

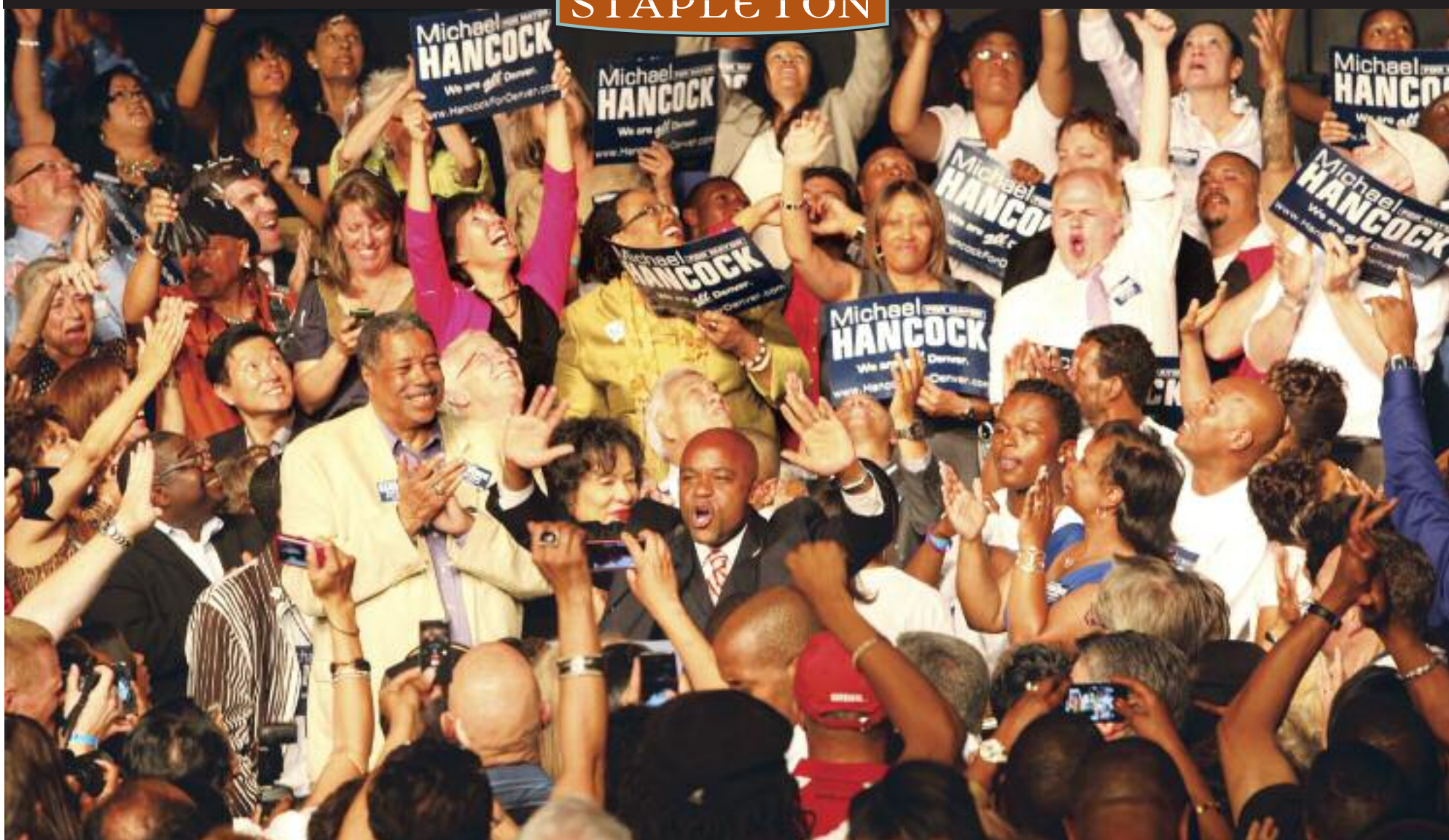
Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JULY 2011



Northeast Neighbor “Michael” Becomes Mayor Hancock

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.

By Carol Roberts

Ten days after the election, the Front Porch sat down with mayor-elect Michael Hancock and asked him to share information that would let readers get better acquainted with him as a northeast Denver neighbor and learn

more about his plans for Denver.

Front Porch: What is some of the advice you’ve gotten?

Hancock: Don’t let this job kill you. Remember what’s important to you, which, for me, is my family. Take time to breathe. One of the best pieces of advice I got was take (continued on page 4)

East Denver Gets Three New Council Members

By Jon Meredith

Less than a week after the three new council members from East Denver got elected, City Council spent three hours listening to testimony about the permit process for raising chickens in Denver. Asked whether they were ready for these kinds of

long-winded sessions, Mary Beth Susman affirmed for all three, “We sure are!”

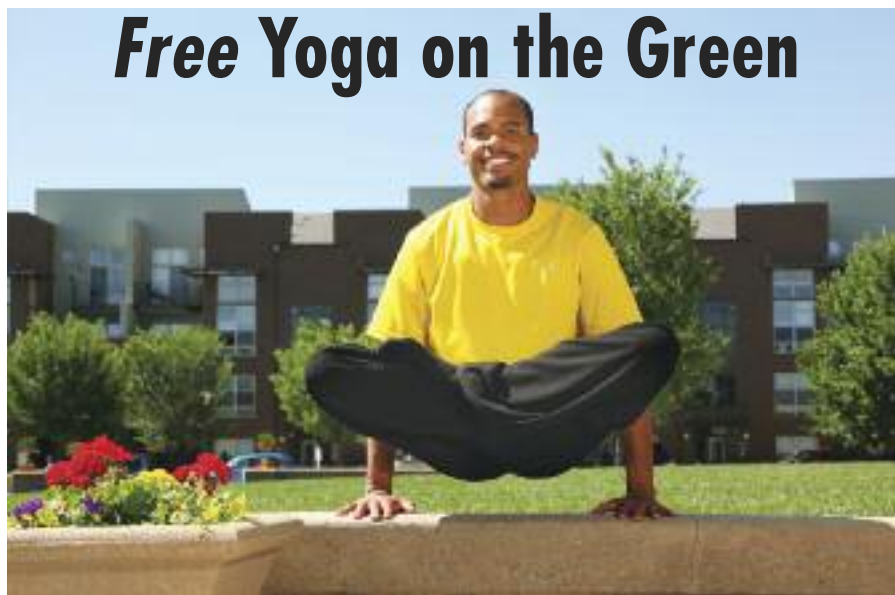
The three new East Denver council members are:

- Chris Herndon, who replaces Mayor-elect Michael Hancock in District 11 (Park Hill east of Holly, (continued on page 26)



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

Free Yoga on the Green



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

By Carol Roberts

Free and open to the public yoga classes for all levels will be offered every Friday in July at Founder's Green in Stapleton from 6:30 to 7:30pm. The instructor, Tyron Beverly, says he used to play football and basketball and was looking for a different kind of workout and tried a yoga DVD he found at Block-

buster when he was looking for a Bruce Lee DVD. “I did it and it hurt. I had no idea yoga was so challenging. I wasn’t looking for yoga but after I did it I fell in love with it and started practicing it every day.”

Beverly was working at a fitness club, which offered him the opportunity to teach yoga if he became a certified instructor. “My classes (continued on page 13)

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

Revitalization of
NW Aurora

7

Denver
County Fair

10

Pelicans at
Westerly
Creek

11

Relay
for Life

21

Rec Center
Tiered Rates

22

Rapids'
Boot Room

26

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



CALENDAR

Nearby events that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit.
(Additional events are listed on pages 16-20. Recurring events are listed on page 16.)

JULY

Every Sunday

Farmers Market 8:30am-12:30pm
The Green*

Every Sunday

City Park Jazz Summer Concert Series- Rain or shine at the City Park bandstand 6-8pm.
7/3 Denver Municipal Band- Celebrating our nation's independence, 7/10 Convergence, 7/17 The Bob Montgomery/Al Herman Quintet, 7/24 The Manuel Lopez Trio Featuring Maria Lopez, 7/31 The Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, 8/7 Chris Daniels and the Kings, www.cityparkjazz.org

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. 1)

Saturday, July 2 & August 6

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

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 nights free, 4-8pm, cmdenver.org

Saturday, July 9

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

Saturday, July 9

Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team Clean up at Westerly Creek (26th & Beeler)
9-12pm Starbucks and Einstein's provide coffee and bagels. Lcorrell@dotnet.net, CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org

Thursday, July 14

Stapleton Activities, Inc. Potluck, 6-7pm
Active Minds Seminar "Sudan and the Darfur Crisis," 7-8pm, Discovery Center*

Friday, July 15

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

Saturday, July 16

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

Denver Botanic Gardens - SCFD Free Day
720-865-3500 www.botanicgardens.org

Thursday, July 21

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

JULY

Friday, July 22

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

Saturday, July 23

Bike Tour of Stapleton Public Art, 3pm.
Meet at Fountain in The Green*
RSVP: www.denvergov.org/publicart, 720-865-4313

Saturday, July 23

Concert-"Tunisia" (formerly Jakarta), 6:30-8:30pm, The Green*

Friday, July 29

Movie Night-"The Princess Bride," starts at dark
The Green*

Saturday, July 30 & August 27

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

AUGUST

Thursday, August 4

Active Minds Musical Seminar & Cocktail Party
"American Composers & Songwriters"
Cocktails 6pm, Seminar 7pm, Jet Stream Pool*

Saturday, August 6

Concert-"Wendy Woo" 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-"The Princess & the Frog" starts at dark
The Green*

Sunday, August 14

Stapleton Kid's Triathlon 8am-12pm
Jet Stream Pool*

Saturday, August 20

Stapleton Beer Festival 4-8:30pm, The Green*

Saturday, August 20

Concert-Opie Gone Bad & Chris Daniels & the Kings, 4-8:30pm, The Green*

Friday, August 26

Movie Night-"Secretariat" starts at dark
The Green*

*More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com
The Green is located in the 29th Ave. Town Center in Stapleton at E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.
The Discovery Center is at MLK and Syracuse St.
Central Park is at MLK and Central Park Blvd.
Puddle Jumper Pool is at 2401 Xenia St.
Jet Stream Pool is at 3574 Alton St.

The Front Porch welcomes submissions of upcoming local events (format & email on p.17) and story ideas. Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.



What is your Community DNA?

I hope you are able to stop 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 terrific 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, sausage, and coffee or juice and will be priced at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. All donations will benefit the Stapleton Stingrays Swim Team.

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

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 began June 1 and the deadline has been extended to Friday, July 8. The winner will be announced on Monday, July 11 and 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 Tunisia 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 29 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 tent 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 Kearns are once again sponsoring the Stapleton Community Garage Sale. The sale will be two days this year. West of Westerly Creek will be on Saturday, July 16, 8am-1pm and east of Westerly Creek will be on Sunday, July 17, 8am-1pm. Registration has begun for this year's event. If you want to sign up for the sale, please register at <http://www.buildingstapleton.com/garagesale>. If you have any questions about the garage sale, please email your inquiry 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 about this event or if you would like to register, please go to www.stapletoncommunity.com. Each age group will have a limited number of entries, so register early!

Beer Festival

Mark your calendar for our second annual Stapleton Beer Festival on Saturday, August 20 from 4-8:30pm on The Green. Purchase your tickets online beginning July 15 by visiting www.stapletoncommunity.com or you can call us at 303.388.0724. Save \$10 per ticket if you purchase before August 1.

Active Minds Seminar

The monthly July topic is "Sudan and the Darfur Crisis." 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 www.ActiveMindsForLife.com.

The Active Minds summer musical series continues with a cocktail party on July 21 at Puddle Jumper Pool located at 2401 Xenia St. Cocktails will begin at 6pm and the seminar will follow at 7pm. The musical topic for this month is "Beethoven: The New Kid on the Block." Bring a light appetizer to share. The beverages, plates and utensils will be provided. No prior musical knowledge is required—only a curiosity and love of music.

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

Diane Deeter
Director of
Programming and Events

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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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.

Inauguration Events

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 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.

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(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 Cableland, 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 eat 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 dream 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 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

investment in our infrastructure to bring about better neighborhoods, parks, libraries, rec centers, roads. Those things exceeded the boundaries that I was asked to represent. So I led bond projects, I led the effort to turn around schools—those same battles are going on all over the city. I think the issues we touched—job creation, DIA, economic development—those issues transcended my boundaries and I think that helped me a great deal.

Front Porch: Give us some background on the recommendations for tiered rates at rec centers?

Hancock: We have to find better ways to finance our rec centers. The current fee structure doesn't fund enough of the cost of rec centers that we can remain viable going forward. The big issue for me is we don't want to

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 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.



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Wine Festival at Northfield



See video at
www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

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 Direc-

tor 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.





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- August 22nd – October 8th

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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 meet-



Randy Winter, owner of a small manufacturing company in northwest Aurora that has been grandfathered into the neighborhood, questions how the proposed zoning changes may affect his business.



Jim Sayre, Aurora's Manager of Zoning & Development Review, talks about the zoning and planning process and takes questions from neighborhood residents at the community meeting.

ings 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 to 19th Ave (one block south of Montview) and to Iola 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/pollutants).

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), nearby 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. Andrea Amonick 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 Flatiron Steak and many more...					Fri	Sat
Sun 3 Brunch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas	Mon 4 We will be closed today. Happy Independence Day!	Tue 5 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos Live music with Milo Sofia @ 9pm (mellow acoustic rock)	Wed 6 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Salad Lettuce Wraps Half-priced bottle of wine night, choose from our entire list!	Thu 7 \$8.50 lunch special - Tuna Melt Tuaca Thursdays - \$3 Tuaca drinks!	8 TGIF! Happy hour specials - \$2 PBR's, \$3 well drinks, \$4 glasses of house wine, \$1.50 off ALL other drafts 4-7 & 9-close	9 Brunch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas Karaoke with Mark Star 9:30pm.
10 Brunch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas	11 \$8.50 lunch special - Scallion Tuna Burger	12 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos Live music with Milo Sofia @ 9pm (mellow acoustic rock)	13 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Parmesan Half-priced bottle of wine night, choose from our entire list!	14 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Cutlet Sub Tuaca Thursdays - \$3 Tuaca drinks!	15 TGIF! Happy hour specials - \$2 PBR's, \$3 well drinks, \$4 glasses of house wine, \$1.50 off ALL other drafts 4-7 & 9-close	16 Brunch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas
17 Brunch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas	18 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Apple Brie Sandwich	19 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos Live music with Milo Sofia @ 9pm (mellow acoustic rock)	20 \$8.50 lunch special - Fish Tacos Half-priced bottle of wine night, choose from our entire list!	21 \$8.50 lunch special - Tuna Melt Tuaca Thursdays - \$3 Tuaca drinks!	22 TGIF! Happy hour specials - \$2 PBR's, \$3 well drinks, \$4 glasses of house wine, \$1.50 off ALL other drafts 4-7 & 9-close	23 Brunch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas
24/31 Brunch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas	25 \$8.50 lunch special - Pulled Pork Melt	26 Ladies night w/\$3 glasses of house wine, \$3 Cosmos Live music with Milo Sofia @ 9pm (mellow acoustic rock)	27 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Parm Sandwich Half-priced bottle of wine night, choose from our entire list!	28 \$8.50 lunch special - Chicken Cutlet Sub Tuaca Thursdays - \$3 Tuaca drinks!	29 TGIF! Happy hour specials - \$2 PBR's, \$3 well drinks, \$4 glasses of house wine, \$1.50 off ALL other drafts 4-7 & 9-close	30 Brunch-Open at 9am with our famous Bacon Vodka Bloodies and Bottomless Mimosas

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Senai Hood, 7, of Green Valley Ranch, gets her hair braided by stylist Dominique Thompson at the new Family Affair Lifestyle Clothing/Hair Studio in Northfield.

Boutique/Hair Salon Combo



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 Dermalogica.

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

Zlatko Smajlovic, owner of the Euro Café and Market in Northfield, shows a dessert made with ingredients from his market. "Z," as he is known to his customers, came to the U.S. 16 years ago from Bosnia where he had a café.

Step into Old Europe



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 (8pm on weeknights and 11pm 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 Ajver, 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., 11am–8pm; Fri.–Sat. 11am–10pm; Sun., 11am–6pm. There is outdoor seating and free wi-fi. The phone number is 303.371.1108.



"Z" serves Turkish coffee as shown in the above picture that hangs in the Euro Café.

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Princess Dreams Do Come True

By Nancy Burkhardt

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 fairytale 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’

and always say ‘please’ and ‘thank you.’ “They learn how to twirl,” 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.’”

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.

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 curtsy

New Dental Practice Brings the Latest Technology



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.” Steele Dentistry of Stapleton, is located at 3545 Quebec St.

By Nancy Burkhardt

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.

“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.



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uncover the genius

By Jon Meredith

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

A Blast from the Past Promised at the New Denver County Fair

would expect from an old-fashioned county fair—chickens and pie contests, along with some urban uniqueness like a skateboard 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

New Rules for Farm Animals in Denver



Park Hill resident Ethan Hutchinson, will be one of the beneficiaries of Denver's new rules for keeping chickens. Hutchinson is a furniture maker and built the coop himself.

City council approved a new ordinance that makes getting a permit for chickens, ducks and goats easier and cheaper. The ordinance,



approved on June 20 City Council, requires only a one-time \$20 license fee for up to 8 female ducks or chickens (no roosters or drakes) and up to two dwarf goats with no requirement for a permit from zoning and no requirement to notify neighbors.

will be outside, close to and underneath the highway—and will require separate tickets.

Each pavilion will have local vendors, different sponsors, competitions, 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-rhubarb 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 well over 200 first-place ribbons, each with a \$50 cash prize, 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 cheeseburger, the fair will endeavor to find and select the best cheeseburger 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 given 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 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. Children ages 5–12 are \$3. Fair tickets do not include admission to the Devo show or the carnival rides. Concert tickets are \$25 to \$30, available at the fair website also. The National Western facilities are located at I-70 and Brighton Blvd.



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Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak Arriving in a Neighborhood Near You: The American White Pelican

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 toddler 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 Geese 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 loafing 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

A flock of American White Pelicans take flight from a pond along Stapleton's Westerly Creek. Photo by Marko Babiak

and gliding methods to fly. The heights at which they fly relate to the available hot air updrafts that they leverage to gain altitude. 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 Nature RangerJohn@aol.com.

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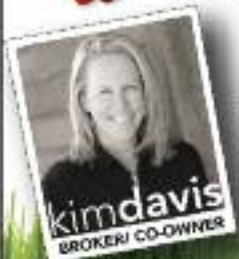
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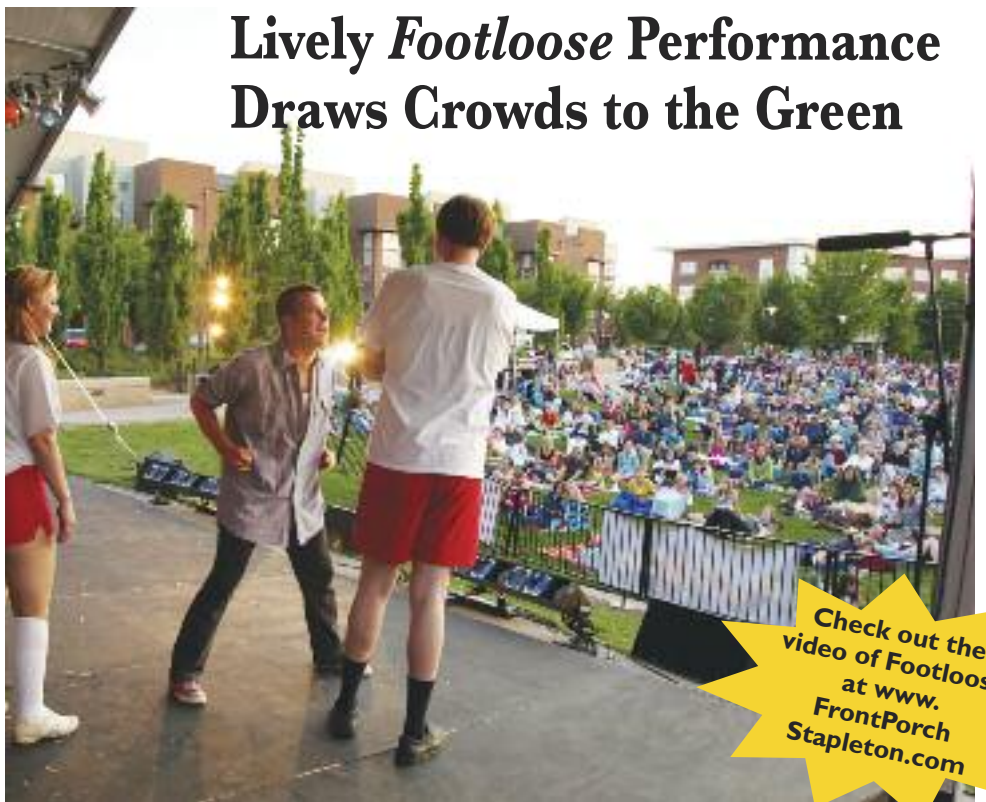
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Aurora Fox Theatre and the Stapleton MCA sponsored a four-night run of the musical *Footloose*. Diane Deeter of the Stapleton Master Community Association estimated the crowd for all four nights at 3,500. Four charities (Urban Farm, Asian Hope—aid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

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 connec-

tion 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 Argentar, 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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Groups Offer Support to Families with Newborns

By Carol Roberts

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,



Park Hill resident Megan Nyce, left, has a new business, SPIN Group Denver, that offers support for first-time parents of newborns. Melissa Sivernell and Leslie Arant, with their one-month-old babies Asher and Evelyn, attend an introductory session at Naturally Loved in Stapleton's 29th Ave. Town Center.

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 dads. 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



(continued from p.1) started getting bigger and bigger and I started teaching all over town. I found a lot of people who were taking the classes were financially stable and they didn't need free classes because it was already affordable for them. But I saw there was a need in the community. There are a lot of people who could not afford it who could benefit from yoga. So then I thought of doing free classes for the community and bringing different groups of people together. In yoga classes you don't see a large diversity so I wanted to focus on inclusiveness.

"Then I got with 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.

"At 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 Roslyn and Syracuse Streets. For more information call Stapleton Master Community Association at 303.388.0724.

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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 will endure my entire lifetime. I felt heartbroken to discover that their 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. She even played practical jokes on her mother, such as jumping out of a closet and scaring her half to death. Apparently, she was popular with the hospital staff, as well. Amy's ability to

laugh, play, and tease, despite her ailment, demonstrated her strength of character and unstoppable spirit.

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 doctors' 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 family 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 family 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 perused 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.



From left: Emily Winn, 9, and sister Allison Winn, 11, who founded the Stink Bug project, are pictured with 10-year-old twins Amy and Ben LeClaire. Amy is picking up her new dog Jasper (now named Jasmine) at the Colorado Women's Prison. Jasper was trained by a prison inmate through the Prison Trained K-9 Companion Program.



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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. Above, Brady is seen at a recent show and, at right, actually producing the art in her studio, both at the Dry Ice Factory.

She took to the medium and found it to be the one she wanted to pursue. She has spent the years since refining and mastering her own style. She rented studio space at the Dry Ice Factory at 33rd and Walnut so that, when she has the opportunity, she can immerse herself in her artwork.

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 in order to prepare the surface properly. Hot melted pigments are then applied on top of the wax, just like paint is applied on a watercolor. 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)*

Encaustic Painting Provides A Respite for Park Hill Artist

By Jon Meredith

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. When she could

have caregiving assistance and get away for a few hours at a time, she knew she had to find an outlet that would take her completely away from the stress and demands dictated by her husband's condition. Four years ago, she went with a friend to an encaustic painting workshop in Santa Fe.

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 Ferries and Antonio Arias compete in the dance contest.

Puerto Rico Festival

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.

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DISCLAIMER: The Front Porch obtains event information through websites and press releases and cannot guarantee that event will occur as listed. Please check contact information listed for updates.

DENVER-AREA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

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

7/3 Sunday- CBS4 Independence Day Eve Celebration in Civic Center Park. 8pm. FREE community concert with patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony with lightshow and fireworks display. Denver Civic Center Park. www.civiccenterconservancy.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 Kearney St. Floats, bikes, classic cars, elected officials, Civil War re-enactors and a Union Army color guard! More information: <http://parkhillparade.org>

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

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

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

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

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Art Walks and Exhibits:

7/1 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Drive between 10th and 6th. www.artdistricton-santafe.com

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

7/1 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District. www.cherrycreeknorth.com

7/8 Friday- Aurora's East End Second Friday Art Walk. Gallery openings, music, theater, food and more. 5-8pm. Map to all venues at Fletcher Plaza/MLK Library (E Colfax at Elmira). www.auroraartsdistrict.com

7/21 Thursday- Highlands Square Third Thursday. Starts 5pm. 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. www.highlands-square.com

Through 7/2 Saturday- Figuratively Speaking Art Exhibition. Explore boundaries of body language and human expression. Tues-Fri, 11am-6pm; 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.cherryarts.org

Through July 15- Heritage 2011 "Conversations with the other side" exhibit at Regis University's O'Sullivan Art Gallery, FREE. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10-4pm, Thursday 2-8pm. Regis Campus, Fine Arts bldg., 3333 Regis Blvd, Denver (Near 50th and Federal). <http://academic.regis.edu/osullivan/>

7/16 Saturday- Old House Society Sidewalk Stroll. 1-3pm. Featuring homes in the Harkness Heights neighborhood in the Highlands - 42nd Ave. and Green Court. Tickets: \$15 at King Soopers or www.denversoldhousesociety.org

7/9 Saturday- CatFest at Dumb Friends League. Celebrate cat love with the Dumb Friends League. 10am-3pm. Dumb Friends League, 2080 S. Quebec St. www.ddfl.org or 303.751.5772

7/13 Wednesday- Discover the Daniels College of Business. Speak with admissions representatives. Food, beverages, parking provided. University of Denver, Marcus Commons, 1st Fl. 2101 S University Blvd. 5:30pm. RSVP: www.alumni.du.edu/infosessionjuly. 303.871.2728

7/15 Friday-7/17 Sunday- 25th Annual Colorado Black Arts Festival, "Gifted and Black." City Park West, Denver. FREE. Drum and drill team competitions, parades, music, art exhibits. www.colbaf.org

7/18 Monday- Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs. Meets 3rd Monday of month; open to all interested in gardening. 7pm. 1556 Emerson St. Contact: Ellen at 303.320.5983

7/21 Thursday- Banks in Harmony Summer Concert Series. The Modniks. (60s hits) Utah Park, 1800 S Peoria St, Aurora. 6:30-8pm. Aurora Chamber: 303.344.1500

7/28 Thursday to 7/31 Sunday- Denver County Fair. National Western Complex. Thursday 4-10pm; Friday 10am-10pm; Saturday 10am-10pm and Sunday 10am-4pm. At-door 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.denver-countyfair.org

7/30 Saturday-7/31 Sunday- 11th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival. Sloan's Lake Park, Denver. www.cdbf.org

Single Volunteers of Greater Denver. Visit

www.svgd.org for volunteer opportunities for singles: local projects, charitable social events and working vacations abroad.

Live Music at The Soiled Dove. 7401 E 1st Ave, Lowry. Tickets: www.soiled dove.com

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

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

Denver Movies in the Park. FREE Movies in Denver parks on Friday and Saturday nights in July and August. Schedule is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com and www.DenverGov.org -> search for Movies in the Park.

Thursdays in July- Confluence Concerts. Confluence Park, 15th and Little Raven, 6:30pm. FREE. Parking \$7 at Downtown Aquarium. www.greenwayfoundation.org

July 7- The Denver Brass

July 14- Dennis Stroughmatt and Creole Stomp

July 21- The Quemando Salsa Orquesta

July 28- The Red Sax Quartet

Music and Movies Monday at Infinity Park. FREE concerts /movies at Infinity Park, Glendale, 6:30pm concert, 8pm movie. Schedule: www.infinityparkglendale.com/summer-events

RECURRING EVENTS

4th Monday

SUN Board Mtg. 7:30pm, MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

Every Tuesday

Stapleton Rotary Club - 7:30am
Stapleton Community Room
2823 Roslyn St.
www.denverstapletonrotary.org

AA Open Discussion Mtg.
7:30pm. MCA, 2823 Roslyn St
303-912-7075

AA Open Meeting 6:00pm
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
22nd and Dexter. For info call
Shirley at 303-726-2998

1st Tuesday

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

2nd Tuesday

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

3rd Tuesday

Greater Stapleton Business Assoc.
8am MCA, 2823 Roslyn St
303-945-7700

Every Wednesday

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

1st Wednesday

"1st Wednesdays" Home-based
businesses. Alternates between
Lunch & Happy Hour
tbrislina@gmail.com
www.stapletonhomebusiness.com

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

2nd & 3rd Wednesday

Lowry Peak Speakers Toast-
master Club. Noon-1pm, Pin-
nacol Assurance: 7501 E.
Lowry Blvd, Denver 80203
lowrypeak.freetoasthost.org
lpstoastmasters@gmail.com

3rd Thursday

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

1st Saturday

Bluff Lake Birders, Nature
Center 7-9am
BluffLakeNatureCenter.org

Neighborhood Partners Envi-
ronmental Team 9am-Noon.
Contact Lcorrell@dotnet.net
for location.

2nd Saturday

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

Periodically

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munity Center, 350 S Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

7/11 Monday- The Struggle of Syria. 2:30-3:30pm. Springbrooke, 6800 Leedsdale Dr. RSVP: 303.331.9963

7/12 Tuesday- The Impact of Egypt. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax Ave.

7/14 Thursday- Sudan and the Darfur crisis. 7-8pm. Potluck sponsored by Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 6pm. Bring dish to share; utensils, plates and beverages provided. Stapleton Discovery Center, 7706 MLK Blvd.

7/19 Tuesday- Women of History. 11am-12pm (10:45/refreshments). Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi: 303.388.4013 x307

7/21 Thursday- Beethoven: The new kid on the block. 6pm cocktails, 7pm program, Stapleton Puddle Jumper Pool 2401 Xenia St. RSVP: Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 303.388.0724

7/26 Tuesday- The Impact of Social Networking. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2526 E Colfax Ave.

8/2 Tuesday- Vietnam. 10-11am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

8/2 Tuesday- What makes an Orchestra Special? 10-12pm (10:45 refreshments), Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape Street. RSVP: Jodi: 303.388.4013 x307

8/4 Thursday- American composers and songwriters. 6pm cocktails, 7pm program, Stapleton Jet Stream Pool 3574 Alton St. RSVP: Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 303.388.0724

LIBRARIES

For more library programs, check events calendar at denverlibrary.org. The Summer of Reading program for babies, kids and teens continues to August 6.

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

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

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

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

Activities for Preschool and School-age Children

Tuesdays, 3pm. Local performers show their talent. Geared for families and children of all ages.

7/5 Vic the Science Wizard presents Really Cool Science! Magic with frozen carbon dioxide. Age 5 and up.

7/12 Ann Lincoln presents Around the World Magic and Juggling Show.

7/10 Butterfly Pavilion presents Bug Safari. Live bugs from the Butterfly Pavilion!

7/26 Mr. Shine's Musical World. Songs, exciting puppets and even some mysterious magic!

Thursdays at 3pm, Craft Programs for preschoolers through age 12. Space is limited; call 720-865-0250 two weeks prior to reserve.

7/7 Button and Magnet Making & Easy Origami Pen Pal Envelopes.

7/14 Make a One World, Many Stories Craft using paint, tissue paper and cut out "hands"

7/21 Paperback Notebook. Use old paperback novels to a make a spiral bound notebook!

7/28 Tribal Mask. Surprise friends with this amazing mask!

Activities for Teens: Fridays at 3pm in July. Ages 12-18. Space is limited; call 720-865-0250 to reserve.

7/8 Video Games & Button/Magnet Making. Create personal flair for self or fridge while waiting your turn at gaming.

7/15 Tibetan Mandela. Using sand and paint make Tibetan design to hang on your wall!

7/22 Paperback Wallet and Notebook. Use old paperback novels to create a wallet and a spiral bound notebook!

7/29 Igor's Airbrushed T-Shirts. Participants create own design on one side and Igor will do professional design of choice on other. Everyone leaves with own airbrushed T-shirt!

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

Tuesdays- All Ages Storytime. 10:30am

Thursdays- Bookbabies (6-23 months). 3pm

Tuesday Activities for Kids:

7/5 Tuesday- The Three Wishes. 10:30am. In retelling of two classic Grimm tales, Merry Andrew Afoot finds himself stuck to sausages and spiders—uproarious play for all ages.

7/12 Tuesday- Top Hogs presents The Castaways. 10:30am. Rescued animals turned superstars! A hog, dog, parrot and even a cat will amaze you with their tricks. All ages.

7/12 Tuesday- Children's Activity. 2pm. TBA. Registration required.



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7/19 Tuesday- Decorate Treasure Boxes. 10:30am & 11:30am. Perfect for storing small treasures. Preschool to age 12.

7/26 Tuesday- Children's Activity. 2pm. TBA. Registration required.

8/2 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.

7/7 Signing Smart- Sign Language for Hearing Infants and Toddlers.

7/14 Baby Activity. TBA.

7/21 Toddler Massage. Learn the basic techniques to give your toddler a loving massage. For 1 to 2-year-old babies and their caregivers.

7/28 Baby Activity TBA.

8/4 Pick a Preschool. Learn preschool options in your neighborhood. For babies and their caregivers.

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

7/11 Your Name in Graffiti Workshop. Stories and history of graffiti art from around the world, basic graffiti art drawing techniques and info on how youth can participate in events in Denver in 2011.

7/18 Books 'N Bites. Reading group where teens discuss books, have fun, and munch snacks. Titles to be announced. Registration required.


7/25 Video Games at the Library for Teens!

8/1 Books 'N Bites. See 7/18

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Through 8/21 Sunday- Pinocchio. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com

7/2 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics the first Saturday of month for kids ages 5-12. Each



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To submit information for the Front Porch “Local Event” Listings

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

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

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

child receives a Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

7/2 Saturday- Jewish Children's Activities. First Sat. every month little ones dance, sing, hear a story, craft and play at monthly Shabbat experience, Me'at Shabbat. 9-10am. FREE. Temple Micah, 2600 Leyden St, Park Hill. 303.388.4239, www.micahdenver.org

7/13 Wednesday- “Create Playdates” at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5 can roar, bang, stomp 2nd Wed. every month. Drop in, meet other tots for art making, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum admission; 5 and under free. Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000

7/9 Saturday and 7/23 Saturday- Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring the kids into any Lowe's store to build a FREE wooden project. Each kid receives free apron, goggles, project-themed patch and certificate of merit on project completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

7/16 Saturday to 7/17 Sunday- KidSpree. Aurora's 16th annual *(continued on page 18)*

(continued from page 17)

KidSpree festival from 10am-5pm at 35-acre Bicentennial Park, 13655 E. Alameda Ave. Colorado's largest outdoor festival for kids with more than 50 hands-on activities/entertainers, FREE. 303.326.8FUN or auroragov.org/kidspree.

7/22 Friday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Friday each month explore nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. New theme monthly, performers in Sagebrush Stage, snacks by campfire and more. \$20/member for family of 4, \$3/each extra person. \$25 non-member/family of 4, \$4/each extra person. Kids 2 and under free. www.botanicgardens.org

Through July 24- Norman Rockwell and the American Family. 80 reproductions of Norman Rockwell illustrations from the 50s and 60s. FREE. Aurora History Museum 15051 East Alameda Pkwy, 303.739.6666 www.auroramuseum.org

Thursdays in July- Star K Kids. Puppets, stories, activities, outdoor exploration for ages 5 and under. 9:30 & 11am. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. 303.739.2428, www.auroragov.org/nature

Free Bowling- Up to 2 games per day, Elitch Lanes in N Denver. Shoe rental not included. www.kidsbowlfree.com

Mile High Movies in Skyline Park. FREE family-friendly movies in Downtown Denver Skyline Park. Saturdays through August. www.downtowndenver.com for dates/movies

Civic Center Bike-In Movie Series. FREE family-friendly movies in Downtown Denver Civic Center Park. www.civiccenterconservancy.org for dates/movies

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

Aurora Fox Theater- Drama classes ages 4 and up. Lisa Mumpton: 303.739.1573 or www.aurorafox.org

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

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

Start Art- Summer classes. Startartkids.com

The Art Garage- Classes ages 4 and up. 6100 E 23rd Ave, Park Hill. www.artgaragedenver.com

Bluff Lake Nature Center- Full- and half-day weeklong nature camps. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

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

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

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

The Urban Farm- Summer workshops for kids. info@theurbanfarm.org

Apple Camp- A free workshop, various July dates. Kids ages 8-12 learn to shoot their own footage, create an original song in GarageBand on an iPad, and put it together in iMovie on a Mac. 3-day workshop at metro area Apple stores ends with campers showing their masterpieces at Apple Camp Film Festival. Space limited, www.apple.com/retail/camp

Open Air Academy Summer Camps- 5-day summer camps for kids 6-12, \$240/week, includes Visual Arts, Architecture and Construction, and Junior Zoologist Camp. 3507 Ringsby Ct. #101, 303.296.8300

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

Montview and Colorado Blvd. www.dmns.org

7/21 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails and entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers

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

IMAX Movies - Born to Be Wild 3D, The Wildest Dream: Conquest

of Everest 2D and Under the Sea 3D, Mysteries of the Great Lakes 2D. Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$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 6:15pm).

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

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

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

6/4-7/10- 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 Shotgunning

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 Pistol Course- Handgun Safety- NRA Certified

7/17- Sunday- GPS and Map Compass Clinic

7/24- Sunday- Beginner Archery

Harkins Theatres 18 – 720.374.3118, www.HarkinsTheatres.com

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

6/27-7/3- Despicable Me

7/4- 7/10- Diary of a Wimpy Kid

7/11-7/17- Shrek Forever After

7/18-7/24- Yogi Bear

7/25-7/31 Cats & Dogs

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

Ticket prices vary based on comedian and show time. Call for details.

6/30-7/3 – Thursday-Sunday – Deb Digiovanna

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

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

Local and regional live music acts Wed.-Sat. National acts:

7/28- Thursday- Mickey and the Motorcars- \$10

7/30- Saturday- Corey Smith- \$10

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Reservations required for events marked at 303.289.0930. Free unless noted. Hours: Tues.-Sun., 6am-6pm. Visitor Center: Tues.-Sun., 9am-4pm. Refuge closed all federal holidays. Directions to Refuge: www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal/**

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

Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays – Refuge Fishing. 6am-6pm. Catch/release 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. \$3/day. Call 303-289-0930 for more information.

7/2 Saturday- Holiday Hayride. 6-8pm.** Enjoy 4th of July weekend with evening 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.

7/5 Tuesday and 7/26- Tuesday Tots: Beaks and Feet. 10-11am.** Which beaks are best for scooping, cracking and picking? Who has best feet for wading, swimming and snatching? Guardian required for ages 3-6. Limit 3 kids per parent.

7/10 Sunday- Introduction to Birding. 9-11am.** Learn basic techniques, e.g., how to use binoculars and field guides. Perfect for first-time/beginning birders.

7/10 Sunday- Sunday Matinee: Hoot. 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.



Summer is in full swing!

"Some of my favorite artisans and collectors join us this month. Plus, music by Down Home Sausage Pie, and the foodies from Denver Cupcake Truck, Mikes2Kitchen, the Bon Bon Buggy, and Street Eats. Denver School of the Arts' Stagecraft Dept. and the thespians from Makeshift Shakespeare are our sponsored philanthropy,"

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7/12 Tuesday- Puppet Show Play Week. 9am-4pm. Present your best puppet show for your family in new auditorium.

7/16 Saturday- Family Fishing Workshop.** 7am- noon.Tips/tricks for fishing fun from the Div. of Wildlife. FREE.

7/17 Sunday- Discovery Hike.** 9-11am. Join a Naturalist on trek through rolling Refuge landscapes. Sturdy shoes, sunscreen and water recommended.

7/17 Sunday – Sunday Matinee: Fly Away Home. 1:00 p.m. Experience big screen in new state-of-art auditorium 13-year-old girl and her estranged father adopt an orphaned flock of geese and teach them to fly! Rated PG. Families welcome.

7/23 Saturday- I Dig the Refuge.** 1:30- 3pm. Kids 7 and up become archaeologist for a day. Scouts welcome.

7/24 Sunday- Bike the Refuge.** 9-11am. Roll past scenic wetlands/prairies with a Naturalist. Helmets required. Fat, puncture-proof tires recommended.

7/24 Sunday- Sunday Matinee:A Bug's Life. 1pm.World of bugs in this animation epic of miniature proportions. Rated G. Families welcome.

SPORTS AND FITNESS

7/16 Moonlight Classic. 10-mile late night charity bike ride through Denver's historic neighborhoods. Closed course; begins at State Capitol. www.moonlight-classic.com

7/22 Underwearness-Drop Your Drawers and Run Wild. 5k run/walk at City Park/Denver Zoo to provide kids in need with new underwear. 6:30-10:30pm. Register: www.underwearness.org

7/24 Sunday- Denver Triathlon. Register: denvertriathlon.com

8/6 Saturday- Back 2 School 5K Family Walk/Run. First 5k to benefit Crowley Foundation Scholarship Fund at Central Park in Stapleton. Non-competitive, nontimed walk/run for all ages. Race at 8:30am; check-in 7:30am. Seeking sponsorship from all businesses, especially Colorado colleges. Kenneth Crowley: 720.935.6465 or www.crowleyfoundation.biz

8/7 Sunday- TRI for the Cure. Women's triathlon to benefit Denver affiliate of Susan G Komen for the Cure. Register: www.trifortheure-denver.com

Sundays through September-Yoga Rocks the Park. 9-12pm, City Park Bandstand. Live music and yoga classes for adults and kids.Also at Alamo Placita Park on Speer and 3rd. www.yogarocksthepark.com

STAPLETON/PARK HILL/ LOWRY EVENTS

7/4 Park Hill 4th of July Parade- 23rd Ave from Dexter to Kearney, 2:30pm; Staging of floats and par-

ticipants 1:30pm. www.parkhillparade.org

7/9 Saturday- Stapleton Blanket Group. Provides homemade blankets to seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need children. No sewing experience required. Meets 2nd Saturday of month at 2638 Florence from 9:30-11:30am. 303.953.9679

7/14 Thursday- Fireside Chat at Bluff Lake Nature Center, Bugs, bugs, bugs! Learn what makes insects unique in interactive presentation while roasting marshmallows over campfire. 6:30-8pm. Family fun. Free/members; \$1 donation/nonmembers. Near MLK and Havana in Stapleton. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

7/22 Friday- Qdoba Concert benefits the Lowry Foundation. Featuring Funkiphino. Lowry Town Center, 2nd and Quebec. 5:30-9pm. Sponsored by Lowry Comm. Master Assoc. and Lowry Foundation. Ticket sales start 5:30pm. Mary Carr: 720.583.5262, www.lowry.org

7/28 Thursday- Fireside Chat at Bluff Lake Nature Center, Camping the Right Way. History of Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics while roasting marshmallows over campfire. 6:30-8pm. Family fun. Free/members; \$1 donation/nonmembers. Near MLK and Havana in Stapleton. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

7/15 Friday- Waste Land, Conscious Movie Night at Centers of Light. About inspiring people and artists living on world's largest garbage dump. 7:30pm. FREE. Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. CentersOfLight.org or 303.913.7053 for info. on other programs.

Central Park Recreation Center
Info at www.denvergov.org/recreation or Facebook Central Park Recreation Center.

7/5 Tuesday- Fall Registration Begins (Flag Football, Volleyball, Soccer, Swim Lessons)

7/18 Monday-7/22 Friday- Denver Nuggets Basketball Camp

THEATRE

7/1 Friday through 7/30 Saturday- Moonlight and Magnolias. Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.vintagetheatre.com

Through 7/17 Sunday- Hairspray. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. 720.898.7200, www.SummerAtTheCenter.com

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

Through 7/30 Saturday- The Divine Sister. Avenue Theater. 417 E. 17th Ave, 303.321.5925 www.avenuetheater.com

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 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 Valli Thayer McDougale 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 E. 24th Drive but visitors must get a ticket at <http://mcdougale.eventbrite.com>.

The event is also a fundraiser for Sellers Project Space's ArtBox Program, volunteers who donate art supplies to kids in need. Donations can be made online or at McDougale's studio. Backpacks with art supplies are given to children living in poverty in the Aurora/Denver Colfax 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 Wapiyapi 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 Sellers 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)



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More Events...

(continued from p. 19) above ground to connect Lowry and Stapleton. Brian Hyde, who is developing the plan, will describe the vision that is being developed for “the Westerly Creek Connection.” The presentation will be in the Master Community Association Community Room at 2823 Roslyn St. at 6:30pm on Thursday, July 28. For more information, email Lucia Correll (lcorrell@dotnet.net) or Diane Deeter (ddeeter@stapletoncommunity.com).

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 parkway for all Denverites to enjoy. Viva Street’s 4-mile route will welcome walkers, bikers, runners, strollers,

hoola-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 parkway,” 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.

Community Event Space Available at Northfield

The Shops at Northfield Stapleton now offer a Community Room that can be rented for gatherings such as meetings and charity events. The 2,500-square-foot room is located on Main

Street just south of Macy’s and will accommodate up to 60 people. Tables and chairs are provided upon request. Contact Stephanie Otte at 303.375.5475 for additional information.

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 Neureiter

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Relay for Life Brings Community Together for Fun and Fundraising

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,



driving people to their cancer care, info packages, and they provide information at different cancer centers across the

Cancer survivor Patrick Haikal and his wife Kristen take a walk along the Green in the 29th Avenue Town Center, the site of the American Cancer Society's NE Denver Relay for Life on July 22 at 6pm.

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.nedenverrelay.com or email relayforlifeofnedenver@gmail.com.

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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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Tiered Pricing for Denver Rec Centers

By Carol Roberts

After three years of gathering information, 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

cost of daycare at the center.

City Councilwoman Jeanne Robb said after the committee meeting at which Council considered the new rate structure, Councilman Doug Linkhart was instrumental in working with Parks to adjust the rates for children and youth downward. She pointed out that students in the free or reduced price lunch program get free recreation center memberships. Council is expected to vote on the new tiered plan on July 11 and the plan is expected to go into effect on September 1, 2011.

The new Central Park Recreation Center in Stapleton is a regional center, with prices expected to be as shown below.

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Premium Fishwrap* by Jon Meredith

I Am Hopelessly Addicted!

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 displayed all the telltale signs of addiction: isolation (so nobody 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 imbibing 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 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. 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 Peppermint Limited Edition flavor. When the spoon came out of his mouth, he said, "This stuff is addicting, I just can't stop eating it." Back in went the spoon. 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.meredith@q.com.

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

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 the 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. Purchase circular 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 fanny 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 MeighanMeekerOrganizer.com, email meighanm@aim.com, or call 303.321.2692.

Farmers Market



A tolerant Ethan Koehler lets his daughter Elise, 1 1/2, play with his sunglasses on Father's Day, the opening day of the Stapleton Farmer's Market, held from 8:30am - 12:30pm every Sunday throughout the summer in Stapleton's 29th Ave. Town Center. Stapleton's Rotary Club sold \$5 pancake and sausage breakfasts as a fundraiser.



Triples Emma, Ben and Joshua Feldman, 6 1/2, slurp smoothies at Stapleton's first 2011 Farmer's Market.

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For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com



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 interesting in having a team, go to www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com/SUNKickball and register. Teams can have up to 20 people; 9-14 players can be on the field at any time. There must be four males and four fe-

males 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 of 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/kickballsponsors. There are various sponsorship levels. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor this year, you may contact SUN at stapletonunitedneighbor@gmail.com for information. We are also looking for food vendors to come and sell food at the event.

Denver Residents Voice Opinions on the Future of Denver Library

By Jen Morris

About 200 people attended meetings held by the Denver Public Library (DPL) between May 23 and June 6 to inform the public about the library's budget issues and gather community feedback. The meetings included information about the overall picture of Denver's financial challenges, options to meet the 2012 library budget, future funding options for the library, and information about library districts from the directors of Douglas and Arapahoe county library districts.

Common themes that emerged from participants regarding short-term budget solutions included using more volunteers, selling books on Amazon, charging fees for library cards or "premium services," centralizing reference services, and finding private sources of funding. The majority favored reducing hours and materials budgets and to keep all branches open, though some said their preference would be to close branches should DPL be required to meet the \$2.5 million budget-reduction target.

Regarding long-term solutions, the

majority of participants who shared their preference supported forming a library district. Those who were opposed commented that they did not want to separate from the city or raise new taxes. Those in favor wanted a more secure and steady source of funds for DPL to allow for better long-range planning and improved customer service. There were very few who expressed that they wanted the library to stay the "status quo" and remain within the City's budget without a dedicated income source.

The Denver Public Library will work closely with the City's new administration on both short-term and long-term funding solutions and will keep the public informed of any new developments. Information on the library's 2012 budget issues can be found at http://www.denverlibrary.org/files/DPL_Whitepaper_April_2011.pdf. Information on library districts can be found at <http://www.denverlibrary.org/library-district>.

The public is encouraged to email ideas and concerns to dplcommunity@denverlibrary.org.

Jen Morris works in the department of Community Relations at Denver Public Library.

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Letter to the Editor—Library’s Customer Base is Far from Eroding

In a recent Denver Post article by Vincent Carroll, he states, “...does it really make sense 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 have been adapting 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 public such as computer access and training, job-search assistance, literacy programs, and access to thousands of print and digital materials. They serve as the cornerstone of their community and are a key link in developing a knowledgeable, productive workforce and fostering economic development.

In 2010, the Denver Public Library welcomed over 4 million visitors, circulated 9 million items, and had 40 million online transactions—hardly a sign of becoming obsolete. In fact, libraries across the country are seeing an increase in usage, not a decrease, especially in times of recession. According to a study by the American Library Association, over two-thirds of Americans have a library card and visit a library 1.4 billion times a year. Every day, 300,000 Americans seek job-related help at a public library.

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 drastic 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.

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. We would be able to provide the materials, technology and programs that our customers want and need. Most important, we’d be able to plan for our future without the constant threat of unknown budget cuts from year to year.

Shirley Amore, City Librarian, Denver Public Library

For more information about DPL’s budget situation and library districts, visit www.denverlibrary.org/budget.

Rec Centers Free for Teens this Summer

A partnership between the City and County of Denver and Kaiser Permanente is giving Denver teenagers free access to city recreation centers and swimming pools through August 14. The free memberships not only promote a healthy lifestyle, the rec centers offer a safe place to gather during the summer months. The City of Denver reports a dramatic reduction in juvenile crime over the last few years when fees have been waived at recreation centers and pools. Juvenile suspects involved in person crimes decreased 65 percent and juvenile suspects involved in property crimes decreased 31 percent during the free period compared to the paid period.

Standard fees will continue to apply for programs and activities that typically are offered at an additional charge. Area recreation centers offer summer activities including open swim, basketball, game room and other special teen focused events. Programs available for a nominal fee include weight training programs, basketball, volleyball and swim lessons. Youth 12 and under can purchase a three month membership for \$10.50 or see if they qualify for the My Place program or scholarships. Denver residents may locate their nearest recreation center by visiting www.denvergov.org/recreation and clicking on “Find a Recreation Center”.

Information provided by the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation.

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A Guy's Shoe Closet to Die For



Omar Cummings, a striker on the Colorado Rapids soccer team, shows Marko Babiak how players clean their cleats in the "Boot Room" at Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Babiak interviewed Cummings in a video that is posted on the Front Porch website.

A Glimpse into the Rapids' "Boot Room"

By John Babiak

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 visit we made recently. 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 in the inner sanctum of the locker room. His eyes were focused on a colorful array of ninety or so pro-style soccer shoes that are meticulously cared for and stored in the team's "Boot Room." My mom laughed, and then asked if the room looked anything like her shoe closet. My mom is a quintessential ballroom dancer. Her shoe collection not only fulfilled a fashion need, but it matched her personality as well as her dancing style. Each shoe fit her perfectly, like a surgeon's gloves.

The serendipity in all this is that Rapids' forward and Stapleton resident Omar Cummings said something very similar when he hosted us on a visit to the Boot Room. While talking about his stockpile of soccer shoes, he explained that there are a few key factors that influence his decision-making when selecting new shoes from his sponsor.

His bright yellow and lime green shoes are a reflection of his effusive Jamaican personality. The shoe's design align with

Check out the video of the boot room at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

his swift playing style, while their distinct cleat shape and patterns address the myriad of stadium turfs and game-day weather conditions. The materials of construction, whether kangaroo skin leather or a state-of-the-art synthetic microfiber, make his shoes feather light and exceptionally supple. He can truly "feel the ball through the shoe's skin." When his boots are on his quick feet, they give him the sense that they are a natural extension of his body.

If there is one sport in our world where shoes play an integral role in a professional athlete's performance, it is soccer. And in the world of pro sports, soccer footwear may be the most innovative and technologically advanced.

As there a process to selecting shoes, there is also a daily ritual that is followed to care for them. Within the Rapids' team, the care of soccer shoes falls squarely on the shoulders of the individual player. After each practice session and match, the Rapids' players pay homage to their Boot Room. The 20 x 10 foot space is simple and functional. In the center is an island cabinet that houses a sink, faucet and a plethora of brushes, tools, towels, shoe creams and oils, polishes and dyes. On the walls are rows of post pegs that the shoes are hung on. Each player is assigned three pairs of pegs for three pairs of shoes. The player's uniform number is located next to each row of pegs.

Two or three players come into the room at time. They make small talk; swap perspectives about their practice, play and opponents, then delve into their respective cleaning regimens. For Cummings, that protocol first involves gently washing the surface and bottom of his shoes. Next he scrubs off every spec of dirt, mud and blade of grass. He massages on a translucent shoe cream, and then polishes them with a soft brush and hand towel. "I take care of my shoes and they take care of me," he said with a grin while demonstrating his technique. Before he hangs up the shoes for the night, he delivers a small kiss, and asks that they reciprocate by helping him deliver a pair of goals next time he is playing on the pitch.

His cleaning custom and genuine affection paid good dividends during the 2010 championship season. Cummings and his brilliant boots teamed up to score fourteen goals, ranking him first in goals scored on the team.

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, elected to Council District 5

• Mary Beth Susman, who takes over for Marcia Johnson in District 5 (bordered by 23rd, Havana, Leedsdale 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 (Five Points to Park Hill west of Holly). Brooks played football at CU and is currently the director of the Issachar Center for Urban Leadership.

None of the three have previously held a political office so they will bring new energy and ideas to the council, but may need some time for learning about their new jobs.

The new City Council members from East Denver will be faced with a number of very serious issues as soon as they take office on July 18. The Front Porch met with the three to get an overview of these issues. Future articles will explore these and other subjects in greater depth.

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 Sembler Company from Atlanta in 2012 who will build commercial, retail and residential from affordable to very high end.

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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 bal-



anced 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. Susman 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 overwhelmingly in favor of raising taxes to keep recreation centers and libraries open full time and to help 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. Susman 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. Susman 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.



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. Susman did comment that the people who grew up in rural areas and had experience with chickens were "almost uniformly against keeping chickens in the city."

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303-745-7530
mary.roberts@auroraincometax.net

Best Mediation - Law Firm,
Karen Best
303-708-1300
www.smdenverclp.com

Small Business Development Center of Metro Denver
1445 Market St
Denver, CO 80202
303-620-8076
www.denversbdc.org

The Law Office of Yvonne E. Olivere
303-974-5617
oliverelawoffice@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE

Central Park Realty, LLC
303-489-6196
www.centralparkrealtyllc.com
www.stapleton360.com

Kentwood City Properties
Symantha Rodriguez
720-217-4788
www.DreamHomesRE.com

Re/Max of Cherry Creek Inc
Kim Davis
3773 Cherry Creek N Dr 801
Denver, CO 80209
303-218-8373
www.FindingYourSpace.com

Metro Brokers at Stapleton
7489 East 29th Place
Denver, CO 80238
303-331-6700
www.4denverrealestate.com

Metro Brokers - Metroplex Realtors
303-520-1124
www.theboydgrouponline.com

Neir Team/Kentwood City Properties
1660 17th St Ste 100
Denver, CO 80202
720-280-3004 / 720-935-4399
www.neirteam.com

New Perspective Real Estate
303-394-4526
NPREco.com

Remax Unlimited / Affinity Group
Greg Eckler
800-261-3311 x 500
Greg@affinitygroupdenver.com
www.denverrealtyexperts.com

TJC Management & TJC Real Estate
303-324-6988
www.TJCRealEstate.com
www.TJCManagement.com

The Wolfe & Epperson Team - RE/MAX of Cherry Creek
303-320-1556
www.wolfe-epperson.com

Weichert Realtors Unique Homes
Jim DeCesaro
720-934-5474
www.iDenverHomes.com

RESTAURANTS

The Berkshire
7352 E 29th Ave
Denver, CO
303-321-4010
www.theberkshirerestaurant.com

The Delectable Egg - Home of the Denver Omelette
200 Quebec St
Denver, CO 80230
720-859-9933
www.delectableegg.com

Ling & Louie's Asian Bistro
8354 E 49th Ave Ste 1710
Denver, CO 80230
303-371-4644
www.lingandlouies.com

Little India Restaurant
1533 Champa St
Denver, CO 80202
303-629-5777
www.littleindiadenver.com

Menchie's Frozen Yogurt
8302 E Northfield Blvd Ste 1560
Denver, CO 80238
303-578-6386
www.menchies.com

RETAIL

City Floral Garden Center
1440 Kearney St
Denver, CO 80220
303-399-1177
www.cityfloralgreenhouse.com

E 29th Avenue Town Center
Denver, CO 80238
www.stapletondenver.com

Sweet William Market
Founders Green - Stapleton

kim@sweetwilliammarket.com
www.sweetwilliammarket.com

Nanna's Teas
2637 W 26th Ave
Denver, CO 80211
303-862-8832
www.nannasteas.com

Quebec Liquor
5275 Quebec St #100
Commerce City, CO 80022
303-287-4071

Revolution Cleaners
6160 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80220
303-339-3270
www.revolutioncleaners.com

The Bike Depot
2825 Fairfax St
Denver, CO 80207
303-393-1963
www.thebikedepot.org

The Shops at Northfield Stapleton
8340 Northfield Blvd
Denver, CO 80238
303-375-5475
www.northfieldstapleton.com

SCHOOLS

Denver Montclair International School
206 Red Cross Way
Denver, CO 80230
303-340-3647
www.dmischool.com

Denver Pharmacy School, LLC
dba Health Education Resources of Denver
9674 E Arapahoe Rd #253
Greenwood Village, CO 80112
303-750-3095
www.herdnver.com

Denver Waldorf School
940 Filmore St
Denver, CO 80206
303-777-0531
www.denverwaldorf.org

Monarch Montessori of Denver
11200 E 45th Ave
Denver, CO 80239
303-565-4165
www.monarchm.com

Montessori Children's House of Denver
1467 Birch St
Denver, CO 80220
303-322-8324
mchdenver.org

Sewall Child Development Center
1360 Vine St
Denver, CO 80206
303-399-1800
www.sewall.org

SPORTS & FITNESS (ADULTS & YOUTH)

Bladium Sports and Fitness Club
2400 Central Park Blvd
Denver, CO 80238
303-320-3033
www.bladium.com

CorePower Yoga
7485 E 29th Ave
Denver, CO 80238
303-377-7444
www.corepoweryoga.com

Central Park Recreation Center
9651 E Martin Luther King Blvd
Denver Co 80238

Colorado Fusion Soccer Club
7808 Cherry Creek Dr South,
Ste 401
303-399-5858
www.coloradofusion.org

CrossFit Stapleton
3700 Havana St #218
Denver, CO 80238
303-902-5088
www.CrossFitStapleton.com

Dardano's School of Gymnastics
2250 Kearney St
Denver, CO 80207
303-355-0080
www.dardanosgymnastics.com

Training To You - Alex Grossman
1331 Pontiac St
Denver, CO 80220
720-319-1795
TrainingToYou@comcast.net

YMCA of Metropolitan Denver
720-524-2750
www.denverymca.org