

# Front Porch

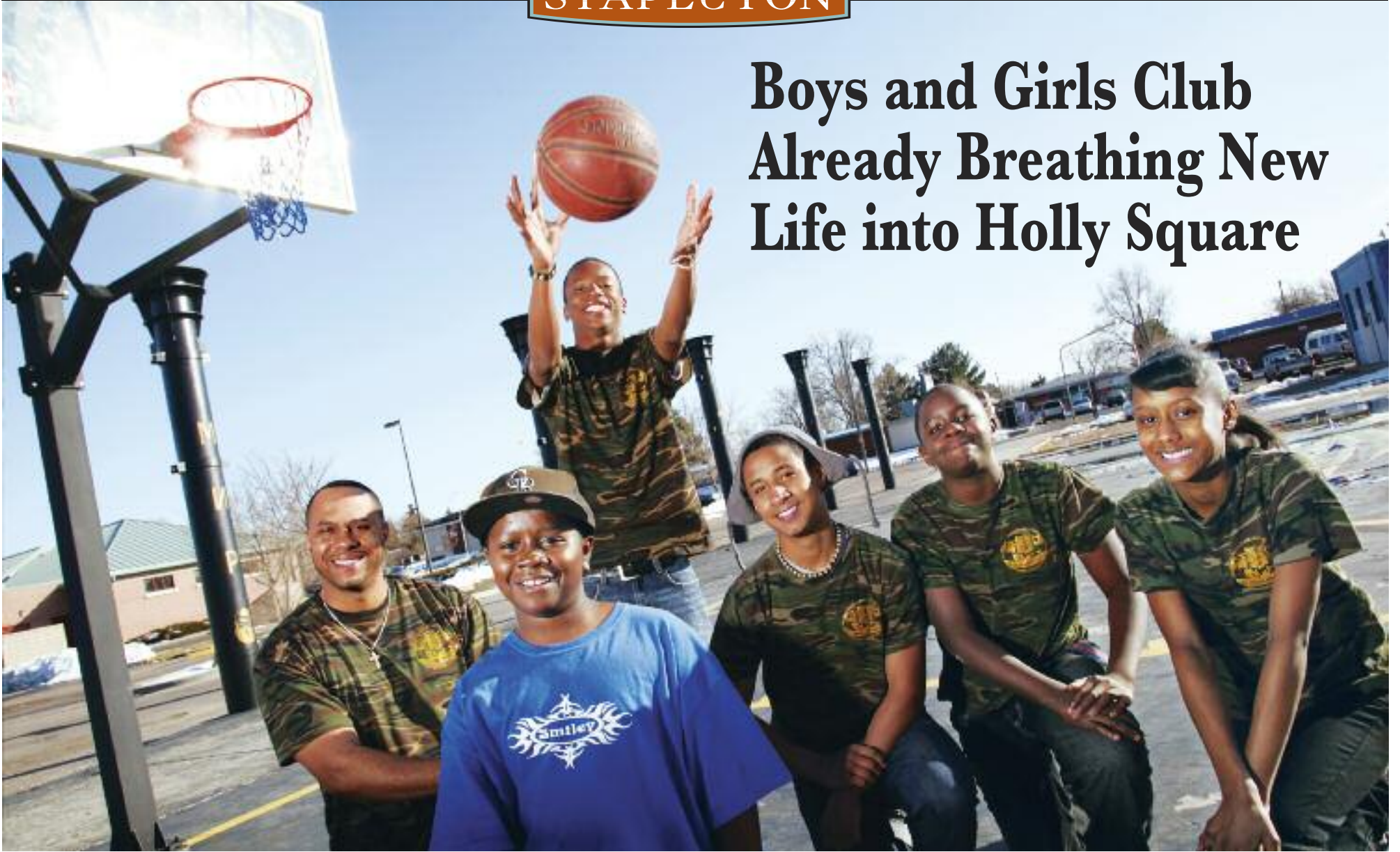
Distributed to the Stapleton, Park Hill, Lowry, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax neighborhoods

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

MARCH 2012

Camp  
Guide  
2012



## Boys and Girls Club Already Breathing New Life into Holly Square

Terrance Roberts, 35 (left), founded Prodigal Son, a Park Hill nonprofit organization that offers incentives to participants for doing well in school and contributing to the community. Prodigal Son participants (left to right

front row) Marvail Hopkins, 11, Trent Montiel, 15, Deshawn Burks, 13, Riasia Winslow, 12, and (back) Deondre Palmer, 12, gather at the basketball courts at Holly Square that were built after a 2008 arson destroyed the

shopping center. These young people will be among the youth who will benefit from the Boys and Girls Club that will be built on the site at 35th and Holly with a \$5 million donation from the Anschutz Foundation.

By Carol Roberts

Terrance Roberts says since news of the Anschutz Foundation gift of \$5 million to build a Boys and Girls Club in Holly Square became known, "People feel livelier, they seem happier. They seem like, I'm from Park Hill and I'm proud to be from Park Hill." He goes on to say,

"One thing about the urban decay issue is, if it looks like a war zone then people will treat it like a war zone. We want people to respect our community like they would respect the governor's mansion. We went from people feeling like nobody cares at all to, man, that's an initial \$5 million investment.

"I grew up over here. I remember when Holly and Dahlia

were two bustling places with all minority-owned businesses, no kids getting killed. Just a middle class black community. The next thing you know we're in the (continued on page 7)

## Bold Proposal for Stapleton Tower

**MCA Begins Feasibility Study of Tower  
as a NE Denver Community Arts Center**



Left: Keven Burnett, Stapleton Master Community Association, presents the MCA's plan for the control tower. At Kevin's left are Tom Gleason, Forest City, and Jesse Adkins and Chris Shears, architects hired to examine the feasibility of using the tower as a community arts center.

By Carol Roberts

The committee exploring future uses of the control tower was surprised to learn at their February meeting that the Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) had already hired a firm with urban design expertise to conduct a

feasibility study of using the tower and attached 15,000 square foot building as a cultural arts/performing arts facility.

Keven Burnett, MCA executive director told the group that the MCA had been doing a comprehensive review of needs in the community and ways the MCA can (continued on page 26)

## How Our Neighbors Became Pirates

By Nancy Burkhardt

Actors in Denver have the good fortune to work in a city that has a wide range of theaters and shows. And three of those actors are Stapleton residents whose career paths have led them to become pirates in the children's musical, *How I Became a Pirate*, at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities.

The musical is about a 10-year-old boy named Jeremy Jacob who lives near a beach. One day Captain Braid Beard and his fellow pirates ask Jeremy for assistance in finding the perfect location to bury their treasure. Jeremy goes aboard the pirate ship and learns how to be a pirate before realizing that a loving family and a home on shore are more desirable than a career as a pirate.

Melissa Morris, 25-year-old wife of actor Eric Mather and stepmom to six-year-old Braeden Morris, plays 10-year-old Jeremy Jacob.

"It's pretty difficult, playing a 10-year-old boy," Morris admitted. "You hear little boys sing in choirs, and they don't have the use of vibrato. However, (continued on page 27)



Melissa Morris  
(aka Jeremy Jacob)

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Share comments  
at Front Porch  
Newspaper



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

A view of downtown, the Front Range and the Stapleton tower greet those working out at the Central Park Recreation Center



## 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 17.)

### MARCH

#### Every Mon.–Thurs. & Saturdays

The Hub at Stapleton  
Transportation and Safety Information  
Mon–Thurs 10am–3pm; Sat 9am–noon  
720-865-2356, 303-468-3231. StapletonTMA.org

#### Saturday, March 3

SNL...for Kids Only, 6–9pm. Central Park Rec Center\* Events@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Saturday, March 3

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

#### Tuesday, March 6

Swim Team Parent Meeting, 6–7pm  
Central Park Rec Center\*  
Pools@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Wednesday, March 7

Public Meeting on City Council Redistricting  
Central Park Recreation Center\* 6–7:30pm  
DenverGov.org -> City Council -> Redistricting  
(See page 6)

#### Thursday, March 8

Swim Team registration for returning swimmers,  
noon. Stapleton MCA Community Room\*  
Pools@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Thursday, March 8

Active Minds Seminar—U.S. Immigration, 7–8pm.  
Stapleton MCA Community Room\*  
Events@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Saturday, March 10

New You Expo—Stapleton businesses answer  
questions and provide information. 11am–2pm,  
SmartSpace offices. 2373 Central Park Blvd. Free  
303-955-0861 (See page 19)

#### Monday, March 12

Summer Planning Tips & Camp Preview. Alto-  
gether Outdoors answers questions and registra-  
tion. 6:30–7:30pm. Stapleton MCA Community  
Rm\* Contact: Tommy Feldman, 720.249.2997.

#### Tuesday, March 13

Children's Hospital Colorado Free Parenting  
Seminar Series, Being the Voice for Your Child  
with Special Needs, 6:30–8pm. Free childcare  
w/pre-reg. www.childrenscolorado.org/events

#### Wednesday, March 14

North Stapleton Park Design  
2nd Public Input Meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm  
Central Park Recreation Center  
David.marquardt@denvergov.org  
Tomgleason@forestcity.net

### MARCH

#### Thursday, March 15

Swim Team registration for all new  
swimmers, noon. Stapleton MCA Community  
Room\* Pools@stapletoncommunity.com

#### Thursday, March 15

Swim lesson registration begins for new resi-  
dent swimmers begins, 10am. Online at:  
www.stapletoncommunity.com  
(New nonresident swimmers start  
registration at noon, April 1)

#### Saturday, March 17

50th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, 10am  
www.denverstpatrikspdayparade.org

#### Wednesday, March 21

Spring Fling at the Central Park Recreation  
Center\* Potluck and planning for  
adult activities, 12:30–3:30pm  
Lcorrell@dotnet.net (See page 19)

#### Thurs. & Sat., March 22 & 24

Public Input Meetings on the City's Structural  
Deficit, locations to be determined  
(3/22 in N. Denver; 3/24 in S. Denver)  
www.denvergov.org/deborahortega

#### Tuesday, March 27

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

#### Saturday, March 31

Free Concert by Jewell at NCAA Tourney  
Town. Colorado Convention Center, 5:30pm  
NCAA.com/finalfour

### APRIL

#### Saturday, April 7

Annual Egg Scramble on The Green, 10–11:30  
E. 29th Ave. Town Center. Ages 0-3 10:15am;  
ages 4-6 10:45am; ages 7 and older 11:15am.  
More info at right.

\*More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com

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

# STAPLETON

## Events & Announcements

### What is your Community DNA?

This will be the most challenging month yet for our Community DNA! University of Utah psychologists have published a study showing that motorists who talk on handheld or hands-free cellular phones are as impaired as drunken drivers. We are challenging this community to a “throw down”! Throw down that cell phone when you get in the car and leave it alone until you reach your destination. We are challenging you to try this for one month! We would love to have this become a permanent habit for you.

Let's be a good example for our kids. They will be driving in the neighborhood soon and we know they will emulate behaviors they witness. Be a good example for your friends and let them know you have taken the challenge to leave the cell phone alone when you are driving. Can you leave your cell phone in your pocket, purse, backpack or even in the backseat while you are driving? This is a great opportunity to spend the time with your kids talking about their day! Let the “March of no cell phones while driving” begin!

### Active Minds Seminar U.S. Immigration Policy

Join Active Minds for a look at the history of immigration in the U.S. and how this issue is currently playing out at both the federal and state level. We will discuss the economics and politics of various aspects of U.S. immigration and how these concerns are viewed by different constituencies within the U.S.

The seminar begins at 7pm on Thursday, March 8 in the Stapleton MCA Community Room located behind King Soopers at 2823 Roslyn St. Everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.ActiveMindsForLife.com.

### 2012 Stapleton Stingrays Swim Team

Stapleton Stingrays offers youth a recreational program that provides a climate of friendly competition where swimmers ages 5–18 can develop a love for the sport, improve their swimming skills and learn the principles of good sportsmanship. Participants will begin practice weekdays (after school), Monday–Thursday in May and will be competing on either a Friday or Saturday morning throughout the months of June and July. The season will end late July with special events running through the first week of August.

**PARENT MEETING:** March 6, 6–7pm at Central Park Rec Center

**Returning Swimmer Registration:** 12pm, March 8–14 (during MCA office hours)

### Online Resident Registration:

Opens at 12pm, March 15

### Nonresident Registration:

Opens at 12pm, April 1

### Practice schedule:

May 21–24 afternoon practice  
(Time TBD)

May 29–July 19 (M T W T H)

Ages 11 and up: 6:45–8am

9 & 10: 7:45–9am

7 & 8: 8:45–10am

\*5 & 6: 10–10:30am (2 days per week,

\*Rec league only)

### Stapleton Stingray Rec Team:

This team is specifically for the recreational swimmer. All swimmers that register for the recreational team will be given the opportunity to swim in as few or as many swim meets that their schedule/ comfort-level allows. The recreational team schedule will end the weekend of July 21 with special events running through the first week of August.

### Stapleton Stingray Metro League:

This team is new and specifically for swimmers who want to compete. All swimmers who register for the metro league will be expected to compete in a minimum of three meets, allowing each swimmer up to three individual events, and two relays per competition. The metro league season will be extended through the last weekend in July for those swimmers who qualify for the Colorado State Championship Meet.

If you have questions or for information about fee structure, facility assignment and meet schedule, go to www.stapletoncommunity.com.

### Saturday Night Live...for kids only!

The Stapleton MCA and Central Park Recreation Center are partnering during 5280's Restaurant Week. Drop your child off at the Rec Center and grab dinner. The event is from 6–9pm on Saturday, March 3. “Saturday Night Live” is designed for all children ages 7–12 years old. The cost of the event is \$10 per child per night. There will be all kinds of fun activities including access to the swimming pool! For more information, go to www.stapletoncommunity.com or email events@stapletoncommunity.com.

### Save the Date...The Annual Egg Scramble on The Green

The annual Egg Scramble (Hunt) is Saturday, April 7 from 10–11:30am on The Green. The Easter Bunny will be on site beginning at 10am. The scramble will be done in waves. The first group to scramble for the eggs will be the 0-3-year-olds at 10:15am. This year only one adult is allowed to enter with their 0–3-year-old. The next group will be the 4–6-year-olds at 10:45am. Adults will not be allowed on the field for the scramble of 4–6 or 7-and-up age groups. The 7-year-olds and up will begin at 11:15am. This is always a fun event and we look forward to seeing everyone!

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



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# Front Porch

www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

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# The Pastry Chef

Chef Kerstin Kleber offers baking tips and tells why she changed careers

Kerstin Kleber is the Department Chair for Baking and Pastry at Johnson and Wales University.

Jon Meredith: Talk about your transition from IBM engineer, building specifications for mainframe computers, to becoming a pastry chef.  
Chef Kleber: At the time many people said I was doing something very brave to jump into a whole new career. To me, there is a fine line between doing something brave and doing something foolish and the only difference is the outcome. I have had some control over that to an extent. There is a connection between science and baking. Baking is very much a science as well as an art.

JM: Have you ever looked back and thought the change was foolish?  
Kleber: No. I have changed careers a lot, even within pastry, and I am not the type of person who tends to look back.

JM: What kind of person becomes a great pastry chef?  
Kleber: Someone who is comfortable with the fact that baking is not just an art but a science as well. You create consistency through measuring and exactness. Every ingredient is there for a reason.

JM: How long is the road from dreaming of being a great pastry chef to working in a five-star restaurant?  
Kleber: There is no set answer. Depends on the individual and luck and persistence. It is not something that every student wants to do. I was lucky, my road was very short. I wanted to work at Bouley in TriBeCa (New York). I kept stopping by and eventually Chef Bouley hired me. It helped that I had a good internship in the city through the Culinary Institute of America.

JM: Is there a different skill set in being a great cook and being a great pastry chef?  
Kleber: I am not going to say for certain that it is a different skill set. I will say that I have known very few chefs who are also excellent pastry chefs and vice versa. The ones who can do both have to change their mind-set when they go from the kitchen to the pastry



Chef Kerstin Kleber shows off some of her students' recent creations.

kitchen. You have to be much more compulsive in the pastry kitchen because the science demands exactness.  
JM: What tips do you have for baking at altitude?  
Kleber: The biggest tip is to cut down on chemical leaveners, which are baking powder and baking soda. At 5200 feet it tends to be about 40 percent less leavener in your recipes. Also, add more liquid and fat.  
JM: Cooking shows are big now. On the cake shows they never talk about how the cakes taste; it is all about what they look like. Why is that?  
Kleber: That is true. I think it is because it is TV and their drama is in the visual. The audience watching cannot taste so everything has to be about the visual. In class, our students have one semester of baking cakes for taste and one for the visual or decoration of cakes.

JM: Does one have to travel to Paris to enjoy great cuisine?  
Kleber: Our culture is really starting to appreciate all kinds of really good food. Now, we are getting back to good local and regional ingredients. I think a terrific chef takes a really good ingredient, enhances it and makes it the star. The trick is not cover it up too much. So, I do not believe you need to go to Paris to eat great food, there are great restaurants here and all over the country.  
JM: What is the best chocolate you can buy in Denver?  
Kleber: So much good chocolate is available in stores now. My favorite is Valrhona, which is what I used when I was learning.  
JM: What is your favorite creation?  
Kleber: Nature. In the culinary world, I have loved, since I was 10 years old, making home-style deserts. I love making pies, tarts and cakes for a bakery. Take beautiful fruit and make terrific pie dough and you have something outstanding.  
JM: Can people find and make good gluten-free pastries?  
Kleber: Sure you can. When you think about traditional Japanese pastry, there is no wheat in those creations and they look and taste terrific. They base their creations on beans, red beans. Here, there are plenty of gluten-free ingredients and pastries available, which is great.

JM: What is the best flour available in stores?  
Kleber: King Arthur.  
JM: Here is my golf question. How much golf do you play?  
Kleber: I am with Mark Twain on this one, golf is a good walk spoiled. I play no golf.

JM: There seem to be a lot of pastry fads, such as cupcake shops. What is your advice to the entrepreneur who is thinking of starting one of these?  
Kleber: Go for it! Cupcake shops have been around for 20 years now. So some things we think of as fads really aren't. I do recommend to be well rounded—do other things and go for your dream.

Kerstin Kleber is the Department Chair for Baking and Pastry at Johnson and Wales University. Her Key Lime Pie recipe is posted on the Front Porch website.

# Swine, Wine and a Good Time

<p><b>Happening At The Berk'</b></p> <p><b>Come Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at The Berk'!</b></p> <p>Serving our famous Open-faced Potato Latke Reuben, Corned Beef and Cabbage &amp; Bangers and Mash</p> <p>Drink Specials: \$4 Shots of Jameson, \$5 Guinness, \$6 Car Bombs</p>	<p><b>Happening At The Berk'</b></p> <p><b>5280 Restaurant week</b> 3 courses, 2 people, just \$52.80! Through March 9th, 2012</p>	<p><b>Happening At The Berk'</b></p> <p><b>March 20th—Live Music!</b> Celebrate the first day of Spring at the Berk' with live music at 9:30pm</p>
	<p><b>Happening At The Berk'</b></p> <p><b>Daylight Savings Begins!</b> Drown your sorrows over the lost hour of sleep with The Berkshire Brunch and Bottomless Mimosa's for only \$8.50 on Sunday, March 11th</p>	<p><b>Happening At The Berk'</b></p> <p><b>Daily Lunch Specials!</b> 11am—4pm, Monday—Friday Get a punch card &amp; your 9th meal is FREE!</p>

7352 E. 29th Ave.

[www.TheBerkshireRestaurant.com](http://www.TheBerkshireRestaurant.com)

p: 303.321.4010



At a recent Stapleton Development Corporation meeting, Stapleton resident Paul Froehardt expressed his concerns about unfinished parks in Stapleton.

By Carol Roberts

The Stapleton community had a crisis two years ago with the realization that there weren't enough schools to accommodate the population of children, and there wasn't enough money to build a school. Ultimately, loans were arranged with Denver Public Schools (DPS) and Forest City, but \$5.5 million of the \$20 million needed came in a trade-off that took funds designated for a park and put them toward the Swigert-McAuliffe school.

Now the school is built and the start of park construction north of I-70 has brought to the forefront concerns about the unfinished parks south of I-70. Recent communications about the proposed Westerly Creek North park, located at the confluence of

Westerly Creek and Sand Creek, reveal the depth of feeling and range of perspectives on the issue, which has no easy answer. Two hundred residents sent emails to the mayor, and at the February 23 meeting of the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC), which is tasked with implementing the re-development of the Stapleton airport property, board members had a lively discussion on the issue.



SDC Board member Happy Haynes

SDC Board member Happy Haynes summarized her perceptions, "I think the notion that the park will never get done while we move to the north side is what people are worried about—and I think that's a valid worry. The timing of when it happens is a different question. I think the people are asking, what is going to happen? If it's not going to happen for five years, good, you can communicate that. But people at least want to know what the decision is. And I don't think any of us sitting here today can say what that decision is or what that priority is—and I think that's what's on our plate."

Board member Michael Kearns concurred with the need for communication. "Unless all of us want our email boxes to explode like they have in the last week or

so, I think we need to have some real communications with the community that says on this project, here's what has to happen, here's who's responsible for it to happen. Blasting the mayor with emails if it's in the EPA's hands may or may not help."

so, I think we need to have some real communications with the community that says on this project, here's what has to happen, here's who's responsible for it to happen. Blasting the mayor with emails if it's in the EPA's hands may or may not help."

Councilman Herndon offered a different perspective. "I think communication is good from the hundreds of emails that I've gotten. People will hear what they want to hear. When we had the crisis with the third school, the community was outraged and we had to find a way to deal with it. Something had to get pushed back and it was Westerly Creek North—and the majority of the community was in favor of it. A few years later people are saying, 'What's going on with Westerly Creek?' Nothing, because we needed a third school."

Bar Chadwick, special project coordinator for the City of Denver, provided a long and detailed explanation for the delays in remediation work at the park. She pointed out that one of the reasons for delays in filing 16 (on the east side of Stapleton) was that after the work was done, the insurance company said they weren't going to pay. So now the procedures have been changed. With numerous entities involved, numerous steps in the process, 45 days for approval at each step, and a bidding process after the remediation report is approved, she says it would be at least a year before construction could start on the park.

Stapleton has a Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) that is tasked with looking at whether the development is meeting the objectives of Stapleton's master plan and making recommendations to SDC. CAB is advisory only; the SDC Board determines what, if any, action is needed based on CAB's recommendations.

Dave Netz, co-chair of the CAB, says CAB recommended that SDC proceed with planning of the parks in the north and grading for drainage [the parks are an integral part of the community's storm water management system], but not finish the parks in the north until the ones in the south are completed. He stated,

"We know Forest City and SDC have to move forward with development of land north of I-70. If you stop development you don't gain the extra income to finance everything that needs to be funded. The broader Stapleton neighborhood needs to understand Stapleton is self-financed. There are no funds from the city of Denver for Stapleton projects. The reality is, because retail taxes did not grow and were flat or dropped during the recession and property values dropped, the amount of money originally projected isn't there."

Resident Paul Froehardt requested to speak at the SDC meeting, "Our concern is that remediation is really an independent issue from the funding—and there's really no reason to wait to resolve the questions about when and how the park is funded just because the remediation will take a period of time. The community said, fine, put this park off until after a school is built. It did not say put this off until after other parks are built in new parts of Stapleton. We would like to have a dialogue. There are other sources of funding and an exploration of options before commitments get made to build parks in other areas."

The SDC discussion of parks concluded with SDC Board Chairman King Harris' statement, "We'll be happy to have that dialogue with you, but I want you and everyone else to not get into an us versus them. That is critically important, unless you want to find yourself climbing



SDC Board Chairman King Harris

up a 500-foot wall...boxed in."

Stapleton's registered neighborhood organization, SUN (Stapleton United Neighbors), wrote a position paper on the issue in January pointing out that Westerly Creek North is an unfinished link in Stapleton's planned system of trails, homebuyers purchased based on the promise of parks, and the area has unstable steep

Denver Parks and Recreation in partnership with Forest City Stapleton will host  
**North Stapleton Park Design 2nd Public Input Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 14, 6:30-8:30 pm  
Central Park Recreation Center  
9651 E. MLK Blvd

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By Carol Roberts

Every 10 years, the Denver City Council is required to redraw district boundaries to keep the 11 districts as evenly divided as possible based on census data, with a target population of 54,560 per district.

Council members have been analyzing the census information and will be bringing three proposals to city residents at meetings throughout the city in March. The proposed maps are not set in stone, says Councilman Herndon. "They were drawn by members of council, but there could be a great idea for how to divide the district by a community member who comes to a meeting or goes online to look at the maps. Will there be a perfect map? Absolutely not. But we want to be sure we can get as much feedback as possible from the community."

The chart at right shows the changes in the population from 2000 to 2010. District 11 (which includes far northeast Denver, Montbello, Stapleton, Northeast Park Hill and parts of North and South Park Hill) has gained from 29,000 to 39,000 more residents than any other district, requiring in all the new proposals that a new district be formed comprised of Gateway/Green Valley Ranch and a portion of Montbello.

All three proposed maps keep Stapleton, Lowry and Mayfair/Montclair intact, with each of those neighborhoods entirely in one district. However one proposal combines Mayfair/Montclair with Stapleton and two proposals combine May-

## How City Council Redistricting May Affect Your Neighborhood

fair/Montclair with Lowry. East Colfax is combined with Stapleton in two plans and with Lowry/Montclair/Mayfair in one plan.

Greater Park Hill, which is currently split among three council districts, is fully intact in one of the new plans and is almost intact (except the southwestern corner) in another plan. It is combined with Stapleton and part of Montbello in both cases.

	2000 Population	2010 Population	Change
District 1:	50,191	45,723	- 4,468
District 2:	51,281	54,682	+ 3,401
District 3:	50,827	50,157	- 670
District 4:	50,638	52,998	+ 2,360
District 5:	51,491	56,645	+ 5,157
District 6:	50,145	49,907	- 241
District 7:	51,630	52,341	+ 711
District 8:	52,044	54,163	+ 2,119
District 9:	49,554	51,288	+ 1,734
District 10:	48,078	49,013	+ 935
District 11:	48,754	83,238	+ 34,484

Four requirements for redistricting are: They must meet the population requirements; they must be as compact as possible; they must be contiguous; and they must be comprised of whole precincts. In addition, efforts are made to: maintain communities of interest; maintain neighborhoods; and prevent current city council members who run in 2015 from being in the same district.

After the community meetings, council will need to select a map, a public hearing will be held, and council will take a final vote at the end of April for the new district boundaries that will go into effect in 2015.

Maps will be posted at the community meetings and they are posted at [DenverGov.org](http://DenverGov.org) -> City Council -> Redistricting.



The three city council people representing Park Hill gathered at a Park Hill forum on Feb. 16 to respond to constituents about city issues and concerns: (left to right) Chris Herndon, District 11; Albus Brooks, District 8 (with his 4-month-old daughter Kaya Joy); and Mary Beth Susman, District 5. Councilwoman Susman set out the redistricting information and found that the proposed redistricting maps and demographic information attracted considerable interest from attendees at the forum.

In addition to the current and proposed boundary maps, demographic maps showing ethnicity in city council districts illustrate how these "communities of interest" have shifted from 2000 to 2010.

Share your comments on Facebook—Front Porch Newspaper.

### Northeast Denver Public Meeting on City Council Redistricting Wednesday, March 7, 6–7:30pm

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Proposed district maps and demographic maps are also posted at [www.FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://www.FrontPorchStapleton.com)



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# Holly Square

(continued from page 1) national news, talking about gang members running around with Uzis. We're not talking about Los Angeles gang members. We're talking about me and my friends.

"I joined a gang over here. I started my organization here. My whole life has been north-east Park Hill, pretty much. I was one of the kids who joined a gang thinking this was defending my community. No one recruited us like, 'We're going to destroy Park Hill and get the buildings arsoned.' That's not what they told us. To have been part of that and the destruction it brought to this community—and now to be a part of the exact opposite...I've met advocates in a lot of cities, but I don't know of any who have been able to do what we've done with HARP (Holly Area Redevelopment Project)."

After getting shot and spending almost a decade in and out of prison, Roberts decided to change not only his own life but the lives of kids who may face some of the challenges he faced. Eight years ago he formed a nonprofit, The Prodigal Son Initiative, which is now located across the street from Holly Square in a shared space with State Senator Michael Johnston's neighborhood office.

Kids in the program participate in after-school activities and share a commitment to doing well in school and making the community a better place. Some help younger students with homework, some helped paint the colorful mural on the basketball courts that replaced the rubble after the Holly Square shopping center burned. They say Roberts' story inspired them to be a part of the Prodigal Son program.

"I was real bad," says one of the kids. "I didn't do anything at all. I got suspended almost every day. Then when I started to come here, I saw that's not the road you should go down, so that made me turn around my life and get it together." Now these same kids talk about becoming a lawyer or getting an MBA. Roberts describes them as, "Well-spoken and well-behaved."

As executive director of the Prodigal Son Initiative, Roberts joined with other community leaders and residents to form the Holly Area Redevelopment Project (HARP). The group hired urban planners to work with the community to develop a plan for the neighborhood.

LaDawn Sullivan, from the Denver Foundation, which provides support to community projects, says, "Once people saw their opinions would be listened to and respected and they would be a part of moving things forward, people stepped up to help do everything that needed to be done. Everyone wanted this process to have a positive outcome. People checked their ego at the door and said, 'This is our one concern and we're in it together.'"

Sullivan explains that the group identified good neighbor principles: partnership and collaboration, quality of life, a public space, compatibility and sustainability. HARP then used these five principles like a litmus test to be sure the groups who came with proposals for Holly understood expectations of the neighborhood and could show how they saw themselves meeting them.

"Terrance's work on the interim use of the basketball courts and the mural were huge as far as people seeing that something positive was going to happen there," adds Sullivan. "It reinforced a sense of healing in the community,"

Sullivan explains that an Anschutz family member is on the board of Boys and Girls Clubs. "That family member was very impressed by this unusual proactive process that the community members had engaged in. They saw it as very promising, which moved the Anschutz family member to want to have deeper conversations about how they could be involved."

A year after the fire, the Urban Land Conservancy (ULC) bought Holly Square and almost immediately cleaned up the area and took down the fences. Aaron Miripol, president and CEO of the ULC, explains that the organization buys and "land banks" real estate so that it will be available for uses such as schools and housing that will benefit Denver's communities. Miripol says just before ULC bought the land, the community got over 400 signatures on petitions and had a full house at a liquor license hearing in an attempt to prevent the store from opening across from Holly Square—and the owner decided not to proceed because of the opposition.

(continued on page 10)

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# High-Tech Keypads Help Drive Governor's TBD Initiative

By Jon Meredith

Governor John Hickenlooper is launching a statewide initiative designed to create informed and constructive conversations among Coloradans about some of the major issues the state faces today. The project will be called TBD Colorado or To Be Determined. TBD Colorado will invite Coloradans from around the state to talk frankly about their vision and priorities for the state. The governor says he wants TBD “to focus on listening and not imposing top-down government-driven solutions.”

TBD is being facilitated by Engaged Public, a Colorado company headed by Stapleton resident Chris Adams. Adams will use the keypad polling technology he has developed to tabulate the answers to questions at the TBD sessions. The technology allows participants to enter answers to multiple-choice questions on a wireless keypad. The answers are immediately tabulated and shown in



Photo by Brian Reinhardt

table form on a large screen in the meeting room. Adams has used this technology to tabulate opinions on a variety of issues and he says the technology has been well received “because people are shown the results right away, while they have their minds fully engaged on the issues at hand.” Engaged Public also serves in an organizational capacity to conduct the 120 meetings around the state. The plan is to have 40 different



groups, each with 35 to 40 participants, meet three times at each of 40 separate locations. Engaged Public will be responsible for tabulating the information collected so the TBD board can issue a final report to the governor on November 16. Adams says the Governor Hickenlooper wants the participants to work with a “common set of facts and use their creativity to solve the issues that are pressing in Colorado. We will not be manufacturing answers—as a matter of fact, we are trying to get as far from that as humanly possible.”

Anyone can sign up to participate at [www.tbd.colorado.org](http://www.tbd.colorado.org); however, some represented areas have filled fast and now only waiting list slots are available. Participation will require attendance at three meetings between March and June.

In introducing TBD at this year's State of the State speech on January 12, the governor quoted Abraham Lincoln, saying, “With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed.” Greg Maffei, CEO of Liberty Media and board chairman of TBD Colorado, stated, “This is not an attempt to push a Democratic agenda or a Republican agenda; it is about a Colorado agenda. This also isn't about raising or cutting taxes.”

TBD is a nonpartisan collaborative non-profit 501(c) (3) governed by a volunteer board of directors and funded entirely by in-

**Left:** Chris Adams of Engaged Public shows the keypads that are used to tally responses so audiences can see results immediately. **Below:** Gov. Hickenlooper uses one of the keypads at the opening TBD session.

dividual, foundation and corporate donations. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$1.2 million.

The first meeting for participants will be devoted to understanding the current status of each of the five issues. The second meeting will be devoted to the aspirations of the participants; what they want to see happen in the future. The third will be dedicated to solutions, policy and priorities. The ideas and results of all of the 40 different meeting groups will be accumulated and assessed and a final report will be issued.

The outcome will reflect Colorado citizens' true priorities on how we fund education, improve our health, manage our budget priorities and solve our increasing transportation issues.

The questions that the citizen participants will be asked are being culled and framed by a committee of experts and with help of the Institute on Common Good at Regis University. The object will be to ask questions in an impartial manner so the outcome is truly nonpartisan. Furthermore, the meeting attendees will have a common set of facts and reference materials so that the answers will be the result of creative thinking based on the same set of facts.



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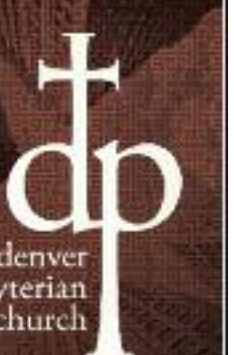


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## Colorado Gets \$200 Million Settlement from Banks for Foreclosure Relief

*By Carol Roberts*

Homeowners who are behind on their mortgage payments or who are making them but barely scraping by each month should call the Colorado Foreclosure Hotline, says State Representative Angela Williams. The State of Colorado is the recipient of \$204.6 million in Foreclosure-Relief Funds that are being administered by the state's Office of the Attorney General. Most of the funds are designated to be used in specific ways:

\$73.3 million will be used to grant reductions to the principal owed on loans to modify them and make them affordable to the homeowner; some funds will also be used to ease the effects of foreclosure.

\$46.3 million will be used to refinance loans for homeowners who don't qualify for refinancing under current mortgage standards.

\$32.5 million will be used to make payments to foreclosed borrowers who were the victims of predatory lending practices, with \$1500 to \$2000 expected per borrower.

\$52.5 million will be determined by the state and will be used for foreclosure prevention counseling services, additional legal services for distressed homeowners and promotion of loan-modification opportunities and anti-blight efforts.

Williams is requesting that the Attorney General set aside \$4 million to continue the counseling program that has been successful in preventing foreclosures. She says homeowners who are behind on mortgage payments or at risk of getting behind can call and talk to a counselor about their options. Williams says the counselors work with banks to help make mortgages affordable and keep people in their homes. She strongly suggests consumers who need help call the hotline, saying "I don't want anyone to miss this opportunity."

The \$204.6 million dollars coming to Colorado is part of

a \$25 billion dollar settlement the Obama administration made with the five largest national banks, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citi and Ally. The settlement was made with these banks, which account for 60 percent of the home loan servicing market, to end problematic business practices and to help distressed homeowners.

Customers of the five settling banks who are still in their homes but either behind on their payments or underwater should contact the banks directly through the following toll-free numbers to determine if they are eligible for assistance: Bank of America- 1.877.488.7814; Chase- 1.866.372.6901; Citi- 1.866.272.4749; GMAC/Ally- 1.800.766.4622; Wells Fargo- 1.800.288.3212

Homeowners facing foreclosure also should contact the Colorado Foreclosure Hotline at 1.877.601.4673 or visit [www.coloradoforeclosurehotline.org](http://www.coloradoforeclosurehotline.org).



Ben Vagle, a Lowry resident and 6th-grader at Stanley British Primary School, as well as other students, testified at a Senate committee hearing in the Old Supreme Court Chamber.

## Tiger Salamander en Route to Official State Status

*By John Babiak*

Numerous students from northeast Denver schools attended the hearing before the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy Committee, which voted 7 to 0 to send the bill to the Senate floor for a general vote. Should it pass there, it will be sent to the Governor to be signed into law, and the western tiger salamander will become a state emblem.



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### Holly Square

(continued from page 7) “That was a powerful statement to us, about a month or two before we closed—the work that was already happening. The fact that you had a really engaged community and the folks wanted to see positive things happening. You’ve got amazing assets already there,” Miripol says. He adds that ULC will continue to own the ground underneath the Boys and Girls Club to make sure that they won’t lose the investment they’ve made in the neighborhood. “We have a million invested, from the acquisition to the demo, to environmental remediation, to holding costs.” According to Miripol, the lot is 2.6 acres, or 115,000 square feet.

John Arigoni, president and CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, says the building will be approximately 30,000 sq. ft. The Boys and Girls Club portion will be approximately 22–24,000 square feet. The remaining space is expected to be used by another community group. He says they have set an ambitious goal—to be open and operational by the school year 2013, August or September. Membership is \$2/year and they expect 1500–1700 members, with 250 to 300 kids there at a time. Boys and Girls Clubs are open after school until 9pm at night and from approximately 8am–5pm in the summer. The building will be named the Nancy P. Anschutz Center.

Share your comments on Facebook—Front Porch Newspaper.

### Parks

(continued from page 4) banks and construction debris that are dangerous. They acknowledged that financing is challenging and that necessary environmental assessments must be completed, but stated, “These hurdles are no excuse for inaction.”

Tom Gleason of Forest City responded that they agree with SUN’s description of the challenges, but were disappointed that SUN dismissed the challenges—particularly those related to potential environmental remediation—as an “excuse.” “Once... remediation of the land has been addressed, all of the parties—must work together to find funding sources which allow the development of this park to move ahead more quickly.”

But members of the community, concerned that parks in south Stapleton would be forgotten once development of parks proceeds north of I-70, organized an email campaign to the mayor, whose response to the 200 emails included “I am committed to ensuring that Forest City Stapleton completes these parks... To move the Stapleton community and Denver forward, we must and we will remain focused on developments in every corner of Denver... including building new homes and other projects north of I-70.”

Resident Sophia Briegleb reflects on the compromise that allowed the school to be built, “We had to build that school. [The school will have] 600 students the second year it is open, and already we need another elementary school. I feel like the people that needed the school wanted the money there and the people that wanted the park essentially had no say in what was happening. When they presented, the people who were there were parents who had no school for their children.”

Resident Melissa K. Thompson says, “All the related agencies should get together their collective expertise, creativity and funding to make this happen...or at least do an initial cleanup and eliminate the hazards from the area and maybe commit to doing the park in stages going forward. It doesn’t look like TIF funding is ever going to be available.”

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New Rapids Coach Oscar Pareja's approach will blend new talent with charismatic play—not only to meet his own expectations but to meet the expectations of his fan base.

# New Rapids' Head Coach Pitches Upbeat Playing Style

*By John Babiak*

It is clear from meeting with the newly hired Rapids Head Coach Oscar Pareja that he is not content with this team that is only 14 months removed from winning its first Major League Soccer (MLS) Champion's Cup trophy and has earned back-to-back playoff invitations. Nor has he embraced the Rapids' deliberate and control-oriented playing style, even though it did generate positive results.

With the quickness that mirrors his own playing style, this one-time MLS veteran, Columbian national team player and MLS coach has swiftly started to change the complexion of the Rapids. His approach will blend new talent with charismatic play, not only to meet his own expectations but also to meet those of the team's fan base.

“When I was a player, I was creative-minded. It is a style of soccer that I like to see on a field. I believe that a creative team can make fans enjoy the game,” said Pareja. Stapleton resident and Rapids’ Technical Director Paul Bravo concurs. “For soccer to be successful in Colorado and the rest of the U.S., the play on the field must not only be entertaining, but also be able to inspire fans who don’t attend games regularly.”

The two have teamed up and started to scout for talent that may help the team in certain areas. They have initially focused on prospects from Central and South America. "Given the challenges that most MLS teams have with salary restrictions, players from South America are affordable to us," said Pareja. Bravo has already signed two high potential players before their season opens on March 10—Columbian Jaime Castrillon and Argentinian Martin Rivero.

Pareja and Bravo also see eye-to-eye when it comes to developing youth, whether it is the rec player, a future collegiate athlete, or even a professional prospect. They are committed to seeing that the Rapids Youth Academy, along with its partner clubs, serve kids at the highest level.

Both are still actively involved in youth soccer. Pareja's reputation as an academy coach and director precedes him. He has twice been named U.S. Soccer Development Academy Conference Coach of the Year. In 2010, U.S Soccer rated his FC Dallas Academy as the best in the nation among over 70 different clubs. In addition to his role as the technical director, Bravo is also the head coach for an under-13 boys' academy team. "Why? Be-

cause this is still one of my passions. Being able to coach gives me a way to connect with and teach our younger players," said Bravo. "The game at this level is still pure and it really excites me."

One Denver-Aurora-based soccer club that has a partnership with the Academy is Colorado Fusion. "Coach Pareja's hiring is not only a fantastic choice for the Rapids, it also sends a strong signal that the Rapids are committed to developing our local youth. Through our alliance with the Rapids, Colorado Fusion, and the over 3500 kids that we serve, sees a variety of benefits that include close contact with the Rapids technical staff, a practice curriculum that focuses on individual player development, and collaboration on the training of our coaching staff," says Jon Goldin-Dubois, executive director of Colorado Fusion.



The Rapids Academy offers many seasonal camps and clinics to all girls and boys ages 8-14. One program is the Center of Excellence (COE) that is directed by David Proctor, who resides in Stapleton with his family. "The exclusive

purpose of the COE is to promote player development through technical training and the importance of technique as it applies to the game. Although inclusive, it is still designed to nurture the young, advancing player," said Proctor. On March 13, he will kick off a six-week spring night camp that is open to all.

For information about the Rapids Youth Academy programs visit  
[www.coloradorapids.com/youth](http://www.coloradorapids.com/youth)

For the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club, visit  
[www.coloradofusion.org](http://www.coloradofusion.org)

Rapids Academy Center of Excellence (COE) director and coach David Proctor provides instruction to children participating in a week-night training session. COE clinics and camps are open to all boys and girls.



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# Premium Fishwrap\*

by Jon Meredith

## The Madness of March Madness

March brings us the first glimpses of spring, daylight savings and the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments. The Women's Final Four will be decided right here at the Pepsi Center on April 1st and 3rd. As sure as the changing weather and the time, millions of Americans will steadfastly fill out their brackets,

hoping to be the office champ, maybe win some money or be the 1 in 5.5 million winner of the ESPN Bracket Challenge. The president of the United States takes time out from his exhausting schedule to fill out a bracket on national television. Homes and bars will be filled with partiers watching the games, imbibing the beer and chips advertised on the games.

The tournament is a huge money event; yet the individuals who play the games are "student athletes." Playing simply for a full scholarship and the love of the game. Paying these athletes something has always been controversial and it is beginning to look as if there will be some sort of stipend in place soon. However, that does not really answer the big question about college sports. That is, where does all that money go?

CBS paid the NCAA \$771 million for the rights to broadcast the tournaments last year. That number does not include regular season games, conference tournaments, local radio and TV, any fees for the likeness of the "student athletes" that are used for products like video games and home game ticket sales.

Contrast that amount with the \$3.1 billion all the TV networks who broadcast the NFL paid this past year and that amount includes the Super Bowl. Furthermore, as we all know, the NFL does pay their players quite handsomely.

Paying college students to play sports is much less of an issue than asking about the money: Where does it go to and how is it accounted for? If it went to the general scholarship fund of the universities and people could see and understand that, I think most people would be accepting of that. That is not where it goes. Athletic departments say they run deficits and the two big men's sports, football and basketball, support all the other sports.

Take a closer look at that explanation.

Currently, according to USA Today, there are 32 college basketball coaches making more than a \$1 million a year. A million a year is what most Division 1 college football coaches make. Everyone else on campus, except perhaps the university president, makes a small fraction of those numbers. Almost all women's basketball programs run in the red; yet their coaches sometimes make up 75 percent of the program's revenue. The budget for the Duke men's basketball program is \$17 million. They pay Coach Krzyzewski over \$4 million of that. The leaves a million dollars of the budget for every player on the team.

After all that money is spent, athletic departments cry poverty and pry money out of boosters and colleges charge students fees for athletic support. Tuition is skyrocketing across the country and nary an athletic budget has been charged with trimming the fat to help out other areas of the institution.

The NCAA patrols the sport hoping to keep it "clean" and punish any school for violations. It is hard to blame athletes who play in front of 100,000 people every fall Saturday for selling a few souvenirs to fans or boosters who give them jobs doing nothing.

The real crimes are at the top. The university boards that, in the name of keeping big donors happy, look the other way, the school presidents who do not put pressure on the NCAA to change its spending habits and the NCAA itself for running college athletics with an unceasing iron fist, magnifying the petty crimes of 20-year-olds while hiding the truth about what really happens with all that money.

Jon Meredith lives in Stapleton. He can be reached at [jon.meredith@q.com](mailto: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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Noah VanSickle reclines in his couch-top studio where he created his winning video.

## Lowry Youth Wins USDA Healthy Eating Video Competition

By John Babiak

You can find Lowry neighborhood resident Noah Bays VanSickle either perfecting his baseball swing in a local batting cage, staying up with his Kent Denver homework assignments, or just lying horizontal on his living room couch crafting clever videos. The 12-year-old's creative achievements recently won praise from judges at the U.S. Department of Agriculture—and his work even caught the attention of White House staff.

The middle schooler earned second place in the 2011 National MyPlate Fruits and Veggie Video Challenge that was sponsored by the USDA. The contest's theme was "make half your plate fruits and vegetables." Each video submitted provided a unique point of view to inspire adults and children to eat healthier and to illustrate that fruits and vegetables can be a part of any household budget. Winning videos will now be used in the department's efforts to educate the public about affordable ways to incorporate more fresh vegetables and fruits into their daily diets.

With the encouragement of his former teacher, Val Petrov, the technology instructor at

Lowry Elementary, the young VanSickle took on the challenge even though he had a late start. He had only 10 days to shoot, edit and publish his video. He submitted his 30-second video, "Eating Fruits and Veggies Without Straining Your Budget," into the "Tips When Eating Home" category, with only a few days to spare before the deadline. Why did he enter the contest? "I want to see more kids and adults eat better and get on good diets," said VanSickle.

"When I did not hear anything, I built up my courage and checked the USDA website. I was so happy to see that I was a winner." Said VanSickle, "I told my family in less than 10 minutes." Petrov, who mentored him since he was in second grade, said, "Being creative and artistic reflects Noah's passion for learning. He liked to collaborate and he successfully adapted to different project teams."

In this project, he focused on communicating three key educational messages: buy local fruits and vegetables, make your purchases seasonal and grow your own. He captured dozens of still photos, calculated the number he needed to couple into a start-

stop video clip, and then wrote the narrative script and inserted colorful graphics. VanSickle's creative process involved looking at how he and his mother, Heather Bays, eat at home. They pick peaches from their backyard tree. Any uneaten peaches go into the freezer and soon thereafter, into a fruit smoothie. They also like to shop at their neighborhood farmers' market for seasonal foods. All three are cited in his video, including a three-foot-long zucchini that a neighbor grew and shared with him for the shoot. And what does this young producer plan

to do with his winnings? He has already invested some of it back into his couch-top studio and bought state-of-the-art film-making software. And he intends to also buy new video hardware—all in hopes of enhancing his creative video making experience.

Noah VanSickle's winning video is online at [FrontPorchStapleton.com](http://FrontPorchStapleton.com) and at <http://fruit-sandveggies.challenge.gov/submissions/5361-eating-fruits-and-veggies-without-straining-your-budget>.

To see more of VanSickle's videos visit YouTube Channel: Multipencilsharper.

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Andrew Hageman and Zac Stahlhut, both 11, are the owners of ZARL, Inc. (Zac and Andrew's Rocket Launchers). The power to launch a rocket comes from air pushed through PVC pipes when the user stomps on a plastic soft drink container (see photo below).

# Young Entrepreneurs' Business Blasts Off

By Judith Schwartz

If you want to start a business, two Stapleton entrepreneurs just might become your mentors. Eleven-year-olds Andrew Hageman and Zac Stahlhut are the owners of ZARL, Inc. (Zac and Andrew's Rocket Launchers). These West-erly Creek fifth-graders have produced their easy-to-use, safe and lots-of-fun rocket launchers for less than a year, but already are planning new marketing and sales endeavors.

In the summer of 2010, Philip Schmidt, PhD, a University of Texas-Austin mechanical engineering professor, visited family in Stapleton. He shared his love of astronomy by host-ing stargazing events. Andrew

attended one night and the seeds of a venture were sown.

The prototype was developed by Dr. Schmidt. He and Andrew built and tested a variety of models to arrive at the model they sold. The boys negotiated an intellectual property agreement to use Schmidt's design features, which included "a royalty of a dime per launcher to support me in my retirement," says Schmidt. The PVC-pipe launchers include a set of construction-paper rockets and a two-liter plastic bottle. Andrew says they chose construc-tion paper and include written instructions so you can make more rockets "if you lose them."

Dr. Schmidt says Andrew and Zac are "poster-kids for the principle that young people thrive on challenges. They've innovated new designs, come up with ingenious ways to mar-ket their products, and learned a successful business requires hard work, patience and re-silience...not qualities easily taught in a class-room. They require hands-on experience."

ZARL, Inc. was established in April 2011. Zac's vision was to run a successful business. "No one in our school had businesses. I thought it would set me apart a bit." Andrew notes money was a good motivator. Both boys at-tended Young Entrepreneurs classes through the Young Americans Center for Financial Educa-tion; free 90-minute, Satur-day workshops for business-minded kids 10 and up. The boys showcased their rockets at a Young Entrepre-neur Marketplace and adver-tised the fair by appearing on a November 9News broad-cast.

Andrew and Zac express great appreciation to Kim Kouba, owner of Sweet William Market. Kouba, in

turn, is ecstatic about the boys, "I received this re-markable call from a 10-year-old [Andrew] introduc-ing himself, telling me about his business and inquiring if Sweet William would be an appropriate place to sell their products." Potential vendors are ju-ried; she asked to see their product. At Central Park the boys demonstrated the rockets, which can go up 100 feet. They "picked my brain on price points, dis-play ideas, colors. We worked out a contract, again, like any other vendor."

Kouba always enjoys assisting her vendors, but found it especially rewarding to work with eager youngsters. "I get calls about including products made by youths, but it's the moms calling me. An-drew's and Zac's parents should be praised for rais-ing such gracious, well-mannered children. I even received a Christmas card from ZARL, Inc."

Customer Ramsey Wallis reports: "My mother bought the ZARL kit for my daughter's 8th birth-day party. I was amazed how all the children ages 2-12 were so excited launching (and retrieving) the rockets; the little ones able to launch them with their own power. I took the kit to Michigan for my daughter's many cousins. We delightfully lost some each time we launched, but enjoyed making more, adding slight modifications. It's an inexpensive, in-teractive toy that also teaches great lessons about aerodynamics, air pressure and kinetic energy."

Andrew recently won first place at the Westerly Creek Science Fair for new scien-tific experiments with the rocket launchers.

Next for ZARL, Inc.: birthday parties. Attendees get a rocket launcher set, make rockets and play games devised by Andrew and Zac. To say the sky's the limit for these young entrepreneurs might just be an understatement.

Learn more at ZARL, Inc. on Facebook or contact the boys at zarlinc@comcast.net.



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# Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

## At a Museum Near You: Dragons, and Monsters, and Basilisks! Oh My!

### 60 Worldwide Lizards and Snakes Showcased at Denver Museum of Nature & Science

It is a rare opportunity to view, up close, and come to better appreciate, 60 of the Earth's most striking lizards and snakes. You won't have to travel far to see these creatures; you can find them within a short distance of our residences and workplaces here in NE Denver. The opportunity is so unique, my amateur herpetologist and I have been back to the Denver Museum of Nature & Science for three enlightening expeditions within their new Lizard & Snakes exhibition.

The museum is currently home to a fascinating traveling exhibit of slithering, hissing and often just motionless creatures that typically make their natural habitats in faraway parts of our world. The exhibit, open through July 8, is organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, in collaboration with the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta, the San Diego Museum of Natural History and Clyde Peeling's Reptiland. It introduces its guests to squamates from five continents. Squamates are a group of nearly 8,000 "scaled reptiles" that include snakes and lizards. Educational displays and interactive stations reveal how these creatures have evolved into one of the most highly adapted and successful species on Earth.

For example, you may not want to try to test your strength and pick up a live Burmese python in the wild, but at one hands-on area, you, plus a few strong-armed family members, can try to do just that. This python, a manmade replica, is over 10 feet long and weighs 100 or more pounds. In the true wilds of Burma, a female python can weigh as much 200 pounds. As an aside, Marko and I wish you good luck in your weightlifting exercise!

In each of the 20 oversized terrariums (most specifically designed to encourage natural behavior, and complete with ponds, tree limbs, rock ledges and live plants), you can squat and go eyeball-to-eyeball with a multi-spectrum veiled chameleon that is native to the southwestern Arabian Peninsula. These lizards have layers of special cells in their colorful armor that can generate rapid and complex color-pattern changes, which they use to communicate their emotions and help them blend into their surroundings. If you are lucky, you may even witness it deploying its projectile-like sticky tongue to snag a succulent cricket. Don't blink. You may just miss the catch. A chameleon's elastic tongue can move at a rate of 16 feet per second.



Burmese Python



Frilled Lizard

What are the two deadliest squamates on the floor? That would be the Gila monsters and the mamba snakes. Gilas are one of the only two highly venomous lizards on our planet. Their venom is channeled through specialized grooves in their sharp teeth. This deadly cocktail gets into their prey's blood and saliva, killing them off slowly. On the upside, pharmaceutical chemists around the world are studying biochemicals found in the saliva of this monster. Seven years ago, the FDA approved the drug Exenatide for the management of type-2 diabetes. This drug is a synthetic version of a protein found in the Gila monster's saliva. Neighboring the Gila's display is the eastern green mamba. This slender, fast-moving, arboreal species of snakes lives in treetop canopies throughout southwest Africa. Their vivid green coloration matches the tree leaves, making for a perfect camouflage. Eastern green mambas are highly venomous, but, lucky for us humans, they are not known to be aggressive. Either



Photos courtesy of Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Veiled Chameleon

way, we do not recommend that you climb trees whenever you are taking a hike in coastal Mozambique.

After our recent outing, I asked Marko what his favorite creature was. He replied: "The 14-foot python!" And why? "Because it can swallow a whole wild pig." I thought a bit and came to the conclusion that his answer made perfect sense. As a growing 11-year-old boy, Marko, like a python, has an insatiable appetite. However, my almost 5-foot "python" prefers his pig barbecued and slathered with a sweet and smoky sauce.

The Lizards & Snakes exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science is open daily and free with general admission. We recommend that you tour it, at least twice.

*Marko and John Babiak are Stapleton residents. Marko, 10, is an avid wildlife photographer. John teaches Nature Rangers ecology classes to students at Steck, Roberts Westerly Creek and Odyssey. He also leads a summer-long nature day camp at the Rocky Mt. Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. He can be reached at NatureRangerJohn@aol.com.*

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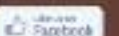
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## DENVER METRO EVENTS

### Art Walks and Exhibits:

**3/2 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District.** Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. [www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com](http://www.artdistrictonSantaFe.com)  
**3/2 Friday- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk.** Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. [www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com](http://www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com)  
**3/2 Friday- Old South Pearl Art Walk.** [www.oldsouthpearl-street.com](http://www.oldsouthpearl-street.com)  
**3/2 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District.** [www.cherrycreek-north.com](http://www.cherrycreek-north.com)  
**3/2 Friday- Highlands Square First Friday.** 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. [www.highlands-square.com](http://www.highlands-square.com)  
**3/9 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).  
**3/2 Friday to 3/18 Saturday- CHANCE A Photographic Show.** Juror: Mark Sink. [tbellphotographic.com](http://tbellphotographic.com) studio and gallery, 900 Santa Fe Dr. Studio A. [www.tbellphotographic.com](http://www.tbellphotographic.com)  
**3/30 Friday- Final Friday at Denver Art Museum.** 6-10pm. *Untitled* for March includes runway show by former Project Runway contestants in homage to upcoming Yves St. Laurent exhibit. On-site interior design consults, visitor art-induced haircuts and hands-on haute couture skills workshop. General admission applies; members free. Special tickets for runway show. [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

**What to do in Denver?** Visit [www.denver.org/what-to-do](http://www.denver.org/what-to-do) or [www.GalleryGuideDenver.com](http://www.GalleryGuideDenver.com). Search art galleries by district, medium and style; info on nearby points of interest, Art Walks, exhibition openings, maps of Denver's Public Art collection, links to recommended cultural itineraries.

**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, 303.807.0619 for other services. Bosworth House, 1400 Josephine St. Sponsor: Assistance League of Denver

**3/3 Saturday- Daughters of American Revolution prospective member workshop.** 1-3pm. Adagio B and B, 1430 Race St. Reservations required: Helen Strader, 303.997.6788.

**3/4 Sunday- Sphere Ensemble.** Colorado's conductorless string ensemble performs Mendelssohn, Corelli, Janacek, etc. Special appearance by students of Strings Attached. 3pm. \$10-15. Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden Ave. [www.SphereEnsemble.org](http://www.SphereEnsemble.org)

**3/8 Thursday- Theatre at Four Mile.** 7-9pm. Members \$9, adults \$15, seniors/youth \$12, under 6 free. [www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

**3/8 Thursday, A Celebration of Culture in the Female Spirit.** Ten Thousand Villages celebrates International Women's Day. Ethnic folk tales/music by Helen Trencher; arts and crafts, food, and fair trade artisan features. 6:30-8pm. \$5 suggested donation. 2626 E 3rd Ave, Denver. 303.316.8773

**3/10 Saturday, 3/11 Sunday, 3/16 Friday and 3/18 Sunday- Bourbon Street Brass: Brass, Bagpipes and Co: Celtic Fusion.** Newman Center for Performing Arts, Univ. of Denver. Tickets: \$43-\$24. 303.832.HORN or [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org)

**3/10 Saturday- Old House Fair and Roadshow.** 9am-5pm. Resources, workshops specific to homes 50 years old+. Appraisers on hand for consultations and for collectables. Sign up: [www.DenverOldHouseSociety.org](http://www.DenverOldHouseSociety.org). The Tivoli, 900 Auraria Parkway. Tickets: \$12 at King Soopers, [www.ticketswest.com](http://www.ticketswest.com) and Modern Bungalow, 2594 S. Colorado Blvd. At door: \$15.

**3/10 Saturday, 3/11 Sunday- Spring Sugar Plum Bazaar.** 10am-5pm. Parkside Mansion, 1859 York St. 50 vendors selling vintage finds, handcrafts. Free admission; donations encouraged to Children's Hospital. [www.sugarplumbazaar.com](http://www.sugarplumbazaar.com)

**3/15 Thursday- Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs.** For all gardeners. Grace: 303.455.0839.

**3/17 Saturday- 50th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.** 10am. Begins in LoDo and through downtown. [www.denverstpatricksdays-parade.org](http://www.denverstpatricksdays-parade.org)

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**3/19 Monday- A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs 1910-1935.** Colorado Hebrew Chorale Concert sings songs from American songbook. CU Health Sciences Center. 4pm. [www.mizelmuseum.org](http://www.mizelmuseum.org)

**3/20 Tuesday- Lecture: A Mighty Long Way From Little Rock to Denver.** Presented by Colorado History Museum. Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1370 Grant St. 1pm and 7pm. Cost: \$8.50 public, \$7 members. Reservations required. 303.866.4686. [www.historycolorado.org](http://www.historycolorado.org)

**3/23 Friday- Behind the Scenes at Denver International Airport (DIA).** Experience places you never see from snowplow garage to communications center to nooks/crannies of public art. Bus tour of airfield includes investigation of fiery-eyed Mustang and other hot spots, weather permitting. \$26 History Colorado members; \$31 non-members. 303.866.4686

**3/31 Saturday- Lakewood's Heritage Center.** Join curator on behind-the-scenes tour of Lakewood's Heritage Center of restored structures like Ethel's Beauty Salon and 1930s farmhouse saved from wrecking ball and relocated to the park. 10am-12pm. \$16 History Colorado members, \$21 nonmembers. 303.866.4686

**3/30 Friday to 4/1 Sunday- NCAA Women's Final Four Tourney Town.** Colorado Convention Center, 10am-7pm. FREE events include NCAA youth clinics, "Mile High Dribble" Battle of Bands, etc. [www.ncaa.com/sports/women-dl](http://www.ncaa.com/sports/women-dl)

**4/1 Sunday and 4/3 Tuesday- NCAA Women's Final Four.** Pepsi Center. Tickets: [www.ncaa.com/sports/women-dl](http://www.ncaa.com/sports/women-dl)

**Denver Urban Homesteading Farmers Market.** Indoor, year-round farmers market and homesteading school with local/organic foods. Thursdays and Fridays 3-7pm, Saturday 9-3. 200 Santa Fe Dr. FREE. [www.denverurbanhomesteading.com](http://www.denverurbanhomesteading.com) for classes and seminars.

**Denver IDEA Café.** FREE. Startup Workshop and speakers presented by Small Business Chamber of Commerce. 2-3:30pm. Fridays. Panera Bread, 13th and Grant. [www.SmallBizChamber.org](http://www.SmallBizChamber.org) or 303.861.1447

**Single Volunteers of Greater Denver.** Visit [www.svgd.org](http://www.svgd.org) for volunteer opportunities for singles: local projects, charitable social events and working vacations abroad.

**Volunteers of America Foster Grandparent Program.** Seeking adults 55+ with lower incomes who love working with kids and can give 15/more hours/week. Small stipend given; transportation reimbursed. [www.voacolorado.org](http://www.voacolorado.org). 303.297.0408 (Naomi Taggart)

**Live Music at The Soiled Dove.** 7401 E 1st Ave, Lowry. Tickets: [www.soileddove.com](http://www.soileddove.com)

**Denver Public Art Tours.** FREE Public Art Tours by foot, bike, scooter, for art and architecture lovers. Reservations required. Schedule/signup: [www.denvergov.org/publicart](http://www.denvergov.org/publicart). Also download 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](http://www.denver2for1tix.com)

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**3/13 Tuesday- Children's Hospital Colorado Free Parenting Seminar Series, Being the Voice for Your Child with Special Needs.** Speaker: Matthew Vitaska. 6:30-8pm. FREE. Free child care if pre-register. Children's Hospital Colorado, 13123 E 16th Ave., Aurora. Register: [www.childrenshospitalcolorado.org/events](http://www.childrenshospitalcolorado.org/events)

**3/15 Thursday- HIV testing at Rocky Mountain Cares non-profit for holistic HIV care.** FREE. 1-5pm. 3rd Thursday monthly. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. 303.393.8050, Adrian Pilarski

## LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

**Active Minds – Complete listing and info on all sessions:** [www.ActiveMinds.com](http://www.ActiveMinds.com). FREE.

**3/6 Tuesday- The Titanic, From Sinking to Salvage.** 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

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**3/8 Thursday- U.S. Immigration Policy.** 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724

**3/20 Tuesday- The Evolution of Libya.** 11am-12pm (10:45 refreshments). Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi, 303.388.4013 x307

**3/27 Tuesday- The State of the European Union.** 5:30-6:30 pm. Tattered Cover, 2326 E. Colfax. 303.322.7727

## LIBRARIES

For more library programs, check events calendar at [denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org). All branches closed Friday 3/23, City Furlough Day and 3/26 Monday for Cesar Chavez Day.

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

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

**Thursdays and Fridays- Book Babies.** 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.

**3/6 Tuesday- Funny Face Book Reviews.** Give celebrity endorsement for your favorite book! Videos will be posted online of you holding up celebrity's photo as you deliver your book review! 5-7pm.

**3/27 Teen Advisory Board (TAB):** Students grades 6-12 invited to join Park Hill TAB. Help plan library events/projects at Park Hill Library. Have your voice heard. 7pm.

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

**Tuesdays- Tales for Twos.** 10:15am through May 8.

**Tuesdays- Preschool Story Time.** 11:30am through May 8.

**Thursdays- Bookbabies.** 3pm through May 10.

**3/3 Saturday- Make and Take Studio.** Throw and Sow Seed Balls. 10am.

**3/3 Saturday- Colorado Authors Series.** Patricia Duncan: *A Defining Moment*. 2pm.

**3/10 Saturday- Hooola Hooping.** Registration required. [fcmybranch@denverlibrary.org](mailto:fcmybranch@denverlibrary.org) or 720.865.0000. 10am.

**3/11 Sunday- Harpist Starr Edwards.** Celebrate Schlessman's 10th birthday. Cake and music. 2pm.

**3/12 Monday- Homemade Ice Cream and Toppings.** 6:30pm

**3/17 Saturday- Make and Take Studio.** Paper flowers. 2pm. Reservations required. [fcmybranch@denverlibrary.org](mailto:fcmybranch@denverlibrary.org) or 720.865.0000

## KIDS AND FAMILIES

**Thursdays in March- 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](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**3/3 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshop.** 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Saturday of month for ages 5-12. Each child gets Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)

**3/10 Saturday and 3/24 Saturday- Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics.** Bring kids to a Lowe's store to build FREE wood project: free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, certificate of merit on completion. 10am. [www.lowesbuildandgrow.com](http://www.lowesbuildandgrow.com)

**3/11 Sunday- Junior Rangers.** Animal Superstars. 1:30-3:30pm. Ages 6-12. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. Reservations required. 303.739.9428, [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**3/12 Monday- Summer Planning Tips & Camp Preview.** Activities, safety, find a best fit. Directors from Altogether Outdoors Summer Camps answer questions on all camps and help with camp registration. 6:30-7:30pm. FREE. Stapleton MCA Community Rm. Contact: Tommy Feldman, 720.249.2997. Attendees have chance to have AO Camps' Climbing Tower at Stapleton Block Party!

**3/14 Wednesday- "Create Playdates" at Denver Art Museum.** Kids 3-5 roar, bang, stomp 2nd Wed./month. 10am. Art making, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum admission; 5 and under free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. [www.denverart-museum.org](http://www.denverart-museum.org) or 720.865.5000

**3/16 Friday- Nature at Night: Coyotes.** 6:30pm. All ages. FREE. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

**Through 4/29 Sunday- Cinderella, Mexican Style.** Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, [www.denverpuppettheater.com](http://www.denverpuppettheater.com)

**Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Workshops.** Ages 4 and up. Cost from \$5. Museum adm: \$6 adults, \$4 children 5-16, under 5 free. 1880 Gaylord St. [www.dmmtdt.org](http://www.dmmtdt.org)

**Tiny Tots Love Music, Denver Brass.** Special concert for tiny tots and parents; introduce little ones to magic of live music. Various dates/locations. Tickets: [www.denverbrass.org](http://www.denverbrass.org)

**Through 3/11 - Louisville Winterskate.** Outdoor ice skating and Friday night carriage rides. Call for hours, 303.449.3137. 824 Front St, Louisville. [www.bceproductions.com](http://www.bceproductions.com)

**Through 3/11 - Flatiron Crossing Winterskate.** Outdoor rink outside the mall. Call for hours, 303.449.3137. [www.bceproductions.com](http://www.bceproductions.com)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com)

## KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

**Aurora Fox Theater-** Drama classes ages 4 and up. Lisa Mumpton: 303.739.1573 or [www.aurorafox.org](http://www.aurorafox.org) (continued on page 18)

**Top Dentist 2009, '10, '11**  
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## RECURRING EVENTS

**4th Monday**  
SUN Board Mtg. 7:30pm, MCA, 2823 Roslyn St. [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)

**Every Tuesday**  
Stapleton Rotary Club - 7:30am Stapleton Community Room 2823 Roslyn St. [www.denverstapletonrotary.org](http://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](mailto:Lcorrell@dotnet.net)

**3rd Tuesday**  
Greater Stapleton Business Assoc. 8am MCA, 2823 Roslyn St [www.stapletonbusiness.com](http://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](mailto:stapletonneighbors@msn.com)

**2nd & 3rd Wednesday**  
Lowry Peak Speakers Toastmaster Club. Noon-1pm, Pinnacle Assurance: 7501 E. Lowry Blvd, Denver 80203 [lowrypeak.freetoasthost.org](mailto:lowrypeak.freetoasthost.org) [lpstoastmasters@gmail.com](mailto:lpstoastmasters@gmail.com)

**3rd Thursday**  
Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board Mtg, 7350 E. 29th Ave. 7:30-9am 303-393-7700

**Last Thursday**  
Stapleton Power Partners Casual networking group for those doing business in Stapleton, particularly residents operating small businesses out of their homes. 2:30-4:00pm. The Berkshire in the 29th Ave. Town Center. Rich Ouellette 303-488-3975 [rich.ouellette@ubs.com](mailto:rich.ouellette@ubs.com) Dee Brown 303-997-7744 [deeindenver@aol.com](mailto:deeindenver@aol.com)

**1st Saturday**  
Bluff Lake Birders, Nature Center 7-9am. BluffLakeNatureCenter.org. Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team 9am-Noon. Contact [Lcorrell@dotnet.net](mailto: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

**3rd Saturday**  
Daughters of the American Revolution at Adagio Bed and Breakfast, 1430 Race St. Prospective members welcome-rsvp to Helen Strader, 303-997-6788

**Periodically**  
Stapleton Wine Appreciation Group. [meighanm@aim.com](mailto:meighanm@aim.com)



## Messiah Community Church, ELCA Coming events! - You are invited!

Pre-Easter and Holy Week activities:

\*Wednesdays during March, Lenten Services at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.;  
\*Palm Sunday, Apr. 1, we join with St. Thomas Episcopal Church for a shared service in their sanctuary;  
\*Maundy Thursday, Apr. 5, and Good Friday, Apr. 6, Services at 6:30 p.m.;  
\*Easter, Apr. 8, Festive Communion Worship at 9:30 a.m.  
Easter Service in the German language at 5:00 p.m.

1750 Colorado Blvd. Denver  
(across from Denver City Park/IMAX)  
303-355-4471  
[www.messiahdenver.org](http://www.messiahdenver.org)

Worship and Sunday School  
every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

We are an inclusive, progressive church community

## LOCAL EVENT LISTINGS

(continued from page 17)

**Art Students League of Denver-** Programs for kids and teens. 303.778.6990, [www.ASLD.org](http://www.ASLD.org)

**Small Hands Art Studio-** Art classes. Stapleton location. [www.smallhandsart.com](http://www.smallhandsart.com)

**Start Art-** Art classes. [Startartkids.com](http://Startartkids.com)

**The Art Garage-** Classes ages 4 and up. 6100 E 23rd Ave, Park Hill. [www.artgaragedenver.com](http://www.artgaragedenver.com)

**The Urban Farm-** Embracing Horses; [info@theurbanfarm.org](mailto:info@theurbanfarm.org)

**Club J-** After-school programs at Jewish Community Center for kids grades K-5. [www.jcc.org](http://www.jcc.org)

**Stapleton All Sports-** Now registering for spring sports. [www.stapletonallsports.com](http://www.stapletonallsports.com)

### DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

Montview and Colorado Blvd. [www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

**Through 7/8 Sunday- Lizards and Snakes.** More than 60 live snakes and lizards on display.

**3/15 Thursday- Science Lounge.**

Cocktails/entertainment every 3rd Thurs. of month. 6:30-9:30pm. \$8/members; \$10/non-members

**Planetarium-** *Wildest Weather in the Solar System; Black Holes; Cosmic Journey; One World, One Sky.* [www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-shows](http://www.dmns.org/planetarium/current-shows)

**IMAX Movies-** *Tornado Alley 3D, Flying Monsters 3D.* Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$10/adult

### NORTHFIELD EVENTS

**Events at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton** 303.375.5475 [www.NorthfieldStapleton.com](http://www.NorthfieldStapleton.com)

**Bass Pro Events- 720.385.3600, [www.BassPro.com](http://www.BassPro.com)** Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout the month.

**Harkins Theatres 18- 720.374.3118, [www.HarkinsTheatres.com](http://www.HarkinsTheatres.com)**

**Improv Comedy Club and Dinner Theatre-** Tickets: 303.307.1777, [www.ImprovDenver.com](http://www.ImprovDenver.com)

Ticket prices based on comedian and show time.

**Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill-** 303.728.9468, [www.countrybarco.com](http://www.countrybarco.com)

Local and regional live music acts Wed.-Sat.

### 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/](http://www.fws.gov/rocky-mountainarsenal/)**

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

**Saturdays- "Wild" Talks.** 1pm. Join a naturalist every Saturday for 10-minute mystery "wild" talk.

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

### SPORTS AND FITNESS

**3/4 Sunday- That Dam Run ½ Marathon, 5K and 1K Family Fun Run.** Cherry Creek State Park. 10am. [www.bkbltd.com/RUNDENVER.htm](http://www.bkbltd.com/RUNDENVER.htm)

**3/11 Sunday- Running of the Green Lucky 7K Run and Walk.** Benefits Volunteers of America. Lodo. Register: [www.rotg.org](http://www.rotg.org)

**Fridays through 3/16- Friday Night Yoga Club.** Different Denver studio each week. 5:30-9pm. Live music, food, beverages, massage, acupuncture treatments. Portion of proceeds benefits Chanda Plan Foundation. [www.fridaynightyogaclub.com](http://www.fridaynightyogaclub.com)

**Fridays in March- Jazzercise Free Fridays.** 5:45am. Jazzercise class FREE in March. Jazzercise Stapleton at 2230 Oneida St. 720.270.2047.

**Fridays- i Play.** 5:30-7pm. Open yoga; instructor present. Kids welcome. Donation only. 2212 Kearney St. [www.mysacredi.com](http://www.mysacredi.com)

**Registration now open- Mother's Day 5K.** City Park. 9am. May 13. [www.mothersday5K.com](http://www.mothersday5K.com) \$30/individual, \$90/family.

### NORTHEAST DENVER EVENTS

**Tuesdays- Introduction to Meditation and Christian Mysticism.** 6-week free course. 7:30pm. Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. [Denver@CentersOfLight.org](mailto:Denver@CentersOfLight.org) or 720.308.9944

**3/4 Sunday- Temple Micah Purim Carnival & Spiel.** Family carnival: games, goodies, bouncy castle, etc. 10am-12pm. \$20/family or \$5/person bake sale excluded. MazeTot discounts: kids 4 and under or expecting at [www.mazetot.org](http://www.mazetot.org). 1973 Elm St. Elaine Lee: 303.388.4239, [elaine.lee@micahdenver.org](mailto:elaine.lee@micahdenver.org) or <http://www.micahdenver.org>.

**3/3 Saturday- Beads, Booze and Bids.** Westerly Creek Elementary Pardi Gras Auction. 6-11pm. \$20/ticket. Summit Conference and Event Center, 411 Sable Blvd N, Aurora. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Beads-Booze-and-Bids-2012/207150429378194>

**3/3 Saturday- Micah Speakeasy.** Gambling fundraiser event at Denver Press Club for Temple Micah. \$55-\$75 7-9pm. RSVP and pay: [www.micahdenver.org](http://www.micahdenver.org). 303.388.4239 or [elaine.lee@micahdenver.org](mailto:elaine.lee@micahdenver.org)

**3/10 Saturday- Food Drive Benefit for Ashley Elementary School.** Central Park Rec Center at curbside. 9am-5pm. Stapleton Cares will collect nonperishable food, fruits and vegetables for families at Ashley Elementary. Mary Ellen Olson: 303.333.5826 or [Nummers3@msn.com](mailto:Nummers3@msn.com)

**3/13 Tuesday- League of Women Voters Forum: Difficult Choices for Denver.** 5:45pm. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. Speakers: Budget Director Brendan Hanlon and Councilwoman Robin Kneich address necessary vs. unnecessary services, and fee decisions. [www.lwvdenver.org](http://www.lwvdenver.org)

**3/16 Friday- Free Movies: Visions of Universal Humanity and Humanity Ascending.** 7:30pm. Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. [Denver@CentersOfLight.org](mailto:Denver@CentersOfLight.org), 720.308.9944

**3/17 Saturday- Bill Roberts "Go Green, Give Green" Annual Auction.** The Pinnacle Club on 37th floor of The Grand Hyatt downtown. 6pm. \$35/person before 12am on 3/9, \$50/person after (\$25: teachers and administrators). Tickets: <http://www.billrobertspta.com/>

**3/21 Wednesday- Rejuvenate Your Home Feng Shui Seminar.** Tips to renew your home this spring. Presenter: Tanya Jahnke of Feng Shui for the Om, sponsored by New Perspective Real Estate. 7-9pm. FREE. 2330 Central Park Blvd. [www.fengshui4theom.com](http://www.fengshui4theom.com) or 303.394.4526

**3/22, 3/23, 3/24 Thursday-Saturday- Spiritual Seminars** with Mother Clare Watts. 7:30pm. \$25 each. Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. [Denver@CentersOfLight.org](mailto:Denver@CentersOfLight.org) or 720.308.9944

**Lowry Elementary Arts and Crafts Fair-** Looking for vendors for 1st Arts and Crafts Fair Friday 4/27, 3-6pm and Saturday, 4/28 9am-4pm. Table rental: \$75 for both days and benefits Lowry Elementary PTO. Diana Bailey: [baileyfamilycircus@gmail.com](mailto:baileyfamilycircus@gmail.com), 303.366.8282

**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](http://www.dsa.dpsk12.org/performances)

**Central Park Recreation Center.** Info: [www.denvergov.org/recreation](http://www.denvergov.org/recreation), 750.865.0750 or Facebook Central Park Recreation Center. Registering for sports programs.

### THEATRE

**3/2-4/1- Six Degrees of Separation.** Vintage Theatre, 2119 E 17th Ave. 303.839.1361, [www.vintagetheatre.com](http://www.vintagetheatre.com)

**3/2-4/1- Xanadu.** Aurora Fox Theatre, 9900 E. Colfax. [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org), 303.739.1970

**3/6-3/11- Green Day's American Idiot.** Buell Theatre, 14th and Curtis, Denver Center for Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**3/14-3/18- Disney's Beauty and the Beast.** Buell Theatre, 14th and Curtis, Denver Center for Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

**3/29-4/1- Colorado Ballet's Tribute.** Newman Center for Performing Arts, Univ. of Denver. [www.coloradoballet.org](http://www.coloradoballet.org)

**Through 3/10- Scripov.** Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. [www.avenuetheater.com](http://www.avenuetheater.com), 303.321.5925.

**Through 3/24- Coronado.** Firehouse Theater Company at John Hand Theater, 7653 E 1st Pl. 303.562.3232, [www.johnhandtheater.com](http://www.johnhandtheater.com)

**Through 4/19- How I Became a Pirate.** Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. 720.898.7200, [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org)

**Through 6/24- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.** Galleria Theatre, 14th and Curtis. Denver Center for Performing Arts. [www.denvercenter.org](http://www.denvercenter.org)

		
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Events and Announcements

March 7 and 13—Theater Lovers Invited to Read and Rant at Aurora Fox Theatre

The Aurora Fox Theatre Company is now offering two monthly opportunities for individuals to come and express their opinions about plays that could possibly be produced by the theatre. Read and Rant is the monthly script reading book club. Membership is free, but to join contact Patricia Wells at [pwells@aurorafoxartscenter.org](mailto:pwells@aurorafoxartscenter.org) to sign up. Members receive two scripts to read before attending. Scripts are critiqued and feedback given to local playwrights on suggested improvements. This month's meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13, at 7pm at the Fox. The second monthly program consists of staged readings of plays suggested by the Read and Rant group and ones needed to be heard before the company commits to a production. On Monday, March 7, company actors will stage a reading of Arickaree by James P. Downing, described as a fast-paced story of romance, wealth and family ties that takes place in 1904 Denver. Fox Theatre season subscribers and Read and Rant club members are free; otherwise, tickets are \$5. The Aurora Fox Arts Center is located at 9900 E. Colfax. For more on these programs, current plays and their children's theatre, go to [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org) or call 303.739.1970.

March 10—New Year, New You Expo!

This free and open to the public New Year, New You Expo will give attendees an opportunity to get information on a broad range of subjects in a single location. On Saturday, March 10, from 11am until 2pm, a group of local experts in a range of fields, including finance, home organization, health, real estate, mortgage and others, will gather to answer questions and offer information to attendees about the services they provide. The event will be held in the Smart Space office center at 2373 Central Park Blvd in Stapleton and is sponsored by Farmers Insurance agent Kevin Tafoya. For more information, call 303.955.0861.

March 10 and 11—Sugar Plum Bazaar

The spring Sugar Plum Bazaar will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11 at the historic Parkside Mansion. Featuring over 50 vendors, Sugar Plum offers handcrafted jewelry, clothing, gifts, re-purposed retro, vintage, upcycled, unique finds and handmade creations. There is no entrance fee but guests are encouraged to make a small donation to the Children's Hospital Foundation. All artisan-crafted goods at Sugar Plum are from Colorado small companies, with the majority of items made in Colorado. Hours are 10am-5pm. The Parkside Mansion is located at 1859 York St. Parking in its lot is limited, but available at East High School, at LePeep after 2pm, and in the neighborhood. Visit [www.sugarplumbazaar.com](http://www.sugarplumbazaar.com) for a vendor list and more about the show.

March 21—Adult Spring Program At Central Park Rec Center

Have you been looking for a way to connect with like-minded friends? Or have you wanted a group with whom to play bridge, knit and chat? Put Wednesday, March 21 on your calendar and come to the kickoff event for adult activities at the Central Park Recreation Center. Adults from all neighborhoods are invited to a potluck from 12:30-3:30pm in the center's multi-use room. Bring a dish to share and find others with similar interests. The day's events will include brief reports about community activities and the opportunity to help determine activities planned for the adult program in the future. Some ideas that have been proposed are outdoor activities such as walking, hiking, biking groups and indoor activities such as a game and crafts afternoon or a music or language group. Come and weigh in with what activities you enjoy and meet new friends. For more information, email [Lcorrell@dotnet.net](mailto:Lcorrell@dotnet.net).

March 22—Lowry, Stapleton, Park Hill Symphony Guild Meeting

The Colorado Symphony Guild is actively seeking new members. Numerous fun and exciting opportunities are available through the local unit to support the Colorado Symphony. Members can attend four free rehearsals a year, work in the Symphony shop, prepare a luncheon and eat with the musicians, receive newsletters, attend lectures, promote children's attendance and engagement with the orchestra and attend monthly unit meetings that may include live entertainment. To learn more, attend the Lowry, Stapleton, Park Hill guild meeting on Thursday, March 22 at 10am. For more information, contact Colleen Hillmeyer at [chillme@comcast.net](mailto:chillme@comcast.net) or 303.360.0742, or Pat Williams at [willipat@aol.com](mailto:willipat@aol.com) or 303.367.4496. Annual dues for regular members are \$35 per year.

Saturday, March 31—Free Concert by Singer Jewell Part of NCAA Women's Final Four Events

The 2012 NCAA Women's Final Four tournament being held in Denver will include free events for families and basketball fans scheduled March 30, 31 and April 1. Of special note is a free concert by songstress Jewell to be held at 5:30pm at the Colorado Convention Center. The concert is part of the Tourney Town™ Refreshed by Coca-Cola Zero™ festival events that include a pep rally, kids' basketball clinics, mascot challenge, basketball skills entertainers, prizes, autograph sessions, games and interactive displays, free of charge. These events are open to the public whether or not tickets have been purchased for the April 1 and 3 finalist games. The festival runs from 10am-7pm Fri. and Sat., March 30 and 31 and on Sunday from 11am-7pm. For information on the complete schedule, locations and events for the 2012 Women's Final Four, go to [NCAA.com/finalfour](http://NCAA.com/finalfour).

### Easter Egg Event - Sun, April 1<sup>st</sup>

12:30–2:30pm. Rain or shine. Everyone welcome!





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**Far left:** (right to left) Glenda Condon, Michelle Brown and Kevin Geiger say the Pledge of Allegiance as the caucus starts. **Right:** Michelle Brown voices her support for Mitt Romney to her Park Hill neighbors in precinct 824.

# Colorado Caucus A Game Changer in the Republican Primary... For Now

By Jon Meredith

The Colorado Republican caucuses on February 7 were one of the turning points in the primary battle. Santorum's win in Colorado, with 40% of the statewide caucus vote over Romney's 35%, combined with wins in Missouri and Minnesota the same evening, vaulted Santorum into the lead in most nationwide polls at the time this paper went to press. Other candidate results statewide were Gingrich 13% and Paul 12%. In Denver County, the results were Romney 39.8%, Santorum 29.1%, Paul 19.2%, Gingrich 10.9%.

The results from House District 7, which includes precincts from most of Stapleton, were Santorum 56 votes, Romney 54, Paul 33 and Gingrich 21. A fire alarm caused the caucus goers to evacuate Montbello High before all the votes could be counted and business conducted. Yet, the caucus continued out in the cold, dark parking lot. The district captain, Ernest Stieglmeyer, said the results were "an absolute surprise to caucus participants as well as

state and national leaders."

District 8 represents precincts in a small area of Stapleton and much of Park Hill. District Captain Earl Bandy reports the results as: Romney 120 votes, Paul 97, Santorum 54 and Gingrich 30. Bandy commented, "Turnout was higher than expected. We had only one precinct where no one showed up and normally we have almost a dozen no-show precincts in central Denver."

These results reflect preferences, not actual delegates—delegates will be determined in district assemblies and the state assembly on April 14. The district caucuses are open to the public, but only registered Republicans could vote.

Sarah Pottorf, a Five Points resident, summed up the reasons for her support of Santorum, "He is very articulate and has great moral integrity, Gingrich has too much baggage, Romney is a flip-flopper, you never know what he'll do, and Paul is too far out."

Dave Webster, a Park Hill resident, says he is supporting Mitt Romney because "he is eloquent, is a leader and is the only Republican candidate who can actually be elected president." Webster

went on to joke that being a Republican in Park Hill is a lonely political proposition.

Gingrich supporters countered Webster's opinion, saying their candidate had the ideas, the intellect and the best chance to beat the president.

Many younger attendees spoke passionately about their support for Ron Paul. David Forbes, a student at UCD studying information technology, said he participated for the first time because "It is important to have a say and this is an easy way to get involved." He went on to point out, "The country has way too many entitlements that will not be around when I am old enough to take advantage of them, we have been in too many wars, and I am outraged by the actions of the Federal Reserve Bank."

Pauline Olvera, Vice Chair of the Denver County Republican Party, pointed out that 14 dignitaries from other countries came to the District 8 caucus to study the presidential primaries. She said, "They saw first-hand how our political system was designed for the ordinary citizen to push decisions from the grassroots level up rather than the pressing of decisions from the top down upon the people, like some of them unfortunately experience from their own government. It seemed some of them had taken Romney as a for-gone conclusion so they were even more thrilled to see Santorum win our opinion poll. Not because they disliked Romney or because of a like for Santorum. But because they saw that the American people can really make a difference in politics."

At the precinct caucuses on Feb. 7, delegates were selected to attend one of the seven congressional district assemblies where three delegates will be selected from each assembly. With additional delegates selected at the State Assembly and Convention on April 14, a total of 36 delegates from Colorado will be sent to the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida, on August 27–30.



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## MLK Essay Contest Winner



Photo courtesy of the Ho family

Stapleton resident Grant Ho (age 10) was one of five Denver fifth-graders to win the 2012 Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest sponsored by YMCA of Metropolitan Denver, Kroenke Sports Enterprises and Denver Public Schools. In his essay, Grant wrote about his dream that one day, children will no longer be teased at school. Grant pledged to lead by example and to stand up for any of his fellow students being teased. Grant and the other contest winners were honored at the 7th annual YMCA Kids Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration—Keeping the Dream Alive held at the Paramount Theatre on January 12. More than 1,800 DPS fifth-graders attended the celebration to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Carlotta Walls LaNeir, who lives in the Denver area and was the youngest member of the "Little Rock Nine," the courageous group of African-American students who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957, gave the keynote address. LaNeir was the first black woman to graduate from Central High School. She later attended Colorado State College (now University of Northern Colorado) and founded her own real estate brokerage company.

The contest winners received tickets to a Denver Nuggets basketball game and a Junior Nuggets jersey autographed by the team as part of their award. The photo shows Grant Ho at the Nuggets-Jazz game at the Pepsi Center, where the art and essay contest winners were recognized during the second quarter of the game.



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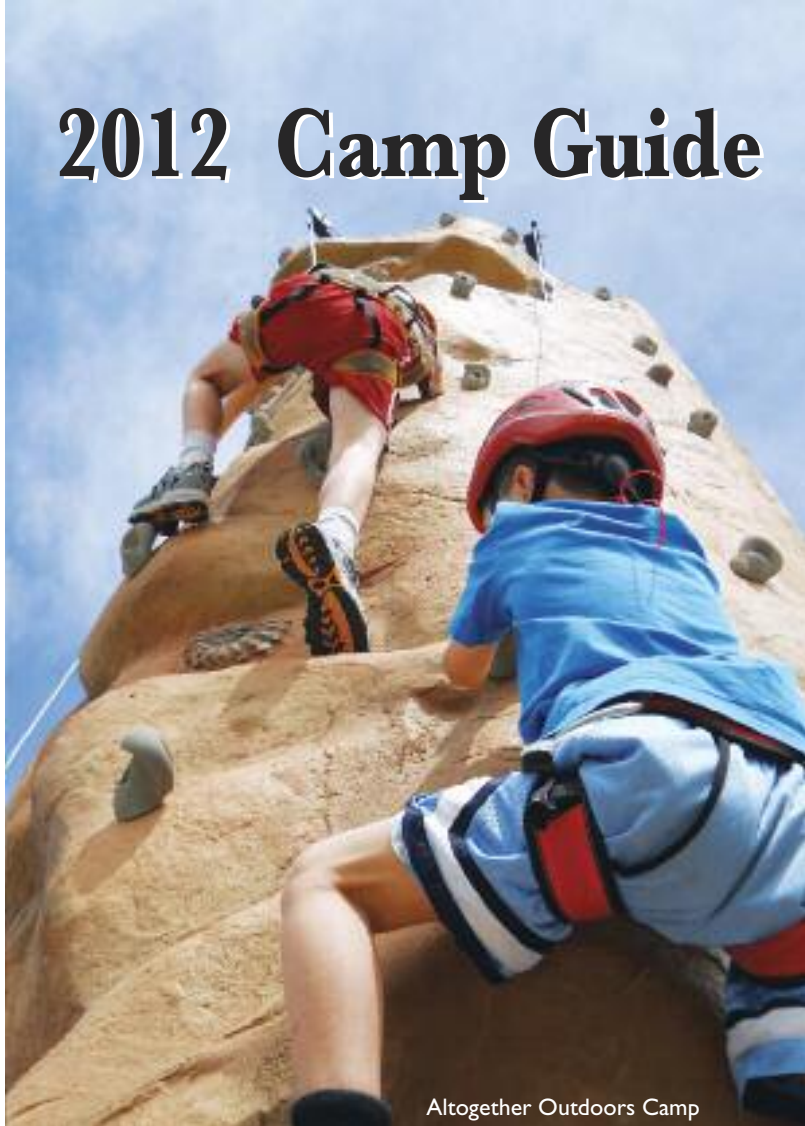
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# 2012 Camp Guide



Altogether Outdoors Camp

**Altogether Outdoors Summer Camps.** Day camps (ages 5-11); Leadership/Backpacking (ages 11-15) \$320-\$345/week; Sleep Away Camp (ages 7-15). Stapleton's only ACA-accredited camp and partner of the MCA. Authentic nature-based experiences—hiking, fishing, singing, climbing, team building, crafts—focusing on youth development. Central pickup/drop-off for day camps. Discounts, payment plans, scholarships available. [www.aocamps.com](http://www.aocamps.com), 720.249.2997.

**Art Garage Summer Art Camps.** Ages 3-5, 6-8 or 9-12, week-long morning or afternoon camps June-August, \$160 – 225. Age-appropriate classes including ceramics, photography, storytelling, painting, found objects, etc. In Park Hill at 23rd and Kearney. Schedules/class info: [artgaragedenver@gmail.com](mailto:artgaragedenver@gmail.com) or [www.artgaragedenver.com](http://www.artgaragedenver.com).

**Arvada Center Summer Arts Camps.** Drama, visual arts, dance, ceramics, music, photography for ages 5-18 plus ArtStart Camps for 1½–4-year-olds. Teen (13-18) Intensive Summer Theater camp: learn production process for musical *Legally Blonde* with Arvada Center directors/ choreographers; includes intensive dance, music and acting. Registration begins 3/7. Camps run 6/4–8/24; most 9am-12pm and 1-4pm through 8/24. Also: Lunch-bunch session 12-1pm and after-camp programs 4-5pm. Sessions vary, 1–8 weeks. Cost \$40-\$900. Info: [ac\\_cust\\_serv@arvada.org](mailto:ac_cust_serv@arvada.org), [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org) or 720.898.7200

**Augustana Lutheran Church-Rainbow Trail Day Camp Vacation Bible School.** 6/18-6/22 for children entering 1st–leaving 5th grade. 9am-3pm. \$35. Singing, crafts, games, faith. Bring sack lunch. Youth helpers needed. Also “hang” out with counselors in evenings. Contact: Cary Mathis, [mathis@augustanadenver.org](mailto:mathis@augustanadenver.org) or church at 303.388.4678. 5000 E. Alameda Ave.

**Aurora Fox Drama Camps.** Sessions include Teen Acting Camp, Little Foxes Stages and Broadway Bound. Ages 4-18; various locations. [www.aurorafox.org](http://www.aurorafox.org), 303.739.1973

**Aurora Dance Arts Summer Camps.** Sessions: Fairy Tale Princess, Michael Jackson Dance Camp, Hannah Montana Camp, Teen Hip Hop, Poms/Cheerleading Camp, Ballet Intensive for *Nutcracker* auditions, etc. Ages 4-18; various locations. [www.auroragov.org/dance](http://www.auroragov.org/dance), 303.326.8308.

**Baby Power & Forever Kids Camps.** (Quebec Square, 7505 E. 35th Ave), ages 2-6. 6/4- 8/24; no camps 7/4. MWF class for ages 2-5 8:30-11:30am (\$90/week) and MWF class for ages 3-6 from 12:30-3:30pm (\$90/week). Tu/Th 8:30-11:30am (\$60/week); Tu/Th 12:30-3:30pm (\$60/week). Limited all-day options. Pre-school curriculum, gym time, music, crafts, outside play, snack, etc. 303.377.8855, [www.babypowerco.com](http://www.babypowerco.com)

**Big Bear Ice Arena.** Hockey and figure skating camps/programs; various dates. [www.bigbearice.com](http://www.bigbearice.com)

**Bladium Kids Camps.** 5/28–8/24. Full day/full week \$250; Half day/full week \$195. All-star sports camp: ages 5-14. Soccer academy camp: ages 6-12. Flexible schedules for parents. Healthy lunches from Revolution Foods. 303.320.3033 or [denvercamps@bladium.com](mailto:denvercamps@bladium.com). 2400 Central Park Blvd.

**Bluff Lake Summer Day Camps.** (10900 Havana Way) New programs: Hot-blooded and Cold as Ice camps. Live animal visits. 9am-12pm. \$140/ BLNC members; \$160/ nonmembers. Hot-Blooded: 6/11-15 (6-10yrs), 6/25-29 (8-12yrs), 7/23-27 (6-10yrs). Cold as Ice: 6/18-22 (6-10yrs), 7/9-13 (8-12yrs), 7/30-8/3 (6-10yrs). Discounts: multiple kids/multiple camps. [www.blufflakenaturecenter.org](http://www.blufflakenaturecenter.org); Lisa Chickos, 303.344.1649 or [lchickos@blufflake.org](mailto:lchickos@blufflake.org)

**Chess Academy of Denver Chess Camps.** 6/11-15 (Englewood), full and half-day options; 7/ 9-11 (Denver). All abilities and ages. 8:1 staff-student ratio. Five 2-day chess camps also offered in Englewood for specific ability levels. Scorekeeping, etiquette, tournament preparation, logical thinking and strategic planning skills. 303.770.6696, [www.ColoradoMasterChess.com](http://www.ColoradoMasterChess.com)

**City of Aurora Summer Camps.** Cooking, Sun-n-Fun, science camps, Magic Tricks Camp, Kitchen Chemistry, Babysitting Workshops, Junior Golf Camps & Lessons, preschool activities, sports camps, etc. Ages 3-14; various locations. [www.auroragov.org/recreation](http://www.auroragov.org/recreation), 303.326.8560.

**Colorado Fusion Summer Soccer Camps.** High-quality instruction, learning environments for individual improvement. Qualified/licensed soccer instructors. Full-day camps ages 5-8 at Stapleton and evening skills camps for ages 5-14 in Lowry, Washington Park and S. Denver. [http://www.coloradofusion.org/camps/index\\_E.html](http://www.coloradofusion.org/camps/index_E.html), 303.399.5858

**Colorado Rapids Academy Soccer Camps.** Development camps for all abilities, boys and girls ages 8-14. 6/4-7, 6/25-28, 7/9-12. \$175-\$295. Elite preseason camp if on competitive team, ages 11 up. 7/ 23-26. \$195. Striker/goalkeeper camp, ages 8-14. 5/21-23. \$195. Goalkeeper camp, ages: 8-18. 6/21, 28; 7/5, 12, 19. \$210. Center of excellence, ages 8-13. 6 Mondays 6-7:15pm start 3/12. Dick's Sporting Goods Park, 6000 Victory Way, Commerce City. 303.727.3575, [rapidsacademy@dsgpark.com](mailto:rapidsacademy@dsgpark.com)

**Commerce City Rec Center Summer Camp.** 9-week state-licensed, CCA-approved day camps. Small staff/child ratios. Ages 6-15 (if 5, proof completed kindergarten). M-F 6/4-8/3 (no camp 7/4, 7/5 and 7/6). \$120/residents/week; \$145/ nonresidents/week. Enroll by 5/21. Free enrollment packets at [www.c3gov.com/camp](http://www.c3gov.com/camp). Hardcopies \$10 at Rec Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr. [www.c3gov.com/camp](http://www.c3gov.com/camp) or Yasmin Cassini at 303.289.3659 or [ycassini@c3gov.com](mailto:ycassini@c3gov.com)

**Creative Arts Camp.** Stapleton Fellowship Church, Hangar 61. Age 3 to 3rd grade. 6/18, 19, 20; 9-11:30am. [www.stapletonchurch.com](http://www.stapletonchurch.com)

**Dance Institute Summer Camp.** Affordable dance camps ages 4 and up. Week-long and divided by age/ abilities. Full and ½ day camps July and August. [www.DanceInstituteDenver.com](http://www.DanceInstituteDenver.com). 4601 Quebec St, C8 & C9. 303.525-0011

**Dardano's School of Gymnastics Adventure Camp.** Ages 3–5½. Two 4-week sessions 6/4-28 and 7/9-8/2, M–Thurs, 9:30am-12:30pm. Flexible scheduling. Gymnastics with enrichment activities, arts & crafts, games, etc. Each week has different theme. Sign up by day, week or full session. 303.355.0080, [www.dardanosgym.com](http://www.dardanosgym.com). 2250 Kearney St.

**Denver Art Museum Classes & Day Camps.** Ages 6-15. 6/5-8/ 3. Half-day classes \$85 (\$75/museum members); full-day camps \$225 (\$200/members). Registration begins March 16. Explore museum, then paint, print, mold, sculpt, etc. Denver Art Museum, 100 W. 14th Ave. Parkway. 720.913.0130, [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org), [familyprograms@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:familyprograms@denverartmuseum.org). Some scholarships available: 720.913.0048, [familyprograms@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:familyprograms@denverartmuseum.org) for application.

**Denver Botanic Gardens Garden Camps.** Ages 6-12 weeklong day camps: Junior Master Gardeners, Journey to Japan and The Incredible, Edible Garden. 1007 York St. 720.865.3580; <http://catalog.botanicgardens.org; registrar@botanicgardens.org>

**Denver Montclair International School Summer Camp.** Ages 3-12, 6/17-8/17. Week-long day camps in French, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese, sports, cultural exploration and creative arts. Lowry-206 Red Cross Way. [www.dmschool.com](http://www.dmschool.com), 303.340.3647

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science-** Week-long half-day to week-long full-day camps, Age 4-grade 6. Register online or forms on website to mail in, 303.370.6000, [www.dmn.org](http://www.dmn.org). Questions: 303.370.6455.

(Continued on page 22)



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4 and up. [www.thefirstteeofdenver.com](http://www.thefirstteeofdenver.com)

**Green Valley Ranch Metropolitan District Beyond the Rainbow Summer Youth Camp.** Ages 5-15. 6/4-8/24. 7am-6pm. Cost: starts at \$145/week, + \$25 registration fee. 10% sibling discounts and daily rates. Activities, free lunch, afternoon

snacks, two field trips/week, T-shirt and wristband. Office located at 18650 E. 45th Ave. Call La Vetta Murray, 303.307.3243, questions to [youth@gvrmetrodistrict.com](mailto:youth@gvrmetrodistrict.com). [www.gvrmetrodistrict.com](http://www.gvrmetrodistrict.com)

**Gymnastics Plus Summer Camps.** Ages 3-10, 6/18-8/6. 7 week long, half-day camps, 8:30am-1pm. Gymnastics, arts/crafts, weekly themes, special camp shows with awards. 6180 E. Warren Ave. 303.512.0799, [www.coloradogymplus.com](http://www.coloradogymplus.com)

**It's a Small World.** Ages 3-5. Focus on developing needs of this age with games and activities, including new curriculum using LEGO Smart. Licensed. Snack provided am & pm. Locations: Sandoval, Swigert McAuliffe. 6/4-8/10. 7am-5:45pm. Staff ratio: 1/10. \$175/week. Field trips included. Register for 3 or more camps, get

10% off. (\$140/week 5, no camp 7/4). CCAP accepted by approval only. Register: 720.424.8260, [kaleidoscope.dpsk12.org](http://kaleidoscope.dpsk12.org)

**Jewish Community Center (JCC).** Day camps, sports camps and week-long themed camps; various dates/locations. Summer Fun Guide at [www.jccdenver.org](http://www.jccdenver.org)

**Junior Achievement Business Week.** 10th-12th-graders, 6/10-15. \$250; scholarships available. Compete in Apprentice-style project for companies like Jamba Juice and learn from local business professionals. Stay in college dorms and meet new friends from all over Colorado while building confidence, leadership skills and an entrepreneurial spirit. Applications: [jabusinessweek.org](http://jabusinessweek.org), 303.628.7372. Location: Johnson & Wales Univ., Park Hill Campus

**2012 KC Kids Theme Camps.** Ages 5-11. Science and technology camps explore entertainment, nature, sports, technology, etc. Curriculum aligned with CO Dept. of Education Standards. Licensed. Snacks provided. 6/4-8/10, 7am-5:45pm. Staff ratio: 1/15. \$175/week. Register for 3 or more camps, get 10% off. (\$140/week 5, no camp 7/4). CCAP accepted by approval only. Teller, Swigert McAuliffe, Lowry, Southmoor, Sandoval. Register: 720.424.8260, [kaleidoscope.dpsk12.org](http://kaleidoscope.dpsk12.org)

**KidstheatreWEST.** Theatre camp for young actors ages 4-17 with full productions. This summer presenting *Mulan*, *Hamlet*, *Grease* plus others. Before- and after-care available. Dates, locations:

[www.kidstheatrewest.com](http://www.kidstheatrewest.com)

**The Logan School Summer Camp.** Day camps at Lowry campus offer specialty themed weeks such as Star Wars Adventure, Percy Jackson Camp Half-Blood, Myth Busters, The Hunger Games, etc. Multiple field trips per week, hands-on learning activities and related theme discussions. Overnight camping trips also available for wide age range. [www.thelogan-school.org](http://www.thelogan-school.org)

**Mathletes Summer Camp.** By Colorado certified teachers Meghan Colasanti and Karmin Braun (co-owners of Mathletes and Bookworms, LLC). Kids apply math to "real world" scenarios and co-author a book during 2-week session. Ages 4-6 (sports and math), 7-9 (literature and math), 10-12 (nutrition, fitness and math). 7/9-23, 9am-12pm or 1-4pm; 5-10 campers per age group. NE Denver location TBD. [mathletesandbookworms@gmail.com](mailto:mathletesandbookworms@gmail.com), <https://sites.google.com/site/mathletesandbookwormstutoring/home>

**Metro State Soccer Youth Day Camp.** 7/9-13. Ages 6-14. \$200 or \$175 if register by 5/1, includes T-shirt. Goal: provide each player the tools to become a more complete player and have fun. Camp director Adrienne Almaraz at [aalmaraz@mscd.edu](mailto:aalmaraz@mscd.edu), 303.556.4874; register at [www.MetroStateSoccer-Camps.com](http://www.MetroStateSoccer-Camps.com). Held on Auraria Campus soccer fields, across from Pepsi Center.

**Mike Giles Family Karate Summer Camp 2012.** Ages 3-9. 6/11-15 and 7/9-13. \$125/week. 9am-12pm or 1-4 p.m. Stapleton's Quebec Square. 303.377.5425, [www.mikegileskarate.com](http://www.mikegileskarate.com) or [mikegileskarate@comcast.net](mailto:mikegileskarate@comcast.net)

**Mizel Museum's summer camp programs.** Affordable one-week sessions for children preschool-8th grade for visual arts, drama, music, movement, photography, etc. Multiple locations. Camp size limited to allow our teaching artists to work individually with campers. Scholarships available. Museum at 400 S. Kearney St. [www.mizelmuseum.org/brochure](http://www.mizelmuseum.org/brochure) or 303.394.9993

**Nature's Educators Day Camps.** Bluff Lake Nature Center, 10900 Havana Way. Nature's Educators will host 3 mini camps: Owl Scowl, ages 6-9 (\$15/child) 7/13; Let's Talk Hawks, ages 10-13 (\$15/child) 7/14; Falcon Frenzy, ages 14-16 (\$25/child) 7/15. Each camp 9am-12pm includes crafts, activities, and chance to meet and learn about live birds of prey up close. [www.natureseducators.com](http://www.natureseducators.com) or contact Devin Paszek at [devin@natureseducators.com](mailto:devin@natureseducators.com)

**Quill Kids Creative Writing Day Camp.** Recreational program that guides budding authors ages 6-13 through creating imaginative prose and poetry. Each session is 4 half days, M-Th, 9am-12pm. E. Denver: 6/18-21, Stapleton. S. Denver: 7/9-12, Lone Tree. W. Denver: 7/30-8/2, Lakewood. \$85 each 4-day session. Sibling rates available. Site locations on website. Contact Iretta Bell: 303.618.9701, [quillkids@msn.com](mailto:quillkids@msn.com), [quillkids.com](http://quillkids.com)

**School of the Poetic City.** Art Camp 6/18-22 or 6/25-29 (visit museums and galleries in am, make art in pm). Animation Camp 6/4-8 or 6/11-15 (make cartoons). Ages 5-14; \$275. New location: 2015



2012

Glenarm. [www.schoolofthepoeticcity.com](http://www.schoolofthepoeticcity.com)

**Skyline Soccer Association Summer Camps.** Grasshopper and Munchkin: 2.5-5 years, 6/16-7/17 1x/week, \$65 for 6-week session. Recreational camp, U5-U10, 6/4-8, 6/25-29 or 6/23-27, 9am-12pm, \$95 includes ball. Advanced camp, U8-U12, 6/11-14 or 7/30-8/2, 9am-12pm, \$95 includes ball. [www.skylinesoccer.org](http://www.skylinesoccer.org), Liz O'Donnell at [LizO@skylinesoccer.org](mailto:LizO@skylinesoccer.org), 303.691.5662



City of Aurora Camp at Utah Pool

**Small Hands Art Studio.** In Stapleton. Summer art camps and classes for ages 2 and up offering an array of art media, materials, tools and creative outlets. June and July. Contact: Ansley Young, 303.349.0961 [ansleyyoung@smallhandsart.com](mailto:ansleyyoung@smallhandsart.com) [www.smallhandsart.com](http://www.smallhandsart.com)

**South Suburban Parks and Recreation.** Variety of camps at various locations throughout south metro area. Ages 4-17, June-August. From \$35 to \$199. Sports camps, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball, etc.; kayaking, nature, dance, drama and art. 303.347.5999 or [www.sspr.org](http://www.sspr.org)

**Stapleton All Sports Multi-Sport Camps.** Ages 4-10. 9am-12pm, 7/9-13, 7/16-20, 7/23-27 & 7/30-8/3. \$150/week or \$500 for all 4 weeks. Participants will rotate through soccer, tennis, baseball/tee-ball and football, using fun drills and games to learn skills in each sport. Camps outside at Westerly Creek Elem. on 26th Ave. and Akron. Register: [www.stapletonallsports.com](http://www.stapletonallsports.com), or contact Gabe Hurley at [stapletonallsports@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonallsports@gmail.com) or 720.985.6642

**Stapleton All Sports Tennis Camp.** Ages 4-10. 9am-12pm, 6/18-22 & 6/25-29. \$205/week, or \$370 for both weeks. Weekly camps will focus on tennis fundamentals, including serving, forehands, backhands, ground strokes and volleys. Camps take place at Greenway Park at Montview and

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Teen Adventures  
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## Camp Guide

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**Summer in the Parks.** Ages 7-12, 6/4-7/27, M-F, 10am-3pm; \$450 fee for 8-week program (field trip fees extra). Quality licensed child care providers offer comprehensive recreational programming in arts & crafts, active games & sports, aquatics, field trips & special events. Five sites: City Park Pavilion: 23rd & York, Congress Park Pavilion: 8th & Josephine St., Fred Thomas Park: 26th & Quebec, Rosamond Park: S. Tamarac & Quincy St., Sloan's Lake Park: 26th & Tennyson St. Registration for Denver residents begins on Monday, 3/5. Community Recreation at 720.865.0840, [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org) or [community.rec@denvergov.org](mailto:community.rec@denvergov.org).

**Super Hero Summer Academy Camp from Dramatic Adventures.** Join us for Super Hero Summer Camp 6/11-15 for ages 5-8. Create own secret identity, superhero mask and costume and meet notorious villains who challenge you to face

incredible obstacles. Uncover practical everyday problem-solving skills to battle problems like a champion. Erect a powerful force field that protects you as you are confronted by bullies...who try to freeze you with hurtful words. Combine life skills with crazy fun through theater, games, story, art, music, etc. Bring your sidekicks (family/friends) to final graduation ceremony during our Friday class. 9am-12pm. Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia St. \$160. Register: [www.myenrichment.com](http://www.myenrichment.com)

**Teen Adventures.** Ages 13-16, 6/7-7/27 on Thursdays and Fridays; \$82.00 program fee plus \$5-\$30 per week field trip fees. Field trip-based integrated recreation program targeting teens with and without disabilities is a collaborative effort between Community Recreation and the Adaptive Recreation Department. Most field trips begin at 1849 Emerson with varied destinations. Registration for Denver residents begins Monday, 3/5. Community Recreation at 720.865.0840, [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org) or [community.rec@denvergov.org](mailto:community.rec@denvergov.org)

**Temple Emanuel Camp.** 51 Grape St. 8am-5:30pm, 6/11-8/3. Ages 18 months to 6. Art, crafts, science, open gym, water play, outside time, music, games, story time, afternoon enrichments. 303.321.7258.

**University of Denver P.A.S.S. (Pioneer Athletic Super Summer) Camp.** Full-day recreation camp that introduces sports and



Bladium Football Camp

recreational games to kids ages 5-11. Kids choose a "sports major" each week from basketball, t ball, hockey, gymnastics, etc. Learn to skate and learn to swim also available. Before and after care available. [www.recreation.du.edu](http://www.recreation.du.edu), 303.871.3908

**The Urban Farm.** A farm experience with various workshops and classes. Embracing Horses horsemanship education and lessons. 303.307.9332, [www.theurbanfarm.org](http://www.theurbanfarm.org). 10200 Smith Road

**Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum Summer Camp.** Ages 7-13. Fun activities about aviation and our solar system, building planes and rockets, and using flight simulators. 6/18-22, 6/25-29, 7/9-13, and 7/16-20. \$150 for half day (am or pm); \$280 full day. Contact Jonna Green: [Green@WingsMuseum.org](mailto:Green@WingsMuseum.org), 303.360.5360 x115

**YMCA of Metropolitan Denver.** Day camps for ages 5-15 at various city locations. 720.524.2792 or [www.denverymca.org](http://www.denverymca.org)

**Young Americans Center for Financial Education Day Camps.** Denver and Lakewood for 2nd-7th graders, 6/11 through 8/3; \$185/week. Weeklong camps include Young AmeriTowne, Girls Can, International Towne, Jr. Money Matters, Running Your Own Biz, Be Your Own Boss. 303.321.2265, visit [www.yacenter.org](http://www.yacenter.org)



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**SUN Meetings** are held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit [www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com](http://www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com). To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email [stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com)



## Stapleton—Where to Go for Information and How You Can Get Involved

By *Damon Knop*  
*SUN Board Vice President*

If you live in Stapleton, you know that there have been many articles written in the Front Porch and different hot topics on chat boards with references to different Stapleton neighborhood groups. A few examples are SUN, CAB or MCA, but it can be very confusing when trying to figure out how to keep up on a topic or give feedback to the appropriate group. This article explains the hierarchy that exists and how these groups were set up when the Stapleton Development Plan was initially put in place. Once you understand the various groups, you'll be better equipped to know where to go for more information on a topic, where you can take a concern, or especially, how you can get involved.

### The Green Book, Forest City, SDC and CAB

The Green Book, as laid out in the Stapleton Development Plan, is a plan that the City of Denver, DIA and surrounding neighborhoods worked together to create. They searched out a developer that could bring this vision to fruition. This developer is Forest City (FC or FCE). The city then put in place certain checks and balances to ensure that the Green Book is being followed. The direct board involved in this process is the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC). The SDC, which is governed by a board of mayoral-appointed citizens and stakeholders, receives guidance from a Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) that represents the "boots on the ground." CAB is actively involved in all critical phases of the Stapleton development process. CAB gets feedback from a number of committees; this is where the acronyms really come into play.

Under the umbrella of CAB are groups like communication, transportation (TMA), Parks Advisory Group (PAG), Housing Diversity Committee (HDC), Zoning and Planning (ZAP) and the Design Review Committee (DRC). Partners like Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) and the Master Community Association (MCA) also have seats at the CAB table.

### SUN, MCA and GSBA

Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) is a registered neighborhood association and is part of the Inter Neighborhood Coalition (INC) and, like CAB, has a group of subgroups under its purview. Many are the same as CAB's, and SUN board members sit on these committees. Other SUN committees include Education, Safety, Sustainability, Inclusivity, and Community Outreach. SUN's Community Outreach committee oversees the block captain network. Everyone who lives in Stapleton is a member of SUN. We have two-year board positions and elections coming up in May.

The MCA is our master homeowners' association, which plans and manages such items as our pools, events on the green and many pocket parks. These are the fruits of our HOA dues that we pay monthly to live in Stapleton, and the

MCA is responsible for a lot of the living amenities we have all grown to love. They are governed by a board and neighborhood delegates, and currently have openings for delegate positions.

Another Stapleton neighborhood group you may have heard of is the Greater Stapleton Business Association (GSBA). This is a group of community businesses that get together monthly to share stories, ideas and trends. It is open to any business for a small annual fee.

### How to Get Involved

The bottom line is that living in and around Stapleton gives you, as a resident, a unique opportunity to help mold and develop our community into what we all want it to be. The short answer to how to get involved is to figure out where your idea fits into this grid and start at the committee level. Use the links to each committee chair on the SUN website to get information about a concern or to volunteer in an area of interest or expertise. You don't have to be a SUN board member to serve on one of its committees.

Above the SUN committees are the CAB subcommittees, which have a more direct feed to the decision makers, but where there are a lot more issues. Items from the committees move up to this level and then are moved forward to entities that can make the changes, such as Forest City, the City of Denver and SDC.

### Who to Contact about Your Concerns

When determining who to contact about an issue, keep in mind that SUN and the City of Denver (311) are more tuned in to what already exists in Stapleton, and CAB and Forest City are more tuned into what is going to be.

For most issues, coming to a Block Captain outreach meeting is a great way to start. They are held right before the monthly SUN board meetings on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30pm, usually at the Central Park Rec Center. This will give you the ability to see if others have the same issue or to bounce your idea out there. See you there.

## Letters to

### Prairie Dogs' Destruction of Westerly Creek Park

I wanted to see if there had been any comment or notice to the mass destruction the prairie dogs North of Martin Luther King Blvd in Westerly Creek Park (directly outside new rec center) are doing/have done. They have completely wiped out the native grass that was planted and are now heading towards the eastern part of central park. By the end of this summer the whole eastern part of Central park where the lake is could be cleared of grass and will be a mound of dirt. Furthermore, are there any plans to replant grass on the 4 acres currently decimated by the prairie dogs? Has anyone discussed the removal of these prairie dogs?

John Mix

### Dogs Off Leash

Too many dog owners in Stapleton seem to be operating under the false assumption that there is nothing wrong with allowing their dogs to run off-leash in public areas because their dogs are "friendly" and won't harm anyone. Many of these people will even yell at a distance as their dogs come running toward people "Don't worry, he's friendly," as though that makes their choice acceptable.

The simple fact is, walking your dog off-leash is illegal in the city of Denver and can carry up to a \$250 fine. In addition, no dog owner can accurately predict 100% of the time how their dog will react when greeting another dog or a strange person. As a dog owner myself, I understand that we all want to provide the most freedom possible to our companions, but the risks that come with an off-leash dog are serious and can include possible injury to other people and animals, stress to other dogs that are on-leash (and their owners), and an increased amount of uncollected pet waste.

Lastly, with an off-leash dog park right here in Stapleton and another one in Lowry, Stapleton dog owners have no excuse to walk their dogs off-leash in our public areas.

I would like to make this sincere request to all my fellow Stapletonians—if you're tempted to take your dog off-leash in an on-leash area—don't. Stop and consider the effect your decision may have on others using the area.

Ian Boersma

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Smiley Middle School

I am writing to share my experience of Smiley with those of you who are now faced with the daunting task of finding the perfect fit for your fifth grader. Undoubtedly, choice raises more questions than it answers. Sometimes the solution is so simple and so obvious. Both of my boys have had the privilege of attending Smiley. My older son is now a junior in the International Baccalaureate Program at George Washington High School. His younger brother will join him in the IB Program next year. Smiley has served both of them well.

In addition to receiving an excellent educational experience, they have been loved and nurtured in an incredibly supportive environment. The teachers are not only superb but have the advantage of many years of experience and are wholly committed to their students. As one teacher told me, when your kids are with us, they are our children. I, like you, did my due diligence in my investigation in pursuit of the “perfect” school for the middle years. I had two objectives in choosing a school. I wanted a school with strong academics, and, I wanted a safe and nurturing environment.

As it turned out, the obvious choice was the right choice. I would happily discuss Smiley with any prospective family.

Gretchen Mueller  
303 355-7378

Preserve the Tower

I disagree wholeheartedly with Nancy McCurdy’s letter regarding the control tower at Stapleton. I feel that this wonderful piece of nostalgia should be preserved in some form or another. After all, it’s part of our heritage. If it was destroyed it would be a missing piece of the Stapleton puzzle. There will be plenty more parks, i.e., north of I-70, in addition to the ones already existing in Stapleton now. If it is necessary to have another one, why not compromise and still have it while keeping the tower?

I am a native Denverite who was born and raised in Park Hill. In fact, I still live here in the same house. That might explain my strong feelings about keeping the tower. The old can be mixed with the new. The control tower has always been here, even though it was the second one built.

Rosemary McManis

Share your comments on Facebook—Front Porch Newspaper.

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.

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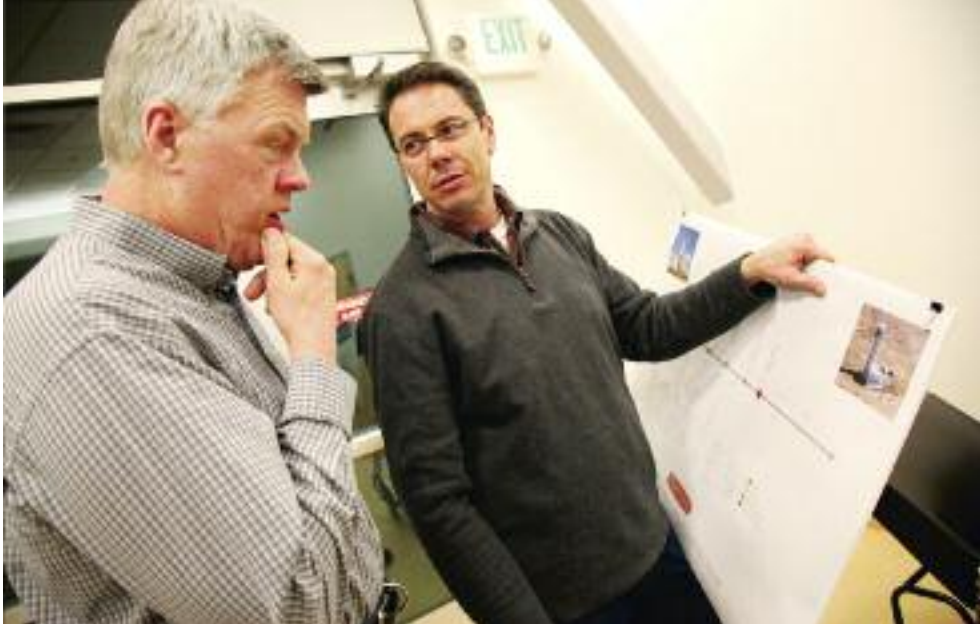
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Tower

(continued from page 1) provide additional services to fill those needs. “The MCA currently manages both recreational and cultural facilities here. It’s been on our agenda for over the last year, looking at improvements, missing pieces.” They determined that what’s missing is a cultural arts/performing arts facility, both in Stapleton and in Northeast Denver. Burnett says they weren’t initially looking just at the tower. It was one of four locations being considered. But when the MCA proposed the community arts facility concept to Forest City, “They felt it was a sound enough idea for us to pursue it and develop a feasibility plan, but they wanted us to look at the tower first, given the community interest.”

The MCA hired the architecture firm Shears Adkins, which specializes in urban infill redevelopment—a firm that “has an understanding of how to fit this type of project into the built environment around them. Not only do they have a connection to the community as a resident (Jesse Adkins is a Stapleton resident),” says Burnett, “but their history is in redevelopment projects within the metro area and nationally.”

Burnett says Shears Adkins has prepared a timetable from now until fall in which they will “develop the building plan, the layout plan, the programmatic plan, the financial plan.” Jesse Adkins explains, “We will analyze what the building can accommodate, what additional developments could be considered on the north portion of the site, is there a shared parking component.” And, he says, they will be asking questions and listening to Forest City, the MCA and the community. In a series of com-



Dennis Scott, a member of the tower planning committee organized by Councilman Herndon and JoNell Herndon, looks at the timeline held by Jesse Adkins that shows the steps to be taken in the feasibility study—which will include community input.

munity meetings over the summer, they will display physical models that show potential development alternatives. “The goal will be to try to uncover what’s the most viable alternative for the reuse and redevelopment (of the tower).”

Burnett says the feasibility study is not being funded with homeowner dues; it is funded through a community fee fund, the money that funds the Stapleton Foundation. He adds that the MCA also receives portions of the funds that go into creating public space.

“We could be a great steward of the community for the site,” says Burnett. “We have the stable long-term funding sources. Whatever we do, we do it with the idea that we are adding value to the community. It’s our goal to put together a plan that we can get the majority of the community behind. I don’t see that whatever we did would bump our assessments up in any significant way. There’s a little bit of the pie that comes from assessments. There are little pieces that come from user fees, grants, sponsorships.

We try to piece it all together so that no one group is feeling the full brunt.”

The MCA initially envisioned an ideal size of 25,000 square feet to accommodate a performance hall with 350–500 seats, an indoor event hall that could host 200–300 guests, a catering and bar facility, an exhibit space and MCA offices. Burnett says even though the tower doesn’t offer that much space, the feasibility study will run its full course to determine how much of that goal can be accomplished using the tower facility.

Tom Gleason, Forest City VP for public relations, presented to the tower committee a brief overview of information from the structural study of the tower. The cost would be about \$1.7 million to restore the three-story base building so the interior would be a shell with a three-story elevator. To make the tower occupiable would bring the total cost to about \$2.3 million. The roof would probably need to be replaced, the windows would need to be a higher efficiency glass, the bathroom would have to be

upgraded, and concrete work for tower stabilization would likely be needed. On the upper end, a total cost of \$3.5 to \$4 million would include making the base suitable for office space or ground-level retail. Additional to that would be the cost of developing the 4.5 acre site, and parking issues will have to be addressed. The south and west boundaries of the property are Uinta and MLK. The east and north boundaries have some flexibility depending on what other developments take place there, with multi-family housing being considered as a suitable option for that site. Gleason indicated that the timing for Forest City to obtain the land could happen anytime, depending on finding a viable use.

At the conclusion of the MCA presentation, the tower committee discussed what the new information means for their group. They have about 30 people who have expressed a commitment to save the tower and have some type of use that is significant to the community. They believe their group can bring valuable community input to the MCA proposal. And if the proposal should turn out to be not feasible, the group does not want to lose their momentum in developing other alternatives. They decided to gather more information on the MCA plan and meet again on March 21 to decide what path their group will take. The meeting is open to the public. To receive announcements of meeting times, email stapletontower@gmail.com.

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Pirates

(continued from page1 women tend to have a lot of vibrato in their voices, so that was one challenge I had to focus on. I also had to focus on my stance. How does a boy walk? How does he stand? It's a challenging experience."

Luckily, Morris was able to study her six-year-old son's walk and talk before she read for the part of Jeremy Jacob. "The show is really silly and fun and goofy," she said. "I definitely would do a children's play again. It's fun to look at the children in the audience and see how bright-eyed and smiley they are."

Morris, who studied theater at Metropolitan State College, has been acting since she was 13 years old. Acting is her only career, and she hopes to continue to perform fulltime. Her next play is Tommy at the Littleton Town Hall Arts Center.

Mark Lively, his partner, Josh Lively, and their two Yorkies, Perry and Ellis, moved to Stapleton about two months ago. Josh works at The Denver Post. Mark plays Swill the Pirate, a philosophical and intelligent pirate who gets blamed for everything. "Swill is a very eccentric character," Lively explained. "I'm playing him grandfatherly. He's a sweetheart. He probably wasn't a pirate to begin

with. I gave him a British accent because of the Gilbert and Sullivan number that he does. He loves being a pirate, but sometimes just doesn't get how to be one. You can't help but love him in a way. He's a misunderstood one.

"The directors let me do my own thing," Lively said. "A lot of my stuff is how he speaks and what he does with the music. He talks very fast with big words. He's very smart."

Lively, who is 33, has been an actor since he



Photo courtesy of the Arvada Center/P. Switzer photographer ©2012

was five years old. How I Became a Pirate is his second children's theater show. He works in all kinds of theater, but says he would be happy to do another children's show. "I have a soft spot in my heart for children," Mark said. "It's amazing when these little kids come up to you and they have that starstruck look. It's just so neat that the Arvada Center makes it an afford-

able ticket price and makes it very grand and fun for them. It's truly like a magical experience for them. I would continue doing it forever if I could.

"My hope is to keep acting and keep doing what I love," he said. "Down the road maybe I will

have a small theater of my own as I get into the older years. But as an actor, I've only taken a couple of months off in eight years in Colorado. A lot of my friends in New York are on break for months and months and months."

Lively works at Embassy Suites on the graveyard shift when he isn't doing a play. "When I get these gigs, they let me take the time off," he said. "Both jobs keep me nice and grounded."

The third Stapleton resident in How I Be-

came a Pirate is Maggie Tisdale, whose husband, Marty Schettler, is a mathematician—and they have a nine-month-old son, Dax. Tisdale plays Maxine the Pirate, who carries around a stuffed parrot on her shoulder. "She is the only female pirate on the ship, so she has to be one of the guys. She has to be sort of ruthless, as they are, but she's softer, especially when she's meeting Jeremy Jacob. She's not very bright because she's convinced the parrot's alive and she talks to it. The other pirates help her by talking for the parrot."

Stapleton residents in the Arvada Center production of *How I Became a Pirate* are: (foreground) Melissa Morris as Jeremy Jacob; (front row) Maggie Tisdale as Maxine The Pirate and Mark Lively as Swill The Pirate.

Tisdale, too, had an early start on the stage, starting her acting career when she was seven years old. She was born and raised in Denver and got her degree in theater at New York University. "Denver has an up-and-coming theater scene," Tisdale said. "It's possible to work all the time in Denver because there are so many theaters.

"The roles I've really loved are the ones where I feel like I'm having fun on stage, where it doesn't feel like work. I think performing for children is a really special experience. If they're enjoying the show, you know it. You can see their love of pretend or imagination. We're focused on ages 3 to 10. *How I Became a Pirate* is based on a children's book. A lot of the kids have already read the book and know the story when they come to the play."

*How I Became a Pirate* plays through April 14 on Tuesdays through Fridays at either 10am or noon; on Saturday, March 3 at 11am; and on April 7 and 14 at both 11am and 1pm. The Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities is located at 6901 Wadsworth Blvd.

For ticket information, go to [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org).



Stapleton actors in their street clothes (left to right): Maggie Tisdale, Mark Lively and Melissa Morris  
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