A Preview

History Colorado Center

By Barbara Neal

What’s old is new, very new. When the History Colorado Center opens to the public on Saturday, April 28, it will tell Colorado’s amazing stories in a dynamic, interactive environment. The design of the building and the new audience-centered programming for all ages will engage families and children, history buffs and visitors to Colorado. “The History

Salamander Becomes State Amphibian

By John Babia

Operation Tiger Salamander, the student-led initiative to designate the western tiger salamander as our official state amphibian, recently delivered hundreds of young scholars, teachers, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and neighbors to the Colorado State Capitol. The campaign banded amphibian. Behind Gov. Hickenlooper is Rep. Angela Williams, sponsor of the bill in the House. At far right is Sen. Joyce Foster, sponsor of the bill in members of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly from their respective chambers to meet and greet the students and their adorable slimy salamanders, including one that was blessed by a parish pastor.

Gov. John Hickenlooper graciously held court with the kids and creatures, not once, but three times. He told the student activists, “You are a great model to the rest of the state that your initiative and your own efforts can have huge results. You’ve changed the future of the

A Look at the Zoo’s New Elephant Exhibit

By John Babia

In just two months, one of North America’s largest and most state-of-the-art pachyderm habitats will open at the Denver Zoo. The Toyota Elephant Passage’s complex will allow zoo guests to be immersed in Asian wildlife and culture and learn about conservation efforts through multi-sensory exhibits and experiences.
What is your Community DNA?

So how did you do with your Denver Neighborhood Attribute (DNA) last month? Were you able to leave your phone untouched while in the car? This month the attention is on dog owners. Respect people and their property when walking your dog. If your dog does go to the bathrooms on someone’s lawn, make sure you pick up after it. Keep your dog on the leash and off people’s lawns. If you live in the City and County of Denver, you are required to keep your dog on a leash at all times when off of your property unless in a city-designated dog park. Thanks in advance for keeping our community a happy one for all!

Active Minds Seminar

The CIA

Join Active Minds as we examine the history and current challenges facing the Central Intelligence Agency. We will discuss the controversy regarding destruction of interrogation tapes as well as the origins of the CIA after World War II and how the CIA functioned during the Cold War. We will end by looking at how our needs for intelligence have changed in recent years and how this impacts the role of the CIA.

The seminar begins at 7pm on Thursday, April 12 in the Stapleton MCA Community Room located behind King Soopers at 2823 Roilyn St.

You are welcome for more information, visit www.ActiveMindsForLife.com.

Egg Scramble

The annual Egg Scramble (Hunt) is Saturday, April 7 from 10-11:30am in The Green. This year we are going to do the scramble in waves. The Easter Bunny will be on-site beginning at 10am. 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 and 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!

Beer Festival Planning Committee

The Stapleton Beer Festival was a huge success last year and we are looking forward to our third annual event on Saturday, August 18. We are looking for volunteers to help organize and plan this year’s beer festival. If you are interested, please attend our planning meeting on Wednesday, April 4, at 6pm in the MCA Community Room. If you would like to participate, email us at the address listed below. Dinner will be provided.

Stapleton Rocks

“Stapleton Rocks…A Concert for a Cause” is a favorite concert every year featuring local bands. The event is intended to showcase the local amateur talent. It is a full-day event on Saturday, September 8 from noon to 10pm on The Green. Musicians are limited to participating in only one band this year. It will be a day filled with music and fun.

If you have a band that is interested in participating, contact events@stapletoncommunity.com. Please respond quickly as this is a first-come, first-served event. More information will be available as the date approaches.

Sponsorship Packages

If you own a business and would like to sponsor one of the many summer events, the MCA has put together a sponsorship package. You can access this information by visiting www.stapletoncommunity.com, or if you would like to receive more information, contact events@stapletoncommunity.com.

Volunteer Booth Requests

If you have a nonprofit that would like to raise funds this summer by working our movie concession booth, contact events@stapletoncommunity.com with your request. We have only six spaces available, so please contact us quickly.

Aquatics Staffing

The Stapleton pools are looking for front desk staff, lifeguards and pool managers for the 2012 outdoor pool season. If you are interested in applying for one of these positions, go to the “Summer Jobs” tab on the left side of our homepage at www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Pool Party Rentals

If you are interested in renting one of the swimming pools for your party, go to our website at www.stapletoncommunity.com and click on the “Outdoor Pools” tab on the left side of the homepage. The brochure with all the details will be available for you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact frontdesk@stapletoncommunity.com.

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

Diane Deter
Director of Programming and Events

Recent unusually warm weather brought patio diners to Stapleton’s Town Center.

The Stapleton Front Porch is published by Stapleton Front Porch, LLC 2566 Syracuse St., Denver, CO 80238. 33,000 papers are printed. The free paper is distributed during the first week of each month to homes and businesses in Stapleton, Park Hill, Montclair, Mayfair, Hale and East Colfax.
Colorado Center will be a place for self-discovery, inspiration, scholarship and fun,” states Ed Nichols, History Colorado president and CEO.

When expansion of the Colorado Justice Department required the Colorado History Museum to move a block south to 12th Ave. and Broadway, the museum took on the challenge of creating a new building and redesigning its programming to engage new audiences. A comprehensive audience research effort got feedback from more than 3,000 Coloradans and confirmed interest in a thematic approach. The new museum, now called History Colorado Center, tells stories of people, places and events that help us understand Colorado today by connecting experiences from earlier times to the present.

While many interactive exhibits create memorable experiences for children, adults will also be attracted to the authentic artifacts and thought-provoking interpretative materials,” notes JJ Rutherford, director of education. The History Colorado Center, tells stories of people, places and events that help us understand Colorado today by connecting experiences from earlier times to the present.

The first display visitors will discover is the four-story atrium, a grand gathering space that has already provided historical context for civic conversations. The dramatic terrazzo tile floor is a 40 x 60-foot Great Map of Colorado created by artist Steven Weitzman for the state’s Art in Public Places Program. Visitors move two seven-foot-tall Time Machines around the floor to animate certain areas. When the high-tech machine hits a “hot spot,” an amusing or serious story about that place appears on the Time Machine’s video screens.

On the north wall of the atrium, micro tiles display a digital timeline of Colorado’s history from 10,000 years ago until the present and video vignettes announce the museum’s programmatic themes.

Opening Events
Saturday, April 28: General Public Opening Celebration, 10am – 5pm
Friday, April 27: Members-Only Open House, 11am – 5pm, Members Family Night, 5 – 9pm
Wednesday, April 25: Grand Opening Celebration, 6:30 – 9:30pm (tickets required)

(continued from page 1)

Check out our museum video at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

(continued on page 16)
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How have Denver and Colorado changed?

Denver Net Migration by Age between 2000 and 2010

.Chart and data provided by the State Demography Office.

Migration & Population in Denver

One of the most striking statistics about Denver between 2000 and 2010 is that in all age groups except 19-34, there was a net “out-migration” (people moving away). A total of 62,539 people in the 19-33 age range moved to Denver (“in-migration”) over the decade and a total of 77,336 in all other age groups combined moved out (see chart above).

Although more people moved out of Denver than moved into between 2000 and 2010, Denver’s population still increased 8.2% over the decade, to 600,158. The metro area increased 16% over that time, to 2.78 million. By 2020, Denver’s population is forecast to increase by 88,000 to 688,632.

Prior to 1990, Denver had experienced two decades of population loss. From 1970 to 1980 the population declined from 514,000 to 492,000 and then to 462,000 from 1980 to 1990.

The Denver Metro area had the largest net in-migration of 25-34-year-olds of all metropolitan areas in the U.S. from 2008-2010. (2010 American Community Survey, 3-year)

The state of Colorado had the 9th fastest growth rate in the U.S., at 16%. The growth rate for the U.S. overall was 9.7%.
What Does a State Demographer Do?

By John Babiak

Stapleton resident Elizabeth Garner has a job that any curious analytical thinker would be ecstatic to have. She works in the State of Colorado’s Demography Office as our state demographer. For the past seven years, Garner, an economist, has been disseminating population and demographic data, including Colorado state economic overviews and forecasts that are generated by the office. She is also responsible for facilitating the interpretation of these facts and trends for members of the media.

Does Garner like to generate and mine data? “Absolutely. Prior to being the state demographer, I ran a data center for the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Department in Fort Collins. The data center supports university faculty who are specialists in every university department, from Food and Nutrition, to Psychology, to Agricultural Sciences.” She further explains that university faculty rely on the data center to develop topic-specific information for their projects or to satisfy community-based inquiries and needs.

The Demography Office is part of the State of Colorado’s Department of Local Affairs. This office generates population and demographic data that is used by various state agencies to forecast demand for their facilities and services. According to the Demography Office, their data is viewed as a “community resource.” Businesses and investors use population data to analyze and forecast the markets for products and services. Local Colorado governments and nonprofit

Jobs and Migration in Colorado

The chart at left shows the direct correlation between jobs (or lack of them) and migration in or out of the state. As shown by the red line, the only time the state had more out-migration than in-migration was the five-year period between 1985 and 1990. The blank in the chart in 2010 (the average from 2005 to 2010) shows the impact of the recession in Colorado.

The State Demography Office produces a job forecast in order to understand the number of people who will be needed to fill jobs in the future. The economic forecast utilizes a national forecast and an understanding of how Colorado and Denver fit into the national forecast. The population forecast ages the current population and applies birth and survival rates based on age, race, and gender. A gap between the job forecast (demand for workers) and population forecast (supply of workers) is projected to be filled through migration.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Garner for developing and providing the charts and information for this article.
Aging

Colorado is aging. Colorado’s 65+ population is forecast to grow by 60% over this current decade from 550,000 to 892,000—an increase of 337,000. Denver will experience similar but less dramatic changes in the 65+ age group, growing by 41% or 25,000 between 2010 and 2020. The growth is due to the number of baby boomers aging into the 65+ age group. In Denver, there are 134,000 boomers in 2010, who will all have aged to 65+ by 2030.

Denver’s share of the population 65+ is forecast to increase from 10% to 15% of the population by 2030.

Denver is younger than the state. The median age for Denver is 33 compared to 36 for the state. Denver’s largest share of the population is the 25-to-44-year-old group, which is also the state’s largest share of the population. However, 35% of the population in Denver is 25–44 years old, compared to 28% of the state’s population.
Diversity

Colorado is becoming more diverse racially and ethnically, especially at the young end—and Denver is more diverse than the state as a whole.

Denver’s growth by race and ethnicity remained fairly constant over the decade. There was a slight decline in the Black non-Hispanic population and slight increase in the Asian and “2 or more races” categories.

The Hispanic population is a larger share of Denver’s population than statewide, 32% versus 21%. However, the Hispanic population in Denver increased at a slower rate than the state as a whole, 9% in Denver compared to a 41% growth rate statewide.

Households

Household type is changing, with a growing share of non-family households and people living alone. In Denver 40% of the households are living alone. This may be due to the larger share of young adults in the city. Additionally, almost 50% of households over 65 are living alone, compared to the state average of 38%.
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People Who Make a Difference

The King

John Owens, who has lived on the same block for 40 years and has a personality that is larger than life, is the “King of Park Hill.”

Jon Meredith: Your parents traveled from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to Safford, Arizona, during the Depression in a covered wagon. They sharecropped along the way. What was that like?

John Owens: They said sometimes it took forever to go just a few miles. They learned as blacks to blend in and compensate. They knew what the elements were going to be like and what people were going to be like. They learned to use personality and be extremely humble because you never knew what you were going to run into. There was a lot of prejudice back then so when they got to the little bitty small towns, they had a gift of being able to deal with people whose own lack of self-esteem made them difficult.

JM: How did sharecropping work?

Owens: My parents would make an agreement with the landowner at the beginning of the season. They would work on the farm for a whole year for a sum of dollars which included food and shelter. After the crops were harvested they would either agree to stay or move on. They kept moving until they reached Arizona after several years. There we stayed working on a farm for years. My father was good with mechanics and he soon became the foreman and our families were very close friends.

JM: Despite your racial differences your families became best friends?

Owens: His sons and I used to go hunting and fishing together. I had a wonderful time back in those days, much more than a lot of the others who did not have good relationships with the landowners they worked for. They really treated us well. We would go spend the night with his sons, we were like brothers. One of the sons was the same age as my brother. His mother had a problem when he was born because she couldn’t supply milk. My mother nursed both of them at the same time. At my mother’s funeral, he came and stood up and told people, with tears running down his face, “Most of you here don’t know me and you think I am a guest. I am no guest, that is my mother.” He is now a judge in Arizona.

JM: You served in the Navy during the Korean conflict. Why did you join the Navy?

Owens: Farm work is hot and hard. I wanted off of that farm so bad, the moment I had the opportunity, I volunteered for the service. I got three hot meals a day. I was pretty wise I think. I saw the whole world in the Navy, sometimes at sea for more than 40 days at a time.

JM: In 1973 were your neighbors upset because a black person moved in?

Owens: Well, at first... (but) that changed quickly. I was riding a long chopper and I had hair out everywhere. I looked like the dark side of the Hell’s Angels. I did it just for show; I had a good job. My personality wasn’t like my appearance. Kids would always come and talk to me when I rode up. The parents would call them back to their houses. After a while the parents would come down with the kids to see what was so interesting. When they did, I had them. I won them over with love, I told them I am not what you probably assume. I wanted to fit into the community, I was here to make a difference and I wanted to be an asset to the community.

JM: To what do you attribute your wonderful personality?

Owens: To my mother. I grew up in areas where there was prejudice to a great extent. My mother always made us strong by believing in ourselves, knowing who we are and in holding other people accountable as to what we ourselves can do. Also, she made us able to recognize other people’s ignorance and count it to their ignorance. Don’t let it cause you to be like those who apply it to you.

JM: Being the King of Park Hill, do you ever pull rank on the governor?

Owens: I am the leader of the Park Hill parade every 4th of July. I ride a big lawn mower that I dress up and put a big chair on. I get the Hickenloopers’ son to ride with me and the governor marches behind. (The governor lives across the street from Owens.)

Owens is retired now and spends his days fishing, riding his Harley-Davidson Gold Wing with a stuffed gorilla on the back and spreading the good word.

“I wanted to fit into the community, I was here to make a difference and I wanted to be an asset to the community.” – John Owens
they are,” says Fulton. “We assume teachers are both smart people and the most important people in shaping our democracy and shaping the kind of future citizens we are going to have.”

Teachers who attend Facing History classes can get credit, but Fulton believes what teachers are really looking for is “intellectual nourishment” and practical tools to do their job better. He says once teachers have taken a Facing History course, they have access to the program’s lending library of about 5,000 documents, many of which are primary source documents.

Chicago and Boston have adopted the Facing History curriculum district wide. Fulton says the DPS social studies curriculum director is “a big fan” of Facing History and a number of DPS teachers use Facing History, but it has not been adopted district wide in DPS.

Fulton, who has a PhD in moral development and co-authored a book on school culture with Park Hill resident Charles Elbot, points out that teaching character matters as much in Facing History as teaching academics. “What’s powerful is when students get in the habit of noticing injustice and standing up to it and telling other...”

“History is boring.” “History isn’t meaningful in my life.” Such comments are not unusual among students at many middle and high schools.

Facing History and Ourselves is a non-profit organization started in the Boston area 35 years ago that took on the issue of making history relevant in students’ lives by developing teaching strategies and classroom materials that engage the students. It now has offices in eight U.S. cities and has educational partnerships with numerous countries around the world.

Stapleton resident David Fulton is the director of the Facing History office for Denver and the Rocky Mountain states, located on the campus of Johnson & Wales. “We look at the choices people in history have made in events like the Holocaust or the civil rights movements, both tragic choices and heroic choices, and link them to choices students and teachers make today.”

“Teachers deserve intellectually rigorous and morally compelling professional development that treats them like the intellectuals...”
In an evaluation of the Facing History program at an urban school in New Mexico, students responded to the question, “Tell about any changes in your school or in your classmates that you have observed and think may be due to studying Facing History or using Facing History materials.”

A female sophomore’s response echoed the sentiments of numerous students, “Things like the understanding of other races and cultures have, I think, not only impacted me, but my peers as well. People are more willing to try and understand each other now, and see everyone’s perspectives.”

Photos on this page were taken at a recent free community event sponsored by Facing History, a lecture on the Armenian Genocide by noted scholar Peter Balakian. Following the lecture, Balakian asked teachers in the audience to talk about their experiences using Facing History’s strategies and resources. The teachers universally had high praise for the curriculum.

“People just like us were in Germany in the 1930s and 40s... they went to church, loved their families, were terrific neighbors... how did the Holocaust happen? Not only is the history very solid, but it’s trying to encourage civic participation and moral engagement. We talk about it in the context of bullying incidents in our own school. How many of you have intervened in these types of situations... and now let’s look at a society. What was happening in Germany?”

“In history I can’t think of anything that would just ruin their lives if they didn’t know it. That’s why this is so compelling.”

“Facing History materials are so rich and complex and yet they provide students an entry into these difficult moral dilemmas that are so important for us to keep having conversations about.”

The Facing History website (FacingHistory.org) offers resource materials that can be downloaded by educators or parents, as well as a list of their periodic community events.

Upcoming Events

The movie, The Minister’s War: The Story of Martha & Waitstill Sharp, will be shown by Facing History on April 18 at 6:30pm at the First Unitarian Society of Denver. The movie is about a Unitarian minister and his wife Martha, who helped feed and shelter thousands of refugees and assisted anti-Nazi dissidents and Jews as they escaped to safety. The movie is free and open to the public. RSVP at www.facinghistory.org/denverevents.

A free educator workshop will precede the movie, The Minister’s War. The workshop, which includes dinner and the movie, will be held from 4:30 - 8:15pm. RSVP for the workshop at www.facinghistory.org/denverevents.

Bully, directed by Lee Hirsch, will start playing in Denver on April 13 at the Mayan Theater. Facing History developed a manual to guide discussion about the film. The manual, A Guide to the Film BULLY—Fostering Empathy and Action in Schools, can be downloaded free at FacingHistory.org.

“Students really do seem to be very engaged and they come alive and there seems to be a lot of discussion that happens in that unit (the Armenian genocide). It’s so important that students can make the connection to what we do in our society to alienate certain people.”

“(11th grade world history)

“People just like us were in Germany in the 1930s and 40s... they went to church, loved their families, were terrific neighbors... how did the Holocaust happen? Not only is the history very solid, but it’s trying to encourage civic participation and moral engagement. We talk about it in the context of bullying incidents in our own school. How many of you have intervened in these types of situations... and now let’s look at a society. What was happening in Germany?”

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By Jon Meredith

Doug Lirnkhart, who has had a long career in city and state politics, was appointed by Mayor Hancock to be Denver’s director of the Department of Environmental Health (DEH). Although the number of employees at DEH is only about 150, they are in charge of more than 100 different city services that include health inspections in restaurants, community health, animal control and environmental quality.

“T here is a connection between people’s behavior and effective results if they understand why regulations are in place.” Lirkhart says he loves his new job and feels it suits him well—in his past roles as a legislator and city council member, he has learned the art of working with divergent groups by building consensus. His mission as director of DEH, he says, is to “help Denverites live healthy lives and make the city greener—both of which are my passions.”

Lirkhart says he will propose some innovative ideas to city council, such as having off-leash hours for dogs in certain areas of various city parks. He wants to revise the city code for animals by redefining animal cruelty and imposing larger fines for those offenses. He would like to hire an officer specifically to investigate cruelty complaints. Lirkhart believes he can get citizens to help identify potentially dangerous dogs through an effort to educate citizens about the warning signs of dangerous dogs.

His foremost goal regarding animal control is “to vastly reduce the number of animals that are euthanized while in city possession. With our new facility, I hope we can run it more like the Denver Dumb Friends League, where it becomes more of a shelter.”

As far as restaurant inspections are concerned, Lirkhart will meet with restaurant owners in March to find consensus on exactly how best to promote public health in all of the restaurants in Denver. He says, “Last year the department issued 1300 fines to noncompliant restaurants. However, 35 percent of restaurants had no fine and some that have been in business for years have never had a fine.”

The Community Health and Decision Support area of the department is largely responsible for promoting good health in the city and overseeing the city’s contract with Denver Health. Lirkhart firmly believes, “Our big priority in community health is education and prevention—how the uninsured can get care before it becomes an emergency room problem.”

His mandate will be for the health area of his department to design and implement educational materials that will promote and improve citizens’ health.

Lirkhart was elected to the Colorado House in 1993 and remained on the Denver City Council as an at-large member until his term expired last year, when he ran for mayor of Denver. During a portion of his time on city council he lived in Stapleton and he now resides in the East Colfax neighborhood.

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The new Central Park Boulevard Bridge (CPB) Bridge that connects to I-70 and Northfield may look like half a bridge, but many drivers think it’s a whole lot better than the crowded I-70 Quebec intersection.

Bridge supports are in place for a four-lane bridge, which will be completed at some time in the future when traffic volume warrants the wider bridge. That decision will be made by the City of Denver. No timetable or cost for the remaining work is available at this time.

Weather permitting, the Central Park Bridge is expected to open one lane of traffic in each direction in late April or early May. The bridge is expected to open one lane of traffic when remaining work is available at this time.

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Central Park Boulevard

Bridge Specifications

- Bridge Length: 803'
- Bridge Height: 48' (highest pt.)
- Roadway Width: 28'
- Sidewalk Width: 13.5'
- Construction time: 14 Months

The project was complex in that it required coordination with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and RTD. Planning and arrangements with these entities included:

- A bridge design that met Union Pacific Railroad standards and exceeded minimum clearances over the railroad
- A bridge design that would accommodate two future Union Pacific railways as well as the RTD light rail
- Different types of fences along the side-walk of the bridge to meet construction specifications for each of the three jurisdictions
- Construction work had to be coordinated with Union Pacific Railroad traffic in the work area
- A Union Pacific flagger monitored all construction activities within the railroad right of way

One of the challenges for the construction manager, Mortenson Construction, was erecting the girders. The 166’ concrete girders that support the bridge were too large to be transported to the north side of the creek where they were to be installed. To solve the problem, the girders were delivered to the south side of Sand Creek, along Smith Road, and were passed over the creek from one crane to another to be set in place.

The CPB bridge was part of a larger roadway construction project that included:

- Two lanes from 36th to I-70
- Four lanes from I-70 to 46th
- Two lanes from 46th to Northfield Blvd.

The cost of the entire project was $19 million which included: a $12 million non-reimbursable contribution from Forest City; $2 million in DURA TIF funds, a $5 million reimbursable advance from Forest City to Park Creek Metro District.

Information provided by Tom Gleason, Forest City Vice President-PR.

Will you miss the Quebec intersection?

Above: Although only two lanes are being completed at this time, bridge supports are in place for four lanes. The construction of the additional lanes will be a decision made by the City of Denver based on future traffic volume.
Mike and Mary Cottrell saw a new life for the 1947-vintage building with a vaulted wood ceiling near Colfax and Quebec. Their work included restoring the original glass block (shown below) and tile façade. Department managers Aaron Ziesch (black shirt) and Tyson Faussone look forward to sharing their expertise with the customers. The store opened on March 28.

Neighborhood gardeners will find that the Lawn & Garden Department manager, Tyson Faussone, has more than enough horticulture experience and education to advise them. He has a degree in business from the University of Colorado and is working on a degree in horticulture at Front Range Community College.

“My passion lies in urban farming,” Faussone said. “It’s about food security for people without access to quality food. It’s also about people who want to source their produce locally for environmental reasons.”

“Ace on the FAX has standard products that people have been using for 20 or 25 years. So we’ll have the expected lawn and garden products, and we’ll actively fill out what is going to be a sustainable gardening approach,” Faussone said.

As a Stapleton resident who often walks the neighborhood with Shannon Reiswig and their two dogs, Sasha and Hooper, Faussone knows the challenges of gardening in the Stapleton/Montclair/Mayfair/Park Hill/Lowry area.

“I’ve lived in different soil types in the area,” he said. “We will be working with the individual client, getting feedback from them as to what their difficulties are and tweaking their environment so that they can have success.”

An unusual spring in Denver has given everyone the urge to start planting, but Faussone warns against it.

“Those of us who know the weather patterns know there may be something around the corner, like a snowstorm,” he said.

“We need to give existing plants a little more water, but don’t add fertilizer. Be a little reserved. Don’t put in early summer or late spring plants now. “You can start tomatoes, cucumbers and watermelons in the garage if you have a spring ‘itch,’” he added. “Now is the perfect time for those who want to get a seed starting kit. You could start almost all of your spring/summer... (continued on page 16)
Cracked or in water, your warranty doesn’t cover it anyway. Water damage voids the warranty. Cracking is not warranted either.

To schedule an iPhone repair, go to www.iRepairDoc.com or call 720.308.2145. For information, email info@iRepairDoc.com.

By Nancy Burkheer

More and more people are making iPhones part of their lives. And, like all pieces of technology, there are times when iPhones, too, need repair. That is when Stapleton resident and owner of iRepairDoc Benjamin Head makes a house call.

“One in four Americans between the ages of 18 and 50ish has an iPhone,” according to Head. “The iPhone is an extension of us. We make sure we treat it like it’s something important to you. We bring the business right to you. We go all the way from Boulder to Colorado Springs.”

Head was an airline pilot who took international flights and was away from home for two weeks at a time. When he and his wife, OB/GYN physician Kristin Head, started having children, Head’s time away became difficult. Five-year-old Benjamin and 18-month-old William needed to see their father more often.

“I decided to quit, and was going to return to school,” he said.

But one day he had a broken iPhone and sorted out how to fix it. He continued to learn all about iPhones and came up with the idea for iRepairDoc.

The Apple product, iPhone, comes under contracts with Verizon, Sprint or AT&T. Repairs at the carrier’s offices often involve lengthy lines and leaving the iPhone for repair. When an iPhone user requests repair on Head’s website, www.iRepairDoc.com, an iPhone technician arrives at the client’s home, office or local Starbucks within a couple of hours to perform the repair.

“Most repairs take 20 minutes or so,” Head said. “The only time we have to take it away is when there is water damage. That requires us to take it for 24 to 48 hours. The lion’s share of damage is a cracked screen. When we’re getting in our cars in the morning, we set our iPhone on top of the car and drive away. Then we hear a big clank and realize that the iPhone is now in the alley.”

H aving a company outside one’s iPhone contract won’t affect your contract, according to Head.

“We try to go into your phone and not leave a footprint,” he explained. “We leave all the warranty systems inside. If the iPhone is cracked or in water, your warranty doesn’t cover it anyway. Water damage voids the warranty. Cracking is not warranted either.”

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Spanish-speaking communities fared derlands exhibit, understand how early
elsen Hill in Steamboat Springs. In the Bor-
century. Try the virtual ski jump on How-
frican Americans in the early 20th
coln Hills, a mountain summer vacation re-
civil rights for American citizens. Visit L-
about Governor Ralph Carr's leadership on
A mache during World War II and learn
Spanish-speaking communities fared de-
ning on whether the land they inhabited
 was governed by Spain, Mexico or Colorado.
The Sand Creek Massacre exhibit relates the	ragic clash of opposing communities and the
Ute exhibit shows contributions of these na-
tive peoples historically and today. In the fall
of 2012, the stories of a ninth community
will be added. Denver and its quirks will be
featured in an exhibit, Denver A to Z.
And there’s more to come. Summer high-
lights at the museum will include daily per-
formances in the atrium from Memorial Day
to Labor Day. Look for LEGOrado from
May 30 to August 1, an interpretation of
Colorado in LEGOS. There will also be op-
portunities for parents and children to sign
up for volunteer work with the exhibits.
The $110.8 million History Colorado Center, designed by David Tyra of Tryba
Architects, has many sustainability features
that are expected to earn the building a
LEED gold certification. Visitor amenities in-
clude a restaurant and museum store and
proximity to public transportation and bike
racks.
Visit www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org for information about special events scheduled for
April 28, membership or to order tickets or plan an event.

New Hardware Store

There isn’t anything in the plumbing
and electrical area that I haven’t seen,” Zi-
esch said. “I have replumbed and redone
the electrical in many homes in this area. If
a person has a problem, they might bring
in a broken piece, a photo on their phone
or a little drawing. Then I will be able
to walk them through the process. I can tell
them what to do in the whole process of
fixing it so that it comes out correctly and
in the easiest way.

“Plumbing parts have come a long way
and are easier to use now,” he added. “It’s a lot
different material to use than it was
five years ago. People can save them-
selves a lot of money by doing it
themselves. There are a lot of things
that are easier to do, but at Ace we
have the knowledgeable people
and construction since he was 13 years
old. He had part-time jobs with fam-
ily members throughout his high school
years. He, himself, has owned a plumbing
business.

Ziesch believes that his customers will
be professionals as well as homeowners
with small projects, although he believes
that the homeowners can best avail them-
selves of his expertise and knowl-
edge. He and his family have worked in
plumbing and construction since he was 13
years old. He had part-time jobs with family
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business.

Ace on the FAX has knowl-
edgable people in all its depart-
ments, according to Mary. Another experi-
ted manager is the

Plumbing/Electrical manager, Aaron Zi-
esch, a resident of Northeast Denver.

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When students from Operation Tiger Salamander began surveying suitable candidates to become our state amphibian, several criteria were used including: 1. Is the creature native to Colorado and, 2. How long has the amphibian lived in Colorado? For these answers they turned to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Quick research revealed that yes, this amphibian is indeed native to Colorado, and as recent as 2010, Ice Age era tiger salamander fossils were exhumed from the Ziegler Reservoir in Snowmass. The added bonus was that two passion-ate paleo-ontologists from the museum emerged to lend their support to the students, their campaigns and the amphibian.

These two neighbors from the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Drs. Richard Stucky and Joseph Sertich, heeded the students’ call to action and came to the Capitol with a breadth of scientific knowledge and their own unique personal experiences with salamanders. They teamed up to testify and advocate not only for the modern day western tiger salamanders that call Colorado home, but more so for their ancestors who lived in our alpine region during the Ice Age. Both men participated in the 2010 Snowmass Ziegler Reservoir Ice Age dig. Since then, they, along with many of their colleagues at the museum, have been painstakingly sifting through 400 bags, or roughly .7,000 cubic yards, of excavated sediment in search of more remains from the Colorado Rockies’ prehistoric past.

The Snowmass dig gained international notoriety when large fossils and skeletons, including mastodons, mammoths, bison and sloths were unearthed. However, it is the tiniest of creatures from the site that have proven to be able to compare them to those who live in Colorado today—now that is extraordinary,” said Stucky. Marko and John Babik are Stapleton residents. Marko, 10, is an avid wildlife photographer. John is an enrichment teacher. Weekly he teaches his popular Nature Rangers ecology classes to students at Steck, Roberts Westerly Creek and Odyssey. He can be reached at Nature RangerJohn@aol.com.

For Park Hill resident Dr. Stucky, museum curator of paleoecology and evolution, the discovery of tiger salamanders at Snowmass is “intellectually very interesting” to him. It also reminds him of his early ties to our state. The Kansas native never saw a tiger salamander in his home state, even though the salamander is his home state’s official amphibian too. It was not until he arrived in Denver that he had his first encounter. He found one in a window well. “Sally” the tiger salamander became his graduate school pet at UC Boulder. She also helped create his special, lifelong connection with this amphibian species.

The salamander bones from Snowmass will allow Stucky to better appreciate the salamanders’ life in the reservoir’s protected habitat, its paleoecology, and enable him to tie evolutionary changes to environmental changes that occurred over the centuries. “To study the Ice Age salamanders’ life stages, from young to old, aquatic to terrestrial, and even those that might have been carnivals, and to be able to compare them to those who live in Colorado today—now that is extraordinary,” said Stucky.
**EARTH DAY EVENTS**

2/18 Wednesday - Earth Day Fair. FREE Denver Earth Day Fair to highlight actions/investments residents/businesses can make to save money and reduce environmental impact. 10am-3pm. City and County Building Plaza, 1437 Bannock. www.denvergov.org/home/Event/EarthDayfair/

2/20 Friday - Party for the Planet. Celebrate Earth Day at Dairy Zoo. 10am-1pm. www.denver-zoo.org

2/21 Saturday - Stapleton Recycling Event. FREE day at the Gardens, Earth Day activities. www.denverbotanicgardens.org

2/22 Sunday - Denver Zoo. 10am-4pm. Denver Zoo, 3900 W 26th Ave. For more info, call the Denver Zoo at 303.328.6200. denverzoo.org

**DENVER METRO EVENTS**

Art Walks and Exhibits

Friday - Santa Fe Arts District, Santa Fe Dr between 10th and 6th. www.artdistrictsandarts.com

Friday - North Denver’s Tennyson Art Walk, Tennyson St. and 46th Ave. www.denverartwalk squarespace.com

Friday - South Pearl Art Walk, www.southpearlartwalk.com

Friday - Cherry Creek Arts District, www.cherrycreekarts.com

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

4/15 Friday - Aurora’s East End Second Friday Art Walk. Gallery openings, music, theater, food and more. 5-8pm. www.msmart.org

4/15 Saturday - Sinking of the Titanic. Molly Brown House, 4pm. $30. www.mollybrown.org

4/15 Saturday to 4/17 Sunday - Read My Pins, Madeleine Albright Collection. She worked elaborate broadcasts to broadcast messages to colleagues and the public during her diplomatic career. Denver Art Museum. Free with museum admission. www.dam.org

4/17 Thursday - Tours, Unmakable - The Titanic in American Culture 1912-2012. Presented by Colorado History Museum. Scots in Masonic Cemetery, 1370 Grant St. 1pm and 7pm. Cost: $8 general public, $7 members. www.historydenver.org

4/17 Thursday - Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs. For all gardeners, 3rd Thursdays. Contact: 303.455.0839.

4/17 Thursday - 4/22 Sunday - Just Between Friends Kids’ Gear & Clothing Sale. 10am-7pm. 75% off most items. www.justbetweenfriends.org

4/20 Friday - Party for the Planet. Denver Earth Day Fair to highlight actions/investments residents/businesses can make to save money and reduce environmental impact. 10am-3pm. City and County Building Plaza, 1437 Bannock. www.denvergov.org/home/Event/EarthDayfair/

4/21 Saturday - Stapleton Recycling Event. FREE day at the Gardens, Earth Day activities. www.denverbotanicgardens.org

4/22 Sunday - Denver Ultra Dash to Benefit Green Uplift Denver team sponsored by detergent through downtown Denver to make a “greener” city www.greenupliftdenver.com

April is Planet Earth Month at Children’s Museum. Discover what makes our planet special and how to keep it that way www.mychildrensmuseum.org


4/21/2012 and 4/23/2012 - NCAA Women’s Final Four. Visit www.ncaa.com/sports/women-

4/21/2012 - Denver’s Depression-Era Architecture by Bus. For Colorado Architecture History, take bus tour of this era’s architecture. Learn about Art Deco, Modernism and International Style as you view iconic 1930s’ buildings. 10am-3pm. $36. History Colorado members, $46 nonmembers. 303.866.4686

4/24 Tuesday - Denver Zoo. Doors Open Denver (DOD): Denver Landmarks. FREE annual open house event celebrating architecture and design. Over 70 sites open to the public through self-guided tours, expert guided tours (members only), and urban adventure tours. DOD headquarters at Ellie Caulkins Opera House. www.denvergov.org/door-sopendenver/ denverzoo.org

4/25 Saturday - Staying of the Titanic, Molly Brown House, 4pm. $30. www.mollybrown.org

4/25 Saturday to 4/27 Sunday - Read My Pins, Madeleine Albright Collection. She worked elaborate broadcasts to broadcast messages to colleagues and the public during her diplomatic career. Denver Art Museum. Free with museum admission. www.dam.org

2547 Xanitia Ctr • Stapleton

4 bed/2.5 baths • 2651 sq. ft. • $319 sq. ft. includes lot

In. basement • 3-car detached garage features a Carriage House w/524 sq. ft. attached carport, and large T rex deck

462 Onego St • Del Mar Park

4 bed/2.5 baths • 4006 sq. ft.

Oversized 4-car garage on 14,331 sq. ft. lot

Walk to Del Mar Park

*Represented buyer

2826 Xanitia St • Stapleton

3 bed/2 baths • 1645 sq. ft. • $222 sq. ft.

unfin. basement • New kitchen w/ granite counters, SS appliances & 42” espresso stained maple cabinets • White oak hardwoods

9380 E 4th Pl • Loery

5 bed/5 baths • 4557 sq. ft. • Slab granite countertops • Stainless steel appliances

Custom home site • Park, city & mountain views

*Represented buyer

Jim DeCesaro • 720-934-5474
Broker Associate
Jim@DenverHomes.com
Your Stapleton Neighbor & Neighborhood Expert

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

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

Throughout April - 9News Health Fair. Free and low-cost health screenings at various metro-area locations. www.9news.com

4/19 Thursday - HIV testing at Rocky Mountain Care nonprofits for hepatitis. HIV test for $1. 7-3pm. 3rd Thursday monthly. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. 303.393.8503. Adrian Pilsarski

Jim DeCesaro • 720-934-5474
Broker Associate
Jim@DenverHomes.com
Your Stapleton Neighbor & Neighborhood Expert

Energy Star is good, but we’re better.

Our homes are almost 50% more efficient than Energy Star requires. But we didn’t stop there. We now offer a 100% energy efficient home. It’s called a ZERO ENERGY HOME. It costs zero per month for energy…really!

This ZERO ENERGY feature is NOW AVAILABLE for all our single family homes in Stapleton.

Talk to us about building your ZERO Energy home. Solar Included.

**NEW TONNE**

The SCX Collection

From the high $300s

CENTRAL PARK ROWS

303.320.1297

www.nwtonewsbuilders.com

303.707.4444

April 2012

Stapleton Front Porch

18
Lectures and Discussions
Active Minds – Listings on all sessions: www.ActiveMinds.com. FREE.
4/3 Tuesday – Afghanistan, 10:15 – 11:15 am. Jewish Community Center, 350 S. Dahl St. 303.613.4593
4/4 Tuesday – French 101: The CIA. 7:30 – 8:30 pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724
4/7 Thursday – Music of Spain: A Woven Tapes- try. 11 am – 12:30 pm. 1045 freshman High (Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: jodi.303.388.4013 #307

Libraries
For all programs, check event calendar at denverlibrary.org. All branches closed April 8, Easter Sunday.
4/2 Saturday – Early Literacy Fair. 9:30 – 11:am. For caregivers/elders ages 0-3. Face and talk literacy crafts; learn to turn ordinary moments into literacy activities. Every Child Ready to Read promotion. Reservations required. 720.865.0250 or dlarion@denverlibrary.org.
4/4 Tuesday – Teen Advisory Council Meeting. 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Students grades 9th-12th invited to join Park Hill TAP plan library events/projects at Park Hill Library.
Thursdays – All ages storytime. For kids who can listen to stories and participate in songs. 10:30am.
Thursdays and Fridays – Book Babies. Babies 6 – 23 months parent/caregiver care. Share books, songs, finger plays. 11:15 am. Please attend only ONE session/week.
Fridays – Tales for Twos. Storyttime for 2-3 year-olds and caregivers. Stories, songs, movement activities. 10:30am.
Schlessman Family Library, 100 Poplar St. (1st and 4th) 7500 E. 29th Ave. 303.388.0500. Closed Wednesdays and Fridays.
Thursdays – Tales for Twos. 10:15am through May 8.
Thursdays – Preschool Story Time. 11:00am through May 8.
Thursdays – Book Babies. 3pm through May 10.
4/14 Saturday – Acrylic Painting with My Art Workshop. Learn acrylic canvas painting basics to create a cherry blossom masterpiece. 10am. Registration: 720.865.0000 or frontdesk@denverlibrary.org.
4/16 Monday – Feng Shui in the Garden. Feng Shui practitioner Lorrie Webb-Grind, owner of Thriv- ing Spaces, guides you through tools to create a personal paradise. 6:30pm.
4/21 Saturday – Geek’s Who Read. Do you love science fiction, graphic novels, horror or fantasy? Talk to other geeks in the 3rd Saturday each month.
4/28 Saturday – April 21, 28, May 5, 12 – Writing Our Lives: Writing Workshop for Women. Ex- ercises to give to your personal history clarity/impact. Women from countries outside U.S. encouraged to attend, including ESL speakers. 10am – 12pm. Register: 303.656.6640 or kdoben@denverlibrary.org.

Kids and Families
Thursdays in April – Star Kids. Puppets, stories, activities. outdoor explorers for ages 3 and under) and 3/1 & 1/8, Morrison Nature Center, 1600 E Smith Rd, Aurora. 720.739.2428, auroragov.org/nature
4/7 Saturday – Moms Movie Depot Kids Workshop. 9am – 12pm. FREE how-to clinic first Saturday of month for ages 5 – 12. Each gets Moms Movie Depot, a wooden project and project pin. Metro-Area Home Depot Stores. www.homedepot.com
4/7 Saturday – Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Friday each month explore nature at night in Morrison’s Children’s Garden. Monthly themes with performers in Sagby Square, snacks by sample, other fun activities. 25 · membership of $4, each additional: $25 non-member/family of 4, $4 each additional. Children 2 and under free. www.botanicgardens.com.

Meetings and Discussions
4/4 Tuesday – Parks Advisory Group, 7:30pm, 7150 E 27th Ave. 303.391.7700. Lorเครators@idlene.net
3rd Thursday – Greater Stapleton Business Assoc. 8am, MCA, 2823 Roslyn St, www.downtownbusiness.com. 720.393.7700
4th Tuesday – Adams County Board of Education, 7:30pm, 720.913.4594. Meeting,Presby. Church, Robinson Rm. AICTC.org 303.323.6302
Every Wednesday – Weekly Wednesdays, Buff Lake Nature Center, 9am-12pm, 303.401.6717
2nd Wednesday – Adams County Day Care Support Group, 7:30pm, 720.913.4594. Meeting,Robinson Rm. AICTC.org 303.323.6302
2nd Wednesday – Lowry Parks & Recreation Support Group, Noon-1pm, Pinevalle Adult Center, 7501 E. Lowry Blvd, lowryvtpark@fastweb.net lowryrecreation@gmail.com
3rd Thursday – Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board Mtg, 7350 E 27th Ave. 303.391.7700
3rd Thursday – Stapleton Power Partners Small Business Networking Group. 2:30-4:00pm. The Berkley Buff Iris Oueltte. rich.ouellette@ubs.com
1st Saturday – Buff Lake Births, Buff Lake Nature Center, 7:30pm, BuffLakeNatureCenter.org. Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team. 9am-noon. Lorraine@dnets.com for info.
2nd Saturday – NE Downtown-Park Hill HS Self Help Support Group. Dist. 2 Police Station, 10:15 – 11:45am 3821 Holy St. 303.329.0619
Periodically – Stapleton Wine Appreciation Group. meighanm@aim.com

For your attention:
4/20 Friday – Nature at Night. 6:30 pm. All ages free. Morrison Nature Center, 1600 E Smith Rd, Aurora, auroragov.org/nature

Submit to information for the Front Porch “Local Event” Listings
Email information in the following format by the 15th of the month to FrontPorchEvents@comcast.net. Events will be run subject to space available.
In numerical format (mm/dd), day of week- Name of Event. A one- or two-sen- tence description. Time List cost if any. Location. Contact information. Pray releases for suggested stories should be sent separately to FrontPorch@stapleton.com

Opening in April: Mile Into the Wild Walks at the Wild Animal Sanctuary $15/adult, $15/child. With 300 lions and tigers and bears, the Wild Animal Sanctuary is largest carnivore sanctu- ary in Western Hemisphere. (continued on page 20)
walke way curls over the plains, letting visitors get up K eenesburg, C O. A pril hours: 9am -4pm . w w w .wildanimalm alsanctuary.org

THROUGH 7/8 Sunday- Lizards and Snakes. M ontview and Colorado Blvd. w w w .dmns.org

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

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info@ theurbanfarm .org

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- Bass Pro Events- 7 20.385.3600, w w w .B assPro.com

- Events at The Shops at Northfield Staple -

- Planetarium -

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through 5/13-

-started W eekly, 7pm. 2-hour guided tour

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4/18- Parenting Safe C hildren W orkshop w ith

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5/5 Saturday- W ells Fargo W alk M S.

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20 A pril - D enver M editation M eetup.

4/18- Parenting Safe C hildren W orkshop w ith
**More Events...**

**Yves St. Laurent: The Retrospective at DAM through July 8**
The Denver Art Museum (DAM) exhibition shows 40 years of creativity through a selection of 200 haute couture outfits along with numerous photographs, drawings, and films that illustrate the development of Saint Laurent's style and the historical foundations of his work. Denver is the only U.S. city to host the exhibition. YSLDenver.com.

**Western History Lectures at Denver Central Library, Apr. 9 & 23**
April 9—Early Printed Images of Denver—A look at images and maps of Denver as it grew from a rude, gold-mining settlement to one of the largest American cities west of the Mississippi.

April 23—The cartographic roots of Colorado—A history of the discovery and exploration of the place that became Colorado, as revealed on maps from 1540 to 1861, when Colorado became a territory. Lectures are free and start at 5:30pm at the Denver Central Library, 10 W. 14th Ave Plw, B2 Conference Center. Check denverlibrary.org for updates. (720) 865-1821, history@denverlibrary.org.

**April 14, 15—Freet Doors Open Denver**
The eighth annual Doors Open Denver is a free two-day event, Saturday and Sunday, April 14–15, celebrating architecture and design. This year’s theme is “Denver Landmarks.” The 80-site event seeks to create access, awareness and excitement by welcoming a wide audience into distinctive examples of historic architecture, engineering and design. There are several ways to enjoy Doors Open Denver: 1) Self-Guided Tours can begin at any site. A free program guide, distributed a week before the event, has descriptions of all sites and a map to plan your visits. Go on your own, in any order, all weekend. 2) Expert Tours are led by volunteer tour guides. No admission fee but you must pre-register at Event Headquarters. Check doorsopen.denver.org for updates. (720) 865-1821, history@denverlibrary.org.

**April 15—Free Spirituals Concert**
Arlen Hershberger will lead a group of soloists and ensembles in singing Spirituals, the traditional songs of enslaved African-Americans, on Sunday, April 15 at 2pm, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Soloists will include Debraq Salsberry, Patti Wright, Angela Williams, Tom Cuniffe and others, accompanied by Stephen Nye. Admission is free. A goodwill offering will be taken. St. Thomas Episcopal Church is located at 2201 Dexter Street in Park Hill. For more information, contact Elizabeth Bennett at 303-316-7570.

**April 17—Free Lowry Speaker Series Features Carlotta Walls LaNier of the Little Rock 9**
In 1957, at age 14, Carlotta Walls LaNier was the youngest Little Rock Nine member to integrate Central High School. Confronted by a hostile crowd and escorted by the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne, they shouldered the burden of integrating a then segregated public school system. This act of courage and defiance was catalyst for change in the American educational system. Ms. LaNier, author of A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice of Little Rock Central High School, will speak about her experiences on Tuesday, April 17, from 7–8:30pm, in the Eisenhower Chapel, 293 Roslyn, in the Lowry Town Center. A few copies of her book will be available for purchase ($12 cash only) after her talk. The Lowry Speaker Series is co-sponsored by The Lowry Foundation and Lowry United Neighborhoods (LUN). All speaker series events are free. Contact: omhittman@aol.com or Melly Kinnard at 303.343.1280.

**April 21—Parr-Widener Walk/Run to Benefit East High A+ Angels Mentors**
The fifth annual Parr-Widener Walk/Run will be held in City Park on Saturday, April 21, at 9am. The family event, organized by National Honor Society students at East High School (EHS), helps the A+ Angels Mentor Program. A+ Angels pairs adult volunteers with EHS students struggling academically. The event honors John Parr and Sandy Widenner (both A+ Angels mentors) and their daughter Chase Parr, a beloved EHS family killed in a 2007 car accident. Everyone is welcome: babies in strollers, roller skaters, dogs, etc. No registration fee; tax-deductible donations appreciated. Funds raised support the A+ Angels program. Registration: 8:30am at City Park Fountain, 17th and the Esplanade by EHS. Entertainment by EHS music groups/clubs. Tax-deductible contributions payable to East Angel Friends & Alumni Ed/Parr-Widener Fund, mail to A+ Angels, 1570 Emerson St., Denver, CO 80218. To mentor, contact Jessica Pearson: Parr20071@gmail.com. For more: www.eastangels.org.

**April 21—Stories for Preschoolers at DSA**
On Saturday, April 21, 10am–12pm, preschool-age children (2.5 and up) can hear four professional actors read the Preschool One Book: One Denver finalists, Maybe a Bear Ate It?, Mama Do You Love Me? and Feast for 10, plus selections from A.A. Milne’s House at Pooh Corner. This children-parent event will be held at the Denver Library (Events continued on page 22).
More Events...

(continued from p. 21)


April 22—Earth Day Family Fun at Bluff Lake Nature Center

Bluff Lake Nature Center’s annual Earth Day celebration, Sunday, April 22, 1–5pm, will include recycling crafts, live music, family activities, raptors, scavenger hunts, guest speakers, food, educational displays, and more. Educators will showcase live raptors. Music for Andarkwals will perform kids’ music. DSA’s Energy Service Corps will do a children’s energy-saving skit, and Ricky Rodriguez and the Pick-Ups will sing. Bluff Lake Nature Center, a 123-acre wildlife refuge on the eastern edge of Stapleton, is home to diverse waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, deer, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, reptiles and amphibians. www.blufflanaturecenter.org, 303-544-1609 or lickiss6@blufflake.org.

April 22—Denver Ultra Dash Scavenger Hunt

Teams will compete on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, in a scavenger hunt throughout the downtown area. Each team of two or more people will be given a set of challenges. The winning team receives a $500 cash prize. The event is a fundraiser for Green Up Denver, a local project to make festivals (People’s Fair, Cherry Creek Arts Festival, etc.) as green as possible. Create a costume that fits the theme of Recycling Education to win $50. Must be 21 to enter. $35 each team until 3/31; $40 extra per day from 4/1 on. www.denverultradash.com

Denver Police 12-Week Citizens Academy Starts April 25

The free Denver Police Citizens Academy, held on Wednesday nights from 6:30–9pm, will teach participants about the different departments within the Denver Police Department. It includes presentations from metro/SWAT, the air support unit, gang unit, crime lab and more. The academy is open to the public, but space is limited. Email Matthew.Merrion@ denvergov.org for an application. Classes will be held weekly from April 25 through July 18. Sessions are at the Denver Police Academy, 2155 N. Akton Way.

May 4, 5, 6—An American Love Story by Damsels Dance Company

The Damsels, a Denver-based contemporary dance company, will perform An American Love Story on Friday–Sunday, May 4, 5, 6. The dance tells the story of women who puts aside all insecurities to win a handsome bachelor’s heart. The Damsels dedicate themselves to raising public awareness for women’s issues. This performance benefits the search for Aubrey Sacco, a Colorado native missing in Nepal (www.AubreySacco.com). Dance performances: 8pm 5/4 and 5/6, 5pm 5/5. Tickets: 18/adult; $15/students; online sales $18. www.thedamselfilmdancecompany.com. Location: Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theater, 119 Park Ave. West.

May 5—Kids Bash Dash 2012

Teaches Giving While Having Fun

The Young Philanthropists Foundation (YPF) is sponsoring a family-friendly event on Sat., May 5 to show kids the value of giving. Elementary- and middle-school-aged kids are being sought to participate in teams of kids and parents to solve problem in an adventure race through the Stapleton Town Center. Registration at 8am at the Stapleton Town Center; race starts at 8:30am, with a 10am post-race breakfast (tickets can be purchased for noncompeting family and friends). Prizes awarded for individual challenges, best team costume and more. Teams of four or five (kids and parents, no more than 2 adults per team) can sign up at www.ypfoundation.org/bashdash. $25/team. YPF asks each team to raise an additional $150. Proceeds benefit YPF programs. www.ypfoundation.org, kerri@kazproductions.com or 303-653-5708.

Rotary Youth Leadership Scholarships

For the third consecutive year, the Rotary Club of Denver-Stapleton will sponsor two area students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Award summer camp. These Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) recognize the outstanding service young people have given to their schools and communities. The camp teaches leadership skills through experiential activities, small group discussions, large group presentations, and by building lifelong friendships.

Joshua Wilson was the recipient of a RYLA scholarship and participated in the program during the summer of 2010, before his senior year at DSST. Wilson says the RYLA program was significant for him because it helped him identify clearly the main priority in his life—attending the Air Force Academy. Now, as a freshman there, Wilson says demanding academics on top of the exacting standards in many areas of daily life can be stressful. Even his bed needs to be made to precise standards or it will be torn apart and must be remade correctly. He says, “When I can’t see the reason for something, knowing why I can’t see it reminds me that I can take it.”

In the RYLA program, says Wilson, “You have to interact with people you don’t know, even if you’re not comfortable doing that.” Wilson described one of the activities that required critical thinking, communication and teamwork. A group of 10 had to lift all team members and pass them through the holes in a rope grid without touching the ropes and without using a hole more than once. The team had to strategize and use each person’s strengths. The heaviest person was passed through the higher holes. Wilson saw the team-building activities showed participants, “If you’re just accountable to yourself, you’re less motivated than if you’re working together for something.”

Joshua’s father, Stephen, and step-mother, Tiffany Wilson, live in Stapleton. His mother, Luana Wilson, lives in Arvada.

The Denver-Stapleton Rotary Club raises $900 to sponsor a student entering eighth grade (Young RYLA) and a high school student entering his/her junior or senior year. Both camps occur in late July. To learn more about the RYLA scholarship and apply, visit www.rmyla.org or email Webmaster@DenverStapletonRotary.org. The application deadline for 2012 RYLA camps is April 30. Rotary is a worldwide organization that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world.

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Colorado Is Now a Hotbed for Lacrosse

I was chatting with a colleague the other day when he mentioned his son played college lacrosse. I know that lots of kids from Colorado play lacrosse here and then go on to the play in college. I asked the gentleman where his son goes and what position he plays. “He plays goalie at the University of Virginia.”

“Are you kidding me?” was my response. Virginia is undefeated and ranked Number 1 in the country. They win national championships on a fairly regular basis. It would be like finding out a co-worker’s son is the point guard at Kansas or a quarterback at USC. The men’s NCAA championship, outdrawing the Final Four and played to full houses in football stadiums. Colorado youth lacrosse is nationally recognized as some of the best in the country.

Lacrosse was originally played by Native Americans, between tribes when goals were sometimes miles apart. They played with hand-made wooden sticks and rocks with 100 yards between them. The game was played on a regulation field, with offsides and other penalties necessitating a team playing down a man. Shots can reach over 100 mph and a typical game will have about 20 or more total goals.

Girls play the game much like the Native Americans may have. They wear almost no equipment except for eye safety protection. (The goalie does wear full protection similar to boys players.) There is no body checking and very limited stick checking. Penalties normally result in a free possession or shot. Only the most egregious infractions result in removal from the playing field. Games are high scoring, with the combined scores sometimes reaching 40. The women’s game is much more about style, grace and teamwork skills—whereas, the men’s game can be more about brute force.

I mentioned his son played college lacrosse. I know that lots of kids from Colorado play lacrosse here and then go on to the play in college. Many kids don’t pick up a stick until high school and end up being good players. Many get tired of playing other sports and then pick up lacrosse. There are several kids’ programs that serve East Denver, including the Stapleton Jets for boys K-6, and the Denver Lacrosse Club that serves boys and girls starting in Kindergarten.

Another program, Denver City Lax, is an extremely successful organization that has brought lacrosse to inner city youths in Denver. Their mission is to promote not only lacrosse, but to have lacrosse contribute to a better educational experience for elementary- and middle-school youth. Many City Lax players are now playing at local high schools. This outreach program has strengthened Denver’s reputation as a first-class lacrosse city because these kids are getting to play a game they normally would never have been exposed to.

Denver East and George Washington have women’s and men’s high school teams—do almost all of the private schools. The University of Denver’s men’s team made the NCAA final four last year for the first time. They have a women’s program as well. CU Boulder will start playing women’s Division 1 starting in 2014.

On Friday, April 27 the University of Pennsylvania will play Virginia and Duke will play DU at Sports Authority Stadium. The doubleheader starts at 5:30pm and is an inexpensive opportunity to take in some lacrosse played at the highest level and it may well be a preview of some of the national championship games.

Jon Meredith lives in Stapleton. He can be reached at jon.meredith@q.com.

‘Fishwrap’ is a slang term that started in the ’30s and refers to the transient value of yesterday’s newspaper.
Monarch Montessori Now a DPS Charter School

Monarch Montessori of Denver Charter was approved on March 12 by the Denver Board of Education to open this August as a Denver Public Schools (DPS) elementary school of choice. The school will start up with 170 students in kindergarten, first and second grades. Applications, which can be downloaded at www.MonarchM.com, will be accepted until April 16. If more students apply than there are spaces available, the school will have a lottery on April 17. Any classes that are not full as of April 17 will be open on a first-come, first-served basis starting April 18.

Monarch applied for charter status in November and was denied at that time, with the Board asking for additional information and clarification in specific areas. Monarch immediately filed an appeal to the State Board of Education. Principal Nancy Radkiewicz says when they appeared before the State Board on February 8, “The State School Board remanded us back to the district in hopes that we could get this opened yet this August—and they were very explicit about wanting us to be able to open this August.” Radkiewicz explains that the DPS Office of School Reform and Innovation then requested additional information on the English Language Learners (ELL) program, their Special Education program and their school goals—and after receiving that information recommended approval of the school.

According to Radkiewicz, a typical condition given to new charter schools is that they must have a certain percent of their students enrolled by a set date. In this case, with the approval coming in mid-March (rather than in November as Monarch initially expected) Monarch has just five weeks to enroll 60 percent of their students—or the school opening will be delayed a year (until August 2013).

Radkiewicz says parents who already have a school of choice for their child can still apply, and should keep their place in the other school until they are accepted at Monarch. At that time Monarch will inform them how they should handle their DPS choice registration forms.

Charter schools are tuition-free public schools, getting their state funds through the district. They are required to administer the state’s mandated testing.

Monarch’s plan is to grow to grades K-5. Full-day kindergarten, as with other DPS schools, has a monthly fee; for families with free or reduced lunch, there will be no tuition charged for kindergarten in the 2012-13 school year. Montessori classrooms have multiple ages, with the older students acting as role models for the younger students on how to be leaders in the classroom. Students stay with a teacher for three years.

Monarch Montessori is offering open houses on April 3 from 1-3pm and 5-7pm, on April 12 from 8-10am, and on April 17 from 1-3pm.

The school is located at 11200 E 45th Ave., Denver. For more information, call 720.746.2140 or visit www.MonarchM.com.
Stapleton-Aurora Streets to Connect by Sept. 2013

By Carol Roberts

The cities of Denver and Aurora have approved an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to build street connections between 25th and 26th avenues, an area of Stapleton that lies within Aurora. The agreement states, “The connections are anticipated to benefit overall connectivity between Denver and Aurora...”

The first two connections, scheduled to be completed by September 1, 2013, are Iola Street and Fulton Street. Kingston Street is scheduled for completion by June 1, 2014, and Dayton/Emporia is scheduled for completion by June 1, 2017. The City of Denver will contribute $300,000 for each connection and the City of Aurora will contribute $200,000 per connection.

A map showing the Stapleton/Aurora boundaries and the planned connections is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com.

How Would You Reduce Denver’s Structural Deficit?

By Carol Roberts

The roadways that are on the Federal Aid Highway System are required to be inspected every two years and each bridge’s condition is rated. The east- and westbound bridges on I-70 over Sand Creek were built in 1960 and 1964, according to Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) engineer Neil Lacey, and, based on these inspections, were identified as bridges in need of replacement. Funds generated from Colorado’s increase in auto registration fees, called FASTER funds, are being used to replace these and other crumbling roads and bridges in the state. The contract awarded to rebuild the bridges over Sand Creek was $8 million.

Lacey described the bridge replacement as a three-phase project in which lanes are being re-routed to allow work sequentially on the north, middle and south sides of the highway. Work is now in the third phase of the project and is expected to be completed in late June or early July. Lanes may be closed at night during low-traffic times, but the highway will not be fully closed during the construction.

I-70 Bridge Replacement Over Sand Creek

By Carol Roberts

Order your graduation cake by Sunday, May 13th, and receive 15% off.

DPS Greater Park Hill/Stapleton
Community Committee on Education

Anyone interested in participating in a discussion about education issues affecting Stapleton and Park Hill is encouraged to attend the remaining three meetings on Tuesday April 3, Monday April 23, and Tuesday May 8. These meetings are open to the public and childcare is provided. For information about past meetings, please visit http://communityrelations.dpsk12.org/regional-community-meetings/central-northeast/archive-meetings-documents/ or https://sites.google.com/site/sunwebsite1/education. All meetings are at The Odyssey School at 6550 E. 21st Ave from 6:00–8:00pm, with a light dinner available at 5:30pm.
The Lowry Redevelopment Authority (LRA) announced on March 27 that they have approved a land transfer agreement for the development of Buckley Annex, a 70-acre parcel of land south of First Avenue, between Quebec and Monaco. The Air Force is expected to convey the deed in April.

The area was primarily used for aircraft parking and maintenance between 1937 and 1966 while the airfield was operational at Lowry. After the airfield closed, buildings were constructed in 1975-76 for use by the Denver Center of the Defense Finance and Accounting Services and Air Reserve Personnel. In 2005, the Department of Defense added Buckley Annex to a closure list. In 2007 the LRA started a public redevelopment planning process that involved stakeholders and community task forces.

Conceptual plans released by the LRA show a combination of apartments, townhomes and single family homes that will bring approximately 800 dwelling units to the area, with a goal for the neighborhood to be “net zero”—generating as much power as it uses. Other developments are expected to include about 200,000 square feet of commercial space, half office and half neighborhood retail, and a 4-acre community park. In addition, there is good news for Schlesman Library patrons who have had difficulty finding a parking space in the often-crowded lot. The redevelopment plan includes 70 parking spaces for Schlesman Library and other commercial users in the Community Park/Mixed Use Center across First Avenue from the library.

Following the expected land transfer in April, the LRA will seek General Development Plan and zoning approvals from the city in the spring and summer. Building demolition and infrastructure improvements are currently scheduled to begin in the third quarter of this year. According to the LRA, the property will be obtained at no initial cost, but net profits, after all development costs and financing are paid off, will be shared with the Air Force. The LRA will pay for approximately $45 million in development costs through land sales, traditional bank loans, tax increment financing and federal grants. At full build out, the development is projected to create approximately $1 million annually in new property taxes and nearly $500,000 annually in sales taxes.

For more information visit http://lowryredevelopment.org/annex.

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For more information visit http://lowryredevelopment.org/annex.
Giving Small Businesses the Tools They Need

By Congresswoman Diana DeGette

Small businesses in Colorado have an extraordinary impact on our economy, providing almost half of our jobs and making up nearly 98 percent of the state’s employers. Without a doubt, entrepreneurs are the backbone of our economy—and strengthening small businesses is key to our recovery. I have been meeting with small-business owners to learn about the challenges they face. I have taken their stories and challenges back to Washington, and I am pursuing ways that Congress can respond to their needs.

In nearly all of my meetings with small-business owners, I heard one common refrain: they badly need increased access to capital. This echoed my own experience many years ago when I started a small business and struggled to get even the most basic of loans. Unfortunately, all these years later, many small-business owners face similar difficulties accessing sound business advice and securing the financing necessary to grow their businesses and create jobs for our community.

In February, I hosted a Small Business Finance Forum to help local small businesses improve their access to capital. The Forum brought resource providers together with small-business owners and entrepreneurs looking for assistance. Panelists included organizations dedicated to helping Denver-area businesses succeed, including the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE, and others. Their suggestions to businesses included:

• Explore opening a line of credit to establish a banking relationship so the business is prepared for future credit needs.
• Seek a detailed explanation for a denied loan or lost contract opportunity. Don’t just take “no” for an answer—find out why it wasn’t “yes.”
• Connect with other small-business owners and learn from them. Likely, someone else has already experienced the problems you may be facing in operating your business.

For more information about the forum and links to organizations and other resources available to help Denver-area small businesses succeed, visit www.degette.house.gov and click on “Small Business.”
SUN Board Announces 2012 Elections

Are you new to the neighborhood? Have you hoped that more voices from the community would be represented in neighborhood undertakings? Want to help make Stapleton a better place to live and work? Do you have talents and skills that could be put to good use in planning future development in Stapleton? Are you a current resident who has been looking for an opportunity to get involved with neighborhood issues? If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, please consider running for a leadership position on the Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) Board of Directors.

The first board of directors of SUN was elected in the spring of 2004. During the past eight years, much has been accomplished. SUN supports community initiatives through a block captain network of over 70 community leaders. SUN now hosts regular forums with Forest City representatives and officials from the City to help keep Stapleton residents up to date on the state of our neighborhood. SUN also organizes the annual Block Party Day and the Kickball Tournament, to help bring new neighbors together and build the bonds that are critical to strong communities. Now it is time to make plans for another year of progress with the election of members of the SUN Board of Directors. Of the 15 seats on the board, eight are up for election this year. As Stapleton is always growing, SUN is committed to including residents from all areas of our neighborhood on the board.

SUN Board Election FAQs

What is SUN and what role does it play in the neighborhood?
SUN is Stapleton’s registered neighborhood organization. Its mission is to work for the betterment of the Stapleton neighborhood and the City and County of Denver by providing: (a) a forum for residents living within the boundaries of SUN to discuss and resolve issues; (b) a network of communication; and (c) a means of acting on matters of importance to the community as a whole. Check out the SUN website at www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com for more information.

What are the obligations?
SUN board members are responsible for helping bring the mission of SUN to life through work in the community. This includes:
• Attending monthly meetings, currently scheduled at 7:30 pm on the fourth Monday of January through November.
• Chairing or serving on one of SUN’s committees: transportation, education, outreach, safety and communication, kickball, and sustainability. Board members may also choose to serve as a SUN liaison on the Stapleton Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), the InterNeighborhood Cooperation (INC), or a Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC) committee. SDC committees include the parks advisory group (PAG), zoning and planning (ZAP), housing diversity, and design review.
• Authoring at least one article per year for the SUN Spot section of the Front Porch.
• Attending and helping out with SUN-sponsored community events and forums.

What is the time commitment?
Monthly board meetings typically last an hour and a half to two hours. SUN, CAB and SDC committee meetings are usually once a month and run about an hour to an hour and a half. INC meetings are the second Saturday of the month for three hours. Beyond that, keeping up with voicemail, email and other events and meetings can add as little as a few minutes to as much as several hours per week. As a general rule, SUN will involve about 10 hours a month of time commitment, and potentially more depending on the calendar of events.

What do I need to do to run for the SUN Board?
The application process entails submitting a 200-word statement of interest and bio to Dannon Knoop (DannonBlackbirdDesignsDenver.com) by April 12, and attending the SUN Forum and Election in May. The statement of interest and bio will be posted on SUN’s website at www.StapletonUnitedNeighbors.com.

Saturday, April 21
Earth Night Movie and Fundraiser
Location/Time: MCA Stapleton Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St., 6–9 p.m.
The SUN Sustainability Committee invites you to the third annual Earth Day event. This year’s theme will be "Bike to Work Day." For more information on the event, email SUNsustainability@gmail.com.

TerraCycle Contest
The Stapleton United Neighbors Sustainability Committee, in partnership with MCA and the Bill Roberts School Garden Team, is collecting various used and empty items to be recycled through TerraCycle. All money earned goes to the Stapleton Sustainability Committee for various green initiatives. The person who turns in the most items from now until June 2 will receive a $50 gift card to Whole Foods. Simply include your name, address and phone number on a piece of paper in every bag you drop off. The winner will be announced at the Stapleton Environment and Ecology Day (SEED) on June 2 and will be awarded a Stapleton Green Steward Certificate. You can drop off the items in the MCA lobby at 2823 Roslyn Street, in a blue bin at the Bill Roberts front office, or email SUN-Sustainability@gmail.com for item pickup. We accept the following items:
• Candy packaging (all types)
• Cans and bottles, caps, toothbrushes, floss containers
• Elmer’s glue sticks, bottles and caps (Elmer’s only)
• Disposable plastic tape dispensers and cores
• Printed list of acceptable and unacceptable items. To see the full list, please visit: http://sunsustainability-committee.shutterfly.com/ and look for TerraCycle.

Next SUN Indiscuity Meeting April 5
The April 5 inclusivity committee meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Central Park Rec Center. Elizabeth Garner, the City of Denver’s demographic office, will give a presentation on demographics research from a study released in February 2012. Afterwards the group will discuss future undertakings. All are welcome to attend.

SUN MEETINGS are held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com
Letters to the Editor

Stopping for School Buses

I am hoping my letter will make our community aware of a growing safety issue that threatens our children. I am referring to the dramatic increase in the number of cars that drive past a school bus with its stop sign down and its red lights flashing. People appear to be either utterly unaware of what the law requires, or simply do not care that they are endangering our precious children by driving past school buses when the school bus’s stop sign is out, children are loading or unloading and crossing the street to get to and from their buses. All traffic in BOTH directions is required to law STOP and WAIT until the bus’s stop sign is no longer displayed and its red lights have stopped flashing. Only then may traffic proceed.

In particular, section 4–4–93(1)(a) of the Colorado Revised Statutes mandates that all vehicular traffic “upon meeting or overtaking from either direction a school bus that has stopped, shall stop...” at least twenty feet before reaching the school bus if visual lights... have been actuated. The driver shall not proceed under these circumstances if it is not safe to do so and if the red lights are no longer being acted upon.” Violation of this law is a class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, punishable by a fine of not less than $150 or jail time of ten days or more.

It is appalling to me in that neighborhood, filled with young children going to and from school every day, so many people place greater importance on their own rushed schedules than on the safety of our children. I am hopeful that this reminder will prevent the horrific tragedy of a child being struck by a car. We all must realize that waiting a minute or two longer to allow children to get on and off their school bus is a small price to pay to ensure our children’s safety every day, so many people in our neighborhood, filled with young children going to and from school every day, so many people place greater importance on their own rushed schedules than on the safety of our children. I am hopeful that this reminder will prevent the horrific tragedy of a child being struck by a car. We all must realize that waiting a minute or two longer to allow children to get on and off their school bus is a small price to pay to ensure our children’s safety every day.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Front Porch will publish letters to the editor as space allows—they may be edited for length. Please send FRONTPorch@stapleton.com or submit by the 15th for consideration in the following month’s issue.

Let’s Talk Home Care

By the 15th of the month each small classified ad in our FrontPorch/Outdoors section is confirmation and instructions for small card payment. Ads must be paid by the 17th of the month in the preceding issue. 10 words or less $1.75, 11-20 words $3.50, 21 words or more $7.
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time for us,” he added. “Zookeepers are now using positive-reinforcement-based training techniques to teach the elephants how to move in and out of bedrooms and the communal parlor area in the new Clayton F. Freiheit Elephant House; to and from the yards, and within the habitats.” Their House also features a self-activated shower in the parlor area where elephants can choose to have a rinse by pushing with their trunks a large button mounted on a wall.

The indoor quarters for the animals are designed for “creature comforts.” The house has a unique system that enables zookeepers to change the flooring material inside the building. Sand or soil can be moved, providing clean soft surfaces that will ensure the best in foot care for the large pachyderms.

The Elephant House building also has two elephant care systems that are used to stabilize animals for veterinary procedures. One of the devices can even tilt a full-grown elephant onto its side safely for examinations and procedures.

As part of a nationwide effort to create a sustainable Asian elephant breeding program, the enclosure’s added space will enable the zoo to become the first facility in the country to house up to eight bull elephants. The program also will support the Asian elephant Species Survival Plan by enabling the use of artificial insemination for reproduction.

The zoo’s sustainability manager, Jennifer Hale, will seek to gain “platinum level” LEED® certification for Elephant Passage from the U.S. Green Building Council. This program recognizes sustainable and green building practices. In 2011, the zoo was awarded the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ first-ever Green Award, ranking the Denver Zoo as the greenest in the country for its outstanding sustainability practices. “The zoo’s patent-pending biomass gasification technology can convert all forms of animal solid waste, and more than 90 percent of the zoo’s trash into usable energy,” said Hale. This energy stream will ultimately power heaters, mechanical equipment and recharge batteries in the exhibit areas. “The process will also efficiently eliminate 1.5 million pounds of trash that is annually transported to local landfills at a cost of $150,000,” added Hale. “Most of the 1.1 million gallons of water to be used in the exhibit will be filtered and recycled, and the water will be used for bathing and swimming by the animals,” said Hale. Natural light throughout buildings and radiant-heat floor systems were incorporated into constructions designs. Both will keep energy consumption and costs down in the exhibit.

The Toyota Elephant Passage exhibit and complex is scheduled to open to the public June 1. For more information see www.denverzoo.org.

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The Tuk Tuk Tour

The Denver Zoo developed a gasification technology that will allow them to power the new Toyota Elephant Passage using waste products for fuel. When the system in the exhibit is fully operational, the gasification process will convert more than 90 percent of the Denver Zoo’s waste—both trash and poop—into energy. Mike Dunbar, mechanical engineer and coordinator of the gasification project, stands by the Tuk Tuk, which is a working prototype of a “gasifier” that is being taken to other zoos to demonstrate the new technology. This three-wheeled vehicle runs on pellets created from poop and zoo trash.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storage Unit Size</th>
<th>Approximate Storage Space</th>
<th>What Fits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5’x5’ 25 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Small Closet</td>
<td>- Small closet or bedroom  &lt;br&gt;- Chest of drawers, office supplies, chair, clothing  &lt;br&gt;- Small number of file boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5’x10’ 50 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Large Closet</td>
<td>- Large walk in closet  &lt;br&gt;- Couch and chair, chest of drawers  &lt;br&gt;- Small business inventory  &lt;br&gt;- Seasonal yard equipment w/bicycle or motorcycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10’x10’ 100 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Small Average Room</td>
<td>- Average size bedroom  &lt;br&gt;- 1/2 of a one car garage  &lt;br&gt;- Furniture from a one bedroom apartment or house with refrigerator or washer and dryer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10’x12’ 120 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Large Bedroom</td>
<td>- Furniture from a one or two bedroom apartment or house with appliances  &lt;br&gt;- Patio furniture and many boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10’x15’ 150 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Large Bedroom</td>
<td>- Furnishings from a two bedroom apartment or house  &lt;br&gt;- Small boat  &lt;br&gt;- Appliances, patio furniture and many boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10’x20’ 200 sq. ft.</td>
<td>One Car Garage</td>
<td>- Furniture from a two to three bedroom apartment or house with appliances  &lt;br&gt;- Car, truck or boat with additional items  &lt;br&gt;- Contractor inventories</td>
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