With supporters gathered on a stage behind him, Michael Hancock addresses the crowd at his election night party shortly after he was officially announced the winner. The party, which was open to the public, was held at the EXDO Event Center in North Downtown (NoDo). Additional election night photos are on page 3.

Tyrone Beverly, who has 10 years of yoga experience, will be the yoga instructor.

New City Council members for east Denver are, from left, Albus Brooks, District 8; Mary Beth Susman, District 5; and Chris Herndon, District 11.
C A N D A L  R

Every Sunday
Farmers Market 8:30am-12:30pm The Green

Every Sunday
City Park Jazz Summit
Concert Series: Rain or shine at the City Park Bandstand 6-8pm

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

Every Friday
Yoga on The Green 6:30pm-7:30pm The Green (see story p. 6)

Saturday, July 2 & August 6

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

Tuesday, July 5 & August 2
Children’s Museum, Target Tuesdays 1st Tuesday night free, 4-8pm, cdm.org

Saturday, July 9
Concert: “The Nacho Men,” 4:30-8:30pm at The Green

Saturday, July 9
Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team Clean up at Westerly Creek (26th & Beeler) 9-11am Horticulture and Einstein’s provide coffee and bagels, lorry@denice.net, CFry@Sandcreekway.org

Thursday, July 14
Stapleton Activities, Inc. Potluck, 6-7pm Active Minds Seminar “Sultan and the Darfur Crisis,” 7-8pm, Discovery Center*

Friday, July 15
Movie: “How to Train Your Dragon,” starts at dusk The Green

Saturday, July 16
Stapleton Community “West” Garage Sale, 8am-1pm, West of Westerly Creek www.buildingstapleton.com/garagesale

Sunday July 17
Stapleton Community “East” Garage Sale, 8am-1pm, East of Westerly Creek www.buildingstapleton.com/garagesale

Tuesday, July 19
Dennar Botanic Gardens - SCFD Free Day 720-865-3500 www.botanicgardens.org

Thursday, July 21
Active Minds Musical Seminar “Beatboxing: The New Kid on The Block,” 7pm Puddle Jumper Pool

Every Saturday
Campfire at the Stables (north of the Haven), 7-9pm, www.campfireatthestables.com

Friday, July 22
relay for Life, 4pm, The Green* (see story p. 21)

Saturday, July 23
Bike Tour of Stapleton, 9am, meet at the Fountain in The Green*RSPV: www.denver.gov/gj/bikeart, 720-865-6133

Saturday, July 23
Concert: “Tanzia” (formerly Jakarta), 6:30-8:30pm, The Green

Friday, July 29
Movie: “The Prince and the Frog,” starts at dusk The Green

Saturday, July 30 & August 27
Sweet William Market, 9-2pm The Green* www.SweetWilliamMarket.com

A U G U S T

Thursday, August 4
Active Minds Musical Seminar & Cocktail Party “American Composers & Songwriters” Cocktails 4pm, Summer 7pm, Jet Stream Pool*

Saturday, August 6
Concert: “Wendy Wils” 6:30-8:30pm The Green

Thursday, August 11
Stapleton Activities, Inc. Potluck, 6-7pm Active Minds Seminar 7-8pm, Discovery Center*

Friday, August 12
Movie: “Toy Story,” starts at dusk The Green

Saturday, August 14
Stapleton Kids Triathlon 8am-12pm Jet Stream Pool*

Saturday, August 20
Stapleton Beer Festival 4-8:30pm, The Green

Saturday, August 20
Concert: Opus Gena Band & Chris Daniels & the Kings, 4-8:30pm, The Green*

Friday, August 26
Movie Night: “The Prince and the Frog,” starts at dusk The Green*

*More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com or call 720-865-6133

**Meet at Fountain in The Green and then proceed to the Clinic for the District Nurses’ 2nd Annual Scramble. Be sure you know your way around the neighborhood before you arrive.

Sweet William Market, below, is held on the last Saturday of the month.

What is your Community DNA?
I hope you are able to today and enjoy this summer! The flowers throughout the community look beautiful and the parks are lush green from the spring rains. Let’s all work this month to keep everything looking great and pick up trash when you see it. If you see a piece of trash on the sidewalk, pick it up and put it in the trash can. Thanks for keeping the community beautiful.

4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade
We start the day off with a BANG! The Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Fountain Pavilion in Central Park begins at 9am. Tickets will include pancakes, eggs, sausage, and coffee or juice and will be priced at $5 for adults and $3 for children. All donations will benefit the Stapleton Stingers Swim Team.

Decorate your bicycles, tricycles, wagons or scooters for the parade which will begin at 10:30am. We will line up along the promenade at the Fountain and head east toward the Lake, loop around back to the Fountain area. Following the parade, the pools will open as scheduled. All pools will close at 6pm. Music and water activities are planned throughout the day. Please check the website, www.stapletoncommunity.com for all the details of the day.

Yoga on The Green
The Be Well Health & Wellness Initiative, The Prodigal Son Initiative and the MCA are offering the community a chance to experience yoga outside this summer for FREE! Bring your water bottle and join instructor Tyrone Beverly each Friday in July beginning at 6:30pm on The Green at 29th Ave. between Roslyn St. and Syracuse.

Stapleton Rocks Logo Contest
We are hoping to find a talented artist in the community who can create a logo for us to use for the Stapleton Rocks Concert for a Cause. The contest begins June 1 and the deadline has been extended to Friday, July 8. The winner will be announced on Monday, July 11 and we will receive an after-hours pool party for 100 guests! If you are interested in participating, please visit our website at www.stapletoncommunity.com and follow the instructions provided.

Concerts & Movies
Our concerts this month feature The Nacho Men on July 9 and Tanzania on July 23. The concerts are on The Green and run from 6:30pm–8:30pm. How to Train Your Dragon on July 15 and The Princess Bride on July 20 are the two movies scheduled for this month on The Green. Movies will begin at dark. Remember, the concessions at the movies and concerts will be operated by various nonprofit organizations selling popcorn, candy and soft drinks. Please stop by the big white tents and support them as they raise funds for their group.

Bring your picnic and join us for these free events open to the community. For a complete list of the summer activities, please go to our website at www.stapletoncommunity.com. Events are also listed in The Front Porch calendar adjacent to this article.

Stapleton Community Garage Sale
Diana and Michael Krems are once again sponsoring the Stapleton Community Garage Sale. The sale will be two days this year. West of Westerly Creek. Please email your interest to GarageSale@BuildingStapleton.com.

Kid’s Triathlon
The Stapleton MCA is hosting our first Kid’s Triathlon on Sunday, August 14. Registration will begin online on July 15. The event will include a swim at Jet Stream, a bike ride in Central Park and a run through the community. If you would like to find out the details of the event or register for this event or sell food, please register, go to please go to www.stapletoncommunity.com. Each age group will have a limited number of entries, so register early!

Beethoven Jazz Series
July topic is “Beethoven: The New Kid on the Block.” The Stapleton Activities, Inc. potluck will begin at 6pm and the Active Minds Seminar will follow at 7pm on Thursday, July 14 at the Discovery Center located at 7706 Martin Luther King Blvd. We will examine the origins and current status of the conflicts, including the role of colonialism, tribal ethnicity and religion. For more information, please visit ActiveMindsForLife.com.

Relay for Life, 6pm, The Green* (see story p. 21) and story ideas.

Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

Farmers Market, below, is held on the last Saturday of the month.

The Stapleton Front Porch is published by Stapleton Front Porch, LLC, 2366 Sylvanese St., Denver, CO. Typically 30,000–35,000 papers are printed. The free papers are distributed during the first week of each month to homes and businesses in Stapleton, Park Hill, Lewry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax.
Inauguration Events

On July 11th the public is invited to attend the ceremony inaugurating Michael Hancock as mayor at the Temple Hoyne Buell Theatre in the Denver Performing Arts Complex. An open-to-the-public celebration will follow at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Check www.DenverForward.com during the week before the events for final times.

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Inauguration Events

Top left: Charlene Hancock, the mayor-elect’s mother, reacts to early results at her son’s election night party.
Lower left: Former Governor Bill Ritter looks at a TV screen, awaiting election results.
Lower center: El Negro y su Pandilla band helps pump up the crowd at Hancock’s election night party.
Top right: The mayor-elect’s wife Mary Louise Hancock acknowledges the crowd before she performs a vocal number and introduces her husband as the next mayor of Denver.
Top center: Mayor-elect Michael Hancock speaks to the crowd after the announcement that he had won (58% - 42%).
Lower right: Run-off opponent Chris Romer congratulates Hancock and assures the crowd that he will work cooperatively with Hancock for the good of the city.

On July 18th the public is invited to attend the ceremony inaugurating Michael Hancock as mayor at the Temple Hoyne Buell Theatre in the Denver Performing Arts Complex. An open-to-the-public celebration will follow at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Check www.DenverForward.com during the week before the events for final times.

Top left: Charlene Hancock, the mayor-elect’s mother, reacts to early results at her son’s election night party.
Lower left: Former Governor Bill Ritter looks at a TV screen, awaiting election results.
Lower center: El Negro y su Pandilla band helps pump up the crowd at Hancock’s election night party.
Top right: The mayor-elect’s wife Mary Louise Hancock acknowledges the crowd before she performs a vocal number and introduces her husband as the next mayor of Denver.
Top center: Mayor-elect Michael Hancock speaks to the crowd after the announcement that he had won (58% - 42%).
Lower right: Run-off opponent Chris Romer congratulates Hancock and assures the crowd that he will work cooperatively with Hancock for the good of the city.
(continued from page 1) advantage of all that this opportunity is going to give me, as a mayor and as CEO of the city. In other words, enjoy this opportunity. And I think in enjoying the opportunity here I will have fun, and in having fun I will do a much better job. I definitely want to stay grounded. People in Denver resonate to a style that is much more down to earth. And it's that kind of style that I never want to lose.

Front Porch: What did you tell your kids? Hancock: They don't have any perception of what this all means to them, so it's really about mom and dad telling them we're going to do everything we can to protect them. We said, "Just continue to be kids and have fun. You don't worry about this side of things, we will. Just know we'll protect you."

Front Porch: What did they say to you? Hancock: They don't want to be reminded every day, "My dad is mayor."

Front Porch: Will you move? Hancock: We're not moving to Cabbleland, we're going to stay right where we are. I think kids have to be off limits... they can be so disproportionately impacted by this.

Front Porch: Has your wife decided what role she wants to play? Hancock: Her first instincts and priorities will be, I think, to keep life with the children as stable as possible. Her interest is in the arts, particularly access for young people to the arts. She's a performing artist so she's going to be big on how we can lift up and give opportunities to our local artists.

Front Porch: Tell us more about yourself, the kinds of things friends and neighbors know about you. Hancock: It's funny, after the election my neighbors said, "I didn't buy this house to live next door to the mayor." My neighbors know I love to be outdoors working in the yard. We get along very well. We don't have any fences that divide us. We're a very social family so people are constantly in and out of the house. I enjoy the art of cooking, but I'm not a master at it. I love to spend time just creating something. I love to read— not fiction, but leadership books, biographies, autobiographies. I love to be quiet. I'm really a loner by nature. People don't know that. My wife says it's an interesting irony about me. She says, "When you're out, you're on and you're the people's person. But when you come home you tend to be very quiet and very introspective."

Front Porch: If you had a day to spend exactly as you want to, what would you do? Hancock: At this stage I'd probably sleep all day... I'd probably go play nine holes of golf, I'm not very good but I love the challenge of it. I would read a little bit. And then I love nothing more than just to lie down and be quiet and hear some soft jazz. But also as a family we do a lot. We love to catch movies together, we love to go together. We love to go get caught up with my mom. I haven't been over to my mother's house since probably March.

Front Porch: One of your most memorable campaign ads showed you in high school saying you wanted to be mayor. How do you think you can use your personal story to impact kids who feel they don't have much of a chance in life?

Interview with Mayor Hancock: I think the real thing here is you don't let your circumstances define your future and who you are and ultimately will become. There are more kids who come from the circumstances I come from than there are kids who don't—or at least close to it. The reality is most kids have to see the possibilities in someone else and be close to them. At this juncture in my life I am able to say, "I come from your environment. I know what it means to not have a lot of resources, to have to work hard to gain and to earn—but I'm living proof that it's possible." It's going to be important to me to make myself available for those kinds of opportunities and for the kids to continue to touch and feel and know, "He's real—and whatever my dreams is I can achieve it if I choose to pursue it." I understand the power of that message and I'm excited to share that message with kids. There are programs out there that I can interact with and opportunities to engage—and I'll be willing to help out as much as I can.

Front Porch: You're the first city councilman to become mayor. How will that affect you as mayor? Hancock: First, I very seldom thought about being mayor while I was a member of city council. But I was fortunate enough to be elected president of city council and that gave me a chance to understand and be in other parts of the city as an elected official. If you look at our district, where we live, the issues that I had the opportunity to address—foreclosures, schools, how we make the

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Elect Michael Hancock

create barriers for low-income people and children to access rec centers. We don’t want kids feeling like regional rec centers are too expensive for them to access. We’re going to pay for them one way or the other—to access that rec center or we’re going to pay to deal with them in the juvenile justice system. I’d rather be sure kids can get into those rec centers and have constructive things to do.

Front Porch: Do you think the vision of Stapleton been realized?
Hancock: I, for the most part think absolutely we’re realizing the vision of the Green Book. Those of us who consider ourselves trustees as elected officials and community leaders make a point to always refer to the Green Book and make sure we’re carrying forward that vision. As in any document of this type, it’s a dynamic document, which means that as we move along, environmental forces change. We’re going to have to go back and look at this document and see what’s practical today. I think the Mayor’s team and Forest City and maybe key stakeholders in Stapleton, including residents, would sit down and say, “Here’s what remains. What do we value more than others? We want to make sure we do 1,2,3 and 4. We can probably defer or do away with 5,6,7,8.” We have to make those decisions collaboratively in the best interest of the city as well as the Stapleton buildout. The deal is between Forest City and the City so we have to have thoughtful and strategic conversations about how we finish this project and make sure we do it in a way that is viable and sustainable. Things today are vastly different than when we did that plan in the early 90’s, so we have make sure it’s realistic.

Front Porch: The budget is a big issue and 70% of the budget is personnel, a lot of it is in Safety. How will you approach that issue?
Hancock: Relationship building and candid conversations are very important. I’ve already started to have preliminary conversations and there are indications they are open to helping the city out again. They have an interest in making sure the city remains financially viable, as we all do.

Front Porch: The new city council members from East Denver told us that many people told them they would be OK with paying more rather than having city services cut.
Hancock: Before a conversation around revenue occurs, you ought to expect that your city government has taken a very thorough look at its services and how we deliver them so that we are as efficient as possible and that we’ve streamlined the operation. Once we’ve done that, we can say we’re as efficient as we can be as a city government and here’s where we’re falling short, and you, the public, can see that through the numbers. That’s the proper thing to expect as voters and as taxpayers.

Front Porch: This was a tough campaign, and there was a lot of talent out there among the rivals. Will you hire them? Hancock: I expect there will be some folks who were my rivals who will be part of the administration. We had over 700 people apply to be a part of our transition efforts and a lot of them were from other camps. We did not select people based on the camps they came from or whether or not they supported us. We selected folks because they love Denver just like we do and we wanted to make sure we were able to recruit that talent.
Wine Festival at Northfield

Colorado Winefest was held June 9-11, with half (48) of the wineries in the state participating. Prior to the festival a competition was held at Johnson & Wales University, with regional and local judges selecting the best of each category. The first night, June 9, was a celebration of premier Colorado wines—an awards ceremony at the governor’s mansion for the best wines selected by the judges in each category. Friday, June 10, at Northfield, five of Denver’s leading chefs cooked a five-course dinner served with Colorado wines. Saturday, June 11 was the event that brought in the crowds. Doug Caskey, Executive Director of the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board said that 1700 tickets were sold for the Saturday event. For $35 participants got a wine glass, a wine tote, wine tastings at all participating wineries, five food samples and free seminars and demonstrations. The Winefest was a fundraiser for the Colorado Association for Viticulture and Enology, a non-profit trade association of grape growers and winemakers.

Right: Attendees at a paired tasting listen to a wine expert and taste wine and cheese samples that go together.
Imagine A New Mixed Use Development

Adjoining Stapleton Someday

Also—Stapleton-Aurora Connecting Streets and Possible NW Aurora Grocery Store

By Carol Roberts

A roomful of people gather to brainstorm about their ideal community and agree on the following:

“The neighborhood is a thriving, vibrant and safe community with a mix of shops, restaurants and businesses that serve not only the residents but the adjacent developments.”

“The citizens continually build on the community’s sense of place making it an even better neighborhood in which to live, work and play.”

“Enhanced parks, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets and open spaces are maintained and recreation is available for all age groups.”

This sounds like the community meeting where the vision of Stapleton got started over 20 years ago. The above statements actually came from a group of citizens participating in a process facilitated by the City of Aurora’s Planning Department in recent months to create a new community-based plan for the Northwest Aurora neighborhood along Montview that borders Stapleton.

In December 2010, the City of Aurora received an EPA grant to develop a plan to revitalize the area that includes the open space and neighborhood south of 26th Ave in Stapleton in 19th Ave (one block south of Montview) and to Lola on the East. The area covers approximately 306 acres, has approximately 6,000 residents, and has approximately 41 brownfield sites (properties with actual or potential contaminants/polutants).

Residents of the immediate and surrounding areas participated in an initial “visioning” process in February, identifying and prioritizing what they saw as their “treasures,” as well as the challenges the community faces. The top “treasures” were: location (proximity to the developing areas of Stapleton, Lowry and Fitzsimons/Anschutz), near transportation, affordable homes with mature trees, and proximity to Westerly Creek.

The top challenges were identified as lack of adequate grocery stores, restaurants and other quality retail and poor condition of many of the existing buildings and homes.

Based on the community’s vision, the Planning Department brought options to a second community meeting and participants selected the zoning plan shown at left. Dayton and Montview, as well as 26th Place (south of 26th Ave) are identified as mixed-use areas. Participants also voted on a name for the neighborhood—the preferred names were either Montview Village or Westerly Creek Village.

The next step is for the Planning Department to draft an amendment to the comprehensive plan for the area and submit it to Aurora City Council for approval in the fall. After that, the city will do a Conditions Assessment to identify the areas eligible for urban renewal. Amanda A Breckner from Aurora Planning explained, “Urban renewal is a state law that helps implement the financing for redevelopment projects. It allows Tax Increment Financing (TIF) in urban renewal areas, whereby, if you redevelop a property and create additional value on that property through property or sales taxes, then those new revenues can be funneled back into the project to provide assistance in getting that project done.” The goal, she said, is to make financing available for... (continued on p.12)

JULY Events at The Berkshire...

New Items: Lamb Sliders, Deep Fried Colorado Corn On The Cob, Buffalo Burger, Duck Two Ways, Seared Flounder Steak and many more...

Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat

3 | Branch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloody and Bottomless Mimosas

4 | We will be closed today, Happy Independence Day!

5 | Ladies night w/3 glasses of house wine, $3 Crown

6 | $8.50 lunch special - Chicken Salad Lattuce Wraps

7 | $8.50 lunch special - Tuna Wraps

8 | $8.50 lunch special - Tuna Wraps

9 | $8.50 lunch special - Tuna Wraps

10 | Branch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloody and Bottomless Mimosas

11 | $8.50 lunch special - Salsa Chicken Burger

12 | Ladies night w/3 glasses of house wine, $3 Crown

13 | $8.50 lunch special - Chicken Parmesan

14 | $8.50 lunch special - Chicken Caesar Salad

15 | $8.50 lunch special - Chicken Caesar Salad

16 | Branch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloody and Bottomless Mimosas

17 | $8.50 lunch special - Chicken Apple Rice Sandwich

18 | Ladies night w/3 glasses of house wine, $3 Crown

19 | $8.50 lunch special - Fish Tacos

20 | $8.50 lunch special - Fish Tacos

21 | $8.50 lunch special - Tuna Wraps

22 | $8.50 lunch special - Tuna Wraps

23 | Branch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloody and Bottomless Mimosas

24/31 | Branch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloody and Bottomless Mimosas

25 | $8.50 lunch special - Packed Fish Meal

26 | Ladies night w/3 glasses of house wine, $3 Crown

27 | $8.50 lunch special - Chicken Parmesan

28 | $8.50 lunch special - Chicken Parmesan

29 | $8.50 lunch special - Chicken Parmesan

30 | Branch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloody and Bottomless Mimosas

Fri Sat | Sun Mon | Tue Wed | Thu Fri | Sat

1 | TGIF! Happy hour specials - $2 PBR’s, $3 well drinks, $4 house wine, $1.50 off all drafts 4-7 & 9-close

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Come try our new menu items and summer drinks!


July 2011
By Carol Roberts

The new Family Affair Lifestyle Clothing/Hair Studio in Northfield is aptly named. It is owned by six partners, all related in one way or another. The six are all from Denver—and Northfield is their third and smallest Family Affair. They opened their first Family Affair downtown at 21st and Larimer three years ago, their second in the Orchard Town Center in Westminster last summer and the Northfield store opened in May. One or more of the six partners is in each of the stores daily, except perhaps on Sunday.

Donovan Kahler, one of the partners, used to have a salon in Cherry Creek, but wanted to create something new with a different atmosphere. He met Jason Ngo through his wife’s cousin and Jason dreamed of opening a boutique. Over a period of time they came up with a plan that blended their ideas. Family Affair combines a hair salon for men, women and children with a limited assortment of boutique clothing geared toward a young demographic. The store also carries Nike shoes made for boutiques. Barber cuts for men start at $15. Women’s cuts start at $30. Hair color starts at $60 and kids’ cuts start at $12. The salon sells and uses products by Bumble and Bumble and Dermologica.

The store, located north of Brookstone, can be reached at 303-576-6575.

By Carol Roberts

"You don’t need to travel to Europe, you can find Europe’s old world atmosphere here,” says Zlatko Smajlovic of Northfield’s Euro Market and Café. You don’t need to remember his name either; he’ll answer to “Z.” And when you go, you’ll find him there—he’s personally in the café till closing every day (8 pm on weeknights and 11 pm on Friday and Saturday). He has devoted his life to making a success of the Euro Market.

“I haven’t had a day off for a year and four months,” he says. Z had a traditional old world café in Bosnia, but had to leave the country due to the war 16 years ago. He brought his parents to the U.S. three years after he first came, and he has volunteered in a program to help new immigrants adjust.

He’s been working as a restaurant manager most of the time since he left Bosnia, and two years ago he started the Euro Café next to Harkins Theatre. Two months ago he expanded and moved across the street to his current location, next to Twisted Olive.

The Euro Café offers pastries and specialty coffees, including Turkish, and all the coffee drinks you’d expect, including lattes, cappuccino, mocha and ice coffee. It also offers crepes, smoothies, sandwiches (including veggie options) and panini, but he says his gyros are his top-selling item. The pita bread is soft and fresh and the tzatziki is his own private recipe, made with sour cream rather than yogurt. The grocery section includes products from Eastern Europe, Germany and Italy, such as chocolates, desserts, coffee, jam and canned vegetables. He offers samples of some of his grocery items, including Ajvar, made in Macedonia from roasted peppers, eggplant, salt, oil and vinegar.

If it’s not busy, Z will chat about his hometown in Bosnia and the Old World Market and Café that he left behind. Euro Market and Café is open Mon.–Thurs., 11 am–8 pm; Fri.–Sat., 11 am–10 pm; Sun., 11 am–6 pm. There is outdoor seating and free wi-fi. The phone number is 303.371.1108.
By Nancy Burkhart

Dr. Kate Steele has recently moved her dental practice from Cherry Creek to Stapleton. In making the move, she has brought with her the latest in dental equipment.

"The practice is brand new," she explained. "It has all the latest in technology. It's a very comforting, nice place to get your dental work done."

Steele got her undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Colorado. But she received her dental degree and did two residencies at the University of Colorado at Denver. "I did an extra residency that specialized in extractions and implant placement," Steele said. "I do dentures and cosmetic dentistry. I do pretty much everything for the whole family."

Steele's extra education has made her a dentist for all ages. "I treat anyone from a 6-month-old child to an elderly patient in need of dentures," she said. "I set up my practice in Stapleton because it's a new, developing area and I knew there would be a lot of families looking for a new dentist."

Steele's dental practice, Steele Dentistry of Stapleton, is located at 3545 Quebec St., Suite 110. She and her staff work to make patients feel comfortable in a dental environment.

"Usually they come away saying, ‘That was so magical,’" she said. "You don't expect to see a fairytale character arriving at your house. I've had parents say their daughter is still sleeping with the rose you gave her."

Party costs range from $75 for a half-hour visit with a princess to $350 for a full tea party.

To view party options and make reservations for a princess appearance at a party, go to www.wandsandwishesoccasions.com or email Caroline Kauffman at caroline@wandsandwishesoccasions.com.

Caroline Kauffman visits patients at Children's Hospital dressed as Belle from Beauty and the Beast. For birthday parties, Kauffman dresses as a fairy tale princess, provides elegant tea parties, and brings dresses so party guests can dress up as princesses. We go in and the birthday girl gets a rose from the princess. We have a game or face painting right away. And we bring music with us. We usually do a princess etiquette lesson so they learn how to curtsey and always say ‘please’ and thank you."

"They learn how to twist," Kauffman added. "We do ring-around-the-rosy, and with the game, every child gets a prize for playing. They each get a stamp on their hands. We do photos, sing the Happy Birthday song and have cake."

Sometimes little boys attend the parties, and they are given pirate or knight hats to help them to join in on the festivities, she said. Kauffman and her husband, Jason, have two boys, 6-year-old Aiden and 4-year-old Harrison, so she is beginning to venture into having parties for little boys as well.

"The boys seem to like the games we play too," she said.

The princess parties usually leave the little girls in awe, Kauffman said. "Usually they come away saying, ‘That was so magical,’" she said. "You don't expect to see a fairytale character arriving at your house. I've had parents say their daughter ‘is still sleeping with the rose you gave her.’"

By Nancy Burkhart

Little girls often dream of being a princess or of meeting a real princess like Snow White, Cinderella or Sleeping Beauty. Now Stapleton resident Caroline Kauffman can make their dreams come true through her business, Wands and Wishes Occasions.

For birthday parties, Kauffman dresses as a fairy tale princess, and for tea parties she brings princess dresses and hats for little girls to wear so that they can have a dress-up session.

"Normally we get children from three to seven years old," she said. "The parents request the princess they want and they can request a ‘package’ or a tea party. The ‘package’ is a princess visit. We go in and the birthday girl gets a rose from the princess. We have a game or face painting right away. And we bring music with us. We usually do a princess etiquette lesson so they learn how to curtsey and always say ‘please’ and thank you."

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Dentist Kate Steele has moved her practice from Cherry Creek to Stapleton. Steele says, “I treat anyone from a 6-month-old child to an elderly patient in need of dentures.” She has brought with her the latest in dental equipment.

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Steele's dental practice, Steele Dentistry of Stapleton, is located at 3545 Quebec St., Suite 110. She and her staff work to make patients feel comfortable in a dental environment.

“Our patients are going to receive the best attention from every member of my team,” Steele stressed. “This is a private dental office, not a corporate office. We make sure there’s time for everything to be done correctly.”

Steele is single and has an 8-lb. Maltese named Tucker who rules the house. "But she doesn’t get to go to work with me," Steele laughed. In her spare time, Steele goes jogging, hiking or bike riding.

For more information about Steele Dentistry of Stapleton, call 303-278-3353.
The new trend of urban agriculture and sustainable living has given birth to the first Denver County Fair, July 28–31 at the National Western grounds, I-70 and Brighton Blvd. Actually, it is not the first Denver County Fair but there has not been one since prior to the Civil War. It is intended to be what you would expect from an old-fashioned county fair—chickens and pie contests, along with some urban uniqueness like a skate-boarding rodeo and the very alternative rock band, Devo. The fair, with 10 themed pavilions, will take place in the buildings north of I-70 in the National Western complex. Carnival attractions will be outside, close to and underneath the highway—and will require separate tickets.

Each pavilion will have local vendors, different sponsors, entertainment and exhibitors based on a theme. Those themes include farm and garden, kitchen, crafts, animals, art, green, buy local, holistic and fashion. Metropolitan Denver residents can compete for first-, second- and third-place ribbons in dozens of categories. If you think you make the best strawberry-dishabre pie or have the ugliest dog or knit the finest sweaters in seven counties, enter and find out where you stand. The entry fee for competitions is $5, which includes a one-day admission. In all, there will be 600 first-place ribbons, each with a $50 cash price, given out in every theme area.

Food will be an attraction with several, so far unnamed, local celebrity chefs bringing their flavors to the fair. As Denver is the home of the original cheesburger, the fair will endeavor to find and select the best cheesburger in the Denver area. For fairgoers who insist on indulging in a deep-fried Twinkie or funnel cakes at a county fair, they will be available as well.

The county fair is the brainchild of Dana Cain who was named Westword’s 2011 award for “Best Modern-Day P.T. Barnum” in their “Best of Denver” issue for being a patron of the arts and a fabulous event coordinator. Cain intends to redefine the meaning of a county fair with it becoming well-known enough that it will in the near future be a national event. The fair is not endorsed or operated by the city or county and is a for-profit venture. It does have, according to Cain, the “full support of the city” and the city will benefit by the increased sales tax revenue and rental fees.

The Denver County Fair will open on Thursday, July 28 at 6pm and run until 10 that night. On Friday the 29th and Saturday the 30th, it will run from 10am until 10pm. Sunday hours will be 10am until 4pm. Tickets and all the fair information and entry forms are available online at www.denvercountyfair.org. Tickets are $8 per day or $22 for a four-day pass. Concert tickets are $25 to $30, available at the fair website also. The National Western facilities are located at I-70 and Brighton Blvd.
During the past month Marko and I have had several pelican viewing encounters right here in the wilds of Denver. For my sidekick, it has been a thrill. As a fledgling growing up in the San Francisco Bay area, pelicans were his favorite bird to watch fly overhead. To see a pelican in land-locked Colorado is a special event. Their presence here brings up the obvious question, why Colorado?

Practically anything that can retain water seems to attract pelicans. Our first encounter was at a small pond in Garland Park near Holly and South Cherry Creek Drive. Here we observed a pair of black-wing-tipped, American White Pelicans foraging not on the small fry and crustaceans that inhabit this pond, but they were setting their sights on several young and unsuspecting Canadian Goose goslings. Pelicans are carnivorous birds. We will spare you the gruesome details of the kidnapping, and only say that our drive home was a quiet one.

A few weeks ago, while crossing the MLK bridge over Westerly Creek in the Stapleton neighborhood, Marko’s brother Nick, spotted several pelicans in the postage-stamp-sized ponds along Westerly Creek between MLK and 29th Avenue. From a safe distance, we observed nine large pelicans for nearly an hour. They were casually loafering in the water, totally oblivious to their modern urban surroundings. Without any apparent prompt, they gathered in the center of the pond and assembled into a tight U formation. Shoulder to shoulder, they slowly paddled towards the shoreline. As they neared the pond’s shallow edge, they stopped. In unison, they dunked their heads under the waterline and gobbled up whatever fish they had successfully corralled. This rhythmic feeding routine continued. Once satisfied, they flapped their enormous wings, slowly rose into the air and departed Stapleton.

The American White Pelican is one of two species of pelicans that reside in North America. The other is the Brown Pelican. During their winter season, the White Pelicans make their homes in our Gulf Coast states. During the months of April, May and June they migrate through our state. These highly social birds are en route to their summer nesting habitats found in the Northern United States and Southern Canada. They are following major rivers north and make very short stopovers in estuaries, bays, lakes, marshes and ponds to rest, socialize and feed.

They are cooperative hunters—they team up like synchronized swimmers. Their expandable throat sacs can hold up to four gallons of water. Once they have nabbed a fish, they tilt their orange pouch bill downward to drain out the water. At full maturity the 70-inch-tall White Pelican is one of America’s largest birds. An adult can grow to have a nine-foot-wide wingspan. They display their black-tipped wings during their graceful flight. These huge birds rely on soaring and gliding methods to fly. The heights at which they fly relate to the available hot air updrafts that they leverage to gain attitude. They drift over landscapes in the lower thermals, commute short distances in the middle of the columns, and make their longer treks in the tallest portion of the updraft.

For Marko and me the novelty of seeing these majestic water birds has been indescribable. Use your nature ranger eyes and look for them at Barr Lake, Cherry Creek Reservoir, the lakes in the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, or practically any body of water in your neighborhood. Wishing you all good pelican encounters.

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

MacGyver used dental floss as a cake cutter, picture hanger, and makeshift clothesline. Our favorite use for it? Cleaning your teeth!

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**NW Aurora Revitalization**

(continued from p. 7) partnerships with private developers and property owners. However in a neighborhood filled with individual private owners, revitalization can be a long process, says Mindy Parnes of Aurora Planning. She cites the area along Colfax near the Fitzsimons/Anschutz complex as an urban renewal area that is gradually being redeveloped. Stapleton/Aurora through Streets and Park Improvements

At the community meeting, the Aurora Planning Department announced that Iola will be the first of four streets planned to connect NW Aurora and Stapleton (the others are Dayton, Fulton and Kingston). Forest City confirmed that it intends to make the Iola Street connection and begin the first phase of the park improvements along 26th Avenue in fall of 2012. In the meantime, Forest City will be working with Aurora and DIA to get all necessary approvals for the project.

Possible NW Aurora Grocery Store

Chad Argenton, from the Aurora Planning Department, stated the Tri-County Health Department has given the City of Aurora a $130,000 grant to incentivize a grocery store that offers fresh produce to locate in Aurora in underserved areas of the city, and this area of northwest Aurora is being considered for that incentive. The Front Porch will print further information on a new grocery store as it becomes available.

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**Lively Footloose Performance Draws Crowds to the Green**

Aurora Fox Theatre and the Stapleton MCA sponsored a four-night run of the musical Footloose. Diane Dretter of the Stapleton Master Community Association estimated the crowd for all four nights at 3,500. Four charities (Urban Farm, Asian Hope—and for Cambodian orphans, Camp Carey—grief counseling for children, and Monarch Montessori) raised $1600 at the event by selling drinks and snacks.
Groups Offer Support to Families with Newborns

When Park Hill resident Megan Nyce’s first daughter was born, she and her husband participated in a support group for new parents. The group, all of whom lived in the same neighborhood in Seattle, continued to meet for years after they finished their initial 12-week program with a group facilitator. Nyce, who has a master’s degree in counseling, also facilitated some of the groups. Now Nyce lives in Park Hill and is launching a new business, SPIN Group Denver, to offer the same service for first-time parents here.

At a typical SPIN Group meeting, each person/couple shares the high point and the low point of the past week. “There’s a lot of power in hearing the story of someone next to me,” says Nyce. Then during a break the families have time to socialize to get better acquainted.

In the second half of the session, Nyce presents information on a topic the group has chosen (making baby food, stimulating the baby’s mind, etc.) and members of the group share their experiences in that area. “There are lots of resources out there for moms but not a lot for dads or both together,” says Nyce. Spin Group Denver offers different options to meet the needs of the people in each group—some meet during the day for the first six weeks while the mom is typically home, and then meet in the evening for six weeks to include the dad. The SPIN Group program lasts 12 weeks.

“The goal is to get families who live near each other connected,” Nyce points out that lots of information is available on the Internet but believes, “What’s powerful is families coming together face to face.” Nyce uses her expertise to facilitate SPIN groups, not to do individual therapy. If she felt someone was having severe postpartum depression, for example, she says she would refer that person to an appropriate therapist.

Nyce is offering a drop-in newborn support group at Naturally Loved in Stapleton Town Center every Tuesday from 10 – 11am and from 3 – 4pm. The cost is $5. These sessions are not a SPIN group, but offer support to new parents and let them know what SPIN Group Denver offers. “I am beginning in the NE neighborhoods because I live in Park Hill myself, but my hope is to get SPIN Groups going all over Denver,” says Nyce.

The cost for the 12-week program is $150/person, $200/couple. Visit www.spingroupdenver.com for more information. Nyce can be reached at 303.728.9441 or at Megan@SpinGroupDenver.com.

Yoga on the Green

Yoga on the Green is an extension of The Prodigal Son and started doing free community classes and it brought a variety of different people together... different backgrounds, different ages, different races. Just a bunch of people doing it together and that’s what’s needed in the community.

“Yoga On The Green, what people can expect is a variety of people... inclusiveness, diversity. A lot of fun, a lot of excitement. I like to bring excitement to the class. I don’t want to make it so structured it’s boring. It’s outside, we’re going to have music. It’s going to be a good time.

“I teach fitness competitors, I teach professional athletes and I teach little old ladies who can’t move their bodies any more and some old ladies who can move their bodies more than me. So it’s a mixed level class. I always tell my students to monitor their own body’s progression and limitations because a lot of times people go to a yoga class and they make it about a competition. I continue to stress, ‘Go at your own level.’ I give options so you can achieve more if you want a harder class.”

Yoga On The Green is an extension of The Prodigal Son Initiative (PSI) Health and Wellness Yoga Tour, which has had overwhelming success at The Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the Denver Zoo, among others. The free classes are sponsored by Stapleton’s Master Community Association, be well Health & Wellness Initiative, and Prodigal Son. Participants take part in classes at their own risk. Founder’s Green is located on East 29th Avenue between Rodlyn and Syrinx Streets. For more information call Stapleton Master Community Association at 303.388.0724.
A Story of Resilience

By Mary Cook

I have been utterly inspired by the LeClaire family’s story and the impact it had on me. To endure my entire lifetime—be it heartbroken to discover that her 7-year-old girl was diagnosed with kidney cancer. I can’t imagine the devastation her family and she must have felt hearing this news. Her mother, Andrea, along with her heart of gold, is a very successful, well-liked, and respected hospital administrator. She is accustomed to always knowing what to do, solving problems, and being in charge. Suddenly, she was rendered helpless and had virtually no control of her daughter’s outcome. As Andrea stated, “The cancer controls you.”

From the beginning to the end of their struggle, they were assisted by so many people who cared deeply for them: family, friends and even strangers. People donated to them, started a website for them, visited, and even frequently dropped off food. However, the constant food deliveries to their home, often left on their porch, caused a problem. They didn’t have enough room for all the food! Sure enough, when this dilemma was made known to the neighborhood, a freezer was delivered.

Amy and her family suffered through three-four months of living at the hospital, while her little body endured a total of seven months of chemotherapy and a week of radiation, followed by surgery. Her tumor became the size of a tissue box, at times she threw up almost non-stop and she lost her hair.

Through all the tough procedures and pain Amy must have felt, she never lost her spunk and sense of humor. Each family member had to face his or her own hardships and difficult times through that year and a half struggle with cancer. Amy’s father, Mike, related feeling completely bewildered and terrified by the whole process. (Twin brother) Ben had another problem on top of his worry. He felt as though he hadn’t seen his mother in a year. I asked Amy what the cancer process was like, and she said, “I was really worried, and it wasn’t fun.” No kidding. Understatement of the year. I asked her what she learned from having and surviving cancer and at first she told us that she had become something of a medical consultant to her family and friends. However, Andrea later told us what Amy was too shy to say: She told her mother, “Cancer showed me what I was made of...I learned I am made of iron.”

Some good definitely came from this travesty as well. Andrea and Mike learned how precious life is and gained a new appreciation for their children. Mike also learned the brilliance and skill of the medical staff, who became his lifelong heroes. Having a daughter survive cancer gave them a whole new perspective on life. They wisely learned not to “sweat the small stuff.”

Mary Cook, a 15-year-old high school student and family friend of the LeClaire family, wrote a longer version of this essay for a class assignment to write a personal narrative.

Amy and Jasmine

By Carol Roberts

Amy LeClaire, now 10, has been cancer free since November 2009. But the cancer and the cancer treatment took a toll, and even now Amy struggles with headaches and stomachaches.

Sometimes, after she came home from the hospital, she would climb in the cage with the family’s labradoodles to snuggle (with doctor’s permission) and that would bring some relief. But it has been in the night that Amy’s discomfort seems to be at its worst and her mom, Andrea, was up with her in the night every night to offer comfort.

Then the LeClaire’s took in a friend’s small dog for six weeks while the owner was away. The dog slept with Amy—and Amy started sleeping better! With two dogs, the family hadn’t considered the possibility that yet another dog could help Amy’s recovery. But the LeClaire’s had been offered a dog to comfort Amy during her recovery and they started thinking they should take advantage of that option. The fourth-grade class at Bill Roberts School had done a fundraiser for the StinkBug Project, a program that provides a trained dog for comfort and companionship to children recovering from an illness.

The Front Porch had previously covered the story of the StinkBug Project (January 2010), started by Stapleton resident Allison Winn, who wanted other kids recovering from an illness to have their very own trained dog, just like she did. The dogs come from the Colorado Correctional Industries’ Prison Trained K-9 Companion Program, which operates in nine different prisons around the state. They are found in shelters and given to inmates who have learned about dog training and earned the privilege of caring for and training a dog. Through the program, dogs with behavior problems are trained to be good pets, inmates learn skills and find satisfaction, and the adoptive family gets a well-behaved pet.

In March, Amy pursued the online description of dogs available through the prison-trained dogs program and selected five she might consider. The prison brought them to the women’s correctional facility on Havana and Amy had the opportunity to meet them. She selected Jasper, which she renamed Jasmine, a one-year-old Scottish terrier mix, and took her home on May 19. Getting Jasmine turned out to be a good decision—after having her for a month, Amy feels having a dog of her own has helped ease the anxiety and physical discomfort that came in the aftermath of cancer.
Life, as she had known it, changed completely...in an instant. On a visit to the doctor with her husband five years ago, Park Hill resident Debbie Brady found out her husband, Kevin, a retinal surgeon, was diagnosed with ALS or Lou Gehrig’s disease. He had to retire from his thriving medical practice immediately and his condition has steadily worsened over time, to where he now is able to speak but needs assistance breathing and he can’t move any extremities.

Debbie’s role went from comfortable homemaker to full-time—24/7, 365 days a year—caregiver. She is unable to remember the last time she was able to sleep, uninterrupted, through the night.

Encaustic painting, or hot wax painting, is a process where a combination of melted beeswax and damar resin are applied in layers to the surface of a wooden board to prepare the surface. Hot melted pigments are then applied on top of the wax. The pigment is then burned into the existing wax with a blowtorch. It is a very exacting and precise process, because if the subsurface wax melts, the piece has to be redone. Other materials are often encased in wax on the surface to form a collage.

Debbie has spent the last few years in a kind of self-apprenticeship, trying different styles and materials until she found a particular encaustic style that has become her own. She has not taken the usual path of an emerging artist, which requires endless self-promotion, co-op sales, web pages and gallery showings. She simply does not have the time to promote herself. However, she was recently asked to

(continued on p. 21)

Puerto Rico Festival

The annual Puerto Rico Festival was held in Stapleton’s Central Park on June 11, offering live music, authentic Puerto Rican food, and, of course, a dance contest.

Left: Evelyn Ferrer and Antonio Arias compete in the dance contest.

Right: Melanie Colon and Pedro Vega react to the announcement that they were co-winners of the salsa dance contest held at the annual Puerto Rican Festival held at Stapleton’s Central Park. The other winners, Luz M. Algarin and Humberto Juarez (obscured) stand to the right.
DENVER AREA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

7/2 Saturday and 7/3 Sunday - Rockies vs. Kansas City Royals - 6:20 PM - Coors Field - www.rockies.mlb.com

7/3 Sunday - CBS4 Independence Day Eve Celebration in Civic Center Park - 8PM - FREE community with patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony with lightshow and fireworks display Denver Civic Center Park - www.civiccenterconsevory.org

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

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

7/4 Monday - 2nd Annual Park Hill 4th of July Parade - 2:30pm - 23rd Ave. between Dexter St. and Kearny St. Floats, bikes, classic cars, elected officials, Civil War re-enactors and a Union Army color guard! More

7/4 Monday - Boulderd Philharmonic Orchestra presents Spirit of America Concert at Arvada Center. Patriotic tunes and classic works followed by City of Arvada fireworks. Lawn tickets $10 covering seat - $24 www.ourartcenter.org

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

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

7/4 Monday - Shriners Parade. Dozens of miniature vehicle, brass bands and other participants parade through downtown Denver. The Shriners Imperial Session is in Denver July 3-7. www.shriners.org

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Art Walks and Exhibits:

7/1 Friday - Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Drive between 18th and 60th - www.santafeartdistrict.com

7/1 Friday - North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk. Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. - www.denverartwalks.com

7/4 Friday - Aurora's East End Second Friday Art Walk. Galleries, openings, music, theater, food and more. 7-9 PM. Map to all venues at Fletcher Plaza/M.L.K. Library (E Colfax at E 1st) - www.aureena.org

7/7-21 Thursday - Highlands Square Third Thursday. Starts 5pm 3rd and Lowell. North Denver - www.highlands-square.com Through 7/22 Saturday - Figuratively Speaking Art Exhibit Displays borders of body language and human expression. Tues-Fri, 11am-4pm; Saturday 12-5pm. FREE Translations Gallery. 1743 Wazee St. - www.translationsgallery.com

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

through July 15 - Heritage 2011 "Conversations with the other side" exhibit at Regis University's O'Sullivan Art Gallery. FREE, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10-4pm, 23rd Ave. and Girard. RSVP: 303.384.2646

7/16 Saturday - Old House Society Sidewalk Stroll. 1-3pm. Featuring homes in the Harrison Heights neighborhood in the Highlands - 42nd Ave. between Hotaling and Court. Tickets $15 at Scopera or www.denveroldhousesociety.org

7/9 Saturday - CaFeast at Dumb Friends League. Celebrate cat love with the Dumb Friends League. 10am-3pm. Dumb Friends League. 2080 S. Quebec St. www.dumbfriendsleague.org

7/21 Thursday - Harmony Banks in Harmony Summer Concert Series. The Modinis (60's) Utah Park, 1800 S. Peoria St. Aurora 6-8pm. Aurora Civic Center 334 1430 5000


7/18 Monday - Colorado-Canada Garden Club. Mesa 3rd Monday of months open to all interested in gardening. 7pm. 1556 Emerson Street. Contact Blen at 303.320.1593

7/21 Thursday - Banks in Harmony Summer Concert Series. The Modinis (60's) Utah Park, 1800 S. Peoria St. Aurora 6-8pm. Aurora Civic Center 334 1430 5000

7/28 Thursday to 7/31 Sunday - Denver County Fair: National Western Complex Thursday - 4pm Friday; 10am-8pm Saturday; 10am-10pm Sunday and 4am-4pm. At-admission prices start at $10 for adults and $5 for kids. Free under 5 VIP tickets, weekend passes and group discounts are also available. Tickets at www.denvercountyfair.com - www.denvercountyfair.com


Live Music at The Soiled Dove. 7401 E 1st Ave. Lowry. Tickets www.soileddove.com

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

Denver Public Art Tours. FREE Public Art Tours-on foot, bike and scooter—for art and architecture lovers. Reservations required. www.denvergov.org/pubsart for tour schedule and to sign up. Also download a PDF of Denver’s Public Art Guide.


7/1 Tuesday - 2nd Annual Park Hill 4th of July Parade provides perfectly for 2 kids and ticket admissions for metro Denver arts and entertainment. www.denver2010ticket.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

7/2 Tuesday - SafeTours - Smart Sustainable Weight Loss. 6:40pm. Free Lecture. RSVP for your gift bag with Laura Dawsell. NO ticket or LiveWebCen, 2355 S. 303.399.8050.

7/21 Thursday - HIV testing at Rocky Mountain Care nonprofit for holistic HIV care. FREE. 1-3pm. 3rd Thursday monthly. 45 S 9th Ave, #110, 303.399.8050. Adriano Planeli

7/21 Thursday - Baby Weaning Class. 5:30pm. Explore different types of baby carriers and learn about the benefits of weaning your baby. Hosted by Trinity Doula Care. Naturally Loved. 749 E 29th Ave. Stapleton Town Center Jessica Matt. 720.339.1442 or www.trinitydoulacare.com

ACTIVE MINDS LECTURES

Info on all sessions: www.ActiveMinds.com. FREE.

7/5 Tuesday-Venue: 10-11am. Jewish Com-
Tuesday - Decorate Treasure Boxes. 10:30am & 11:30am. Perfect for storing small treasures. Preschool to age 12.

Tuesday - Children’s Activity. 2pm. TBA. Registration required.

Tuesday - Paperback Notebook. 10:30am & 11:30am. Write secret thoughts in this cool notebook. Ages 6-12.

Schlessman baby and toddler activities, Thursdays, 3pm, no registration required.

Signing Smart - Sign Language for Hearing Infants and Toddlers.

Baby Activity - TBA.

Toddlers will learn basic techniques to give your toddler a loving massage. For 1 to 2-year-old babies and their caregivers.

Baby Activity TBA.

Pick a Preschool. Learn preschool options in your neighborhood. For babies and their caregivers.

Schlessman teen activities, ages 12-18, Mondays, 2pm.

Your Name in Graffiti Workshop. Learn graffiti art from around the world, basic graffiti art drawing techniques and info on how young people can participate in events in Denver.

Books ‘N Bites. Reading group where teens discuss books, have fun, and munch snacks. Titles to be announced. Registration required.

25 Video Games at the Library for Teens!

KIDS and FAMILIES


Saturday - Jewish Children’s Activities. First Sat. every month little ones danse, sing, hear a story, craft and play at monthly Shabbat experience. Pick a Shabbat. 9-10am. FREE Temple Mishkah, 2600 Leyden St, Park Hill. 303.388.4315, www.mishkahdenver.org.


Saturday to 7/17 - Sunday-KidsPlex. Aurora’s 16th annual (continued on page 18)
Kitt’s Krops festival from 10 am–5 pm at 35-acre Bicentennial Park, 13635 E. Alameda Ave. Colorado’s largest outdoor festival for kids with more than 50 hands-on activities/entertainers. Free 303.326.8FUN or aurora.gov/kittskrops.

7/12 Friday - Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night: 4th Fri.-day each month explore nature at night in Mordecai Children’s Garden. New theme monthly, workshops in Saguaro Stage, snacks by campfires and more. $20/member for family of 4, $31/exc. person. $25 non-member/family of 4. $4/exc. extra person. Kids and under free. www.botanicgardens.org

Through July 24- Norman Rockwell and the American Family. 80 reproductions of Norman Rockwell illustrations from the 1940s and 60s. FREE. Aurora History Museum. 15051 East Alameda Pkwy. 303.739.6666 or www.aurorahistorymuseum.org

Thursday in July- Star K Kids. Puppets, stories, activities, outdoor exploration for ages 5 and under @ 9:30 am. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd. Aurora. 303.739.2428 or www.aurorum.org/nature

Free Bowling- Up to 3 games per day. Elk Horn Lanes in N Denver. Shoe rental not included. www.kidzbowlene.com


Civic Center Bike-In Movie Series. FREE family-friendly movies in Civic Center Park. 2975 Roslyn St. 

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

Aurora Fox Theatre- Drama classes ages 4 and up. Lisa Mumphon: 303.739.1573 or www.aurorafx.org

Art Students League of Denver- Programs for kids and teens. 303.778.6990, www.ASLart.com

Small Hands Art Studio- Summer classes. Located in Stapleton! www.smallhandsart.com

Summer is in full swing!

Some of my favorite artisans and collectors join us this month. Music, play on Don Home Sausage Pie, and the feedeles from Denver Copperface Truck, Mike’s Kitchen, the Bon Bon Baggage, and Street Rats. Denver School of the Arts’ Stagecraft Dept. and the thriftians from Makeblock Shakespeare are presenting a splendid production!

Women have special needs and that’s why we offer comprehensive care that treats you as a whole woman, no matter what your stage of life. And now, taking care of your health can start close to home.

To learn more about the Stapleton Women’s Clinic, call 303-326-2578


7/5 Tuesday- Introduction to Fly Fishing (Every Sat. in July)

7/6 Wednesday- The Basics of Shoregunning

7/7 Thursday- Fishing for Walleyes – Spin & Bait Casting (Every Thurs in July)

7/7 Thursday- Learning to Use GPS (every Thurs. in July)

7/12 Sunday- Get Hooked on Fly for Beginners with Alan Reyes (Every Sun. in July)

7/14- Thursday- Conceal Carry Weapon Permit Class

7/16- Saturday- Basic Postal Course- Handgun Safety- NRA Certified

7/17 Sunday- GPS and Map Compass Clinic

7/24- Sunday- Beginner Archery


Summertime Fun – 10 Movies, $5. Just for kids! Monday-Friday. 9:15am show time.

6/27-7/31 – Despicable Me

7/4-7/11 - Diary of a Wimpy Kid

7/11-7/17 - Shark Week

7/14-7/20 - Top Veg

7/25-7/31 - Cats & Dogs

Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre – Tickets: 303.307.1777 or www.ImprovDenver.com

Ticket prices vary based on comedian and show time. Call for details. 6/30-7/3 – Thursday-Sunday – Dub Djegiena

7/7-7/10 – Thursday-Sunday – Alonzo Boddin

July 2011 StableFrontPorch

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Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

Reservations required for events marked** at 303.289.8930. Free unless noted. Hours: Tues.-Sun., 9am-4pm. Refuge closed all federal holidays. Directions to Refuge: www.naturecenter/mountain arsenal/ Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays- Wild Rides. ** 9:30-11:30am 2-hour guided viewing tour:

Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays – Refuge Fishing. 6:45pm. Catch/washe fishing at Lake Mary and Lake Ladora Signed permit and Colorado fishing license for anglers 16 or older in addition to $3/day fee required $30/day fee. Call 303.289.0900 for more information.

7/2 Saturday- Holiday Hayride – 6:45pm. Enjoy 4th of July weekend with end of week ride around the Refuge. Bug repellent recommended.

7/3 Sunday- Zoom in on Birds. 9-11am Bring your camera and zoom lens to view our feathered friends and learn to identify them.

7/3 Sunday- Sunday Matinee: Winged Migration. 1pm Experience big screen in the new state-of-art auditorium. Wonders of natural world; fly with world’s most gorgeous birds through areas like the Arctic and Amazon.


7/10 Thursday- Introduction to Birding – 9-11am. Learn basic technics, e.g. how to binoculars and field guides. Perfect for first-time/beginning birders.

7/11 Sunday- Sunday Matinee: Moost. 1pm. New state-of-art auditorium. New kid in town discovers local population of burrowing owls. Home to be destroyed and teams with outcast and offbeat tomboy to save the owls. Rated PG

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LOCAL EVENT LISTINGS

Everest 2D and Under the Sea 3D, Mysteries of the Great Lakes 2D. Various times. Tickets $83-18. $10/adult

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

Events at the Shops at Northfield Stapleton – 303.375.5475 www.NorthfieldStapleton.com

7/7-7/17 - Northfield’s Family Festival (located in the NE parking lot)

7/13 – Hazel Miller Concert benefits Urban Peak, 7pm (doors open 6-1pm)

Concert at Improv Comedy Club Tickets NorthfieldStapleton.com, click on Be inspired icon, lower left corner.

7/30 – Saturday- Handmade Hootup-Arts & Crafts Show, Main Street, 12-5pm

Bass Pro Events - 720.385.3600 www.BassPro.com Call for specific event and seminar pricing.

6-7/14- Bass Pro Shops-Family Summer Camp- Free Family Activities

7-2/ Saturday- Introduction to Fly Fishing (Every Sat. in July)

7-6 Wednesday- The Basics of Shoregunning

7-7 Thursday- Fishing for Walleyes – Spin & Bait Casting (Every Thurs in July)

7-7 Thursday- Learning to Use GPS (every Thurs. in July)

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7/7-7/10 – Thursday-Sunday – Alonzo Boddin

July 2011 Stapleton Front Porch
More Events...

Denver Public Art Tours
Starting this summer, Arts & Venues Denver invites art and architecture lovers to participate in FREE Public Art Tours—on foot and by bike. These free guided tours focus on small segments of the City’s Public Art Collection and give people the opportunity to venture inside iconic venues, see art you may not have noticed before, and learn about their history. To view upcoming tours, visit DenverGov.org and search for Public Art Tours. A Public Art Guide to the City and County of Denver by the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com or can be found at DenverGov.org, search for Denver Public Art Guide.

Food Trucks & Music at Lunchtime in Civic Center Park
Every Tuesday and Thursday from 11am to 2pm through September 29, Civic Center EATS will offer the metro area’s largest gathering of gourmet food trucks and carts. Visitors can enjoy an outdoor lunch at shaded tables, view Civic Center Park and listen to live music. Civic Center Park is located at Broadway and Colfax. In addition to supporting Denver’s growing gourmet food truck scene, proceeds benefit the Civic Center Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring and enhancing Denver’s historic Civic Center Park. A list of the trucks and the concert schedule are posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com.

July 23—Stapleton Artist Opens Her Studio and Supports Kids
Artist Vail Thayer McDougle will offer visitors a peek into her life as an artist by opening her home studio in Stapleton to visitors on Saturday, July 23 from 3–8pm. The event is free at 8057 S. 24th Drive but visitors must get a ticket at http://mcdougleeventbrite.com.

The event is also a fundraiser for Sellars Project Space’s ArtBox Program, volunteers who donate art supplies to kids in need. Donations can be made online or at McDougle’s studio. Backpacks with art supplies are given to children living in poverty in the Aurora/Denver Collars area. Some backpacks are delivered to children in police stations who wait for hours before receiving social services help. The backpack may be their only personal belonging there. Art supplies are also donated to the Camp Wayapai organization where children with cancer and their families get away for a weeklong camping trip and to Denver Rescue Mission. For more on Artbox, contact Jimmy Sellars at 720.475.1182.

July 28—Westerly Creek Connection Update
The cities of Aurora and Denver have contracted for a greenway master plan that will bring Westerly Creek (continued on p. 20)
August 14—Viva Streets, Denver’s First Street-Closure Celebration

Viva Streets is a one-day celebration made possible when a major Denver street is returned to the people. On Sunday, August 14, from 10am–2pm, LiveWell Colorado and Bike Denver will transform 23rd Ave. between City Park at Colorado Blvd. and Fred Thomas Park in Stapleton into a car-free pathway for all Denverites to enjoy. Viva Street’s 4-mile route will welcome walkers, bikers, runners, stroller, hula-hoopers, dancers, paraders, musicians, healthy food purveyors and anyone wanting to play in the streets for the day. It’s a tribute to the power of city streets to get people moving, bring neighbors together, and strengthen Colorado’s healthy, active culture.

Traditionally called a “ciclovia,” Spanish for “bike pathway,” it has been adopted by cities worldwide (including Portland, Madison, NYC, LA) to describe one-day street closures to foster physical activity and civic pride, and attract up to 25,000 people at each. The original in Bogotá in the 1980s was a response to traffic congestion, they still do a 70-mile route each Sunday. A bike parade will start at City Park. Kids, neighbors, local dignitaries and street enthusiasts will ride their bikes a few blocks east on Montview Blvd., and then complete the route on 23rd St. into Stapleton. For more information, go to www.VivaStreets.org.

Free and Open to the Public Saturday Morning Bike Rides

On Saturday mornings at 6:30am, a free-and-open-to-the-public group bike ride is sponsored by the Cycleton bike shop in the East 29th Ave. Town Center in Stapleton. The ride is open to all—the group will divide to accommodate varying levels of fitness. The photo above shows a ride taken in June, which was a 40-mile round trip to the Front Range airport. Cycleton also sponsors a one-hour group run at 8:30am on Sundays. The run is open to the public and will divide into groups according to the speed of the runners.

Photo by Park Hill resident Reid Neurieiter

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State Farm
July 22 on the Green in Stapleton’s 29th Ave. Town Center

By Nancy Burkhart

Stapleton resident Patrick Haikal has had a rough year. Last August he was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, thymic carcinoid. He was treated at University of Colorado Hospital with surgery to remove a tumor and then to receive chemotherapy and radiation.

“Cancer is a nondiscriminatory disease,” Haikal said. “I’m 37 years old and never had any health issues until this. For me, it’s really raised awareness about this disease. There is really hope out there for people facing it.”

When Haikal first was diagnosed, he and his wife, Kristen, turned to the American Cancer Society for guidance in both treatment and understanding the disease. And, following his treatment over the past year, Haikal became part of the planning committee for the Relay for Life to be held from 6pm on July 22 to 7am on July 23 at Stapleton’s Founder’s Green.

“Teams will have people walking the track for most of the night,” he said. “The majority of the time is in the evening. There are people who spend the entire night there. Teams will have tables to sell things for fundraisers. They will be selling food, trinkets and stuff they’ve made.”

“The money primarily goes to research for cancer cures and for cancer treatments,” Haikal explained. “The American Cancer Society has support services for treatment, education, and for cancer treatment packages, and they provide information at different cancer centers across the country.”

There is no limit to the number of people on a team. Haikal’s wife, Kristen, is captain of their team that has a dozen people on it.

“People will participate in different ways,” he said. “We plan on folks walking and manning fundraising tables. Anybody can do it. The intent is not for a 12-hour walk. It’s for adults, kids, disabled persons. It’s a relay, not a race. It’s an entertaining community activity. If they walk once around the track or they walk 12 hours, it’s still participation. There will be a jumping castle for the kids and a band for the adults.”

For more information on the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, go to www.nedorelay.org or email relayforlifeforstedver@gmail.com.

Encaustic Art

(continued from p.15) show a few pieces at the Dry Ice Gallery as part of a three-artist show featuring Dry Ice artists. She sold several pieces, not to friends or relatives, but to individuals she did not know at all. She was also struck, recently, when another artist she was with at the time remarked about a painting that was not hers, “Wow, that looks like a Debbie Brady.”

For Debbie, the responsibilities and the challenges brought on by her husband’s condition permeate her family life. She is aware of what every caregiver knows all too well, one must find an outlet that takes one away from the day-to-day constant needs of caring for a very sick loved one. Debbie has found that, most of all, the encaustic method has taught her to be patient. The process is extremely time consuming and cannot be rushed or a piece may burn or a surface will not be well prepared. That learned patience has served her well at home as she deals with the ups and downs of her husband’s condition. Debbie Brady’s art can be viewed at the Dry Ice Factory at 33rd and Walnut. She can be reached at dhb.studio.22@gmail.com.

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Relay for Life Brings Community Together for Fun and Fundraising

For Debbie, the responsibilities and the challenges brought on by her husband’s condition permeate her family life. She is aware of what every caregiver knows all too well, one must find an outlet that takes one away from the day-to-day constant needs of caring for a very sick loved one. Debbie has found that, most of all, the encaustic method has taught her to be patient. The process is extremely time consuming and cannot be rushed or a piece may burn or a surface will not be well prepared. That learned patience has served her well at home as she deals with the ups and downs of her husband’s condition. Debbie Brady’s art can be viewed at the Dry Ice Factory at 33rd and Walnut. She can be reached at dhb.studio.22@gmail.com.

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Tiered Pricing for Denver Rec Centers

By Carol Roberts

A taskforce of community members and Department of Parks and Recreation staff recommended tiered pricing for the different levels of recreation centers to help close a $4.2 million deficit in the Parks and Rec budget. Other changes include the addition of automatic monthly payment withdrawal, family memberships, young adult memberships, 15 and 30 visit punch passes and operating hours increased to 7 days a week.

Although there has been a perception that the rates will increase dramatically, Angela Casias of the Department of Parks and Rec points out that under the new family plan, the head of household pays full price, but all other family members pay half price—which would be $53/month for two adults and two kids. She stated the new memberships also include the price of most fitness classes and they include the days a week.

The first step in getting help for any kind of addiction problem is to admit that you have a problem. There, I have done just that. After my first taste I knew I was hooked. Since then, I have discovered all the telltale signs of addiction: isolation (no one else gets mine), hoarding (making sure I have enough) and financial problems (spending much more than I can afford) caused by paranoia over making sure there is an ongoing supply. My addiction has caused relationship problems and now my wife and kid are on the stuff. I have issues with my work because I am ambling during the day and my dentist and doctor say I have to quit...yesterday.

Sounds like things are bad, but I simply won't give this stuff up. Am I talking about a drug? Well, kind of. I have tried many kinds before, traveling all over the country to find the best and then I finally did. Right here in Stapleton, turned on to it by a neighbor who is from Kentucky, near where this stuff comes from. I get mine at King Soopers, not from the pharmacy, but rather the frozen section, specifically the ice cream area.

There you have it. I am addicted to Graeter’s Ice Cream. The best I have ever had by far. It is smooth and very creamy but not too sweet. It never leaves me with a sugar hangover after five minutes after eating a pint. The toffee has large chunks of real English toffee, the blueberry has wild blueberries, the mint chocolate is white with huge mint chocolate pieces. Every flavor I have tried I like and that goes for flavors I don’t traditionally care for such as butter pecan and coconut.

Every flavor I have tried I like and that goes for flavors I don’t traditionally care for such as butter pecan and coconut. On top of homemade blueberry pie, the vanilla is a slice of heaven. Graeter’s is a family-owned business that is headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was founded in 1870. They have ice cream shops in southern Ohio and northern Kentucky. I assume Kings carries the brand because Kings is owned by Kroger and the Kroger headquarters is in Cincinnati as well. Ben and Jerry’s, now owned by Unilever, and Haagen-Dazs, now owned by General Mills, do not make ice cream the way they used to. I guess conglomerates simply should stay out of the ice cream business. Leave the delicate process of making a truly great product to families like the Graeters. As corny as it sounds, generations of the family are still pictured on their website.

A few years ago, my neighbor was pregnant with her first child and Kings did not carry Graeter’s here. Her husband would have it shipped in dry ice overnight to her. That is right, $80 for six pints of ice cream. When visiting her father-in-law in downstate Kentucky recently, an area that is Graeter’s dry, they brought two pints as a gift. The Graeter’s was gone the next day and no one but the father-in-law tasted any of it.

My son came home from college the other day and the first thing he did, for two reasons, was open the refrigerator. The first was to see if there was any beer and the second was because, after a semester at college, a fully stocked fridge looks like the eighth wonder of the world. He then opened the freezer portion and saw the perfectly aligned pints of Graeter’s. He shouted out, “Dad, no wonder you look like you’re six months pregnant.” The next day, I caught him pilfering my limited Edition flavor. When the spoon came out of his mouth, he said, “This stuff is addictive, I just can’t stop eating it.” Back in the freezer. Another tragic story of a well-meaning individual succumbing to the ambrosia that is Graeter’s Ice Cream.

Jon Meredith lives in Stapleton. He can be reached at jon.meredith90@gmail.com. Fishwumps is a slang term that started in the 90s and refers to the transient value of yesterday’s newspaper.

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at the sand creek gardens
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Stapleton Front Porch

July 2011

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2011 Stapleton Front Porch
How to Get Organized for a Garage Sale

By Meighan Meeker

Being a Professional Organizer, one of my clients suggested I read The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin. The book challenges readers to approach changing their lives by identifying what truly makes them happy, and make resolutions to conquer the obstacles to achieving happiness. One of the first things that Rubin addresses is “clutter” and suggests that eliminating it would cut down the amount of housework in the average home by 40 percent. In my job I find that many people ignore the amount of “stuff” that permeates their house, unaware that their physical surroundings are a direct correlation to their happiness. If this resonates with you, preparing for a garage sale could be just the thing to bring a smile to your face. Below are some tips on how to get organized for a garage sale.

In preparation for your garage sale, do not allow yourself to get overwhelmed. Go room by room to gather items that you no longer need. As a general rule, if you have not used it in the past year, get rid of it. Make decisions about what to keep or sell quickly. Sort items in large clear plastic containers or boxes by theme such as: clothing, electronics, books, housewares, toys, etc. Keep in mind that once you get rid of these items, you will be able to find the things you truly use more quickly. Do not let the emotional attachment or value of an item stand in your way of selling it. Get rid of multiple items that serve the same function.

On the day of the sale, group items on tables by theme and price. Display your most expensive items up front. Clothing should be hung on a rack with a mirror handy if possible. Place items that are less desirable, or in need of repair, in a box labeled “Free Stuff.” Generally, items should be priced at 10%–25% of the original value. Check colored stickers and assign dollar amounts that are clearly posted on signs indicating the cost per item throughout the sale; for example: red = $1, blue = $5, etc. If you do not want to engage in bargaining, make clear on your signs that your prices are firm. Otherwise, be prepared for people to negotiate, especially toward the end of the day when you should be more willing to sell remaining stuff for a discounted price. Wear a fuzzy pack or waist apron with pockets to keep your money, sharpie, tape, extra stickers, and other important items. Go to the bank in advance and make sure you have plenty of change, including $1, $5 and $10 bills. Other helpful items to have on hand include: newspaper to wrap fragile items, shopping bags or boxes for people to carry purchases, electrical cord to test items for sale, and a calculator.

After the sale, immediately donate any items that do not sell. Remember to ask for an itemized receipt for your taxes. Put the balance of your leftover materials in a clear plastic tote labeled “Garage Sale” and keep until next year. Meighan Meeker is the owner of Simply Put Organizational Solutions for the Home, LLC. For more information: visit MeighanMekerOrganizer.com, email meighanm@aim.com, or call 303.321.2692.
8th Annual SUN Kickball Tournament

By Bryan Penny, SUN Board member

The Stapleton United Neighbors 8th Annual Kickball Tournament, presented by the MCA, is just around the corner. The tournament will be held in Central Park on Saturday, September 17, between 10am and 2pm. This is one of the oldest Stapleton events and we always have a good time getting out with our friends and neighbors. This is a great way for Stapleton residents to get some exercise while enjoying the company of their neighbors and friends. Players of all abilities are encouraged to sign up, it is all about having fun!

If you and some of your neighbors and friends are interested in having a team, go to www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUNKickball and register. Teams can have up to 20 players; 9-14 players can be on the field at any time. There must be four males and four females playing at all times. Registration for each team is $175 (including 10 T-shirts, with each additional T-shirt costing $10). Because SUN is a 501(c)(3), this is a tax-deductible donation. We only have room for 20 teams, so sign up today!

This year all proceeds for the tournament will be going to the Stapleton Elementary Schools—Bill Roberts, Westerly Creek, Swigert-Mcauliffe and Odyssey School. Each school will designate a program that these donations will support, so the more sponsors and teams, the more we help out our local schools.

Once again, the Stapleton MCA is a proud sponsor of the tournament. If you are interested in joining the MCA in helping out our schools, please check out our sponsor page with information at www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUNKickball/kickballsp sors. There are various sponsorship levels. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor this year, you may contact SUN at stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com for information. We are also looking for food vendors to come and sell food at the event.

SUN Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm in the Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Bayard Street. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN and confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com.
In a recent Denver Post article by Vincent Carroll, he states, “...despite recent efforts to relieve the city's budget woes by creating a permanent funding stream for the one service whose customer base is facing potentially drastic erosion...” Before any tax reaches the ballot, let someone make that case.

As you can imagine, I have a very strong opinion about this. Libraries believe it is important to adapt to the world around them for the past century, and the surge of the digital age is no different. Libraries provide essential services to the community, the Denver Public Library must study by the American Library Association, served over 4 million visitors, circulated 9 million titles, job-search assistance, literacy programs, etc.

The Denver Public Library is at a crossroads. We cannot continue to be at the mercy of the unpredictable ups and downs of the City's budget. We need a long-term sustainable funding solution. Forming a library district has been viewed by communities across the state as the best form of governance for delivering consistently high-quality library service. A modest mill levy increase (about $56 per year on a $200,000 home) would make a tremendous difference in how we can provide service. All library locations would be open at least 40 hours per week, instead of the current 32 hours.

But to prepare for the future needs of our community, the Denver Public Library must address a fundamental challenge in how it is funded. The Library, funded by the City of Denver’s General Fund, has undergone major budget cuts for the past several years. This has led to the closure of bookstores, reductions in service hours, staff levels and purchase of new materials. With the impending cuts to the 2012 budget, our world-class library is in serious jeopardy.

To place a classified ad, please visit www.frontporchstapleton.com. Check the link to ADVISING then CLASSIFIEDS and follow the online instructions. The deadline is the 15th of the month for ad on the following month. Classified Ads must be submitted in writing via email.

Stapleton Front Porch
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Letters to the Editor

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

Display Advertising

To place a display ad, please visit www.frontporchstapleton.com. Display ad reservations are due the 10th of the month to ensure publication. (See our ad on page 4.)
A Guy’s Shoe Closet to Die For

By John Babik

Growing up in Europe, my 89-year-old mother loves soccer. When she visited last fall, we took her to a Rapids match—and the players’ colorful soccer cleats caught her eye. During a recent visit with her in New York I brought up the Rapids and mentioned an interesting locker room I’d seen. During our walk-through, Marko became hypnotized not by the Rapids players that he so admires, but by the contents hanging in an ancillary room found on a colorful array of ninety or so pro-style soccer shoes that are in the inner sanctum of the locker room. His eyes were focused meticulously cared for and stored in the team’s “Boot Room.”

Like her shoe closet. My mom is a quintessential ballroom dancer, but it matched her personality as well as her dancing style. Each shoe fit her perfectly, like a surgeon’s gloves.

There are a few key factors that influence his decision-making about his stockpile of soccer shoes, he explained that when he hosted us on a visit to the Boot Room. While talking at the “Boot Room” at Dick’s Sporting Goods Park, Babik interviewed Cummings in a video that is posted on the Front Porch website.

A Glimpse into the Rapids’ “Boot Room”

By John Babik

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New Council Members

(continued from p. 1) Stapleton and east to Green Valley Ranch. Herndon is a West Point graduate and has served on the Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) board.

• Mary Beth Susman, who takes over for Marcia Johnson in District 5 (bounded by 23rd, Havana, Leetsdale and Colo. Blvd.), recently retired from her position as vice president of the Colorado Community College System.

• Albus Brooks replaces the late Carla Madison in District 8 (Fives Points to Park Hill west of Holly). Brooks played football at CU and is currently the director of the Jefferson Community and Regional College.

Development

Herndon, District 11, believes Stapleton’s greatest challenge is to bring in the affordable housing to the level that was promised originally by Forest City. He has dialogued with Forest City and has been assured that the goal of 10 percent affordable housing will be met as the economy and housing market strengthen. Herndon also addressed the upcoming commuter rail project. “Great successes are coming with the RTD’s East Corridor. I am really excited that this will bring more jobs and enable people to use alternative forms of transportation.” He added that the stop at Central Park will offer opportunities for retailers and will increase sales for existing businesses.

Susman’s District 5 has three very sizable upcoming projects: the Lowry Vista Project north of Windsor Gardens, the redevelopment of the Air Force Finance Center at 1st and Monaco, and the demolition and development of the old University Hospital at 9th and Colorado. The Lowry Vista project is zoned and ready to develop. The finance center is still being used by the Air Force and they have not yet decided if they will deed it to the Lowry Redevelopment Authority or sell it outright to a developer. The hospital area has been rezoned and is expected to be sold to the Semler Company from Atlanta in 2012 who will build commercial, retail and residential from affordable to very high end.

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Stapleton Front Porch
Brooks, in District 8, will have to balance opposing interests in Five Points. Gentrification has taken place in areas around Five Points like the Curtis Park and San Rafael historic districts. “Five Points has remained untouched largely due to landowners’ inability to secure redevelopment financing,” according to Brooks. He believes that having the light rail so close to business storefronts has actually hurt the businesses rather than helped them, as was originally intended. Brooks stated, “There has been a lack of leadership to come to the table and say, ‘Five Points will never be what it was.’ We have to be innovative and say we are going to be a new place. We’ll create a diverse and connected community to bring Curtis Park, San Rafael and Five Points together.”

Balancing the Budget

The new council members made it clear that it is the mayor who submits the city budget and council is required to pass a balanced budget. However, the council has ongoing discussions during the budget process, with numerous meetings involving both city agencies and the public. The budget process starts every January, with a formal budget proposed by the mayor on September 15 and the final council vote no later than November 28. Former Mayor Hickenlooper appointed an independent panel specifically to make recommendations and give advice on how to close the existing structural budget gap, which is the ongoing difference between revenue (sales tax and some property taxes) and city budget expenditures (which have certain required employee salary increases).

Brooks stated in no uncertain terms that he would be against any raises for city workers, saying, “It’s a slap in the face (to taxpayers) to get a raise in these times, even for city council members.” He will fight to put the recently increased salaries for council members back into programs that are being cut. Susan is determined to use her experience in running online colleges to make the city government more efficient. All remarked that as they campaigned, Denverites seemed to be concerned with costs and effectiveness, but were uncertain how to balance the city budget.

Fee-Based Events in Parks

All three support fee-based events at Civic Center Park. They cited the Big Air competition last winter as a huge success. A 101-foot-tall ski jump was built and an international cast of skiers and boarders brought income to the city and used the park in a way that benefited Denverites and drew thousands of out-of-town guests. The current structure of the fee-based use of parks needs to be revisited, according to Brooks and Herndon. Another issue to be considered is the problem of parking in neighborhoods during events in local parks, whether fee-based or not. Susan is more amenable to the current rules, saying that she wants to “see if the current rules work and if the revenue it brings is worth it.”

Education Issues

Council members and the mayor have no authority to make policy and effect change within Denver Public Schools. The council members understand that their positions are more as a bully pulpit or conduit to the school board members. All agreed that the future of the city is determined by the education of its residents. Susan added, “If we don’t have schools that people want to put their children in, then we will not be able to attract capital here for businesses to start.” The three support the basis for the reforms made recently in Montbello.

Library Districts

During the mayoral race, candidates talked about going to the voters of Denver to propose a separate property tax specifically to fund the operations of the Denver Public Library system. A separate district would allow libraries to operate at full capacity, meeting the needs of those who use them, and the current library operating funds would be used elsewhere in the general fund. Brooks added, “I am tired of library closings, rec center closings and a shiny new justice center opening.” All agree that the idea of a separate district for libraries is a potential solution to some of the budget issues, but the city voters, not the council, have to approve any tax increases.

Council and Mayor Relationship

Mayor-elect Hancock is the first Denver mayor to come from the city council. Denver is a strong mayor form of government, meaning the mayor has more power here as opposed to other cities where the council has stronger power. Herndon believes that Hancock’s experience as a city council president will make him more effective in understanding the concerns of council members and in gaining consensus.

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Chris Herndon, elected to Council District 11

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Stapleton Front Porch July 2011

27

July 2011

Albus Brooks, elected to Council District 8

Chickens and Small Animals

All three were astounded by the number of people who asked about their position on backyard chickens and small animals like dwarf goats. This controversy looks as if it will be settled prior to their inauguration. Susan said, “I am tired of library closings, rec center closings and a shiny new justice center opening.” All agree that the idea of a separate district for libraries is a potential solution to some of the budget issues, but the city voters, not the council, have to approve any tax increases. All three were astounded by the number of people who asked about their position on backyard chickens and small animals like dwarf goats. This controversy looks as if it will be settled prior to their inauguration. Susan said, “I am tired of library closings, rec center closings and a shiny new justice center opening.” All agree that the idea of a separate district for libraries is a potential solution to some of the budget issues, but the city voters, not the council, have to approve any tax increases.

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