

Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

DECEMBER 2011

STAPLETON

Winter Welcome



Photo by Adrian Diubaldo

Toasting marshmallows and eating s'mores were big attractions for the kids at Stapleton's 2011 Winter Welcome on Friday, November 18. Above, a group of friends gather around the fire (starting second from left): Jonah Ryan, 4, Gabe Shelton, 6, Zach Ryan, 6, Harlan Owens, 7, and Taylor Owens, 4. Behind them are Scott and Tori Ryan. At far left, an unidentified child gets help roasting a marshmallow.

Stapleton's Winter Welcome on Friday, November 17 was the largest ever, with an estimated crowd of 3,000, according to Diane Deeter, director of programming

and events for Stapleton's Master Community Association. Deeter said last year's crowd was 1,500 to 2,000. "I think the weather had a big part in it (crowd size.) It was so nice.

People felt like they could come out and walk around."

The annual event, where the holiday tree and the 29th Avenue Town Center lights are turned on, (continued on page 26)

Happy Haynes Ready for School Board Challenges



Photo by Adrian Diubaldo

Happy Haynes was sworn in as an at-large member of the Denver Board of Education by Denver District Court Judge Edward Bronfin on November 17.

By Jon Meredith

Happy Haynes has had a long and successful career in public service in Denver: administrative aide to Mayor Federico Peña; city councilperson for three terms; council president for two years; and chief community engagement officer for Denver Public Schools. In November, she overwhelmingly won an at-large position on the Denver Board of Education, receiving 59.2 percent of the votes cast in an election with four other candidates.

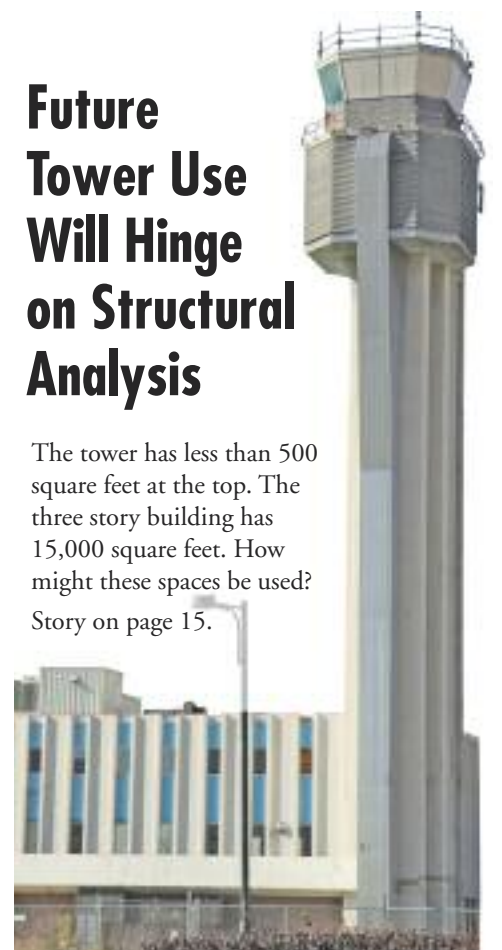
The election of Haynes, along with Ann Rowe's victory in south-east Denver, keeps the school board tilted toward a school reform agenda by a margin of 4-3. Haynes now faces overseeing a school district that has budget problems, schools that are underperforming, and a board that is divided as to how these issues should be solved.

All levels (continued on page 9)

Future Tower Use Will Hinge on Structural Analysis

The tower has less than 500 square feet at the top. The three story building has 15,000 square feet. How might these spaces be used?

Story on page 15.



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

Clyfford Still Museum Opens

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McAuliffe IB Middle School Q&A

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Hancock Visits Venture Prep

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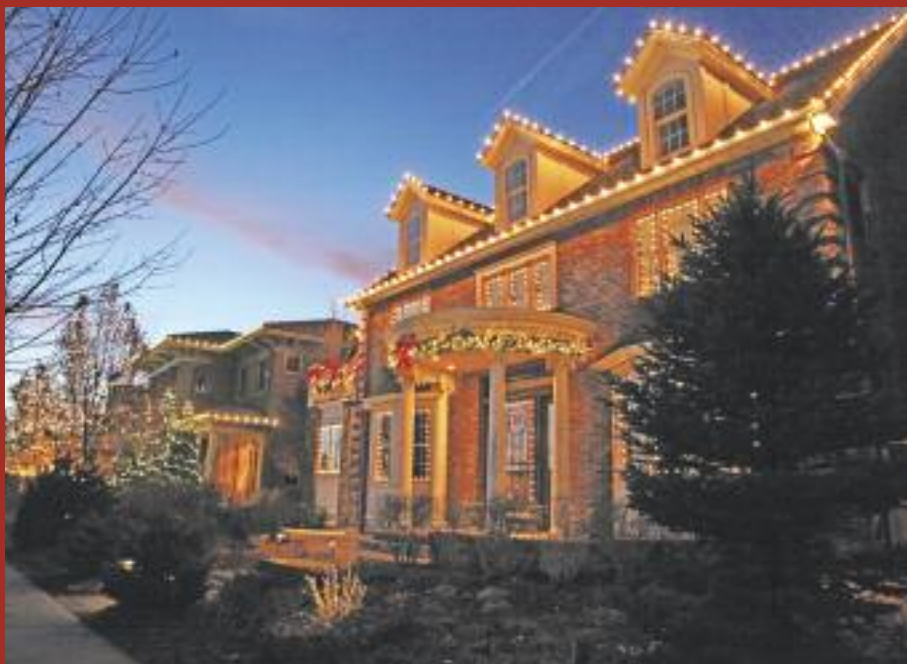
East Boys Win Soccer Championship

10

Cherry Creek Mobile Art Exhibit

22

Holiday lights at Stapleton



CALENDAR

Nearby events that are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit.
(Additional events are listed on pages 16-19. Recurring events are listed on page 16.)

DECEMBER

Every Sunday

Nature Movie, 1:30pm, families welcome
Rocky Mtn. Arsenal Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
(see page 17 for more weekly activities)

December 1-11

Santa Claus Shop Gently Used Toy Drive. Drop
off gently used toys at King Soopers. More info,
online donations at <http://www.denver-santaclausshop.org>

Through December 18

Holiday Santa Paws Pictures at Dumb Friends
League, Adoption Center at
The Shops at Northfield Stapleton, 5x7 photo
with \$10 donation. Sat. & Sun., 1-5pm
303-751-5772 or ddfl.org (see p. 26)

Saturday, December 3

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

Saturday, December 3

St. Nicholas Artisans' Marketplace &
Luminaria Sale, 9am-4pm
St. Thomas Church, 2201 Dexter Street
Luminarias also sold Dec. 10 and 17, 9am-1pm
(see page 19)

Monday, December 5

Denver Museum of Nature and Science - SCFD
Free Day 303-322-7009 <http://www.dmns.org>

Tuesday, December 6

Colorado Gives Day 2011
For 24 hours starting at 12am, visit
<http://www.cogivesday.org> to find and donate
to Colorado Charities. (see page 19)

Tuesday, December 6

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

Tuesday, December 6

Venture Prep Tour, 9:30am
2540 Holly Street
RSVP at 303-893-0805

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 7

Venture Prep Open House, 6:30pm
2540 Holly Street, 303-893-0805
bsmiley@ventureprep.org

Wednesday, December 7

Transportation meeting—Meet City officials,
discuss traffic and transportation issues and
suggest solutions. Central Park Rec Center*,
7pm, Sponsored by SUN Transportation
Committee, acornman@sbcglobal.net

Thursday, December 8

Active Minds Seminar 7pm
China: Closing for Business?
Stapleton MCA Community Room*
Events@stapletoncommunityroom.com

Friday, December 9

Colorado Chorale Presents "Christmas Collage,"
7:30pm Park Hill United Methodist Church,
5209 Montview Blvd.
www.coloradochorale.org (see page 19)

Sunday, December 11

A Gullah Christmas and Christmas Spirituals,
2pm, Reception Follows. St. Thomas Episcopal
Church, 2201 Dexter St. Free, with offering
303.322.2230 (see page 19)

Monday, December 12

Cherry Creek Mobile Art Gallery at DSST,
6-8pm. Tours with student docents
<http://www.cherryarts.org/education/mobile-art-gallery> (see page 22)

*More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com
Stapleton MCA Community Room 2823 Roslyn St.
Central Park Recreation Center 9651 MLK JR. Blvd.

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



MASTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The MCA wishes each and every one of you a very merry holiday season. We wait with excitement for this time of year. We have many gifts to buy and so many parties to attend. Remember when making your lists and plans those who are alone in this world. Bring joy to them with an act of kindness. We hope you are able to enjoy a safe and wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

Active Minds Seminar

China: Closing for Business?

Last year, after four years of investment in the Chinese market, Google closed its site in China citing a cyber attack and challenges presented by Chinese censorship. This event may be emblematic of growing difficulties for U.S. firms in China. An emerging Chinese policy of "indigenous innovation" favors domestic enterprises at the expense of U.S. firms via a web of patent laws, product standards and licensing requirements that many say are putting non-Chinese firms at a significant disadvantage. Join Active Minds as we examine how China's single-party communist rule has impacted its path to economic development and how this emerging conflict is viewed by the international business community.

The seminar begins at 7pm on Thursday, December 8 in the Stapleton MCA Community Room. Everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.ActiveMindsForLife.com.

Winter Welcome

We wish to thank all of our terrific Winter Welcome sponsors. Thanks to Denver Parks and Recreation for providing a one-year membership to their regional recreation centers, to Sara Jefferson Photography for the photo shoot and digital file gift certificate, to Restor Medical Rejuvenation Spa for their gift certificates, to Exempla for handing out the glow necklaces, and to the GSBA for donating their time to "wrangle" the dancing trees.

We would also like to give a huge thank-you to Lin Clark for assisting in the organization of the Door Decorating Contest. The students at the Denver School of the Arts once again provided us with fabulous door decorations. Check our website at www.stapletoncommunity.com to find out which door won!

Event Survey

We want to hear from each of you about how you feel the events went this year. Please take a few minutes and complete our survey that is available online at www.stapletoncommunity.com. If you have any suggestions or ideas for events you would like to see in the community, please send them to events@stapletoncommunity.com.

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

Diane Deeter
Director of
Programming and Events

Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

Correction

A chart on page 22 of the November Front Porch contained incorrect information about Standard Pacific Homes' energy savings options in their new homes at Central Park West. Standard Pacific *does* give each home buyer a HERS (home energy rating) certificate and their standard solar system is 1.8kw, not 1.5kw. For more details visit www.standardpacifichomes.com. The Front Porch regrets the error.

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Customer Service Is Goal of Denver’s Director of Excise and Licenses

By Jon Meredith

Tom Downey graduated from a prestigious East Coast law school and has spent a good part of his career being successful at occupations other than practicing law in a firm. After revitalizing the Children’s Museum for four and a half years, then running unsuccessfully for Clerk and Recorder, he was appointed by Mayor Hancock as the city’s director of excise and licenses.

“I have been involved in regulatory law for much of my career, and making this office much more efficient is a high priority for the mayor and extremely important for Denver’s economic development,” Downey states. “Our number-one priority is to improve customer service. Who is our ‘customer’? Anyone who has a business in Denver or anyone who spends money in Denver; therefore, everyone.”

Downey’s department issues licenses for the usual businesses such as liquor, medical marijuana dispensaries and restaurants, as well as for the not so usual, such as auto parts recyclers, body artists and exotic dancers. Although the license fees themselves make up only a small portion of the city budget, the sales tax that the holders of those licenses collect is the vast majority of the city’s budget. With persistent budget shortfalls, new businesses in the city are an important part of bridging the budget gap. Downey’s department is the first time those businesses experience working with the city—and he intends to make that first interaction a positive one.

“A high priority for the mayor is to make Denver government better, faster and stronger.” With those goals in mind, Downey believes that his department should never serve as an impediment to individuals and businesses wanting to be in the city.



The Downey family gathers on their porch in Stapleton (left to right) Bigsy, a 4-month-old puppy, Lori Fox, Helen Fox (Grandma), Ella Downey, 7, Cate Downey, 10, Joe Fox (Grandpa), Tom Downey, Meg Downey, 4. Grandparents Helen and Joe Fox live next door.

As a part of revamping the office, Downey read through three years’ worth of customer comment cards. The number-one complaint was the process when customers first arrived at the counter. They took a number and waited—only to be told when their number came up that they were in the wrong department or had the wrong form.

To rectify this issue, Downey interviewed everyone in the

department for 30 to 45 minutes when he started the job last July. He says, “Employees often feel they are not understood by their boss or supervisor.” To be sure he knew exactly how everyone felt about their jobs, he listened intently to learn how processes in his department could be smoother. Based on the employees’ input, he placed a greeter near the front door who checks to be sure the customer is in the right place and they have the proper forms filled out. If the line is too long, they may offer suggestions about when the lines tend to be shorter. The process makes for satisfied customers because they don’t have to wait in line unnecessarily and the staff is happier and more productive since they deal with far fewer angry customers.

Tom Downey lives in Stapleton with his wife Lori Fox, who works for United Airlines, and their three daughters, Cate, 10, Ella, 7, and Meg, 4. Downey and his wife moved to Stapleton 6 1/2 years ago at the same time his wife’s parents, Helen and Joe Fox, moved into the house next door.

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Elusive Artist's Hidden Works Unveiled

“The Clyfford Still Museum Places Denver at the Top of the Art World.”

By Barbara Neal

Denver’s campaign to host the Clyfford Still collection of artwork succeeded with the recent opening of the Clyfford Still Museum. Still, now recognized as one of the most significant and influential American artists of the 20th century, developed a powerful new approach to painting in the 1940s. Shortly thereafter, however, he withdrew from the art world. Although he continued to paint, he rarely permitted his artwork to be exhibited. Denver’s new museum now reintroduces the Clyfford Still collection to the public. As Mayor Michael Hancock stated, “People from all over the world will now come to see this collection. The Clyfford Still Museum places Denver at the top of the art world.”

What makes this collection special, according to Dean Sobel, the museum’s director, is, “The other abstract expressionist artists didn’t make art as radical as this in

1942, 1943 and 1944. He really gets there first.” This is the most intact body of work of any major artist. The collection comprises approximately 2,400 artworks created by the artist from 1920 to 1980, including 825 paintings, 1,575 drawings and prints, and three sculptures. In addition to 94 percent of his artistic output, the collection encompasses the artist’s archives, journals, sketchbooks, photographs and correspondence. These archival materials further document Still’s legacy and his profound influence on the Abstract Expressionist movement.

The architecture of the new museum handsomely supports the mission of the Clyfford Still Museum, to promote public and scholarly understanding of the late artist’s work, through the presentation and preservation. Designed by Brad Cloepfil and Allied Works Architecture, the two-story, 28,500-square-foot building features an exterior of concrete walls with a rich variety of vertical

surface relief that changes with Denver’s intense sunlight. “It was the light that drove this whole project,” says Cloepfil. Natural light enters the second-floor galleries through skylights above a cast-in-place perforated concrete ceiling, creating nuanced changes in the artwork during the day. Each of the nine galleries is proportioned to accommodate the needs of the collection from intimate works on paper to monumental Abstract Expressionist canvases more than 12 feet by 16 feet in size. The main level is open for exploration of the painting storage archive, exhibition spaces and a conservation lab. A “timeline” highlights important events in Still’s life, placing them in cultural and historic contexts.

The chronology of the inaugural exhibition demonstrates how Still’s vision progressed from figurative representation to expression to pure abstract shapes. Governor John Hickenlooper remarked, in describing the artist’s focus, “He wanted color to be more than color and shape to be more than shape.”

Clyfford Still’s quote: “People should look at the work itself and determine its meaning to them,” describes his intention for the viewer’s experience of his work. Artworks have numbers, not titles that might evoke other associations. Bathed in filtered light throughout the day, the dynamic surfaces of the paintings offer subtly different aspects to the viewer. Ac-

cents of pure color suddenly reveal themselves. The viewer’s attention to the singular ideas that Still expresses in his artworks is not diverted by competition from other ideas as found in most museum exhibits. A collection this comprehensive will permit art historians to assess, over time, the legacy of Clyfford Still. Even the casual visitor will be able to enjoy a changing sequence of exhibits of this outstanding artwork.

Clyfford Still, born in 1904 in North Dakota, spent the first 30 years of his life in the West. He moved to New York and exhibited his work in prominent galleries there for several years in the late 1940s, but in 1951, rejecting the commercial scene, he withdrew from galleries. By 1961, he had moved to Maryland and, continuing to paint, he rigorously controlled how and where his artworks were shown. When he died in 1980, his artworks were removed from public view.

Still’s will stated that his estate be given in its entirety to an American city willing to establish permanent quarters dedicated solely to





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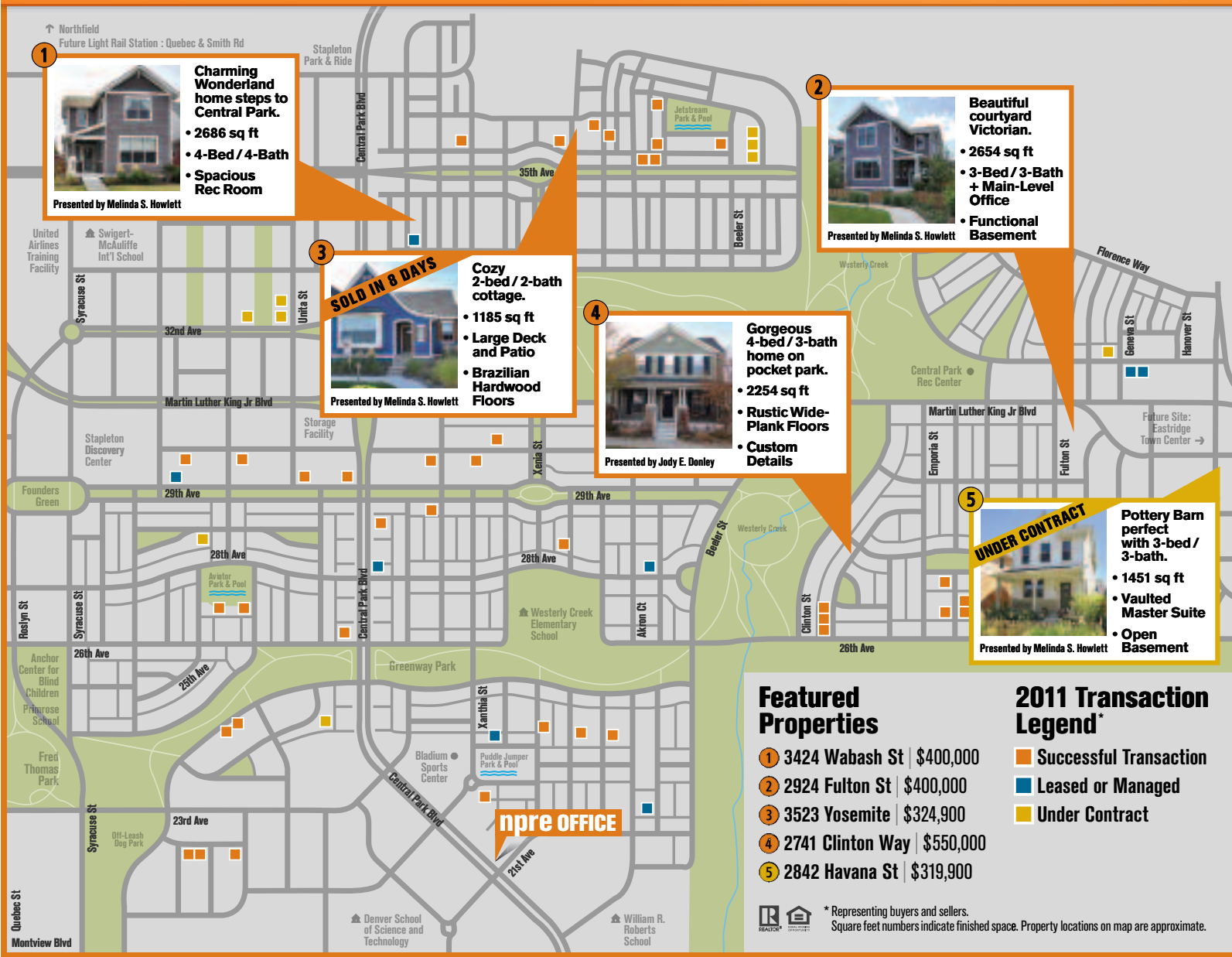
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Featured Properties

- ① 3424 Wabash St | \$400,000
- ② 2924 Fulton St | \$400,000
- ③ 3523 Yosemite | \$324,900
- ④ 2741 Clinton Way | \$550,000
- ⑤ 2842 Havana St | \$319,900

2011 Transaction Legend*

- Successful Transaction
- Leased or Managed
- Under Contract

* Representing buyers and sellers. Square feet numbers indicate finished space. Property locations on map are approximate.


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his work, ensuring its survival for exhibition and study. Then-mayor John Hickenlooper learned of this opportunity and set up an appointment with Still's widow, Patricia, at a time the mayor was in Washington, D.C., with other mayors for a meeting with the president. The time set for meeting with the president turned out

Left: Museum director Dean Sobel gives a media tour of the new Clyfford Still Museum that contains 94% of Still's artistic output. Daylight enters through skylights above a concrete grid ceiling, creating changing light as the day passes.

Right: Governor Hickenlooper tells the story of how, as mayor, he learned that Still's will stipulated giving his collection to an American city—and how he successfully pursued getting the artwork for Denver. An image of Clyfford Still is shown on the screen.

to be the same time as the meeting with Patricia Still. Recognizing the cultural importance of this museum to Denver, Hickenlooper chose to meet with Still. Denver vied with a number of other cities for the collection, but Patricia Still chose Denver—and after she died in 2005, her will bequeathed to Denver the remaining works in her collection as well as Clyfford Still's complete archives. Four pieces from Patricia Still's gift recently sold at auction for more than \$114 million, providing an endowment for care and exhibition of this unique collection.

The museum, at 1250 Bannock St, is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10am–5pm, and Fridays until 8 pm. For more information, visit ClyffordStillMuseum.org.

Barbara Neal is a public art consultant for Stapleton.



Denver received not only Still's paintings, but his art supplies, shown above, as well as journals, sketches and correspondence. The artist's trowel and palette knives were used to achieve the textures that his later paintings exhibited. An early work is visible in the Conservation Room.

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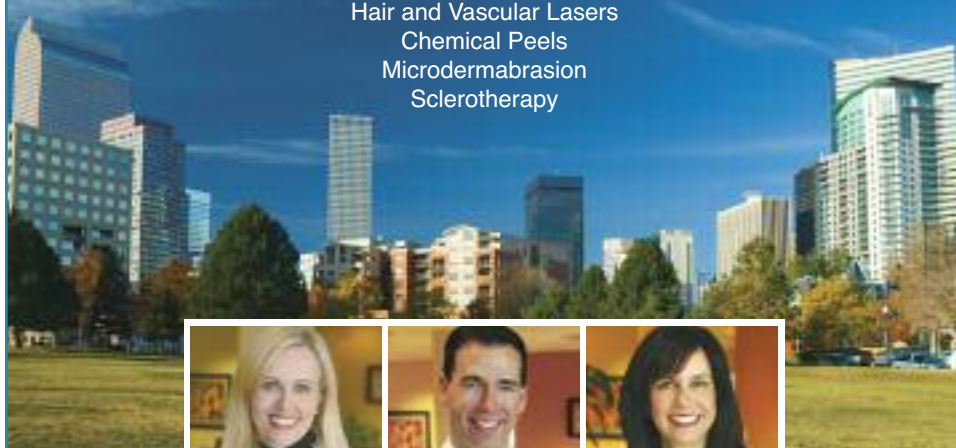
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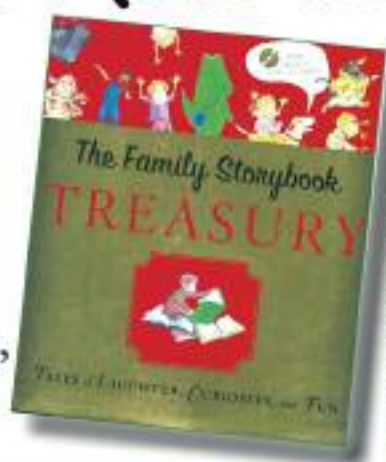
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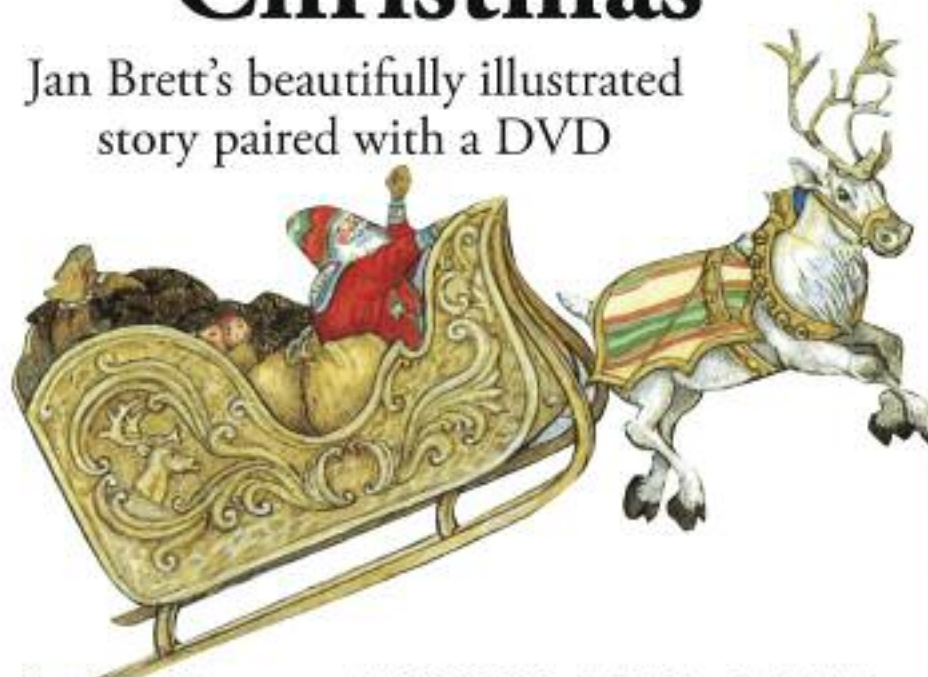


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McAuliffe IB Middle School Preparing for August '12 Launch

The Public Is Invited to an Open House Dec. 8

By John Babiak

In 2003, McAuliffe International School (MIS) Principal Kurt Dennis moved into the Stapleton neighborhood when there were more tumbleweeds than houses and more prairie dogs than people. Today, he is busy promoting his vision of a new International Baccalaureate (IB) middle school. The school will open in August 2012 and will technically be an IB “candidate” school until it completes the three-year application process. It is named after middle-school teacher, Christa McAuliffe, the Teacher in Space/NASA astronaut who tragically perished in the shuttle Challenger’s explosion in 1986.

When the middle school opens next fall, it will accommodate 168 sixth-graders, primarily from the greater Stapleton

and Park Hill areas. It will partner with the Swigert International Primary School that is located within the same building. Together, the two schools will become Northeast Denver’s first ECE through eighth grade International Baccalaureate school.

Following are excerpts from an interview with Kurt Dennis. The full interview is posted under “Community Information” at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com.

What are the benefits of an IB Middle Years curriculum?

It is an approach to teaching and learning that emphasizes interdisciplinary relationships between content areas and problem solving with real-world applications. In order to solve real-world problems, students have to be able to take the skills and content that they acquire from a variety of content areas and apply them





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to problem solving in a cohesive and logical fashion.

Which Denver high schools can your graduates attend that best leverage their IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) studies?

Because the MYP emphasizes a holistic, well-rounded education, students completing their studies at McAuliffe will be well prepared to attend any area high school that they choose. We want our students to have a wide variety of skills and knowledge so they are prepared to be successful in whatever academic or professional endeavor they choose to pursue.

What are the benefits of earning a high school IB diploma?

Students who pursue an IB diploma in high school will benefit from an internationally recognized program that excels at preparing students for success at prestigious colleges around the world. If a student earns an IB diploma from a Colorado high school, he or she will receive 24 semester hours of college credit that can be applied at any public college or university in the state.

What would Innovation Status from DPS mean for McAuliffe International School?

The public is invited to visit the school and meet Principal Kurt Dennis at an open house on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7pm. The Swigert-McAuliffe campus is located at Syracuse St. and E. 35th Ave.



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Photos by Adrian Dubaldo

On Nov. 17 the DPS Board approved a boundary map for McAuliffe School. That map is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com at the "Community Information" link.

Families listen to Principal Kurt Dennis at an open house in the gym at McAuliffe International School.

challenged daily at their appropriate learning level. We will not have barriers to entry such as a screening process or entrance exams for participation in our program.

What types of electives, extracurricular and athletic opportunities will McAuliffe offer?

All students will receive one hour of visual or performing arts, one hour of physical education and one hour of world language instruction a day. McAuliffe will compete against other middle schools in a wide array of sports. We also plan to offer band, choir, orchestra and drama as the school grows.

What are your expectations of your incoming students and their parents?

From students, we expect a great attitude and a willingness to work hard. We want our students to think positively and to relentlessly pursue personal and intellectual growth.

As for parents, I hope that they can accept their students' failures as well as celebrate their successes. Middle school can be a challenging time. Through failure, students learn resilience, determination and self-discipline. These are all character traits that we hope to instill in our students at McAuliffe International School.

Kurt Dennis lives in Stapleton with his wife Shelby and daughters Delaney, 2, and Kelsey, who is a 1st grader at Swigert.

Prospective families can also visit the MIS website at <http://mcauliffe.dpsk12.org>, email kurt_dennis@dpsk12.org or call 720.424.4793. More about the IB Middle Years Programme can be found at www.ibo.org.

Basically, it allows us a great deal of freedom when it comes to time, curriculum, budget and staffing. All of the teachers at McAuliffe will be "at-will" employees, meaning that they would be accountable for their performance on a daily basis and not receive tenure. We plan to offer an 8-hour school day and a 195-day school year as opposed to the traditional 7-hour school day and 171-day school year. In three years, students would receive an additional 1,089 hours of instruction, which equates to one full year of additional schooling. As for curriculum, we plan on offering Singapore Math for our math curriculum and the inquiry-based SEPUP program from UC Berkeley for our science curriculum.

Describe the unique features of the MIS Academic Plan.

Our students will be placed in their math and language arts classes based on what they know and can do. Placements will be determined using data gleaned from pretests and the district's assessment program. The students will have to demonstrate mastery in order to move on to the next level of their studies.

Describe students that are best suited for the "rigors" of the IB Middle Years Programme.

The MYP is accessible to all students. Our program will be rigorous in that students will be



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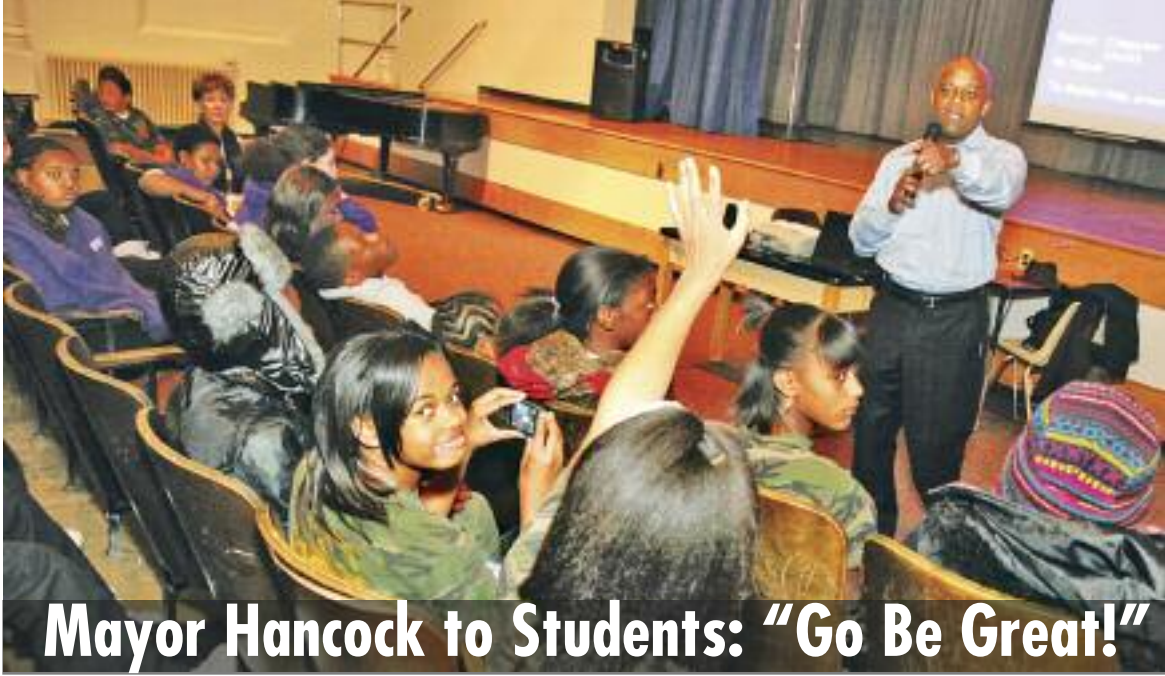
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By Judith Schwartz

Being mayor of Denver offers “some cool stuff,” Mayor Michael Hancock told an audience of 90 students, teachers and community members, on October 26, at the Smiley Middle School/Venture Prep Campus. “You get to be with the president when his plane lands at Buckley Air Force Base and he comes jogging down the steps.”

The day before Hancock spoke to the Venture Prep students, he had greeted President Obama upon his arrival in Denver—and the president invited the mayor to join him in his limousine. As they set off toward Denver, Hancock told the students, the president had asked, “So how often do you get a chance to talk to students?” “I’m invited to schools a lot and try to get to as many as I can,” Hancock replied. President Obama then gave him a message to deliver the next time he talked to students. “I just want you to say this one thing to them: There could be an Obama sitting in this room.” A chorus of gasps erupted from the purple-uniformed Venture Prep students as Hancock delivered this message.



Mayor Michael Hancock visited Venture Prep school in Park Hill on October 26 and shared his personal life story with students.

Mayor Hancock to Students: “Go Be Great!”

Most of the Venture Prep students in the audience that day participate in The Prodigal Son Initiative, a nonprofit after-school program that mentors 50–75 at-risk students from northeast Denver, ages 8–13. The program was founded by, and is run by, Terrance Roberts, a former gang member who served prison time and wanted his students to hear the mayor’s story firsthand.

where the fun and my friends were.” He told the students he was on student council and had teachers who cared about him.

Skyland (now Hiawatha Davis) and Red Shield (2915 High St.) were the community centers that provided a safety net for the mayor’s early years. Hancock repeatedly told the kids that by taking advantage of good after-school options they can avoid trouble and thrive—and he praised Roberts, saying “Very few are like Terrance Roberts who turn around and give back. Most people (who join gangs) end up dead or in jail.”

Students in the audience weren’t shy with their questions. A boy asked, “Did you have a loyal dad?” The mayor responded, “No. My mother was my father.” Only six when his parents divorced, Hancock said he next saw his father when, upon college graduation, he went to Texas and saw “this man I did not know” who was dying.

Asked what he would do after being mayor, Hancock replied he would focus attention on his children, now 19, 16 and 13. “I look forward to helping them become healthy, productive adults.”

Nina, a well-spoken 17-year-old Venture Prep student, voiced criticism of the Hiawatha Davis Rec Center, the state of the former Holly Shopping Center and the outdoor basketball courts. Roberts responded that it’s a bad economy but people are working to achieve what the community desires at Holly.

Mayor Hancock applauded Nina. “Watching you speak up is the stuff that greatness is made of. Don’t lose your passion. People respond to leaders like you.” He encouraged her to get out on the basketball court and make the rec center do the same.

The mayor concluded his remarks with a challenge for the students: “You get a chance to determine if you are going to be great or not. Here is my message: Go be great.”

Venture Prep, a public charter college-preparatory school for grades 6–12, cosponsored the event with The Prodigal Son Initiative. The school occupies a wing at Park Hill’s Smiley Middle School.

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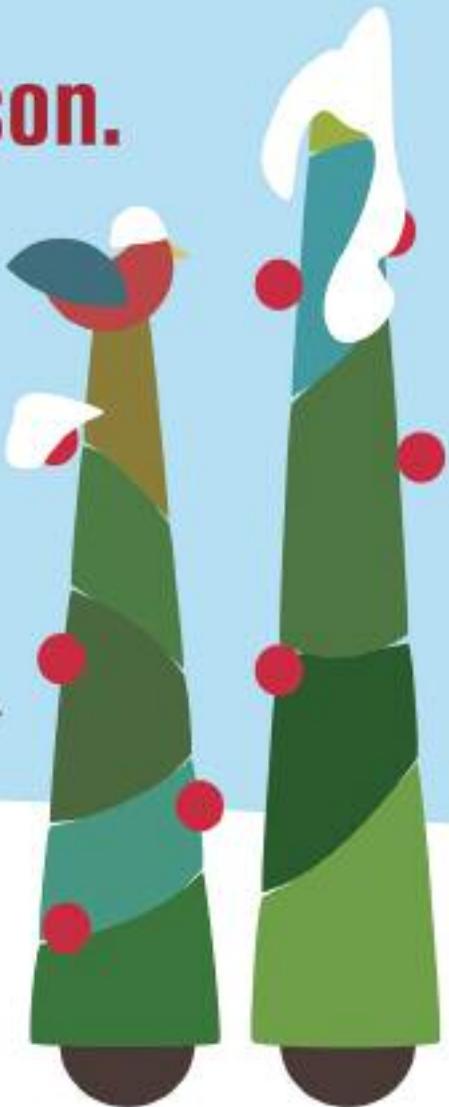
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Board members (front row from left) Mary Seawell, Jeannie Kaplan, Nate Easley, Happy Haynes and Andrea Mérida, along with Superintendent Tom Boasberg (middle), applaud as a new member is sworn into office on November 17.



Happy Haynes

(continued from page 1) of government are currently suffering budget shortfalls and Denver Public Schools is no exception. Haynes' election victory comes at a time Coloradans rejected Proposition 103 that would have added \$3 billion to school coffers throughout the state. Budget management will continue to cause tough choices for the board. Board President Nate Easley has stated, "The board will continue to do everything possible not to let budget issues affect our classrooms."

Haynes reiterates this sentiment. "We can't use funding as an excuse for not moving forward. It is just not fair to those kids who are in school now. It is a much better investment to fund for early childhood education and kindergarten than prisons." Haynes clearly understands this problem—one of her first jobs after graduating from Barnard College (Columbia University) was helping convicts in the rehabilitation process. She says, "By the time people get to that stage, it is way too late to intervene."

Haynes understands that reform efforts have long been opposed by teachers' unions. However, she points out, "This is beginning to change as both sides begin to work toward common ground." She notes that the Denver Teachers Union has recently worked with DPS to formulate ProComp, a new compensation process that provides schoolwide and individual teacher incentives. Areas where incentives are provided include: school performance and growth, student growth, tuition reimbursement, and serving in hard-to-staff schools. Additionally, incentives are available for teachers who earn advanced degrees. Eighty percent of DPS teachers now participate in the program.

According to Haynes, the teachers' union

is also working with DPS to obtain better teacher performance through the Leading Effective Academic Practice or LEAP. This gives teachers and principals guidance for evaluation of teacher performance and feedback. The outcome is to gain multiple measures of feedback so that teachers are able to grow professionally. The feedback is divided between student outcomes, principal and peer observations, the teacher's ability to collaborate and student perception evaluations.

The reforms that the school board voted to approve last year in northeast Denver have taken effect but they came with plenty of community opposition, a divided school board and a recall effort against Nate Easley. This fall, Denver voters were given a clear opportunity to elect non-reform candidates and rejected them overwhelmingly in two out of three elections. The only "non-reform" candidate who prevailed was Arturo Jimenez in northwest Denver, who won by 142 votes out of 15,000 votes cast.

Haynes believes that the major reform projects implemented in DPS are working. Last spring, Manual High School had its first graduating class since reopening—and although progress there is slow, the changes, according to Haynes, "were necessary because the school was failing and DPS fulfilled its promise by making Manual a high school neighborhood kids will be proud to attend." In Northeast Denver, the changes are in the initial stages. School is open an extra hour each day and every child has the opportunity to be tutored in math and English until they are at grade level.

A former Stapleton Starbucks barista, Carrie Ellis, who now teaches fourth grade in a Montbello school, says that despite long hours and difficult students, progress is being made. "I just had parent-teacher conferences and 23

out of 23 students' parents attended." Haynes believes that this kind of parent par-

ticipation is critical to the success of the reforms. Haynes grew up and attended schools in northeast Denver, graduating from East High. She credits her passion for education, especially early childhood education, to her mother, Anna Jo Haynes, who was always involved in the education of her children. Her mother's engagement in early childhood education has made Haynes realize just how important parental involvement is to children's success. Based on her mother's strong example and her own personal experience, Haynes says, "I will always be a strong advocate for Denver's youngest children."

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December 2011

Neighborhood Boys Who Dreamed Big Win State Soccer Title for East HS

By John Babiak

Recently I was watching a group of young neighborhood boys playing friendly soccer in a Stapleton pocket park. I could tell that they were emulating their favorite soccer stars. When one scored a “stunning” goal, his teammates rushed to give him a group bear hug—and then they all circled the field and waved to the pretend crowd. They had even mounted a digital camera on a tripod that was being used to capture their play. Later, they must have watched their video a few hundred times over. These boys were acting out their dreams—perhaps a fantasy of being teammates on an MLS Cup championship team or scoring a last-second, go-ahead goal in the World Cup finals. Sometimes these neighborhood fantasies become realities.

For a handful of northeast Denver neighborhood boys, a mutual dream came true on the evening of November 9 at Dick’s Sporting Goods Park, when the East High School Angels boys soccer team won the 5A State Soccer Championship. Two of East’s starters, Park Hill’s Austin Neureiter and Stapleton’s Caden MacKenzie, have been dreaming and kicking soccer balls in their yards since they were youngsters. They started playing together for the one-time Denver Soccer Club (today Colorado Fusion Soccer Club) U9 Wolfpack team in 2003. East’s championship team is comprised of 11 longtime Colorado Fusion teammates that included Neureiter and MacKenzie, along with Matt Fitzgerald and Peter Schreiber from Park Hill and Lowry’s



Photo by Reid Neureiter

Austin Neureiter of Park Hill holds the trophy after the East Angels boys soccer team won the State Soccer Championship.

JJ Meyers. Fusion, metro Denver and Aurora’s largest youth soccer club, offered these talented student-athletes and their families a positive urban neighborhood experience. “I’ve dreamed about this my entire life,” said MacKenzie after the 2–0 win over Heritage High School. He scored the first goal and was named the game’s MVP. Coincidentally, MacKenzie’s father, Dr. Tom MacKenzie, played for Heritage in the 1979 5A soccer championship in which Heritage lost to Cherry Creek. In an intra-team parent communication, the Heritage alum said, for the sake of his son, he was clear that he wanted Heritage to lose again.

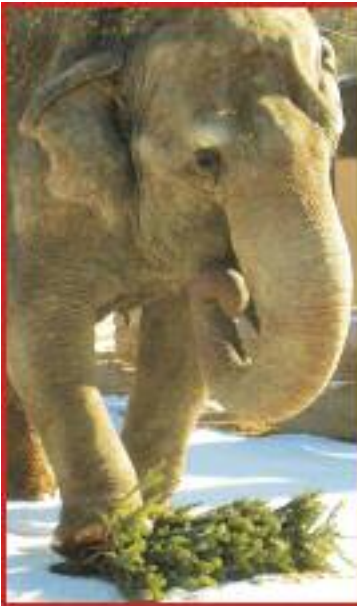
The game’s second and clinching goal was scored by MacKenzie’s sidekick, midfielder Austin Neureiter, who said, “It is an incredible and special feeling to win with your friends. Not many teammates can say that they have played together since they were six. I can’t imagine not playing without these guys. They are my best friends.”



Photo by Reid Neureiter

The shutout was achieved by Mayfair’s Marques MacDonald, the Angel’s goalkeeper who did not yield one goal during the game.

Neureiter’s father, Reid Neureiter, was head coach of the Wolfpack team that once practiced in City Park, right across the street from East High School. Today he can be seen roaming the sidelines of every East soccer game as their unofficial field photographer. The elder Neureiter summed up his feelings about the winning experience, “It is heartening to see some of the boys that I used to coach have such success. Soccer for me was an important part of my childhood and adolescence. I have always used soccer as a way to make friends in a community. One of the first things I did when I moved to Colorado was join a co-ed soccer team. In coaching my son and others, I was hoping to impart enough skill and love for the game that the boys could go anywhere in the country or the world and join in a friendly soccer match with some modicum of skill. They have far surpassed my expectations. Credit goes to the boys for their persistence and dedication, and to all the other parent, club and school coaches who have worked with them over the years.”



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Photo by Reid Neureiter

Left: Two of East's starting players, Austin Neuriter (far right, front row) and Caden McKenzie (second from left, back row) are shown with their U9 team and their coach Reid Neureiter.

Above: Caden MacKenzie of Stapleton was named MVP of the championship game. He scored the first goal.

Below: Goalie Marques MacDonald of Mayfair did not give up a goal in the 2-0 game.



Photo by Reid Neureiter

Venture Prep to Hold Open House Dec. 7

By Belinda Smiley,
Director of Student Recruitment

Venture Prep, a college-prep charter school in the Park Hill area, will hold an Open House for interested students and their families on Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30pm. In addition, a tour is available Tuesday morning, December 6 at 9:30am. Please call 303.893.0805 to sign up. The school is located on the Smiley campus at 2540 Holly St.

Stapleton's Public Art Goes Interactive

By Barbara Neal

Viewers of Stapleton's public art walking, driving or biking around Stapleton can now use their mobile phones to hear the artists talk about each of 12 art pieces placed throughout the community. By dialing 888.827.8566 and entering Art Number 3001, callers can select 1-12, corresponding to the number listed at each art site, and listen to the artist. Those with a smartphone can scan a QR code to connect to a website with additional information about the public art collection at Stapleton: StapletonDenver.com/Discovery. The website also has a link to download a map of Stapleton's public art to guide visitors to the next art location.

The new audio service is provided by 88 88 ArtLook, with support from the Master Community Association's community fee, David Weekley Homes, Infinity Home Collection and KB Homes. For more about Stapleton's Public Art Program or comments on the audio descriptions, contact Barbara Neal, public art consultant for Stapleton, at barbneal@mindspring.com.

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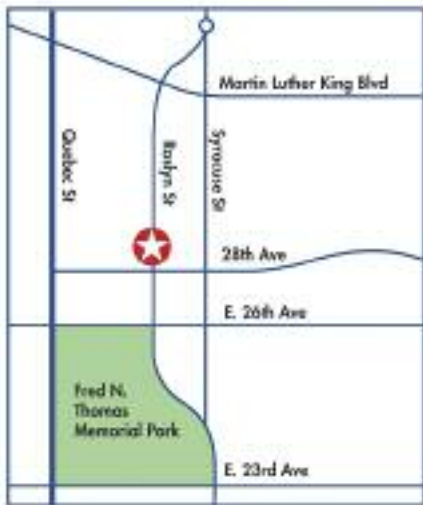


OSTEOPOROSIS IN YOUNG WOMEN

by Valerie B. Ginsburg, MD

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Osteoporosis in young women sounds like a contradiction. It is most commonly a disease found in older, post-menopausal women. Unfortunately, recent studies have found increased rates of osteoporosis in teenage girls and young women. This is particularly troubling because these are the years when young bodies should be building bone for the future, not losing it.

What are some causes of osteoporosis in young women?

Low body weight. Being underweight or too thin can be harmful to bones in girls and young women. Young women who constantly diet are also at risk for low peak bone mass.

Infrequent menstrual periods/low estrogen levels. Estrogen is a hormone that helps protect bones. Teenage girls and young women who frequently have missed periods may have low estrogen levels.

Can osteoporosis be prevented?

Yes, there are several ways to help build strong bones through adolescence and into early adulthood. Bones do not reach their peak mass until around the age of 30 and until that point, bone mass can be increased.

Adequate calcium intake. Young women need approximately 1,000 milligrams of calcium per day. This can be attained by eating calcium-rich foods like dairy or dark greens or by taking calcium supplements.

Exercise! Weight bearing exercise such as jogging, walking, biking and aerobics are all great ways to strengthen bones.

Maintain a healthy weight. Talk to your doctor about a healthy weight and body mass index for your height and age. Young women who maintain very low body weights are at the highest risk of reduced bone density.

If you would like to make an appointment with Dr. Ginsburg, please contact the Exempla Stapleton OB-GYN office directly.

Treating Pain without Surgery

By Nancy Burkhart

Pain can take over a person's brain and change their life. "The more you feel pain, the less able you are to deal with pain," explained Dr. Brian Fuller, who has just opened Mountain Spine & Pain Physicians located at 2373 Central Park Blvd. Fuller is a 40-year-old rehabilitation medicine physician, or a physiatrist, who specializes in physical medicine, rehabilitation and pain management.

"I mainly deal with back and neck pain," he said. "I try to keep people away from surgeons."

"The key to treating pain is to help relieve pain and to help the body be good at feeling pain," Fuller explained. "It's not good for people to think they should grin and bear it when they are in pain."

Fuller said that his diagnostic abilities are what lead to alleviating his patients' pain. He noted that just because an MRI shows a disc bulge, it doesn't necessarily mean that the bulge is the cause of pain.

"Once I have a solid diagnosis, if I can't fix the problem, I can refer," he said. "I use psychologists, chiropractors, acupuncturists,



Dr. Brian Fuller uses a C-arm, a machine that takes real time X-ray movies, in his practice that specializes in minimally invasive procedures to stop pain, primarily in the spine but also in other parts of the body.

physical therapists. I try to avoid using really strong medicines. I try to help people to get control of their lives. People need to internalize the fact that they are in control of their problems. The longer they are in pain, the harder it is to treat. About 99 percent of the time, I can fix the problem.

It depends on how bad the problem is." Fuller treats pain from all kinds of situations, including sports injuries, cancer pain, pain resulting from a work injury, and the pain caused by everyday activities or everyday accidents. "The greatest compliment I get is when

the patient graduates and I never see them again," Fuller said. "Our body is meant to heal and we just get in situations where we need help to heal. Many people I help get better in three months. Some people need a tune-up once or twice a year—usually it's just a 20-minute procedure. I don't expect to see people once or twice a month for years."

"Usually I try to treat my patients with home exercise programs," he said. "It's hard to go to a physical therapist three times a week. A lot of times an athlete can avoid going to physical therapy because they're driven. Others need to be really gentle at exercise at first. Everyone's very individual and I try to tailor the treatment exactly to that person."


Fuller moved to Colorado three years ago from Ohio. His sister went to Fort Lewis College in Durango.

"I fell in love with Colorado," he said. "I ski, bike, hike and snowmobile." Stapleton residents might see Dr. Fuller working out in the neighborhood.

For information about Dr. Fuller and Mountain Spine & Pain Physicians, go to www.mountain-spine.com. To make an appointment, call 303.355.3700.

Photos by Adrian Dubaldo

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Wings for Fun or for Fundraising

By Nancy Burkhart

Buffalo Wild Wings has opened at Quebec Square and not only feeds northeast Denver residents, but helps them make donations to community schools and charities with their Eat Wings, Raise Funds project.

“The charity or school has to come in to give their tax ID, and we pick a day for the project that is beneficial to both parties,” explained James Rinker, Buffalo Wild Wings general manager.

It takes about three to four weeks to plan a fundraiser day, Rinker said. Buffalo Wild Wings prints tickets for the charity or school to give out to remind people to patronize the sports bar and restaurant on the designated day and “vote” for their charity or school. The food checks connected with the tickets and verbal “votes” are tallied to give 15 percent of these food sales to the charity or school, according to Rinker.

“It’s up to the charity to go out and market their cause,” he said.

These fundraiser days happen frequently, according to Rinker. Participating families eat in an area apart from the sports bar. They can choose from salads, burgers, chicken sandwiches, wraps—or the fantastic wings that gave the restaurant/bar its name. “The wings are good-sized,” Rinker said. “We have the traditional wings that are bone-in. But we also have wings that are breaded and boned. We have 18 different sauces. And we have dry rubs that go on both kinds of wings.”

For sports nuts, Buffalo Wild Wings offers 59 televisions both inside and outside the restaurant/bar, including six projector screens.

“We have a really good family presence, and we also have the sports-lovin’ Joes who like to come and watch sports and have a beer and wings,” Rinker said. “It’s like a local drinking-eating hole. It’s a place they can come to for great food and great service. It’s a place where they can come and have a good time.”



James Rinker, general manager of the new Buffalo Wild Wings in Quebec Square, is shown in the new restaurant. With 59 televisions, the restaurant caters to sports fans, but, according to Rinker, it is also a good destination for families.

For holiday gift-giving, patrons can purchase a \$25 gift card and receive a \$5 gift card rebate for themselves.

Buffalo Wild Wings is open at 11am Mon.–Fri. and at 10am on Sat. and Sun. during football season. Doors close at 1am Mon.–Thurs., 2am on Fri. and Sat., and at midnight on Sunday.

For more about Buffalo Wild Wings, call 303.322.0551,

email 335@buffalowildwings.com or visit www.buffalowildwings.com.

We might be a corporation, but we like to run like a mom-pop place where we cater to the community.”

Photo by Adrian Diuhaldo

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Quick-Serve Green Chili Restaurant Is a Family Affair

By Nancy Burkhardt

A two-month work stint in Lake Tahoe, California, in 2001, surrounded by the high Sierra Nevada Mountains but with a noticeable absence of Mexican green chili, set the stage for the new Rocky Mountain Chili Bowl restaurant, located at 7305 E. 35th Ave. in Quebec Square. Park Hill resident Matt Robinette recalls being in Lake Tahoe and thinking that his wife Roberta's family recipe for green chili would lend itself to healthy and delicious quick-serve food.

Eight years passed after he first had the idea for quick-serve chili bowls. But in May 2009, after studying at the CU business school and with 20 years' experience in the restaurant industry, Robinette, with his wife, Roberta, brother Jonathan and sister-in-law Cristina decided to move forward with the

quick-serve chili bowl concept. "Jon works on marketing for us," Matt says. "Cristina has helped with business development. My wife does the financial part. We call ourselves the 'Core Four.' We all work in concert on the restaurant." Robinette started selling chili bowls from a stand that he took to the Stapleton and Cherry Creek farmers' markets. He moved up to a 10 ft. by 10 ft. tent, and then, about a year ago, found a trailer, from which he fed people at the People's Fair, the Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Big Air at the Civic Center, the Gay Pride Festival, and the Great American Beer Festival, as well as on a weekly basis in Cherry Creek, Stapleton's Town Center and the Civic Center. As the chili bowl trailer grew in popularity, the Robinettes looked for a more perma-

nent home—and chose their new location in the old Wingz near GNC in Quebec Square. "The location offered the most reasonable start-up for a brick and mortar," says Robinette. "It is a second-generation restaurant of the right size; the kitchen was built, it had a hood, it had bathrooms. It was almost turnkey."

The Rocky Mountain Chili Bowl has room for about 30 people and, according to Robinette, is fast becoming a hot spot for neighborhood take-out business and a location for teams to celebrate their Saturday victories. And the location is not far from Matt and Roberta's home in Park Hill, where they live with their three-year-old son, Eli, and twin 19-year-old college sophomores, Sarah and Megan.

"We do pork and vegetarian green chili. We build your bowl," says Robinette. "We also have signature bowls. We do a tamale bowl, a fajita bowl, a chili cheese fry bowl, a nacho bowl, a breakfast bowl. For a build-a-bowl, you choose your beans, seasoned chicken breast, avocado, sour cream—all the ingredients."

Robinette points out, "We have pints and

quarts to go. You can get all the fixin's and tortillas and then go home and eat dinner. It's like a Chipotle or Qdoba with very healthy food. We make all the food. We also will serve beer, but not wine."

To place a carry-out order, call the Rocky Mountain Chili Bowl at 303.322.3009. Hours are 10–8pm Mon.–Fri.; 8am–8pm Sat. and Sun. Kids' meals are \$4.25 and bowl options start at \$5.55. For more information visit RockyMountainChiliBowl.com.



Matt Robinette, Ian, 3, and Roberta Robinette stand in front of their newly opened Rocky Mountain Chili Bowl restaurant in Quebec Square. The Robinettes started with a tent, then a trailer at events, and were so successful they now have opened a restaurant.



Christmas: Heartbreak and Hope

Sunday, December 11th - Festival of Lights 7:00pm
(celebrate the traditions of Christmas through music)

Saturday, December 24th - Family Christmas Service 5:30pm
(every child may have a part in the presentation)

Lessons and Carols 8:00pm
(the beauty of the nativity, music and candlelight)

Sunday, December 25th and January 1st
Worship Service 10:00am



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New Burger Restaurant Opens at Northfield



Red Robin opened its first Burger Works in Northfield on Nov. 21. Located just west of Harkins Theaters (and across the street), the signature dish is a "build-your-own" burger with choice of sauce, bun and toppings. Other options include chicken tenders or BBQ chicken, salad, shakes and fries. For more information and to view the menu, visit www.rrburger-works.com.

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Senior VP, Forest City Stapleton, Jim Chrisman



City Councilman Chris Herndon



Stapleton resident JoNell Herndon

What Is the Control Tower's Future?

By Carol Roberts

“How might Stapleton’s control tower be used?” has been an off-and-on part of conversation in Stapleton for years. Now that conversation has turned into an organized effort in the community to find a desirable option that could be implemented in the not-too-distant future.

The tower sits on an approximately 4-acre site, with another 4-acre site next to it, says Jim Chrisman, Forest City senior vice president. The lots are still owned by DIA and will be acquired by Forest City, “when the market dictates it,” according to Tom Gleason, Forest City VP, public relations. The current expectation for those lots, which sit at the intersection of MLK and CPB, (two major arterials in northeast Denver) is multi-family higher density residential, “consistent with Congress, Cheesman, City Park,” says Chrisman.

Not all four acres will necessarily go to a use associated with the control tower. But, says Chrisman, “The challenge with coming up with a use for the tower is it has to be a use that’s compatible with our vision for the balance of the land.” He goes on to point out that parking will be a real challenge. A conference center, for example, requires 10 cars per thousand square feet—so the 15,000 sq. foot building would need space for 150 cars, which would require the entire four acres for a parking lot. “That’s not going to work unless someone builds a parking structure. It’s that type of thing we’re going

to have to sort through.” Chrisman goes on to say he does not have a specific idea in mind for the tower, but does say, “That’s a pretty prominent corner, pretty good traffic counts, which retailers and restaurants look for. Mixed use is not out of the question. What’s neat about that building is everyone knows what it means. If you’re a retailer or restaurant or whatever, all you have to do is say, ‘I’m in the old Stapleton tower,’ and you’ve got a unique location, you’ve got something no one else has and people are going to want to see it and they know where it is. So there could be some opportunity around that.”

Chrisman explains that they are awaiting the outcome of a structural analysis that will tell them what it will cost to make the buildings marketable. “My guess is we’ll want to own it because it’ll be so critical to that corner that we’ll want to make sure we’ll control the outcome of it and the management of it. It’s an icon and it’s prominent and it will impact whatever else we decide to do on those four acres.” However, he also points out that between the small space at the top of the tower (approximately 400 square feet) and the cost of making it accessible, it may turn out that all that can be done with the tower is to make it aesthetically appealing, though Chrisman qualified that, saying, “If we find it takes a quarter or half million dollars a year to maintain that tower and there’s no revenue generation potential, I can’t make a good argument that we

should make that investment.”

District 11 City Councilman Chris Herndon is one of the people who has been driving past the tower on a regular basis and wondering about it’s future. “I always stare at the tower and I began to wonder, ‘What are we going to do with it?’ After getting elected I started asking Forest City and having a dialogue with other residents about some creative ideas. There wasn’t anyone interested in having it torn down. Everyone viewed it as iconic. I think it’s a great opportunity for us to do something significant with that tower. I think it could be a staple of northeast Denver.”

Councilman Herndon tapped Stapleton resident JoNell Herndon to help organize a committee of community members about future uses for the tower. Herndon has an MBA in finance and worked on bonds and fixed income investments for 14 years and played a significant role in the community efforts that brought a new K-8 school to Stapleton.

“I will say personally, I will not recommend a plan that we can not figure out the funding for,” says Herndon. “However, we’ll have to do a partnership, as we did for the school, with Forest City, with the City and County of Denver, with other agencies potentially to make that happen.”

Although the committee has only met once, Herndon says they already have people from a broad range of backgrounds. She believes strongly, “If you start with ‘No’ we might miss our best idea.” However, she continues, “for ideas to make it to the top,” they will have to be realistic, thoughtful and researched. The group will come up with a matrix

and “the top ideas need to operate within specified quadrants: finance, whether it is a community asset, does it fit regulatory-wise, what is the zoning, what are the hurdles, what’s realistic—and we have to bring all the parties together. The whole point of the committee is to get the community involved and see what great ideas there are. There may something we really love that isn’t financially viable—so then, ‘What’s second best on the list?’”

“It’s better that the community starts having discussions now, Forest City starts with it’s thoughts, and then we figure out what’s a win-win for everybody. This is an opportunity for us to put forth some ideas and see how we can be part of the process.”

Anyone is welcome to contribute ideas or attend committee meetings. Email stapletontower@gmail.com to get on the email list.



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

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Through 12/23- Denver Christkindl Market. 11am-7pm Sun.-Wed; 11am-9pm Thurs.-Sat. Denver Skyline Park. www.denverchristkindlmarket.com

Through 12/24- The Nutcracker. Presented by Colorado Ballet. Tickets: www.coloradoballet.org

Through 12/24- A Christmas Carol. Appropriate for ages 8+. Stage Theatre, Denver Performing Arts Complex. Tickets: \$18 up. 303.893.4100, www.denvercenter.org

Through 1/31- Southwest Rink at Skyline Park. FREE ice skating in downtown Denver. Bring skates or rent a pair. www.downtowndenver.com

12/2 Friday and 12/3 Saturday- 9News Parade of Lights. Marching bands, giant balloons, floats. Friday 8pm and Saturday 6pm. FREE. www.downtowndenver.com

12/2 Friday and 12/3 Saturday- Old South Pearl WinterFest. 5-9 Friday, 11-5 Saturday. Draft horse and wagon rides, holiday market, food vendors, music and Santa. 1500 block of Old South Pearl. www.oldsouthpearl-street.com

12/2 Friday to 1/1- Denver Botanic Gardens Blossoms of Light. 5:30-9:30pm. Denver Botanic Gardens. 1007 York St. 720.865.3514, www.botanicgardens.org

12/2 Friday and 12/3 Saturday- Fancy Tiger's Holiday Homemade. Denver's alternative craft fair with 70 crafters! Fri. 5-10pm, Sat. 10am-4pm. 1770 Sherman St, Sherman Events Center. www.fancytiger.com

12/3 Saturday- Snack with Santa. Denver Children's Museum, 10-1pm. FREE with museum admission. www.mychildsmuseum.org

12/3, 12/4, 12/10, 12/11 Saturday and Sunday- 51st Annual Georgetown Christmas Market. European-inspired market with handcrafted gifts, carolers, horse-drawn wagon rides, roasted chestnuts, St. Nicholas. 10am-6pm. FREE. www.historicgeorgetown.org/spevents/xmarket.htm

12/3, 12/10, 12/11 and 12/17- Santa Claus Special at Colorado Railroad Museum. Trains decked out for holidays. Train departs every 30 minutes 10am-4 pm. Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot chocolate. www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org

12/3 to 12/20- Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum. Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company. 20-year Denver tradition celebrates holidays from around the world through dance, music, spoken word. Byron Theatre, Newman Center for Performing Arts, Univ. of Denver, 2344 E. Iliff Ave. Tickets: www.cleoparkerdance.org or 303.295.1759 ext. 13

12/3 Saturday- Denver Waldorf School Holiday Fair. 10am-3pm. Vendors, food, crafts, carriage rides, etc. Denver

Waldorf School, 940 Fillmore St. www.denver-waldorf.org

12/4 Sunday- Lowry Winter Festival, 3-6pm. Santa, mini-train rides, carriage rides, musical performances, hot cocoa and popcorn! www.lowry.org/announcements/lowry-winter-festival

12/4 Sunday- Denver Brass, I'll be Home for Christmas. 2:30pm. Plymouth Congregational Church, 3501 S Colorado Blvd, Englewood. FREE/Donations suggested. www.denverbrass.org

12/4 Sunday- A Colorado Christmas at Four Mile Historic Park. Horse-drawn rides, historic holiday activities. 12-4pm. Adults \$5; military w/ID and seniors \$4; youth 7-10 \$3; under 7 free. www.fourmilepark.org

12/9 Friday- Temple Micah's 4th Top Latke Cook-off & Hanukah Party. RSVP only. Check www.micahdenver.org or contact Elaine.lee@micahdenver.org, 303.388.4239 for tickets. Chefs free. Service and concert follow. Bring candles. Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St.

12/9 Friday-12/23 Friday- Winter Wonderlights at Wildlife Experience. 5:30-8:30pm nightly. 9am Breakfast with Santa, 12/10, 17, 23 and 24. Tickets: www.thewildlifeexperience.org

12/9 Friday to 12/11 Sunday. Colorado Christmas. Colorado Symphony. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

12/9 Friday and 12/10 Saturday- Hammonds Candy Cane Festival. Santa and Mrs. Claus, storytelling, caroling, cookie decorating, face painting, trolley rides, etc. 9am-5pm. 5735 N. Washington St. www.hammondscandies.com or 303.333.5588 Ext. 110

12/10 Saturday-Kids Marketplace at Denver's Clayton College, homemade products made by youth, 10am-2pm. 3801 MLK Blvd. (at Colorado)

12/10 to 12/23- Butterfly Pavilion Living Lights, Illuminating Small Wonders. Thousands of lights illuminate rainforest and outdoor gardens at Butterfly Pavilion. 5:30-9pm nightly. Tickets: www.butterflies.org

12/11 Sunday- The Denver Brass presents I'll be home for Christmas. Bethany Lutheran Church, 2:30pm. Tickets \$5 up. 4500 E Hampden Ave. www.denverbrass.org or 303.832.HORN. Repeats 12/17 Saturday 7:30pm.

12/11 Sunday- Tuba Christmas Concert. 1pm, Skyline Park, 16th and Arapahoe. Registration: 9am; rehearsal 10am. Auraria Events Center. FREE. www.tubachristmas.com or

303.556.8123

12/13 Tuesday and 12/14 Wednesday- Messiah by Candlelight. Colorado Symphony. Montview Presbyterian Church, 7:30pm. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

12/16 Friday and 12/18 Sunday- A John Denver Christmas with John Adams. Aurora Symphony Orchestra. Friday 7:30pm and Sunday 3pm. For entire family. Tickets: \$15/adults or \$12 students/seniors. aurorasymphony.org

12/16 Friday and 12/17 Saturday- Too Hot to Handel. Colorado Symphony. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th Street. 7:30pm. Tickets: [www.col-oradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org)

12/16 Friday-12/18 Sunday- Denver Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert. L2 Arts and Culture Center (1477 Columbine St. at Colfax Ave. Tickets: www.rmarts.org

12/16 Friday and 12/17 Saturday- "Twas the Night" Christmas Tour. Molly Brown House Museum. Readings and carols, treats and St. Nick. Tickets: \$13/members, \$16/nonmembers. 6 and 7pm. www.mollybrown.org

12/18 Sunday, 12/22 Thursday and 12/23 Friday- Denver Brass presents Joy to the World! Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center for Performing Arts, Univ. of Denver. Tickets: \$12 up. www.denverbrass.org 303.832.HORN.

12/20 Tuesday- Festival of Lights at Four Mile Park by Colorado Hebrew Chorale. Chanukah candle-lighting, music, food, instructional Israeli folk

dancing. Bring candles and menorahs! 5:30-8:30pm. 715 S. Forest St. Admission: Adults \$10, Students (w/ID)/Seniors (65+) \$8; members of FMHP & CHC \$5; under 7 free. www.four-milepark.org

Through 12/24 Saturday- Santa's Big Red Sack. Skewering of all the things we hold dear during the holidays. Tickets: \$25; senior/student \$22. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com, 303.321.5925.

12/26 Monday- Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Pepsi Center. Worldwide top-selling act concert of holiday favorites, with lasers, pyrotechnics and state-of-art lighting. www.ticketmaster.com

12/30 Friday- Bugs Bunny at the Symphony. Colorado Symphony. 7:30pm. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

12/31 Saturday- Noon Year's Eve at Children's Museum. 9am-4pm. Ball drops on the hour 10am-3pm. All activities free with paid admission. Denver Children's Museum, 2121 Children's Museum Dr. (I-25 and 23rd Ave.) www.mychildsmuseum.org

12/31 Saturday- Zoo Year's Eve at Denver Zoo. Kids-only overnight at the Zoo. 6pm-10am. Crafts, games, early-evening countdown to new year, morning zoo tour and more. \$75/member; \$85/nonmember. www.denverzoo.org

12/31 Saturday- A Night in Vienna. Colorado

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 AFWilliams 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 www.stapletonbusiness.com
303-393-7700

4th Tuesday
Adoptees in Search General
Meeting, 7:30 - 9pm; Montview
Presby. Church, Study Group
Room. AISCTC.org 303-232-
6302

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

2nd Wednesday
Adoptees in Search Support
Group, 7-8:30pm; Montview
Presby. Church, Robinson Rm.
AISCTC.org 303-232-6302

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. BluffLakeNa-
tureCenter.org. Neighbor-
hood Partners Environmental
Team 9am-Noon. Contact
Lcorrell@dotnet.net for info.


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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Group. meighanm@aim.com

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Community Christmas Celebration

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5:30 PM
Saturday, December 24th



More details at
www.StapletonChurch.com

Meeting at the historic Hangar 61
Sundays 9:00 & 10:45 AM | 8700 E. 21st Ave. | Denver, CO 303-321.1014

Symphony. 6:30pm. Boettcher Concert Hall, 1000 14th St. Tickets: www.coloradosymphony.org

12/31 Saturday- Annual New Year's Eve Downtown Fireworks Display. 2 shows, 9pm and midnight. 16th St. Mall.

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Art Walks and Exhibits:

12/2 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. www.artdistricton-santafe.com

12/2 Friday- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk. Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. www.denverart-walk.squarespace.com

12/2 Friday- Old South Pearl Art Walk. www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com

12/2 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District. www.cherrycreeknorth.com

12/2 Friday- Highlands Square First Friday. 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. www.highlands-square.com

12/7 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).

Looking for what to do in Denver? Visit www.denver.org/what-to-do or new www.GalleryGuideDenver.com. Search art galleries by district, medium and style; info on nearby points of interest; First Friday Art Walk info; exhibition openings; maps of Denver's Public Art collection; links to recommended cultural itineraries

Through 12/31- Across the Great Divide, A Photo Chronicle of the Counterculture. Denver Central Library, 10 W 14th Ave Parkway, Western History Art Gallery, Level 5.

Free Wednesday Activities for Seniors. 1st Wed., 10am, crafts/light lunch; 2nd Wed., 12pm, big lunch/entertainment; 4th Wed., 12pm, light lunch/bingo. RSVP: 303.439.7554 for big luncheon, call 303.807.0619. Bosworth House, 1400 Josephine St. Sponsor: Assistance League of Denver

12/19 Monday- Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs. Meets 3rd Mon. of month; open to all gardeners. For Dec. meeting, call Glenda: 303.377.3580.

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

Volunteers of America Foster Grandparent Program- Seeking lower income adults 55+ who love working with kids and can give 15 or more hours/week. Small stipend provided; transportation reimbursed. www.voacolorado.org, 303.297.0408

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

Denver Public Art Tours. FREE Public Art Tours by foot, bike, scooter, for art and architecture lovers. Reservations required. Signup: www.denvergov.org/publicart & PDF of Denver's Public Art Guide.

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

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

12/21 Thursday- HIV testing at Rocky Mountain Cares nonprofit for holistic HIV care. FREE. 1-5pm. 3rd Thursday monthly. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120.

303.393.8050, Adrian Pilarski

12/7 Wednesday- Newborn Care 101 Workshop. Specialist conducts hands-on workshop. Meet other expecting parents. \$35/single, \$50/couple. 11am-1pm. Naturally Loved Baby, 7349 E 29th Ave. www.smoothtransitions.net or 303.635.0979

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

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

12/6 Monday- Discovery of South Pole. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359.

12/8 Thursday- China, Closing for Business? 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724. Repeats various dates, venues.

11/15 Tuesday- Mozart: Musician Heal Thyself. 10am-12pm (10:45 refreshments). Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi, 303.388.4013 x307

12/27 Tuesday- Discovery of South Pole. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2326 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727

1/3/12 Monday- Suffrage of Women in U.S. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

LIBRARIES

For more library programs, check events calendar at denverlibrary.org. All branches close 4pm on Saturdays, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. All branches closed Sundays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, 2012.

Park Hill Library, 4705 Montview Blvd. 720.865.0250. Closed Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays. No Storytime from 12/22-12/31.

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. Please attend only ONE session/week.

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

Teens @ the Library Park Hill Branch Library invites Park Hill teens to get involved. Check out upcoming teen programs. Contact: Dawn Mendel, 720.865.0250

Colorado Blue Spruce Award In December, teens can vote for their favorite books nominated for Colorado Blue Spruce Award. No adults can participate! Look for nominated books display, read at least 3 and vote between Dec. 1-31. List at <http://teens.denverlibrary.org/find/genre/blue.html>.

Art Contest- Denver Public Library contest for grades 6-12 to create original art for 2012 Summer of Reading bookmarks/posters. Artwork to reflect theme "Night Vision." Any 2-dimensional art: color, black/white, digital, photo, collage. Must reproduce well on copier. Entry forms at <http://teens.denverlibrary.org/artcontest>. Due at any library by 1/13/12.

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

Tuesdays- All Ages Storytime. 10:30am

12/3 Saturday- Soda Can Jewelry and Ornaments. 2pm.

12/4 Sunday- December 4- Colorado Authors

Series: Joyce Lohse: Mining for the Real Baby Doe Tabor. 2pm

12/5 Monday- Rob Wivchar: Man of 1,000 Songs. 6pm.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

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

12/3 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics the first Saturday of month for kids ages 5-12. Each child receives Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

12/14 Wednesday- "Create Playdates" at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5 roar, bang, stomp 2nd Wed./month, 10am. Meet other tots for art making, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum admission; 5 and under free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000

12/10 Saturday and 12/24 Saturday-

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

Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to a Lowe's store to build FREE wooden project; get free apron, goggles, project-themed patch and certificate of merit on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

(continued on page 18)



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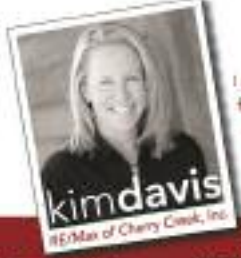


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303-340-3647 • www.dmischool.com**

LOCAL EVENT LISTINGS

(continued from page 17) **Sunday- Junior Rangers**, Morrison Nature Center, 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, www.auroragov.org/nature

12/3 and 12/10 Saturdays-Young Entrepreneurs Marketplace. FREE. 10am-2pm. 12/3 at 3550 E. First Ave. 12/10 at 401 S Pierce, Lakewood. www.yacenter.org/YEM

Through 1/15- Hansel and Gretel. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com

Tiny Tots Love Music- Denver Brass. Various dates and locations. www.denverbrass.org

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

January-March 2012- Stapleton All Sports Winter Programs. Basketball Skills and League Play, Cheer/Dance, and Wrestling. Kids 2½-11. www.stapletonallsports.com or contact Gabe Hurley: stapletonallsports@gmail.com or 720.985.6642.

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- Art classes. Stapleton location! www.smallhandsart.com

Start Art- Art classes. Startartkids.com

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

The Urban Farm- Embracing Horses; info@theurbanfarm.org

Club J- After-school programs at Jewish Community Center for kids grades K-5. www.jcc.org

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE Montview and Colorado Blvd. www.dmns.org

Through 1/8/2012- T-REX Encounter.

11/17 Thursday- Science Lounge. Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/nonmembers

Planetarium- Journey to the Stars; Black Holes; Cosmic Journey; One World, One Sky; Big Bird's Adventure. www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-shows

IMAX Movies- Born to Be Wild 3D; Dino MAX 3D Double Feature; Under the Sea 3D. Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$10/adult

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

Events at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton- 303.375.5475 www.NorthfieldStapleton.com

The Shops at Northfield Stapleton New I-70 exit, Central Park Blvd., now open.

12/23 and 12/24- Complimentary Horse & Carriage Rides: 12/23: 2-9pm; **12/24:-** Pickup at Bass Pro Shops and drop-off at Northfield's Main Street.

12/24 - Complimentary Horse & Carriage Rides: 10am-6pm – Pick up at Bass Pro Shops and drop off at Northfield's Main Street.

Bass Pro Events – 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com

12/1-12/24 – Santa's Workshop, breakfast with Santa, free photos and more. Call for breakfast reservations.

Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout the month. Call or visit website for details.

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

Call or visit website for all comedians and show times.

Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill – 303.728.9468, www.countrybarco.com
Call or visit website for all bands scheduled.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Reservations required for events marked** at 303.289.0930. Free unless noted. Hours: Tues.-Sun., 7am-5pm. Visitor Center: Tues.-Sun., 9am-4pm. Refuge closed all federal holidays. Directions to Refuge: www.fws.gov/rocky-mountainarsenal/

Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays- Wild Rides.** Wed, Sat 9:30-11:30am. Sun. 1-3pm 2-hour guided viewing tour. RSVP

Sunday Matinees: Nature movie every Sunday at 1:30pm. Families welcome.

SPORTS AND FITNESS

12/11 Sunday- Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis. 8am-12pm. Washington Park. www.jinglebellrundenver.org

12/31 Sunday- Resolution 5K. 5pm. Washington Park. www.resolution5K.com

STAPLETON/PARK HILL/LOWRY EVENTS

12/4 Sunday- Day of Movement at Dancing the Soul. Celebrate 1-year anniversary with: Yoga 8:30am, Zumba 9:45am, Nia 11am, Belly Dancing 12:15pm and Meditation 3:30pm. \$5/class. Dancing the Soul, 950-C Jersey St. www.dancingthesoul.com, 303.502.4586

12/7 Wednesday- Prayers for World Peace. Interfaith prayers to create peace in world. 7:30pm. Free Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. Denver@CentersOfLight.org or 720.308.9944

12/8 Thursday- Seminar: The Inner Meaning of Christmas. In-depth look from mystical standpoint of Christmas and how to have truly spiritual holy season. 7:30pm. Free Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. Denver@CentersOfLight.org or 720.308.9944

12/10 Saturday- Holiday Handmade Fair. 12-6pm. Local crafters/artists offer gifts for holidays and beyond. Free to attend. Sacred i Yoga 2212 Kearney, www.mysacredi.com

12/10 Saturday- Healthy Food Series: Creating Your Own Holiday Food Gifts. Create easy food gifts. 2-4pm. \$20. www.dancingthesoul.com or 303.502.4586. Dancing the Soul, 950 C Jersey St.

12/17 Saturday- Holiday Potluck and Caroling. 5:30pm. Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. Denver@LightLectureSeries.com, 720.308.9944

12/30 Friday- Free Conscious Movie. Women, War and Peace: Peace Unveiled. Documentary of 3 Afghani women risking lives to ensure women's rights. 7:30pm. Free Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. Denver@CentersOfLight.org, call 720.308.9944

12/17 Saturday- Potluck, Sharing and Mediation with Tama Kieves. Author of *This Time, Dance! Creating the Work You Love*. 6-9pm. FREE. Bring dish to share. Dancing the Soul, 950 C Jersey St. Register: www.dancingthesoul.com or 303.502.4586

12/18 Sunday- Renew and Restore for the Holidays. Margie Krest, yoga instructor/owner Dancing the Soul guides you through poses to renew body and spirit. 1:30-3:30pm. \$20 includes tea and chocolate. 950 C Jersey St. www.dancingthesoul.com or 303.502.4586

12/4 Theory and Practice of Meditative Traditions of India. With Mark Genco. 4-6pm. \$20. 2212 Kearney St. www.mysacredi.com

Fridays- i Play- 5:30-7pm. Open yoga; instructor present. Kids welcome. Donation only. 2212 Kearney St. www.mysacredi.com

Denver School of the Performing Arts- Various dance and music performances; many free! See website for details. Quebec and Montview. www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances

Central Park Recreation Center Info: www.denvergov.org/recreation, 750.865.0750 or Facebook Central Park Recreation Center. Registering for sports programs.

Sunday, 12/4- Breakfast with Santa. 9:30-11:30am.

THEATRE

Through 12/4- The Lion King. Buell Theatre, 14th and Curtis, Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

Through 12/17- A Christmas Twist. Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater, 7653 E 1st Pl. 303.562.3232, www.john-handtheater.com

Through 12/18- Escanaba. Aurora Fox Theatre, 9900 E. Colfax. www.aurorafoxartscenter.org, 303.739.1970

Through 12/24- A Christmas Carol. Stage Theatre, 14th and Curtis, Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

Through 12/24- Santa's Big Red Sack. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com, 303.321.5925.

Through 12/30- The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. 720.898.7200, www.arvada-center.org

Through 12/31- Girls Only, the Secret Comedy of Women. Garner Galleria Theatre, 14th and Curtis. Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

Through 1/8- Avenue Q. Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, www.vintagetheatre.com

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More Events...

Dec. 3—St. Nicholas Artisans' Marketplace and Luminaria Sale

The inaugural St. Nicholas Artisans' Marketplace & Luminaria Sale will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9am–4pm at St. Thomas Church, 2201 Dexter St. in Park Hill. Luminaria and luminaria kits (\$10) will also be sold there on Dec. 10 and 17 from 9am–1pm. The marketplace provides unique gifts starting at \$5, with every purchase helping Colorado's local economy. The luminaria sale is part of "Light the Night with Love," created by community leaders to encourage people of all beliefs and ethnicities in Park Hill, Stapleton, Lowry and City Park to place traditional luminaria along sidewalks near their homes and businesses at dusk on Christmas Eve for a show of community and love.

To be "green," bring a large bucket to transport sand for the luminaria kits; otherwise, containers are provided free. All proceeds go to local and overseas programs supported by St. Thomas Church. Full details at facebook.com/Luminaria-LightsDenver or contact Jeannie McFarland Johnson at jmcjohnson@csg-sponsorship.com or 720-840-1914.

Dec. 8–10—Denver Public Library Holiday Used Book Sale

The Denver Public Library will hold a Holiday Used Book Sale Thursday to Saturday, Dec. 8–10 at the Central Library. Over 30,000 used books, CDs and DVDs, including cookbooks, children's books, popular DVDs and more, will be sold at bargain prices: hardbacks \$3; trade paperbacks \$2; DVDs \$2; CDs \$1.

The sale will be at the Central Library, 10 W. 14th Ave. Parkway, in the B2 Conference Center. Hours: Thursday/Friday 10am–5pm; Saturday 10am–4pm. Bring your own reusable bags. All proceeds benefit the Denver Public Library (www.denverlibrary.org).

Dec. 9—Colorado Chorale to Perform in Park Hill

Colorado's longest-running community choir, Colorado Chorale, presents "Christmas Collage" at Park Hill United Methodist Church on Friday, Dec. 9, at 7:30pm. The program will feature renowned harpist Barbara Loepke-Simms with an eclectic repertoire of treasured and unique holiday songs, including Kirke Mechem's *Seven Joys of Christmas* and Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*. Students will collect nonperishable food items at the door (\$5 off adult ticket for 2 or more items) for the Greater Park Hill Community Food Pantry, which serves hundreds of needy families monthly. Tickets: Adults (18+) \$17/Senior (62+) \$14/Youth (5-17yrs) \$5. Available at www.coloradochorale.org, 303.929.3463 or at the door. Doors open at 7pm.

Dec. 9–Jan. 1—Zoo Lights and Holiday Events

The largest lighting event in Colorado, Zoo Lights, runs nightly from 5–9pm Dec. 9 to Jan. 1 and features 38 acres of brilliant lights and 150 animated animal sculptures. Festivities include animal demonstrations, carolers, music, dancers, ice carving, holiday treats at warming stations, Kwanzaa events and the Zoo Year's Eve party beginning at 5pm on Dec. 31 with entertainment and crafts that leads up to an early 9pm countdown to the New Year. Denver Zoo's Bunk with the Beasts program on Dec. 22 and 31 lets kids explore how wild animals adapt to winter habitats and then sleep overnight at the zoo, just like the animal residents. Sign up at www.denverzoo.org/education/bunkwithBeasts.asp or call 303.376.4894.

This year, tickets can also be purchased at www.denverzoo.org. Zoo Lights admission: \$9/adults (12-64), \$5/children (3-11), \$7/seniors (65+), children under 3 free. Members get \$2 off all tickets. For more, call 303.376.4800 or visit www.denverzoo.org.

Dec. 11—A Gullah Christmas and Christmas Spirituals

Lucy M. Walkers will showcase music of the African-American Gullah people of coastal South Carolina and Georgia at a performance at 2pm, Sunday, Dec. 11, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 2201 Dexter St. Ancestors of enslaved Africans, the Gullah are known for their music, storytelling and language with elements of various African languages. Walkers, founder of Eden Theatrical Workshop, the oldest continually operating community theatre run by an African-American woman, will be accompanied by singers and tell Gullah stories, punctuated by Christmas spirituals and songs written by enslaved Africans, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* and *Children Go Where I Send Thee*. A reception will follow. Free admission; offering optional. Contact: Elizabeth Bennett at 303.322.2230.

Through Feb. 2012 at DAM—Rupprecht Matthies: ¿Being Home?

Rupprecht Matthies: ¿Being Home?, the community-inspired, interactive artwork that changes with each presentation, has returned to the Denver Art Museum. Families can enjoy the new presentation of colorful and plush fabric words and even cut out their own paper word and add it to the installation with a special hands-on Hotspot activity, available every weekend.

German artist Rupprecht Matthies breaks down traditional barriers between artist and visitor in this collaborative process of displaying words. He inspires communication and discussion, proving the power of a single word. ¿Being Home? is located on the first level of the Frederic C. Hamilton Building, 100 W. 14th Ave. Parkway, and on view through Feb. 12, 2012. Included in regular museum admission; free days generally first Saturday monthly. More at www.denverartmuseum.org.

Charitable Causes

Dec. 6 is Colorado Gives Day

Colorado Gives Day was designed to increase philanthropy in Colorado. It is a 24-hour period set aside for donating to Colorado charities through the website https://givingfirst.org. The 2010 event raised \$8.7 million. The 2011 online giving event will be held for a 24-hour period starting at 12am on Tuesday, Dec. 6. First-Bank has donated \$300,000 as an incentive fund to be given to each nonprofit, proportionate to that organization's share of all donations received. Detailed information about Colorado nonprofits, including amount of funds used for direct services and funds used for management, can be found at https://givingfirst.org, and charities can be located by name, category or zip code.

Charities in NE Denver/NW Aurora include: Anchor Center for Blind Children, Bluff Lake Nature Center, Bonfils Blood Center, Bren's Place, Denver Children's Home, Downtown Aurora Visual Arts, Environmental Learning for Kids, Food Bank of the Rockies, Heritage Camps for Adoptive Families, Lowry Family Center, Planned Parenthood, Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, Summer Scholars, The Bike Depot and The Other Side Arts.

GIVE Denver Adopt a Family, Teen and Senior Programs

GIVE Denver and Denver Human Services (DHS) seek donors this holiday season to adopt a family, teen or senior referred by DHS social workers. Adopt a Family donors get a wish list from the family for children in foster care, homeless or whose families cannot provide for them. Adopt a Teen is for teens in foster care or awaiting foster care/adoption placement. Adopt a Senior is for elderly or developmentally or physically disabled individuals.

To adopt a family, teen or senior, go to www.denvergov.org/Give and fill out a form indicating the number of families, teens or seniors you wish to adopt. Once submitted, a GIVE Denver rep contacts

the donor with info about their holiday adopted family, teen or senior.

Check donations are welcome, payable to "Denver Human Services," with "GIVE Denver—Adopt a Family" on the memo line. Mail to or drop off at GIVE Denver, 1200 Federal Blvd., Denver, CO 80204. Donations are 100 percent tax-deductible. More at www.denvergov.org/GIVE or call 720.944.GIVE (4483).

Denver Children's Home Wish Lists for Children and Families

Denver Children's Home assists Colorado's most vulnerable children and families struggling with poverty, abuse, neglect, exposure to violence and with related chronic mental health problems and learning disabilities. Donors can help by fulfilling a wish list for a child or family; providing essentials such as toiletries, clothing, alarm clocks, hangers and other supplies; and giving food donations for holiday meals such as fruits, meat and other items.

To donate or get involved, contact Lindsay Leuthold at 720.881.3366 or lleuthold@denverchildrenshome.org. The Denver Children's Home is located at 1501 Albion St. and treats children and their families regardless of ability to pay. To learn more: www.denverchildrenshome.org or 303.399.4890.

Music Lovers Starting NE Denver Guild to Support Colorado Symphony

Music lovers, classical to jazz to pops, can support music education for Denver's youth by forming a new Guild unit for the NE Denver neighborhoods. Last year, Guild donations enabled over 20,000 students to attend Colorado Symphony concerts. Guild members plan fundraisers such as the upcoming Jazz-Classical Fusion event, promote concert attendance, sponsor music education seminars, and have the opportunity to attend free, open orchestra rehearsals and share coffee and pastries with (continued on page 26)

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Stapleton Front Porch

19

December 2011



Premium Fishwrap* by Jon Meredith

Over All the Years

Christmas cards are one of the ways people keep in touch with old friends over the years. This is a fictional account (loosely based on life experiences I've observed) of how important those cards can be to friendships.

December 17, 1983—Hey y'all! How is everything way out in Colorado? Everyone misses you SO much back here. I hope you decide to move back after ski season. I'll try to come out before the season ends. Have a great Christmas out there and party like crazy on New Year's. Remember last New Year's, senior year in college and we all closed the Boston bars?

December 12, 1985—I had such a great time

at your wedding, I feel like it was yesterday. Sorry about the little drama between Brian and me. I broke it off right after that. Still working in Cambridge, making next to nothing. My Dad wants me to move back to Texas and I may have to. 26 and making just over minimum wage with a college degree. Sorry you guys had to move down to Denver, but it sounds like you both got good jobs. Merry Xmas and let's make sure we get together sometime this year in the west.

December 21, 1988—The baby is SO cute, he looks just like you. I am making him a quilt and will send it after the New Year. Dating a guy (an officer in the Air Force), who is very conservative but for some reason I really like him. We'll see

what happens when he finds out I went to some liberal hippie college in the Northeast. Love you guys and give that baby a big kiss from me. Happiest Holidays!

March 23, 1990—Sorry I didn't send a card at Christmas. Dan and I got married in a hurry because he is going to be deployed to Kuwait. We may be going to war with Saddam Hussein. We really didn't have anyone there except our families. Pray for him if we go to war. Your adorable child is getting so big. He is still dragging around that old quilt I made. Love you guys.

December 10, 1995—I have been horrible at keeping in touch. Thanks so much for coming down to Waco to visit a few years back. It meant so much to me. Dan is still in rehab at the VA but he is doing better and seems happier. I am trying to keep it together. Our daughter doesn't understand why Daddy can't walk. I am still angry that he made it through the war and was injured in a training mission here. Your hands must be full with the twins. Have a joyful Christmas and help me pray for Dan's recovery.

December 1999—Thanks for the card. I am a mess. It is difficult to get out of bed in the morning. I don't think the Docs at the VA knew how depressed Dan was. I have to get out of this funk and move on with my life for my own sake, let alone my daughter's. Thanks for coming down for the service. I should try to come to

Colorado this year after almost 20 years.
December 29, 2003—Hey, you guys, I am so upset to hear you two are now separated. I'm sure it is really hard raising three kids with both of you working. You just have to make sure you don't grow apart and care for each other. You two are great together and I insist you find a way to work things out. You both were there for me after Dan's accident and I want to be there for you too.

December 13, 2010—The card you sent me about you two reaffirming your vows made my year and made me cry. Life can really knock you around and you two found a way to get up and keep going. Your kids are almost out on their own and now you can devote time to each other. We haven't seen much of each other over all the years, yet I think I am as close to you two as I have ever been and closer than I am with anyone else. It is hard to think I met you in freshman English.

December 1, 2011—I booked my flight, I'm comin' to Denver for Christmas. Can you teach me how to ski? You still owe me lessons from 1983. See you soon and thanks...thanks for everything. It will truly be a merry Christmas when I see you.



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.

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Tree Squirrels' Secrets

Squirrels are probably the “most observed” creature on Earth. Whether it is those that leap tree to tree, scurry on the ground between our feet when we are taking a hike, or play peek-a-boo with us from their burrows, if you think hard enough, you too can recall an interesting squirrel sighting. I would bet that everyone has at least one.

The squirrel family is comprised of 278 different species. They make their habitats on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. In North America, there are two species that “fly,” eight that are tree dwellers and 56 who live on the ground. Here in Colorado, the largest squirrel is the yellow-bellied marmot. Marmots can weigh up to 10 or more pounds when full grown. They resemble woodchucks and live in and in between the alpine meadows and the foothills. The smallest squirrel in the Centennial State is the campground variety, the least chipmunk. They reside in western and central Colorado, and weight just one to two ounces. And the most abundant squirrel in Colorado? That would be the prairie dog.

For us Front Range residents, we are most familiar with the rusty-red fox squirrel that nests in our neighborhood trees. Their two Colorado cousins are the Albert's and pine squirrels. They make their home in mountain pine forests. Both are easy to identify. The Albert's squirrel boasts a long black coat and eye-catching, ear-tip tufts, while the pine squirrel is a loud, nonstop chatterbox.

Tree squirrels are either loathed for their destructive behavior or appreciated for their wild entertainment and ingenuity. As for me, I fall deep into the latter camp. I am impressed by these industrious, canine-taunting, death-defying high-wire acrobats.

Zoologists estimate squirrels have been here, in one form or another, for over 35 million years. This has given them plenty of time to evolve. Take, for example, their uncanny ability to climb head-first down a tree, stop midway and calmly stare down your dog while it is practically coming out of its skin. Tree squirrels have evolved to develop double-jointed hind legs. Their ankle anatomy is such that the joint can swivel 180 degrees, so that when needed, the hind feet can face straight back, while the front feet face forward, together steadying the critter in its vertical pose.

These same back legs have powerful muscles that can catapult the squirrel four feet straight up, eight feet sideways and, when necessary, absorb the shock of a 20-foot plunge off of your garage rooftop.

Next time you are driving around and you see a squirrel performing a high-wire act, take notice of its bushy tail. This appendage is actually a multifunction tool. First and foremost, the squirrel uses its tail for balance. The gyrating extremity helps steady the animal. Should the squirrel slip and fall, the tail will fluff up and serve as a pseudo parachute. It also operates as a thermoregulator. In the hot summer, warm blood circulates through the tail where body heat is efficiently released. The flexible tail can be curled over the body to provide shade from the sun and in the winter, insulate it from the cold.

Speaking of winter, this is a good time to spot a tree squirrel's leaf drey, or den, in our exposed trees. That big ball of leaves up in the branches of your neighbor's Aspen tree is actually a squirrel's leaf nest made with pine needles, twigs and dried leaves. The interior is lined with soft fur, feathers, moss and cloth. Older trees often have semi-enclosed hollows where



An enterprising fox squirrel raids a Halloween display in search of an early morning pumpkin seed snack. Photo by Marko Babiak

squirrels build comfortable cavity dens that shelter them from the elements and from barking predators.

Local fox squirrels are seed and nut hoarders. We have all seen them sprinting around a park or in our backyard looking for a place to stash their treasure. Not only do we watch them, so do other squirrels. Squirrels are opportunists. They poach food from nature, your garden, even your fall pumpkin display. They also steal from one another. In an effort to thwart prospective bandits, squirrels will proactively trick their nosy neighbors into believing they have buried, say, a nut. I have witnessed a 17th Ave. Parkway squirrel bury a pine cone, dig it up, rebury it 10 yards away and then do it again. I even encountered a squirrel who thought I was a spy. He dug a hole, pretended to push in an acorn, then covered up his sham and dashed off! I thought to myself, oh, the extremes that these little creatures go to keep their secrets from us! How ingenious.

Marko and John Babiak are Stapleton residents. Marko, 11, is an avid wildlife photographer. John is an enrichment teacher and teaches ecology classes. He can be reached at NatureRangerJohn@aol.com.



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DSST seniors who will be docents include (clockwise from front left): Irving Hernandez, Krin Ali, Nickolas Golden, Iona Tan, and Alan Hernandez. The graffiti art shown was created by two DSST students who created a precise sketch of the final design and even designated exact paint colors and type of brushes in their proposal for the project.

Cherry Creek Mobile Art Exhibit Comes to DSST

By Carol Roberts

On Monday December 12, northeast Denver residents are invited to view the Cherry Creek Mobile Arts exhibit at the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) between 6 and 8pm. Students who usually spend their time on STEM courses (science, technology, engi-

neering and math) will be trained as docents to guide guests and provide information about the artworks and the artists.

DSST teachers Kate Dresher, Jim Stephens and Molly Lepore want to add an "A" for arts, (calling it their STEAM initiative) to broaden the students' exposure to creativity and innovation. Dresher explains, "There are six 21st

century skills that are vital to the success of the future employees of America. Two of the six are creativity and innovation. We feel responsible for exposing the kids to all six, but these two, innovation and creativity, are more challenging to the daily curriculum than the other four—communication, collaboration, problem solving and critical thinking."

Schools have to go through a competitive application process to get the art exhibit. Dresher says, "When you talk about the diversity of our school, the free and reduced lunches, the high expectations and all the kids accepted to a four-year college, people pay attention. And then they came out for a site visit and they were really impressed with the kids as well as with the space."

Krin Ali, a DSST senior explains why he wants to be a docent. "When I first came into the school it was just like an empty canvas, and the first thing that came into my mind is that an empty canvas needs to be painted on. With the whole docent idea I hope to emphasize art more and be able to get our artistic values out so people don't just think we're all left side of the brain." He goes on to say, "Art interests me because I feel as if I need to be more of a well-rounded person... Being a docent allows me to teach others why art is important and how to appreciate it, because a lot of people don't appreciate true art."

Another docent, senior Mercy Olaka, says she'd like to "learn a bit more sophisticated art vocabulary and see the different kind of artworks out there." Olaka says she does cartoon portraits of people and thinks being a docent will help her "branch out, not just stick to what I'm good at. I can try something new and maybe I'll be good at that too."

Dresher believes the exhibit offers an opportunity for the community, including families with children elementary age and older, to gain exposure to the arts in a convenient location close to home.

For more information visit <http://www.cherryarts.org/education/mobile-art-gallery> or contact Kate Dresher at dresher.kate@scienceandtech.org or 303.524.6330.

Recognitions

Local Designer and Contractor Receive CARE Awards for Stapleton Remodels

On Oct. 28, the Home Builders Association (HBA) of Metro Denver presented Colorado Awards for Remodel Excellence (CARE) to Stapleton residents Diane Gordon, architect/designer of Gordon Design, and contractor Jim Baudinat of Best Builders. Together they received first prize for one Stapleton basement remodel and second prize for their other Stapleton entry. Ms. Gordon also received a first place award for a kitchen remodel. The contest recognizes commercial and residential remodeling in many categories. CARE is open to all, not just HBA Denver members. Contact Baudinat at 720.276.7704 or www.bestbuildersdenver.com and Gordon at www.dianegordondesign.com.

Two Stapleton Artists Win Awards

Two Stapleton artists won awards at the Lone Tree Art Exhibition and Sale, which runs through Dec 31. Valli Thayer McDougale was awarded second place in the water media category for her painting, Penumbra. She also received honorable mention in the same category for The Conversation. David Gardner received honorable mention in the water media category for A Balance(d) Painting. The exhibition, at the Lone Tree Arts Center, 10075 Commons St., Lone Tree, is open M-F, 8am-5pm. Artwork is available for purchase. For more about the exhibition, call 303.708.1818 or email kirstin.bomgardner@cityoflonetree.com.

Awards for Leadership in Community Health

On Friday, November 18, more than 270 people attended the annual be well awards ceremony and community event. Attendees included representatives from community organizations, local and state government and administrative agencies, foundations, nonprofits, medical facilities and residents of the five *be well* zones: Stapleton, Northeast Park Hill, Greater Park Hill, East Montclair and Northwest Aurora.

be well is a grassroots community health initiative of the Stapleton Foundation that works to improve health outcomes through prevention and direct access to treatment. Presently, 35 *be well* block captains go door to door to educate residents and employees about good

(continued on page 26)

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS...

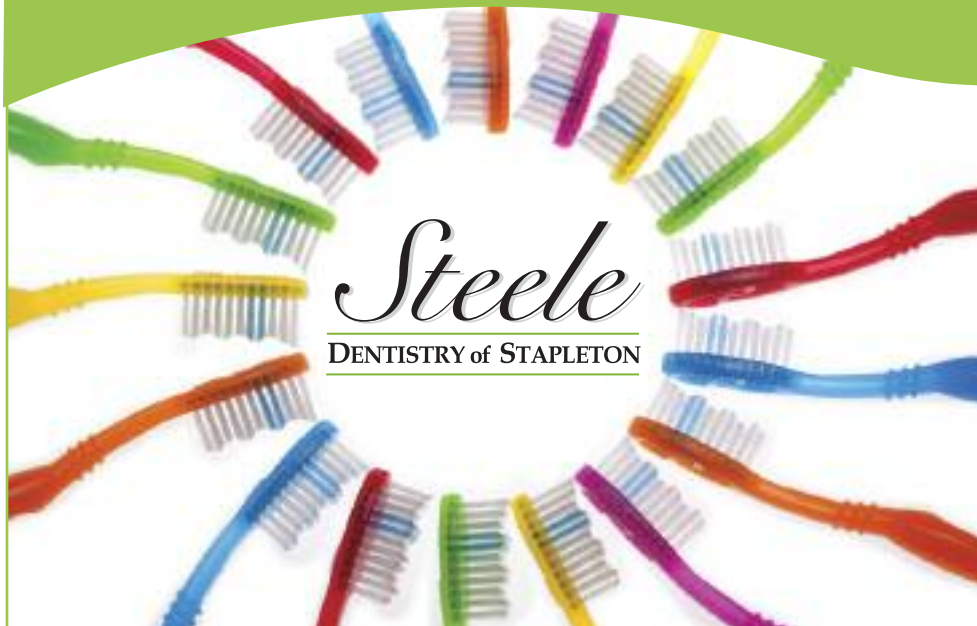


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Holidays Are
a Time to
Be Together
*But Who Decides
Where to Go?*

A mom and daughter team up
to offer a creative approach to
family decision-making.

By Kristen Nadeau, MD and
Kalina Kulig, age 8

Oldest daughter (with sad, drawn look,
reminiscent of an orphan from Oliver
Twist): “Mom, I’m so bored and tired
of regular days. We neeeever do any-
thing exciting. Can’t we do something
special this weekend so it doesn’t just
feel like an ordinary day and really cele-
brate the holidays?”

Mom (looking back over shoulder while
chopping vegetables with one hand,
changing the toddler’s diaper with the
other hand): “What’s that, hon?”

Oldest daughter (indignantly, hands on
hips): “Mom!”

Mom: “What did you have in mind?”

Oldest daughter: “I don’t even know what
to suggest since we have never done
anything special before.”

Mom (rolling eyes): “Well, then, Tiny Tim,
why don’t you look at the list of holiday
activities printed in the Front Porch?”

Oldest daughter (eyeing her suspiciously):
“Is this a trick to increase my time
spent reading?”

Mom: “No, seriously.”

Oldest daughter flops down on couch,
looking through the paper, while Mom
chases the toddler who has run out the
door and down the sidewalk in his dia-
per...

Oldest daughter (shouting out door):
“Mom, I’ve got it!! Hammond’s candy
for a tour, get samples of candy, learn
how to make candy, and then buy in-
gredients to create our own candy fac-
tory at home!!! It’s perfect!”



Photo by Adrian Diubaldo

Mom (rolling eyes): “Didn’t you just go
there with your school? How would
that be special to go to again?”

Oldest daughter: “But it would be different
to go with our family!”

Mom: “Let’s just try to think of another
idea.”

Oldest daughter: “But why? And who’s Tiny
Tim?”

Mom (getting the steamed broccoli out of
the microwave): “I don’t like all the
focus on candy. It’s not healthy and it’s
so messy. Tiny Tim is a character
from—oh, that’s it—A Christmas
Carol! Why don’t we go see A Christ-
mas Carol as a family—how perfect! It’s
a classic with so many good lessons, like
not being greedy, and helping others!”

Oldest daughter (talking while trying to do
a handstand): “But mom, some parts of
it are scary, and it’s too long for brother
to sit through without crying, and I
don’t want to sit in a dark theater, I
want something full of color at the holi-
days!”

Mom (nodding her head, agreeing): “OK,
let’s sit and look at the list together.”
(They sit and read through the list,
point at things here and there, one nod-
ding yes, the other nodding no,
until...)

Oldest daughter (beaming): “Mom, this is
perfect, Blossoms of Light at the
Botanic Gardens! It has it all—colorful,
cheery holiday lights, and brother will
love the decorations (he hasn’t stopped
talking about Halloween decorations
yet) and the younger ones don’t have to

be quiet, and I love how the lights
shine on the water in the ponds, and

Kristen Nadeau, MD chats with 8-year-old
Kalina in the kitchen as her husband Clark
Kulig, MD plays with Cassandra, 5, and
Orion, 2 at the table.

sparkle in the snow, and if it’s cold we
can go inside, and they have the super
cool Venus fly traps, and the kids’ part
of the garden where sister loves to run
through the paths...and don’t forget,
they even grow vegetables at the garden,
mom, your favorite—how could you
say no to vegetables! And then we can
get hot chocolate after!”

Mom (beaming): “I can’t argue with that.
Let’s get everyone dressed up cozy and
warm and head out!”

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How to Apply to Denver Public Schools

By Sophia Briegleb, SUN Education Committee, SUNEducationCommittee@gmail.com

Denver Public Schools (DPS) will be using a new choice process for the 2012-2013 school year. Unlike previous years, parents will not be able to apply to and receive offers from multiple schools. Beginning this year, parents will complete one choice form. On this form, parents will rank their top five schools, including charter and innovative schools. This form will be available at <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org> on Dec. 1, 2011, and is due by Jan. 31, 2012. It can be returned to any DPS school, or to DPS at 900 Grant St. by 5pm on Jan. 31. Please remember that some schools may have additional enrollment steps not specified on this form. Parents will receive an acceptance letter to one school in the mail in early March 2012.

Stapleton children entering K through fifth grade are guaranteed a spot at Bill Roberts (K-8), Swigert International School (K-5), or Westerly Creek (K-5). Tuition-based Early Childhood Education (ECE) for 3- and 4-year-olds at all three schools has limited spaces filled by a lottery. Middle-school options for NE Denver include Bill Roberts, Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST), and next year, McAuliffe International School for sixth-graders only.

Please visit the SUN Education Committee webpage for information about each Stapleton DPS school, links to private schools in Stapleton, and lists of schools/preschools surrounding Stapleton: www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org/education.

Contact the Sun Education Committee at SUNEducationCommittee@gmail.com

Extermination of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs along 26th Avenue

By Amanda Allshouse, SUN Outreach Chairperson, Public Health Researcher

On Nov. 1, multiple colonies of black-tailed prairie dogs along 26th Ave. between Iola and Clinton streets were exterminated. Prairie dog holes were injected with pellets containing Fumitoxin® (aluminum phosphide), stuffed with newspaper, and covered with soil to ensure proper displacement of gas. The Humane Society of the U.S. considers this process, which leads to internal bleeding that results in death, inhumane. Since Fumitoxin is dangerous to pets and children, the EPA mandates signage when this poison is being applied. Carbon monoxide is considered more humane, but less effective, and therefore more expensive.

Developers wishing to relocate prairie dogs face CO Senate Bill 99-111, prohibiting the relocation of prairie dogs across county boundaries without approval from the county commissioner. This stems from the historical belief that prairie dogs are an agricultural pest. While a pest to ranchers, the black-tailed prairie dog's burrowing and other behavior sustains prairie biodiversity. It is a key-stone species in the shortgrass prairie ecoregion and its extinction would be detrimental to species dependent on it. Denver previously offered a trapping and relocation program; however, the funding for this position was recently eliminated. Unlike Boulder and Fort Collins, which define humane extermination, Denver has no laws regarding humane treatment of prairie dogs.

Please contact resident prairie dog advocate Brooke Grey (bdsimpson@gmail.com, 303.324.1444) for further information about resident-organized initiatives. The extermination project was managed by M. A. Mortenson and authorized by Forest City.

Sources:

Ashley Delaup, former Denver Urban Wildlife Specialist

Lindsey Sterling-Krank, Director, Prairie Dog Coalition, Humane Society of the U.S.

Monroe Trotman, III, Senior Project Engineer, Mortenson Construction
http://wildlife.state.co.us/SiteCollectionDocuments/DOW/Wildlife-Species/SpeciesOfConcern/BlackTailedPrairieDog/PDF/Species_Threats.pdf

The public is invited to meet city transportation officials, discuss transportation issues, and suggest solutions

Wednesday, December 7, 7pm

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Letters to the Editor

Prairie Dogs

Dear editors,

Yesterday before the snow, there was a crew of six or so people exterminating prairie dogs directly across the street from my son's house located on 26th near Fulton. This entails a cyanide pellet dropped into the hole. Then they stuff newspaper down the hole and shovel it over with dirt. This works efficiently when there is precipitation coming by way of a winter storm. All the authorities will tell me is that this is the state-approved method of killing the prairie dogs.

Not only is this cruel and inhumane, but I contend that this is dangerous to people's dogs, children, not to mention the hawks that have been feasting on the prairie dogs. I am told that prairie dogs are rodents and carry disease, thus they have to be killed. But like I said, I think this is a reckless and dangerous way to deal with the problem. I just want the people here to know what is going on.

Sincerely, Joan Cimyotte

Earlier this year, the Front Porch had a wonderful article about prairie dogs and how they communicated with one another. Since I live close to the group off of 26th, I read the article with considerable interest. All summer long, I have watched these animals and enjoyed observing them interact with one another. I was deeply saddened to learn this week that most of them have now been exterminated as part of future development. Could someone tell me if this was really necessary. I was also told by a man working in the field that poison was put into their holes. What type of poison was used?

For a community that markets itself as eco- and animal-friendly, I hope my concerns can be addressed.

Thanks, Patricia Olson, veterinarian



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Why Prairie Dogs Were Exterminated

Forest City is “trying to create a more appealing view for people who live on the north side of 26th. Eventually those prairie dogs are going to have to be exterminated anyhow, so what we’re trying to do, because the timetables for the park and the residential development are unclear, is clean up that area and make it more appealing until it is under development,” says Tom Gleason, VP public relations. “A fence from Iola to Fulton that’s more attractive than the wire fence and a temporary jogging path on the north side of the fence are among the things that are planned for that area.” “That whole strip along the south side of 26th from Clinton to Fulton Street is planned to be a

State Regulation of Extermination

The Colorado Department of Agriculture, Pesticides Program regulates the methods that are used in the extermination of prairie dogs, and product use in Colorado follows label instructions set by EPA. John Scott, pesticides program manager, says companies must be licensed and individual employees must be licensed in the specific category they work in. The latest regulations for Fumitoxin® (aluminum phosphide), the product used at Stapleton, require it to be 100 feet from residences. Even when the regulation was 15 feet, as it was two years ago, Scott says, “There have been no documented cases where it has seeped into a residence.” He goes on to say the Fumitoxin® pellets are made of clay and start breaking down into inert dust within hours.

Monarch Montessori Charter Denied by DPS Board

The DPS board, on November 17, voted to deny the charter application from Monarch Montessori. The board’s resolution, which is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com, lists specific reasons for the denial. According to Melanie Withers of Monach Montessori, “We are currently appealing to the State Board of Education and

Upcoming Construction Schedule—29th Ave. & CPB

By Aaron Woodward, Parsons and Goodland Construction
The 29th Ave. and Central Park Blvd. (CPB) Intersection Enhancement Project includes new left turn lanes, traffic signals, ADA pedestrian ramps, signage, and pavement markings. The northbound Central Park Blvd. and westbound 29th Ave. left turn lanes, square-about island roadway, and several ADA ramps have been installed but are not yet open to traffic. Dwarf pine trees and numerous deciduous trees from the square-a-bout island have been transplanted. Plans for early December include installing

Quebec Square in the Process of Being Sold

Forest City has confirmed that a portion of Quebec Square is in the process of being sold and, according to Tom Gleason, vice president for public relations, the sale "is in a due diligence stage so no more details are available at this time. Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Linens N' Things were all pad sales when Quebec Square first opened, so they are not part of the pending sale." According to Tammi Holloway, Stapleton Development Corporation General Counsel, the existing covenants will apply to the new owner.

25-acre park,” says Gleason. That park land is in the city of Aurora but still owned by DIA. “There are a number of discussions that have to be conducted with Aurora that include things like permits, drainage and irrigation, who’s going to manage it, and the street extension issues between Aurora and Denver, so we don’t know what the timetable is. It will probably be developed on a phased basis,” says Gleason. Gleason stated the prairie dogs couldn’t be relocated because there’s no place to relocate to, so Forest City authorized the hiring of “a licensed contractor that has been around for 20 years and worked for other municipalities in the metro area.”

“The way it works is moisture in the air activates this product and turns it into a gas. That gas seeps into the hole. The prairie dogs inhale the product... once in the lungs it starts to dissolve the alveoli. The lungs are unable to produce oxygen and the animal dies of hypoxia.” (inadequate oxygenation of the blood) Another method that may be used, says Scott, is anti-coagulant baits, which make the animal bleed to death. However, he points out that if the food supply is good, “bait acceptance is poor and you get poor control.” One of the less commonly used methods, says Scott, is carbon monoxide bombs, which are not as effective as aluminum phosphide. Carbon monoxide is slower acting and usually requires multiple treatments.

should hear back in March of 2012. We feel confident with our application as we have already received the first grant from the Walton Foundation and we were recommended an approval by the SIAC, District School Improvement Accountability Council. We are moving forward as though we have been approved...”

the southbound Central Park Blvd. and eastbound 29th Ave. left turn lanes and ADA ramps. New signals will then be erected, and new traffic signage and roadway striping will finish off the project, hopefully by the end of December, but all scheduled work is weather-dependent. *Feedback as to how well Parsons and Goodland Construction are accommodating the public during this construction project is welcome. Comments or concerns should be reported on the Parsons Hotline: 303.764.8899.*

"For every parcel of land the Stapleton Development Corporation has sold to Forest City, there are design and architecture covenants recorded against the land. All landowners are subject to the covenants. If a landowner wanted to make changes to the property, he/she would have to go to the Design/Review Committee, which would decide if the changes are in compliance with the existing covenants. In addition, landowners must also comply with the city's zoning restrictions—the land is currently zoned for commercial use."

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By the 15th of the month email classified ad to KarissaMcGlynn@gmail.com. The Front Porch will email a confirmation and instructions for credit card payment. Ads must be paid by the 17th to run in the upcoming issue.
15 words or less \$10 • 30 words or less \$18
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Reserve space by the 15th to ensure placement.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Front Porch will publish letters to the editor as space allows—they may be edited for length. Please email FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com. Submit by the 15th for consideration in the following month's issue.

Number One



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Where Your Pets Matter

Recognitions

(continued from page 22) health and available resources. The *be well* program advocates with public officials for effective health policies and collaborates with businesses and organizations on health projects.

State Senator **Michael Johnston** and Representative **Angela Williams** called for community members to press for access to health care for all. Mayor **Michael Hancock** told how he learned he suffered from severe hypertension and sleep apnea through his attendance at a local health fair. He lauded *be well* for its healthy living programs and connecting people to available resources. He called for those assembled to use the pe-

dometers that were handed out and to register for the new year-long *be well* Moves campaign to get people walking for their health.

Special awards for outstanding leadership and commitment to health in the *be well* zone were presented to 15 community volunteers, including **Judith Schwartz**, **Owetta McNeil**, **Linda Griegos**, **Michele Wheeler** and **Fred Lynn** from the Stapleton, Park Hill and East Montclair neighborhoods. Certificates for completing their 12-week community health training were given to 24 new *be well* block captains. For more about *be well*, go to www.bewellconnect.org.

Charitable Causes

(continued from page 19) the musicians. Park Hill resident **Lorie Young** will hold a "typical unit meeting" with refreshments and musical entertainment. For more about the Guild or this proposed meeting, call Lorie at 303.388.6965, Guild President **Maureen Solomon** at 303.638.1860, or send a message at www.coloradosymphonyguild.org.

Through Dec. 18—Photos with Santa at Denver Dumb Friends League in Northfield

On Saturdays and Sundays through December 18, kids—human and furry—can get photos with Santa at the Dumb Friends League Northfield-Stapleton Adoption Center, 8340 Northfield Blvd. Santa will be available for pictures from 1pm to 5pm. Participants will receive a 5" x 7" print for a \$10 donation to the Denver Dumb Friends League. Visit www.ddfl.org or call 303.751.5772 for more information.

Winter Welcome

(continued from page 1) is not just about fun. The event is also an annual fundraiser for Sand Creek Regional Greenway and Bluff Lake. This year Girl Scout Troop 653, which helped with an event last summer, was also selected to share the proceeds. "The s'mores worked perfectly with the Girl Scouts being responsible for putting them together in packets, taking the tickets and distributing them," said Deeter. Troop leader **Melissa Darzins** explained that the girls are raising money for an out-of-state trip to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts.

Tickets for s'mores packets, glow necklaces, rock climbing and roasted almonds were sold for \$2 each—and the first 500 s'mores packets were gone by 6:40pm, 40 minutes after the event started, according to Deeter. With additional supplies purchased during the event, 500 more packets were assembled and all but about 50 eaten, double the number consumed last year.

Deeter estimates that \$1500 was raised at the event, to be shared by the three nonprofits.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Views on the Street at the Winter Welcome
What will you do for holiday activities or traditions?

Ann Konieczny
“One of the traditional things for the holidays, especially around Chinese New Year, is a big feast. Families will usually go out for dim sum, which is a small-plate dish that’s very traditional. We’ll take a huge group of friends and family and we’ll go and get four or five different tables and then just do a traditional Chinese dim sum brunch. There are a lot of dim sum places near Federal and Alameda.”

Deronn Turner
“Usually we take one of the days of Kwanzaa and try and celebrate it based on what it brings to our family. One of the things I really love about Kwanzaa as it pertains to presents or toys... the gift has to be something handmade or something that they can get some true value out of, like books, which I think is a beautiful thing, because it keeps it traditional and it also keeps it from being so commercialized. And that’s what you want, something that’s a lot less commercialized but more about the family traditions. Kwanzaa begins on the 26th of December and goes to the 1st of January. The first night is called Umoja and that stands for unity. The last night is Imani, faith.”



Musa Turner, 9, (left) and his siblings Shemsu, 12, and Senbi, 7, roast marshmallows at the Winter Welcome with their dad, Vincent. Not pictured are mom, Deronn, and Shepsira, 1.

Erik Lemmon
“We’ll visit the Musuem of Nature and Science to see the dinosaurs with grandma and grandpa.”
Laura Lemmon
“And we’ll go to the Children’s Museum and to Zoo Lights. We’re going to start a new tradition, they do it on Modern Family—Christmas PJs that we open the night before and wear on Christmas. I found some special ones. This is a surprise to Erik, he’s probably not going to be too thrilled with this.”



Morgan Lemmon, 2—with parents Erik and Laura Lemmon—waves a glow necklace, one of items sold as a fundraiser.



Photos by Adrian Dibaldo

Angelina Lucero, 9, (right) makes her way up the climbing wall. Her “Big Sister,” Lake Hulbert brought her to the event. Hulbert and Lucero, who were paired through the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, go out together every other weekend. Climbing the wall, at left, is Skyler Saltzer.
Lake Hulbert: “I’m a Big Sister. I’m here with Angelina, she’s 9 years old. I brought her out her tonight as a surprise. It was a good way to spend time together. It’s a free event, not materialistic at all. It’s just an enjoyable time. We’ll also go to the symphony—somebody was nice enough to donate tickets to the program. They’re always looking for people, though more for big brothers. You go in for an interview and they look for a good match for you. The time commitment is as much as you want it to be. We do every other weekend.” For information visit www.biglittlecolorado.org.

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Stapleton Front Porch

27

December 2011



THE TRADITION CONTINUES



Last year, on Christmas Eve, we chose to leave consumption and stress behind in order to gather as a community—young and old—to reflect on what Christmas is really about.
This year, the tradition continues.

December 24th at 7:00 pm
Westerly Creek Elementary School



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