

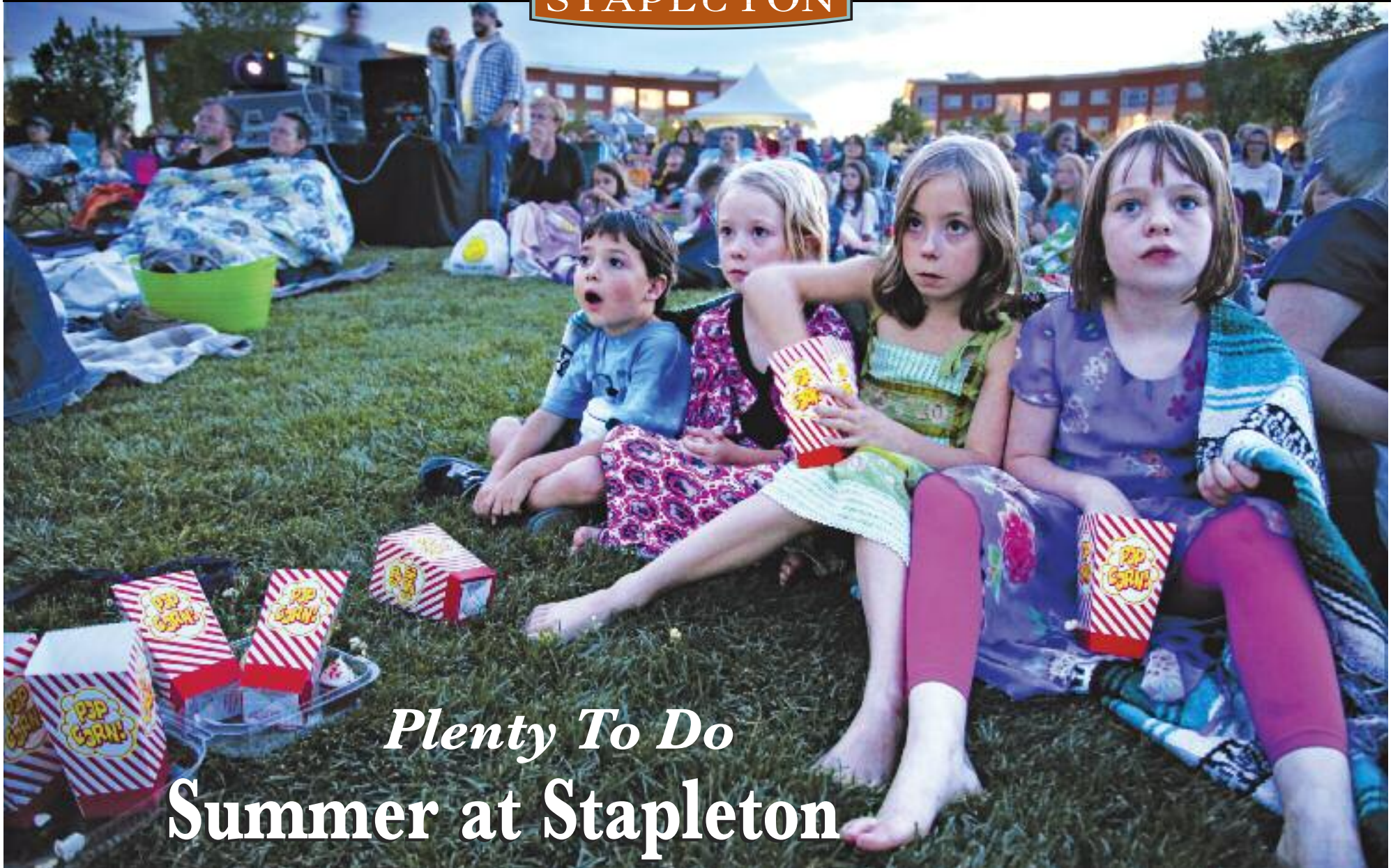
Front Porch

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

DENVER, COLORADO

STAPLETON

JULY 2012



The first free movie of Stapleton's summer season on the Green was "The Adventures of Tin Tin," which drew approximately 1700 people. Above, left to right, Liam Passas, Maggie Kempen, Rowan Kempen and Rowan Walker-Gilman polish off their popcorn as the movie gets underway. Friday night movies on the Green in July will be Hugo on the 13th and Cars 2 on the 27th. All the movies are free and open to the public.

By Carol Roberts

How did Stapleton come to have so many community events, most of which are free and open to the public?

Isn't it unusual to have so many?

"It is," says Diane Deeter, community director for the Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA), "One of the

things that brings our community together is the events. People really look forward spending time with their neighbors at the events. It really is why people buy a home and then buy another home to stay here."

Where did the idea come from to have this kind of programming? Are there examples around the country? Deeter explains, "Denise Gammon, years ago, said, 'Diane, we

want Stapleton to be a lot like how you talk about growing up.' Growing up we rode our bikes to the swimming pool and hung out there. And then for the 4th of July there would be this fun little parade with bikes and trikes and wagons around the park. Everyone hung out on their front porch really got to know each other—very much driven by the (continued on page 31)

By Marc Sallinger

It was an email Stapleton resident Sarah Cohen never expected to receive. The memo from Harmony Management Group, on behalf of the Cohens' sub-homeowners association, Wonderland Homes, began by telling all residents that lived in her courtyard, a total of eight homes, to make sure to remove all personal items from the courtyard each day. What came next in the email, however, caught the attention of Cohen: "While the sidewalk artwork is beautiful, please do not allow children to draw on the common area sidewalks or in the courtyards."

Sarah Cohen and her family moved to Stapleton sold on the notion that it was a "very family-friendly community. Also, we liked the

Chalk Art Controversy Draws Unfair Picture of Stapleton



CBS4 interviewed the Cohens and ran a local story that got picked up by the national news.

courtyard because it is safe for kids and we wouldn't have to worry about them being in the street." Cohen's daughter Emerson is four years old and is just learning how to read and write. Sidewalk chalk and consequently chalk art is, according to Sarah, "a simple pleasure of life for Emerson. She is learning how to spell her name and having fun drawing hearts, (continued on page 10)

Sam Gary Library Progressing toward August 11 Grand Opening

By Jen Morris

In mid-June, Library staff began officially moving into the new Sam Gary Branch Library located at 2961 Roslyn Street in the Stapleton Town Center. Throughout June and July they will be working fast and furiously stocking shelves and installing IT equipment in anticipation of the grand opening community celebration on Saturday, Aug 11.

The contractor, Adolfson & Peterson has indicated that the majority of the construction work has been completed, how-



with Arts & Venues Denver.

In the meantime, the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation will be hosting a special sneak-preview event on July 19 to thank current donors, and those who have already purchased an inscribed paver outside of the branch. Members of the public are welcome to attend this event, for the (continued on page 11)

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Q&A with
Charlie Burrell

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Share comments
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Alton Dillard of the Major Taylor Cycling Club gets ready for a 25 mile ride as part of the opening day events at the Hub in the Stapleton 29th Ave. Town Center.



CALENDAR

Events listed below are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC or are nonprofit.
(Additional events are listed on pages 18-22. Recurring events are listed on page 19.)

JULY

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 Tuesday & Thursday

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

Every Friday through August

Stapleton Summer Strolls 5:30–8:30pm Informal stroll anywhere along 29th between Quebec and Valentia to meet neighbors events@stapletoncommunity.com

Every Saturday

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

Every Sunday through Aug. 5

City Park Jazz at Bandstand/Pavilion, 6–8pm Info about bands at CityParkJazz.org 7/1 Lionel Young; 7/8 Jakarta 7/15 Jeff Jenkins; 7/22 Carmen Sandim 7/29 Eric Gunnison's Wake Up Call 8/5 Chris Daniels and the Kings

Monday, July 2

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

Wednesday, July 4

Pancake Breakfast 9–10:30am. Parade 10:30–11am Central Park events@stapletoncommunity.com

Friday, July 6

First Friday Flight (South American Wine Tasting) 7–8:30pm Puddle Jumper Pool*

Saturday, July 7

Concert on The Green "Outta My Alley" 5–6pm "The Nacho Men" 6:30–8:30pm The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, July 7 & Aug 4

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

Saturday, July 7 & Aug 4

Museum of Contemporary Art Denver With new art-making space for children, "The Bubble Garden" 1¢ admission on first Saturdays 1485 Delgany St., MCADenver.org

Thursday, July 12

Active Minds Potluck starts at 6pm and Seminar starts at 7pm "The Mormon Faith" Stapleton MCA Community Room*

Thursday, July 12 & 26

Bluff Lake Nature Center's Fireside Chats, 6:30–7:30pm, followed by roasted marshmallows. Suggested \$1 nonmember donation. lchickos@blufflake.org

Thursday, July 12 & Aug 9

"Raise the Roof" neighborhood celebration, 5–9pm Sponsored by Denver Film Society, 2510 E. Colfax

JULY

Friday, July 13

Movie on The Green "Hugo" Starts when dark The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, July 14

Stapleton Charity Cornhole (Beanbag) Tournament, The Green 11am–3pm www.stapletoncornhole.com (see p.22)

Friday, July 20

Relay for Life. The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Sat, July 21 & Sun, July 22

Stapleton Community Wide Garage Sale 8am–1pm www.BuildingStapleton.com/garagesale

Saturday, July 21

Concert on The Green "Wabash Cannonballs" 5–6pm "Serenade in Blue" 6:30–8:30pm The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Sunday, July 22

Active Minds Music Seminar & Brunch "Wait I Know That One" 10am–Noon F15 Pool* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Thursday, July 26

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

Friday, July 27

Movie on The Green "Cars 2" Starts when dark The Green* events@stapletoncommunity.com

Saturday, July 28

Sweet William Market 9am–2pm. The Green* www.sweetwilliammarket.com Last Saturday of the month thru Sept.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 11

Stapleton Sam Gary Library Opens Grand opening celebration, all-day entertainment and activities. More info in August issue.

Saturday, August 18

Stapleton Beer Festival, 4–8pm Tickets at stapletoncommunity.com

*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.



4th of July Pancake Breakfast & Parade

Just a reminder—the pancake breakfast will begin at 9am and the parade begins at 10:30am. Line up along the promenade at the fountain and head east toward the lake, looping around back to the fountain area.

The pools will open as scheduled. All pools will close at 6pm.

Stapleton Summer Strolls

The Summer Strolls will begin every Friday at 5:30–8:30pm and will feature different vendors from around the area. The strolls are a great opportunity to stroll down 29th Ave. Parkway and to get to know other people in the community.

First Friday Flights

Our second wine flight will be held at Puddle Jumper Pool and will showcase wines from South America. This event will be divided into four sections—featuring a new wine (provided by The Grape Leaf), sommelier and an assortment of cheese plates (provided by Whole Foods Market- Cherry Creek). Tickets are \$10 per person for all Stapleton residents and \$20 per person for all nonresidents. All patrons must be 21 years of age and over and must present their ID to enter.

Concerts & Movies

Bring your picnic, blanket, family and friends to our annual music and movie series on The Green. The first concert of the month is on July 7 and will feature Outta My Alley and The Nacho Men. Wabash Cannonballs and Serenade in Blue is scheduled for July 21. Local food trucks will be stopping by and concerts will begin at 5pm.

Hugo is scheduled for July 13. Cars 2 will be featured on July 27. Games 2U will be joining us during movie nights with two hamster balls! The concession stand will be available at all movies and will benefit local nonprofit organizations. Popcorn, candy, sodas and water will be available for sale. Movies will begin at dark.

Yoga on The Green

Yoga on The Green has officially begun. Come support your local Stapleton elementary schools by coming to a yoga class. Classes will be held every Saturday on The Green from 4–5pm through the end of July.

There is no fee, but we are asking for donations! The suggested donation is \$10–\$15. All skill levels are welcome. Recommended age is 14 and up. For more information, contact Stapleton CorePower Yoga at 303.377.7444.

Active Minds Seminar & Potluck

The Mormon Faith Join Active Minds for an examination of the origins, teachings and practices of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

This is a potluck event! Please bring an item to share. Beverages, plates and utensils will be provided. The potluck will begin at 6pm and the seminar will

start at 7pm on Thursday, July 12 in the Stapleton MCA Community Room (located behind King Soopers at 2823 Roslyn St.). Active Minds seminars are free and open to the public!

Wait, I Know That One! Join Active Minds as we investigate the musical themes that you know you know...or, do you? They include radio and TV themes and music used in commercials composed by such notables as Mendelssohn and Mozart. This music series will kick off with a brunch on Sunday, July 22 at the F-15 Pool (2831 Hanover St.). The seminar will begin at 10am and will follow with a potluck brunch at 11am. Please bring an item to share. Drinks, plates and utensils will be provided. No prior musical knowledge is required. Please RSVP for all music seminars to the Stapleton MCA at 303.388.0724.

Stapleton Community Garage Sale

Diana and Michael Kearns are once again sponsoring the Stapleton Community Garage Sale. The sale will last for two days. The west side (west of Westerly Creek) will be on Saturday, July 21 from 8am–1pm. The east side (east of Westerly Creek) will be on Sunday, July 22 from 8am–1pm. For more information regarding the sale, contact garagesale@buildingstapleton.com.

Kids' Triathlon

The Stapleton MCA is hosting another Kids' Triathlon on Sunday, August 12 at the Jet Stream Pool. Registration will open online on July 1. Space is limited. For more details about this event or to register, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com. Each age group will have a limited number of entries, so register today!

Stapleton Beer Festival

Mark your calendars for our third annual Stapleton Beer Festival on Saturday, August 18 from 4–8pm on The Green. This event features craft brewers and food trucks from around the state. Tickets can be purchased online starting July 1. To purchase tickets, visit www.stapletoncommunity.com

If you have questions or would like more information about the events above, please contact events@stapletoncommunity.com, visit our website at www.stapletoncommunity.com or call the MCA Office at 303.388.0724.

Dani Mead
Communications Coordinator



Sponsored by Stapleton MCA

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Front Porch

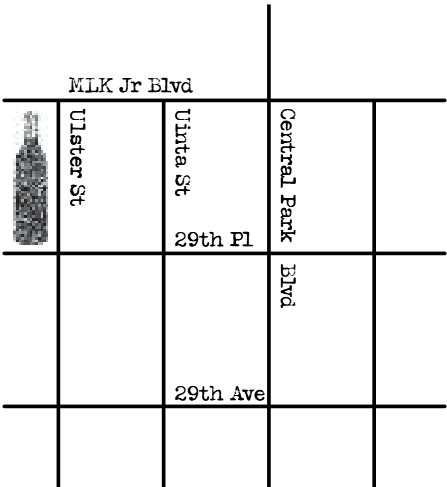
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Kids Follow their Agricultural Heritage

By Nancy Burkhart

Four years ago, former Park Hill resident Denise Lines saw the refugees who were moving to Denver from such war-torn areas as Africa and Burma and decided to give the children a place to learn about the United States by providing work from their agricultural heritage.

“My background is social work,” Lines explained. “I had met a lot of the refugees when they began to be settled in Denver. Gardening has been my stress reliever, my thing, and I was an intern at Delaney Farm. I went through the master gardener program.”

Lines conceived an idea to create partnerships with owners of property that could be used for vegetable gardens to feed the children’s refugee families.

“This year we have three active gardens, two in Park Hill, where we have a team of youth who go to work there every Saturday,” she said. “We work and harvest, and we share the harvest with the host. We have three backup gardens where the owners grow produce for us to use and we use their yards for meeting places, but we don’t tend those each week.”

There are 25 participants aged six to 21 in the Growing Colorado Kids program this year.

“These are all food stamp kids,” Lines said. “These families come from generations of farmers, so it’s put them back in touch with their culture. Just imagine, you come here, don’t know the language, the culture. It’s teamwork and leadership. We want the kids to be successful for themselves.

“We rent a café to teach them to cook and to teach them about the vitamins in the

things that they’re growing. We show them how to extend their produce by canning, preserving and giving cooking classes. We are feeding the families at the same time, but it’s not a handout. We honor their pride.”

The children start the growing season by filling flats with seeds. This year, Front Range Organic Gardeners donated seed-starter soil and Bakers Creek Heirloom provided seeds, according to Lines. She said that the Beanstalk Foundation is working with Growing Colorado Kids to find money for a greenhouse.

“It’s so much more than gardening,” Lines said. “It’s more like a family. It’s a

youth-led program. They make all the decisions, all the choices. The kids vote for a leader in the group. A team of two leads at each garden. They do it all. This year, the kids can earn up to \$150 if they have no strikes against them and are doing everything they need to do in the garden. They recruit, although I’m also connected with some of the resettlement agencies. It’s really word-of-mouth. It’s really hard work and I

Growing Colorado Kids is a partnership with owners of property that can be used for vegetable gardens. The program enables the children of refugee families to earn money and learn leadership skills.

have high expectations. You have to show up at the garden in your shirt and shoes and with a water bottle ready.”

Hajia Muya is a senior in high school who lives in Stapleton. She is Somali Bantu from Somalia and is a garden leader, one of the first members of Growing Colorado Kids. She dropped out for a year while she was doing another program, but returned when the group voted her back in. She plans to attend community college and then a four-year college after graduation.

“Growing (continued on page 6)

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July 2012

4

Stapleton Front Porch

People Who
Make a Difference

The Musician

Charlie Burrell is a music icon in Denver. Born in Toledo, Ohio, and raised in Detroit, he came to Denver when he was told after graduating from college that no university would hire a black music professor. Years later, as a highly accomplished musician in both classical and jazz composition, he says he never really fit in either circle. To the symphony goers he was somewhat an anomaly and to the jazz world he was considered an “Uncle Tom.” However, his wide success has now made him a legend in both worlds.



Charlie Burrell

Jon Meredith: What brought you from Detroit to Denver?

Charlie Burrell: I finished my education at Wayne State University and I went in to see my advisor about what I could do from there on. He talked nice and very glowing about me but he said, “As long as I am head of the Music Department for the City of Detroit, there’ll be no blacks in the system.” That was on a Friday and on Monday I was in Denver. I put my bass under the bus and away I went. My mother was from Denver, so I had relatives here. I knew I had to leave Detroit because I was 30 years old and couldn’t get a job.

JM: Your mother was from Denver? How did she end up in Toledo?

Burrell: My mother was born here in Denver and actually her name was Denverado. My dad was from Texas and took her back there before going to Ohio. My dad was what was called a “freelancer,” better known as a hustler or a pimp. He had left Texas because he had killed a person. When they finally got to Detroit, he got a job as a sanitation worker. He never knew I played bass because he worked all day and went out carousing at night.

JM: What made you pick up the bass?

Burrell : I was in junior high. I remember it was a Friday afternoon. The band director, whose name was Mr. Harrington, came in and said we have an opening for someone who would like to play in the orchestra. I didn’t know the difference between the band and the orchestra but I raised my hand. He took me in the music room and in the corner was an old aluminum bass. It was really heavy. I plucked one of the strings and said, “I’ll take it.” My career started from there. The next Friday I brought a little red wagon, loaded up the bass and walked home a mile and a half with my treasure. My lessons started the next week and were 25 cents, which I hustled for. My mother said, “Charlie, if you want to do it, go ahead, but make sure you do it right.”

JM: How did an inner-city African-American child, growing up during the Depression, get the idea of playing classical music?

Burrell: What prompted going with classical music was, I heard on a crystal set (an early version of the radio) at age 12 the San Francisco Symphony, under the direction of Pierre Monteux. I was so enamored and carried away with

this I said to myself, “That is what I want to do.” They were playing Tchaikovsky’s 4th Symphony and I had never heard anything so beautiful.

JM: You played for Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops prior to being the first African-American to play with the San Francisco Symphony?

Burrell: That is right. I was living in Los Angeles and my teacher said that Mr. Fiedler couldn’t find enough musicians for the summer. The teacher asked me if I wanted to play and I said of course.

JM: You played for years with the Denver Symphony; however, you are very well known here as a jazz musician. How did you start playing jazz?

Burrell: When I first played for the symphony, the season was only 12 weeks and I had a family to feed. I needed to pick up whatever gigs I could.

JM: Why has Denver been such a hotbed for jazz over the years?

Burrell: The big reason is because between Chicago and LA there was only one stop and

that was Denver. At that time, they had a club here called the Rossonian. There was a fellow named Shelly Rim and he got the whole thing going. The musicians would come by car, four or five in one car with the bass sticking out of the trunk. They would then stay at Shelly’s house. The real reason for jazz in Denver was a gentleman named George Morrison who really started the movement. When blacks came here they couldn’t get any help from the whites and couldn’t play in the white hotels and the black joints didn’t pay anything. Morrison had a seven-piece band that played in the Italian section in Northwest Denver. He never worked in the Negro joints, which was smart, because the white places paid. I played on the Denver Post train to the Cheyenne rodeo, which was wild. We got paid \$10 and ate the biggest steak I have ever seen.

JM: You have played with many famous musicians. What are your fondest memories?

Burrell: I was invited by Louise Duncan, who is a marvelous jazz pianist, the best pianist I have ever played with. She asked me to play a brunch at the Fairmont Hotel here. I played the brunch on Sunday morning from 10 to 1 and then went on to the symphony which started at 2. I also played at a club near the Brown Palace Hotel called Romulo’s with Billie Holiday. She arrived two hours late because, as you know, she was a junkie, but I adored her. She started singing a tune named Them There Eyes. The lyrics are “I fell in love with you the first time I looked into them there eyes.” She looked right at me while she sang that and I couldn’t control myself.

The City Park Jazz concert on June 24 paid tribute to Charlie Burrell. Sadly, a police officer on duty at the concert was shot and killed.



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Growing Kids

(continued from page 4) Colorado Kids is part of my life,” Muya said. “It’s a family for me. It’s like a second home. I’m still going to be with them after I graduate. I know they’re working to give older kids jobs. It’s a part of my future. It has done a lot for me in terms of getting closer to my siblings and getting closer to my parents. They have been farmers all their lives. It makes them proud every day for us to be part of that.”

“I want to stress how skillful and talented these kids are, how they have impacted stereotypes in a positive way,” Lines said. “It’s not easy to be a young, black Muslim in the U.S. When people get to know them as people, it’s just amazing. People do a total 360 degrees and develop relationships with them. That’s so powerful.”

To volunteer, donate or get information about Growing



Colorado Kids, go to www.growingcolorado.org. Email Denise Lines at deniselines@yahoo.com or call 720.685.3172.

Left: Third grader Kwae Ka Nyaw, 8, picks vegetables to take home. Above: Twenty-year-old Hagia Muya, a refugee from Somalia, stands with founder of the group Denise Lines.

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Knows You Well

By Nancy Burkhart

Health insurance costs seem to be reaching for the ceiling, while doctors spend less and less time on their patients and more and more time billing them. A new healthcare concept, called Direct Primary Care, has taken off on both the East and West Coasts that allows people to carry just catastrophic insurance and pay a flat monthly charge for as much access to the family physician as needed.

For the past eight years, Dr. Lisa Davidson has had a traditional family medicine practice located in Lowry. Her new family medicine practice, opening July 9 in Stapleton, will offer Direct Primary Care. The new practice, called Insight Primary Care and located at 2373 Central Park Blvd., will have two family physicians, Lisa Davidson and Amy Cook, and a physician's assistant.

Davidson describes Direct Primary Care as basic healthcare, which is 80 percent or more of the care provided in the country. She said that things like a baby's earache, an adult's sinus infection, chronic disease management and preventive care can all be managed through a Direct Primary Care practice that is separate from a catastrophic insurance policy. These basic healthcare needs drive up insurance costs. Davidson says it is like expecting car insurance to pay for a car's oil change or new windshield wipers.

Davidson advises patients who use Direct Primary Care to carry an insurance policy for catastrophic illness and injuries and emergency medical care when traveling. However, the cost of high-deductible catastrophic insurance is much lower than that of traditional insurance.

Anyone can choose Direct Primary Care. Davidson says



Dr. Lisa Davidson and her daughter Olivia, 10, pose (after removing their helmets) on the scooter Davidson uses to make the short commute from home to her new office at 23rd and Central Park Blvd.

A New Concept in Health Care

people who are interested in Direct Primary Care should ask about catastrophic policy options at their annual insurance renewal time and also ask Davidson's office to show them how Direct Primary Care would compare financially for their situation.

Insight Primary Care charges \$49 a month for an adult plus a \$10 fee for each office visit. This monthly fee covers as many in-person visits, e-visits and/or phone conversations as needed. And the doctor will spend as much as an hour with the patient. "We have a smaller patient population and we get to know everybody and we get to know all their situations," says Davidson.

All in-house tests and procedures are included. No insurance is involved. If there might be any additional costs, they will be known before the patient leaves the office. "We draw blood in the office, but we don't charge for the blood draw," Davidson said. "If we pay the lab (rather than insurance or the patient paying), it's only \$36, so we're going to pass the reduced cost along to our patients.

"If somebody comes in to a regular doctor's office and has high-deductible insurance, the visit is billed at an insurance rate," she said. "A strep throat visit could cost \$30 for a co-pay, plus \$116 for the visit because of the high de-

ductible." If that person makes four doctor visits per year, that would cover the cost of a Direct Primary Care plan.

Davidson says prices for children ages 0 to 5 years old are \$25 a month, and \$15 a month for ages 6 to 18. She said she works in preventative medicine to keep weight down, keep blood pressure under control, treat headaches, sinus infections, and conduct women's care and mental health treatment.

Senior citizens on Medicare can participate as well. "We don't bill Medicare, but we have a lot of patients who come to us with Medicare Part B supplemental," Davidson said. "Our patients look at which Part B they have and can afford to downgrade to utilize our services for \$49 a month. It helps save them money as well.

"We love seeing our patients," Davidson says they encourage patients to come or call right away when they have a health concern, rather than wait several days while the problem may get worse. And a doctor is on call by phone or email 24 hours a day.

Davidson points out that a Direct Primary Care provider in Seattle compared their statistics to regional benchmarks and found they had 82% fewer hospitalizations, 66% fewer specialist visits, 65% fewer emergency room visits and 43% fewer days in the hospital. "It's going to help a lot of people save money too," she added.

Dr. Lisa Davidson has lived in Stapleton for seven years with her husband two children.

To make an appointment with Dr. Lisa Davidson or Dr. Amy Cook at Insight Primary Care, call 303.344.3625. For more information on Direct Primary Care, go to www.insightprimary.com.

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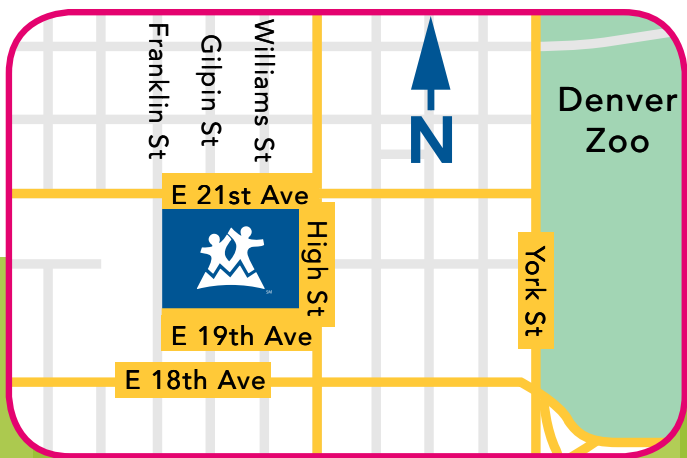
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Stapleton resident, president of Stapleton United Neighbors (SUN) and East High physics teacher Andrew Schurger serves up a cup of shave ice for young customers at The Green in the 29th Ave. Town Center.

Physics Teacher Cools Stapleton with Shave Ice

By Nancy Burkhart

Normally Stapleton knows Andrew Schurger as an East High School physics teacher and president of Stapleton United Neighbors. But this summer, Andrew and his wife, Katherine, along with their 21-month-old son, Bryson, are running Bombo's Rocky Mountain Shave Ice. They offer the summer sweet treat on The Green and at events all over Stapleton.

The Schurgers learned about the shave ice (not shaved ice) delicacy during a vacation in Hawaii last year.

"There was a place not far from where we were staying that had shave ice," Andrew said. "We were there every day and loved it. We thought this would be absolutely perfect for Stapleton. So, in early spring this year we jumped on it, and Bombo's was born."

The name, Bombo's, comes from a project Andrew's father worked on at a chemical company. He remembered seeing jackets with the name on it.

"It sounded like a good name because it was an inside joke," Andrew said.

The shave ice comes in 21 different flavors. A customer can order up to three flavors on top of the shave ice, and can get either vanilla or macadamia nut Liks ice cream underneath it. The shave ice comes in small, medium and large at \$2, \$3 and

\$4. The ice cream can be added for an extra dollar.


"The popular flavors are strawberry, cherry and blue raspberry," Andrew said. "We have a lot of tropical flavors: piña colada, guava, watermelon, passion fruit. We have root beer and bubble gum, which the kids love. I like mango personally."

Andrew's physics students were excited about the project last spring, and a few have stopped by, but he doesn't get into the physics applications of Bombo's, he said.

"I have a machine that shaves the ice and pours the flavors on top of it," Andrew explained. "It gives a real fine consistency almost like snow. It holds the flavor better. It's not as crunchy. The flavor's all the way through. We use all natural cane sugar vs. syrup. All of our cups and spoons are compostable. We have a composting bin at our site."

Bombo's Rocky Mountain Shave Ice will be on The Green and at events throughout Stapleton through September, according to Andrew.


"Things will slow down when the school year starts, but there may be some events I'll be able to work at," he said. "We'll open next spring with a vengeance. We'll be everywhere. We're a Stapleton business. We're doing this because we feel this is something the Stapleton community will love."




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Sex Education in a High-Tech World

By Courtney Drake-McDonough

Sex hasn't changed that much over the years, nor has the need to educate the next generation about safe and appropriate ways to handle it. What has changed is the delivery method—it's gone high tech.

During a recent panel discussion entitled "Sexual Health in the Digital Age," held at the Denver School of Science and Technology at Stapleton, Sen. Michael Bennett noted, "Our kids are growing up on social media. It's the ecosystem in which we live and it's around them 24/7." The images, influences and misinformation have been reaching out to youth on TV and over the Internet for a while now. But social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and MySpace add another dimension, broadening the opportunities to provide a curious and confused teen with a world of incorrect and harmful information.

Sexual information and images are coming at kids from music, videos, chat rooms, social media, even their cell phones. However, "there are no checks and balances," says Nicole Veltze, principal of North High School. "When information is coming at kids, there's no sense of what's right or not; what's normal or not. Everything comes across as normal. Technology skews their perception of what they need to be, look like and speak like. Kids need to have the skills to think critically about the messages that are coming at them." They need to be taught values and responsible use from a very young age.

It's not uncommon for kids to Google the information they want. But what comes up first is the site that gets the most hits and may not be correct information, notes Alison Macklin, director of the Responsible Sex Education Institute for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains. "Kids want information immediately, so if there isn't the correct information for them immediately (from a trusted resource), they'll go elsewhere for it."

If kids' methods of communicating and getting information are through technology, then, the panel proposes, make sure they are getting the right information through technology. "Meet them where they are," says Macklin. A variety of online and texting programs are in place to address the situation. Two programs highlighted during the panel discussion reach kids online and by text:

www.BeforePlay.org – The interactive website calls itself



Sen. Michael Bennet starts a recent panel discussion entitled "Sexual Health in the Digital Age," held at DSST. The panel includes State Senator Angela Giron, Nicole Veltze, principal of Denver North High School, Greta Klingler, Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Alison Macklin, Planned Parenthood of the Rockies, and Stephanie Cisneros, recent graduate of Adams City High School, now attending University of Northern Colorado.

"your official online guide to stay informed, be prepared and get talking." It was developed in partnership between the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado Initiative to Reduce Unintended Pregnancy (CI). Sections like "Are you ready?" help give a realistic view of what it would be like to have a child. "Get talking" gives sample conversation starters aimed at family, partner, friend and health care provider on a variety of challenging topics like STDs and pregnancy.

www.textcyc.com – "ICYC" stands for "in case you're curious" and was created by Planned Parenthood. Questions can be submitted online or via text with an answer coming within 24 hours from a trained professional. They don't give medical advice but can handle many questions including: "Can two people have a good relationship without having sex?" or "How old do you have to be to get birth control?"

In addition to reaching kids through technology, the panel emphasized the importance of schools providing education about sexual health along with effective parental communication. They suggested parents have "the talk" with their kids repeatedly, over time instead of having it once. "A lot of parents get very nervous about talking about sex with their kids because there is the assumption that if you start talking about it, they will start doing it. What you're actually doing is giving them the tools they need now and in 10

years. They don't know what they don't know! Kids are trying to figure out the answers so give them honest, basic answers," says Greta Klingler, manager of the Colorado Family Planning Initiative for CDPHE.

Veltze suggests parents "speak from your values early on to help kids think critically about what's coming at them. As parents, educators and in the community, we have to be pushing the courageous conversations with kids."

Courtney Drake-McDonough is a Denver native and freelance writer and editor. She is also the mother of four, ages 13–21.

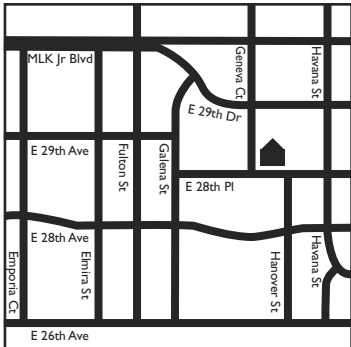
Teens, technology and sex:

- 84% of teens sleep with their cell phone on or right next to their bed.
- As of 2010, 75% of 12–17-year-olds own cell phones, up from 45% in 2004.
- 73% of online teens use social network sites.
- One in three teens sends more than 100 texts per day.

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Chalk Art Controversy

flowers and suns with chalk.” Allowing her daughter the childhood pleasure of chalk art is important to Cohen. After all, she says, “Taking sidewalk chalk out of summer is like taking glitter out of Christmas.”

Cohen says she and her husband asked the homeowners association who made the complaint “so that we could be good neighbors and go talk to our neighbors and resolve this in a neighborly fashion instead of going through the HOA. My biggest concern through all of this is if someone is offended every time someone does something then people are going to go to the HOA instead of having the common courtesy to go knock on your neighbor’s door and have a conversation with them. Had that happened or had I been able to have that conversation with a neighbor, none of this would have happened... As an HOA they should have been able to handle this better and they didn’t and my response was to call the TV station... I had one interview with Channel 4 (and one with the Front Porch). I did not give any other interviews to national news stations. All of the information that was portrayed on the national news came from the Channel 4 story in which



The Front Porch found no visible chalk art at Wonderland Courtyard homes despite a clarification from the management company requesting that chalk be immediately adjacent to one’s own front walk and not in front of neighbor’s residences until the community meeting when residents can discuss the issue.

other media did not check the facts or call for comments.” Cohen adds, “My only regret is that Stapleton as a whole was portrayed in this poor light, but I don’t regret anything else.”

Wonderland Homes is the builder of Cohen’s home and the board for the homeowners association until more

homes are built. Their property manager, Michelle Lee of Harmony Management Group, sent the email saying “please do not allow children to draw on the common area sidewalks or in the courtyards” in response to a complaint by one of the residents. Lee talked about the chalk art situation in an interview with the Front Porch. “There is no specific rule prohibiting sidewalk chalk at Stapleton. This is just relevant to this small courtyard. We just asked that sidewalk chalk not be used on the shared courtyard... Wonderland is not interested in making a bunch of rules or prohibiting sidewalk chalk. They just want the community to reach an agreement about what’s acceptable and what’s not acceptable and how we’re going to resolve community issues going forward. We don’t feel going to the media is the best solution. We could have had a community meeting and talked about this without all the media attention.”

Michael Hart, vice president of sales and marketing for Wonderland Homes, stated, “When she (Michelle) gets a complaint from a member of the HOA on any issue, the management company first takes some action to at least temporarily address the complaint and I think that’s what Michelle did in this case. It was never our intent to permanently unilaterally outlaw chalk art or toys in the courtyard or any such thing. But when you’ve got all the members of a sub-association, as we have here, each of whom has equal rights to use the courtyard and to be free from what they see as other people’s misuse of the courtyard, I think we (Wonderland) as the declarant and the management company have a responsibility to everybody who is a part of that sub-association to ensure that no one person or party has an advantage that others think is inappropriate.”

By the time this newspaper is distributed, the courtyard owners will have had a community meeting with a professional mediator to discuss a resolution to the chalk art issue and how they, as a community, want to solve future issues. “Is chalk art a big deal? Hardly,” says Mike Hart. “And I’m not sure that in the final analysis after we have a community meeting and we discuss it that it will ever be an issue again. But when somebody complains about anything, we can’t ignore that.”

Since the original email was sent out, an onslaught of local and national media has taken fire at the Stapleton community as a whole because most reports stated, “The Stapleton Homeowners Association” banned chalk art. In one report, a CNN host and reporter went so far as to laughingly refer to Stapleton as a “fascist” community; another suggested people



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should think twice about moving to Stapleton.

The Stapleton Master Community Association (MCA) became the target of emails from all around the world. To set the record straight in the community, they sent out two separate email messages clarifying that “We have never asked any resident (verbally or in writing) to stop using chalk in public spaces within the community; in fact, we have always encouraged free expression within all of our public spaces,” and “The Stapleton MCA does NOT have any rules prohibiting chalk art on any sidewalk throughout our community. We encourage it at our pools and even in the MCA-managed parks.”

MCA executive director Keven Burnett has contacted the local media to correct the misinformation that has been reported about Stapleton, but has been unable to reach the national media who have been perpetuating incorrect information. “This one particular

issue has really painted the community in a way it really isn’t.” Burnett went on to say, “We definitely see that this is a black eye that is unwarranted and is being perpetuated by the fact that this misinformation seems to be continued in every future iteration of this story. The corrections that we were able to get locally don’t seem to be reflected nationally... We are such a shining example of what an infill development project can attain that it’s a shame that that now seems to be the brush that the whole community is painted with.”

Stapleton had its first chalk art contest nine years ago. Burnett said he recently heard “the first person who won our chalk art contest has graduated from the Denver School of the Arts and is moving on to college with an art scholarship.”

Marc Sallinger is an intern at the Front Porch.



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Stapleton Library

(continued from p. 1)

cost of \$25 per person which will include an exclusive first-look at the new branch, refreshments, entertainment, and a \$25 discount on each paver purchased at the event. All proceeds from the event will be used to enhance the branch materials and programming. Space is limited, visit dpl-friends.org or call 720-865-2050 to purchase tickets.

This library branch is the second of three voter-approved Better Denver



Above: The west side plaza area of the new library, located at Roslyn and 29th Drive.

Bond funded, newly constructed Denver Public Library branches to be built as part of the Better Denver Bond library improvements.

More information about the new Sam Gary Branch Library can be found online: denverlibrary.org/bond.

Jen Morris is the Marketing and Communications Manager for Denver Public Library.

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Smart Balance, Inc. to Acquire Udi's Healthy Foods, LLC for \$125 Million

Baker's Trade Secret Gluten-Free Master Recipe is Formula for Success
By John Babiak

It is said that in the epicurean world there are many trade secret recipes and methods to prepare foods and beverages. All are safeguarded. Colonel Sander's Original Kentucky Fried Chicken dry coating recipe, complete with eleven secret herbs and spices was

written on a sheet of yellow memo paper. It is secured within a corporate safe that is protected by guards, cameras and motion detectors. The original formula for making Coke's Coca-Cola soda is in a bank vault in downtown Atlanta. Somewhere in Denver, in an undisclosed location and unmarked building is the master recipe for the production of Udi's Healthy Foods' gluten-free baked goods. It



Udi Bar-on shows one of the dishes at his Stapleton cafe. The sale did not include Udi's bakery, restaurant and catering businesses.

ment to acquire Udi's Healthy Foods for \$125 million.

During an interview with Udi's Healthy Foods co-founder and executive vice president Etai Bar-on, son of Udi Bar-on the founder of Udi's bakery, restaurants and catering businesses, the Stapleton resident described the whirlwind chain of fortuitous events in this way: "In 2008, Chadwick White, a baker and food scientist was working for us in our bakery. A friend who suffered from celiac disease, a chronic autoimmune gastrointestinal disorder resulting from sensitivity to gluten protein, asked if he could make a gluten-free sandwich bread with the taste and texture of a traditional bread. White experimented and successfully produced an artisan-quality bread. His friend sampled the bread and said that it filled a void unfulfilled by any other bread." Udi Bar-on and a few partners were convinced next. "We took samples to a celiac chapter meeting. The group was overwhelmed. Some members even cried!" added Bar-on. With these endorsements, the Bar-on's decided to take a calculated risk and make the investment to start a gluten-free business. They hired White to lead product development and made him a partner. Colorado's King Soopers became their first customer and in 2009, Udi's Healthy Foods' sales hit \$4.3 million. They teamed up with E&A Industries, Inc., a business with expertise in partnering with small-business owners. They supported Udi's through capital investment, marketing knowhow and business management. Today Udi's gluten-free sales exceed \$60 million.

For Stapleton resident Rachel Baumel, Udi's gluten-free products are a household staple. "I removed gluten from my diet about a year and a half ago," said Baumel, who was experiencing digestive problems. She added, "It has made a huge difference and I started feeling much better. Udi's products are delicious and consistent. We trust the quality of their baked goods too."

The sale of Udi's Healthy Foods to Smart Balance Inc. excluded Udi's bakery, restaurant and catering businesses and once the transaction closes, negotiations between Udi's and Smart Balance will commence to determine the future use of the Udi's brand name. One result of the negotiation could be that the local Udi's businesses may change their name.

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is accurate to say that this secret recipe and bakery is "worth millions." The recipe is used for the production of quality breads, bagels, muffins, granolas and frozen pizza products. Innovative product development, a secret baking process and a gluten-free ingredients supply-chain, plus a certified baking facility have propelled the business to the top of the gluten-free baked goods market. Gains made in market share and a strong reputation among consumers attracted the attention of Smart Balance Inc., a healthy foods company. On June 1, Smart Balance announced that it had signed an agree-

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Hot Tub Gift Brings Happiness to Ill Tot

By Nancy Burkhart

Three and a half year-old Kingsley Larsen was born with a neurological brain disease. He is nonverbal, but he has a laugh that makes people around him want to share his happiness.

That happiness was obvious in Kingsley last month when the Make-A-Wish Colorado Chapter gave a party at Kingsley's home for family and friends, including firemen from Stapleton's Fire House 26, as the Wish model hot tub was installed for him.

"He has super tight muscles," explained Kingsley's mother, Summer Larsen. "He's on muscle relaxers. Therapists were trying to push me to take him to the Easter Seals salt water therapy pool. But, it's in Lakewood. It's quite a drive. At first we talked about getting a warm water therapy tub. Then it turned into a hot tub. Now we're going to do his therapies in the hot tub."

Kingsley was eligible to get his wish from Make-A-Wish because he is part of the Children's Hospital Butterfly Program, a pediatric hospice program. His social worker in the Butterfly Program referred him to Make-A-Wish.

"He's deemed terminally ill. He has a genetic abnormality," Summer said. "He's got his own special personality and he's a superstar. He's got a floater that goes around his neck to hold him up in the hot tub. Now he's floating and has 100 percent control of himself. It's amazing to see him move his arms and legs just because he knows he can."

Kingsley was the 500th recipient of the Wish model hot tub, made by Marquis, a spa manufacturing company in Inde-

Left: Lt. Shawn Brooks from the Stapleton Fire Station fills the hot tub donated by the Make a Wish Foundation as Zac and Summer Larsen (holding Kingsley) look on. **Right:** Zac, Kingsley and Summer Larsen with Fire Fighters Jeff Wagoner and Molly Livaudais from the Stapleton Fire Station.

pendence, OR. Spa Brokers, which has several locations in the Denver area, helped with installation.

Firemen from Fire House 26 brought a fire truck to fill the hot tub

with water and get it ready for use. They had previously met Kingsley and his parents, Summer and Zac Larsen, one night when Kingsley had such a massive seizure that they needed the help of EMTs.

"The fire department was here in less than a minute and a half," Summer said. "The full fire

team came inside and just totally brought us down to a level of calmness. When the Make-A-Wish Foundation got in touch with them about filling Kingsley's hot tub, it wasn't even a question. The fire team came for the party and stayed as long as they didn't have a call. They let the kids try on all their fire gear and get on the truck. I can't tell you how much it meant to us and everyone else here. That just shows you the level of care that our community has."



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By John Babiakof

Touring a zoo is truly one of our favorite pastimes. Annually, over 140 million people visit accredited wildlife preserves, aquariums and zoos in the United States. This is more than the annual attendance at professional basketball, football, hockey and baseball games combined. Worldwide it is estimated that zoos and aquariums attract over 600 million guests yearly.

Zoos, aquariums and preserves face daily challenges in the care and welfare of thousands of captive animals. Behind the scenes, and not often apparent to visitors, is an intricate infrastructure composed of people, strategies, tools and structures that makes this critical operation work.

At Denver Zoo, this responsibility of overall animal welfare is met by a collaborative team of zookeepers, veterinarians, and

Using Behavior Training to Have Happy,



an animal behavioral and husbandry specialist. Emily Insalaco, the zoo’s curator of behavioral husbandry, and Park Hill resident, is a combination of wildlife biologist, psychologist, coach, guidance counselor and an all-knowing parent. She gained this unique position and multitasking role by first earning biology and psychology degrees from Tufts University and then a master’s degree in nonprofit organization management from George Mason University. Insalaco then coupled her academic studies with on-the-job training and experiences as a marine mammal care specialist at the Aquarium of Niagara, and behavior programs manager at Natural Encounters, a recognized animal and staff training, and animal behavior-enrichment business in Florida.

Armed with animal specific management plans, Insalaco views her job “As looking at our animals’ welfare in general, which means both their physical health and behavioral health. So we ask are they healthy, and what do they and our staff need to do to keep them physically healthy? To help them with this, we monitor our animals, and a lot of this we can

accomplish through training. We can call them individually. We ask them to present their different body parts. Look into their mouth, take their temperature, give them their vaccination and perform physical exams.” said Insalaco. “The old way of doing it would be to sedate the animal, which is stressful and dangerous not only for the animal, but also the staff.” Insalaco added, “With our orangutans, we have trained them to give us their hands when asked so we can clip their nails. When one of our orangutans was pregnant, we were able to train her to place her extended belly through an opening in a mesh so a human obstetrician could help us perform ultrasound, and we monitored her pregnancy.”

Behavioral husbandry is now in its sixth year at Denver Zoo and involves mostly mammals with complex, higher-level functioning. The process is well planned and tailored to each animal. Animal keepers develop relationships with the animals. They become in tune with their moods, and are able observe their daily behavior and activity, both normal and not. Staff members work on strengthening be-

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Well-Behaved Zoo Animals

Left: Emily Insalaco, Denver Zoo’s manager of behavioral husbandry, checks in with Woody, an East African Gerenuk. He earned a positive behavior treat for standing up tall when asked by Insalaco.

Right: Kalispell and Sekele, a pair of Okapi, enjoy a leafy treat from Insalaco. Okapi make their home the Ituri Rain-forest located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They have an elongated, dexterous tongue that is capable to pulling leaves from tree branches and plant vines.

haviors such as moving through exhibits, staying stationary and calm in exam chutes, crate training for easy transport, or volunteering for blood draws or injections. For example, in the newly opened Toyota Elephant Passage exhibit, elephants were coached to push a large button mounted on their enclosure wall with their trunk in order to activate an overhead shower. Some keepers even modeled the step-by-step process and activated the shower in front of interested student elephants.

The animal management teams also care for the psychological health of their respective animals. Through the implementation of enrichment activities, they allow for animals to perform natural behaviors that they would display in the wild. Captive animals have all of their basic needs provided for them, but unlike animals in the wild, and sometimes like humans, they can become bored and unstimulated. Well-designed enrichment activities, exhibit features and structures encourage animals to discover their surroundings, think play, sniff, search and forage for food and treats. Some are sensory-based and stimulate the animal’s sight, smell, taste and tactile senses, while others make feeding challenging, if not, more fun. Toys are inserted or built into exhibits so that hands and feet, heads and tails, horns and hooves can be used for playful manipulation.

In the zoo’s hoofed animal exhibit, gerenuk, giraffe-like antelopes can often be seen standing up on their hind legs and stretching their long necks to graze on leaves that have been inserted into cages and hung off of a tree branch. This form of foraging mimics what they would do in their natural dry-savannah habitat in East Africa. In the Northern Shores exhibit, an assortment of fish is placed in built-in cavities of different exhibitry that stimulate the polar bears to smell, find, scratch and claw the snacks out of the various hiding places. And across the walkway, you can view a sea lion confidently manipulating a ball with his fins.

Next time you visit the zoo with your well-behaved and content children or grandkids, ponder the fact that it takes quite a concerted effort to do the same with zoo animals!



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Take a Hike by Marko and John Babiak

Summertime Means Fox Patrol

Ever since we moved to Denver 10 summers ago from San Francisco, the months of June, July and August have come to mean it's time for another season of evening "fox patrol" adventures with my family. A decade ago, these outings were a byproduct of an attempt to address our fussy newborn.

When we arrived, our youngest child, Nick, was just two weeks old. He was a very restless sleeper. We discovered that dead-of-night drives throughout the Lowry and Mayfair neighborhoods helped lull our little rascal into a deep slumber.

It was during these nocturnal excursions that I made a coincidental discovery—tens of urban foxes scampering throughout these same residential neighborhoods. While the sound of the car ride soothed Nick, I would undergo an awakening of sorts. I turned up my keen eyesight and put my high beams on, and was on the lookout for foxes conducting their nightly foot patrol exercises. Fox patrol was born.

Today, like Discovery Channel's Storm Chasers, we plot our course, load up our van with flashlights, photography equipment and snacks, roll down the windows, and set out in search of *Vulpes vulpes*—Denver's red fox. Our territory, like that of the fox, has become quite expansive and diverse. It now includes the Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City, Lowry's Fairmount Cemetery and Mira Vista golf course; all along the Cherry Creek bike path, DU's campus, the Bellevue-Hale-Park Hill neighborhoods, and Stapleton's greenways and remaining undeveloped lots.

Colorado is home to four species of foxes: the red, gray, swift and kit. The feline size, tan-orange swift fox makes its habitat in our eastern short-grass prairies. Its relative, the large-eared, pale charcoal and yellow kit fox occupies the semi-arid shrub lands along the Western Slope. The distinctive gray fox lives up in our foothills and canyons. These small, salt-and-pepper-and-orange-colored foxes are uniquely equipped with sharp claws that enable them to climb trees and evade predators including coyotes and off-leash dogs. The red fox lives in our Front Range com-

munities. They sport a reddish-orange top coat, gray chest, black stocking feet and a white-tipped tail.

Like many mammals that colonized North America during the Ice Age periods, red foxes were able to trek over a land bridge that surfaced near the Bering Strait. The crossing linked Asia and North America. Later, settlers brought red foxes to the colonies and continued their tradition of fox hunting and fur trading. Today, the red fox is the most readily identified and distributed species on our continent, if not the world.

They have evolved to become very adept at living in urban settings. Foxes are most active and visible after dusk and before dawn. Using their excellent above- and below-ground hearing, great sense of smell, and cat-like eyesight, they stalk and pounce on their live prey. With more food remnants available in our trash bins, in addition to rabbits, squirrels, mice, earthworms, berries and fruits found in practically every city block, the red fox is biased toward making its habitat in our neighborhoods.

Mating pairs reproduce in the spring. The female vixen can give birth to as many as six blind kits. She nurses her young for two months, then both parents feed them regurgitated or live food. After nine months of care and mentoring, they move on to establish new territories and dens. To the opportunist



A three-month-old Red fox kit basks in the evening sun near his Stapleton neighborhood burrow. Photo by Marko Babiak

fox, an undeveloped lot, a shady park or backyard shed, is an invitation to excavate out shallow shelters for rest, play and maternity purposes, and become your new next-door neighbor.

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



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DENVER-AREA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

7/3 Tuesday and 7/4 Wednesday- Hudson Gardens 2-night Independence Day Concert featuring Lee Greenwood. Tickets \$29 and up. www.hudsongardens.org.

7/3 Tuesday- Independence Day Eve Celebration in Civic Center Park. 8pm. FREE community concert with patriotic favorites by Colorado Symphony, 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

7/4 Aurora's 4th of July Spectacular. 6-9:30pm. Live music, largest fireworks display in metro area, fireworks 9:30pm. Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda P'kway

7/4 Blues Traveler. Red Rocks. www.aeglive.com

7/4 Evergreen 4th of July Celebration. Evergreen Music Festival, art show, kids' activities. Tickets \$10; 12 and under free. Evergreen Lake House. www.evergreenlakehouse.org

7/4 B52s and Squeeze. Denver Botanic gardens at Chatfield. www.botanicgardens.org

7/4 July 4th at Elitch Gardens. Fireworks at dusk. www.elitchgardens.com

7/4 Liberty 4 Mile Run. Washington Park. Prizes for best patriotic costumes. www.hallucinationsports.com

DENVER METRO EVENTS

Art Walks and Exhibits:

7/7 Friday- Santa Fe Arts District. Santa Fe Dr. between 10th and 6th. www.artdistrictonsantafe.com

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

7/7 Friday- Old South Pearl Art Walk. www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com

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

7/7 Friday- Highlands Square First Friday. 32nd and Lowell, North Denver. www.highlandssquare.com

7/14 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).

7/27 Friday- Final Friday at Denver Art Museum. 6-10pm. General admission applies; members free. Bands, munchies and cash bar. www.denverartmuseum.org

7/6 Friday to 7/8 Sunday- Cherry Creek Arts Festival. www.cherryarts.org

7/7 Saturday- Drums Along the Rockies. 6:30pm. Sports Authority Field at Mile High. www.ascendevents.bknights.org

7/12 Thursday- Denver Film Society Raise the Roof Block Party. FREE. Live music, entertainment; food and drink for purchase. 5-9pm. Lowenstein Complex rooftop, 2510 E Colfax. www.denverfilm.org

7/13 Thursday- P.E.O. International local chapter meeting. P.E.O. philanthropic group supports educational opportunities for women. Meets 2nd Thursday monthly. 7pm. Free. copeojc@gmail.com

7/13 Friday- Urban Home Show at Skyline Park. 11am-7pm. FREE. www.coloradoevents.net

7/13 Friday to 7/15 Sunday- 30th Annual Colorado Gay Rodeo. Jefferson County Fairgrounds. www.cgra.ws

7/13 Friday to 7/15 Sunday- Colorado Black Arts Festival. Read more about the event in the More Events... section.

7/14 Saturday- Old House Society Sidewalk Stroll. 10:30am. Featuring mid-century modern homes in Crestmoor neighborhood. Tickets: \$15 at King Soopers or www.denversoldhousesociety.org

7/14 Saturday- CatFest at Dumb Friends League. Celebrate cats. 10am-3pm. Dumb Friends League, 2080 S. Quebec St. www.ddfl.org, 303.751.5772

7/14 Saturday- Insectival Insect Carnival at Butterfly Pavilion. 10am-5pm; included with admission. www.butterflies.org

7/14 Saturday to 7/15 Sunday- Colorado Irish Festival. Largest Irish celebration in Rocky Mountains: traditional Irish music performances and dancing, Irish drama and storytelling, crafts, games, and food and drinks at Clement Park, Littleton. www.coloradoirishfestival.org

7/15 Sunday- Molly's Birthday Jubilee and Titanic Expo at Molly Brown House. www.mollybrown.org

7/20 Thursday- Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs. For all gardeners. 3rd Thursday. Grace: 303.455.0839

7/21 Saturday- Italian Wine and Movie Night. Ballestrei Vineyards, 1946 E 66th Ave. Wine tasting, food/drink for purchase; movie at 9pm. www.ballestreivineyards.com

7/22 Sunday- Words of Peace. 6-8pm (doors open 5pm). Hear about the possibility of experiencing personal peace. FREE; open to the public. Wells Fargo Theatre at Denver Convention Center. Register: www.wordsofpeace.org/events

7/25 Wednesday to 7/29 Sunday- Buffalo Bill Days. Legacy of Buffalo Bill is celebrated in Golden every July with Wild West show, car show, Mutton Bustin' competition, golf tournament, entertainment, free kiddie train rides, duck race, arts/crafts, etc. Downtown Golden, Parfet Park and other historical museums and parks. www.buffalobilldays.com

7/26 Thursday- Shady Grove Concert Picnic Series at Four Mile Historic Park. 6:30-8:30pm. \$10/adults; \$7 members, seniors, cyclists; \$2 kids 12 and under. Swallow Hill Music Association. www.four-milepark.org

7/27 Friday to 7/29 Sunday- Evergreen Jazz Festival. www.evergreenjazz.org

7/28 Saturday to 7/29 Sunday- Colorado Dragon Boat Festival. 12th annual at Denver's Sloan's Lake Park. www.cdbf.org

8/4 Saturday- Colorado Scottish Festival & Rocky Mountain Highland Games. Highland Celtic celebration with pipe bands, drumming, Scottish athletic competitions, highland dancing and folk music. Heritage Park, Highlands Ranch. www.scottishgames.org

8/10 Friday to 8/12 Sunday- Denver County Fair. National Western Complex. www.denvercountyfair.org

8/17 Friday- The Young@Heart Chorus in This Is Getting Old. 70- and 80-somethings perform songs by Coldplay, Jimi Hendrix, Rolling Stones and more. Proceeds benefit nonprofit Seniors' Resource Center. Curtain at 7pm; doors open 6. Paramount Theatre, 1621 Glenarm St. Tickets: www.YoungAtHeartInDenver.com or 720.855.8133

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

Weekends through July- Colorado Renaissance Festival. 10am-6:30pm. Larkspur, CO. www.coloradorenaissance.com

Thursdays in July- Greenway Foundation Summer Concert Series. FREE concerts held at Confluence Park, 15th and Little Raven, Ruby Hill Park, and in TAXI/RINO neighborhoods. 6:30pm. Specifics at www.greenwayfoundation.org

Monday Movie Madness at Infinity Park. FREE movies at Infinity Park in Glendale, 8pm. www.infinityparkatglendale.com

Mile High Movies in Skyline Park. FREE movies: 7/7 Moneyball, 7/14 Grease, 7/21 The Incredibles, 7/28 Pirates of the Caribbean, Black Pearl. Skyline Park, 16th St Mall at Arapahoe, at dusk. www.denvergov.org/parksandrec

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



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Civic Center Bike-In Movie Series. FREE family-friendly movies in downtown Denver's Civic Center Park. www.civiccenterconservancy.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 for classes/seminars

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

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

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.denverassistanceleague.org or 303.322.5205

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

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

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

7/20 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

Through July- 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.

7/3 Tuesday- The Struggle of Syria. 10:15-11:15am. Jewish Community Center. 350 S. Dahlia St. Lil Shaw: 303.316.6359

7/10 Tuesday- Iran. 12:30-1:30pm. Tattered Cover, 2326 E Colfax. 303.322.7727

7/12 Thursday- The Mormon Faith. 7pm. Potluck 6pm, bring a dish to share. Stapleton Master Community Assoc., 2823 Roslyn St. RSVP: 303.388.0724

7/17 Tuesday- Hinduism. 11am-12pm (10:45 refreshments). Temple Emanuel, 51 Grape St. RSVP: Jodi, 303.388.4013 x307

7/22 Sunday- Wait, I Know That One! 10am program, 11am potluck brunch. Stapleton F15 Pool, 2831 Hanover St. FREE. 303.388.0724

7/24 Tuesday- London, Biography of a City. 5:30-6:30pm. Tattered Cover 2326 E Colfax. 303.322.7727

LIBRARIES

Visit www.dpl.org for children's story hours and book club info, library crafts sessions and a complete programing listing. All branches closed Wednesday, July 4.

Summer of Reading continues through early August. Read and win prizes! Sign up at any DPL branch.

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

7/10 Tuesday- Magic and Puppets with Jim

Loshbaugh. 3pm. Magic and puppetry. All ages. No registration required.

7/17 Tuesday- Mr. Shine presents Go Wild for Books! 3pm. Musical program featuring songs, magic and puppets. All ages. No registration required.

7/24 Tuesday- Hawkquest presents Birds of Prey. 3pm. Eagles, owls falcons and hawks at close range. All ages. No registration required

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

7/8 Sunday- Colorado Authors Series: Maria Sutton. 2pm. Author of the memoir *The Night Sky: A Journey from Dachau to Denver and Back*.

7/14 Saturday- Using Pinterest for Your Small Business. 10am. Learn about Pinterest and how to use it to move your business to the next level.

7/28 Saturday- Personal Awareness & Safety Strategies with IMPACT Personal Safety. Registration required for workshop.

7/28 Saturday- Summer Strumming. 2pm. Laurie Dameron plays guitar and sings environmental pieces to slide shows of Utah and Colorado wildlife/scenery.

8/4 Saturday- Fun in the Sun T-shirt Embellishing. 10am. Bring a T-shirt or tank to transform into summery new look. Registration required

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

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

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

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Apple Camp- FREE workshop where kids become filmmakers. Various July dates. Ages 8-12 learn to shoot footage, create original song in GarageBand on iPad, and put it together in iMovie on a Mac. Held at metro-area Apple Stores. 3 days; ends with campers debuting their masterpieces at Apple Camp Film Festival. Space limited. www.apple.com/retail/camp

Thursdays in July- 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

July and August- Tales of Brer Rabbit. Denver Puppet Theatre, 3156 W (continued on page 20)

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. stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com

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

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

AA Open Meeting
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
Bluff Lake Site Stewards,
Bluff Lake Nature Center
8am-11am, 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 Toastmas-
ter 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.ouellette@ubs.com.
Dee 303- 997-7744
deeindenver@aol.com

1st Saturday
Neighborhood Partners Environ-
mental Team 9am-12pm. Clean
up Westerly Creek. Contact
Lcorrell@dotnet.net for location
CFry@Sandcreekgreenway.org

1st Saturday
Bluff Lake Birders, Nature Cen-
ter 7-9am. BluffLakeNatureCen-
ter.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 Re-
volution at Adagio Bed and Break-
fast, 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)

38th Ave. Tickets: \$7 ages 3 and up. 303.458.6446, www.denverpuppettheater.com.

7/1 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

7/7 Saturday- Home Depot Kids Workshop. 9am-12pm. FREE how-to clinics first Saturday monthly for ages 5-12. Each gets Home Depot apron, wooden project and project pin. Metro-area Home Depot stores. www.homedepot.com

7/11 Wednesday- Create Playdates at Denver Art Museum. Kids 3-5 roar, bang, stomp 2nd Wed/month. 10am. Art making, story times, scavenger hunts. Included in museum admission; 5 and under free. 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy. www.denverartmuseum.org or 720.865.5000

7/14 Saturday and 7/28 Saturday- Lowe's Build and Grow Kids Clinics. Bring kids to a Lowe's store to build FREE wood project: free apron, goggles, project-themed patch, merit certificate on completion. 10am. www.lowesbuildandgrow.com

7/20 Friday- Nature at Night. Bats. 8pm. All ages.

FREE. Morrison Nature Center, 16002 E Smith Rd, Aurora. www.auroragov.org/nature

7/27 Saturday- Denver Botanic Gardens Family Fun Night. 4th Friday monthly nature at night in Mordecai Children's Garden. Monthly themes, performers in Sagebrush Stage, snacks by campfire, nighttime activities. \$20/member family of 4, \$3 extra person. \$25/nonmember family of 4, \$4 extra person. Children 2/under free. www.botanicgardens.org

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.dmmdt.org

Mile Into The Wild Walkway at Wild Animal Sanctuary. Largest carnivore sanctuary in Western Hemisphere: 300 lions, tigers, bears and new mile-long, 30-foot-high walkway lets visitors get up close. \$10/adult, \$8/children. Keensburg, CO. www.wildanimalsanctuary.org

KIDS CAMPS AND CLASSES

7/10 Tuesday to 7/13 Friday- Star K Nature Camp. 9am-12pm. Ages 6-12, Morrison Nature Center. \$50/child. Register: www.auroragov.org or

303.739.2428.

Let's Camp! Overnight camping experience for families new to camping. Sponsored by Colorado State Parks. Sunday 7/1 Chatfield, 7/8 Golden Gate State Park, 7/29 Golden Gate, 8/5 Chatfield. \$30. www.parkstore.state.co.us

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

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

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

Start Art- Art classes. Startartkids.com

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

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

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

Stapleton All Sports- www.stapletonallsports.com

Sol Vida Dance Studio and Dance Summer Camps- Kid and adult classes, workshops, camps, etc. www.solvidadance.com

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER

1200 Broadway. Open Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 12-5pm. Reservations required for events below unless noted; fees apply. www.historycolorado.org or 303.866.4686

Tuesdays through 8/21- Free Tours of Governor's Mansion. 1-3pm. Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion, 400 E 8th Ave. No reservations required.

7/7 Saturday- Washington Park Bike Tour for Families. Fees apply. Appropriate for kids 8+.

7/8 Sunday- Thunderbirds Parrot Performance. History Colorado Center. Free with Museum admission.

7/11 Wednesday- For the People of Colorado: Colorado's Constitution Walking Tour. Learn about Colorado Constitution by touring Civic Center Park and downtown Denver. Walk is up to two miles. 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$5 members, \$4 nonmembers.

7/14 Saturday- LEGO Redo Workshop. 11am-12:15pm. Lego experts show how to repurpose your Lego sets. Adult/child workshop for kids 5-9 years old. \$45 per adult/child pair. Registration required.

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

Montview and Colorado Blvd. www.dmns.org

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

7/19 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, Space Junk 3D.* Various times. Tickets: \$8/3-18; \$10/adult

NORTHFIELD EVENTS

Events at The Shops at Northfield Stapleton-

303.375.5475 www.NorthfieldStapleton.com

7/14 Saturday- Grand Opening of Central Park Blvd Bridge. 2-7pm. Family-friendly events include

Wine Walk, Dumb Friends League adoption event, children's attractions/activities, live music, etc.

Bass Pro Events- 720.385.3600, www.BassPro.com Hunting, fishing and marine seminars offered throughout the month. Call or visit BassPro.com for details.

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. National acts: 7/12- Glen Templeton, 7/20- Thompson Square.

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 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.

7/18 Tuesday and 7/19 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. Contact:

Ichickos@blufflake.org. www.blufflakenaturecenter.org

7/9 Monday to 7/13 Friday- Junior Naturalist Summer Camp: Cold as Ice! 9am-12pm daily. Discover Bluff Lake's cold-blooded animals. Ages 8-12. Camp repeats 7/30-8/5. \$140/ members; \$160/nonmembers.

7/10 Tuesday- Beginning Watercolors for Nature Lovers. 8:30-11am. Artist May Yipp teaches watercolor basics with Bluff Lake as natural backdrop. Ages 18 and over; no experience necessary. Class repeats 7/31. \$20 fee; discount if sign up for multiple classes.

7/12 Thursday- The Real Beetle Juice! Fireside Chat! 6:30- 7:30pm. Park naturalist Jody Morse helps you discover insect collection, cultivation and cooking techniques worldwide, plus delectable bug delights; then "wash down" with marshmallow roast! Suggested donation \$1/ nonmembers.

7/23 Monday to 7/27 Friday- Junior Naturalist Summer Camp: Hot Blooded! 9am-12pm daily. Fun week of mammal/bird-themed explorations and activities. Ages 6-10. \$140/members; \$160/nonmembers

7/26 Thursday- Nature's Dinner Table Fireside Chat! 6:30-7:30pm. Plants and herbs pioneers and Native Americans used as food and medicines in Old West. Explore the prairie and wetlands to find edible plants! Suggested donation \$1/nonmembers.

SPORTS AND FITNESS

Tuesdays in July- Yoga Night at the Museum. Museum of Nature and Science 3rd floor atrium. 5-6pm.

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Thursday and Saturday mornings in July- Tai Chi in the Park. Hosted by Tai Chi Project. www.taichidenver.com, 303.744.7676 for location/costs.

7/14 Saturday- Sand Creek Half Marathon 5K/10K. Stapleton Central Park. www.runningguru.com

7/14 Saturday- Kaiser Permanente Moonlight Classic. Charity bike ride through city at night. Family wave 10:30pm. www.moonlight-classic.com

7/20 Saturday- Drop Your Drawers and Run Wild 5K. City Park/Denver Zoo. 6:30pm. www.underwearness.org

7/22 Sunday Dash for Smiles 2nd Annual 5K Walk/run. Stapleton Central Park. Cassandra Rocha: dashforsmiles@gmail.com, 720.231.3124

7/22 Sunday-Urban Assault Ride. Bike race through Denver to complete checkpoints/obstacle courses. \$30-\$60. www.urbanassaultride.com

8/4 Saturday- Back2school 5K FAMILY walk/run. 7:30am. \$20/ind./\$100 group of 10. Stapleton Central Park. Kenneth D. Crowley: 720.935.6465

8/5 Sunday- Tri for the Cure. Women's sprint triathlon race benefits Susan G. Komen Foundation. Cherry Creek State Park. www.triforthecure-denver.com

8/5 Sunday- I run Colorado 5K. Washington Park. www.iruncolorado5k.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 Sat. 8am. \$10/person. www.qidenver.com/programs/QiOutdoorbootcamp

NORTHEAST DENVER EVENTS

Tuesdays, ongoing- Introduction to Meditation and Christian Mysticism. 6-week course for modern mystics; meditation principles. 7:30pm. Free. Center of Light, 2300 Forest St. Denver@CentersOfLight.org, 303.913.7053

7/7 and Saturdays through September- Lowry Farmers Market. 9A-2P at Hangar 2, 7581 E Academy Blvd.

7/15 Sunday- Peggy Godfrey Presents a Storytelling Workshop. 2-4:30pm. St Luke's Episcopal Church, 1270 Poplar St. All ages. FREE but reservations required: 303.355.2331

8/12 Saturday- Viva Streets. 10am-4pm. 23rd Ave. Park Hill/Stapleton becomes car-free bike and pedestrian parkway.

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

THEATRE

7/12 through 8/5 PHAMALY presents Little Shop of Horrors. Space Theatre, Denver Center for Performing Arts Complex, 14th and Curtis. www.denvercenter.org

7/12 through 7/29- Athena Project Plays in Progress Series. Aurora Fox 9900 E Colfax Ave. www.athenaprojectfestival.org

7/13 Friday- Colorado Symphony- Tribute to Arthur Fiedler and Boston Pops. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. 720.898.7200, www.arvadacenter.org

7/13 through 8/5 - Evergreen Players presents Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical. Center/Stage, 27608 Fireweed Dr., Evergreen, CO. www.evergreenplayers.org

7/17 through 8/11- Jersey Boys. Buell Theatre, 14th and Curtis, Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

7/26- Colorado Symphony- Mozart Under Moonlight. Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. 720.898.7200, www.arvadacenter.org

7/27 through 8/26- The Government Inspector. Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St, Aurora. 303.839.1361, www.vintagetheatre.com

Through 10/14- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. Galleria Theatre, 14th and Curtis. Denver Center for Performing Arts. www.denvercenter.org

More Events...

July 12, August 9—Free Neighborhood Celebration

The Denver Film Society is sponsoring "Raise the Roof," free and open-to-the-public neighborhood celebrations on July 12 and August 9 from 5-9pm on the rooftop of the Lowenstein CulturePlex, 2510 E. Colfax, home to the Denver FilmCenter/Colfax, Tattered Cover and Twist & Shout. The event will feature live music and entertainment along with food, drinks and one of the best views of Denver's skyline and the Rocky Mountains. Music begins at 6pm. Local restaurants will be offering food for purchase. Attendees will be given an invitation for a free feature film screening at 9pm on the evening of the party or on a future day. www.denverfilm.org

July 13-15—18th Annual Colorado Irish Festival

Everything Irish is the draw but you don't have to be Irish to be there and enjoy the green! The Colorado Irish Festival (CIF) will be held Friday-Sunday, July 13-15, and will feature an array of bands, dancers, a pipe band competition, Irish sports (hurling, Gaelic football), a cultural village and pub, storytelling, a kids' area and more. The Young Dubliners Celtic Rock 'n' Roll group will return Friday only for a songfest that will include many other bands, and that's free if you enter the gates between 5 and 6pm. A tribute to the Clancy Brothers will take place Sat. and Sun. The festival will be held at Clement Park, 7306 W. Bowles Ave., Littleton (SW area by Johnson Reservoir). Hours: 7/13 5-10pm; 7/14 10am-10pm; 7/15 10am-7pm. Cost: Free for kids 12 and under all weekend; 7/14 free for all who arrive at festival main gate 5-6pm, then \$10/adult. Tickets at gate Sat. and Sun. \$15/adults; \$10/seniors, students with valid ID/military with active ID. Advance tickets: Fri. \$10; Sat./Sun. \$12/adult; \$10/seniors, students with valid ID/military with active ID, available at King Soopers or online at www.ColoradoIrishFestival.org.

July 9-30—Creek Restoration Walks

Informative nature walks are being offered by Brian Hyde, floodplain manager and watershed restoration planner. Participants will uncover the geographic, geologic and topographic clues that show there is an actual creek system present but masked by urbanization (particularly Montclair Creek). Learn the history of human

interactions with the creeks, including the important restoration work on Westerly Creek. You can choose among walks that will start and end at the same place. Experience how the greenways interweave issues of connection, alternative transportation, wildlife and opportunities for better health through exercise. Contact: Westerly_connect_brian@comcast.net or 720.939.6039.

(continued on page 22)

Creek Restoration Walk Schedule

Mon 7/9/12	8-9:15am	Westerly Creek	Lowry East Open Space (Yosemite & Sports Blvd.)
Wed 7/11/12	8-9:15am	Montclair Creek	Crestmoor Park (N. side tennis courts)
Thur 7/12/12	6:15-7:30pm	Westerly Creek	Central Park (33rd & Boston parking lot)
Fri 7/13/12	8-9am	Montclair Creek	Montclair Park (12th & Oneida)
Mon 7/16/12	8-9am	Westerly Creek	23rd Avenue & Beeler Street
Wed 7/18/12	8-9:15am	Montclair Creek	Mayfair Park (north side - near Ivy)
Fri 7/20/12	8-9am	Westerly Creek	Great Lawn Park (parking along road at south end)
Mon 7/23/12	8-9:15am	Montclair Creek	City Park (east side of pavilion, by Ferril Lake)
Wed 7/25/12	8-9:15am	Westerly Creek	Central Park (33rd & Boston - Stapleton)
Thur 7/26/12	6:15-7:30pm	Montclair Creek	Lindsley Park (12th & Dexter)
Fri 7/27/12	8-9am	Westerly Creek	Verbena Park (Richthofen and Verbena)
Mon 7/30/12	8-9:15am	Montclair Creek	Crestmoor Park (N. side tennis courts)



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More Events...

July 13-15—Colorado Black Arts Festival at City Park West

This three-day festival, Friday to Sunday, July 13-15, with a theme of "Art Reflects Nature" will feature African-American art, dance (modern, tap, African) and cultural delights. A wide array of art will adorn the grounds and live music (including jazz, hip hop, R&B, reggae and rock 'n' roll) on three stages will give way to a memorable weekend. This is a family-friendly event with a Boogaloo Celebration Parade, community mural painting and sculpture gardens, a people's marketplace, food court and farmers' market. For more, go to www.colbaf.org.

July 14—Stapleton Charity Cornhole (Beanbag) Tournament

The Stapleton Charity Cornhole (Beanbag) Tournament will be held from 11am-3pm on Saturday, July 14 in The Green in the Stapleton Town Center (29th and Roslyn). An online vote has been taken for the beneficiary, which is Brent's Place (<http://www.brentsplace.org>), an organization that serves families of children with cancer. The event offers an opportunity for the community to have fun and support a cause that benefits children in Denver. Prizes are being offered by sponsors, including a prize valued at \$500 for the winning team! The tournament is being organized by StapletonConnect.com and Stapletonion.com. Sponsors include TJC Real Estate, Synergy Real Estate, Stapleton Mortgage, Harkins Theatres and The Shops at Northfield. For more information or to register for the event, which is \$40 per two-person team, visit <http://www.stapletoncornhole.com>.

July 14—Sand Creek Half Marathon, 5K, 10K

Wind through Rural Setting in Serene Urban Environment—The events range from a casual stroll or quick 5K through Central Park to a fast, flat 10K along Westerly Creek, to challenging hills along the Sand Creek Trail, and loops through the beautiful nature center at Bluff Lake. If training for half/full marathon this fall, this is a strategically timed event for making sure you're prepared. A team can compete for the Team Trifecta, with one member participating in all 3 distances. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Bluff Lake Nature Center and Sand Creek Regional Greenway, nonprofits that support the courses' trails and natural habitat. Half marathon start: 7am, course time 4 hours; 5K & 10K start: 8am, course time 2 hours. Strollers welcome on all courses. Pets only on 5K/10K courses. Overall winner awards and

per age in ten-year increments. Start/Finish Line is Stapleton's Central Park, 8801 E. Martin Luther King Blvd. (at Xenia). Fees: 5K \$45/10K \$65/half marathon \$75. Info:

<http://www.active.com/half-marathon/denver-co/sand-creek-half-marathon-2012>
July 19-22—Denver Post Underground Music Showcase (UMS)

Denver's very own version of Austin's South by Southwest Music Festival (SXSW) takes over the streets and stages of South Broadway for a four-night extravaganza, Thursday to Sunday, July 19-22, featuring the cream of Denver's underground music scene. This year, 250-300 local and national bands will play in 25-30 venues for more than 5,000 music lovers over four days and nights. Fans of live music can stroll from club to club, from stage to stage, catching the city's rising stars before the rest of the world hears about them. To learn more: www.theums.com

July 28—Center for African American Health Destination Health: Walk/Run/Learn

The Center for African American Health, a community-based organization providing culturally appropriate disease prevention and management programs to African Americans living in metro metro Denver, will host its Destination Health: Walk/Run/Learn on Saturday, July 28, in Denver's City Park. This half-day, multi-generational event features a 5K run/walk; shorter routes for families with kids, physically challenged individuals and older adults; an expo area filled with facts about healthy lifestyles; a special Children's Health & Safety Zone with activities for youngsters; and entertainment by Denver's Mary Louise Lee Band.

Families, friends and coworkers are encouraged to form teams and create a fundraising page when they register online at www.caahealth.org. Pre-event registration: \$30/adults; \$25/kids 6-17 and seniors 50 plus; \$10/kids 5 & under (with shirt) or free/kids 5 & under (no shirt); \$25/person for walk/run teams of four or more. On 7/28, registration will be \$35. Participants get a Destination Health T-shirt, timing chip and bib at the registration booth in City Park's pavilion area on race day. Registration: 7:30am. Pre-event warm-up exercise session: 8am just west of Denver Museum of Nature and Science. 5K Walk/Run and "Senior Shortcut" begin at 8:30am, with the "Mocha Mile Fun Walk" at 9am. An award ceremony is scheduled for 9:30 am, followed by jazz, R&B, and pop hits from the '60s to the present performed by the Mary Louise Lee Band. To assist with Destination Health or learn more about the Center, go to info@caahealth.org.

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Michael Thomas (left) and Steven Kabler are planning golf tournament on August 24 to benefit children who have lost one or both parents.

ents, but we didn't know what it would be," Thomas said. "I never got any counseling or therapy as a child, and I wonder if counseling would have had a positive impact on my life."

The two Stapleton residents did some research. They wanted to help an organization that would provide bereaved children with mental health services. They found Camp Comfort, a program run by the Mount Evans Home Health and Hospice, 3081

Bergen Peak Drive, Evergreen.

"It's a weekend grievance camp for children ages six through 12 who have deceased loved ones," Thomas explained. "We met with the board of directors a couple of times. For me, it's phenomenally significant. My father's passing when I was seven was an epic thing in my life."

Since Thomas and Kabler started their discussion on a golf course, they decided that they should use their passion for golf to provide funding for Camp Comfort.

The Kids Classic Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, Aug. 24, at the Green Valley Ranch Golf Club, 4900 Himalaya Road, just south of Denver International Airport. Cost is \$150, which includes breakfast, lunch and golf. There will be prizes for two contest holes and the top two teams.

"We think we'll raise about \$5,000," Thomas said. "And 100 percent of the pro-

ceeds will go to the Camp Comfort program. We wanted to put money where it will have the strongest impact. Camp Comfort charges families \$150 for counseling a child, but the overall cost per child is about \$600.

"This is for the kids," he added. "For me, personally, when I think back to what I've gone through in life...if one kid can have a positive outcome, if they are able to participate in therapy, it would mean the world to

me. It's not about Steve. It's not about me. It's about doing something for these kids."

To register for the Aug. 24 Kids Classic Golf Tournament, email kidsclassic.golf@gmail.com and you will receive a pdf registration form. Or call Michael Thomas at 303.522.1333. For information about Camp Comfort, go to www.campcomfort.org or call 303.674.6400.

Golf Tournament to Benefit Grieving Youth

By Nancy Burkhart

Real estate broker Michael Thomas and attorney Steven Kabler were taking in their weekly golf game one day when their conversation became a bit intense.

Thomas was only seven years old when his father died of a rare form of cancer. Kabler's sister passed away about a year ago, leaving behind her two small children.

"We were both committed to doing something for children who lost their par-

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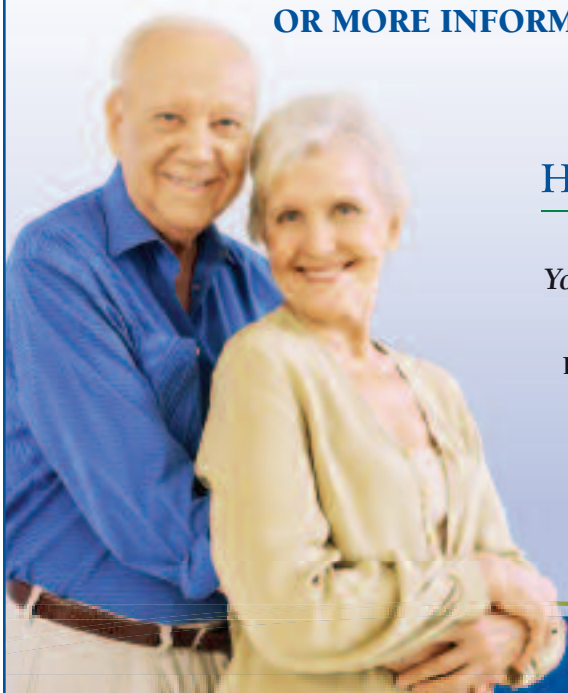
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Park Hill/Stapleton Ed. Committee Stalls—Decides to Try Again

By Carol Roberts

“What we’ve got here is failure to communicate.” This now-famous phrase from the 1967 movie *Cool Hand Luke* seems to explain the five-month community engagement process that Greater Park Hill and Stapleton residents participated in with the Denver Public Schools Office of Community Engagement.

What direction did the school board want the committee to take? Board member Mary Seawell says, “It was, to start with, what are the values of these two communities, Park Hill and Stapleton, recognizing that on one side of Quebec and Montview we have schools busting at the seams and they’re high performing and on the other side we have under-enrolled schools and a lot of schools that are lower performing. To find the values that these communities share so we can come together and be much more one community instead of two distinct neighborhoods when we look at our schools. That was the charge.”

“DPS has received volumes and volumes of emails and phone calls, primarily from Stapleton residents about schools and boundaries,” says DeVita Bruce from Denver Public Schools Office of Community Engagement. “While the calls and emails from Park Hill parents have not been as frequent, clearly there is some level of discomfort in that 80% of the middle schoolers that are boundaried to Smiley choice out. How does it make sense to solve things singularly when it’s really a geographic region that we really need to figure out what’s going on and what’s working, not to mention that you’ve got

two schools that according to our School Performance Framework were SPF red (failing).”

Bruce went on to say, “We think we know the problems but we really want to hear from you. What do you see that needs to be fixed? That’s why we gathered that community, and it was based in part on the fact that the Stapleton Green Book calls for a larger area of schools than Stapleton families were looking at. Park Hill families, at the inception of Stapleton were told that with the new construction of Stapleton that there would be more schools that they could choose to attend, but that wasn’t happening. So that’s why we gathered those two communities.”

But the participants say it was not clear to them what DPS had in mind by bringing the neighborhoods together. Jon Goldin-Dubois, one of the community co-chairs of the group said, “There was no direction either from the Board or from the staff in terms of, ‘Look, here are the things we’re going to focus on’—a sentiment echoed by committee members. ‘I kind of felt there was something DPS wanted to do that they needed to say that they had community buy in for and that they had discussed it thoroughly with the community,’” explained Susan Gamble, a Park Hill parent. She said participants were given the impression that the timeline of the six meetings ending in May was so the group could make recommendations to inform the Board’s decisions in June.

But the first four meetings were a combination of letting everyone speak and a broad discussion of values. Sophia Briegleb, a Stapleton parent said one of the leaders stated, “We need

to give everyone a chance to have their voices heard,” but Briegleb felt it seemed more like a complaint session.

Gamble, however, did point out there was a “bright spot.” “I saw in these conversations that people really want DPS to take care of the system as a whole and they want to share resources. I felt one of the things I learned about Stapleton is that it’s not just me, me, me. They really do want to be part of the broader community. I felt like DPS could have had more faith in the community and presented it in a more straightforward way. I think they would have had a much better result.”

In the fifth meeting, participants divided into ten groups and each group agreed upon and wrote five problems on a large chart. All ten charts were posted and everyone was given five dots to attach to their top priorities. All five dots could go on one issue or they could spread them in any way. Two of the top vote-getters were “Inequitable opportunities based on geography enrollment zones” and “Building new schools before investing in existing.” The charts, which also suggest a solution to each problem, can be viewed at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com and on the DPS website. Briegleb, after this polling activity says she felt that at last the group had a tangible accomplishment. Gamble says she found it confusing and unconnected to what went beforehand.

Mary Seawell says she observed that they were losing community members in the first few meetings due to the broad nature of conversations trying to find and define shared values. What she heard was, “I like the conversations

but I don’t see where we’re going. I need something more tangible to be talking about.” She says the staff and co-chairs talked after the polling activity with dots and decided, “Let’s throw some stuff on the wall and see what people think.’ But they weren’t ready for that conversation and we weren’t ready because we made it seem like these were outcomes that were being pushed toward them—though they just weren’t. It was meant to be, ‘How does this sound to you? Is this something you’d be interested in?’ But it was presented in a way that really alienated and affected people.” When, at the sixth meeting, participants felt they were being asked to vote on recommendations to the board, Goldin-Dubois said, even after all the time spent and information gained participants felt, “I don’t feel like I have enough knowledge to even voice my opinion on what happens at some school my kids don’t attend.”

So where does this all stand now? Landri Taylor, one of the group’s co-chairs says, “All politics are local, even school politics.” He believes the process should start at the specific school with the local stakeholders the first to be involved.

The co-chairs have agreed to ask the group to reconvene for three more meetings, starting in August and informed the board: “We have not yet succeeded in developing broadly supported recommendations to submit to the Board of Education that will help inform future decisions that you may face. As co-chairs of the committee, we understand that there continues to be disagreement over how to address several key issues, including underperforming schools, capacity and duplicative IB programs.

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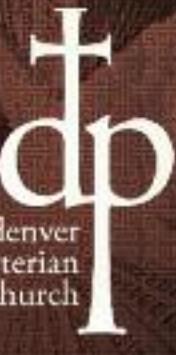
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Over 80 people attended the Stapleton Pride event at Aviator Pool on June 23. Participants ranging in age from infant to the elderly participated in the gathering to celebrate National Pride Month.

Another big attraction is Stapleton’s reputation as a great place to raise children. Stapleton’s “idealistic neighborhood setting” seemed like a “good place for kids to grow up,” remarked Jim DeCesaro, of Weichert Realtors. As “two gay dads raising a blended family” it was just a “bonus to find a fantastic LGBT support network” in the neighborhood. Another resident mentioned that she and her partner recently moved to Stapleton so that their daughter “wouldn’t be the only one in her classroom with two moms.”

In the midst of the event’s celebratory air, though, conversations turned to somber recent events like the civil unions measure that was killed in the Colorado State Legislature and North Carolina’s move to strengthen constitutional opposition to same sex marriage. “What difference does it make to anybody else that my partner and I were married in a synagogue—why can’t they focus on their relationships?” a frustrated Bayer wondered. Admitting “marriage would be great—with the federal benefits and the reassurance of knowing that my partner would be taken care of if anything happened to me,” DeCesaro nevertheless insisted that the “institution of marriage is not what defines our family.”

Although none of the attendees I talked to identified as being explicitly involved in political campaigns for marriage equality, being out in a state and a country that is still conflicted about granting same-sex couples equal rights is itself a political act. Everyday acts such as living as two dads or moms with blended families and publicly celebrating these lifestyles at Pride events hold the potential to make a difference in the lives of our communities and subsequently the laws of our land.

Multiple local groups helped promote the event: Gaypleton, the Stapleton Wine Appreciation Group, the Stapletonmoms listserv, and the Stapleton Families group. Weichert Realtors, Cherry Creek Spine and Sport Clinic, City Smiles Family Dental, and Rising Sun Animal Care were this year’s business sponsors.

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.

Pride Means Being OK with Who You Are

By Maegan Parker Brooks

For Stapleton resident Darice Bayer, celebrating pride means, “being okay with who you are as a human being.” Bayer insists events like Stapleton Pride, celebrated on June 23 at Aviator Pool, are important because “there are a lot of people still living their lives in the closet and adolescents who are fearful of coming out. It’s good for those people to see others like them. For kids to be around other families and not feel like they’re the only ones being raised by same-sex parents.”

Shane Christensen, who organized the event, called it “an effort for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) folks to gather and celebrate pride.” Over 80 people ranging in age from infant to elderly participated in the gathering to celebrate National Pride Month.

Hosting an annual Pride event situates Stapleton within a rich LGBT tradition. In June 2009, President Barack Obama commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots by proclaiming June national LGBT month.

The Stonewall Riots began on June 27, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in New York’s Greenwich Village. As police raided a gay bar, the customers fought back. Rather than submit to arrest or ejection, they asserted their rights to gather and chanted: “Gay Pridel!” The memory of Stonewall still serves as a powerful reminder to demand equality in every area of life. Each June, tribute is paid to LGBT activist forebears as members of the gay community and their allies celebrate pride.

Deb Goetz, Gaypleton events organizer, contends that pride “isn’t something that should just be celebrated once a year.” Gaypleton, a 10-year-old group that is now run via Facebook and boasts over 150 friends, holds events every other month. The Gaypleton motto, “It’s Better Out Here,” symbolizes what initially attracted many of their members to Stapleton. Gay Realty Watch promotes Stapleton as one of the most gay-friendly neighborhoods in the Mile High City and several attendees at the Pride event mentioned that they were drawn to the neighborhood specifically because of its vibrant LGBT community.

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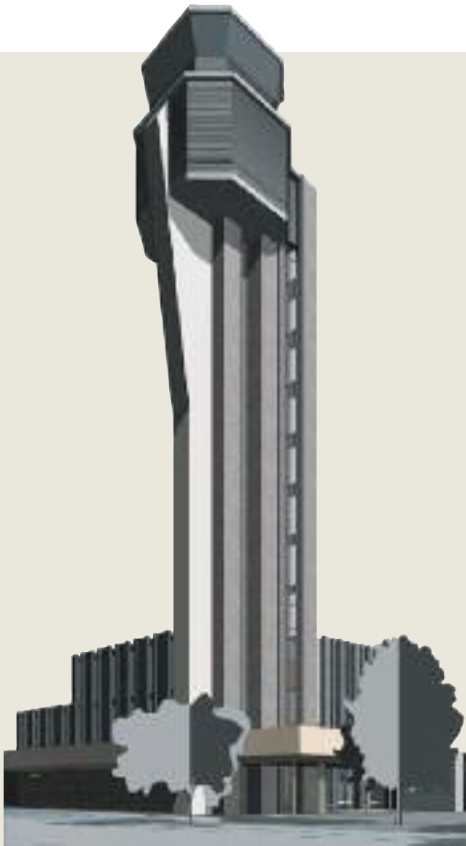
25

July 2012

MCA Unveils Proposal

Can the Tower Be A Community Arts Center?

The first question was, “Can the tower, the building and available land accommodate the MCA’s vision for a community arts center?” There is an answer—and it is yes. The next question is, “Can we afford it?” The MCA expects to learn by mid-July, through third party expertise, the cost of this proposal.



Keven Burnett, Executive Director of the MCA, says if the price is affordable, they will see if there is community support for the project. The MCA will hold community meetings to talk about what the programming is, what it looks like, what the financial structure is and determine if the MCA gets a solid majority of the community to back the concept.

The dashed red line at left shows the outline of the current building and tower. The new theatre and multi-purpose rooms would be one-story structures, behind which the 2nd and 3rd floor windows of the existing building would be visible. The drawing above does not show an exact elevation. It's purpose is just to give the impression of what a low, one-story building would look like against the existing structure. Download a detailed pdf about the project from StapletonCommunity.com -> About us -> Cultural Fac. Committee.

Stapleton

Westerly Creek North

Councilman Chris Herndon brought together all the parties who may have ideas or information on finding funding for Westerly Creek North park. Representatives from the City included the Finance Department and Parks and Recreation. DURA, which manages the tax increment financing for Stapleton, attended the meeting, as did Kate Kramer from Sand Creek Regional Greenway, who has fundraising experience for open space. In addition, Stapleton Foundation will share their grantwriting expertise. Forest City will participate on the committee, and at the June 21 community meeting Tom Gleason said Forest City has a lobbyist in Washington who is watching for opportunities for pieces of funding that may become available. Possibilities include funding for wetlands or trails programs or any other possible sources.

In response to questions about the clean up of junk and debris, Greg Holt of DIA explained DIA's responsibility is limited to environmental remediation such as jet fuel and asbestos. Concrete and barbed wire are not considered environmental cleanup. However, he said, “If I have to touch it to remediate, I will take it out.”

Gleason stated the Stapleton Development Corporation (SDC), as property manager, is responsible for maintaining property owned by DIA. “If someone dumps a couch, SDC is responsible.”

Cheryl Cohen Vader, President and CEO



Councilman Chris Herndon has formed a committee to look for funding to build the Westerly Creek North park.

New Medical Building

The rendering below of “The Tower Center” is the view from MLK of a one-story medical office building across from the control tower. The east end of the building is at Uinta St. The building faces south, but the north side along MLK has architectural detail similar to the front of the building, so the MLK side doesn't look like the back of a building. The owner of the building

will have a pediatric practice in the center of the building and lease out the west portion to another medical practice. The east end will be a restaurant and negotiations are underway with a restaurant that serves breakfast and lunch. Additional smaller offices will also be available for lease. This rendering is being submitted to the Stapleton architectural design review committee.



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Update

By Carol Roberts

of the Stapleton Development Corporation, in a written response to questions from the last meeting said if responsibility for clean up of the site to make the area safe is the responsibility of SDC, they will seek funding to facilitate the clean up process. She also said community members who want to be involved in SDC decision making can request to be on the agenda at an SDC meeting (typically held the last Thursday of the month at 7:30am at the Stapleton Foundation).

Greg Holt reiterated that the land for Westerly Creek North was taken down (requested) last fall and the remediation plan is proceeding and he expected to send the plan to the state for approval by the beginning of July and, weather permitting, have all the remediation done by the end of the year.

Concerns were raised that illegal dumping is occurring in the Uplands area since a barricade has been removed. Tom Gleason will check with Mortenson construction about getting barricades back up.

An attendee suggested there are liability issues associated with sharp objects in and on the ground in an area where children play but no one responded to that concern.



North Westerly Creek, at the confluence of Westerly Creek and Sand Creek, has debris left from the Stapleton airport. In addition to the airport debris, trash is being dumped in the Uplands area immediately to the east.



Paul Frohardt speaks at the June 21 community meeting as Lucia Correll from the CAB Parks Advisory Committee listens.

26th Ave. Park

At the Parks Advisory Group meeting on June 12, John Fernandez, City of Aurora Planning Department, was asked if there are any requirements by Aurora that would contribute to a delay building the park. Fernandez stated, "The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Forest city and Aurora simply says the park has to meet City of Aurora standards, which is a pretty vanilla statement."

Heidi Majerik of Forest City explained that they met with Aurora and submitted an application to complete a phase of the park. A comment from Aurora Public Works was that they'd have to complete 26th Ave adjacent to the park, a \$600,000 project if built to 60 feet. The original roadway was planned to be 60 feet wide, but Forest City, Aurora and Denver came to agreement that a 48 foot road width would be acceptable. The road is 30 feet wide now, so another 18 feet needs to be constructed. The existing road is in Denver, the widening will be in Aurora.

Majerik said Forest City is now working on a plan to build a phase of the park and will send an application to Aurora.

Fernandez said they've agreed on the street and he expects the approval will be a pretty routine procedure. Aurora already has a General Development Plan (GDP) for Stapleton Aurora that includes a conceptual design for the park so "all the pieces are in place to move forward. There's a technical amendment to the GDP that has to happen, and there's a process and there's always the potential for it becoming a political issue. But that only happens if people are unhappy with the result."

"Provided the plan moves forward according to the conceptual plans and the GDP, I don't see any issues. So to me it's primarily a cost question," say Fernandez.

Majerik says Forest City has \$500,000 funding now for a phased part of the park



Tom Gleason from Forest City speaks at a community meeting about the unfinished parks at Westerly Creek North and along 26th Ave. in Aurora.

and they need to complete their new application and get questions answered such as, "What are the roadway requirements? Do we have to build the whole length? And we have to go through their normal approval process to get rights to build the park?"

Fernandez points out that Aurora parks requirements include a minimum level of quality, proper irrigation, tree size, paths constructed to standards. In addition to those generic requirements, Forest City has to conform to the concept plan for the park contained in the "Stapleton Aurora General Development Plan." It includes:

- A general layout
- Tree-lined streets
- A concrete trail
- Grass play areas
- A picnic area and playground
- Two multi-use fields

The GDP allows phasing of the park. A key issue there is to ensure that an initial phase will be compatible with subsequent phases, e.g., improvements won't have to be ripped out as the park expands. There are two issues that Forest City has to address in this park phasing: 1. Wherever the park improvements are planned adjacent to 26th Avenue, at least that portion of 26th Avenue has to be constructed; 2. The initial park improvements need to be sited such that they will not be disturbed by overland flows of stormwater (this comes about because some of the upstream storm drainage improvements will not have been installed with this first phase of the park).

No timing was specified, but Tom Gleason mentioned in the June 21 Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) meeting that there may be some cost savings in building the first phase of the park at the same time the Stapleton-Aurora road connections are built.

Central Park Rail Station—Plan for Transit Oriented Development Presented to Community

City planners have worked for a year with local stakeholders to create a plan that will guide development within a half mile of the transit station over the next 20-25 years. On June 14, they presented the plan at the Stapleton Foundation.

The Plan establishes a vision and principles for the development and future of the Central Park Station area. The Plan provides city-adopted policy direction to guide decision-making and prioritization related to development opportunities, transportation, partnerships, additional study and analysis, funding and public investments.

The plan has four main principles:

A. Destination – The station area will serve as a crossroads of the Stapleton neighborhood connecting people from all segments of the community to the diverse activities found throughout Stapleton and the Denver region.

B. Active – The station area will be a safe, vibrant, urban place that provides stimulating, enjoyable, and convenient activities and amenities for a wide variety of different users.

C. Accessible – The station area will build upon its regional connections to provide an extremely high level of mobility and multi-modal access for all users in a safe, easy, and convenient manner.

D. Sustainable – The station area will seek innovative ways to better nurture natural, economic, and social systems and resources for today and future generations.

Download the plan at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com.

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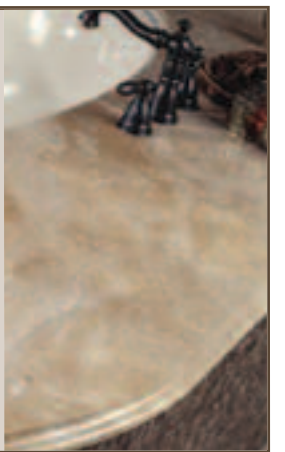
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SUN Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30pm at the Central Park Recreation Center, 9651 MLK Jr. Blvd. For information about SUN, visit www.stapletonunitedneighbors.com. To contact SUN or confirm meeting time, email stapletonunitedneighbors@gmail.com



Eighth Annual Block Party Day

By Dan Oltersdorf,
SUN Outreach Co-Chair

In an annual Stapleton tradition, block parties took place across the community on June 16. Parties ranged from simple potlucks to catered events. Some parties even had bands, bounce houses, kegs, face painting, food trucks, cotton candy machines, and outdoor games for kids and adults. "It's a day tailored to both children and adults where everyone gets to have a ball," shares Kristie Harris, a Stapleton block captain. "It helps us reconnect with old neighbors, meet new ones, and feel anchored in the neighborhood. The adults get to kick back and catch up with neighbors while all our children run wild across the park, bounce in the bouncy castle, and eat entirely way too many desserts. This is the day that kids and adults alike look forward to all year!"



Photo by Dan Oltersdorf
Musician Joe Mondragon performs in an alley at a Stapleton block party, with neighbors and bounce houses in the background.



Photo by Mandi Arnold
Children wait in line for a turn at the pinata.

Several local businesses sponsored block parties or provided discounts for Stapleton Block Party organizers. Firefighters from Station 26 were able to make visits to

year we had a Celtic dancer, CU cheerleaders, cup stackers, kids who performed a bit of The Tempest by Shakespeare, a kids' rock band, a sock puppet performance, singers, and one kid who named all of the presidents and their political party!"

Mandy Arnold, a block captain who lives near Westerly Creek, partners with two other blocks on their block party. She said that while they already have a very social block, "the party really allows us to enjoy the company of even more neighbors. It's nice to have more than a wave and hello going to/from the mailbox or while driving down the street. Since we are

three blocks combined, there's always someone new whom I've never met. The block party definitely invites cohesiveness amongst neighbors. Everyone seems to have a great time and looks forward to the next year's event."

Stapleton United Neighbors encourages all residents to use this event as a catalyst to continue to build communication between neighbors, create new traditions and plan other gatherings all year long!



Photo by Sophia Briegleb
Mateo Romero gets soaking wet going down a two-story inflatable slide.

Cowboy Poet & Storyteller PEGGY GODFREY Presents A Storytelling Workshop



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a number of the parties. Some blocks have their own traditions, such as a block in Filing 11, Eastbridge. Block Captain Chuck Montera says, "My favorite event at our block party is the Kids' Talent Show. We dedicate time to let all of the neighborhood kids show their special talents. It's organized and MC'd by a couple of the older girls on the block. This

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Denver Program Offers Free Food for Children in the Summer

Denver's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides nearly 12,000 free meals daily. Statewide, the program has grown by more than 60 percent since 2009 and will provide healthy meals to an estimated 30,000 children this summer. This program is available to children under the age of 18, with more than 90 sites located at various parks, recreation centers, libraries, schools, churches and non-profits from June 4 through Aug. 24

SFSP is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and implemented through a partnership between the City of Denver, Denver Public Schools, Food Bank of the Rockies and Hunger Free Colorado. North-east Denver locations are listed below. To find additional locations visit <http://hungerfreecolorado.org/summer.html>

Smiley Middle School, 2540 Holly St.
11am M-F through 7/27
Sponsor: Food Bank of the Rockies

Ashley Elementary, 1914 Syracuse St.
8:10am and 11:30am M-F through 7/20
Sponsor: DPS

Montclair Elementary, 1151 Newport Street
8 and 11:30am M-F through 7/13
Sponsor: Denver Public Schools

Blue Spruce, 7300 E. Severn Pl.
11am Wed, Fri. through 8/17
Sponsor: Food Bank of the Rockies

Smith Elementary, 3590 Jasmine St.
8 and 11:20am M-F through 7/12
Sponsor: Denver Public Schools

Greater Denver Interfaith Alliance,
Northeast Denver Islamic Center,
3400 Albion Street
Mon. – Sun. 12pm through 8/24
Snack at 2:45pm
Sponsor: City & County of Denver,
Mayor's Office for Education and Children

Non-Profit Raises Funds for High Park Fire Recovery Efforts

The NoCo Rebuilding Network has established an emergency fund to support community members directly affected by the High Park Fire. They are in critical need of financial support. 100% of the funds collected will be allocated to those whose homes have been significantly impacted by the fire and decide to sustainably rebuild in

Larimer County.

NoCo Rebuilding Network, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, was formed in the spring of 2011 to raise funds, resources, and volunteers to assist in rebuilding efforts after local disasters. The organization's mission is to promote and enable locally sustainable rebuilding in response to a disaster. By bringing together resources and knowledge, their network will help people and communities achieve a level of sustainable design and construction that may not otherwise be possible.

To donate online, visit www.NoCoRebuilding.org.

Denver Police Remind Residents Fireworks Are Against The Law

District 2 Commander Calo distributed a notice reminding people that every year, numerous complaints, injuries, and fires are associated with the unlawful use of fireworks in Denver. Prior to, and over the 4th of July Holiday the Denver Police and Fire Department will be partnering for extra enforcement of violations of the fireworks ordinance. Penalties for violations are up to \$999.00 in fines and/or court costs and up to one year in jail.

Laws about fireworks include:

“Possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling, and use of fireworks are prohibited”

“No person shall construct, a retail display, nor offer for sale...explosive materials, or fireworks

Definition of Fireworks: “Any composition or device for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect for entertainment purposes by combustion, deflagration or detonation

If you have to light or ignite, it's illegal!!! Report suspicious people or vehicles to the Police Department(720) 913 - 2000

Elections Are Coming and Campaigns Are Looking for Volunteers

Political pundits say elections are won or lost with the success or failure of the ground game. Without people to hand out literature and knock on doors, a candidate cannot win, no matter how much money the campaign has. “There are many different positions a person can take, such as making phone calls, stuffing envelopes, distributing literature, and helping with fundraisers,” says Pauline Olvera, Vice Chair of the Denver Republican Party.

Democratic Captain of House District 7A, Tim Tribbett, has similar needs for volunteers, “We are actively looking for people to become involved as we move closer to the fall elections. Involvement can be in a more formal role as a precinct committee person or just as a participant or volunteer. Throughout the next few months our efforts will be strongly focused on recruiting volunteers and the Get Out The Vote effort, such as canvassing and phone banking.”

Locally, both parties are looking for volunteers—and presidential campaigns are not the only ones that need help. Volunteers are needed for congressional, state senate and state house campaigns—and there will be a number of ballot issues this fall. To become a volunteer, contact Olvera or Tribbett or the party's county offices:

Republican Party—
Pauline Olvera, Denver County Vice Chair, pauline.olvera@yahoo.com, 303.669.6280
Denver County office
303-782-9555 www.denvergop.org.

Democratic Party—
Tim Tribbett, Democratic Captain
House District 7A, 303-406-3400
TimothyTribbett@gmail. com,
Democratic Party Denver office
303-830-8242. DenverDems.org

New Park at Xenia & 13th

After several years of planning, what was once a vacant lot bisected by Westerly Creek officially opened on June 23 as a new park, with a community garden, youth-sized soccer field and playground. The park was designed with input from a unique community of some 1,000 residents who live within walking distance, represent at least eight different cultures and speak a variety of languages.

The neighborhood residents who participated in the design process live in the surrounding affordable housing complexes and many are immigrants and refugees from such disparate countries as Somalia, Burma, Afghanistan and Nepal. The process of working together on this park has helped unite this multi-cultural community in a common cause.

The Trust for Public Land brought together funders, community leaders, park professionals and citizens to create a space where the community will thrive. Through the efforts of the Trust, Denver was able to add a new park in a neighborhood that will really benefit from it, at no up-front cost to the City.

As the community tries to learn a new way of life, a new language and new skills, having a safe place where their children can play and a community garden where adults can meet and raise fresh produce may ease the introduction to their new nation. There is now an artificial turf soccer field in place of a glass-and-pebble-strewn stretch of ground, a playground, and an expanded garden along the creek with twice as many plots as before.

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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Stapleton Front Porch

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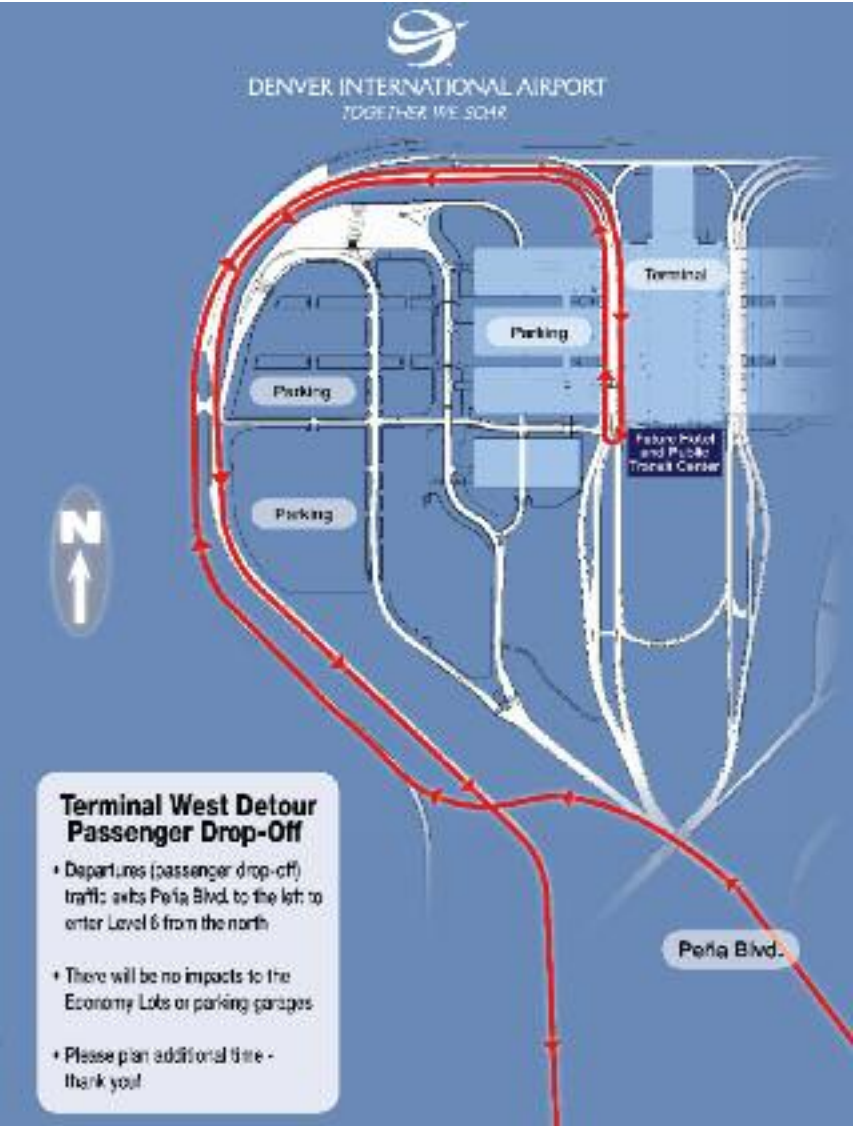
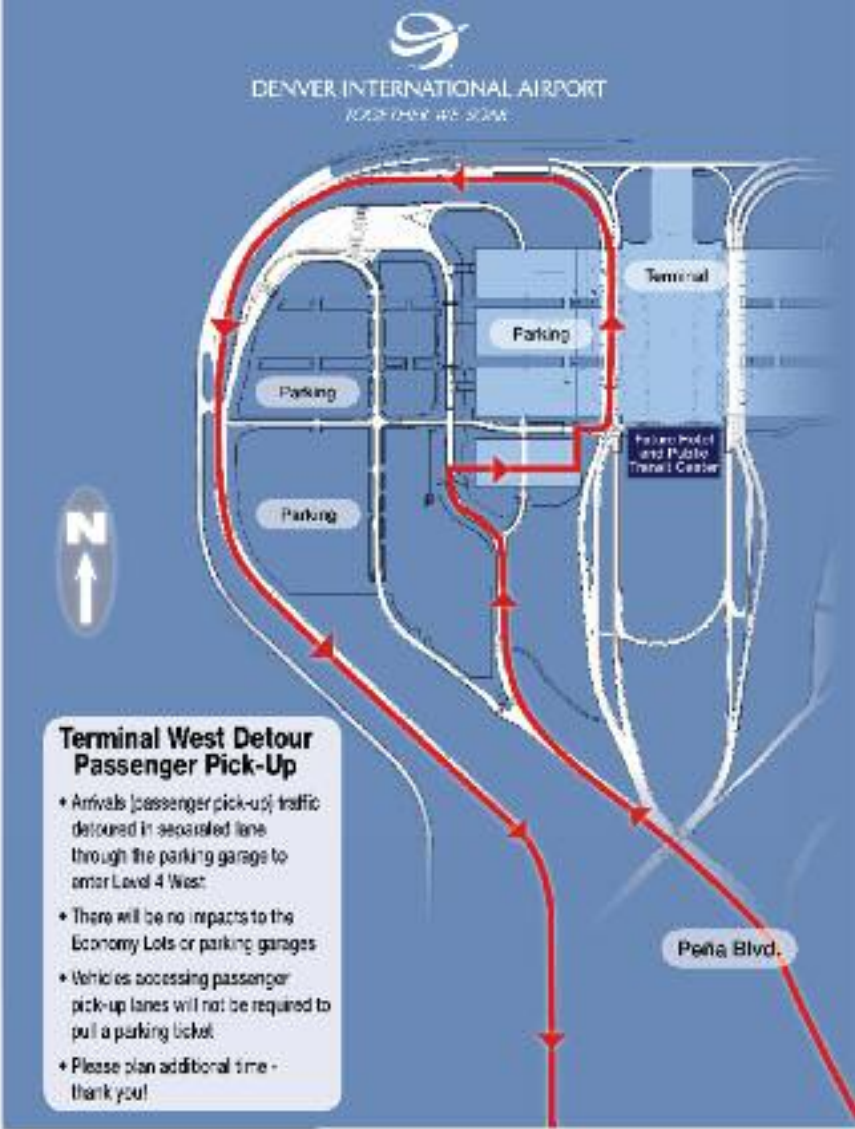
As part of the East Rail project, DIA is demolishing and re-configuring the bridges that connect Peña Boulevard to the south end of Jeppesen Terminal. DIA is building a 500-room Westin hotel, a train station and a public plaza as part of the South Terminal Redevelopment Program.

Terminal West detours are shown at right for passenger pick up and drop off, but parking is not impacted.

All taxi or shuttle drop-offs and pick-ups are now in designated median locations on Level 5 East and West (not curbside).

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Check out the video on Summer at Stapleton at www.FrontPorchStapleton.com

(continued from p.1)

community. Every Sunday we'd go to church, then we'd have dinner, then the whole neighborhood would gather for a softball game.

"My first position here was community manager for Forest City. One of the first things I did was to meet one on one with each homeowner, talk to them about the community, answer questions they had about development. Just try to make sure that they were eased in to a new community in a very positive way. One of my first ideas was, 'Let's get everyone together for a big block party.' Now, the block parties have grown beyond what I ever dreamed they would do. SUN does a great job with them.

"The marketing department at Forest City was very instrumental in starting different types of events and summer activities. 'What can we do to develop the community?' That was the driver. Developing a community that really embraced itself. The movies and concerts and festivals early on were Forest City working to create really positive fun events for the community, not just Stapleton but the greater community.

"That was the precursor to what we have now. We create a schedule that works for people. Movies are Friday night because they start late and people need time to get home from work. Concerts are earlier on Saturdays because people aren't at work. It's easier to come with a picnic and hang out and enjoy.

"One of the big things is to create events the community supports. We've had some flops. I don't think our wine festival ever took off. It was not what our beer festival has become.

"We had about 2200 people at our Theater on the Green for the four nights. We're already over 30,000 visits at the pool this summer. The first week at the pools this year was double last year's first week.

"The beauty of the movies and concerts is it's not just Stapleton residents. It's people from all over the city—which is my favorite piece. I don't think we have an event that's not open to the public—except for Stapleton Rock (a competition among local bands to raise money for charity). A band member needs to live in Stapleton."



Top: First Friday Flights feature wines from a selected country and information about the wines. From left, Tomas Wainman, Jessica Wainman, Eric Fazendin and Sarah Fazendin attended the first of these popular monthly summer events.

Above: Hazel Miller sings in the first concert of the season. July concerts will be on the 7th and 21st featuring Nacho Men and Serenade in Blue.



Top: Dayvaughn and Gina Mays check out the first ever Friday stroll with their children Sofia, 4, (in stroller) and Esias, 1 1/2 (foreground) and friends Makhi, 3, and Makinzi, 6, (with parasol) Hardiman. The two families will be vendors at future strolls showing their businesses that include chocolate confections, custom coffees, poetry books and personal training.

Above: Cassidy Burke works at The Tomato Stand, her uncle owns the stand, as well as Colorado Fresh Markets, and her mother is the market manager.



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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

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

**Next Series Starts
July 23, 2012**

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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