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)
**CALENDAR**

**JUNE**

- **Every Sunday**
  - City Park Jazz Concert Series: Rain or shine at City Park Bandstand 6-8pm / The Ohme Brass Band, 6/12 Hazel Miller, 6/19 Rabia, 6/26 Lu Candela, 7/3 Denver Municipal Band - Celebrating our nations independence, 7/10 Concourse, www.dpsjazz.org

- **Through July 3**
  - Stapleton Discovery Center™—Free Central Park West home tours and HGTV Green home tours ($20 Daily) 8am-4pm; Sundays 12-3pm Free events Thurs-Sat 11am–1pm, Sun 12–3pm. StapletonDonorcenter.com/discovery (see events on page 24)

- **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

- **Sunday, June 5**
  - Theatre on The Green, fastfood, 7pm

- **Monday, June 6**
  - Lowery Community Yard Sale, 8am–2pm. 100+ homes. Electronics Recycling 9am–2pm on the West Side of Parmer, 2 www.parecy.org

- **Goodwill pickup on June 17, 7:30am–4:30pm at Parma Assurance, 7501 E Lowery Blvd.

- **Saturday, June 11, 6pm – 9pm**
  - Arts & Framing at Stapleton, 2748 E 29th Place

- **Saturday, June 11, 6pm – 9pm**
  - Stapleton Bicycle Safety Event 10am–2pm.

- **Saturday, June 11**
  - Stapleton Community Room 2823 Roslyn St.
  - Used bicycle donations needed 720 865-3356 (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

- **Sunday, June 12**
  - Active Minds Musical Seminar “Mozart’s Musician Heal Thyself,” 10am. F15 Pool* 3574 N. Alston St.

**Monday, June 13**

- Feast on the Fox, 5–9 pm

- Tickets $25 advance/$30 at restaurants www.thefoxpartnership.com

**Saturday, June 18**

- Concert, “The Hazel Miller Band,” 8:30–10:30 pm.

**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 wwww.drcog.org/BikeToWork/Station (see p. 24)

- Contact SunNvlasticity@gmail.com for info

**Friday, June 24**

- Movie: “The Green Hornet,” starts at dark

**Saturday, June 25**

- Park Hill Garden Tour 10–1pm. Featuring 15 Park Hill gardens, artists, musicians and more. Tickets at www.pghgs.org or at Moss Pink Botanical 4615 E 23rd Ave, Park Hill Library and Montview Presbyterian Church. (see page 24)

**Saturday, June 25 & July 30**

- Sweet William Market, 9m–2pm

- The Green* www.SweetWilliamMarket.com

**Monday, July 4**

- 4th of July Pancake Breakfast, 9–10am

- 4th of July Parade, 10:30pm. Central Park

**Saturday, July 9**

- Active Minds Seminar “The Nacho PhD,” 8:30–10:30 pm

**Thursday, July 14**

- Active Minds Discovery Center Seminar, 7pm

**Friday, July 15**

- Movie: “How To Train Your Dragon,” starts at dark

**Saturday, July 16**

- Stapleton Community “West” Garage Sale, 8am–1pm. West of Waverly Creek

**Sunday, July 17**

- Stapleton Community “East” Garage Sale, 8am–1pm. East of Waverly Creek

**Thursday, July 21**

- Active Minds Musical Seminar “Beethoven: The New Kid On The Block,” 7pm. Puddles Jumper Pool*

**Friday, July 22-23**

- Roadie for Life, 6pm. The Green* (see page 24)

**More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com**

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**JULY**

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**More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com**

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**Master Community Association**

**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.”

-Divers 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; June 10 and Sunday, June 11. This is a free open event to the public!

-For more information, please visit www.stapletoncommunity.com.

-Stapleton Rocks Logos 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-hour 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 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.

-If you are interested in attending an event and open to the public. For the full summer events calendar, please visit 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. 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 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 this historic moment. 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 5pm. 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 Dreter

-Director of Programming and Events

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**Stapleton Front Porch**

-Stapleton Front Porch is published by Stapleton Fertz, LLC, 2564 Syracuse St., Denver, CO. Typically 30,000–35,000 papers are printed. The free newspaper is distributed during the first week of each month to homes and businesses in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lewry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax.

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

**Sponsored by Stapleton PCA**

- **Stapleton Front Porch**
  - The Stapleton Front Porch is published by Stapleton Fertz, LLC, 2564 Syracuse St., Denver, CO. Typically 30,000–35,000 papers are printed. The free newspaper is distributed during the first week of each month to homes and businesses in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lewry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax.
altogether outdoors
summer camps

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

As camp professionals, we understand the value of the camp experience and how it enriches a child throughout the summer, and promotes success the rest of the year.

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

Tommy Feldman
Founder/Director

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!
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 Rodym 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;

Laurie Heinselmam, manager of The Bike Depot, District 2 DPD officer Jeremy Casias, Suja Chhetri and Laxmi Chamiga 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.
founded the Stanley British Primary School. His family has had interests in various John Deere dealings 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 youngest CEO of a local Urban League chapter in the country. He was elected to the

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)

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5 June 2011
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 Dr. 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 FaxTracks 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.
Homeless Female Veterans Find New Lives in Donated Mayfair Home

By Nancy Burkhart

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.

“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.

“VOA has 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 Lauren Brayman at info@hacolo.org or go to www.hacolo.org. Email Steve Phua at phua@wonderlandhomes.com.

Steve Phua, left, of Wonderland Homes, holds Leah, 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.

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Youth Basketball Camps Ages: 7-16
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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 so 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.

Classes Offered:
- Aerobics - A form of exercise that combines rhythmic exercise with stretching, designed to get your body moving.
- Fitball Fitness - Develop your body’s core muscles to improve daily activities and add variety to your fitness routine. Balance, strength, and flexibility all in one class.
- 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

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S A L E

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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.”

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 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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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 Block-
markets, 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 Staple-
ton).

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 dis-
advantages 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 conven-
ience 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 neighbor-
hoods 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 submit-
ning 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. Po-
tential 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 con-
tact you. (continued on page 12)
Menchies’ Frozen Yogurt, located next to the Hurkin 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 explained. “The schools are their weekend. 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 a win-win situation for the business and a school or charity,” he said.

For information about Menchie’s, visit mocapay.com program, call Danny Huffstetler or Robin Regan at 303.263.3164.

I HAVE ALLERGIES, WILL MY KIDS HAVE THEM TOO?
by Kristine Walsh, MD

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?
Breastfeeding 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 breastfeeding 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 medication 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.

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. Lauri- re 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 appreci- ated. 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 Stap-leton 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 Lock- wood has started up three web design and development compa- nies in the past 10 years. His current company, Distill, focuses on Colorado-based businesses.

JUNE Events at The Berkshire...

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Where the beer is cold and the pigs are afraid!

The worldly Greek philosopher Aristotle called earthworms the “intestines of the earth.” Naturalist Charles Darwin’s bestsellers not only included The Origin of Species but also his 1881 publication, The Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Action of Worms. Darwin studied earthworms for nearly 30 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 oldest child’s first-grade class, I was asked by her teacher to lead a student gardening lesson in their urban garden. Armed with a comucopia of seed packets, vegetable seedlings, hand tools and ample plant biology knowledge, “Nature 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 face—earthworms! 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.

Oligochaetologists (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 strata: 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 organs. Their circulatory system is driven by five pairs of heart-like organs. They breathe through their wet, mucus-coated skin. Earthworms are hermaphrodites. Each worm possesses both female and male reproductive organs. They do however mate and mutually exchange sperm. Fertilization takes place within a large gel-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.

Marcos and John Babia are Stapleton residents. Marcos, 10, is an avid wildlife photographer. John is an enrichment teacher. Weekly he teaches his Nature Rangers ecology classes to students at Stock, Roberts, Waterly Creek and Odyssey. He can be reached at NatureRangerJohn@aol.com.

Senior Nature Rangers Eva and Nicholas experience firsthand a mound of wiggly earthworms. Photo by Mariko Babia.
Sunshade for Swigert-McAuliffe School to Illuminate Constellations

By John Bahhak

When Charles Raich, principal of Stapleton’s Swigert-McAuliffe K-8 International School, learned of an opportunity to enhance a playground sundial, 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, Raich 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, Raich and artists Khahir and Ceri Salahady from North Park Hill’s The Collaboratory has led to the construction of a one-of-a-kind sundial 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 sundial 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 astronomers 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 Khahir and Ceri Salahady explain how their sundial, 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.
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 for more conservative stances and proposed legislation that we’ve seen in the past—significance 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 $2,000 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.

Did you get the 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 in the past not only the “base” (per pupil) and categorical 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 had we 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 and less each year to get them.

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 happened that will make life better for Coloradans?
The health care exchange bill ($2000)—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 few 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 in the way you would shop for airline tickets online. You’re leveraging the market power to say 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—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.

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. If a state representative who reflects 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 Democrat’s 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 listen 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’s 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 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.

Sen. Mike Johnston and Rep. Angela Williams

Look Back on the Legislative Session

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Artists Brothers Create in Different Mediums

By Nancy Burkhart

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 art work. His creations incorporate culture and nature with organic taxonomies and graphic symbols found in the medical world.

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.

Proponents of the proposed plan said a regional park and open space will increase the quality of life in the area by providing recreational opportunities.

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.

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.
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 Boulevard and west of Central Park Boulevard, 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.

Right: The open space labeled “Farm,” on the above map, north of Northfield Boulevard and west of Central Park Boulevard, 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.

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 HER books 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 meeting. 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. Nothing—but Trisha’s choice. The book was effortless 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 heafty 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 wordscontextually. 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 waltz 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 emerged with enthusiasm and inspiration. Trisha, inspired by her travels to distant and exotic lands, both real and imagined, has emerged with enthusiasm and inspiration.

W eible, 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 emerged with enthusiasm and inspiration.

Mrs. Amy Dickson with, left to right, Margaret Roesnick, Trisha Iyer and Abigail Weible.
Brain Exercise—A Little at a Time

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 do 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 shifting 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 early reading skills, struggles and dyslexia. Sevilla has observed that kids are having difficulty reading, processing— you’re actually making a picture 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.

“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 in your mind of the Tic-Tac-Toe board.

"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, LearningRx, 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
DENVER METRO EVENTS
Art Walks and Exhibits
3/6 Friday - Santa Fe Arts District, Santa Fe Drive between 10th and 6th. www.artdistrictsf.com
3/8 Friday - North Denver’s Tomayson Art Walk, Tomayson St. and 44th Ave. www.denverartwalk.com
3/10 Friday - Cherry Creek Arts District, www.cherrycreeknow.com
3/10 Friday - Aurora’s East End Second Friday Art Walks, Gallery openings, music, theater, food, and more, 5-8pm. Start at Fletcher Plaza/MU Library (E Colfax at Emapr) for map to all venues.
3/16 Thursday - Highlands Square Third Thursday. 5pm to close 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. www.highlands-square.com
3/16 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
3/16 Saturday - Old House Society Sidewalk Stroll. 1-3pm. Features Julie Jacques Benin Borsch, director of Denver’s Country Club neighborhood. Tour begins/end at 4th and Ogden. Tickets: $15 at King Soopers or www.denveroldhouseassociation.org
3/16 Saturday - Hors d’Oeuvres for Purrs. Gay/Lesbian and SGLA Stroll: Adoption. For forgotten felines to benefit Denver’s homeless cats. 6-10pm. RSVP: 303.399.5262
3/16 Thursday Banks in Harmony Summer Concert Series, Dean Balch Orchestra Bicentennial Park, 3635 E Alameda, Aurora. 6:30-8pm. Aurora Chamber at 303.344.1500
3/17 Friday - CAFU Game Night: Game lovers, join others to play! Games provided, but can bring a favorite Dinner from Crock Pot included. Drinks: Engage in friendly competition. Colorado Free Press University 6-9:30pm. $20. www.freeus.com, 303.399.0871
3/18 Saturday and 6/19 Saturday - Denver PrideFest Parade, live music, food and dance celebration. More information about Denver’s PrideFest and local venues and organizations involved in the festival.
3/18 Saturday - Denver Juneteenth Celebration, Parade, live entertainment and more. 5 Points neighborhood, 26th and Welton. FREE. www.denverjuneteenth.com
3/20 Colorado (E)cology Federation of Garden Clubs. Meets 3rd Monday of each month. Open to all interested in gardening. 7pm 1556 Emerson St. Contact: Ellen at 303.320.5184
3/23 Thursday - Banks in Harmony Summer Concert Series, Papa Juka. Bicentennial Park, 3635 E Alameda, Aurora. 6:30-8pm. Aurora Chamber at 303.344.1500
3/29 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
3/30 Denver Botanic Gardens Summer Concert Series, Concert line up/tickets www.concerts.botanicorg.org
3/31 Denver 2 for 1: Tickets provide weak 2 for 1 ticket and admission discounts for metro Denver’s arts and entertainment. www.denver2for1.com
4/1 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 wellness testing, 3-course meal, educational talks and take-home kit. Bonaparte Winery, 16460 Pesco St, Unit 1. Space limited. Register: www.volunteermadicass.org
4/6 Wednesday - Girls Night Out: Learn how weight loss can be sustainable and healthy eating habits. Meet one-on-one with Dr. Donald Cocktails, nibles, door prizes. FREE. 6-8pm. LiveWell Center, 255 Deverion St. 303.399.8650. RSVP for gift bag.
4/6 Tuesday - Lecture: Smart Sustainable Weight Loss. Review study results and understand and program for lifelong energy weight balance and disease risk reduction. FREE. 6:30pm. LiveWell Center, 255 Deverion St. 303.399.8650. RSVP for gift bag.
4/6/16 Thursday - HIV testing at Rocky Mountain CARES nonprofit for holistic HIV care. FREE. 1-3pm. 3rd Thursday every month.
4/7 Thursday - Colorado Federation of Gardens. Meets 3rd Monday of each month; open to all interested in gardening. 7pm 1556 Emerson St. Contact: Ellen at 303.320.5184
4/7 Thursday - HISTOMING! - info on all sessions: www.activefingh.com/.
4/7 Thursday - America’s Pastime, Baseball! 10-11am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dailia St. Livan 303.316.6339
4/7 Thursday - The Struggle of Struggle. 7-8pm. Podcast sponsored by Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 6pm. Bring dish to share, utensils, plates and beverages provided. Stapleton Discovery Center, 706 MLK Blvd.
4/7 Thursday - The History of Denver. 10am-12pm (registration, 10:50pm). 1275 High St. RSVP: 303.339.5555 (limited seating)
4/12 Saturday - Mozaic: Musician Heals Themselves. Stapleton P13 pool, 2831 Master St. 10pm program; 11am brunch. RSVP: Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 303.388.0724
4/13 Monday - The National Parks. 2:30-3:30pm. Springbrooke, 6800 Lost Lake Dr. RSVP:
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.botanicorgarden.org
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6/30 Denver 2 for 1: Tickets provide weak 2 for 1 ticket and admission discounts for metro Denver’s arts and entertainment. www.denver2for1.com
6/30 Thursday - Artful Dancing. R SVP: Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 303.388.0724
7/06 Thursday - ArtWALK and Art Exhibits: Explore boundaries of body language and human expression. Tues-Fri 11-4, Saturday 12-5. FREE. Translations Gallery, 1743 Wazee St. www.translationsgallery.com
7/07/14 Saturday - 7 to 7 Monday - Cherry Creek Arts Festival. Cherry Creek North www.char - ryarts.org
6/4 Saturday and 6/5 Sunday - Capital Hill Peoples Fair. 40th annual at Civic Center Park. FREE Sat. 10-8pm; Sun. 10-7pm. www.peoplesfair.com
6/6 Saturday and 6/5 Sunday - Denver Chalk Art Festival. Larimer Square, downtown Denver. www.larimerarts.org
6/6 Friday - The Power of Flowers, Juried Flower Show at Botanic Gardens. 10am-4pm. Free with Gardens adm. Lectures through the day. $10/member; $15/nonmember. Register: www.botanicorgarden.org, 1005 York St.
6/7 Thursday to 6/11 Saturday - Tea and Treasures at Tablescapes 2011. Tea with delicious edi -
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hibor, Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

Park Hill Library
Kids, and teens through August 6th.

Fridays- Two. Storytime for 2-year-olds and caregivers. Stories, songs, movement activities. 10:30am. Registration required.

Thursday afternoons in June and July at 3pm. Kids crafts. Registration required. Cell 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 storytelling featuring nautical tales and a Bubba, Pete and Sam, ha 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 Stratlings. Travel a world of fun and adventure with magician Mark Stratlings. All ages. 3pm.

Schaefer Family Library 100 Popular St (1st and Quebec).

720.865.0000. Closed Wednesdays and Fridays.

Tuesdays- All Ages Storytime. 10:30am

Thursdays- Bookbabies. 3pm

6/7 Thursday- Barrel of Fun presents Professor Klutzoo. 10.30am. This lovable professor has a great time showing children magic, music, juggling and more. All ages. No registration required.

6/14 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 “Palan-puppeteer.” learn about dino-realms 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 wolves and spiders. Uproarious fun is play for all ages.

KIDS AND FAMILIES


6/1 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 experiences. Meir Shalit, 9:10am. FREE. Temple Micah, 2600 Leyden St, Park Hill. 303.388.4239, www.michaldever.org

6/6-6/8 Tennis Camp- Mon-Thur, Ages 8-10 [9-11:00], 11-18 [11:00-1]; Smiley Middle School Tennis courts 2340 Holly Street. Cost $20 scholarships available. Questions call 303.771.1882.


6/24 Friday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Friday each month explore nature at night in Mordecai Children’s Garden. New themed monthly performers in Sagbrash Stage, workshops 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.botanicsgarden.org


Small Hands Art Studio- Registering for summer classes. Located in Stapleton! www.smallhandsartstudio.com

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

B riff Lake Nature Center- Registering for full- and half-day weeklong nature camps. www.buffalolakenaturecenter.org

Denver Film Society registering for summer workshops
NORTHEAST EVENTS
6/10 Friday – Colorado Winelust Celebrity Chef Dinner
6/11 Saturday – Colorado WineLust, VIP experience, and more. 2-8pm
Tickets available online at ColoradoWinelust.com
6/25 Saturday – Find Your Style Seminar
Tickets available online at NorthfieldStapleton.com
6/1, Wednesday – The Basics of Shotgunning
6/11, Wednesday – How to Use Fish Finders and What’s Next! (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)

THEATER
Through 7/2 Saturday- Run for Your Wife, Spotlight Theatre Company at John Hand Theatre – 7663 E 1st Pl Lowry 720.830.3872
6/16 Thursday to 6/19 Sunday - The Life and Times of Ol' Alfred, Shadow Theatre Company’s annual Juneteenth production, at Su Tingas Q the Denver Civic Theatre, 251 Santa Fe Dr.
6/21 Tuesday to 7/21 Sunday- Buble the Sheep Pig Aurora Fox Theatre. Mon to Sat performances: 7pm and 1pm, 9000 E Colfax. www.aurorafotttheater.org, 303.739.1790

DENVER-AREA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS
7/3 Sunday- CB54 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.cincicenterverevan.org
7/5 Tuesday and 7/3 Sunday- RockWaves at Kansas City Royals. Fireworks after game, www.rccks.mlb.com
7/3 Sunday- Rapids vs Houston Dynamo. Fireworks after game, www的颜色loradoRAPids.com
7/3 Sunday- Denver Outlaws Lacrosse vs Boston Cannons. Fireworks after game, www.denveroulaws.com
7/4 Monday- Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra presents The Spirit of America Concert at the Arvada Center. Patriotic tunes and classic works followed by fireworks. Lawn tickets: $10, covered seating: $24, see www.summeratthecenter.com
7/4 Monday- Olde Town Arvada Spirit of America 4th of July Fireworks. FREE family-friendly event, classic car show and fireworks at dusk. www.arvadafestivals.com

SPORTS & FITNESS
6/25 Saturday- Undy 5000. 3K wallrun 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: 8am. Denver Civic Center. $30-40. www.undy5000.org

STAPLETON/PARK HILL/LOWRY EVENTS
6/11 Saturday- Project Linux, Stapleton Group, Project Linux provides low, source security, warmth and comfort to children seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need of gifts with newsin of gifts, 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. 3-10pm. Lowry Town Center, 2nd and Quebec. Ticket sales begin at 3:30pm: $15 parking, $70 VIP. Proceeds benefit Lowry Foundation and Kempe Foundation. Bring your own sipping glasses and sample wines and hors d’oeuvres. Enter to win $500 shopping spree. Concert features the Aronson Brass Project. Picnic under those glasses. $12 special drinks at SaHy Ritas and Senior Mary Carr: 720.833.5262, www.lowry.org
6/14 Tuesday- G et Hooked on Fly Tying for Beginners (remaining Tues in June)
6/16 Thursday- Science Lounge.
IMAX – 6/4, Saturday – Introduction to Fly Fishing (every Sat in June)
6/3, Friday – Ask the Gunsmith (every Fri in June)
6/2, Thursday – Kids Fishing 101 – Spin & Bait Casting (every Thurs in June)
6/1, Wednesday – How to Use Fish Finders and What’s Next! (every Wed in June)
6/27/11 – Despicable Me
6/11 Saturday – Colorado Winefest, VIP experience, and more. 2-8pm. Registration opens 7am, Walk/Run: 8am. Denver Civic Center. $30-40. www.undy5000.org

SUMMER AT THE CENTER
6/11 Saturday- Project Linux, Stapleton Group, Project Linux provides low, source security, warmth and comfort to children seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need of gifts with newsin of gifts, homemade blankets or afghans. No sewing experience required. Meets 2nd Saturday of month at 2638 Florence from 9:30-11:30am. 303.953.9679
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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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206 Red Cross Way, Lowry 303-340-3647 www.dmischool.com

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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.stapletonanddenver.com.

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

June 2 – 11am –1pm. Performance of songs by Dance Academy; fun and games to follow
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 by Fruitloop 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. Hoop hooping for fitness by Hoop Horizons (8 hoop prizes)
June 14 – 11 am–1pm. Tips on biking and bike fitting by Cyclotest
June 18 – 11am–1pm. Bike tricks and obstacle course by Yellow Design BMX
June 19 – 12-2pm. Bike maintenance and bike fitting with Cyclotest, fire trucks and more! Bike for kids can build and
June 23, 24 – 11am-1pm. Assessment and treatments with Denver Dermatology
June 25 – 3-6pm. PleasePunto summer camp. Shakes not Stressed! Milk Shakes by Sweet Action, DIY Maraca Table, dice games, booty shakin’ music
June 26 – 2–2pm. Martial arts demo
June 30-July 2 – 11am–1pm. Tips on gardening and flowers by Amore 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
Details at www.denverlibrary.org, 720.865.9975 and at all library branches.

Through August—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.

For more details, visit www.denverlibrary.org/summer, or call 720.865.2051.

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 exhibitions, 3, 2, 1 Blast Off!

Using a variety of air-pressure devices, kids can build and launch model rockets!

(continued on p. 24)
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 rockets for the little ones. A key goal of the exhibit is to build critical thinking skills; kids can build and launch their devices, 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.

Prizes: 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.
Denver Recycles Expands Products Accepted

The city has expanded its list of acceptable plastics to include rigid plastic bottles, jugs, jars, caps, trays, tubs and containers marked with a number 1 through 7 in the recycling symbols. This includes: yogurt, cottage cheese & butter tubs; “Do-G” plastic drinking cups, “dum-shell” containers for berries and bakery cookies, containers for salad mixes. NOT INCLUDED ARE: Plastic bags, styrofoam, plastic shrink wrap, Plastics marked as “TLD” 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 (FAQ’s) 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 residing within the Stapleton 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.

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 school websites for details).

The full list of FAQ’s 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

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 compostusa.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.highnoontv.com casts/applied_ne w.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 iPhones/Pod 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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Grig Eckler is a top-performing Re/Max Broker, ranking in the top 25% regionally. Why do we mention this? Because results matter.
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 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 held a boarding pass in his hand as his wife followed him around the boarding area. “I am not getting into that wheelchair,” 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 required 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 them 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 it, I am still in disbelief at the underhanded nature of human 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 the veteran in Cleveland was so stubborn? Jon Meredith lives in Stapleton. He can be reached at jon.meredith@bcom.com.

"Fishwrap is a slang term that started in the 30’s and refers to the transient value of yesterday’s newspapers."
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 reaches sufficient levels. It will soon reach the levels at which signals are necessary. Before the new I-70 interchange and CB Sand Creek/RiNo 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 CBP from 29th Ave. to Montview Blvd.

David Nett and Lucia Carroll 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.

CAB wants to lend its support to the current plan.

Budget 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 reallocation of the transportation plan.

Because there is more traffic on CBP 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 CBP would need to accommodate significant traffic. Additionally, truly connecting to the grid requires that CBP 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 desired and is required of, a walkable community.

Witney James represents 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.
Race Awareness in Stapleton and Why It Matters
By Melissa K. Thompson, SUN Board Member
On a recent afternoon in Stapleton, the Denver Police Department received a 911 call from another concerned neighbor to report the menacing presence of two Black men disguised as police officers.

What caused this dearth of neighbor to think twice about 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 be free 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 unspoken, unquestioned 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, 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 color-blind.” 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 unintentioned 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.

The cost per tree is about $100 dollars. I so trees can be purchased and planted within three to five years. The program director for the Mile High Millennial Fund, Sara Davis, says residents can donate money to place in our park! We can raise enough money to get all the missing trees replaced in our path. Jonathan Canary is a Stapleton resident. He can be reached at jonathan.p.canter@tn.com.
Construction Starts Amidst Projected Cuts to Library Operations Budget

(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 7,948,887 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 district 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. A mayor will 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 businesses.

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

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 businesses.
Lowry’s Wings Museum Spans History, Aviation and Astronautics

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 Starfighter 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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