Right there, standing ankle deep in compost, surrounded by 24 fidgety first-graders and their wiggly worms, this scientist reinvented himself. “Nature Ranger John” was born.

Since then, I have mentored a few thousand tree-hugging Nature Rangers, led hundreds of environmental education classes and guided many summer day camp sessions, all to the credit of the backyard-variety earthworm. Best of all, I have been able to share many of these experiences with my children.

Oligochaeteologists (earthworm biologists) estimate that there are about 7,000 earthworm species in the world. Night crawlers, garden and manure worms are the common ones found in North America. There can be more than one million earthworms living in a single acre of land. Their dwellings are located within three distinct stratas: in above-ground leaf litter, the upper top soil and down deep in subterranean burrows. Some species can be found in rotting logs, the axils of tree branches, and in moist soils near water.

While primitive looking, earthworms have well-developed circulatory, digestive, nervous and reproductive systems. Their flexible muscular bodies are segmented; some worms with as many as 150 rings. The segments have hair-like bristles that help anchor the moving worm and also operate as sensory organelles. Their circulatory system is driven by five pairs of heart-like organs. They breathe through their wet, mucus-coated skin. Earthworms are her-



Junior Nature Rangers Eva and Nicholas experience firsthand a mound of wiggly earthworms. Photo by Marko Babiak

maphrodites. Each worm possesses both female and male reproductive organs. They do however mate and mutually exchange sperm. Fertilization takes place within a large girdle-like sheath that surrounds the mid-body. The structure slides up and slips off of the worm, and turns into a pin-head-sized sealed cocoon when in the soil. Earthworms’ digestive tracts are well suited for feeding on organic debris. Darwin was first to recognize their importance as decomposers and significant contributors to the soil food web. They ingest huge amounts of plant litter and soil. They ultimately convert both into nutrient-rich topsoil. Their mazes of tunnels aerate the soil and deliver water to plant roots.

We should all feel indebted to the earthworm.

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 NatureRangerJohn@aol.com.

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Sunshade for Swigert-McAuliffe School to Illuminate Constellations

By John Babiak

When Charles Raisch, principal of Stapleton's Swigert-McAuliffe K-8 International School, learned of an opportunity to enhance a playground sunshade, he did not

hesitate to act on the prospect of making the structure both a working art piece as well as a teaching tool. As a former science teacher, Raisch knows all too well that children learn and appreciate science, math and technology best when the teaching is interactive.

A collaboration between the new school's landscape architect, Raisch and artists Khabir and Ceri Salahadyn from North Park Hill's The Collaboratory has led to the construction of a one-of-a-kind sunshade and learning opportunity. The structure will serve a dual purpose. First, it will shield youngsters from the sun. Second, it will illuminate the patterns of the seasonal zodiac constellations, visible to the naked eye only after dark.

The steel dome-shaped sunshade is 15 feet in diameter and 48 feet in circumference. The dome itself is 7.5 feet in height. It will sit on six 9.5-foot columns in the school's south-facing play area. Drilled through the sun-colored yellow dome are holes patterned after of the zodiac constellations found in the night sky. As the sun travels overhead, its rays pass through holes, outlining the stars that make up these 12 constellations. The steel structure will ultimately stand 17 feet tall and

accommodate as many as 40 students under its circular canopy. The design of this authentic working art form began in January, and the installation of the 5,000-pound structure will take place in early June.

From within the dome, students will study how the sun travels along an ecliptic path around our sky during the course of a calendar year. They will learn about the constellations that intersect this path, appreciate our solar system and the changes in our seasons. They will come to better understand where they stand within the universe. And, if time allows, they may even learn some Greek mythology too.

Surely that would make astronauts Jack Swigert and Christa McAuliffe feel rather proud, knowing that their school is inspiring our naturally inquisitive youth to learn in a unique way.

North Park Hill residents and artists Khabir and Ceri Salahadyn explain how their sunshade, made for the new Swigert-McAuliffe School, will also be a teaching tool about constellations in the night sky. They are holding a scale model, the actual shade is visible in the background of their studio.



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State Senator, Mike Johnston

Sen. Mike Johnston and Rep. Angela Williams Look Back on the Legislative Session

State Senator Mike Johnston

This was your second year in the legislature. How did it differ from last year?

A dramatic shift in power occurred in the state this year just because of a couple hundred voters. That was a very profound sign that voting in Colorado does matter and it's clear the agenda changes significantly when a new party thinks they have a mandate to do something differently. We saw far more conservative stances and proposed legislation than we've seen in the past—significant legislation to liberalize gun control, school vouchers and dramatic Arizona-style immigration laws proposed.

But some very important things got done. At the state level we have to balance the budget every year. There were lots of difficult decisions, but because of the hard fight on the Democrats' side, we were able to save about \$100 million of proposed K-12 education cuts—almost \$100 per student. With these current cuts, Colorado now spends nearly \$2,000 less per student than the average state in America. In a classroom of 25 kids, that's \$50,000 less per classroom than the average state in the country.

Didn't Amendment 23 secure education funding?

The budget has gotten so dire that even the constitutional mandate from the people can't be honored without breaking the budget. There are two pots of education funding and the governors have interpreted Amendment 23 as protecting only the "base" (per pupil) funding and not the "categorical" funding. If you tried to make the depth of cuts we had to make without cutting K-12 it means you're making 30-40% cuts in health and human services and other programs. If you don't cut the biggest piece of the pie, it means you're just decimating the other smaller pieces of the pie.

Was it all cuts? Any additional revenues?

Unfortunately, with Tabor we're not able to perform one of the fundamental functions of state government which is to raise revenues. The only thing we can do under the Constitution is refer it to the voters and have them vote for revenue increases. All we can do is cut programs—we can't work with the other half of the balance sheet. This session has brought more people to realize we're in a spiral that's going to get worse and we can't continue to believe that we'll have the same quality of life and quality of services in Colorado while spending dramatically less and less each year to get them.

Does split government work better?

What we had this year was more partisan posturing than substantive objections. With the bill I ran this year on undocumented students, allowing them access to college, a lot of Republicans would say confidentially they thought it was a good idea—but their party leadership would make a decision this was not going to pass. It's certainly true that far less gets done and to folks who would like to see fewer bills get passed each year, that's positive. But it also means that fewer good bills get passed.

What happened on the redistricting issue?

We had a bipartisan committee that was appointed and spent the first 4-5 months this session working on that in hearings across the state. It looked like there was some possibility they might get something done. But by the end of the day they were just too far apart. It's such high political stakes that people don't want to be seen as giving anything away. So in some ways they'd almost rather have a judge decide it than think that they failed at negotiating it, but the people on the commission worked really hard.

What passed that will make life better for Coloradans?

The health care exchange bill (SB200)—which is going to help make it possible for the state to set up health care exchanges where people can get access to more affordable health care on an open market. We were one of first states to do that in a bipartisan way.

In a health care exchange, you as an individual or small business person would now have the ability to shop for 15-20 health care plans the way you would shop for airline tickets online. You're leveraging the market power as if you had 10,000 employees and could compete because you're pooling all these employees together to be able to buy plans at a cheaper rate. The pool includes young people and healthy people and that allows them to lower the rates for everybody. Currently, when you're applying as an individual or small business you don't have enough people to spread the risk so you have higher rates. There is a requirement that everyone has access to the exchange and they have to take anyone who applies—so as a higher risk person you can't get discriminated against in that pool—though how rates will be determined for higher risk people has not yet been determined.

Contact information:

Sen. Mike Johnston State Senate District 33
Email: mike.johnston.senate@state.co.us 303-866-4864
Rep. Angela Williams House District 7
Email: angela.williams.house@state.co.us 303-866-2909



State Representative Angela Williams

State Representative Angela Williams

Why does it make a difference to vote and get involved?

We lost the majority by one seat. One seat! Can you believe that? When you elect people to represent you and your values, that one vote can make a difference in having representatives who reflect your values. I believe that government is working but I also believe that it works best when our electorate and community gets involved.

What's the most effective way for a constituent to influence the legislature?

Voice your opinions on a particular piece of legislation on both the Republicans' and the Democrats' side. We paid attention when we were bombarded by emails. The whole Capitol would be talking about it. Another effective way is to come down and testify. The most effective thing I saw was people taking an hour out of their day and telling these bipartisan committees why a piece of legislation should or should not be passed, who it affects, why it's bad or good—everyone from both sides listens to that testimony.

What was your reaction as a first year legislator?

For the most part I was impressed, seeing how the system works. Serving in the minority we do not always attain the outcomes we desire. Democrats reflect our values such as education and creating jobs...but you can influence some people on where their votes may be. I learned that a lot of this is about relationships—the relationships you can build on similar values with someone across the aisle, with stakeholders in the community.

What is the biggest thing you learned?

I learned a lot working on my mortgage foreclosure bill

(HB1136), which did not pass.

We were working for the constituents who are facing foreclosure and we had no opposition from the stakeholders who it affected—bankers, public trustees. That bill would have been funded by the bankers, not taxpayer funds. But even though it passed out of two committees with bipartisan support, it did not fit with the Republicans' value system. They said, "This is going to grow government. Why don't the bankers do this themselves?" To me they didn't want to take care of constituents who are losing their homes.

Working with the stakeholders was a big learning experience for me. On the mortgage foreclosure bill, the system had to work for the bankers, for public trustees, for HUD. I had to develop those relationships and negotiate to ensure we had a good tight bill. But what I learned is, despite all the negotiations, it came down to a difference in our value systems and therefore it did not pass. That was probably the most disappointing piece for me.

What will you do with that knowledge?

In looking at legislation that I may carry in the future, what's important is that I understand the workings and the stakeholders. But I believe I can't discontinue the fight when a need exists. I will bring this bill back next year. Over the summer I will meet with the stakeholders who opposed the bill to say, "OK, what happened and what can we do to make this a workable piece of legislation that we can pass for people of Colorado? I have to start working with stakeholders at a higher level. That's what I learned from it.

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Artist Brothers Create in Different Mediums

By Nancy Burkhardt

Ignacio Correa-Ortiz and his brother, Juan R. Correa, grew up in Bucaramanga, Colombia, in a family of eight children with a mother who is an artist.

Ignacio is a Stapleton resident and a senior architect and urban designer for RTD Denver. His brother, Juan, is a heart surgeon who studied medicine in the United States before returning to Colombia.

Their mother, Ines, lives in Colombia and is a painter who studied under Colombian impressionist Segundo Agelvis. Ignacio and Juan started their

artistry as children, doodling in the attic. Ignacio went on to study oil painting, etching and engraving in college.

"After I became an architect, in order to communicate my designs, I started working more on watercolors," Ignacio said.

Today, he works on photograph-based compositions that he manipulates with computer programs.

"I have an idea of how to put photographs together and tell a story," Ignacio explained. "Once I create a composition, I go to a next step based on graphic illustration techniques I have learned and basically make them posters. The idea is that it is not a pixelated picture. It's not formed by small dots, but by flat colors.

"It all got started when I went from doing presentations in watercolor to doing presentations in the computer," he said.

A perfect example of Ignacio's evolutionary artistry is in a show called "Two Brothers: Second Jobs, First Love," which will be on display at Art & Framing at Stapleton, 7483 E. 29th Place, for the month of June. His featured piece has a Stapleton home with a double rainbow set in the prairie and a number of children playing in a fountain.

"I created something that was very Stapleton, but that has the nostalgia of the prairie that used to be here," Ignacio said. "As an urban designer, I cannot ignore what places used to be before they became what they are today."

Ignacio's brother, Juan, also combines his career with his artwork. His creations incorporate culture and nature with organic taxonomy and graphic symbols found in the medical world.

For information and to RSVP for the opening reception June 4 at 5pm, call Art & Framing at Stapleton, 303.534.1979.



Stapleton architect and artist Ignacio Correa-Ortiz shows his artwork representing a dog and one of his brother Juan's paintings that will be in the upcoming art show.

The "Two Brothers: Second Jobs, First Love" art show will feature works by Stapleton resident and architect Ignacio Correa-Ortiz and his brother, Colombian resident Juan R. Correa, M.D. The show will open with a reception at 5pm Saturday, June 4 at Art & Framing at Stapleton, 7483 E. 29th Place, and will last through the month of June. RSVP for the reception at 303.534.1979.

Proposed Change for Sta

EXISTING PLAN



Above, the current General Development Plan for Stapleton north of I-70, shows an elementary school and the high school grouped with open space and a regional recreation park in the northwest section of the Stapleton land.

The proposed amendment to the existing plan, shown on the map at right, moves the schools and regional recreation park, and spreads the open space so more homes are adjacent to it and green spaces connect the neighborhood with pedestrian and bike trails.

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Development Plan Stapleton North of I-70

By Tom Gleason

Forest City recently announced a proposed change to the existing general development plan for Stapleton north of I-70. The proposed amendment makes changes to the regional open space north of Northfield Blvd and south of 56th Avenue, as shown on the above maps. The amendment would preserve the same acreage (187.9 acres), maintain the same roadway connections, and continue the same overall use of the land. However, the open space would be spread out in a system of prairie-style greenways. The proposed configuration would be more accessible and useable to the residents of north Stapleton as well as to those who live south of I-70 and throughout the metro area who utilize the regional trails and parks system.

The new alignment would also move the site of the proposed new DPS high school to the southeast corner of Central Park Boulevard and 56th Avenue, where it would be immediately adjacent to a planned 65-acre regional recreation complex that is located north and south of 56th Avenue. Those fields would be linked by a pedestrian connection under the existing 56th Avenue bridge that was built after the closure of Stapleton. The changes to the plan for north Stapleton would still allow a 160-acre golf course to be built north of 56th Avenue.

Tom Gleason is Vice President, Public Relations Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

Public comments on the amendment can be emailed to Senior City Planner, Theresa Lucero at Theresa.Lucero@denvergov.org.

Right: The open space labeled "Farm," on the above map, just north of Northfield Blvd. and west of Central Park Blvd., reflects a possible use of that area as a farm that could sell local produce, an idea that has taken hold in several communities around the country, including Gilbert, Arizona (shown in photo at right). It is one of many ideas being considered in open space planning and would be subject to zoning and other regulations and approvals.



Photo courtesy of Johnston Farms



PROPOSED AMENDMENT

DPS Update on Stapleton High School

By Carol Roberts

DPS Chief Operating Officer David Suppes stated DPS "is comfortable with the revised location given the planned development at Stapleton," but there are no definite plans for the Stapleton high school at this time. However, DPS projections show the need for a high school in Stapleton either for the 2014-15 or 2015-16 school years. He added that construction of a Stapleton high school will require additional capital funding, likely through proceeds from the sale of General Obligation

Bonds—and Denver voters will be required to approve additional bond authorization. Suppes indicated DPS is evaluating timing of a future ballot initiative. A high-level design for a Stapleton high school was completed a number of years ago and would be the starting point for any new design work. Suppes added, "We anticipate initiating a Master Planning process for the high school within the next 6-9 months, which would define the scope of the new school project and associated costs."

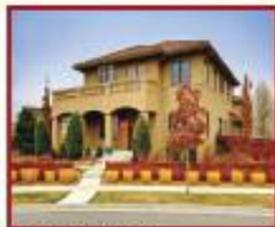
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Musings of a Book Club Mom

by Suman Bhat

The email popped up on my screen. Ms. Dickson, my daughter's third-grade English teacher at Westerly Creek School needed volunteers for a book club for her class. Every time I opened my message box, there it was, daring me to give it a shot.

Being educated in the British system, with its rigorous focus on English, I certainly qualified for the job. I just was not sure I wanted to do it. Often I would try to correct Trisha's spelling, tense and vocabulary but she would deftly put

it to rest with a roll of her eyes. I was not worried about her literary skills. My only hope was to try and connect. There were MY books and HERS and never-the-twain-shall-meet. My penchant is for all things natural and realistic and hers, for all things fantastical and magical. There was no common ground here.

A germ of an idea surfaced. I should try this book club thing and see where it led. It couldn't possibly be any worse than where we were at the time. I signed up.

Three bright-eyed girls, selected with similar reading abilities, stood waiting in anticipation of our first book club meet-

ing. I was pleasantly surprised to see that Trisha had chosen to be in my group. They seemed excited but nervous. Little did they know that I was in the same boat.

Abi chose the first book from the Warriors series. They all seemed tickled pink by a story about cats! I felt my enthusiasm waning. What prompted an author to write about cats—and an entire series? I had committed to this. There was no backing out now. I got my book and plunged in. With myriad cat names and backgrounds, the author spins a fantastical yarn

about the life of cats. I could see kids being attracted to this stuff.

Next came Judy Blume's *The Story of a Fourth Grade Nothing*—Maggie's choice. The book was ef-

fortless reading—true-to-life stories about a precocious little boy and his family. We could relate. The girls have gone on to read more books by the author and tell me funny anecdotes about Fudge and his escapades.

It was by chance that Trisha chose *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. Science fiction would have been my last choice but Trisha had to pick that one. What followed came as a complete surprise. I read the book, cover to cover, in one sitting. It was that "un-put-down-able" kind of book—the melding of a realistic scenario with a hearty dose of science fiction.

THIS was my turning point. My curiosity was piqued. In my newfound enthusiasm, I may have inadvertently nudged the girls into choosing the next book in the series. Book after book has been consumed this way since.

Along the way we have critiqued, learned new vocabulary and how to use the dictionary, tried to use new words contextually. Our love affair with books has burgeoned. I see the girls blossoming into potential authors. With their fertile imagination and buttressed with their fine literary skills, I expect wonders from them.

For me, what started on a lark has turned into something much bigger than I imagined. I started, trying to be the teacher and ended up their student. The girls have helped me rediscover my childhood and the joy of being transported to worlds within pages.

I still like my books tinged with realism. Trisha continues to like fantasy books. That wall between us still exists but the book club helped carve a window in it. New and differing ideas can now waft into each other's comfort zones. Some linger, are relished and absorbed while others blow through. If we have each other's attention for only a moment, that is a priceless treasure.

These musings are dedicated to Ms. Amy Dickson for triggering the chain of events and to my bookworms Abigail Weible, Margaret Roesnick and Trisha Iyer for their infectious enthusiasm and inspiration. Trisha, inspired by her travels to distant and exotic lands, both real and imagined, has embarked on her creative writing journey. She has penned the first of a series of books she hopes to write. I feel honored that she chose to do a book reading for me.

Suman Bhat is a Stapleton resident, an architect and a book club mom at Westerly Creek Elementary in Stapleton. She can be reached at sbhat05@gmail.com.



Mrs. Amy Dickson with, left to right, Margaret Roesnick, Trisha Iyer and Abigail Weible.

Photo courtesy of Suman Bhat

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FOUR STAPLETON, SOWBY, & PARK HILL EXPERTS

By Carol Roberts

When Christina Sevilla got her degree in psychology she was taught that your cognitive skills are fixed. What you were born with is what you got. Now, she says, “we know that to be completely false and the brain will adapt and there are things that we can be doing every day to give our brains a workout, just as we exercise our bodies.” Sevilla says there’s much new research on cognitive function... and that is her passion. “I’m a busy working mother myself and don’t have long periods of time to sit down with my kids. But it’s little ideas that you can start incorporating into your lives that make a difference in cognitive function for a child. It’s more about slipping in those moments.” Following are some of Sevilla’s suggestions that readers can “slip in” when they have a few moments to have fun with brain exercise activities with their kids.

Sevilla is knowledgeable in the area of early reading skills, struggles and dyslexia. Her focus is on preventive activities at an early age—which is preferable to finding out about problems that need to be fixed when a child is in first grade. Sevilla suggests that with preschoolers, for example, parents should teach them the letter sounds instead of the letter names, using refrigerator magnets or blocks with letters. Then start putting the sounds together. The A sound and the T sound together make “at,” and the O and the T sounds together make “ot.” This activity uses working memory and long term memory, as well as auditory processing and visual processing. “We’re not teaching reading,” she says, “We’re teaching awareness of the code of our language and the letter shapes. Kids are expected to recognize letters when they enter kindergarten. But if the kids go into kindergarten knowing the sounds letters make, they are going to be ahead as far as the ease of the pre-reading stage.”

Sevilla has observed that kids are having handwriting problems because they’re using joysticks and pushing buttons. She suggests whole sensory exercises like using your index finger and writing in sand or writing in rice or forming their name out of playdough. “There’s so much to that multi-sensory approach to getting familiar with the letters

Brain Exercise—A Little at a Time

that make up our language. The more we can attach emotionally and physically to the knowledge we need to retain, the better it’s going to cement itself in our memory.”

Everyone knows how important it is to read to your child, but most of us don’t say, after the book closes, “Tell me what that story was about,” which starts the ability of a child not only to remember, but to sequence ideas. What happened first, then next? And ask, what did you think of that story? And the next step beyond is to change something about the story and say what do you think would happen in that case? Some kids will elaborate in great detail. If a child says, “I don’t have a clue,” Sevilla advises that you need to trigger their memory about the story. “That’s all exercising the brain—and we can do that from such an early age,” she says.

A good memory activity for young children is, before a grocery trip, give them a list of items you need to buy (though not candy or something they have an emotional attachment to). When you get to the store see if they can remember them.

As kids get older, one of Sevilla’s favorite brain exercises is Mental Tic-Tac-Toe. You picture a Tic-Tac-Toe board in your brain. You number the squares one through nine. You decide who’s X and who’s O and you take turns, but of course you’re strategizing and remembering not only where you put your X or O but where your opponent put theirs. So that’s something that you can literally do anywhere. Mental Tic-Tac-Toe uses visual processing—you’re actually making a picture



Christina and Michael Sevilla at their business, Learning RX, which works with adults as well as children to improve cognitive function.

“Those kids are frustrated because they’ve tried and it’s not working. By the time they’re a teenager they’ve figured out how to avoid anything they’re not good at. And that is what looks like laziness or lack of motivation to a parent.”

Christina Sevilla and her husband Michael have a business, LearningRx, that trains people’s brains to improve cognitive function. If your child is performing below what you think is his or her ability in school, has trouble remembering things, or remembers some things but not others, you may wish to get a test of their cognitive function. The Sevilla’s company, Learning Rx, will administer the Woodcock-Johnson III test at their cost (\$300) to assess cognitive ability and provide a baseline that can be accessed in the future to see how cognitive function has changed. If cognitive function is low, parents may want to consider brain training. The Sevillas say a wide range of people use their brain training program—from elementary school children to the elderly and from disabled veterans to executives.

Christina and Michael Sevilla live in Stapleton with their two children. They can be reached at (303) 284-6105. For more information about LearningRx, visit www.LearningRx.com

in your mind of the Tic-Tac-Toe board. Or, on car trips, ask kids to take a picture in their mind of exactly what they are seeing. Then a few minutes later ask them to describe everything they can remember in that picture.

“The biggest reason I see teenagers is when parents say they worked with them to study for a test, but the next day when they took the test they didn’t remember the material. That’s a long-term memory issue. It’s a very trainable skill,” according to Sevilla.

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DENVER METRO EVENTS

Art Walks and Exhibits:

6/3 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Drive between 10th and 6th. www.artdistrictonsantafe.com

6/3 Friday- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk. Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com

6/3 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District. www.cherrycreeknorth.com

6/10 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.

6/16 Thursday- Highlands Square Third Thursday. 5pm to close. 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. www.highlands-square.com

6/18 Saturday- Meet The Artists Brunch. Meet the artists from Translations Gallery's exhibition, *Figuratively Speaking*. 11am-2pm. FREE. Translations Gallery, 1743 Wazee St. www.translationsgallery.com

Through 7/2 Saturday- Figuratively Speaking Art Exhibition. Explore boundaries of body language and human expression. Tues.-Fri. 11-6; Saturday 12-5. FREE. Translations Gallery, 1743 Wazee St. www.translationsgallery.com

7/2 Saturday to 7/4 Monday- Cherry Creek Arts Festival. Cherry Creek North. www.cherryarts.org

6/4 Saturday and 6/5 Sunday- Capitol Hill Peoples Fair. 40th annual at Civic Center Park. FREE. Sat. 10-8pm; Sun. 10-7pm. www.peoplesfair.com

6/4 Saturday and 6/5 Sunday- Denver Chalk Arts Festival. Larimer Square, downtown Denver. www.larimerarts.org

6/3 Friday- The Power of Flowers, Juried Flower Show at Botanic Gardens. 10am-8pm. Free with Gardens adm. Lectures through the day. \$10/member; \$15/nonmember. Register: www.botanicgardens.org, 1005 York St.

6/4 Saturday- The Un-Job Fair: A Day-Long Exploration of Options and Opportunities for Successful Self-Employment. Tips/strategies from national consultants and business people from metro area with real-world experience. Resources for up-and-coming entrepreneurs. Colorado Free University, 8:30am-4:30pm. \$60 or \$48 for CFU members. www.freeu.com, 303.399.0093

6/9 Thursday to 6/11 Saturday- Tea and Treasures at Tablescapes 2011. Tea with delicious edibles; beautiful, exotic table displays; gift boutique and tour beautiful Bosworth House, Denver's Historic Landmark #73. Tickets: \$16 before 6/1, \$22 after. 1400 Josephine St. Presented by Assistance League of Denver. 303.322.5205, www.denverassistanceleague.org

6/10 Friday- Garden, Grapes and Hops at Denver Botanic Gardens. 5:30-9:30pm. Live music; all-you-can-eat food/drink from 20 restaurants, 7 breweries and 3 wineries. Tickets \$25 up. www.botanicgardens.org

6/11 Saturday- Old House Society Sidewalk Stroll. 1-3pm. Features Jules Jacques Benois Benedict homes in Denver's Country Club neighborhood. Tour begins/ends at 4th and Gilpin. Tickets: \$15 at King Soopers or www.denversoldhousesociety.org

6/11 Saturday- Hors d'Oeuvres for Purrs. Garden Party and Silent Auction by Forgotten Felines Rescue to benefit Denver's homeless cats. 3-6pm. \$10. RSVP: 303.399.5926

6/16 Thursday- Banks in Harmony Summer Concert Series. Dean Bushnell Orchestra. Bicentennial Park, 13655 E Alameda, Aurora. 6:30-8pm. Aurora Chamber at 303.344.1500

6/17 Friday- CFU Game Night. Game lovers, join others to play! Games provided, but can bring a favorite. Dinner from Crock Spot included; drinks. Engage in friendly competition. Colorado Free University. 6-9:30pm. \$20. www.freeu.com, 303.399.0093

6/18 Saturday and 6/19 Sunday- Denver PrideFest. Parade, live music, food and dance celebrates local gay and lesbian community. FREE. Civic Center Park, www.denverpridefest.org

6/18 Saturday- Denver Juneteenth Celebration. Parade, live entertainment and more. 5 Points neighborhood, 26th and Welton. FREE. www.denverjuneteenth.org

6/20 Monday- Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs. Meets 3rd Monday of month; open to all interested in gardening. 7pm. 1556 Emerson St. Contact: Ellen at 303.320.5983

6/23 Thursday- Banks in Harmony Summer Concert Series. Papa Juke. Bicentennial Park, 13655 E Alameda, Aurora. 6:30-8pm. Aurora Chamber: 303.344.1500

6/25 Saturday and 6/27 Sunday- Cherry Blossom Festival. Celebrates Japanese-American culture, food, music and dance. Between Lawrence and Larimer at 19th and 20th streets, downtown Denver. www.tsdbt.org/cherryblossom/

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

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

Denver Botanic Gardens Summer Concert Series. Concert lineup/tickets: www.concerts.botanicgardens.org

Denver 2 for 1 Tix provides weekly 2 for 1 ticket and admission discounts for metro Denver arts and entertainment. www.denver2for1tix.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

6/4 Saturday- Healthy Living through Mediterranean Lifestyle. Join Dr. Peter Brubaker and colleagues for one-day workshop to learn benefits of Mediterranean lifestyle. 9:30am-10pm. \$129 (early registration)/\$139 (regular rate). Includes wine tastings, 3-course meal, educational talks and take-home kit. Bonaquisti Winery, 4640 Pecos St, Unit 1. Space limited. Register: www.viamediterranea.com

6/8 Wednesday- Girls Night Out: Learn how weight loss can be sustainable and hormones can fight risk. Meet one-on-one with Dr. Daenell. Cocktails, nibbles, door prizes. FREE. 6-8pm. LiveWell Center, 255 Detroit St. 303.399.8050. RSVP for gift bag.

6/14 Tuesday- Lecture: Smart Sustainable Weight Loss. Review study results and understand program for lifelong energy, weight balance and disease risk reduction. FREE. 6:30pm. LiveWell Center, 255 Detroit St. 303.399.8050. RSVP for gift bag.

6/16 Thursday- HIV testing at Rocky Mountain Cares nonprofit for holistic HIV care. FREE. 1-5pm. 3rd Thursday every month.

4545 E 9th Ave, #120. 303.393.8050, Adrian Pilarski

6/28 Wednesday- Cloth Diapering Class. 5-6pm. Learn diapers, benefits, cleaning and more. Hosted by Trinity Doula Care. FREE. Naturally Loved, 7349 E 29th Ave, Stapleton Town Center. Jessica Mast, 720.339.1442 or www.trinitydoulacare.com

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

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

6/7 Tuesday- America's Pastime, Baseball! 10-11am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

6/9 Thursday- The Struggle of Syria. 7-8pm. Potluck sponsored by Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 6pm. Bring dish to share; utensils, plates and beverages provided. Stapleton Discovery Center, 7706 MLK Blvd.

6/9 Thursday- The History of Denver. 10am-12pm (10 reception, 10:30 program). 1375 High St. RSVP: 303.399.5555 (limited seating)

6/12 Sunday- Mozart: Musician Heal Thyself. Stapleton F15 pool, 2831 Hanover St. 10am program; 11am brunch. RSVP: Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 303.388.0724

6/13 Monday- The National Parks. 2:30-3:30pm. Springbrooke, 6800 Leetsdale Dr. RSVP:

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 Na-
ture Center 9am-12pm,
303-945-6717

1st Wednesday
"1st Wednesdays" Home-based
businesses. Alternates between
Lunch & Happy Hour
tbrisl@aim.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

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303.331.9963

6/21 Tuesday- The Impact of Egypt. 11am-12pm (10:45/refreshments). Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi: 303.388.4013 x307

6/28 Tuesday- Pirates, Tales and Legends. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax Ave.

LIBRARIES

For info on complete library programs, check events calendar at denverlibrary.org. **Summer of Reading for babies, kids, and teens through August 6th.**

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.

Thursday afternoons in June and July at 3pm. Kids crafts. Registration required. Call 2 weeks in advance to reserve a space.

6/7 Tuesday- Safari Sally presents Through the Eyes of Animals. Join Safari Sally and her exciting animals and take a look at the world through their eyes! All ages. 3pm.

6/10 Friday- Infant Massage. Teaches parents basic techniques to give their babies a loving massage. For 3- to 12-month-olds and caregivers. 4pm. Registration required.

6/14 Tuesday- Barrel of Fun presents Pete the Pirate. Fun songs featuring mandolin and harmonica. Pete and Sam, his parrot puppet, bring their humor to the show. Pete's magic segment is a blast! All ages. 3pm

6/17 Friday- Baby Play. Welcome to Baby Play with Amy Conrad, pediatric occupational therapist. For 3- to 12-month-olds and caregivers. 4pm. registration required.

6/21 Tuesday- Black Hands Drum Ensemble. Energetic program full of drumming, dancing and storytelling celebrating black culture and history. All ages. 3pm.

6/24 Friday- Signing Smart Sign Language for Hearing Infants and Toddlers. Children who learn to sign can enjoy fun months of communication before they are physically capable of talking. For babies and caregivers. 4pm. Registration required.

6/28 Tuesday- Around the World Magic with Mark Strivings. Travel a world of fun and adventure with magician Mark Strivings. All ages. 3pm.

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

Tuesdays- All Ages Storytime. 10:30am

Thursdays- Bookbabies. 3pm

6/7 Tuesday- Barrel of Fun presents Professor Klutzo. 10:30am. This lovable professor has a great time showing children magic, music, juggling and more. All ages. No registration required.

6/9 Thursday- Infant Massage. 3pm. Parent learn basic techniques to give their babies a loving massage. Helps babies sleep better, fuss less and reduces gas and colic. For 3- to 12-month-olds and caregivers. No registration required

6/14 Tuesday- Make a One World, Many Stories Craft. 2pm. Travel around the world with this colorful craft. For preschoolers through age 12.

6/21 Tuesday- Mr. Bones and Friends. 10:30am. Join Mr. Bones and Friends for a "performing" science program. Meet a "Paleo-puppeteer," learn about dinosaurs and perhaps be eaten by a couple of them! Ages 4 and up.

7/5 Tuesday- Merry Andrew Afoot presents The Three Wishes. 10:30am. Be careful what you wish for because you just might get it. In a retelling of two classic Grimm tales, Merry Andrew Afoot finds himself stuck with and stuck to sausages and spiders. Uproarious play is fun for all ages.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 6/26 Sunday- The Frog Prince, Western Style. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com

6/4 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. www.homedepot.com

6/4 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, www.micahdenver.org

6/6-6/30 Tennis Camp- Mon-Thur, Ages 8-10 [9-11:00] - 11-18 [11-1:00]. Smiley Middle School Tennis courts 2540 Holly Street. Cost \$20 scholarships available. Questions call 303.771.1882.

6/8 Wednesday- "Create Playdates" at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5 can roar, bang, stomp 2nd Wed. 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

6/11 Saturday and 6/25 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 on project completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

6/24 Friday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Friday each month explore nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. New theme monthly, performers in Sagebrush Stage, snacks by 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. www.botanicgardens.org

Thursdays in June- 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, www.auroragov.org/nature

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

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

Small Hands Art Studio- Registering for summer 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

Bluff Lake Nature Center- Registering for full- and half-day weeklong nature camps. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

Denver Film Society registering for summer workshops-

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

Denver Film Society youth filmmaking programs include introductory Young Filmmakers workshop for beginners ages 12-19. Two-week basic course helps students create their own short, narrative film. www.denverfilm.org, youngfilmmakers@denverfilm.org

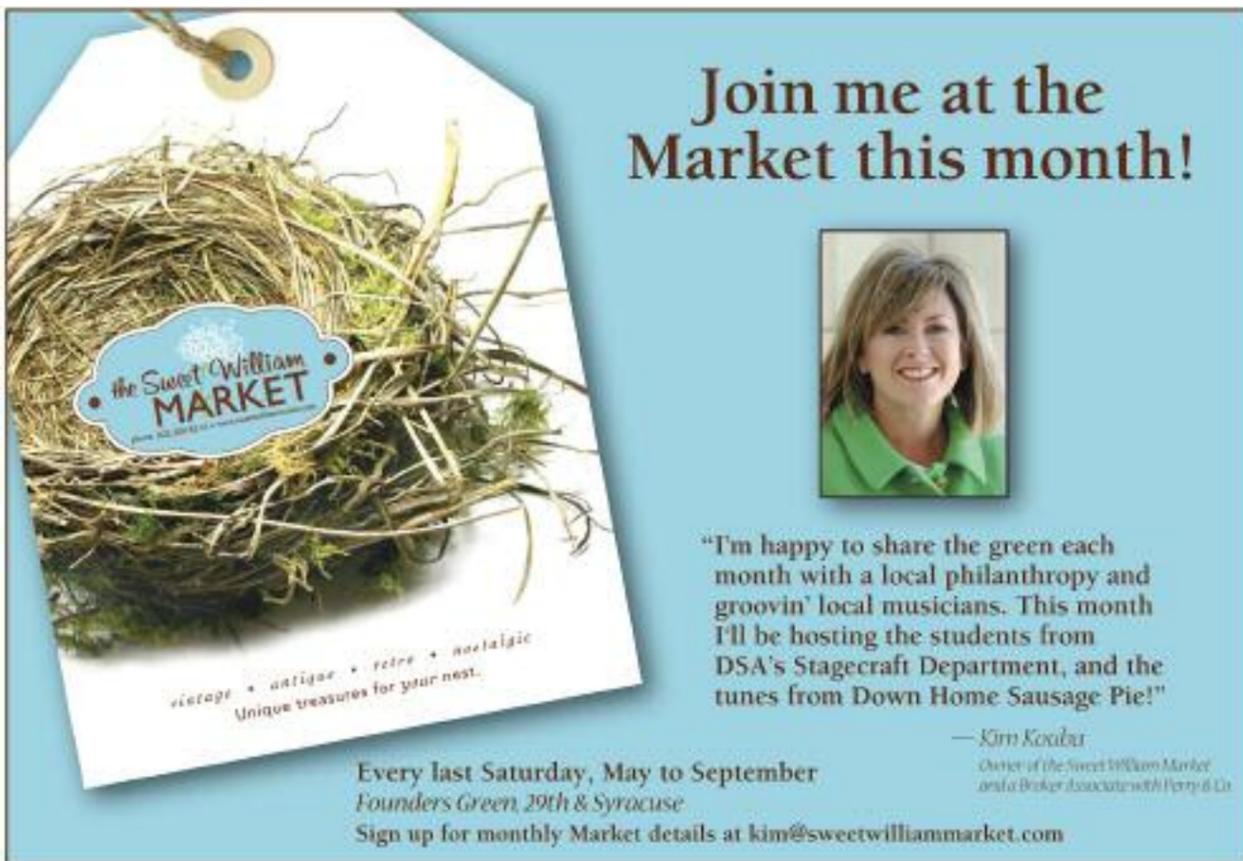
Cub Scouts "All American Sports" Day Camp registering for June sessions. From \$75/week. www.denverboyscouts.org

Stapleton All Sports- Registering for summer tennis and multi-sports camps in Stapleton for kids 4-10. www.stapletonallsports.com or Gabe Hurley: stapletonallsports@gmail.com

The Urban Farm- Registering for summer workshops for kids, including I Want to Be a Farmer (ages 7-10) and Story Book Farm (ages 4-6). info@theurbanfarm.org

Dumb Friends League hosts \$50-fee adoption campaign through June 30. For all cats and dogs. www.ddfl.org

(continued on page 22)



Join me at the Market this month!

"I'm happy to share the green each month with a local philanthropy and groovin' local musicians. This month I'll be hosting the students from DSA's Stagecraft Department, and the tunes from Down Home Sausage Pie!"

— Kim Kocub
Owner of the Sweet William Market and a Broker Associate with Perry & Co

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(continued from page 21)

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

6/16 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails and entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers

Planetarium- Journey to the Stars and Black Holes, Other Side of Infinity. Various times. Tickets: \$6/ages 3-18; \$8/adult

IMAX- Born to Be Wild 3D, The Wildest Dream: Conquest of Everest 2D and Under the Sea 3D. Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$10/adult

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

The Shops at Northfield Stapleton – 303.375.5475 www.NorthfieldStapleton.com

6/10 Friday – Colorado Winefest Celebrity Chef Dinner

6/11 Saturday – Colorado Winefest, VIP experience, and more. 2-8pm
Tickets available online at ColoradoWinefest.com

6/25 Saturday – Find Your Style Seminar
Tickets available online at NorthfieldStapleton.com

Bass Pro Events – 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

6/1, Wednesday – The Basics of Shotgunning

6/1, Wednesday – How to Use Fish Finders and What's New! (every Wed. in June)

6/1, Wednesday – Bass Fishing Workshop – Spin & Bait Casting (every Wed. in June)

6/2, Thursday – Kids Fishing 101 – Spin & Bait Casting (every Thurs. in June)

6/2, Thursday – Learning to Use GPS (every Thurs. in June)

6/3, Friday – Ask the Gunsmith (every Fri. in June)

6/4, Saturday – Introduction to Fly Fishing (every Sat. in June)

6/14, Tuesday – Get Hooked on Fly Tying for Beginners (remaining Tues. in June)

6/11, Saturday – Basic Pistol Course – Handgun Safety

6/12, Sunday – GPS and Map & Compass

Harkins Theatres 18 – 720.374.3118, www.HarkinsTheatres.com

Summer Movie Fun – 10 Movies, \$5, Just for kids!
Monday-Friday, 9:45am show time.

5/30-6/3 – Clifford's Really BIG Movie

6/6-6/10 – Ramona and Beezus

6/13-6/17 – Megamind

6/20-6/24 – How to Train Your Dragon

6/27-7/1 – Despicable Me

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.TobyKeithUSA.com

Local and regional live music acts Wednesday-Saturday.

6/2, Thursday – Brandon Rhyder

6/23, Thursday – Eli Young Band

The Twisted Olive – 303-373-8100, www.TwistedOlive.com

Spoken Word/Poetry – 9pm every Wednesday

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Reservations required for events marked at 303.289.0930.**

Take I-70 to Quebec St, Quebec north to Prairie Parkway, turn right on Prairie Parkway to Gateway Road, turn left on Gateway Road to 6550 Gateway Rd. Visitor Center is just past Refuge entrance. Free unless noted. Hours: Tuesdays-Sundays, 6am-6pm. Visitor Center: Tuesdays-Sundays, 9am-4pm. Refuge closed all federal holidays.

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

6/4 Saturday- Free Fishing Day. 6am-6pm.

SPORTS AND FITNESS

6/25 Saturday- Undy 5000. 5K walk/run and 1-mile kids' fun run to raise awareness of colorectal cancer. Participants receive commemorative pair of Undy 5000 boxer shorts. Registration opens: 7am; Walk/Run: 8:30am. Denver City Park. \$30-40. www.undy5000.org

STAPLETON/PARK HILL/ LOWRY EVENTS

6/11 Saturday- Project Linus, Stapleton Group. Project Linus provides love, sense of security, warmth and comfort to children seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need with gifts of new, homemade blankets or afghans. No sewing experience required. Meets 2nd Saturday of month at 2638 Florence from 9:30-11:30am. 303.953.9679

6/11 Saturday- Lowry Wine Walk and Concert. 5:30-10pm. Lowry Town Center, 2nd and Quebec. Ticket sales begin at 5:30pm: \$15/per person buys wine glass; proceeds benefit Lowry Foundation and Kempe Foundation. Browse Lowry Town Center stores and sample wines and hors d'oeuvres. Enter to win \$500 shopping spree. Free concert at 8pm features Atomic Brass Project. Hold onto those glasses: \$3 drink specials at Salty Ritas and Serioz! Mary Carr: 720.583.5262, www.lowry.org

6/16 Thursday- Fireside Chat at Bluff Lake Nature Center, Coyotes in Colorado. Learn coyote ecology, their role in the city and how to live safely in coyote country while roasting marshmallows over a campfire. 6:30-8pm. Family fun. Free/members; \$1 donation/nonmembers. Near MLK and Havana in Stapleton. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org for other June chats.

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

THEATER

Through 6/12 Sunday- Grey Gardens. Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.vintage theatre.com

Through 7/2 Saturday- Run for Your Wife. Spotlight Theater Company at John Hand Theater. 7653 E 1st Pl. Lowry. 720.880.8727

6/16 Thursday to 6/19 Sunday- The Life and Times of OI Alfred. Shadow Theater Company's annual Juneteenth production, at Su Teatro @ the Denver Civic Theatre, 721 Santa Fe Dr.

6/21 Tuesday to 7/17 Sunday- Hairspray. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. 720.898.7200, www.SummerAtTheCenter.com

6/21 Tuesday to 7/21 Sunday- Babe the Sheep Pig. Aurora Fox Theatre. Mon. to Sat performances: 10am and 1pm. 9900 E. Colfax. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org, 303.739.1970

DENVER-AREA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

7/3 Sunday- CBS4 Independence Day Eve Celebration in Civic Center Park. 8pm. FREE community concert featuring patriotic favorites by the Colorado Symphony, with lightshow and fireworks display. Denver Civic Center Park. www.civiccenterconservancy.org

7/2 Saturday and 7/3 Sunday- Rockies vs. Kansas City Royals. Fireworks after games. www.rockies.mlb.com

7/3 Sunday- Rapids vs. Houston Dynamo. Fireworks after game. www.coloradorapids.com

7/3 Sunday- Denver Outlaws Lacrosse vs. Boston Cannons. Fireworks after game. www.denveroutlaws.com

7/4 Monday- Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra presents The Spirit of America Concert at the Arvada Center. Patriotic tunes and classic works followed by City of Arvada fireworks. Lawn tickets: \$10; covered seating: \$24 up. www.summeratthecenter.com

7/4 Monday- Olde Town Arvada Spirit of America 4th of July Festival. FREE family-friendly events, classic car show and fireworks at dusk. www.arvadafestivals.com

7/4 Monday- Old-Fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Four Mile Park. www.fourmilepark.org

7/4 Monday- Shriners Parade. The Shriners fraternal fellowship hosts their Imperial Session in Denver from July 3-7. On Independence Day, expect dozens of miniature vehicles, brass bands and other exciting sights parading through downtown Denver. www.shrinersdq.org

International Bash June 4th

Travel the world in a day!
Join Denver Montclair International School as we celebrate the end of the school year with food, music, and live entertainment from Chinese, English, French, and Spanish-speaking cultures!
When: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sat., June 4.
Where: Our Lowry campus located at 206 Red Cross Way, Denver 80230.
Denver Montclair International School also offers summer day camps for ages 3-12 in French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, arts and sports. Register online at www.dmischool.com.

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www.dmischool.com

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More Events...

Free—June Events at the Stapleton Discovery Center

The Stapleton Discovery center, located at Syracuse and MLK Blvd., will be open to the public Thursday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm and Sundays from noon to 5pm through July 3. Visitors can take the free shuttle to tour the new energy efficient model homes in the Central Park West neighborhood and, for a \$20 ticket (with net proceeds to benefit Urban Peak), they can also tour the HGTV Green Home.

Food trucks will also be at the center. More information can be found at www.stapletondenver.com.

Events listed below will be held from 11am to 1pm every Thurs., Fri. and Sat. and on Sundays from 12 to 2pm.

- June 2 – 11am-1pm. Performance of songs from Footloose
- June 3 – 11am-1pm. Yoga session with Core Power Yoga
- June 4 – 11am-1pm. Learn to ride a unicycle, juggle and spin plates
- June 5 – 12-2pm. Colorado Contemporary Dance Academy performance; fun and games to follow
- June 9 – 11am-1pm. Performance of songs from Footloose and singalong

- June 10 – 11am-1pm. Paraffin wax, massages and acupuncture treatments by Blue Creek
- June 11 – 11am-1pm. Jump roping feats by Mad Hops with lessons and prizes for kids
- June 12 – 12-2pm. Hula hoop for fitness by Hoop Horizons (& hoop prizes)
- June 16, 17 – 11am-1pm. Tips on biking and bike fitting by Cycleton
- June 18 – 11am-1pm. Bike tricks and obstacle course by Yellow Design BMX
- June 19 – 12-2pm. Bike maintenance and bike fitting with Cycleton, fire trucks and more
- June 23, 24 – 11am-1pm. Assessment and treatments with Denver Dermatology
- June 25 – 3-6pm. YesPleaseMore summer camp, Shaken not Stirred-Milk Shakes by Sweet Action, DIY Maraca Table, dice games, booty shakin' music
- June 26 – 12-2pm. Martial arts demo
- June 30-July 1 – 11am-1pm. Tips on gardening and flowers by Amoré Fiore
- July 2 – 11am-1pm. Decorate your bike for the 4th of July parade
- July 3 – Yoga session with Core Power Yoga; last day of the HGTV Green Home tours

Through August 6—Free DPL Summer of Reading Activities/Prizes for Kids and Adults

The Denver Public Library's (DPL) Summer of Reading provides free family summer activities, reading suggestions, incentives and prizes offered at all DPL libraries and two bookmobiles to help avoid "summer learning loss," a problem that affects kids of all ages and income levels.

There are three age-appropriate themes: 1) Birth-Preschool: Read with Me encourages parents to read to children and provides interactive techniques and prize incentives. 2) Kids (K-5th grade): One World, Many Stories offers rewards for reading independently or with an adult. 3) Teens (6th-12th grade): You Are Here gives teens a journal and rewards them with prizes at reading milestones.

Complementary activities held throughout the summer include workshops, craft-making, musical entertainment and more.

Details at www.denverlibrary.org, 720.865.0975 and at all library branches.

June 9, 10, 11—Colorado's First Winefest Denver at The Shops at Northfield

This first Wine Festival, to be held at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton, is to generate awareness of Colorado wineries and the Colorado Association for Viticulture and Enology (CAVE) that funds education, seminars, research and equipment purchases to improve grape growing and winemaking in Colorado. Guests may choose from a variety of event options on Thursday to Saturday, June 9, 10 and 11, and have the opportunity to sample and purchase bottles of wine from Colorado wineries.

On Saturday, from 2-8pm, a \$35 ticket includes a wine glass, wine tote, Colorado wine tastings, five food samples and free seminars, such as with Wayne Belding, Master Sommelier, and demonstrations on

cheese/wine and wine/chocolate pairings.

For information and pricing on the other wine-tasting and cuisine festival events, go to www.ColoradoWinefest.com.

June 9-12—Denver Public Library's Gigantic Used Book Sale

The Denver Public Library's 36th Annual Gigantic Used Book Sale will be held Friday to Sunday, June 9-12 outdoors on the north lawn of the Denver Central Library, 14th Ave. and Broadway. Over 70,000 items (children's books, nonfiction/fiction, CDs, DVDs and books on tape) will be available, starting at only \$.50. New items added daily.

On Sunday, June 12, 2-3pm, teachers and nonprofits (with valid ID) can take remaining items for FREE. Throughout the sale, teachers with ID receive a 25% discount coupon. Public sale hours: 10am-4pm, Thursday to Saturday; 10am-1pm Sunday. Books may also be donated year-round at any library location. Information: www.dpl-friends.org or 720.865.2051.

June 11—Free Women's Self-Defense Class at Police Academy; Registration Required

The Denver Police Academy will hold a free self-defense class on Saturday, June 11 from 9am to 1pm for girls and women ages 12 and up (under 18 must have a parent present to sign a waiver for them; waivers can be picked up in advance).

Topics include awareness, attitude and demeanor, understanding predators and psychological aspects of violent encounters plus physiology when confronted with fear-inducing situations. Also verbal skills, balance/movement, personal body weapons and defense against chokes and grabs. Wear workout-type clothes/shoes (no slip-on shoes). Bring water.

Location: Denver Police Academy, 2155 N. Akron Way. Registration is required. Call Cpl. Richard Stensgaard at 303.370.1517. Those physically unable to do the hands-on portion are still welcome to attend.

June 11—National Get Outdoors Day

Get Outdoors Day, which is free and open to the public, will be in Denver's City Park from 9am-3:30pm on Saturday, June 11.

The goal is to inspire youth of all ages to get outside, be curious and explore the outdoors and to thrive by being active and living healthier. Activities will include: climbing walls, kayaks, dragon boats, fishing, junior ranger camps, clinics, farmers market, bike safety, performances by numerous organizations and more. Learn more at www.getoutdoorscolorado.org/.

June 11 – September 6—Children's Museum Summer Exhibition, 3,2,1 Blast Off!

Using a variety of air-pressure devices, kids can build and *(continued on p. 24)*

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More Events...

(continued from p. 23) launch their own rockets, planes and other floating, flying objects. The exhibit offers giant rocket launchers for the older kids and more controlled areas of flight for the little ones. A key goal of the exhibit is to build critical thinking skills; kids can build and launch their device, see what happens, hypothesize why, and rebuild and relaunch. Through experimentation with building materials and a variety of air-pressure mechanisms, kids and their grownups can hypothesize how far, in which direction and for how long their contraptions will fly. They can investigate the properties of flight firsthand and learn about air pressure, lift, gravity and propulsion as it relates to their design.

Inside kids can build and launch small rockets and planes, with the primary purpose being aim and trajectory as they try to hit a variety of targets. Outside larger paper rockets can soar up to 150 feet. By redesigning and re-launching, kids can learn how different designs have different outcomes. Visit www.mychildsmuseum.org or call 303.433.7444.

June 13—6th Annual Feast on The FAX

The 6th Annual Feast on The FAX, presented by The FAX Partnership, will be held Monday, June 13 from 5–9pm. Samples

from 10 East Colfax restaurants include new establishments such as Pisco Sour Peruvian Restaurant, or old favorites like The Elm, Solera, Senor Pepe's, Aqua Lounge and The Cork House. Abyssinia Ethiopian, and Phoenician Kebebab. Two of Westword's Best of Denver 2010 restaurants are the Africana Café for Best Ethiopian Restaurant and the Phoenician Kabob for Best Middle Eastern Restaurant. Tickets: \$25 in advance (\$30 day of event), at www.thefaxpartnership.com, most participating restaurants, retail stores along The FAX, all King Soopers or call Jake Flint, Feast Director, at 303.321.3212. Free shuttle buses will go between restaurants every few minutes or walk or bike along The FAX.

Wed., June 22—Bike to Work Day

Bike to Work Day is an annual event designed to get people to try their bikes for transportation and then use this alternative on a consistent basis to reduce congestion and improve air quality. The Stapleton Area Transportation Management Association (TMA) will host three Bike to Work Day breakfast stations, serving breakfast burritos: King Soopers Parking Lot on 28th and Quebec; Cake Crumbs at 2202 Kearney and District 2 Police Station, 39th and Holly.

Primrose School at Stapleton, 2501 Syracuse St. will also offer a station. Additional information and breakfast stations are listed at <http://www3.drcog.org/BikeToWork>.

June 25, Annual Park Hill Garden Tour

Stroll through 15 Park Hill gardens at the popular 11th annual Park Hill Garden Tour. The rain-or-shine event, from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, June 25, will showcase water features, hardscape, professionally landscaped and do-it-yourself flower and vegetable gardens. Owners will be there to tell about their gardens—also host 15 local artists and musicians as well as information booths on garden subjects, food and more.

Tickets: www.gphc.org; Moss Pink Botanicals, 4615 E. 23rd Ave.; the Park Hill Library and Montview Presbyterian Church. Download a \$2 off coupon at www.parkhillgardenwalk.blogspot.com. Proceeds benefit the Park Hill Food Bank. Bring can food items to donate and enter a drawing for prizes. Volunteer for a 3-hour shift and receive a complimentary ticket. Contact: Angelia McLean, Garden Chairperson, 303.388.0918 or angeliamclean-design@gmail.com.

July 22, 6pm–July 23, Relay for Life, The Green in Stapleton

The Stapleton Relay is one of 5,000 similar walks across the nation, all sponsored by the American Cancer Society. The Relay offers teams of friends, families and others an opportunity to come together and fundraise in the fight against cancer. Team members take shifts walking the course throughout the night. Shifts can be as little as 10 minutes or as long as 12 hours. Between shifts, participants relax and enjoy music, food, raffles and festivities throughout the night. Families are encouraged to bring their kids to teach them they can have a positive impact on the community (and there will be a jumpy castle). There is a \$10/person registration fee; additional amounts are raised through individual, team, or online fundraising. Learn more and sign up for Relay at denverrelay.com or email: relayforlifeforndenver@gmail.com

Local Guitar Students Rock the Stage



Guitar students from Stapleton, Park Hill and Lowry ranging in age from 5 years to adults performed on stage at Twisted Olive in Northfield on Saturday, April 30th. From left are: Natasha Olson-Smith, Nadine Rasmussen, Maya Rasmussen, Annika Parrish, Ron Bland on upright bass and Peter Gregory on drums. The event gave budding musicians, who are students of Natasha Olson-Smith's Stapleton Guitar Studio, experience performing with professional musicians who have played with the likes of Bo Diddley, Bobby McFerrin, Bob Hope, and Pavarotti. The music included rock tunes, classical, and jazz with music by the Beatles, Joan Jett, Jack Johnson, John Butler, and many other artists. One of the biggest hits of the event was "Smoke on the Water" performed by talented and enthusiastic 6 and 7 year olds! For more information visit www.NatashaOlson.com or email StapletonGuitar@gmail.com.

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Announcements...

Denver Recycles Expands Products Accepted

The city has expanded its list of acceptable plastics to include rigid plastic bottles, jugs, jars, cups, trays, tubs and containers marked with a number 1 through 7 in the recycling symbols. This includes: yogurt, cottage cheese & butter tubs; "To-go" plastic drinking cups; "clam-shell" containers for berries and bakery cookies; containers for salad mixes. NOT INCLUDED ARE: Plastic bags, styrofoam, plastic shrink wrap, Plastics marked as "PLA" or bigger than 3 gallons. Visit www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles

DPS Enrollment FAQ's for Stapleton Residents

Denver Public Schools has provided the answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about which Stapleton school new students in Stapleton will attend and what options are available to families in Stapleton.

For families that reside within the Stapleton boundary and have a child who is a kindergartner or 1st-5th grader, those children are guaranteed a spot at one of the three schools in the area: William (Bill) Roberts K-8, Westerly Creek Elementary School, and Swigert-McAuliffe International School (SMIS). Addresses within Stapleton have no bearing on the school assignment. The Office of Choice & Enrollment Services will consider space availability at each school, paired with school preference(s) stated by families, to match children with a school.

If you reside within the Stapleton boundary and your child is in grade 6th, 7th, or 8th, your neighborhood school is Bill Roberts.

If you reside within the Stapleton boundary and your child is in grade 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th, your neighborhood school is George Washington High School.

Regardless of a child's grade level, if a family would like their child to attend any other DPS traditional school, they must complete the traditional DPS School of Choice application and submit it at the desired school. Families may also apply directly at any magnet or charter school (see individual schools for details).

The full list of FAQs is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com -> Community Information

Composting Program Available to Designated Areas

Residents can check their eligibility for Denver Recycles' composting service and sign up at www.denvergov.org/DenverRecycles. One of the pilot areas is Stapleton homes bounded by Central Park Blvd., 29th Ave., Beeler and 23rd (22nd east of Akron).

The City will provide a cart for collecting all food, yard debris and soiled paper. Denver Recycles will collect it weekly and turn the organic material into nutrient-rich compost. The City will also provide a small kitchen pail. Space in the pilot program is limited. The fee is payable quarterly (\$29.25) or annually (to be calculated at \$9.75 per month for the remaining months). The fee is being charged so that the City may continue this program until a more sustainable option is found to expand this program citywide.

Organic material makes up about 57 percent of what Denver residents send to the landfill. Methane is generated in landfills as organic material decays under anaerobic (without oxygen) conditions. Methane is a greenhouse gas 21 times

more potent than carbon dioxide. Composting is a way to divert organic material from landfills, thereby reducing climate-warming gases generated in landfills. Composting is nature's way of recycling and returning valuable organic matter and nutrients to the soil to be used again. By keeping organic material out of the landfill, the life of landfills can be extended. For more information, call 3-1-1 or visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

Chinese Exchange Students to Live with Families NE Denver This Summer

Twenty-five teens from China will live with NE Denver families for two weeks in July. The students will participate in English classes and enjoy local activities organized for their group. This exchange offers an opportunity for American families to experience another culture without leaving home. Most families in China have just one child so it is interesting for these teens to meet kids who live with siblings and gather with aunts, uncles and cousins.

Families who host a student are eligible to apply for an all-expense-paid scholarship for their child to travel to China for a similar experience. For information on being a host family, contact Steve Lawrence at 303.733.2842 or compassusa.steve@gmail.com.

Rescue Renovation TV Looking for Stalled Projects

Rescue Renovation from the DIY Network is casting for do-it-yourself Denver area homeowners who have stalled on their home renovation project. Applicants who will be considered should have started a remodel of an area of their home

(demolition stage preferred), but are now stuck and don't know what to do next. Applicants must have an appropriate budget already set aside for the renovation.

Email rescue@highnoontv.com for an application, or apply on-line at: http://www.highnoonentertainment.com/casting_apply_new.php?application_id=2. For more information visit: <http://www.diynetwork.com/rescue-renovation/show/index.html>

New Denver APP Helps Find Local Events, Deals, etc

The way people gather information is rapidly changing so VISIT DENVER, The Convention & Visitors Bureau has new tools to make it easier to use mobile browsers and smart phones, including iPhone/iPad and all Android models to access over 2,000 listings of art, theater and sporting events, attractions, restaurants, hotels and shopping options, plus weather, maps, photos and videos, Facebook and Twitter connections and articles about the city.

Bargain shoppers will find over 50 discount offerings, including "Two-for-One" admission deals. Search by category or date. For iPhones and iPads: VISIT DENVER iTunes page. For Android application: visit Android Marketplace on your Android device, search for "Denver." For mobile web browser: <http://www.visitdenver.com>.

VISIT DENVER also offers the "Denver Deals" text message program. Sign up and receive information about deals from Denver businesses. To access: text Denver Deals to 63638. Learn more at www.visitdenver.com/mobile.

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A Contrast in Human Nature

The well-dressed woman with multiple gold bracelets and chains, Chanel sunglasses (the mega-large type) and a Bally shoulder bag told the attendant to pull her wheelchair just in front of my mother-in-law's. We were waiting to board a Southwest flight at Midway airport in Chicago for the 40-minute ride over to Cleveland. The woman held her pre-boarding pass in her raised hand. My in-law did as well. On Southwest, wheelchair-bound flyers are permitted to board and take an open seat prior to the rest of the boarding process. That means you can board first and take any seat you want.

As we waited, I noticed that the well-dressed woman in a wheelchair looked as if she were closer to my age than my mother-in-law's, but I really didn't pay her much attention. When we were able to board, she told her attendant she could walk by herself down the jet way. On the plane she sat in the front row with her head buried in a large fashion magazine.

sold-out flights are known inconveniences that have turned the flying experience into the Greyhound bus experience, except that seats on a bus are much more comfortable than jet seats. You know when you book that you will suffer these aggravations. What you do not know is what other irritants you will undergo and what stories you can tell or the lessons you will learn because of them.

When we arrived in Cleveland a pleasant young man waited on the jet way for my mother-in-law with a chair. He wheeled her up to the concourse and stopped, saying he had to go back for another passenger. There, in the waiting area, a portly elderly man was having an argument with his wife. He held a boarding pass in his hand as his wife followed him around the boarding area. "I am not getting into that wheelchair to get on the plane," he pleaded to her. He walked with a very noticeable limp and wore a Veterans of Foreign Wars cap. That gave him instant standing from me to be in the "I get to board first" crowd. His wife insisted that the airline re-

All kinds of weird things happen when you travel these days, and I am pretty much immune to them, as are we all. The intrusive security checks, overcrowded concourses and

quired him to be in a wheelchair. "If that is so, then I'll board with everyone else," and he went to the back of the long line.

Our attendant came back and said he could not find the other wheelchair passenger and did we remember there being two. Of course I said yes and described the well-dressed woman in Chicago. The young attendant shocked me when he stated, "People do that all the time...get someone to take them to the gate in a wheelchair so they can be first to board." Although his answer made perfect sense to me after I thought about, I am still in disbelief at the underbelly of human nature that motivates some of us to go to such lengths for such a trifling benefit.

The juxtaposition of these two individuals represents the far reaches of human behavior, one seemingly unwilling to be called attention to and the other willing to do anything to have an advantage. Yet, who am I to say that that wealthy woman in Chicago didn't need to be in a wheelchair (maybe the plane ride made her feel better), or maybe I should ask why was the veteran in Cleveland being so stubborn?

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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From the police...

Protecting Your Home From Burglaries

By Amy Esten

There is usually an increase in burglaries during the summer months. We recommend that you keep your house locked when you are away, as well as when you are home. Many burglars enter through open windows—so they should be closed and locked even when you are home.

Tips while you're on vacation:

- Do not leave messages indicating that you are out of town on your mailbox or voice mail.
- Use electric timers inside your home to turn on lights, T.V. or radios during your absence.
- Have a friend or neighbor pick up newspapers, mail, and flyers from your yard or door.

Denver Curfew Program

Citywide curfew enforcement by the Denver Police will be intensified through Sunday, September 25. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, youth will be ticketed and taken to the SafeNite Curfew Site located at Denver Police District One station, 1311 W. 48th Ave. to be processed and interviewed prior to being released to a parent or guardian.

Denver's Curfew Ordinance requires that youth 17 years of age and younger must be off the street on Friday and Saturday nights from midnight through 5am, and Sunday through Thursday nights from 11pm through 5am. Youth may be cited with a municipal violation for violating the curfew ordinance while parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may be cited for allowing youth to violate the ordinance.

- Exceptions to the ordinance include:
 - Youth who are in a motor vehicle involved in interstate travel.
 - Going to or from work without any detour or stop.
 - In the custody of and accompanied by an adult, only if the youth has a note, signed by the parent or guardian, dated for that night that clearly states the youth is allowed to be in the company of a specific adult.
 - In the company of a parent or legal guardian.

The Denver Curfew Program is a joint effort between police officers of the Denver Police Department and diversion officers of the Denver Safe City Office. For information call Tiffany Vu, Denver Safe City 720.913.4619 or Lt. Magen Dodge, Denver Police 720.913.6717.

- Call your District Police Station, 720.913.1000, so that officers can keep an eye on you house during your absence.

If there is a burglary, fingerprints can only be taken from smooth surfaces such as glass. If the print belongs to someone who has not been arrested before, there will be no match for the fingerprint in the system. Frequently, the fingerprints that are recovered are those of the home owner, so if you have been burglarized, don't touch anything until the police arrive.

Amy Esten is the Dist. 2, Community Resource Officer, 720.913.1095.

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Life As We Know It

By Beth K. Cohen

Our family has been in our beautiful Stapleton home for 3 1/2 years and try as I might, it is showing signs of wear. When we moved in, everything was so fresh, clean and new, I really wanted to keep it that way. I blame my family.

One day, several years ago, I looked up from my breakfast cereal to see my partner, Shelley, making pencil marks on the door jamb between the kitchen and mud room. I felt a shriek rising in my throat. "What are you doing?" I asked through clenched teeth. (I clenched them to try to quell the shriek.) She responded happily that she was recording our sons' heights. I made some feeble attempts to suggest a less conspicuous spot but she seemed satisfied with the one she'd selected. I yielded even though it pained me to see marks on my freshly painted door jamb.

Our boys love sports, playing baseball, ice hockey, soccer, basketball, football. I delight in their physicality unless it takes place in my living room. The boys have said that I'm mean and unreasonable for not allowing puck handling drills, touch football ("it's not tackle") or catch to take place in the living room. I've even had the nerve to ban balloon volleyball. Despite their assurances that they'll be careful, there have been casualties.

When confronted, they blame the dog. True, as a puppy, he chewed some of the wood of the molding and recently, was tried and convicted for chewing through the electric cord of the living room lamp. However, I don't think he hit the puck into the molding causing a nick, or repeatedly tackled the ottoman causing it to break.

It's not just the living room, either. The boys walk down the halls pressing their sticky fingers against the walls like they're searching for a hidden button. I've done demonstrations, showing them how to walk with their hands at their sides. My younger one said, "Like when we go through the metal detector at the airport?" I responded enthusiastically. "Yes," I said, "just like that." My older one said, "When are we going to fly somewhere again? Can we go to Hawaii? Or, Italy?" "That's not the point," I said, trying to get us back on track. Before I could reiterate the point, the younger boy threw himself at the older boy and they started rolling around, kicking the molding and leaving scuff marks on the wood floors.

As I moved knickknacks around the room to strategically cover scratches on the end table, I reflected on something a former neighbor used to say, "You can have a nice home or you can have kids and pets." I try to make peace with my choice.

If you can't beat them, join them. This morning, I pulled the boys over to the kitchen door jamb to see if they'd grown. They had, and I made the pencil marks to reflect it.

Beth K. Cohen is a Stapleton resident. She can be reached at bkc531@AOL.com.

Letters to the Editor—Central Park Boulevard

In Support of the New Signal

The Master Plan for Stapleton has always envisioned placing a signal at the intersection of 29th Ave. and Central Park Blvd. The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) wants to lend its support to the current plan. While it is unfortunate to lose some of the neighborhood atmosphere currently at that intersection, it will not be feasible to continue the four-way stop as traffic increases to 16,000 vehicles and then to 30,000 vehicles per day as Stapleton is fully developed. The four-way stops were always planned to be temporary, with the Master Plan calling for signals at that intersection when the traffic reached sufficient levels. It will soon reach the levels at which signals are necessary. Before the new I-70 interchange and CPB Sand Creek/Smith Road flyover bridge are completed, the CAB, in conjunction with SUN and the Stapleton TMA, is planning to meet with the City planning departments to review traffic mitigation and pedestrian/bicycle safety plans for the entire stretch of CPB from 56th Ave. to Montview Blvd.

David Netz and Lucia Correll on behalf of the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board

Editors note: Given the increasing volume of traffic expected in the future on Central Park Blvd, particularly when the I-70 interchange is completed, the CAB, in its May meeting, requested that the City meet with neighborhood representatives to revisit the master plan for Central Park Blvd between Montview and East 56th Ave. However, on May 23 the City notified the community that it will halt planning on the new signal until the new mayor is elected and briefed about this intersection.

Request for Master Plan Update

Concerns over traffic and decreased walkability in Stapleton has led over 400 residents to request that an updated master plan be created with resident input addressing the safety of Central Park Boulevard and traffic throughout Stapleton. Significant modifications to the master plan, including rezoning commercial land to residential and a new school, warrant the reevaluation of the transportation plan.

Because there is more traffic on CPB than 29th, the proposed light would be predominantly green, allowing cars to dangerously speed through the intersection, limiting walkability and dividing the community. Projected increased traffic numbers are only valid if we build to accommodate that amount of traffic. It is counterintuitive that traffic be prioritized over pedestrians in what is heavily marketed as a walkable community. Because one benefit of a street grid is its ability to distribute traffic throughout the grid, it is contradictory that CPB would need to accommodate significant traffic. Additionally, truly connecting to the grid requires that CPB mirror its connection, a 1-lane street. Well-designed 1-lane arterial roads can carry high volumes of traffic at low speeds allowing safer pedestrian access without congestion.

The master plan has previously been changed based on community input. We request the plan again be amended to reflect the evolving safety concerns of what is touted as, and required of, a walkable community.

Whitney Arnot Kopicky on behalf of the Stapleton Community for a Safe and Walkable Stapleton (stapletoncommunity@gmail.com), a volunteer group for the purpose of representing the interests and needs of Stapleton residents regarding safety and traffic issues.



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To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com or call 720-840-8492.



Are You a Caring (White) Neighbor?

Race Awareness in Stapleton and Why It Matters

By Melissa K. Thompson, SUN Board Member
On a recent afternoon in Stapleton, the Denver Police responded to a neighbor's call for help. Two officers arrived in a marked police car to investigate. Within a few minutes of their arrival, the Denver Police Department received a second call from another concerned neighbor to report the menacing presence of two Black men disguised as police officers.

What caused this alarmed neighbor to think the two African-American Denver police officers were criminals in disguise? As a White person confronted with this event, it is tempting to call it an outrageous exception, a one-time incident of racial stereotyping and ignorance. Unfortunately, however, this event is just one example of many such experiences by people of color living and working in Stapleton.

This article is a call to all well-intentioned Whites to engage in a dialogue with other White neighbors about race awareness in Stapleton and Denver. To become allies of the people of color in our community, we must take responsibility for our White privilege and take antiracist action.

When I walk my dog on a sidewalk in Stapleton, I do not wonder whether a concerned neighbor will call the police to report my presence as suspicious. But this is not every dog walker's experience in Stapleton. In fact, we have Black neighbors who have been reported to the police while walking their dogs. They have no choice

but to wonder daily whether the police will arrive to violate their feelings of safety and acceptance in their own neighborhood by singling them out to ask for identification, address and other personal information. It is a White privilege to walk our dogs without neighbors profiling us as criminals and reporting us to the police.

What do I mean by "White privilege"? I mean I can go shopping in Cherry Creek and not be followed by a store clerk. I can apply for an apartment or home mortgage and be reasonably assured my application will not be rejected because of my skin color. I can go to work to be of service to my community and not be labeled a criminal in disguise.

"For most Whites, race—or more precisely, their own race—is simply part of the unseen, unproblematic background" (Dalton, 2008). Yet all of us with white skin benefit from advantages I refer to here as White privilege. And because we benefit from this gift based on the structure and values of our society, whether we like it or not, we Whites are all either less or more racist.

"Now hold on," you might think, "I'm not racist. I treat everyone the same. I'm colorblind." It is the luxury of well-intentioned White folks to deny their own color and race, and that of people of color, and to continue to benefit in a society that confers White privilege. Writer James Baldwin said, "Being white means

never having to think about it." But we need to think about it because silent racism, which results in part from a failure to acknowledge White privilege, is as harmful as blatant forms of racism. Often unintended and routine, silent racism describes the unspoken negative thoughts, emotions and assumptions about people of color that dwell in the minds of Whites (Trepagnier, 2010). Silent racism accounts in part for the calls from concerned neighbors about the police officers, the dog walkers, and the person of color who works from home who is suddenly accused of being a drug dealer.

What can we do then, as caring White neighbors, if being colorblind and treating everyone the same doesn't address the problem? We can become allies by recognizing and taking responsibility for our whiteness, the privileges the color of our skin confers, and by confronting stereotypes. Don't expect your neighbors who are African-American, Chinese, or American Indian to educate you about their experiences. We who are White are responsible for understanding White privilege and racism, and their impact on people of color in our society. African-American scholar Beverly Tatum writes: "We need to continually break the silence about racism whenever we can. We need to talk about it at home, at school, in our houses of worship, in our workplaces..." This talk should be "meaningful, productive dialogue to raise consciousness and lead to effective action and social change." Let's start now, and let's start here in Stapleton.

This article draws upon and cites the following references, all highly recommended: White Privilege, 3rd Ed. (2008) by P. Rothenberg, Silent Racism, 2nd Ed. (2010) by B. Trepagnier, and Readings for Diversity and Social Justice, 2nd Ed. (2010).

Denver Water's Summer Watering Rules

Denver Water's summer water-use rules began May 1 and will be in effect until October 1:

- No lawn watering between 10am and 6pm.
- Do not water more than three days per week (there are no assigned days for watering).
- Do not waste water by allowing it to pool in gutters, streets and alleys.
- Do not waste water by letting it spray on concrete and asphalt.
- Repair leaking sprinkler systems within 10 days.
- Do not water while it is raining or during high winds.

According to Melissa Essex Elliott, manager of conservation, the rules will be enforced by a team of 11 Water Savers whose job is as much about educating customers as it is about enforcing the rules. For example, customers can improve watering efficiency by adjusting watering times based on the weather. Some of the monitors ride bikes so they are better able to talk directly with customers about wise water use.

To report water waste in a Denver park, call 3-1-1. To report waste elsewhere, call Denver Water at 303-628-6343.

Denver Water Warns of Impersonators

Denver Water does not conduct random water pressure or quality checks and reminds customers not to allow people claiming to be water department employees or contractors to enter their homes without proper identification. All Denver Water employees carry photo-identification cards and their clothing and vehicles are clearly marked with Denver Water's logo. The "Water Savers" who enforce watering rules use bright orange and white cars or bicycles and carry photo-identification cards. They do not collect money on-site. Customers who are approached by con artists should call the police and Denver Water Customer Care at 303.893.2444.

Visit www.denverwater.org for conservation tips, rebates, irrigation calculators and many more tools for saving water outdoors, including suggested watering times.



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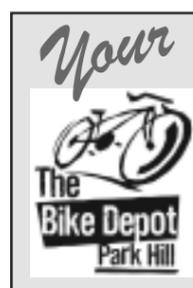
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Let's Replace the Dead Trees in Central Park

By Jonathan Candee

A plethora of trees have been cut down in Central Park. When trees die the city cuts them down but, due to budget cuts, Denver will only replace trees every three to five years. The program director for the Mile High Million and Forestry Dept., Sara Davis, says residents can donate money so trees can be purchased and planted now rather than three to five years from now—which means that all trees would continue to grow at an “even height.” The cost per tree is about \$100 dollars. I haven't counted them all, but I think if we raise \$3,000–\$5,000 we could replace all of the dead trees.

To donate, go to <http://www.milehighmillion.org/pages/section/get-involved/>

involved/donate -> “Click Here to Donate” (middle of the page/under Get Involved). In the comments field type: “Stapleton Central Park Tree Replacement.” Then forward your receipt (which contains no credit card or personal information) to jonathan.p.candee@xo.com and sara.davis@denvergov.org with the amount donated so we can keep track of the money donated and set up a “plant date” through Denver Forestry.

I have kicked this off with a \$100 donation and hope we can raise enough money to get all the missing trees replaced in our park!

Jonathan Candee is a Stapleton resident. He can be reached at jonathan.p.candee@xo.com.

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The Front Porch will publish letters to the editor as space allows. Please email Carol Roberts, editor, The Front Porch at FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com. Submit by the 15th for consideration for the following month's issue.

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Construction Starts Amidst Projected Cuts to Library Operations Budget



Breaking ground for the new Stapleton library are, from left, City Councilman Michael Hancock, Library Commission President Karen Rokala, DPL Friends Foundation President Mike King, City Librarian Shirley Amore, Mayor Bill Vidal, and State Representative Angela Williams.

(continued from p. 1) LEED Silver certification by incorporating energy efficient and environmentally sustainable features in the design, construction and operation of the facility.

But behind the smiles and excitement that the library is at last under construction was a concern about budget cuts to Denver libraries. The funds for construction of the

building came from the Better Denver Bond Program approved by the voters—and those funds cannot be used for operations. But even though the library has been instructed to prepare a 2012 budget with a 9% reduction from the current level, Denver's City Librarian, Shirley Amore sees the new facility as a hopeful sign. "During this time of budget cuts we're really trying to look to the future

and that's what this library represents."

A recent report by the Library Commission states that in 2010, Denver Public Library attracted more than 4 million visitors—more than all other major Denver cultural institutions combined. Program attendance reached 344,000. Library users checked out 9.3 million books and other materials, engaged in nearly 41 million online transactions, used library computers 922,973 times, and connected to free library wireless 734,887 times. Early figures from 2011 show that demand for library services continues to be strong—yet the projected budget cuts would require branch closures or significant cutting back on library hours.

A possible solution for future library funding is the establishment of a separate library district. According to Jen Morris, communications manager for the library, there are currently over 50 library districts in Colorado. The Library Commission has suggested that the City could either ask voters to authorize a dedicated mill levy within the city budget for libraries or create a separate library district with taxing power. They have determined that \$53.01 to \$58.24 per year on a \$200,000 home would provide the minimum to ideal service level for the library (with a lower mill levy than the average for other library districts in Colorado).

A recent poll by Ciruli Associates asked 500 voters about the state of the economy, and the impact the current City budget shortfall has on Denver Public Library. The poll also asked specific questions about potential long-term funding solutions for the Library. The majority of respondents were DPL cardholders, and support the mission of the Library. If faced with a 2012 budget reduction, they favored further reducing hours versus closing branches, and strongly supported a library district, funded by property tax as a long-term solution:

- Over half (58%) of the voters polled supported a library district, without knowing the fiscal impact that would have on individuals.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of the voters polled supported funding the library dis-

trict with a mill levy, or property tax, when they learned the cost would be approximately \$56 per year on a \$200,000 home.

- The poll indicates that Denver voters favor the idea funding a library district (64%) vs. dedicated City mill levy (55%). Both solutions would cost the property owners the same, however with the City mill levy, the library would maintain City agency status.

Both mayoral candidates say they support creating a separate library district and gave the following statements.

Councilman Hancock says: "As a city, we cannot accept the closure of our schools and libraries—our institutions of learning—as a solution to our budget issues, and expect to come out of this recession stronger. These short-term solutions aren't acceptable and will further injure the sustainability of our economy, affect the education of our children and adults and diminish the quality of life here in Denver.

"The closing of select libraries deprives every neighborhood of equal services, and underscores the urgency for city government to stop kicking the can down the road and solve the city's structural imbalance in a comprehensive manner. Libraries are one of our most precious resources. To better fund them, I support creating a special library district. As mayor, I'll continue to drive these solutions and make certain that no one is left behind."

Senator Romer says: "Libraries are extremely important to the educational and economic future of our community and I support a library district in Denver. A world class city should support a world class library system, and the Denver Public Library has consistently been ranked in the top ten in the nation. We need full-time libraries to remain open in our many neighborhoods. Our libraries are an integral part of my plan to improve early literacy skills for all our children.

"Libraries are also critical to our economic future. By offering computers and free internet access to all, the Denver Public Library helps bridge the digital divide by offering job hunting assistance and business research skills to entrepreneurs and small business owners.

"Now is not the time to cut back on this important institution."

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Check out the video of Lowry's Wings Museum at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com



One of the informational displays at Wings is about Colorado's astronauts, including Jack Swigert, for whom the newest school at Stapleton was named. Below: The recent renovation at Wings included the Harrison Ford theater.



Above: Part of the recent renovation at Wings was a change from the cement floor of a 1930s hangar to a shiny white surface that shows off the collection of over four dozen planes.

Lowry's Wings Museum Spans History, Aviation and Astronautics

By John Babiak

When walking or driving through the Lowry neighborhood, it is difficult not to notice the two imposing, nine-story hangars that occupy an entire block of Academy Boulevard. Once home to an assortment of active U.S. Air Force aircraft, today the 1930s era "Hangar 1" structure is home to the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, one of America's premier aviation and aerospace museums. The 160,000-plus-square-foot museum opened on December 1, 1994, two months after the official closing of the five-and-a-half-decade-old Lowry Air Force Base. The museum's grand opening date was also timed with the 100th birthday of the base and neighborhood's namesake, Francis B. Lowry. Lowry was a Denver native who served in the U.S. Army during World War I. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for his extraordinary heroism in action above France. He and his pilot were killed while participating in an important aerial photographic mission.

The museum is a testament to the history of aviation in the Rocky Mountain states. It also inspires youths to take an interest in science, engineering, astronautics and modern aviation. On the main floor of the museum, visitors will find 36 static military and civilian aircraft, and several space exploration vehicles. In former military classrooms that border the main area, guests can view exhibits dedicated to the history of the Air Force Base. Adjoining rooms communicate the science and technology of flight and avionics, aviator uniforms and artifacts from President Eisenhower's "Summer White House." The president conducted his governmental affairs here in Denver while his wife, Mamie, visited her immediate family. In a flight simulator laboratory, guests can experience flying a variety of aircraft. Also on display is a three-quarter-scale Star Wars X-Wing Star fighter model on loan from Lucasfilm.

Children can participate in many educational enrichment programs and special events. Girl and Boy Scouts can earn aviation-related merit badges and patches by attending a class sponsored by the museum's education department. The Wings Aviation Science Program delivers aviation and aerospace to schools and offers students hands-on activities in their classrooms. A summer camp program focuses on the science of flight and space adventure.

Additionally, the Wings museum hosts events and traveling exhibits. These programs aim to capture the interest and fantasies of both young and old alike. One of the youngest attendees of the museum is four-and-a-half-year-old MacGregor Lang, a resident of the Stapleton neighborhood. Since he was one, his grandmother, Dodie Hudson, a museum member and Lowry resident at that time, has been taking him regularly to view the museum's collection and to participate in special events. While attending a Star Wars Lego exhibit, her grandson was captivated by the collection of models that were on display. His father, Micah Lang, took notice and rented the Star Wars movie Return of the Jedi that they viewed many times over. The combination catalyzed the youngster's imagination. Since then, he has become a devoted Star Wars fan and dedicated Lego enthusiast. Through his Lego-building, he has mastered his colors, counting, spatial relationships, learned how to follow instructions and, most of all, has learned to be patient. Eleven of his Star Wars Lego models are currently on display at the museum, some with as many as 1,000 pieces.

The Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum is located at 7711 E. Academy Blvd. in Denver's historic Lowry neighborhood. More information about the museum can be found at www.WingsMuseum.com or by calling 303.360.5360.



Avid Star Wars Lego model builder MacGregor Lang, 4 1/2, poses with his Star Wars Limited Edition X-wing Fighter, one of 47 models from his personal collection that are on display at Wings Museum's Star Wars display. He is holding a model similar to the 25 foot long X-Wing Fighter on display behind him that is autographed by Harrison Ford "Han Solo" and George Lucas.



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