

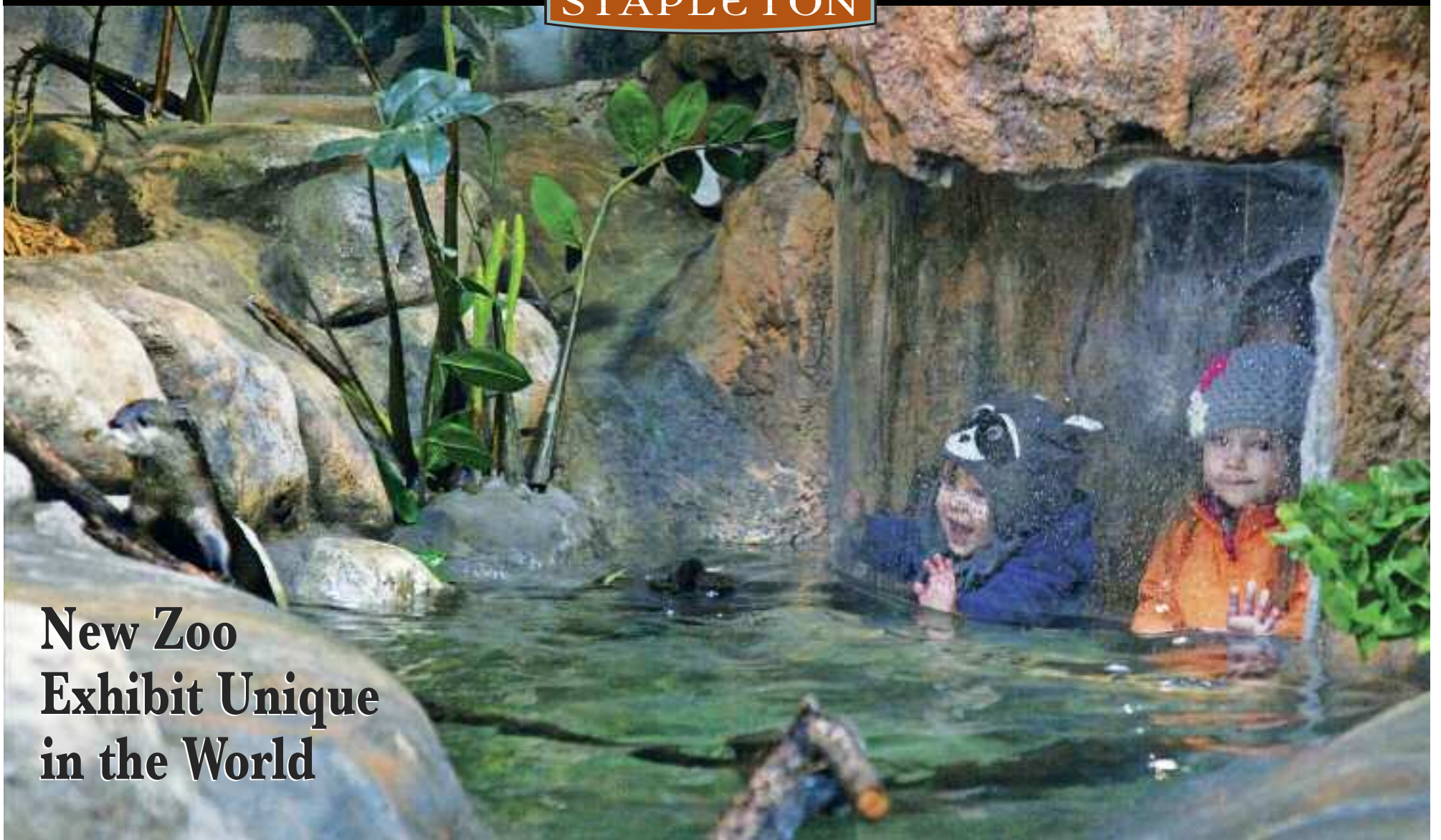
Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JUNE 2012



New Zoo Exhibit Unique in the World

Ryder, 18 months and Sadie Firth, 3, watch one of the two lively Asian small-clawed otters in the Denver Zoo's Toyota Elephant Passage—open

By Judith Schwartz

The Asian animals have come two by two, from many zoos, unknown to each other, to their new home at Toyota Elephant Passage. They have gone through a quarantine period, been slowly introduced to their new pals and neighbors and the sights, smells and sounds of their surroundings. Their former keepers said goodbye and have handed them over to new, eager caretakers. After nine years of planning, this unique-in-the-world 10-acre zoo expansion is

to the public on June 1. The window from which Ryder and Sadie are viewing the otters offers visitors an underwater look at the otters as

on view for the two-million yearly Denver Zoo visitors.

The exhibit contains two miles of paths within six interconnected habitats that showcase two male and two female elephants, twosomes of Malayan tapirs, greater one-horned rhinos, clouded leopards, Asian small-clawed otters, water-loving fishing cats, northern white-cheeked gibbons, six-foot Sarus cranes (with 8-ft. wingspans), a group of flying fox bats and two female clouded leopards plus a breeding pair, and more; 16 species in all. All the animals are considered vulner-

able or endangered in the wild. The Asian small-clawed otters are the smallest of all otter species and dangerously threatened by rapid habitat destruction.

able or endangered in the wild.

Some of the animals have journeyed far to get to their new home. Year-old clouded leopards Taji and Lisu were born at zoos in Tacoma and Nashville, respectively, in timed litters for future breeding pairs. On weaning, Lisu joined Taji in Tacoma to bond before coming to Denver.

Small-clawed otters Aha and Barry Kiran, another breeding pair, show amazing swimming talents in the indoor building that also houses giant fruit-eating (continued on page 16)

Free and Open to the Public June 1, 2, 8, 9 Theatre on the Green

Stapleton MCA and The Aurora Fox will present the musical *Once on This Island* on Friday and Saturday evenings, June 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 6pm as part of Stapleton's ongoing Theatre on the Green series in the 29th Avenue Town Center at Stapleton (just east of Quebec on 29th). Admission is free.

This calypso-flavored retelling of *The Little Mermaid* tells the story of two different societies on a Caribbean island—one poor, one rich. In almost non-stop song and dance, the show tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl, who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. When Daniel is returned to his people, the fantastical gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a quest to test



Cast members in the upcoming production of *Once Upon an Island* include, in the foreground, Jontae Piper as Ti Moune and, playing the gods trying to influence her, from left, Ashlie-Amber Harris as Erzulie, Stephanie Hancock as Asaka, Keith Rabin Jr. as Papa Ge, and Thairone Vigil-Medina as Agwe.

the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and death.

Suitable for all ages and admission is FREE. Bring a blanket and a picnic. No reservations necessary.

DSST's Founding Class Graduates from College

By Maegan Parker Brooks

Feelings of pride and gratitude abound during graduation season. This year is an especially proud one for the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST). When DSST first opened its doors in the fall of 2004, the students who opted to attend this new charter school were promised that they would be both prepared for and accepted to a four-year college. In 2008, that promise was fulfilled as 100 percent—all 75 of DSST's graduating seniors—were accepted to such prestigious universities as Bowdoin, Carnegie Mellon, and Stanford. This spring many students within that founding class are graduating from college.

Bill Kurtz, principal during the class of 2008's tenure and now CEO of the DSST Public Schools network, couldn't be prouder. Reminiscing about that founding class, Kurtz characterizes them as "risk takers. They were willing to forego established programs like East and George Washington to try this new school that nobody knows about, that nobody has (continued on page 30)

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

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Share comments
at Front Porch
Newspaper



Sweet William Market is held on the Green the last Saturday of the month from 9am-2pm.



CALENDAR

Events listed below are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit.
(Additional events are listed on pages 18-21. Recurring events are listed on page 19.)

JUNE

Every Tuesday & Thursday

Bungee Boot Camp 8:30am & 6pm thru 8/30/12
The Green* www.bungeebootcamp.com

Every Monday-Thursday

Family Fun Night 6-8pm, at the pools. Mon. at
Jetstream* Tue. at Puddle Jumper* Wed. at F15*
Thu. at Aviator* pools@stapletoncommunity.com

Every Saturday

Yoga on The Green 4-5pm The Green*
June 2 through July 28. 303.377.7444

Friday, June 1

First Friday Flight (Italian Wine Tasting) 7-8:30pm
Aviator Pool. events@stapletoncommunity.com

Friday, June 1 & 8

Saturday, June 2 & 9

Theatre on The Green "Once on this Island" 6-
8pm. The Green* vents@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, June 2

Stapleton Environment and Ecology Day (SEED)
The Green*, 10am-2pm with activities to cele-
brate opening of the Hub. (See page 28)
SUNsustainability@gmail.com

Saturday, June 2

Museum of Contemporary Art Denver
1¢ admission on first Saturdays.
1485 Delgany St., MCADenver.org

Saturday, June 2 & July 7

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

Tuesday June 5 & July 3

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

Friday, June 8

DSA Theatre History Showcase Noon
The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Tuesday, June 12

Feast on the Fax, Global Food Tour 5:30 - 9pm
www.thefaxdenver.com (see page 21)

Thursday, June 14

Active Minds Potluck, starts at 6pm and Seminar,
starts at 7pm "The U.S. Internment of Japanese-
Americans" Stapleton MCA Community Room*

Thursday, June 14

Public Meeting to Review Central Park Station
Area Plan, hear comments and answer questions,
5:30pm. Stapleton Foundation, 7350 E 29th Ave,
Ste 300, David Gaspers, 720-865-2936,
David.Gaspers@denvergov.org

Thursday, June 14

Denver Film Society's "Raise the Roof" neighbor-
hood celebration, 5-9pm, 2510 E. Colfax (see p. 21)

Friday, June 15

DSA Twist a Tale Showcase Noon
The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

JUNE

Friday, June 15

Movie on The Green "The Adventures of Tin Tin"
Dark. The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Sunday, June 17

First Farmers Market of the season 8:30am-12:30pm
The Green* www.coloradofreshmarkets.com

Sun, June 17 & Mon, July 2

Denver Museum of Nature and Science - SCFD
Free Day 303-322-7009 www.dmns.org

Thursday, June 21

SUN/CAB Community Forum on Parks
6:30-9pm. Representatives from the community,
Forest City, the City and SDC will continue the
discussion from the May 17 meeting. Submit ques-
tions to: www.stapletonunitedneighbors.org.
Central Park Rec Center, 9651 E MLK Jr Blvd

Friday, June 22

DSA Musical Theatre Camp Showcase Noon
The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Friday, June 22

Stapleton Solstice Stroll 5:30-8:30pm
29th Avenue (Quebec-Valentia)
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, June 23

Concert on The Green "Starcar Sunday" 5-6pm
"The Hazel Miller Band" 6:30-8:30pm
The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Sunday, June 24

Active Minds Music Seminar Brunch "Bach" 10am-
Noon. F15 Pool* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Wednesday, June 27

Bike to Work Day, Breakfast stations 6:30-9am
King Soopers (Quebec & 29th), Cake Crumbs
(22nd & Kearney), District 2 Police Station (38th
& Holly). Minor bike repair help available.
720-865-2356 kbowman@stapletonfoundation.org

Friday, June 29

Movie on The Green "Moneyball" Dark
The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Friday, June 29

Stapleton Summer Strolls 5:30-8:30pm
29th Avenue (Quebec-Valentia)
events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, June 30

Sweet William Market 9am-2pm. The Green*

*More information at Events@stapletoncommunity.com

The Green is located in the 29th Ave. Town Center in
Stapleton at E. 29th Ave. and Roslyn St.
Stapleton MCA Community Room, 2823 Roslyn St.
Aviator pool: 8054 E. 28th Ave.
Puddle Jumper pool: 2401 N. Xenia St.
F15 pool: 2831 Hanover St.
Jetstream pool: 3574 Alton St.

The Front Porch welcomes submissions
of upcoming local events and story
ideas (see information on p.19).
Deadline is the 15th for the next issue.



Theatre on The Green

The Aurora Fox Theatre and the Stapleton
MCA will feature the musical Once on This
Island on The Green, Friday, June 1; Saturday,
June 2; Friday, June 8; and Saturday, June 9 at
6pm. This is a free event open to the public.

First Friday Flights

First Friday Flights, our summer wine tastings
at the pools, takes off to Italy on June 1, from
7-9pm at Aviator Pool. We will head to South
America on July 6 from 7-9pm at Puddle
Jumper Pool. The Grape Leaf will be hosting
these events and will provide a fun-filled edu-
cation on the wine you will be drinking.

If you have a membership (pool) card, go
online to www.stapletoncommunity.com and
sign up. If you do not have a membership
card, call 303.388.0724 to reserve your spot.
This event is limited to 200. Member rates
are \$10 and nonmember rates are \$20 for the
evening. If spots are still available the day of,
the price is \$30. You will need to bring your
ID with you to "board."

Active Minds Seminar & Potluck

**The U.S. Internment of Japanese-Ameri-
cans** Join Active Minds as we seek to under-
stand this dark chapter in American history
and what we learned as a nation from this ex-
perience.

This month we are bringing back the sum-
mer monthly potluck prior to the seminar.
Join us for dinner and then stay for the Active
Minds Seminar. Please bring a dish to share
with the group. The beverages, plates and
utensils will be provided.

The potluck begins at 6pm and the semi-
nar begins at 7pm on Thursday, June 14, in
the Stapleton MCA Community Room lo-
cated behind King Soopers at 2823 Roslyn St.
This event is free and open to everyone!

The Beauty of Bach We are excited to once
again bring additional Active Minds Seminars
to the community. This additional monthly
seminar will feature the summer music series
opening with "The Beauty of Bach." Join Ac-
tive Minds as we explore the music of Johann
Sebastian Bach. Bach produced some of the
most glorious musical art the world has ever
known.

The musical series will kick off with a Sun-
day brunch on June 24 at F15 Pool located at
2831 Hanover St. The seminar will begin at
10am with a brunch to follow at 11am. Bring
a dish to share. The mimosas, plates and uten-
sils will be provided. No prior musical knowl-
edge is required—only a curiosity and love of
music. Please RSVP to the Stapleton MCA at
303.388.0724 or online at www.stapleton-community.com.

Farmers Market

The first Farmers Market of the season is
scheduled for Sunday, June 17, Father's Day!
The first market of the year will feature a pan-
cake breakfast sponsored by the Stapleton Ro-
tary Club.

Colorado Fresh Markets features local pro-
duce, gourmet products and delicious food in
a European-style open-air market setting. The
market will run every Sunday through Octo-
ber 14, from 8:30am-12:30pm on The Green
located on 29th Ave. between Syracuse and
Roslyn streets.

Stapleton Summer Strolls

Every Friday we are going to encourage a
community walk in the Stapleton area. In

Italy, they have a tradition called La
Passeggiata. In the evening, people
gather and take a gentle stroll (slow!
think slow!) through the main streets of
town. This is a chance to stroll 29th
Ave. Parkway and get to know people in
the community. Walk anywhere from
Quebec to Valentia St. There is no start
or stop point.

The inaugural stroll begins June 22,
5:30-8:30pm and then will continue
through August on every Friday evening
at the same time.

Movies & Concerts

The fun on The Green begins this
month! Bring your picnic, blankets,
family and friends to our annual music
and movies series. *The Adventures of
Tintin* will kick off the movie season on
Friday, June 15 at dark. Concessions will
be available this year at each movie. The
concessions will be operated by various
nonprofit organizations selling popcorn,
candy and soft drinks. Please stop by
and support them as they raise funds for
their group.

This summer we are showcasing one
of our local bands featured in our "2011
Stapleton Rocks...a Concert for a
Cause" as the opening act for each of
our concerts. Starcar Sunday will be our
first showcase band and they will per-
form at 5pm on Saturday, June 23. The
headliner for our opening concert is the
Hazel Miller Band who will be perform-
ing 6:30-8:30pm on The Green. These
are free events and open to the public.

4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade

We start the day off with a BANG! The
Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Foun-
tain Pavilion in Central Park begins at
9am. Tickets will include pancakes,
sausage, and water or juice and will be
priced at \$5 for adults and \$3 for chil-
dren. All donations will benefit the Sta-
pleton Stingrays Swim Team.

Bring your bicycles, tricycles, wagons
or scooters decorated for the parade
which will begin at 10:30am! We will
line up along the promenade at the
Fountain and head east toward the Lake,
looping around back to the Fountain
area.

Following the parade, the pools will
open as scheduled. All pools will close at
6pm. Music and water activities are
planned throughout the day.

If you have any questions or want to
know more about the information
above, please feel free to contact
events@stapletoncommunity.com, call
the MCA office at 303.388.0724, or
check out our website at
www.stapletoncommunity.com.

Diane Deeter

Director of Programming and Events



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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centers

be well Center Operating Hours

Central Park Rec Center		Hiawatha Davis Rec Center	
Mondays:	12 – 8pm	Mondays:	4 – 8pm
Wednesdays:	4 – 8pm	Wednesdays:	12 – 8pm
Saturdays:	10 – 1pm	Saturdays:	10 – 1pm

Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center
3334 Holly St., Denver, CO, 80207

Open June 4th, 2012

Central Park Recreation Center
9651 E. MLK Blvd. Denver, CO 80238

For more information or to register call 303-468-3228
be well classes and activities are free!

Class Descriptions

All classes are free, open to everyone 15 & up, and geared toward beginners. All sessions are facilitated by licensed and trained professionals.

Fitness Sessions

A six-week physical activity program packed with fun & energizing activities designed to help you reach your fitness goals fast.

Nutrition Sessions

A six-week nutrition program filled with cooking techniques intended to help families savor their meals and their heart health.

Heart Health Screenings – Know Your Numbers

Free blood pressure, height, weight, glucose, and cholesterol screenings with direct connections to treatment, if necessary.

Hunger Free Colorado Application Assistance and Support

Hunger Free Colorado provides outreach, referrals, application assistance to important programs such as Food Assistance, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), summer food, food pantries, senior programs, and more.

Affordable Care Act and Me!

Learn how changes in our health system will impact you and your family at the *be well* share sessions where health policy experts will detail new opportunities made available through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Shopping Matters

A guided grocery store tour to help families buy healthy, affordable foods.

Program Calendar:

Sessions	Locations	Date	Time
Physical Fitness Sessions Six-week series. Participants must register for the entire 6 week series at one center.	Hiawatha Davis	Mondays	6 – 8pm
	Central Park	Wednesdays	6 – 8pm
Nutrition Sessions Six-week series. Participants must register for the entire 6 week series at one center.	Hiawatha Davis	Wednesdays	6 – 8pm
	Central Park	Mondays	6 – 8pm
Heart Health Screenings	Hiawatha Davis	2nd Sat. Monthly	10 – 1pm
	Central Park	2nd Tues. Monthly	2 – 6pm
Application Assistance	Hiawatha Davis	2nd & 4th Wed.	12 – 4pm
	Central Park	1st & 3rd Mon.	2 – 6pm
Affordable Care Act and Me!	Location varies. Call for details.	3rd Tue. Every 3 Months	6 – 8pm
Shopping Matters	At a local grocery store.	1st Wed. & 3rd Sat. Monthly. Must register. Call 303.468.3228.	10 – 11:30 am

Please register for the *be well* Center programs and activities at www.bewellconnect.org, at the *be well* Center recreation offices, or by calling 303-468-3228.

Participants can take advantage of the services offered at the *be well* Centers without a Denver Parks and Recreation Center Membership.

be well centers are closed the following weeks:

2012: July 1, September 2, November 18, December 23
2013: January 30, May 26

The *be well* Centers are a free public service. Participants engage in all activities at their own risk. The Stapleton Foundation for sustainable urban communities, its *be well* Health and Wellness Initiative, the City and County of Denver, nor any of its partners or affiliates will be responsible for any liability related to or arising out of participation in any of the activities of the *be well* centers.

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Fabled Anschutz Collection of Western Art Opens to the Public

By Barbara Neal

The American Museum of Western Art—The Anschutz Collection, which opened in May, is a unique addition to Denver’s family of fine museums. Fans of Western art welcome this sensational collection that focuses on the American West from the early 1800s to the present. Western art, sometimes dismissed as less important or provincial, shows its true breadth and value in this new museum.

This formerly private collection numbers more than 650 paintings, drawings and sculpture. Over 300 paintings comprise the core of the dazzling exhibit installed on three floors of the historic Navarre building on Tremont Street, across from the Brown Palace Hotel in downtown Denver.

Several features set this museum apart from others in Denver; the distinctive vision and unparalleled quality of the collection, the deliberate arrangement of the artwork, and how the visitor will experience the museum. The Anschutz Collection becomes an engagement with artwork not only depicting the people and landscapes of the American West, but art his-



Left: The new American Museum of Western Art—The Anschutz Collection, housed in the historic and storied Navarre building in downtown Denver, opened to the public in May.

Above: Merging Cultures by Kim Douglas Wiggins

Right: Church at Ranchos de Taos by Ernest L. Blumenschein

tory and the history of the development of the western United States.

The comprehensive collection is displayed salon style more typical of European museums, with paintings placed side-by-side and from floor to ceiling; perhaps a bit overwhelming initially and there is no interpretive signage. Paintings on the first floor provide a historical foundation of Western art. Here, the theme is exploration. Artists such as George Catlin documented the daily life and ceremonies of the Indian tribes he encountered. Alfred Jacob Miller and John Mix Stanley came west as part of expeditions to the new territory. Landscape artists Thomas Moran and Albert Bierstadt also took advantage of expeditions to observe and document this land.

Among the characters in the 19th century drama of the West we find Indians, cowboys and even several California *vaqueros*, fur traders, soldiers, pioneers and settlers. Several frontiers emerge: exploration, the fur trade, cattle ranching as shown in the paintings by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, the gold rush, railroads, and then the Indian Wars depicted by Charles Schreyvogel as the frontier begins to close.

Paintings on the second floor offer a survey of the development of American art in the early 20th century, from realism to modernism within the context of Western art. There are numerous artworks from the Taos Society of Artists, many of whom were commissioned by the Santa Fe Railroad to paint realistic scenes to be printed on posters, tickets, menus and other promotional materials used to encourage travel to the West. *Church at Ranchos de Taos*, by Ernest L. Blumenschein, is a notable example.

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uncover the genius



Paintings by other artists, not usually associated with Western art, N.C. Wyeth, Marsden Hartley, Stuart Davis and John Marin, demonstrate their response to the West and forecast the development of American Modernism. Georgia O'Keeffe famously adopted the West.

Visitors to the third-floor gallery find additional Modernist paintings as well as examples of regionalism in the work of Thomas Hart Benton, Edward Hopper, Frank Mechau and Rockwell Kent. Perhaps to conclude the survey aspect of the collection, an abstract expressionist painting, *Phoenix 1976*, by Helen Frankenthaler, evokes the shades of orange, pink and magenta found in the light of the Southwest. It appears to be punctuation, a period. The collection is not likely to expand in this direction. New acquisitions can be expected to increase the value of the collection, not necessarily the size or scope of its focus.

The American Museum of Western Art—The Anschutz Collection, wants its guests to have “an intimate, engaging experience” with the collection. Tours are offered on Monday and Wednesday (except legal holidays) at 10am or 1:30pm. Tickets must be pre-purchased by credit card at

www.AnschutzCollection.org. Docents of AMWA guide the curated tours that are limited to a maximum of 25 visitors and last 1½ to 2 hours. The tours are also offered by appointment to school groups and other organized groups of 12 or more on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. Children under age eight will not be admitted.

The handsome Navarre building, designed by architect F. E. Edbrooke, was originally a school for young ladies. Ten years later, it became the private Hotel Richlieu. Later, lost in a card game, it was renamed The Navarre and catered to quite a different type of lady as a bordello. In 1904, Denver Mayor Robert Speer cleaned up such establishments and The Navarre became a restaurant. Anschutz purchased and beautifully restored the Navarre in 1997 and installed the collection in 1999. Now this stunning collection, parts of which have been exhibited in more than 28 states in the U.S. and in 10 countries, can be enjoyed here in Denver, a highly appropriate home.

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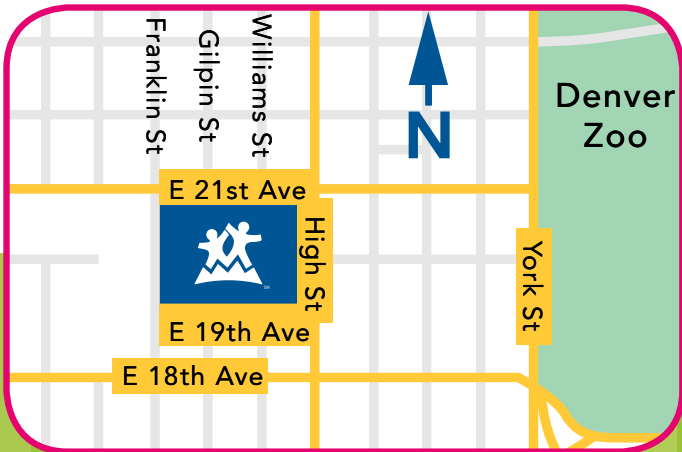


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Chantel Morgan, event chair for Northeast Denver Relay For Life, shows a luminaria from a past Relay with her picture on it.

All Night Relay To Honor Cancer Victims

By Nancy Burkhart

Today, many people have known individuals with cancer or have experienced it themselves. However, the American Cancer Association continues to bring cancer awareness to everyone on a mission to erase the life-changing ill effects of cancer and the grueling treatment for it. Events are produced to garner donations and volunteers that will further the mission.

One of these events is the Northeast Denver Relay for Life that will be held starting at 6pm on Friday, July 20, at Stapleton's Founder's Green.

Walkers and runners will do laps all night until 6am on Saturday, July 21. Northeast Denver neighbors bring their families, sometimes putting the kids to sleep in small tents while mom and dad do laps. A Survivor Lap starts the event.

The walkers and runners are backed by donations they have garnered in their fundraising efforts. Teams are formed to help add to the donations.

"The typical team is about 10 people," explained Chantel Morgan, a Park Hill resident who is event chair for the Northeast Denver Relay for Life. "We've had a couple of teams where it was only two or three people. As long as you're participating, you're showing that you want to be there no matter how many people you have. We like everyone to raise at least \$100, but there is no minimum. Anything helps."

"We have a lot of people who don't do the relay, but who walk through the Founder's Green event," she said. "They may not be able to join a team there, but they end up participating next year. They may make a donation and stay the whole night just to be a part of it."

(continued on page 11)

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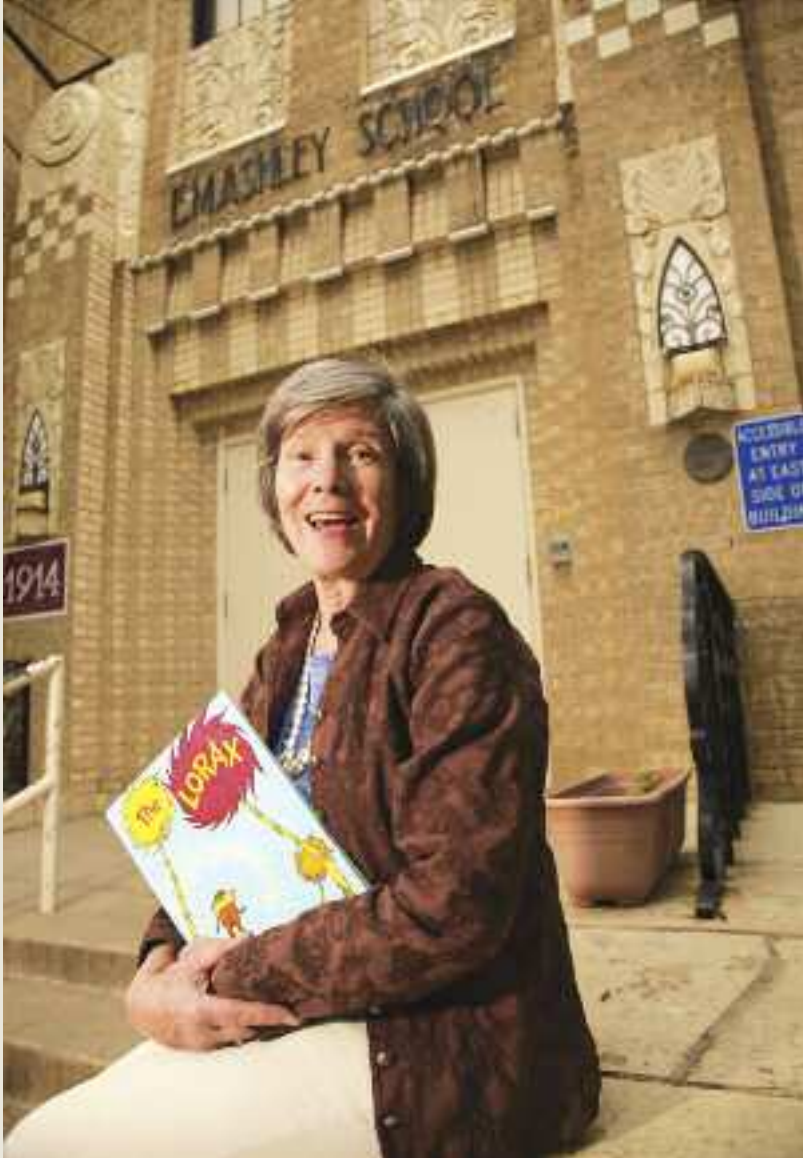
In 1993, Cyndi Kahn started Summer Scholars, a summer academic program for kids who are behind in reading. In 1993 the program helped 20 students. Then it grew to over 1000 students—and is now about 700 students.

Jon Meredith: In the summer of 1993, there was a tremendous amount of gang violence in Park Hill. Was this the reason summer scholars got started?

Cyndi Kahn: The reason it started was not related to the summer of violence. I volunteered at Hallett Elementary School where Paul Hamilton, I think, was their first black principal. He offered to give back part of his salary if he couldn't raise the kids' test scores. I thought that was pretty cool but DPS refused to take him up on his offer. I said I would help him work on his goal. A first-grade teacher, Karen Cox, believed one of her students needed to be held back. I asked what she needed to do to get the child up to speed so she could go on to second grade because I knew that a child who is held back is much more likely to drop out of school later in life. Ms. Cox said that if she was able to work with her over the summer, she thought she would be ready for second grade. I said, "Well, let's do that." So we got two teachers, \$10,000 in donations and we had 20 kids in a 4-week program.

JM: How did you get the money?

Kahn: We had set up a community study hall once a week at the school and Park Hill people would come in to teach the kids. Of course, once a week is not enough to move the needle much but it did help somewhat. Lois



Cyndi Kahn, founder of Summer Scholars

Stott, of Park Hill Congregational Church, was instrumental in rounding up the study hall volunteers and asking them to give money to start Summer Scholars. A group called Mad Dads, a national organization with a Denver branch aimed at combating violence in the black community, helped recruit volunteers and raise contributions as well. Joe Mangrum, who has since passed away, led their group at the time we first started.

JM: So the start of Summer Scholars had nothing to do with the summer of violence?

Kahn: No, it really did not, but the expansion of the program into many other schools was directly related to the summer of violence. The program was such a success that first summer at

Hallett, I decided to go to Cathy Manchester, head of education of Greater Park Hill, who knew all the principals. She got each of the principals to take an element of the program. Cathy really was instrumental in helping the program expand the second year and get the neighborhood commitment—the summer of violence made everyone realize it was necessary. So we expanded in the summer of 1994 from 20 kids to 500.

JM: How were you able to measure outcomes?

Kahn: Jessica Pearson from the Center for Policy and Research helped with evaluations from the beginning. She found, for instance, boys were much more likely to come if we offered some sort of physical activities or afternoon enrichment. We ended up having swimming lessons at private homes around Park Hill. We also insisted on home visits, which, due to safely reasons, teachers were reluctant to do. I ended up going with several teachers who were afraid to go by themselves. We wanted each of the families to learn how to be advocates for the kids and support their literacy.

JM: The program has cut back the number of kids attending recently. Why is that?

Kahn: Due to the economy, donations and grant money are down significantly. A few years ago, we had 1100 children in Summer Scholars and this year it will be around 700.

JM: You and your husband now live in LoDo and you are no longer working on Summer Scholars. What are you doing to keep yourself busy?

Kahn: After living in Park Hill for 45 years, we moved to LoDo when our son wanted to buy our house on Leyden Street. Now, I am working to start the Downtown Denver Expeditionary School. It is a K-5 charter school we hope to have open in August of 2013.

Volunteers are needed year round to read with students and to help in the Summer Scholars office. To volunteer or for more information call 303-381-3738 or visit www.summerscholars.org.

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By Mr. Beer

The Lowry Beer Garden made its debut on May 23, the first step in what its owners hope will become a dining and entertainment center on the one-time Air Force base.

“Beer garden” conjures up visions of Oktoberfest in Munich but Joe Vostrejs and his partners at Larimer Associates didn’t want a German-themed restaurant. They toured similar beer halls across the country, including in Austin, Texas, and Brooklyn, but didn’t find what they were looking for. “We looked around the country. Most of them are beer halls with little patios. We decided it had to be outdoors,” a tribute to Colorado’s mostly mild weather.



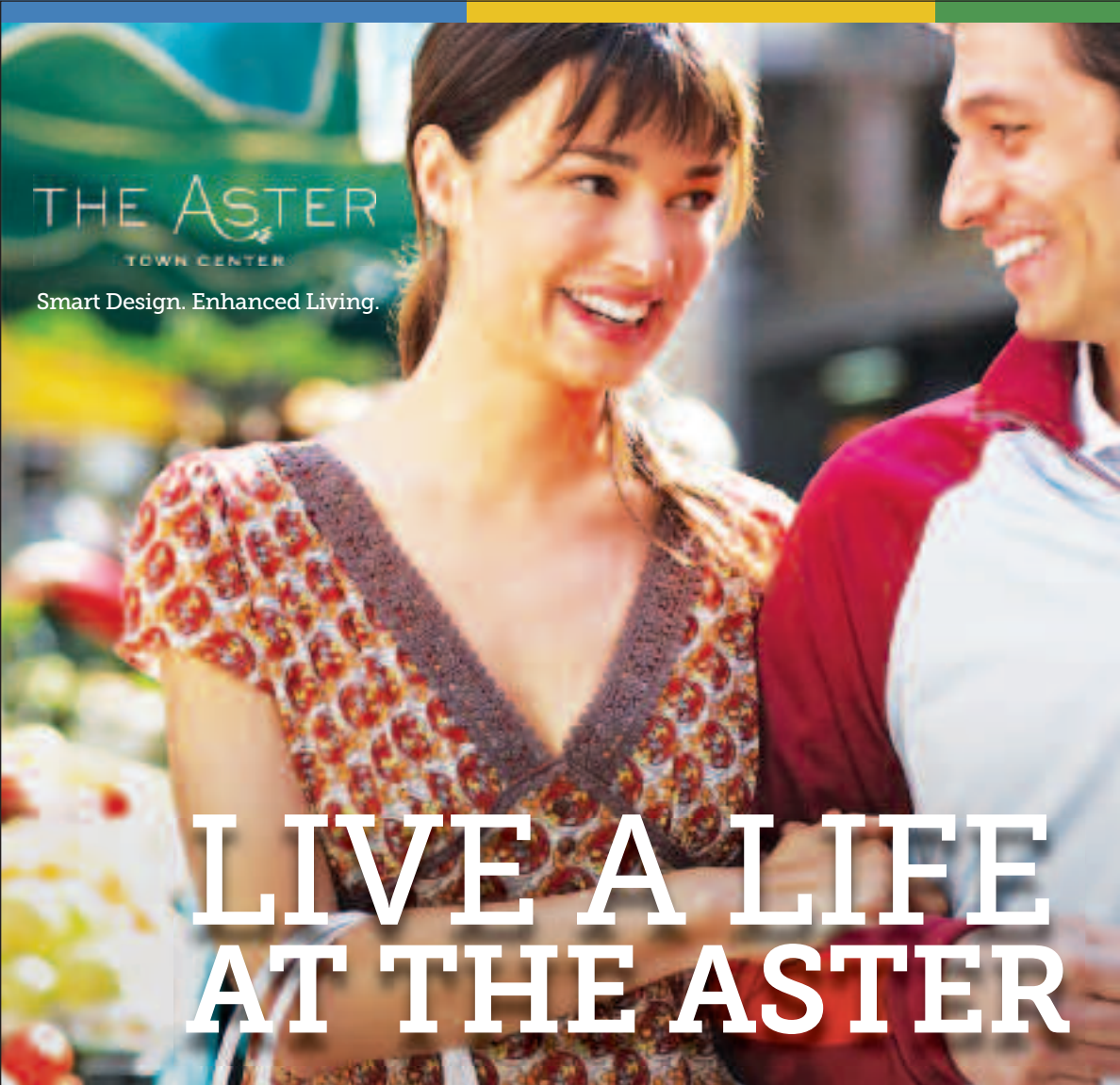
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Far left: Partners in the Lowry Beer Garden, from left, are Jeff Hermanson, Pat McHenry, Rod Wagner, Christopher Mohaupt, managing partner of daily operations, Joe Vostrejs, COO Larimer Associates.

Left: Lowry locals enjoy their first visit to the Beer Garden—from left are Alex Yampolsky, Alec Garbini, Matthew Burchette (curator for Wings Over the Rockies museum) and Claire Lanier.

Right: The Beer Garden is nestled between Hangar 2 and the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum.

The result is an 8,000-square-foot facility, part pavilion and part outdoor garden covered by small lights and furnished with long picnic tables for community eating and drinking. The only concession to a German garden is the tables, shipped in from Munich, and a couple of German beers.

It is not, Vostrejs pointed out, a raucous hall where celebrants wave their mugs in the air and sing boisterous songs. He sees it as a community-gathering place. His idea of “community” includes the neighborhoods of Stapleton, Lowry, Park Hill, Montclair, Mayfair, Crestmoor, Congress Park and even stretching to far northeast Denver. Families are encouraged to bring children, who have their own menu of hot dogs, chicken nuggets and burgers.

The food menu of various sausages and burgers is decidedly tilted toward Colorado and the Southwest, including bratwursts of wild boar, pheasant, bison and pork, and burgers with descriptive names like The Chuckwagon, The Sunrise (chili, a fried egg and cheddar cheese) and The Montclair (Swiss cheese, avocado, bacon, sliced tomato and mayo). If you’re up for it, there is the Super Giant Pretzel, about 18 inches across, for \$12.

But the center of attraction is the beers. There are 16 taps, which Vostrejs said will change frequently, maybe as often as day-to-day (“what we have is what we have”), with an emphasis on brews from Colorado’s thriving craft-beer scene, and another 50 in bottles and cans, including, yes, two from Germany, and, on the “If You Must” list, PBR. “There will be new beers all the time so what was here the last time you came may not be here the next time.” For now, the taps include four offerings from Avery Brewing in Boulder and another four from Odell Brewing in Fort Collins.

The inventory of cans and bottles is less Colorado centric and includes beers from California, Delaware and Hawaii, and there are even gluten-free brews. Prices hover around \$5.25 a pint.

The beer garden seats 350 at the long tables and will be open year-round, thanks to side flaps which can be lowered at the touch of a button, thanks to solar panels on the roof and a heated floor that can keep the pavilion at a comfortable 68 degrees.

Given its location across the street from 24 Hour Fitness, Vostrejs joked, “We tell people you put it on here, take it off over there.”

Ironically, the Lowry location is a roundtrip of sorts for



Vostrejs, who was born and grew up in Denver and attended St. James School in nearby Montclair and would play on the military base with classmates whose parents were in the Air Force. Now he owns a good chunk of it, including Hangar 2 that is operated as a self-storage facility, the 8,000-square-foot beer garden and another 110,000-square-foot property that he and his partners envision as the Lowry Dining Dis-

Lowry Beer Garden, 7577 E. Academy Blvd., next to the Wings Over the Rockies Air Space Museum, is open from 4pm to midnight Monday through Friday and 11am to midnight Saturday and Sunday.

“Mr. Beer” is really Dick Kreck, former editor and columnist at The Denver Post, who still writes a monthly column about beer for the newspaper.

trict with retail and office space and perhaps as many as twelve restaurants, ranging from barbecue to Vietnamese.

The beer garden is owned by Larimer Associates, a partnership of Joe Vostrejs, Jeff Hermanson, Rod Wagner and Patricia McHenry that runs Larimer Square and owns other Denver restaurants, including Madison Street and Billy’s Inn.

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the Vintage Theatre in the fall. But, for those who love theatre but don't want to try acting, becoming a volunteer would work well.

"We need help with ushering, organizing costumes, painting sets, helping to build productions," Bond said. "We have professional design teams, and these volunteers get to rub shoulders with people who really know what they're doing in their craft. As long as they have passion and time, that's the important thing for us. It's about 'Can you dedicate time to do a show for the next five weeks, work with a professional designer and learn how they go about it?'"

Season auditions are open to the public,



Vintage Theatre Artistic Director Craig Bond stands in front of the Vintage Theatre, which is now located on Dayton in the Aurora Arts District in the building formerly occupied by the Shadow Theatre.

according to Bond. Some 350 people will audition for the season's shows. Most of those auditioning are seasoned professionals who come from Denver and surrounding areas.

The Vintage Theatre's season will include: *The Drowsy Chaperone* from June 1 to July 8, *The Government Inspector* from July 27 to Aug. 26, *The Cider House Rules* (Parts 1 & 2) from Sept. 7 to Oct. 7, and *Kiss of the Spider*

Woman from Oct. 19 to Nov. 25.

The Broadway musical *The Drowsy Chaperone* plays at 7:30pm Fridays and Saturdays for \$31 a seat, and Sundays at 2:30pm for \$25 a seat.

The theatre holds 135 people for productions. In the fall, Vintage Theatre will offer cabaret entertainment for 60 people before and after productions that will allow them to sing with a piano player. The black box theatre also will open in fall. It will be able to accommodate 70 people for smaller productions and will allow rental productions, according to Bond.

"When people experience Vintage Theatre, they are impressed with the quality of the production and the intimacy of the performance," Bond said. "The farthest you will be away from the actors is nine rows deep. When you experience the work up close, it's hard not to engage in it. The emotion kind of rolls across you. It's hard to escape."

For Vintage Theatre information, go to www.vintagetheatre.com. Tickets may be obtained online or at 303.856.7830. For acting class information, email info@vintagetheatre.com or cbond@vintagetheatre.com.

Relay for Life

(continued from page 6)

Morgan has participated in Relay for Life since 2008. Her uncle died of pancreatic cancer in 2007, and her stepfather is in remission from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In 2010, Morgan, herself, was diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Because of her experience with cancer, Morgan, who currently is a CNA at Children's Hospital, is back in school to earn a PhD to do cancer research.

Her mother, Judy Porter, volunteers for Relay for Life. "I can't stay all night," she said. "I'm a caregiver for my husband. As much as I would like to spend all night, I can't. But, my sister is a cancer survivor and her husband died of cancer, so we're into it trying to find a cure."

As a volunteer, Porter has made phone

calls asking for donations, and she has found places to set up Relay meetings.

"I have called hotels to get rooms for send-off parties. I've helped with setup and helped out at the Relay selling food and taking donations," she said.

"Volunteer for anything and everything," Porter urged. "You never can have too many volunteers. There's always a job or chore. Just making phone calls is important. There is so much that people don't see that makes this Relay possible. There are different fundraisers that people can get involved with too."

For information or to register or volunteer for Relay for Life, go to www.denverrelay.com or email Chantel Morgan at chantelm130@gmail.com.

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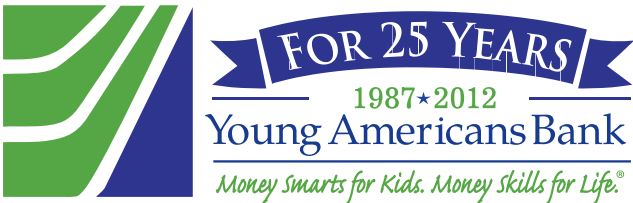
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Tucker Wakabayashi, founder and owner of WakaGlow and Young Americans Bank customer

East "Con Law" Students Place 6th in Country

By Carol Roberts

Last summer, while many teens were at the pool or playing video games, a highly motivated group of rising juniors were writing essays. They were competing for a spot in East High school's "Con Law" class that attracts more than the 25 students it can accommodate. Four local young people who got into that class shared what they learned about the Constitution—and

the difficulty of preparing for competitions in which they were questioned by college professors, government policy makers and members of the state and federal judiciary. All agreed it was the hardest thing they had ever done.

The first competition was held last November—against other schools in the First Congressional District. To prepare for the competition, the students divided into

small groups. It was their panel mates with whom they studied long hours and they quizzed each other on minute details of the Constitution and other documents. "I spent more time with my panel mates than I did with my family. You owe it to your panel and the rest of the team and to yourself to put as much into it (as you can). It was so much work—and it was an experience that I wouldn't change for the world," says Audrey Preston, who lives in Stapleton.

The team won that competition—and won it by a large margin. The state competition was held in December. They won that too. Then their job was to prepare for nationals, the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition held in April in Washington, D.C.

"It was not only a lot of memorization and research, it also was sharing what we know and responding to questions that we're asked by constitutional scholars, politicians, judges; we had to formulate answers and analyze what we know at a minute's notice. It is the most work I've put into anything in my life," says Ben Rudeen of Park Hill. Ryan Cruise, who lives in



Constitutional law students shown in the East High School library, from left, are Chris Rudeen from Park Hill, Audrey Preston from Stapleton, Ben Rudeen from Park Hill (Chris' twin) and Ryan Cruise from Mayfair. And in the background is a bust of one of the founding fathers, Ben Franklin.

Mayfair, added, "I've played varsity sports and club sports, and I feel like I've had a pretty rigorous schedule. This was so much harder. It was a level of dedication that I wasn't used to putting forward. The closeness that you have with your panel—it feels like you owe it to your panel members to work really hard."

Their hard work paid off. The team placed sixth out of 56 teams at nationals. But despite being experts on the subject, none of these students thinks he/she will go into politics or work in a field related to constitutional law. However,

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June 2012

12

Stapleton Front Porch

all strongly felt the knowledge they gained is important and worthwhile. Chris Rudeen from Park Hill says, “While I’m probably going to go into some sort of science or math field, this is going to help me with public speaking and being articulate in talking to people. Being able to share your knowledge with others is really important in our society and being able to argue your point and back it up with evidence—this program really helps you do that.”

Ryan, who thinks she’ll probably go into something like art or English points out, “It could benefit everyone. I thought this was definitely a program that politicians should be required to take.” All four students agreed that after seriously studying the Constitution, they’ve heard politicians and candidates make blunders as far as constitutionality (certain people more than others).

Audrey, who is interested in economics, says, “Being an informed citizen is one of the most important jobs we can do as American citizens. We have a responsibility to our government, just as our government has a responsibility to us. I thoroughly agree with John F. Kennedy when he said, ‘Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.’ This program has given me a greater awareness of what I can do for my country—as a citizen. Not as a politician but as a member of the democracy.”

What did you learn about the Constitution that surprised you most?

Audrey: I was surprised to learn that it wasn’t the first document that we had. We had the revolution, then we had the Articles of Confederation and then we had the Constitution.

Chris: A lot of what influenced the Constitution was the problems the nation had under the Articles. The government under the Articles could not adequately meet the country’s needs in a lot of respects. They couldn’t levy taxes or control interstate commerce. When they convened the convention, they realized that a national government needed these powers. It was also interesting that they came from this oppressive government under King George III—for them to create a government where there’s a lot of power in a national government, they had to first go to a government where there wasn’t much power and realize that it didn’t work. But they also needed some checks and balances—and that was the system they actually put in place with the Constitution.

Ben: A lot of what we take for granted in our government today they fought bitterly over at the convention. The office of president was really big. Some people like George Mason wanted a group of three people being our president. It was just how divided everyone was. I didn’t know it was that bitter and that divisive.

Ryan: One thing that surprised me was the level of involvement that individual citizens could have with the Constitution if they wanted to. It’s a pretty flexible document. It’s really up to us to decide how it changes along with time. Also, slavery was a very contentious issue at the time that the Constitution

was written. South Carolina made it clear that if slavery was addressed in a way that they didn’t agree with, that they would walk from the convention. So the word “slaves” was never used in the Constitution because it was such a divisive issue.

After studying the Constitution, do you view it as a fixed document as written by the founders or do you view it as a living document to be interpreted over time?

Ryan: Something that we talked about a lot in class (and we also met with Justice Ginsberg) is the debate of originalism versus nonoriginalism. Originalism is the idea that we should stick to the text exactly as it was written in the Constitution—that’s what the founders intended so we should try to promote these values. This is sort of the view that Justice Scalia would take, more so than other justices. But I think we should look at the Constitution in a nonoriginalist way and realize that it can change over time especially with the advancement of technology. The Constitution has no provision for an air force because the founders obviously couldn’t anticipate that airplanes would exist. But I think it’s important that we can look at the Constitution and see that the founders would not have had a problem with this.

Chris: We talked about the Articles of Confederation earlier. When you compare the amendment process between

those two documents, the Constitution is more easily changed than the Articles of Confederation. Any amendment (to the Articles) required the consensus of every single state. No amendments were ever passed under the Articles because single states would often not ratify amendments. So in the Constitution, the amendment process is much more liberal than the Articles of Confederation. A lot of people would view the convention as one large amendment.

Audrey: I also think we should take it as a living constitution and as a living interpretation. By necessity the Supreme Court and the justices are interpreting the document and are interpreting the founders’ intent. It’s hard to say exactly what the founders would have thought about, say, GPS tracking or wiretapping because they simply couldn’t fathom this technology. So trying to apply their intent at the time to these incredible new controversies is impossible. By necessity we are interpreting the founders’ message.

Ben: We can see that the founders wanted us to adapt the Constitution as times changed. Thomas Jefferson wanted it to be rewritten every generation. He said that leaving the Constitution and not touching it would be like making a man wear the coat he wore as a child. That’s the court’s job, to change, and an amendment process to change the Constitution with the changing world.

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by Valerie B. Ginsburg, MD

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Endometriosis is one of the most common health problems for women, affecting more than five million women in the United States.

What is endometriosis?
Endometriosis occurs when the tissue lining the inside of the uterus grows outside of the uterus on other organs or structures of the body. Most often these growths occur on the:

- Ovaries
- Fallopian tubes
- Tissues that hold the uterus in place
- Lining of the pelvic cavity

Am I at risk?
You might be more likely to get endometriosis if you have:

- Never had children
- Menstrual periods that last more than seven days
- A short menstrual cycle (27 days or less)
- A family member (mother, aunt, sister) with a history of endometriosis

How do I know if I have it?
The most common symptom is pain in the lower abdomen or lower back during your period. Other symptoms may include:

- Very painful menstrual cramps; pain may increase over time
- Pain during or after sex
- Intestinal pain
- Painful bowel movements or urination during menstrual periods

If you exhibit more than one symptom listed above, talk to your obstetrician/ gynecologist. The only way to properly diagnose endometriosis is through a minor surgical procedure that allows the physician to actually see the endometriosis tissue. Endometriosis cannot be diagnosed through pelvic exams, blood work or ultrasound tests.

Is endometriosis treatable?
There is no cure for endometriosis but it is treatable. Treatment options include pain medication, hormone treatments or surgery. Talk with your doctor about which treatment option may be best for you. Your best option will depend on your symptoms, age and plans for getting pregnant.

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



Taking Aim at Childhood Obesity

By John Babiak

According to the Colorado Health Foundation, too few children in Colorado get enough vigorous physical activity. Unlike Colorado's adults, who have the lowest obesity rate in the nation, 25 percent of Colorado's children ages 10-17 are overweight or obese. With childhood obesity rates climbing, several local organizations have teamed up in an attempt to address this serious health issue.

In March, the U.S. Soccer Foundation awarded a \$300,000 grant to the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club to support Soccer for Success, an after-school, sports-based, youth-development program that uses soccer as a tool to combat childhood obesity and provide nutrition education and mentorship to children in at-risk communities.

The program has four core components including physical activity, which will involve children participating in three weekly 90-minute sessions that will include at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise. Mentorship will be provided by caring coaches, who will place emphasis on the importance of the students doing well in school and avoiding negative influences such as drugs and violence. In addition, both children and family members will be taught the basics of nutrition, making healthy lifestyle choices, and maintaining good eating habits. Parents will be encouraged to reinforce the program's goals at home.

Colorado Fusion, Denver and Aurora's largest neighborhood youth soccer organization, and America SCORES



Hannah Krieger, Junior Academy program director, and Jon Golden-Dubois, executive director of the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club, give an after-school clinic to northeast Denver youngsters. Fusion is the recipient of a grant to offer the Soccer for Success program.

Denver, a nonprofit organization that provides urban school-children with high-quality after-school activities, were one of 13 applicants in the U.S. to win the grant funding this year. Due to the magnitude of this proposal, it received double the amount given to other programs. The Piton Foundation is leading the efforts to raise the local matching funds. Piton Foundation President and CEO Terry Minger outlined the foundation's vision and support for the program. "Piton's vision is to provide measurably better education and health outcomes for the Children's Corridor. We believe that these students and their families will embrace soccer and bridge differences in race, class and culture."

Stapleton resident and the executive director of the Colorado Fusion Soccer Club.

The program is supported by elected leaders including Denver Mayor Michael Hancock who believes this program "has the potential to expand young people's aspirations and, indeed, their chances for success."

"The grant provides students access to a sport that is often unavailable to them outside of school hours. Walk into nearly every elementary school campus in Denver during recess and you'll find kids playing soccer; yet these same kids often do not have access to the traditional club soccer model. SCORES will help deliver the Soccer for Success curriculum to three times as many students as we currently serve," said Stapleton resident Brandon Blew, SCORES Denver executive director.

The program will be introduced to several northeast Denver and Aurora public schools starting this fall.

"Soccer can do great things to help motivate children to achieve both on and off the field, and we're pleased to continue supporting the work of our entire youth development system," added Tim Hinchey, president of the Colorado Rapids.

In addition to the support from the Piton Foundation and the Colorado Rapids, Soccer for Success is also getting local support from Soccer Dreams Without Borders and the Denver and Aurora Public School Systems. For more information about Soccer for Success, or to help support the program, contact Jon Goldin-Dubois at jon@coloradofusion.org, 303.399.5858 x104 or visit www.AmericaScores.org/affiliates/denver.



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Ayden Rovner (left), 6, hangs from a rope near where the gibbons travel on vines between their "islands." Vinh, (right) a 20+-year-old female gibbon hangs over the water on a rope between her home (background) and one of three islands. Groucho (center), a 41-year-old male elephant, is the zoo's largest resident, weighing in at 11,000 pounds. Below, a six-foot tall Saurus crane.

Zoo

(continued from page 1) bats with fox-like snouts (6-foot wingspans), and the fishing cats, true fishermen who spear slippery fish with their fishing hook claws.

Visitors can learn much about the animals from zoo volunteers specially trained to acquaint you with the animals. For instance, they can tell you that the male Malayan tapir Beng Kulu, age 6, has a small notch in his left ear and "hiccups," distinguishing him from Rinny, the 5-year-old female, who is larger and makes high-pitched squeaks.

The Clayton Freiheit Elephant House, able to hold up to 12 bull elephants, is a tribute to the visionary Freiheit, who stewarded the zoo for 37 years. Long-time favorite ladies Mimi and Dolly knew something was up even before being moved to the state-of-the-art building—newcomer male elephants were about. Bulls Groucho, 41, and Bodhi, 8, like the ladies, are being encouraged to venture about and eventually, at differing times, cross over Peter and Ella's Crossing bridge, interspersed with tapir crossings.



All staff, in whatever capacity, including concession staff, and volunteers have been encouraged to learn and contribute to making Toyota Elephant Passage a special place for every visitor. Suggestions have been taken and incorporated.

Education and conservation efforts here and around the world are at the heart of

what the zoo strives for daily. As Denver Zoo President/CEO Craig Piper has noted, "I'm often asked why Toyota Elephant Passage is so vital. I firmly believe it's fundamental to fulfilling Denver Zoo's mission 'to secure a better world for animals through human understanding.'" The wild Asian elephant population has plummeted from over

100,000 to less than 35,000 during his career. "If we don't do something bold, elephants could well become extinct in this century. If we can't mobilize to save one of the world's most beloved animals, what's the prospect for thousands of other less-charismatic, yet equally precious species...?"

Judith Schwartz, a zoo volunteer since 2004, says of her volunteer work, "I value the creative family atmosphere zoo management continually cultivates."



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Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

The Ultimate Price of Fatherhood

When Male Black Widow Spiders Venture Into a Widow-Maker's Web Site

"Family Life," aka the study of the birds and the bees to you and me, is always a hit in fifth grade. There is a certain buzz about the fifth-graders when sex-ed is the topic of the week. I liken it to the energy that comes with their three-day overnight environmental education trip to BALARAT, or when dozens of classmates circle the Skate City roller rink at warp speed.

In our family chat about human reproduction and fatherhood, the discussion was downright scientific. And in my per usual way, I could not resist to compare, contrast and discuss the mating habits of a few other animals including the ruby-throated hummingbird and European honey bee. Frankly speaking, I think the entire dissertation would make for a good script for a future PBS NOVA documentary. After it was all said and done, the one creature that intrigued Marko the most was the black widow spider. This spider's family-planning behavior is more like an act of life or death—that is, for the prospective father.

Widow spiders get their name from the fact that a subset of females from the 31 known Latrodectus species found around the world, cannibalize their male counterparts after mating. Any female that covers her significant other with a cocktail of digestive juices and then eats him, deservedly earns the title of widow-maker.

Arachnologists theorize that this ultimate act of self-sacrifice by male black widow spiders provides females with nutrients that lead to healthier offspring that will have a better chance of survival. If these guys only knew that they gave up their lives for their kids' sake. To these dads, we say Happy Father's Day!

Black widow spiders are revered for their powerful neurotoxic venom and are perhaps the most feared spider in the world. The venom is reported to be 15 times more potent than the venom of a prairie rattlesnake. Adult female black widows are the most poisonous and deadliest spider in North America. Humans seldom die from a single bite as the spider injects a very small quantity of venom when it bites. The venom inter-

feres with the transmission of nerve impulses to muscles, causing spasms and even paralysis. Being bit is debilitating. Anyone experiencing such contact with a black widow should seek prompt medical care.

The spider uses the venom to subdue its prey, including flies, moths, beetles and grasshoppers that become trapped in the spider's sticky and strong-as-steel wire cobwebs. They also bite to protect themselves from predators including praying mantises and mud dauber wasps. Females are very protective of their silken egg sacks and young spiderlings. If provoked by a curious child or adult, they will attack!

Their nature shelters include moist and shady sheds, woodpiles, rock walls and gardens. Should they crawl into a building, they will seek out dark closets or retreat under furniture.

The adult female black widow measures about one and a half inches long. They are glossy black and marked with a distinctive dark red hourglass shape on their grape-shaped abdomen. Males are much smaller, and are light brown in color. They bear very little resemblance to the females, are not poisonous and do not bite.

After mating, the female will spin several bowls and fill them with eggs. The eggs hatch a few weeks later and



A female black widow Spider guards her silken egg sack that she attached to her web. Photo by Marko Babiak

hundreds of pale-white young soon emerge from the cocoon. Once the youngsters are a month or so old, they climb to the top of mom's web. From their perch, they release a thin silk thread from their spinnerettes and catch a balloon ride on a favorable breeze. They land wherever the wind carries them, and then seek out a suitable web site.

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

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PREVIEW OF DENVER-AREA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

7/3 Tuesday- Independence Day Eve Celebration in Civic Center Park. 8pm. FREE community concert with patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony, with a lightshow and fireworks display. Denver Civic Center Park. www.civiccenterconservancy.org

7/4 Wednesday- 3rd Annual Park Hill 4th of July Parade. 1:30pm. 23rd Ave from Dexter to Kearney. www.parkhillparade.org

7/4 Wednesday- Rapids v. Vancouver. Fireworks after game. 4th Fest Family Activity Zone begins at 5pm. www.coloradorapids.com

7/4 Wednesday- Denver Outlaws Lacrosse v. Ohio Machine. Fireworks after game. www.denveroutlaws.com

7/4 Wednesday- Olde Town Arvada Spirit of America 4th of July Festival. Free family events, classic car show start at 4pm; fireworks at dusk. www.arvadafestivals.com

7/4 Wednesday- Old-Fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Four Mile Park. www.four-milepark.org

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Art Walks and Exhibits:

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

6/1 Friday- North Denver's Tennyson Art Walk. Tennyson St. and 44th Ave. www.denverartwalk.squarespace.com

6/1 Friday- Old South Pearl Art Walk. www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com

6/1 Friday- Cherry Creek Arts District. www.cherrycreeknorth.com

6/1 Friday- Highlands Square First Friday. 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. www.highlands-square.com

6/8 Friday- Aurora's East End Second Friday Art Walk. Gallery openings, music, theater, food and more. 5-8pm. Map to all venues at Fletcher Plaza/MLK Library (E Colfax at Elmira).

6/29 Friday- Final Friday at Denver Art Museum. 6-10pm. General admission applies; members free. Bands, munchies and cash bar. www.denverartmuseum.org

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

Through 8/31- Titanic Tours at Molly Brown House. Tours daily on the hour; \$10/adults; \$8 senior and military; \$6 kids 6-12. www.molly-brown.org

6/9 Saturday- Walking Tours with Phil Goodstein- Ghost Walk. 7-9pm. Meet by Indian statue, east side of Capitol (Grant St. between 14th and Colfax). \$20. 303.333.1095

6/23 Saturday- Walking Tours with Phil

Goodstein- Seamy Side of Denver. 6:30-8:30pm. Meet at baseball player sculpture, north corner 20th and Blake outside entrance to Coors Field. \$20. 303.333.1095

6/28 Thursday- Walking Tours with Phil Goodstein- Hilltop. 6:30-8:30 pm. Meet at sundial in middle of Cranmer Park, 2nd Ave and Clermont St. Enter via 1st or 3rd Ave. \$10.

More ideas on what to do in Denver: Visit www.denver.org/what-to-do or www.GalleryGuideDenver.com.

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Through 6/17- Read My Pins, Madeleine Albright Collection. Denver Art Museum. Free with admission. www.dam.org

6/2 Saturday- SolVida Dance Presents: Festival de Vida III: #OccupyTheDream. 7 pm. Su Teatro, 721 Santa Fe Dr. www.solvidadance.com/special-events

6/2 Saturday and 6/3 Sunday- Denver Chalk Art Festival. Larimer Square. FREE. www.denverchalkart.org

6/2 Saturday and 6/3 Sunday- Capitol Hill People's Fair. Civic Center Park. FREE. www.peoplesfair.com

6/3 Sunday- 2012 AT Expo: Technology for Living and Learning. Latest hardware, software, assistive technology (AT) devices for those with disabilities. 11am-6pm. FREE. Conference Center at Adams 12, 1500 E 128th Ave., Thornton. www.assistivetechology-partners.org

6/7 Thursday to 6/9 Saturday- Tea and Treasures at Tablescapes 2012 Fundraiser. Benefits Assistance League of Denver. 10am-3pm. Bosworth House, 1400 Josephine. Tickets \$22. 303.355.2470

6/8 Friday- Rock Out for Refugees. Music by The Big Motif and The Autumn Film. Silent auction and food from Route 40 and Pink Tank. Proceeds benefit African Community Center. All ages welcome. 7pm. Tickets \$15. The Oriental Theater. www.theorientaltheater.com

6/9 Saturday to 6/15 Friday- Restaurants for Refugees. Local chefs partner with refugee communities to create special dishes available at participating restaurants. Visit RestaurantsforRefugees.org for locations.

6/9 Saturday- National Get Outdoors Day Denver. Rock climbing, live music, kayaking, outdoor arts, junior ranger activities, bicycling, fishing, etc. Denver City Park, 10am-3:30pm. FREE. www.getoutdoorscolorado.org

6/9 Saturday- Aurora Arts Festival "From the Earth." 11am-7pm. Fletcher Plaza, 9898 E Colfax Ave, Aurora. FREE. www.auroraartsdistrict.com

6/10 Sunday- Living History Day at Four Mile Park. 10am-4pm. Summer pastimes of mid-late 19th century. General park admission applies. www.four-milepark.org

6/14 Thursday- P.E.O. International local chapter meeting. Supports educational opportunities for women. Meets 2nd Thursday monthly. 7pm. Free. copeojc@gmail.com

6/15 Friday to 6/17 Sunday- Denver Greek Festival. 11am-11pm Friday/Saturday, 12-6pm/Sunday. 4610 E Alameda Ave.

6/16 Saturday and 6/17 Sunday- Juneteenth Celebration. Parade, music festival, etc. Denver 5 Points Neighborhood, 27th and Welton.

6/16 Saturday and 6/17 Sunday- Denver Pride-Fest. Civic Center Park, downtown Denver. Coors Light PrideFest parade and more. 11am-7pm Saturday, 10am-6pm Sunday. www.denverpridefest.org

6/21 Thursday- Make Music Denver. Daylong celebration of local live music; sidewalks, parks, street corners and more become stages for free concerts in downtown Denver. www.downtowndenver.com

6/21 Thursday- Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs. For all gardeners. 3rd Thursday. Grace: 303.455.0839

6/23 Saturday and 6/24 Sunday- Denver Cherry Blossom Festival. Sakura Square, Lawrence St between 19th and 20th. www.cherryblossomdenver.org

Denver Urban Homesteading Farmers Market. Indoor, year-round farmers market and homesteading school with local/organic foods. Thurs/Fri. 3-7pm, Sat. 9am-3pm. 200 Santa Fe Dr. FREE. www.denverurbanhomesteading.com

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

Denver IDEA Café. FREE. Startup workshop by Small Business Chamber of Commerce. 2-3:30pm. Fridays. Panera Bread, 13th and Grant. www.SmallBizChamber.org or 303.861.1447

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

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

Assistance League of Denver. Seeks members to help underserved in metro Denver. Programs for victims, students, children and seniors. www.denver.assistanceleague.org or 303.322.5205

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

Denver Public Art Tours. FREE Public Art Tours by foot, bike, scooter, for art and architecture lovers. Reservations required. Schedule/signup: www.denvergov.org/publicart. Also download PDF of



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Denver's Public Art Guide.

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

6/21 Thursday- HIV testing at Rocky Mountain Cares nonprofit for holistic HIV care. FREE. 1-5pm. 3rd Thursday monthly. 4545 E 9th Ave, #120. Adrian Pilarski: 303.393.8050

Cancer: Thriving and Surviving. New curriculum from Stanford Univ. Chronic Disease Self-Management Program. FREE 6-week 2-hr. classes as part of Univ. of Col. research project. Call Linda Nugent at 303.956.8908 or 800.900.2629 for class locations/schedules.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

Active Minds – Complete listing and info on all sessions: www.ActiveMinds.com. FREE.

6/5 Tuesday- The Soviet Union, the Road After Collapse. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

6/14 Thursday- The U.S. Internment of Japanese Americans. 7pm. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724

6/19 Tuesday- Vietnam. 11am-12pm (10:45 refreshments). Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi, 303.388.4013 x307

6/24 Sunday- The Beauty of Bach. 10am program, 11am potluck brunch. Stapleton F15 Pool, 2831 Hanover St. FREE. 303.388.0724

6/26 Tuesday- The Lewis and Clark Expedition. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2326 E Colfax. 303.322.7727

LIBRARIES

For all library programs, check events calendar at denverlibrary.org. All branches closed Wednesday, July 4th.

Summer of Reading kicks off Saturday 5/26. Read and win prizes! Sign up at any DPL

Branch.

Central Library, 10 W. Fourteenth Ave. Pkwy. 720.865.1111. Open 7 days a week.

6/10 Sunday- Etsy Crafting Party: Bonjour Paris. 1-5pm. 3 free crafting stations, free appetizers and giveaways celebrating Paris. Level B2 Conference Center. Registration required for crafts. www.denverlibrary.org, 303.865.1206

6/23 Saturday- Central City Opera Road Trip. 11am-3pm. Meet at Central City Opera House Garden at 11am for behind-the-scenes look at the opera house and rehearsal. FREE. Registration required. www.denverlibrary.org, 303.865.1206

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

Thursdays- All ages storytime. 10:30am.

Thursdays and Fridays- Book Babies. Babies 6-23 months with parent/caregiver. 11:15am.

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

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

Tuesdays- Tales for Twos. 10:15am through 5/8.

Tuesdays- Preschool Story Time. 11:30am through 5/8.

Thursdays- Bookbabies. 3pm through 5/10.

Mondays in June- Teen Programs. 3pm, no registration required, crafts and more.

Tuesdays in June- Children's programs. Crafts and more. 10:30am and 11:15am. No registration required.

6/21 Thursday- Lacrosse Clinic with Colorado Outlaws. Professional lacrosse players lead basic drills. Equipment provided or bring own. All skill levels. Ages 6-12. RSVP 720.865.0000 30 participants

6/3 Sunday- The Molly Brown House Museum Presents: The Sinking of the Titanic. Slideshow on the 100-year anniversary.

6/9 Saturday- Embellish Your Tote. 10 am. Register: 720.865.0000 fclmybranch@denverlibrary.org

6/18 Monday- Grill It! 6:30pm. Grilling ideas. Recipes/samples included.

6/23 Saturday- Understanding Pets with Denver Dumb Friends League. 11am. Learn animal body postures/vocalizations and their messages.

6/30 Saturday- Kids and Dogs: Getting Along. Tips to keep children safe.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

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

6/1 Friday- Denver Zoo Toyota Elephant Passage Opens at Denver Zoo. Registration required for timed admissions to the new exhibit. No extra charge. Select time/register at www.denverzoo.org or 303.376.4800

Through 6/23 Saturday- The Emperor's New Clothes. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W 38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com

6/2 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Saturday of month for ages 5-12. Each child gets Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

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

6/9 Saturday and 6/23 Saturday- Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. FREE wood project: 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

6/9 Saturday- Inside the Orchestra Family Picnic, 12:30pm. Denver Montclair International School,

To submit information for the Front Porch "Local Event" Listings

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

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

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

206 Red Cross Way. \$50 admits three people, \$100 admits two adults and up to five children. 303.355.7855

6/13 Wednesday- Create Playdates at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5 10am. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000

6/15 Friday- Nature at Night. Bats. 8pm. All ages. FREE. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

6/22 Saturday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Friday nature at night, snacks by campfire, nighttime activities. \$20/member family of 4, \$3 extra person. \$25/nonmember family of 4, \$4 extra person. www.botanicgardens.org

(continued on page 20)

New Homes presented by Wolfe & Epperson



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\$419,500 New Price
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2840 Clinton St

\$950,000 New Price
WEST FACING URBAN ESTATE * Master suite w/terrace has best views in City * 4 second level bdrms * Chef's Kitchen * Open floor plan is perfect for entertaining * 3673 sq ft * 8400 sq ft lot * 3 car garage



2701 Gaylord St

\$400,000
Fantastic Townhome in City Park West * NO HOA * 4 bd * 4 bth * Fin bsmt * High Ceilings * Custom Finishes * SS/Slab Kitchen 2800+ tot fin sq ft



2659 Dahlia St

\$439,950
Updated 2 Story in Park Hill * 4 bds * 3 full bths * Great Light * Open Floor Plan * Master Suite * Walk in closets * Great block, easy walk to Spinelli's



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RECURRING EVENTS

1st Mon. after 1st Tues.

House District 7 Republicans, 7pm. Islamorada Fish Co. (inside Bass Pro) chrismaj@gmail.com

4th Monday

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

AA Open Meeting 6pm St. Thomas Episcopal Church 22nd & Dexter. Shirley 303-726-2998

1st Tuesday

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

2nd Tuesday

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

3rd Tuesday

Greater Stapleton Business Assoc. 8am MCA, 2823 Roslyn St www.stapletonbusiness.com 303-393-7700

4th Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

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

1st Wednesday

Work-from-home group 12-1pm at SmartSpace 2373 Central Park Blvd. #100. Brown bag or group order for lunch www.stapletonhomebusiness.com

2nd Wednesday

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

2nd Wed. (Odd-numbered mos.)

SUN Transportation Committee 6:30pm MCA 2823 Roslyn St. stapletonneighbors@msn.com

2nd & 3rd Wednesday

Lowry Peak Speakers Toastmaster Club. Noon-1pm, Pinnacol Assurance: 7501 E. Lowry Blvd, 80203. lowrypeak.free-toasthost.org lptoastmasters@gmail.com

3rd Thursday

Stapleton Citizens Advisory

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

Last Thursday

Stapleton Power Partners Networking 2:30-4pm. The Berkshire, 29th Ave. Town Center. Rich 303-488-3975 rich.ouellet@ubs.com. Dee 303- 997-7744 deeindenver@aol.com

1st Saturday

Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team 9am-12pm. Clean up Westerly Creek. Contact Lcorrell@dotnet.net for location CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org

1st Saturday

Bluff Lake Birders, Nature Center 7-9am. BluffLakeNatureCenter.org. Neighborhood Partners Environmental Team 9am-Noon. Contact Lcorrell@dotnet.net for location.

2nd Saturday

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

3rd Saturday

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

Periodically

Stapleton Wine Appreciation Group. meighanm@aim.com

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(continued from page 19) **6/30 Saturday- Movies in the Park.** Forrest Gump. Skyline Park, Downtown 16th St Mall at Arapahoe, at dusk. FREE. www.denvergov.org/parksandrec

Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Workshops. Ages 4 and up. Cost from \$5. Museum adm: \$6 adults, \$4 children 5-16, under 5 free. 1880 Gaylord St. www.dmmtd.org

Tiny Tots Love Music, Denver Brass. Special concert for tiny tots and parents; Various dates/locations. Tickets: www.denverbrass.org

Mile Into The Wild Walkway at Wild Animal Sanctuary. Largest carnivore sanctuary in Western Hemisphere: lions, tigers, bears \$10/adult, \$8/children. Keensburg, CO. www.wildanimalsanctuary.org

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

June- Abrakadoodle kids/family art classes, camps, activities at Montclair Rec Center. Daytime and evenings. Lisa Kish-Pittman: 303.997.9061, lkish-pittman@abrakadoodle.com, <http://www.abrakadoodle.com/co05/schedule.html>

6/12 Tuesday to 6/15 Friday- Star K Nature Camp. 9am-12pm, Ages 6-12, Morrison Nature Center. \$50/child. Register: www.auroragov.org or

303.739.2428. Repeats 7/10-7/13.

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

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

Small Hands Art Studio- Art classes. Stapleton location. www.smallhandsart.com

Start Art- Art classes. Startartkids.com

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

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

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

Stapleton All Sports- www.stapletonallsports.com

Sol Vida Dance Studio and Dance Summer Camps- Classes, workshops, camps and more for kids and adults. www.solvidadance.com

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER

1200 Broadway. Open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-5pm. Reservations re-

quired for programs below and fees apply. www.historycolorado.org or 303.866.4686

6/2 Saturday- Carson Nature Center Exploration for Families. Displays of plants and animals native to the South Platte River. Take a dip in the river. 1-4 p.m. \$15 members; \$20 nonmembers; children 8-17, \$5.

6/13 Wednesday- For the People of Colorado: Colorado's Constitution Walking Tour. Learn about Colorado Constitution on 2-mile tour of Civic Center Park and downtown Denver. 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$5 members, \$4 nonmembers.

6/16, Saturday- Sweet Summer Saturdays for Families. Sample Rowdy Root Beer from Duffy's Delicious Drinks, make a bottle of bubblegum. 1-3pm. \$15 members; \$20 nonmembers; children 8-17, \$5.

6/21 Thursday- Shared Moments: Rocky Mountain National Park and Estes Park Remembered in Postcards. Images/stories of early 1900s to spark memories of time there. Bring own postcard to share. 1-2pm. \$4 members, \$5 nonmembers.

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

Montview and Colorado Blvd. www.dmns.org

Through 7/8 Sunday- Lizards and Snakes.

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

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

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

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

Events at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton-

303.375.5475 www.NorthfieldStapleton.com

Through 6/3 Sunday- Family Festival. Rides, games and festival food. Mon.-Thurs.: 4-11pm; Friday: 4pm-12am; Saturday-Sunday: 12pm-12am. Tickets: \$1 each (2-6 tickets required per ride); \$25 all-day

Bass Pro Events- 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com Family Summer Camp, with free activities: carousel rides, shooting range, etc. Every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 6/9-7/15, 1-5pm.

Harkins Theatres 18- 720.374.3118, www.HarkinsTheatres.com

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

Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill- 303.728.9468, www.countrybarco.com Local and regional live music acts Wed-Sat

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

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

6/9 Saturday- "Fishing Frenzy" Fishing Derby for kids ages 3-15.* 8-12pm. FREE. 303.289.3760 or www.c3gov.com/recreation

6/16 Saturday- Children's Photography Work-

shop.* Ages 8-12. Cameras provided.

6/19 Tuesday and 6/20 Wednesday- "Go Wild" Summer Camp.* 9am-3pm. Ages 8-12. FREE. 303.289.0931. Camp repeats 7/18 and 7/19; sign up for only 1 session.

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

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

BLUFF LAKE NATURE CENTER

3400 Havana Way. lchickos@blufflake.org, www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

6/14 Thursday and 6/28 Thursday- Bluff Lake Nature Center's Fireside Chats. 6:30-7:30pm. 6/14 "Discover Raccoons" and 6/28 "Remarkable Reptiles"; roast marshmallows after short program. \$1 donation/ nonmembers.

6/18 Monday to 6/22 Friday- Bluff Lake Nature Center's Junior Naturalist Summer Camp: "Cold as Ice." Learn about cold blooded animals. 9am-12pm, ages 6-10. \$140/members; \$160/ non.

6/25 Monday to 6/29 Friday- Bluff Lake Nature Center's Junior Naturalist Summer Camp: "Hot Blooded!" 9am-12pm daily. Mammal and bird-themed, ages 8-12. \$140/members; \$160/nonmembers.

SPORTS AND FITNESS

6/2 Saturday- Jodi's Race for Awareness. 5K run/walk; 1-mile family walk. Denver City Park. Register: www.colo-ovariancancer.org

6/4 Monday- Outlaws Swim Team. Summer practice begins. Lowry-based swim team for boys/girls, 5-18, beginner to advanced. Mon-Thurs afternoons/early evenings. Montclair Rec Center. 729 Ulster Way. Register: www.OutlawsSwimTeam.com

6/10 Sunday- 7th Annual Strides 5K Run/Walk for Epilepsy. City Park. Register 8:30am, start 9am. www.epilepsycolorado.org

6/16 Saturday- Take Steps Walk for Crohn's and Colitis. Presented by HealthOne. Denver City Park. 4-7pm. www.cctakestepsdenver.org, 303.639.9163

6/23 Saturday- Undy 5000: A Brief Run to Fight Colon Cancer. 5K in your undies at Denver City Park. www.undy5000.org

7/14 Saturday- Sand Creek Half Marathon 5K/10K. 7am. Stapleton Central Park. Benefiting Bluff Lake Nature Center and Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership. www.runningguru.com

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

Saturdays- Bootcamp. Stapleton Central Park every Saturday at 8am. \$10/person. www.qidenver.com/programs/QiOutdoorbootcamp

NORTHEAST DENVER EVENTS

Tuesdays, ongoing- Introduction to Meditation and Christian Mysticism. 6-week course on meditation principles. 7:30pm. Free. 2300 Forest St. Denver@CentersOfLight.org, 303.913.7053

6/2 Saturday- Lowry Farmers Market. Saturdays thru Sept. 9A-2P at Hangar 2, 7581 E Academy Blvd.

6/9 Saturday- Free Car Seat Check. 10am-2pm. Infant, toddler, boosters. Naturally Loved, Stapleton Town Center.

6/9 Saturday- Youth Group Garage Sale. Proceeds go to Youth Group Missions; feeding homeless

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6/9 Saturday- Wine Walk and Concert. Lowry Town Center. Wine Walk 6-8pm, \$15. Free Concert: Atomic Brass Project 7:15-10pm. Ticket locations: www.lowrytowncenter.com

6/12 Tuesday- Feast on The 'Fax- Global Food Tour of Colfax. 5:30-9pm. Tickets: www.thefaxdenver.com

6/14 Thursday to 6/16 Saturday- Spiritual Seminars: Three Stages of Mystical Path to God with Mother Clare Watts. Denver@centersoflight.org, 720.308.9944. . 2300 Forest St.

6/20 Wednesday- Breathwork Meditation Workshop. 7-10pm. \$55, 4670 E 17th Ave, 303.322.3901, www.unityontheavenue.org. Register: 719.200.2929,

6/22 Friday Supper & Movie. Potluck supper, 6 pm and 7pm showing of *What the Bleep? Down the Rabbit Hole*. Love offering. 4670 E 17th Ave. 303.322.3901, www.unityontheavenue.org

6/23 Saturday- NAMI Walk 2012. National Alliance for Mental Illness 9:30am. Stapleton Central Park. www.namicolorado.org.

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

THEATRE

6/1 Friday to 7/8 Sunday- The Drowsy Chaperone. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. 303.839.1361, www.vintagetheatre.com

Through 6/30- Beau Jest. Spotlight Theater Company at John Hand Theater, 7653 E 1st Pl. 720.880.8727, www.johnhandtheater.com

6/8 Friday to 7/7 Saturday- Love Child. Avenue Theater, 417 E. 17th Ave. www.avenuetheater.com, 303.321.5925.

6/8 Friday to 7/1 Sunday- Legally Blonde The Musical. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. 720.898.7200, www.arvadacenter.org

More Events...

June 6—Free Eating Disorders Family Workshop
Free workshop from 10am–12pm, Eating Disorders 101: What parents need to know! by the Eating Disorders Program at Children’s Hospital Colorado First in a series about issues facing children. Information on causes, diagnosis and treatment at the Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. 720.777.6452 www.skjordanlpc.com.

June 7–10—DPL’s Gigantic Used Book Sale
The Denver Public Library’s book sale will take place on the Denver Central Library’s north lawn at 14th Ave. & Broadway. Prices for the 70,000 items are: hardbacks \$3; trade paperbacks \$2; mass market paperbacks 50 cents; DVDs \$2; CDs \$1; audio books \$5; better books as marked. Visit denverlibrary.org for hours and other information.

June 8, Free Live Streaming of Colorado Symphony’s “Shakespeare in Music” Concert
Audiences can go to www.coloradosymphony.org and click on the “LIVE Stream” banner in order to listen in. The stream begins at 7:00 pm with pre-concert interviews and a concert start time of 7:30 pm. Live streaming is accessible from any computer and mobile device that has audio playback software.

June 12—7th Annual FEAST ON THE ‘FAX
Take a global food tour on Tuesday, June 12, from 5:30-9pm along East Colfax. Sample food at nine different restaurants, including Ethiopian, Middle Eastern, Mexican, Peruvian, Venezuelan, British, and classic American. After purchasing a ticket, pick up your Feast admission bracelet and a map at restaurant listed on receipt. Walk, ride a bike, or hop on one of the free Feast on the ‘Fax shuttle buses to get to the different restaurants. Tickets: \$25/person, \$45/pair, and \$10/child, available online at www.thefaxdenver.com or King Soopers. Tickets will also be available on the day of the event at Phoenician Kabob, 5709 E. Colfax Ave., for \$30 each, cash or check only. Proceeds will be used to maintain ‘Fax district marketing, business attraction and retention programs.

June 14, July 12, Aug 9—Free Neighborhood Celebration Sponsored by the Denver Film Society
The Denver Film Society is sponsoring “Raise the Roof!” free and open to the public neighborhood celebrations on June 14, July 12 and August 9 from 5-9 p.m. on the rooftop of the Lowenstein Culture-Plex, home to the Denver FilmCenter/Colfax, Tattered Cover and Twist & Shout. The event will feature free live music and entertainment along with local food, drinks and one of the best views of Denver’s skyline and the Rocky Mountains. Music begins at 6pm, with entertainment on 6/14 by Ian Cooke and the Fine Gentleman’s Club comedy troupe. Local restaurants will be offering food for purchase. Attendees will be given an invitation for a free feature film screening at 9 p.m. on the evening of the party or on a future day. 2510 E. Colfax, www.denverfilm.org



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June 17—Bicycles, Beers and Bands This Father’s Day at Central Park
On Father’s Day, June 17 the third annual Denver Century Ride will be held at Stapleton Central Park. This event features cycling courses for every skill level from beginner to expert, as well as a post-ride party and free Father’s Day Festival from 10am to 4pm—all open to the public. At the festival, kids can create gifts for dad and join in a giant chalk art creation—and songs of the eighties will be performed live by The 6 Million Dollar Band starting at noon. Registration includes a meal at the post-ride party.

Young beginner cyclists can learn bike safety at the free Denver Police Department Tricycle Village (tricycles are provided). And a free informal one-mile ride will be offered with no registration necessary. Three- and 5-mile routes, are appropriate for children riding independently. The 25-mile ride, for intermediate and casual cyclists, offers a scenic tour of neighborhoods and downtown. Registration is \$6/\$12/\$20 depending on age.

Advanced cyclists can select one of three endurance routes: 62 miles, 85 miles and 100 miles. Registration is \$75. Ten dollars from the endurance route registrations will be donated to BikeDenver. The Century Ride is sponsored by Coldwell Banker. For more information, visit DenverCenturyRide.com.

June 23—Walk to Aid Those with Mental Illness
The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will hold its Colorado walk on Saturday, June 23 to raise awareness and fight stigma about mental illness. The walk will begin at 9:30am in Central Park in Stapleton. There is no registration fee, but walkers are encouraged to obtain donations from family, friends and co-workers. Check-in begins at 8am. For info and to register for NAMIWalk 2012, go to www.namicolorado.org.

June 30—Inner Peace Festival
The third annual Inner Peace Festival will be held from 9am–1pm at Stapleton’s Central Park, 8999 MLK Blvd. Activities include: World Peace Drum Circle, guided meditations, peace prayers/blessings, & kids’ activities. From 12–1pm create the human peace symbol. Donations of time and/or resources welcome: healthy food/drink, yoga and tai chi instruction, etc. Sponsored by Centers of Light, a nonprofit meditation center and spiritual school in Park Hill. To donate, contact Rev. Isabelle Stone, 720.308.9944. <http://Denver.CentersOfLight.org>.

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ATHLETES

Stapleton Studio Produces TV Shows, Commercials, Corporate Videos

By Nancy Burkhart

Hollywood and New York City are the spots most thought of when the subjects of filming and scriptwriting come up. However, Stapleton is the birthplace of many national commercials, TV shows, corporate videos and training films that are done under the auspices of Transmission Studio

and Phil Lucero Productions.

“Transmission Studio is a video, film and photography studio,” explained owner and producer Phil Lucero, who is a Park Hill resident. “We provide production services to local and national production companies who are looking for a place to shoot commercials, TV shows or corporate videos. We



Phil Lucero and his wife Vera have a production studio north of I-70 near Stapleton. Their niche in the video market is providing services for smaller businesses that might not be able to afford an elaborate video production but need a professional product at a more reasonable price.

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also provide production services and facilities.

“The production arm of the studio writes scripts for videos, both short and long form, whether it’s a commercial or a training film or a TV show,” he said. “Once it’s written, we shoot film, acquire footage, bring it back to the edit bay and cut it into a cohesive piece that tells the story that our clients are trying to portray.”

The studio, located at 7030 E. 46th Ave. Drive, west of Quebec St., is about three years old. However, Lucero has been in the production business for about 20 years.

“I opened the business for companies with smaller and mid-sized budgets,” he said. “We try to provide the same service at a cost that’s more affordable for the smaller companies. Our goal is to produce the best possible pictures and sound that we can and produce the most beautiful piece for our clients at an affordable price.”

While Lucero does look for the smaller clients, Transmission Studio and Phil Lucero Productions also do news, sports and entertainment work for all the major networks, ESPN, Discovery Channel, History Channel, BBC and MTV. Lucero has corporate clients in the Fortune 500 group

and his firm sometimes shoots concerts.

“Our client would be anybody looking for video or photography,” Lucero said. “A corporation might want to do a training or promotional piece for their website, anything a company might need to get their image across.

“We also do video news releases about a new product, a company changing hands, or a new company. They also might contact us to shoot the event. We did IKEA when it opened over a 10-day period. We cut the film and did a format that would allow TV stations to cut it down for their news broadcasts. It always comes down to what the client needs and what they can afford. Mostly it’s about trying to get their message across. It can involve title graphics or somebody on camera speaking the lines.”

Lucero’s firms also have done work for nonprofits, including: Denver Safe House, Women’s Bean Project, Smiles Change Lives, and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s “Light the Night.”

For information about Transmission Studio and Phil Lucero Productions, call 303.962.8891. Go to www.phillucero productions.com or email Phil Lucero at phil@phillucero productions.com.

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Premium Fishwrap*

by Jon Meredith

Our Libraries Are a Precious Resource for All Denver Citizens

A few months ago, the Front Porch asked me to do a story on the progress of the new Sam Gary Library, which will open in a few months just behind the Stapleton Town Center. The cost will be approximately \$11 million. The financing came from Better Denver Bond funds that are paid for by a tax increase approved by Denver voters in 2007.

While doing the story, I went down to the main library at 14th and Broadway to interview Denver Librarian Shirley Amore. On the way out of her office, I walked around the library simply because I am not in that building very often and it is really quite extraordinary. The Central Library building was fully remodeled just prior to hosting the G-8 summit, held there for three days in June 1997. Today, the library still hosts fundraisers and cocktail parties for Denver's movers and shakers. The view on a summer evening from the library's fourth floor balcony, of Civic Center Park, the Capitol and the City and County Building, is brilliant.

Conversely, during the day the library is full of people who are using it for its intended purpose. The day I was there the whole facility was full of activity. People were applying for jobs, learning a new language, doing research, teaching kids, reading out-of-town magazines and newspa-

pers, and sometimes even finding a good place to take a nap. Despite financial difficulties, it is quite evident the library serves the needs of a vast array of people with all kinds of needs.

When driving through Denver in the late summer or fall, when all the city's parks are in full bloom, I am always reminded of what a genuinely terrific place Denver is to live. The libraries give me that same feeling almost every day. I am constantly reminded of just how much of an asset the libraries are. The staff are extremely helpful, their website is user-friendly, they have almost every item I have ever wanted and if they do not have it, they are almost always willing to get it. They hold reading programs for kids, they have prizes for summer reading and when my mother-in-law couldn't read due to macular degeneration, they helped with audio books.

The library has been managed extremely well, considering the budget cuts it has had to endure over the last few years. Those cuts have manifested themselves primarily with a reduction of hours that the main library and branches are open. I don't really understand why Denver taxpayers have always been willing to tax themselves to renovate or build libraries but not tax themselves to keep those buildings open. Ms. Amore has been the city librarian for five years now, all of which have been a struggle with budget reductions. This has meant layoffs and reduced hours for all libraries; yet when they are open, they try to provide a full range of services.

Some pontificators, who are being nothing short of contrarians, have begun to say that, due to computers,

mobile devices and e-books, libraries are no longer necessary. They argue that there is plenty of access to free books and information on the Internet and the cost of maintaining buildings and staff is excessive. They believe the need for libraries has passed us by and taxpayers should no longer be required to support them.

If contrarians believe this, would they send their child to a college that has closed its library? Why would anyone want to live in a major city that doesn't have a vibrant library system? Doesn't all of society benefit from a good library system? "As a group, libraries have embraced the digital age," says Lee Rainie, founding director of the Pew Internet & American Life Project, which has surveyed public attitudes toward libraries. "They've added collections, added software and hardware, upgraded the skills of their staff. A lot of institutions have had to change in the Internet age, but libraries still have a very robust and large constituency." A Pew Foundation poll found that 57 percent of Americans visited a library last year.

Here in Denver, we need to foster and enhance the tremendous assets we already have in our libraries and find the funds to do just that.

The Denver Central Library has a gigantic used-book sale every June, with CDs, books on tape and loads of DVDs. This year it is June 7-10. Most prices are from \$1 to \$3.

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

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Stapleton Front Porch

23

June 2012

Front row left to right: Park Hill residents Britney Wilson, 14, a freshman at East High School, Dayla Blackburn and D'Ajanae Cortez, both 11 and 6th graders at Venture Prep, participate in the Take Flight Leadership program founded and run by artist Jacqueline Withers (back row). They are pictured in front of a NE Denver mural of the Tuskegee Airmen painted by Withers.

By Carol Roberts

When artist Jacqueline Withers

learned about the Tuskegee Airmen she was awestruck with their accomplishments and resolved to do her part to keep their legacy strong. She created murals (three of them are in NE Denver) that would help educate others and honor these brave black airmen. Despite Jim Crow laws and racism in the military, they formed an all black combat unit that served with distinction as bomber escorts in Europe during World War II. Withers also learned about, and was inspired by, Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman in the world to earn an aviation pilot's license. Coleman heard stories from World War I pilots and wanted to become a pilot,



Students Take Flight

but had to learn French and go to France for training since, as a black woman, no U.S. flight school would accept her.

Withers created the Take Flight Leadership program to educate youth about the lives of Bessie Coleman and the Tuskegee Airmen and use their stories to inspire participants—and to further their opportunities to pursue careers in aviation-related fields. View information about the Bessie Coleman Fly Girls, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6c8H09_OqM or contact Jacqueline Withers at jacqueline_withers@yahoo.com.

Westerly Creek Drama Club

By John Babiak

While on a family outing to the 2011 Denver Public Schools Shakespeare Festival, Stapleton preschooler Gency Batt asked her grandmother, Gracie Batt, why her big brother's Westerly Creek Elementary School wasn't performing at the event. The retired Cherry Creek School District English and theater teacher, and Park Hill resident, did not have a good answer. However, she did take the youngster's poignant question to heart.

A few months later, Gracie Batt found herself sitting across the table from Marnie Moody Cooke, assistant principal of Westerly Creek Elementary. Batt was at the school to volunteer her theatrical coaching services and hopefully launch a fourth-grade drama club. Batt's compelling audition earned her a supportive thumbs-up, and she was soon on a recruiting mission to her grandson Griffin Batt's fourth-grade class. Here she secured the genuine interest of 20 or so emerging thespians, and the Westerly Creek Elementary School Student Drama Club came to be front and center stage.

"Theater provides a sense of family, a feeling of I belong to some children who may be naturally shy or feeling a bit lonely," said Batt. "For the expressive, acting is a natural fit. Kids are enchanted by theater. Take, for example, Harry Potter. When they act it out, they are at Hogwarts and they are oblivious to the audience," she added. During the weekly club meetings, students learned the fundamentals of acting, everything from breathing techniques, to focusing and memorization, to learning how to use their voice as an instrument, to making their face rubbery and full of expression.

Coach Batt's first order of business was to ready her young ac-

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Debuts at Shakespeare Festival

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Westerly Creek students perform A Midsummer Night's Dream at the DPS Shakespeare Festival on May 11. The festival is touted as the largest single-day student Shakespeare festival in the U.S.



tors and actresses for the 28th annual DPS Shakespeare Festival. The festival is touted as the largest single-day student Shakespeare festival in the U.S. It is the only winner of the prestigious Washington, D.C., Folger Library Shakespeare Stewardship Award. When asked if the DPS festival was the largest in the

country, Folger Library educator Mike LoMonico enthusiastically said, "Perhaps the world! There's nothing even close!" This school year, over 6,000 first-grade through high-school student performers, representing more than 80 schools, descended on the downtown Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) Complex.

The festival provides students the opportunity to perform scenes, soliloquies and sonnets from the works of William Shakespeare. The players demonstrate their command of the original Shakespearean language, and dance, vocal and instrumental music from the Elizabethan era.

Members of the Westerly Creek troupe performed six-minute scenes from five plays, two from *Romeo and Juliet*, and one each from *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth*. Some kids wanted few lines, while others could not get enough. Ultimately, "They all rose to the occasion," said Batt. She selected costumes from a "fabulous" warehouse at DPS Remington Elementary School where, she says, "There seemed to be miles of costumes."

The experience included learning the art of drama, coop-

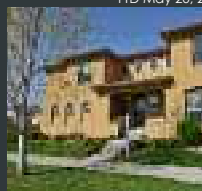
erative group dynamics, public speaking and the development of literacy skills. Students built their inner self-confidence in an atmosphere that had plenty of moments of peer pressure and performance-related stress.

For Ashley Garcia, joining the club had special value. "As a newcomer to the school, I thought it would be a great opportunity to get to know other people," said Garcia. "I have always been the kind of person that hides herself and I felt that the class would help me express myself, but through a character." Garcia smiled and said, "I really become my character and sometimes, when I need to, I push away my feelings by being that character." She intends to participate in a summer theater camp and build on her positive experience.

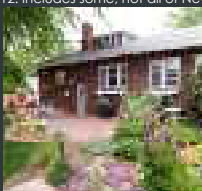
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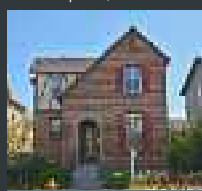
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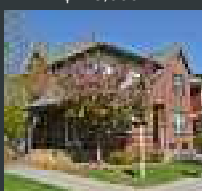
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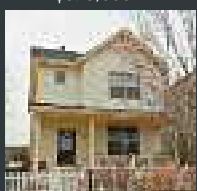
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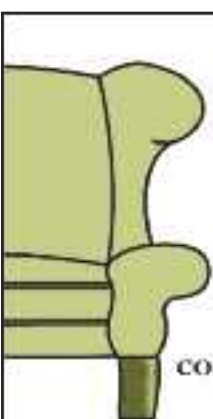


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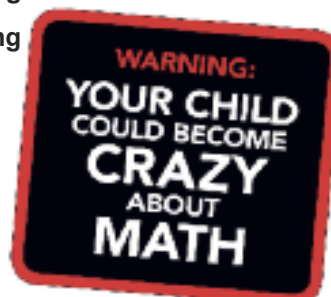
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Residential Development

As of the end of the first quarter of this year, Stapleton had 4,784 homes and apartments and approximately 11,000 residents. In 2011, 380 new homes were sold in Stapleton. Through April of this year, 178 homes have been sold.

North of I-70—Seven residential builders will start construction this summer. 500 units of single family homes and 200 apartments are planned in the first phase of development. Forest City is also in talks with a nonprofit developer for the next affordable rental housing, which is expected to be located on Northfield Blvd.

South of I-70—120 Single family homes will be built just south of Bluff Lake in Filing 16. Infrastructure is going in now and further east the next phase of residential development will include 150 homes. The first homes in Filing 16 are expected to be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2012.

Currently under construction on the **southwest corner of MLK and CPB** are 14 Wonderland and KB homes scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2012.

49 townhomes are under development at **E. 21st and Tamarac**. The builder, Century Communities, is also constructing the Boulevard Row Homes on the **east side of CPB at Xanthia Way**.

118 market rate **Eastbridge Apartments** will be completed this fall across from the future Town Center site. At the Astor Town Center Apartments at Roslyn Way and MLK Blvd, the first residents have begun moving into the first building of the initial phase (85 units). When fully developed, **220 units of market rate rental apartments** will be available.

New and Upcoming Businesses

More than two million square feet of retail have already been developed.

Edible Arrangements recently opened in the 29th Ave. Town Center, offering bouquet-style arrangements of fruit. They're located at 7302 East 29th Ave. 303-322-2200. www.ediblearrangements.com



A new **Goodwill store** opened in late May on 36th Ave. in Quebec Square. The store also houses **Goodwill's Career Connection Center** that offers assistance with job-finding skills at no charge to adults 18 and older (it does not offer job placement services). The Center is open from 9am to 5pm, M-F and will offer a variety of courses such as: Basic Computer Skills, Effective Job

Applications, Resume Writing, Job Search Strategies, Healthy Finances, Interviewing Skills, Healthy Relationships, Career Planning & Goal Setting, and more. Visit the store and center at 7797 East 36th Ave. or call 720-317-2237.

The grand opening of the new 28,000 square foot **Sam Gary Branch Library** will be held on August 11. Watch for more information in the July issue of the Front Porch.

Williams Family Dentistry is under construction near Havana and Iola with an opening projected by fall of this year.

A **carwash (complete with a dog wash)** proposed by a Stapleton resident is being planned for the retail area on Central Park Blvd just north of Montview. The developer is currently assessing the feasibility of the site.

A commercial lot in the Montview retail center at Central Park Blvd. is the future site of a **proposed 7-Eleven convenience store with gas service**. The proposed plan (on the second parcel from the corner) aligns the building so it faces east with windows on the south side wall that

faces Montview. The gas station will have 12 pump dispensers. Lighting design for the store will be guided by Stapleton's "Dark Skies" policy that reduces glare. If the developer decides to move forward after completing a feasibility study, the projected opening of the store would be late 2012.

A parcel of land on the south side of MLK Blvd. and the eastern end of the block bounded by Ulster and Uinta is the proposed site for the **Stapleton Tower Center, a single story medical building**, including a pediatric practice.

Developers are under contract for two different sites on the south side of MLK Blvd. between Syracuse and Uinta proposed for **market rate senior citizen apartments**. Both developers are in the early stages of their feasibility studies.



7/11 presents proposed plans to Stapleton's Zoning and Planning Committee.

Stapleton

Future Development at I-70 & Central Park Blvd (CPB)

On May 3, Forest City invited city officials and Denver commercial brokers to a reception on the almost-open Central Park Bridge to announce "Stapleton Business Ready," a new business opportunity for office tenants along I-70 and Central Park Boulevard. The development is envisioned as a three part campus with commercial sites



John Lehigh of Forest City announced "Stapleton Business Ready" at an event on the CPB bridge just prior to the bridge opening.

north of the I-70/CPB intersection, south of the intersection, and at the Central Park Station on the commuter rail to DIA.

• The Drury Inn

and Suites is under contract for a site at the NE corner of I-70 and CPB. If the developer decides to move forward after completing a feasibility study for a 180-room hotel, construction could begin in the fall of 2012 or spring of 2013.

• A 13-acre parcel in Enterprise Park on E. 40th Avenue between Havana and Central Park Boulevard has been sold to the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, for a future office and training complex.

• Forest City is planning transit oriented development on the 33-acre site between E. 35th Avenue and the RTD Central Park Blvd.

FasTracks corridor along Smith Road. City planners, with input from local stakeholders, have developed a plan for development in the TOD area. A public meeting will be held June 14 to review the plan (see calendar listing on page 2).

Forest City's plan for future transit-oriented development is shown in this artist's rendering of the 33-acre site at Central Park Station.
Rendering courtesy of Forest City Stapleton



A rendering of the three-campus plan is posted at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com.



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Update

By Carol Roberts



Central Park Bridge Opened May 8

At 6:46am, shortly after workers opened up access to the new bridge that connects Stapleton to I-70 and Northfield, Jason Friedman (above right) became the first car to drive north over the new bridge. Moments later Sandra Fish was the first car to cross the bridge heading south, on her way to care for her grandchildren in Stapleton.

North Westerly Creek Park

A SUN/CAB community forum was held on May 17 to discuss community concerns that as Forest City turns their attention to development north of I-70, the 33-acre park at North Westerly Creek (NWC) and the 25-acre park along 26th Ave. won't get built or won't get built in a timely manner. **A follow-up meeting will be held June 21** (see page 2 calendar). Greg Holt of the Denver Dept. of Aviation, which still owns 40% of the Stapleton land, explained the remediation process for the North Westerly Creek Park and said it is moving forward.



Dennis Piper, parks design and development consultant to Park Creek Metro District, provided a history of parks with a map showing completed and planned parks. Greg Holt of DIA is at left.

They hope to have the remediation done by wintertime.

Paul Froehart, a concerned community member, acknowledged that NWC Park has been a victim of bad luck: The land needed environmental remediation, the AIG problems stopped payment for remediation, and the community needed a school. The issue now, he said, is how to prioritize the construction of parks moving forward in a situation where Forest City has an economic incentive to build parks north of I-70 because that will sell houses—and that incentive doesn't exist where houses have already been sold. Froehardt called for collaboration, leadership and initiative to find a solution.

The city's representative to Stapleton, Bar Chadwick stated that the mayor understands the value of Stapleton's parks to the city, but at this time no TIF funds are available. Chadwick says the city is actively looking for funding for the park and hopes to bring a recommendation to the mayor in June. She went on to say that Stapleton has to pay its own way and the city created the Stapleton Development Corp (SDC) to manage the land at Stapleton until it is sold to Forest City. As the master developer, she says, Forest City has certain contractual rights of "where they're going to go, what they want to develop, how they develop it based on market conditions." She pointed out that everyone loves parks, but they don't bring in tax dollars—the new office development along I-70 and CPB will bring in tax dollars.

Tom Gleason of Forest City pointed out that Forest City pays \$15,000 over and above the market price for each acre of land it buys into a fund for parks, which will amount to a total fund of \$44 million for creating parks, but that amount is not enough to build the planned parks and it has always been anticipated that other monies would have to be found. He reminded the audience that when Mayor Peña talked about redeveloping



Parks panel, from left: Paul Froehart, Cheryl Cohen-Vader, Bar Chadwick, Tom Gleason

the former airport, getting people to move to this location, creating a different way to fund parks, and bringing middle and upper middle class families back to DPS, the skeptics said it couldn't be done. "All along the way we have faced challenges and we've overcome them. We'll overcome this one as well." He also said NWC is important because it's one of the signature parks of Aurora, Commerce City and Denver along the 13-mile Sand Creek Regional Greenway. "I cannot imagine that this group of people here would ever let the NWC Park be forgotten. A solution will be found."

26th Ave. Park

A group of attendees also came to the meeting with concerns about the park along 26th Ave. Tom Gleason explained that the 26th Ave park is in the city of Aurora and the discussions with Aurora about drainage and other issues are very positive and "hopefully we're going to have some kind of resolution to that." He said the residential development that's starting south of Bluff Lake "was important to getting the momentum going down there and we think that will continue the interest in residential development and that includes about 300 anticipated homes on the Aurora side, but we don't know the timing on that just yet." Regarding the amenities the park will have, Gleason said they will be determined when the agreement is struck with Aurora on the park. "Obviously cost is an issue that has to be dealt with." In response to a question about removing the wire fence along 26th, Gleason explained that DIA (which currently owns the land), SDC, the Park Creek Metro District and Forest City believe the fence is necessary to prevent dumping on the empty land. One attendee suggested interim steps that might be taken, like extending the split rail fence, then perhaps the curbing. "Communicating (a schedule) back to us would really be helpful. That would help people be less anxious about some of this." A comment was made from the audience that the roads shouldn't be put through until there's a park.

John Fernandez with City of Aurora Planning Department commented, "The park on

26th Avenue is geographically in Aurora but it is not a City of Aurora park. It will not be owned or maintained by the city whatsoever. The timing of the construction of it is entirely up to Forest City."

Greg Holt clarified that the land is currently owned by DIA and they will convey it to Forest City when Forest City requests to purchase it. Tom Gleason was asked, "Where does that fit in Forest City's priority of take-down (land purchase)?" Gleason replied, "Obviously what we're trying to do is continue to generate commercial and residential activity that produces sales and property tax. We have to determine where the market is for housing. We think where we are now in Filing 16, which is the closest place to that park, there's a market for that housing. And then we'll make a determination about what point in time we think that there's a market for the housing on the south side of the street, which is in Aurora. We don't know that just yet." The questioner then asked, "It sounds like Forest City is actually wanting to buy the property north of I-70 before buying the 26 Ave. parcel. Is that basically where we are?" Gleason replied, "That is correct, yes." After the meeting, Gleason clarified to the Front Porch that Forest City is continuing to have discussions with the City of Aurora about timing and issues related to the development of a park and residential neighborhood in Aurora..

Avenue Villas Neighbors Express Concern about New Development

Neighbors near Century Communities' "Avenue Villas" development at E. 21st and Tamarac attended the SUN/CAB forum to express their concerns about the new 49-unit townhome development. Tom Gleason confirmed that Forest City would meet with them on May 18. The (continued on page 28)



Avenue Villas Neighbors meet to discuss their concerns after learning a 49-unit townhome development is being built on their block.

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

Safe Streets Start at Home

By David Vogel, SUN Transportation Committee

The most common concern I hear from Stapleton residents is dangerously high traffic speeds in the neighborhood. The City recently responded to the plight of pedestrians crossing MLK to access the Central Park Recreation Center by lowering the speed limit on MLK east of Westerly Creek to 30 mph. Since then, the Denver Police Department has spent several days enforcing the new speed limit, which, depending on whether you are one of the drivers who has received a citation, has been either welcome or irritating. But judging from how fast some drivers speed down MLK, the police presence is obviously needed. Several other streets throughout the neighborhood also experience dangerously high traffic speeds on a regular basis, but there simply are not enough police officers to canvas the entire neighborhood, much less the City as a whole.

That's why it is so important for Stapleton residents to set a good example for each other and for drivers from outside the neighborhood. It is tempting to blame our traffic problems on drivers who are just passing through Stapleton but who don't live here. But the reality is that Stapleton has more than its fair share of drivers who don't drive safely in their own neighborhood. We can't expect nonresidents to follow the rules if we ourselves aren't willing to do so. Stapleton may seem like a big place, but it is small enough that exceeding the speed limit by five or ten miles per hour is not going to get you home—or to work or the store—much quicker. And as warmer weather brings out pedestrians and bicyclists in ever-larger num-

bers, the increased risk of hurting or even killing someone is just not worth the few seconds you might save by driving faster.

There's a saying among designers that speed limit signs don't tell drivers how fast to go; street design does. And if there's one thing that can be said about streets like MLK and Central Park Blvd., it's that their wide traffic lanes and long stretches of pavement unimpeded by stop signs or traffic signals make it easy for even the most attentive drivers to lose track of how fast they're going. That makes it all the more important for everyone to take extra care to ensure that they're paying close attention and not letting their minds wander to their to-do list or to other distractions.

Traffic safety will continue to grow in importance as Stapleton becomes more connected to the surrounding street and highway grid. The connection of Central Park Blvd. to I-70 and Northfield, with the increase in traffic that will come with it, is the most recent challenge facing the neighborhood. However, there are more challenges on the horizon, as streets like Iola and Fulton are connected to Aurora later this year.

Ultimately, not even leading by example is going to be enough to ensure safe streets in Stapleton. Everyone who has concerns about traffic safety should make their voices heard. Neighbors who get together to identify not just problems, but also to propose solutions, can be particularly effective. If enough of us make our concerns heard loudly and clearly, the people who have the power to bring about change will have to listen. But it starts with each of us doing our part by being safe drivers.

Stapleton Update

(continued from p. 27) Avenue Villa Neighbors' (AVN) thought the density was too high and would create traffic and parking problems, which would be exacerbated by a dead end alley. They are concerned about drainage. They thought the plans don't have as much architectural diversity as is found elsewhere in Stapleton. And signage about the development was placed just prior to excavation starting. Forest City provided a written response to these concerns, which, along with other AVN information is posted at <http://saveourstapleton.wordpress.com>.

Police and Traffic Enforcement



The new District 2 Commander, Michael Calo, (left) introduced himself to the community at the May 17 forum. He has been in the Denver police department since 1985 and has lived in NE Denver much of that time. In the mid to late 90's he patrolled East Colfax, the Quebec corridor and Park Hill. He added that he is an expert on gangs.

Calo says he's been asked to help enforce traffic speeds and is bringing motorcycle officers and radar to Stapleton. He countered the popular notion that out-of-area drivers are the speeders, saying 80% of the tickets given are to Stapleton residents. The speed limit on residential streets, if no signs are posted otherwise, is 25 mph. Alleys are 15 mph. Note the speed limit near the Central Park Rec Center has been reduced to 30mph, and officers are ticketing that reduced-speed stretch.

New Path from Sand Creek to Arsenal

Sand Creek Regional Greenway (SCRG) director Kate Kramer has confirmed that plans for a path to connect the Visitor Center at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (RMANWR) with SCRG are underway and hoped to be final by August 2012, with construction starting soon thereafter. The connection will be about four miles long and will be off-road and paved.

Updates on Trash and Debris on DIA Land Near Sand Creek

The parcel of land south of Sand Creek and north of Florence and 35th that contains trash and debris is owned by DIA. The Front Porch will obtain information from Stapleton Development Corporation, which is the property manager for DIA land at Stapleton, from DIA, and from other relevant entities regarding this issue and provide updates on our website and Facebook page. (Find us on Facebook at Front Porch Newspaper.)

CU Denver Counseling Center Provides Low-cost Sessions to the Community

Speaking with counselors for help with school and family life can help individuals and families grow and strengthen. The cost for families in the Denver Public Schools is \$5. A sliding scale is available to all metro Denver community members.

Families with concerns such as the following can call to make an appointment or leave a confidential message: Do you have a child who is exhibiting problematic performance in school, either academic or behavioral? Is your family dealing with loss, serious illness, divorce, or potential deportation? Do you want to feel more comfortable expressing who you are? Would you like to gain additional skills to deal with family conflict, bullying, substance abuse, or stress? Are you dealing with economic challenges? Do you feel that you'd like to improve your parenting? Are you being treated unjustly by others? Have you ever felt you don't fit in because of your body size, skin color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious/spiritual beliefs, or something else?

The Counseling Center is staffed by psychologists, professional psychotherapists and advanced graduate-level counseling students. The Center is located on the Auraria Campus (across from the Pepsi Center) in the North Classroom Building at 1200 Larimer St., Room 4036. 303-556-4372



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Tennis for Urban Youth

By Kerry Nash
The Western Tennis Academy (WTA) is committed to the goal of increasing the number of urban youth who participate in the sport of tennis. The WTA completed its first summer program in 2011 at Smiley School and the first participants are now well on their way to becoming competitive players. The 2012 summer program will again be held at Smiley and parents of 10- to 18-year-olds are encouraged to enroll their children.

In addition to teaching tennis skills, the WTA also works to promote the players and their abilities. The program hopes to extend the practice opportunities well into the fall and to develop a relationship with indoor facilities so that WTA participants will have the chance to compete year-round.
The WTA is seeking help in the form of grant writers, volunteers and board members. Financial contributions are also accepted. For more information, contact Kerry Nash at 303.322.9512 or kerryrnash@gmail.com. WTA was incorporated on November 1, 2010, and is a nonprofit organization registered with the United States Tennis Association (USTA). WTA expects to get 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status by the end of the year.

Curfew Reminder

Denver's Curfew Ordinance prohibits youth from being in a public place or on public property from 11pm to 5am, Sun.– Thurs. and 12am to 5am Fri. and Sat., unless: the minor is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian (an adult friend does not qualify); the minor is accompanied by an adult (18 or older) who possesses written permission from the parent or guardian; the minor is in a vehicle being used in interstate travel; or the minor is working, traveling to or work from work without any detour or stop.
Youth that break curfew during the active enforcement period of April through September are transported to the Curfew Center at the District 1 police station at 1311 W. 46 th Ave.
Parents are contacted and a citation is issued.

Youth cited for a first-time ordinance violation are given the option of participating in a diversion program as an alternative to the court system. If the option is accepted by the youth and his/her parent(s), a customized diversion plan is developed. Once the plan is successfully completed, the case is dismissed without a court appearance.

Letters to the Editor

Fish and Chips
I sure enjoyed your interesting and informative article by Nancy Burkhart about the new GB Fish and Chips shop on East Colfax. I went there today and not only was the food phenomenal, but the friendliness shown by the staff was very impressive and much appreciated. I'm so glad that we have a business like this in our community and hope everyone will "pop in," as the Brits say.
I also have a special connection with this establishment, as my mother was Welsh. When we'd visit her little village, we always headed for the fish and chip shop around the corner where we enjoyed eating our meal in newspaper, which is the "original" way.
Sincerely, Rosemary McManis

Kids' Ideas for the Stapleton Tower
We at Westerly Creek, the whole 5th grade, are trying to figure out on what to turn the tower into. Some ideas were: bungee jumping, food hub, mini golf, or a spa-greenhouse. The edge team: Avery W, Tara S, Karlie S, Maddie B, Caroline S, Sydney F, and Alex K, were thinking of making the tower into a bungee jumping restaurant. The inside for the restaurant and the outside for bungee jumping. This is a great idea. However, we shall persevere the Stapleton tower, because it represents what the stapleton community used to be!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Front Porch will publish letters to the editor as space allows—they may be edited for length. Please email FrontPorchStapleton@gmail.com. Submit by the 15th for consideration in the following month's issue.

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Bill Kurtz, CEO of the DSST Public Schools network, talks about the schools' value-based culture.

DSST's First Class

(continued from page 1) any idea if it's going to work."

For many the risk paid off. Kamaria Hakeem, of Park Hill, recently graduated magna cum laude with a degree in chemical engineering from Howard University. Hakeem admits that the decision to choose DSST over East was "the hardest decision in her life thus far."



Park Hill resident Kamaria Hakeem

Growing up in Park Hill, East was "the school" to go to, but Hakeem had always done well in math and science and there were rumors floating around that DSST was giving each student a laptop—she'd even heard that there would be no homework! Hakeem enrolled in DSST and began to decipher rumor from reality.

There is homework at DSST. "You wake up and you're doing homework; you go to bed and you're falling asleep in your homework," Hakeem explains.

"It's a tough environment," Shannon Barrows agrees. Barrows, a Stapleton resident, graduated from CU Boulder. She is now looking to help veterans cope with their return to civilian life. "If somebody can sacrifice their life for our country, I want to help give them a life when they get back." Barrows' sense of civic responsibility is an extension of the values underpinning DSST's unique culture—respect, responsibility, integrity, courage, curiosity, and doing your best. These aren't just a list of admirable characteristics; for DSST students, they become a way of life.

"I'm living out those core values," Tera Jones, a Montbello native who graduated from Pomona College, attests. "They became so engrained; the values accentuated characteristics that were naturally in me. I use them in all contexts, especially at school. You can get a lot by living out those values in the long run."

Jones's acceptance into the se-

lective Teach for America program and her placement at the DSST Green Valley Ranch (GVR) campus exemplify the benefit of living out these principles.

Kurtz is an avid proponent of DSST's value-based culture. Guided by the philosophy that education should be rigorous, integrated and personalized, DSST seeks to "transform urban public education by eliminating educational inequity and preparing all students for success in college and the 21st century." To make this vision a reality, he insists: "you have to implement the heck out of what you're trying to do." Before DSST could point to its impressive 100 percent college acceptance rate, they had their fair share of detractors. "Who are these people? They're crazy—they're creating this school that's totally other-worldly," Kurtz remembers the skepticism vividly. "We had to execute at the highest level, to pay attention to every detail, to be enormously competent and capable." So even if students and parents didn't always agree with the DSST approach, they would at least acknowledge that the school was "competent in its craziness."

Hakeem was one of those students who pushed back. "Listen, Mr. Kurtz, this is ridiculous!" she remembers exclaiming in response to all of the rules: silent lunch as a punishment to reflect on how your misbehavior affected the character of the community, a strict business casual dress code—no sneakers, no hoodies. The rules and restrictions were too much for many among that founding class, which saw 55 of their peers exit the program. Those who stayed eventually recognized that the teachers and administrators "knew what they were doing," says Barrows.

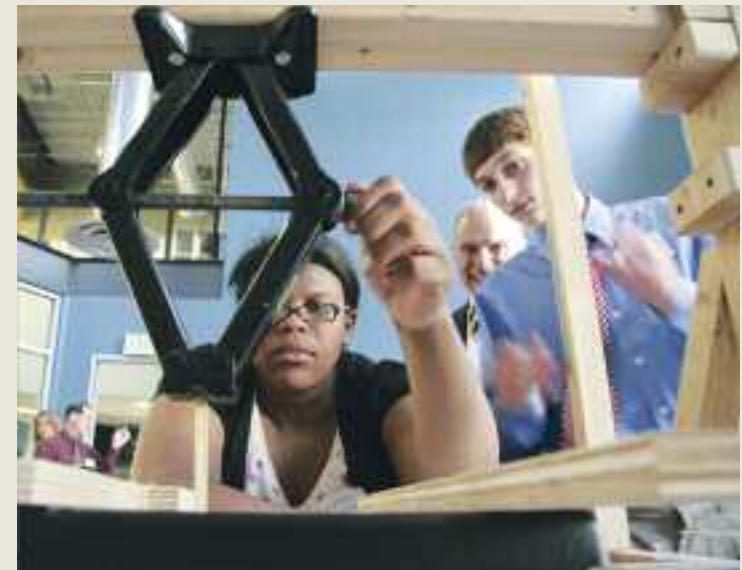
"Kids in Denver think they are born with two God-given rights," Kurtz explains with a smile, "one, that they can wear what they want. And two, that they get off-campus lunch when they are seniors." Refusing those "God-given rights"

DSST's dress code and its insistence on cafeteria lunch help foster integration among its diverse student body. Not only does this refusal unify students around common complaints, it also removes divisive symbols of economic privilege like expensive shoes or the ability to dine out each day.

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The school derives 40 percent of their student population from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and maintains 45 per-

cent female enrollment. Filling a schoolhouse with people from different backgrounds does not guarantee meaningful interaction among those pupils, however. The tendency to socially segregate along racial and class-based lines is rampant among high-school-age students. Not so at DSST. Kurtz has a general rule that 75 percent of the tables in the cafeteria should be integrated; he wants to see students of different



Tera Jones, who grew up in Montbello, is shown demonstrating a stress test for guests at one of DSST's annual fundraisers while she was a student there.

racess, genders and economic strata "sit down and start to make friendships." Hakeem fondly recalls this integration occurring in practice. "We were all very tight; we knew each other's business. There were the kids you knew who had money and those who didn't, but those divisions didn't really apply. They didn't have as much weight as at other schools."

The ability to connect with people from different backgrounds is a life skill that alumni credit DSST with developing. During Jones' Teach for America interview, she was asked

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Shannon Barrows

about her experience working with diverse populations. Jones responded that working in “multiracial groups” was so much a part of her experience that it now “feels very normal.” This capacity will no doubt serve Hakeem well as she travels around the world for her training program with the global healthcare company, Abbott Labs. For Barrows, DSST’s “safe environment to discuss issues related to diversity” is what stands out most about her experience there. “If you said something offensive,” Barrows explains, DSST provided opportunities to “discuss your different view, to learn more about another culture, and learn how to get along.”

Barrows describes the more organic approach to teaching tolerance that Kurtz favors. Rather than offering official diversity workshops, DSST “grounds tolerance in reality; we have reality going on and that’s when it means something to students.” Kurtz credits that founding class with developing the integrated culture at DSST by collectively insisting: “No, it doesn’t matter what the color of your skin is, what the economic background of your family is, we are one community that’s stronger together than we are as individual parts.” He suggests that through their actions the class of 2008 transmitted that conviction to subsequent classes. “Let’s be honest, there are very few kids in Denver or across this country that were able to establish that kind of culture in this world,” he boasts.

Kurtz is grateful to the founding class for the lessons they



taught DSST’s staff and administrators about “creating a high school that can work for kids.” He boldly maintains that the now internationally renowned DSST model is “entirely replicable.” Pointing to the network’s more recent successes at places like GVR and Cole Middle School, he suggests that it’s not a question of resources or size, “it’s a question of: do you want to create the culture or not?” If so, Kurtz admits that it’s not “easy, but it’s possible.” And the benefits of doing so are far-reaching. As the first member of her family to graduate from college, Hakeem declares with both pride and gratitude: “I can honestly say DSST changed my life.”

Identified by yellow arrows, Tera Jones (center front), Shannon Barrows (right) and Kamaria Hakeem (by stairwell) are shown with their class shortly before their graduation. All 75 graduates of DSST’s founding class were accepted to four-year colleges. Twenty-three headed to CU Boulder, others enrolled at such prestigious universities as Bowdoin, Carnegie Mellon, Howard, Pomona, Stanford, and Tulane. Bill Kurtz is standing in the center back.

Maegan Parker Brooks holds a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a freelance writer, focusing on social justice issues related to racial, class, gender and sexuality-based forms of oppression.

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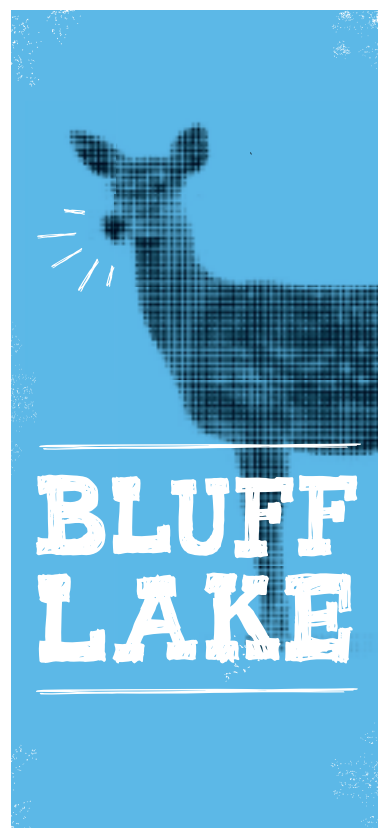
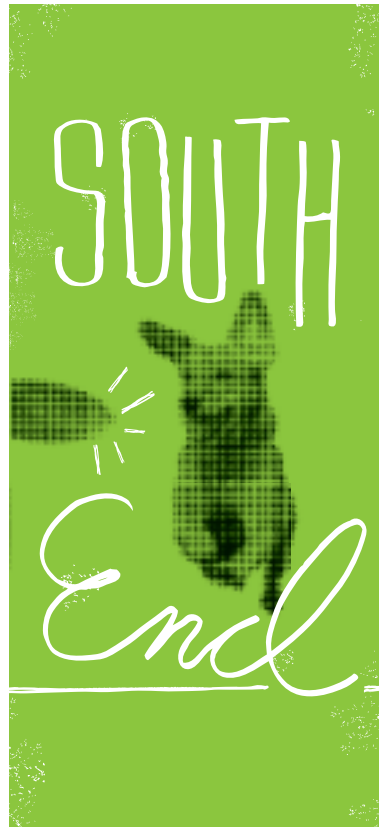
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